

## **Match Report: Redcar and Cleveland vs Leeds Schools FA 14/09/2013**

This was the first outing for the team and they did well against a good Redcar team who were ahead of the Leeds boys in terms of preparation for the season, having already played a number of friendly matches during summer. Leeds started slowly but grew stronger and more confident as the game went on and in the end were unlucky not to get a draw out of the game.

1<sup>st</sup> Third Team: Tom (GK), Jack, Ben, Lewis, Tom, William, Haroon, Liam, Ethan.

Leeds kicked the game off but it was Redcar who started the game strongly. Within the first minute to repel an initial Redcar attack Tom W got a good tackle in but Redcar were first to most balls and Leeds were behind after 2 minutes after some fine wing play resulted in a good shot which flew past the goalkeeper.

Leeds then came into the game a little more with some good link-up play between Liam and Ethan unfortunately the through ball was just too long. Tom and Jack also made some good runs down the right wing and William and Haroon battled hard for the ball but Redcar's defence held strong.

As Redcar pushed forward Ben got in some good tackles and blocks in to repel the opposition and Lewis made some surging runs down the left to create some dangerous opportunities. Unfortunately Leeds then got caught on the break by a swift counter attack and the ball was lofted over Tom's head in a fine finish by the Redcar forward. At the end of the first third the score was 2-0 to Redcar.

2<sup>nd</sup> Third Subs. On: Ellis, Taylor, Matthew and Alex. Replacing: Ethan, Haroon, Ben, Tom.

The first period of this third was even as Leeds started to find their feet and get more into the game.

Redcar were still dangerous and one attack saw a bit of a mix up at the back which resulted in Tom being out of position and a Redcar player crossed the ball in which was headed into an empty net 3-0. Leeds reacted positively to this set-back with Ellis making some strong attacking runs and one good move finished with Liam shooting just wide.

After more pressure from Redcar Leeds pushed forward again Taylor had a shot which went agonisingly just past the post, and Matt made some strong tackles in midfield to break up Redcar possession. Finally Leeds got reward for their positive play when good interplay between Liam and Will from a corner resulted in Liam poking the ball in the back of the net to make the score 3-1.

Final Third Subs. On: Ethan, Haroon, Ben, Tom. Replacing, Jack, William, Liam, Lewis

Leeds continued as they had finished the second third and played with much more cohesion and confidence, with Haroon making some strong attacking runs down the left. There were some sustained periods of pressure which resulted in a number of chances, with Taylor shooting just wide and Ethan making some tricky runs chasing through balls, whilst Tom tackled strongly in midfield.

Leeds pressure finally resulted in a second goal, with Alex scoring after some good build up play by the team. In the last few minutes Redcar pushed forward but Matt and Ben held firm in defence which gave the team a platform to attack from. In the final minute Leeds won a penalty: Ellis struck the ball well but was unlucky when it hit the bar and the team couldn't score from the rebound. This was the last action of the game and the referee blew the final whistle.

**Overall a promising start: the team visibly grew in confidence as the game went on and the boys were unlucky not to come away with a draw. Final score: Redcar 3 – 2 Leeds. Thanks to Redcar for their hospitality and Mr Rossiter for his managerial duties**