

HARROGATE V LEEDS 6th SEPTEMBER

This hastily re-arranged game kicked off on a pitch with long grass and in very wet conditions.

The first 20 minute period was an even contest with neither side getting on top and few chances made. Both sides passed the ball well but the conditions made exciting football very difficult. Score 0-0.

The second period saw Leeds take control of the game and when they scored it was no surprise. Lewis Branton drove ball over the keeper from 25 yards with a powerful shot. Soon after, with Leeds well on top, a goal kick was headed on by Kian Lindley and Luke Owen calmly lobbed the keeper to make it 2-0. On the rare occasions that Harrogate threatened the Leeds goal Callum Oddy showed sure handling in the wet conditions. Score 0-2.

The third period saw Harrogate attack more than previously but once again Callum looked safe in the Leeds goal. Harrogate did create a good chance but their forward shot wide. Matty Swift then came to the rescue with a last-ditch tackle to thwart Harrogate again. Leeds came back at the other end and Matty Swift sent a powerful shot just past the post. As time was almost up Callum punched away a goal-bound effort to keep the score at 0-2.

The final period started with a Harrogate corner but Leeds defended well. Both teams were playing neat football as the weather improved. Harrogate had a shot go narrowly wide as they pressed to reduce the deficit and Jack Kreczmer made a number of strong tackles to keep the home team at bay. A through ball then caused havoc in the Harrogate defence and a penalty was awarded when the keeper pulled Lewis Branton back in the area. Charlie Webb planted the penalty well wide of the keeper to make it 3-0. As Leeds kept pressing a fine save from the home keeper denied Owen Hindley getting number 4. With five minutes left an unlucky rebound in the Leeds defence saw Harrogate reduce the deficit with a good finish into the bottom corner. Harrogate pressed on but Leeds midfield and defence, well marshalled by Matty Kyle kept them in check. Leeds had the best of the last couple of minutes and ran out worthy 3-1 winners.

An encouraging start to the new season.