

U11 A Leeds V Sheffield 23rd January 2016

For the second time this season Leeds progressed in a cup competition with a one nil win against our South Yorkshire rivals albeit this time on home soil.

Period 1- As the boys line up without two players who are key to how Leeds move the ball through the different transitions, Ben Renshaw who is out injured with a broken bone in his hand and Kron Abdui who was a late withdrawal due to illness - get well soon boys. The game followed on from the previous close encounter with the away side playing their neat and tidy passing football against the Leeds boys hard work in pressing the ball well to ensure they enjoyed a fair share of possession. Sheffield had one or two half chances before the first real opening fell to Charlie Tokarski whose effort from the edge of the box was rather tame especially as it was impeded by the long grass. Tom Douglass was back to his best in assisting Leo Diffy and Alfie Wright at the back intercepting a number attempted through balls from the Sheffield midfield. Sam Appleyard, Charlie T and Max Pearson worked tirelessly in the middle of the park without seeing much of the ball. Upfront Both Bradley Wood and Bradley Pride were unlucky on a number of occasions not to unshackle themselves from the strong tackling tight marking Sheffield defenders and carve out a clear cut opportunity. It was evident that like the last encounter it would come down to either a moment of magic or mistake was going to decide the tie between the two evenly matched outfits.

Period 2- The missing personnel meant that the usual changes were diluted somewhat and Leeds ended up with a very powerful front two which they would reap the reward from later in the period. However this was only after Harvey Coleman in the Leeds goal ensured he would walk away with the MOM plaudits after three fine saves as Sheffield turned the screw with a five minute power play that had Leeds hanging on. Then came the moment that decided the game a looping through ball from the right midfield searching out the run of Bradley Wood was met at full stretch from the keeper who under pressure could only spill the ball to the oncoming Ben Moss who moved the ball neatly to the right of the keeper and on to his left foot with which he dispatched what was to be the winning goal low and hard into the centre of the empty net.

Periods 3 - Still both sides battled to control a very tight game and despite both sides having a number of half chances to score it was mainly the defences on top as the pitch conditions were perfect for some good old fashioned slide tackling from Ben Littlewood sadly a dying art in the modern game. Leeds saw out the game and kept their hopes up of winning some silverware and another difficult tie is the reward for the boys efforts as East Riding await in the semi finals.

