

Sheffield FA U11's (Blues) 2 – Leeds Schools FA (A) U11 4

### **West Yorkshire Cup**

Leeds City Boys U11's made an impressive return to form in the West Yorkshire Cup as they dispatched Sheffield 4-2 in extreme weather conditions in *South* Yorkshire.

Leeds got off to a great start against a fierce wind with the menacing strike force of Dylan Youmbi, Josh Stones and Cole Roberts causing havoc in the Sheffield defence.

However, it was midfielder Alfie Wilkinson who struck the first blow as his long distance strike sailed over the Sheffield keeper and high into the net putting Leeds into the lead.

Leeds continued to impress throughout the first third with some neat passing in midfield and a solid defence but they couldn't add to their initial goal before the break.

The second period saw some devastating play from Leeds as, this time with the wind behind them, they fired in three further goals without reply.

Cassidy Hanakin led the way with a cool finish from a smart through ball and Charlie Costello quickly joined in the scoring as he jinked through the box and found space to fire home between a crowd of defenders.

The pick of the bunch though came from Gideon Pliener as he showed superb technique to hit a bouncing ball on the volley from outside the box which flew into the top corner in the blink of an eye. An absolute 'worldy'!!

4-0 at the end of the second period and Leeds were seemingly cruising. However, they had to survive a late Sheffield rally as the weather conditions took a turn for the worse and driving icy wind and hail turned many of the players (particularly the oncoming substitutes) to ice.

In a five minute spell, Leeds suddenly conceded two unstoppable wind assisted strikes, the second from a free kick on the edge of the box and Sheffield, against the run of play of the whole game, were suddenly back in with a chance.

A further strike against the post and a great save by Leeds keeper Fin Wade onto the opposite post had the visiting supporters on tenterhooks for a while but Leeds eventually recovered their composure and saw the game out comfortably.

A great performance overall in very difficult conditions by Leeds and as the boys raced to the dressing room (and the radiators) to thaw out, news came out that the draw for the next round of the West Yorkshire Cup had been made and they had been handed a very tough draw as they were pitched against their squad mates from the excellent Leeds 'B' team.