

21st January 2012

Maghull Schools FA U11's **4** (1) Leeds Schools FA U11's B **3** (2)

Leeds edged out by Maghull in 7 goal thriller

A long trip to Maghull, Merseyside for Leeds City Boys ended in an unfortunate defeat after conceding a fourth and decisive goal with only two minutes left on the clock.

An end-to-end game played in high winds had the crowd gripped throughout.

Leeds struck first blood after 5 minutes as Oscar Jackson hit a 20 yard screamer high into the roof of the net after an early period of Leeds pressure.

With the wind behind them Leeds had most of the possession and the second goal came after 15 minutes when Callum Eddleston buried a low left foot strike into the bottom corner after being set up by Josh Crosland.

Leeds were looking comfortable at 2-0 and created further half-chances to put the game beyond Maghull but as the half wore on the home side edged back into the game and with plenty of pace up front they looked likely to cause problems in the second half with the wind to their advantage.

The game changed at the stroke of half-time when a high lob into the box put Harrison Jones in the Leeds goal under severe pressure from an offside Maghull striker. The referee waved play-on and a goalmouth scramble ensued. Jones brilliantly tipped a close range shot onto the cross-bar and rebounded shots first hit the woodwork and were then cleared off the line before finally the ball was scrambled over to make it 2-1.

A bad time to concede and a tough second half loomed for the young Leeds side.

Maghull, buoyed by their late first half goal came out of the blocks much livelier and started to threaten from the off. The cross-bar was struck again following a fine move from the left and the equalizer when it came was no more than they deserved. A through ball from midfield cut through the Leeds defence and the electric Maghull striker raced on and coolly finished from the edge of the box.

Leeds stirred again and started to push Maghull back as they tried to regain their advantage and Aaron Kane was unlucky with a smart turn and shot in the box which was tipped round for a corner.

It was really end-to-end stuff and Maghull broke away again to take the lead as a quickfire cross from the right was turned in giving Jones in the Leeds goal no chance.

Again Leeds came back at the home side and pressed for an equalizer. Joe Fitzpatrick went agonisingly close as his far post effort just cleared the bar and Aaron Kane broke through again to see his well-struck effort just go the wrong side of the post and hit the side netting.

The reward for Leeds' increased efforts finally came though with 10 minutes to go as Dylan Broadbent found an inch of space in the box and threaded the ball superbly into the bottom corner of the net.

A huge sigh of relief from the visiting fans but there was to be more drama at both ends as Harrison Jones first made a fine double save and then Callum Eddleston went close again for Leeds at the far post. However it just wasn't to be for Leeds this time as Maghull pressed forward for a winner. Leeds just couldn't clear their lines under the pressure and the winning goal was cruelly buried into the back of the net. A great effort from Leeds and a really exciting game for which a draw would have been fair but Coach McAlinden will be ruing the missed chances and defensive lapses which let Maghull off the hook and back into the game.

Next up a local derby against Bradford on Saturday and a chance to gain confidence again ahead of Leeds' crucial Yorkshire Cup match at East Riding on 4th February.