

## **Harrogate v Leeds U13s - Friendly - 10/1/15**

The game went ahead despite the stormy weather recently. The pitch was good but the gale that was blowing down the pitch would make good football difficult. As it was a friendly the game would consist of four 20 minute quarters.

### 1st quarter:

Leeds started against the wind which had not relented for 36 hours. Lewis Branton had the first effort after a good run but shot wide. They were playing some good football in the conditions with good possession and passing although it was an effort getting the ball upfield. Harrogate's first attempt was a free-kick that was cleared before Lewis had another shot that hit the keeper's legs. The home team were not taking the best advantage of the wind behind them although judging passes was a nightmare as the ball travelled too fast to catch! Callum Oddy made his first save of the game safely collecting a low shot. As the quarter drew to a close Lewis just failed to connect with a good Joe Turpin cross.

**Quarter-time: Harrogate 0 - 0 Leeds**

### 2nd quarter:

Leeds were hoping to use the conditions to their advantage as the quarter started and Charlie Webb forced a corner. From this, Lewis has a shot partially saved and then cleared off the line. Leeds were on top and Lewis and then Matty Kyle both had efforts on goal without scoring. Harry Carney then had a shot saved at the second attempt before Charlie had two good runs. Leeds midfield were showing up well and Owen Hindley and Alistair Thompson created another chance for Lewis but the wind carried the ball behind.

**Half-time: Harrogate 0 - 0 Leeds**

### 3rd quarter:

Harrogate had two early efforts as the wind remained at gale force. The breakthrough came as a Leeds goal-kick held up in the wind and was put back past Leon in Leeds goal although it was virtually impossible to get any distance from a dead-ball kick against the wind 0 - 1. Harrogate were using the conditions well having a free-kick go close before a strong shot caught the wind and flew into the net 0 - 2. Far from demoralised Leeds had a sustained spell of pressure keeping the ball on the ground and it paid off as Harry struck a low shot across the keeper into the far corner 1 - 2. Unfortunately, soon after, a defensive mistake let Harrogate score a third 1 - 3. Leeds had been on the wrong end of a number of offside decisions with Lewis yards onside and clean through before being brought back by the referee's whistle.

**Threequarter-time: Harrogate 3 - 1 Leeds**

### 4th quarter:

Leeds were still hopeful that with the wind behind them they could get something from the game and again Lewis had a chance but the shot veered wide. Owen then had a free-kick and a corner that were both close to bringing Leeds a second goal. Nothing would go in and Harry had a shot hit the bar. Leeds finally got some luck when Matty Swift was fouled in the box but Owen put the penalty wide. It was all Leeds now and a free-kick from Lewis again hit the bar but Owen was on hand to head home the rebound and partially atone for the penalty miss 2 - 3. With not long left it was all Leeds but unsurprisingly the referee blew for time at least a minute early and without anything added on for a couple of injury stoppages.

**Full-time: Harrogate 3 - 2 Leeds**

*Both teams did their best in horrible conditions and overall Leeds were as good as the opposition but it was pot luck where the ball went in the wind. Nothing to be downcast about as on a normal day Leeds would have got a result. Our luck will change and chances and decisions will eventually even out or may even go our way!*