

## **Whitley Bay Tour Report**

### *Leeds triumph on North-East Tour*

Leeds City Boys U11's squad's annual Easter tour of the north-east resulted in glory for the young Leeds squad as Leeds 'A' ran out deserved winners of the North Tyneside Festival tournament.

A tiring but unforgettable tour for the Leeds 'A' and 'B' squads kicked off with very impressive aggregate squad victories on Tuesday and Wednesday against Sunderland AFC and Newcastle United Academies respectively.

Thursday was the main event as district teams from all over the North-East gathered in Newcastle for a festival of football.

Leeds 'A' and 'B' were in great form as between them they saw off teams from Newcastle, Wallsend, Chester-le-Street and South Northumberland, only to find themselves pitched against each other in the semi-final.

In a closely fought semi-final, Leeds 'A' finished the strongest and secured a place in the final with a 4-1 victory.

Leeds were paired against a strong East Northumberland side in the final who had been outstanding in earlier rounds. Leeds showed their class though in the final and despite very tired legs ran out 3-1 victors with a close range goal from Saul Kane, a stunning left foot strike (and first of the season) for Derek Bello and a late penalty from goal-keeper Fin Wade completing the scoring.

A great performance from both teams on the day and some very entertaining and attractive football played which was a testament to how all the boys have developed this year. A special mention for Ross Allison who was named by the North Tyneside hosts as 'Player of the Tournament'.

The final day of the tour saw exhausted teams take on local opponents in friendly games as they made their way home to Leeds. The 'A' team suffered an unfortunate 4-3 defeat to Sunderland Boys as they 'ran on empty' whereas the 'B' team managed to find some energy from their reserve tank as they first drew 3-3 and then beat Whitley Bay Boys 9-1 to end the tour on a high.

A fantastic trip for the boys, parents and coaches, with the added bonus of surprise sunny weather all week in the host resort of Whitley Bay!

The boys will certainly have slept well as they got home on Friday night (after hopefully managing a wash and change of underwear for the first time in a week!!!).

Thanks to the management team for providing a fabulous experience for all the boys that they will remember for a long time to come.