

I for one thought that this fixture was bound to be called off due to the hurricane that hit the west coast of Yorkshire over the weekend but on it was and as we pulled into the car park we noticed the usual ladies, mesdames Debbie and Dawn (thank you for your constant unsung work ladies) who were frantically heating up liquids in order to provide sustenance for the cast of a certain well known film made in 1939 who just so happened to have dropped in for the coffee morning. Out in the cold though, the "real heroes" were fetching the nets from each corner of the St Theresa's playing fields (hereafter known as 'The Windy City') and setting them up. Even at this point we couldn't help but laugh when the goals kept blowing away in the gales. However, after the international relief effort managed to make the game playable, we eventually kicked off after Oliver 'Yankee turncoat' Brown (who was the Bradford captain for the day) won the toss. And how this one simple coin toss would seal the teams' fates with the wind being a true 10th man for Bradford...

1) Even before the kick off it became evident that the gale force winds would only ever help one team in the first of three sectors of the match, with the LCB team standing at 45 degrees into the wind just in order to stay stationary. Bradford kicked off and within seconds Bradford/BA's players scythed through the LCB midfield and defence and scored a goal before LCB had even woken up. And then... they did it again! A painful way to start a game from which, if truth be told, very little was going to be learned by either set of coaches. However, after a horrendous first couple of minutes, Taylor 'Rhett Butler' Ragan managed to kick start the LCB team with some superb attacking play, leading by example and leading the first LCB attack with a 1:1 with the BA goalie, which was saved at the 2nd time of asking. At this point George 'Prissy' Pearson was blown over by the wind, which pretty much said everything about the conditions... As LCB settled down after the initial shock, feisty encounters started between the teams, not least between Jack 'Gerald O'Hara' White and the BA no. 10 who eventually had to be warned by the ref as to his conduct. Taylor was on fire today irrespective of the conditions and it was not long before he led an attack again, passing between Harrison 'Suellen' Batty and Jarvis 'Jonas' Barker before receiving the ball once again and then forcing the very able BA goalkeeper to make a great save. Jarvis started playing some superb tippy tappy football in the centre of the defence which unfortunately then fell to a BA striker and the end was inevitable. Safe to say he won't do that again. 0-3 and LCB were hurting. Swift lessons had to be learned about defensive frailties and within seconds the parents were watching 'Dan the Man' providing the required hair dryer treatment from the sidelines. Therein followed a number of attacks by the very able BA strike force, some great tackling by Messrs Jack 'Pork' Backhouse, George 'Prissy' Pearson and Harrison 'Big Sam' Batty, although there were a couple more occasions when Jake 'Rochester' Donohue had to be in his best saving form. 0-3 at the break and lots of discussion to be had within the LCB ranks...

2) Leeds finally had the wind in their sails and not before time. LCB started with fire in their bellies and before long the two teams of Scarlett O'Hara (LCB) and Rhett Butler (BA) were slogging it out as neither romantic gained the upper hand. Liam 'Aunt Pittypat' Dean was in fine fettle having been starved for 2 days beforehand and he was straight on the attack, even taking on the ref at one point. Ellis 'Careen' Gales started storming up the RHS of the pitch and causing problems for BA, gaining corners seemingly in abundance. Great shots from Ragan and Gales ensued but to be fair the BA keeper and defence coped with the attacks well. Pearson created a lovely run from the halfway line and after 10 minutes, it seemed like BA hadn't even been out of their half – obviously the wind was playing the leading role in this character pirouette. Gales then created a superb cross from the left and White shoved a great left volley goalward and straight through the keeper. 1-3. LCB continued with the attacks with a sublime free kick by Gales, which Dean volleyed just past the top left hand corner. Thereafter began runs from defence by both Thomas 'carpet bagging salesman' Woodeson and Pearson and before long all of the LCB players seemed to be having fun at will. And then the whistle blew..... back to BA having the wind on their side....

3) By the time sector 3 began, the wind and some rain was beginning to make the game farcical and both sides had some great attacks, although for LCB Ragan was the star. BA had some lovely attacks although the BA captain seemed quiet and somewhat out of place in the centre of midfield – maybe a LCB shirt would have suited him better... LCB also had some great runs with poor Tom 'Mammy' Nicholson Watson having very little to do in the LCB goal. Haroon 'Poker playing captain' Bostan was having a whale of a time with attacks at will and had a couple of very promising runs, although ultimately snuffed out by a resolute BA defence. And so it continued until the game petered out to a stalemate... BA controlled the start of the game well and ultimately the damage was done early on, but much for LCB to smile about. In the end, the wind was the only real winner.

And I had to get 'Gone with the Wind' in there somewhere...