

U11 v Redcar – 5th October

from the off, Redcar in yellow and blue were up for the fight as Leeds struggled to make effective tackles and string passes together. Their incisive pair of number 8 and 9 were hard to contend with and within 2 minutes, Redcar 8 was through on goal, past the keeper to score. Only he didn't because, belying all goal line technology and sense of reason, Jack Grassham managed to hook it barely to safety with literally millimetres to spare. Well done.

Within another two minutes, Redcar had again walked through the defence, only to be awarded with a corner which was deftly saved by Donohue at full stretch, although the resulting clearance was straight down the middle instead of using the wingers who were itching for the ball. As a result the solid Redcar 9 managed to get the ball again, heading straight for goal until Woodeson managed to get the last ditch tackle in. Thereafter five minutes of better play was had by Leeds, even though a couple of shots by Woodeson were relatively soft and easily read by the Redcar keeper. The end to end stuff continued and despite some efforts at attacking by Barton, Woodeson and Spence, Redcar were much sharper on the ball and seemed to be able to walk through our defence at will. On the next attack the troublesome Redcar 9 was brought down by Bostan resulting in a straight forward penalty with no arguments from the players or the home supporters. Heads in the hands time as the resulting penalty was dispatched with ease by the same player. 0-1 and it seemed that history was repeating itself for Leeds. Thereafter a number of Redcar attacks with little sign of Leeds mounting any real breaks at the opposite end unfortunately. 0-1 at the break.

The second sector began with Bostan, Barker, Keneally and Thompson being subs. Redcar were once again out of the blocks quicker with the first attack being dealt with by Donohue. However, glimmers of light began to appear with a good little attack by Spence although well dealt with by the Redcar's supremely fast number 7. Barton and Woodeson began getting stuck in as Leeds finally turned up to play and although the side simply didn't have any fluidity at least we began to see desire in their hearts! Grassham continued defending well (who upon reflection was probably the best defender today by some margin) and on several occasions some 'earnest challenges' by Redcar were not picked up by the ref. A nice, short run by Kachosa to Spence then followed but again was dealt with by the Redcar defence seemingly with ease. Sloppy passing once again crept into the Leeds side for a while and it seemed that as soon as we had the ball, the mentality was to hoof it and hope for the best – and it was one of those days when gambles just didn't pay off unfortunately and at this point Redcar were the deserving leaders. However, another promising run down the left by Kachosa who until now had been very quiet signaled the start of the comeback. The ensuing melee ended up with the ball falling to Spence who loosed off a good shot towards the right hand bottom corner which deflected off a defender and dropped into the left bottom hand corner instead. 1-1. Thomas Woodeson began another break with a pass through to Spence who reacted well but was marshaled off the ball again by a very solid Redcar 7 although Spence got a shot away, missing the left hand post by inches. The resulting Redcar attack resulted in a free kick awarded due to a Grassham foul, resulting in a free kick over the wall and a rare fluff by Donohue – thankfully the ref blew for an offside..... living dangerously here... 1-1 at the break.

The third sector began with much more gusto as the players realized that the aim of the game is to win. Leeds were sent out to face the music and by now it was wet, and windy. Grassham, Fitzsimmons, Crowther and Woodeson all took their turn on the bench as Barker started well in midfield we scored after only 20 seconds! with a goal from Alex Fitzsimmons scored the goal, 2-1.

Anyways, this 3rd had much more impetus and suddenly both sides were up for it – this was MUCH more like it! Thompson and Spence came together narrowly missing the Redcar goal. Redcar then seemed to come at Leeds like a wave all of a sudden and unfortunately Bostan missed a vital tackle which enabled Redcar 9 to have a shot on goal - whilst the initial effort was cleared off the line the Redcar 4 slotted therebound home without any challenge. Nightmare. 2-2. I'll bet a couple of our defenders wished they could start the day again... From the re-start Barker had the bit between the teeth taking a couple of shots on goal albeit missing the goal on both occasions, but it was the right attacking mentality. Another Redcar attack was well marshalled by Keneally and another attack was snuffed out. Suddenly Fantastic! Both sides raised their game considerably and from a couple of free kicks given Redcar's way Donohue made a couple of fantastic saves. Another attack came and it was only a question of time before Redcar scored. After another free kick went Redcar's way and after some desperate defending Redcar were gifted a free shot from point blank range, which was like from a cannon – and was SAVED by Donohue! What a superstar! Keneally was on hand for the next couple of attacks, clearing well and making some excellent tackles, even if the Redcar corners were a little dodgy. Thank goodness our goalie turned up today or else we could have been on the wrong end of a proper pasting. Another attack by Leeds giving hope once again... but again taken out of danger by the Redcar defence. And that's the whistle. 2-2 at the close. Not a great performance, but every cloud has a silver lining – well done Mr Donohue.