

Spennings Valley (SV) v Leeds City Boys (LCB) 27th Sept 14

- 1) Kick off was straight forward, as was the reporting for the first 17 seconds and then the entire match went into hyper drive – ever tried commentating on a match when it's a fast forward speed? Welcome to the next hour of my world – keeping up was impossible, so to those fans who notice that I haven't got things entirely factually correct, harruuumppph to ya! Anyways, back to the match... LCB started brightly with a good free kick from 'Nibbler' White only to be shunned away with relative ease by SV and over the next few minutes the teams both settled down with the SV27 in particular making his presence felt. Liam 'Slinky' Dean had also turned up today with a couple of lovely pirouette moves, ones that his father would have used in days gone by. Free flowing passing was being had in the middle of the pitch by Ellis 'Duracell' WG, Liam 'Slinky' Dean and Harrison 'The all seeing eye' Batty and it seemed that a goal was imminent. The next move down the LCB left hand side came from Dean, slotted through to Batty who loosed off a seemingly innocuous fumble / shot which the keeper struggled to contain somehow, but managed to keep out of the goal. And then the SV breaks began. SV chose to use their best player by a country mile, SV27 down the left hand side which Duracell Gales and primarily "slider" Woodeson initially struggled to contain – a big, solid player with both pace and agility who seemed to best our players with relative ease. The Sv27 attack was crossed and then fumbled by 'man mountain' TNW, only to be pounced upon by the waiting SV attacker and slotted away 0-1 to SV. Leeds had the bit between the teeth now and Dean set up a lovely pass to Batty whose attack was well marshalled by the SV defence. There followed another foray by SV and a well thought out up and over punt by the SV23 was well taken by TNW – a bright idea lad. LCB had the better part of the play for a time and were playing most of the game in the SV half, although when the SV breaks did come they were both fast paced and well executed as our midfield seemed to be too far up the pitch at times. Another attack by LCB came down the RHS as Slider Woodeson crossed to Duracell EWG and Junior Webb, who scuffed only to see the fortuitous touch loop over the keeper and to dribble into the net – Mr Webb seemed almost embarrassed as they all ran back for the re-start – 1-1. Leeds then seemed take charge with scuffed shots from Harpoon Bostan and Nibbler White, although the next break by SV27 cut the LCB defence wide open- thankfully the final touch was tame and well taken by TNW in the LCB goal. By now the real ref had arrived but no sub was apparently allowed so he sat on the side lines looking on, commenting "oooo, you don't wanna do it like that".... no-one likes an armchair ref, ref. Liam Dean then had a mini break all to himself from the LCB defence, prancing beautifully round LCB and SV players alike, slotting through to Junior Webb(who was having a very enjoyable day),
- 2) To be fair to the home team, they were evidently experimenting - as such their best players were off the pitch and a rout followed in sector 2. LCB took control from the whistle and Jarvis Barker passed through to the Harpoon who just decided to go for a run round the park all on his own, such was his ball handling prowess – superb agility, weaving in and out of players only to slot the ball under the RHS of the keeper – that boy has style. 1-2. As we re-started, an SV player ran onto the pitch shouting that he didn't realize that we was supposed to be on - oops! There followed an SV attack which was well saved by JD and then – well, put simply it was almost all one way traffic. A LCB corner by Ragan fell to the Harpoon's feet but the keeper was on hand to jump at his feet – well done keeper. Another corner to LCB – Barker to Pearson and a shot just off to the RHS of the post..... but then the referee ran off to the centre circle and blew for a goal – As one, the entire side of the pitch,

home and visiting supporters shouted 'It's not a goal' and thus ensued a pantomime moment of "oh, yes it was" and "oh, no it wasn't" between the ref and 50 odd supporters, players and coaches – funny to any neutrals and note takers, it must be said. Anyway, the ref wished that the ground would open up and swallow him and the game carried on – 1-2 still. Young Mr Duracell WGales then made a break up the RHS, crossed it into Barker and the Harpoon slotted it under the keeper – 1-3. Wave upon wave ensued down the RHS by EWG and the Harpoon attacked seemingly at will and it wasn't long before EWG crossed a lovely ball onto the waiting head of Junior Webb and it was 1-4 – superb goal. Then SV had an attack which fizzled out before it reached the LCB defence. Once out, Ragan led a merry dance through a whole army of SV players and toe punted a great shot to hit the RHS post – it would have been just reward had he scored. On the next attack Barker hit an 'up & over' which just narrowly missed and at this stage it must have been awful to be a homeplayer – weird because they had been such a different side in the first sector. The next LCB attack down the left by Ragan crossed over to the Harpoon who managed what Barker had tried moments earlier – this time the 'up & over' paid off and 1-5 was the new score. Initially it seemed as though the keeper was having a bad day but actually he was faring really well and without him the score would have been considerably worse. The next LCB attack was a superb passing display between the midfield players and Ragan slotted another under the 'keeper – 1-6. The next SV attack though was a superb interception as SV9 latched onto an 'epic fail' back pass by Pearson but luckily JD spared Super G's blushes with a fine save. The next LCB attack ended in the keeper coming off worst and play was stopped for a couple of moments - when play was resumed young Mr Ragan slotted under the keeper once again – 1-7.

- 3) 3) The final sector began and the tag teams grudge match of SV27 / Woodeson and SV4 / Ragan continued as all players returned to the field. With the stronger players back on SV looked a much more organized outfit and it showed straight from the start. A few tasty tackles from both sides went in and the magic sponge earned its match fee on numerous occasions. Play was stopped as the poor SV4 received a ball in the face, a couple of 'exuberant' tackles from both sides and LCB got rattled for a time. However thankfully this only lasted a short time and as the LCB defenders all poured forward looking for the glory goals, a break by SV left Woodeson on his own to deal with 3 SV attackers and the result was academic – TNW stood no chance - 2-7. Time to bring Oliver 'the train' Brown back on, this time in midfield. The next LCB down the right came from a lovely through ball from Woodeson to Brown who nonchalantly turned and scored – 2-8. The LCB engine was again up to full speed now and lovely individual performances by Ragan, Brown and Batty as well as a superb passing display between the whole team followed – Liam 'pirouette' Dean had a lovely darting run through several SV players and slotted through to Haroon who was brought down in the box – penalty! The spot kick was solid by Barker but the goalie stopped it dead – at least some kudos for the poor keeper – very well done sir. And so the tie ended. 2-8 maybe flattered LCB as in sectors 1 & 3 SV played well, but man what a sector 2. If we play like that when the meaningful games start and we've got a great season to look forward to – there was plenty to discuss on the Himalayan trek back to the car park...