

## **Redcar & Cleveland Schools FA U11's 4 – Leeds Schools FA U11's 1**

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

A bright sunny morning saw the Leeds City boys head out to the Teeside seaside for a tough challenge against Redcar & Cleveland's finest.

Leeds started the brighter on a great playing surface and quickly took the lead in the third minute when the ball broke to Theo Bailey just inside the box who struck a sweet left foot shot into the bottom right corner.

The promising start by Leeds continued with plenty of possession for the midfield foursome of Roshan Singh-Morgan, Mason Sheridan-Hawley, Joe Fitzpatrick and the goal-scorer Theo Bailey. Aaron Kane and Ben Harley were combining well up front and putting the Redcar defence on the back foot.

Gradually though the home side started to edge back into the game and brought the scores level with a neat far post finish after some fine work down the left flank by Redcar.

The game was split into three, twenty minute periods and the first period ended 1-1 – all square.

The second period saw the introduction of midfielders Tristan Brennan and Oscar Jackson and also Jacob Little into the attack. Redcar continued to look the more likely though and took a deserved lead when they were first to react to a re-bound off the bar following a stunning free-kick effort from 25 yards.

Just then the heavens opened and monsoon season hit the east coast drenching the players and leaving the supporters running for cover. The Redcar boys seemed to cope better with the conditions and showed much more composure on the ball as well as some good individual skills, particularly in wide areas.

The Leeds defence of Aaron Clegg, Nathan Brady, Robert White and Declan Rose were holding out well under heavy Redcar pressure and the driving rain and Harrison Jones between the sticks did well keeping Leeds in the game with some fine reaction saves and good handling. Disaster struck though just before the second break as a hopeful low shot from Redcar skimmed across the ground and the wet ball cruelly squeezed past the Leeds keeper. 3-1.

The third period saw Leeds try in vain to get back into the game but a confident Redcar team were comfortably in control and an excellent left foot strike high into the net with 5 minutes to go wrapped up the win for Redcar.

Leeds kept going though and Jacob Little hit the post with a neat near post header to almost gain a consolation goal with 2 minutes to go, but in the end Redcar ran out deserved winners and the Leeds boys headed back home on the long journey with plenty to think about and work on ahead of their next games.