

## 8th April 2017 V Nottingham Schools in a Friendly.

A quick start for Leeds ensued with Brad W whipping over a cross that was knocked out for a corner. Jack C lofted it over and Leo rose to conquer making it 1-0 with less than a minute on the clock. Nottingham came forward from the restart beating Leo and sidestepping Sam W but Harvey made a crucial intercept with his feet to maintain the status quo. The referee was giving no quarter as play moved in as Nottingham were awarded a couple of free kicks in quick succession. Leeds needed to switch back on.

Jack C popped a couple of balls forward for Brad W to run on to but all three were too close to the keeper. Harvey then made a good collect when the ball split his defence before Nottingham gave a Leeds a free kick that was wasted by Leo. Alfie had a run down the wing but he'd over-hit the ball and couldn't catch it before a whistle for offside stopped Nottingham in their tracks at the other end. Russell then had a go down the other wing but that too came to nothing before Hayden collected a poor goal kick from the Nottingham keeper but his shot was wayward. Some fine passing by Sam W, Leo and Max helped ease the nerves and Leeds then went forward. Alfie had a shot charged down and then Hayden missed from close range. Despite Nottingham looking the better team they could've been several down with better shooting boots for Leeds.

Hayden went on a run and unselfishly squared the ball for Brad W to score his easiest goal of the season from a yard or two. That said, you've still got to be there to collect the ball so credit where credit is due. 2-0.

Alfie came close for Leeds following a six man move that spanned the length of the pitch. Sam W then misjudged a bounce that allowed Nottingham their first shot, albeit a tame one, straight into Harvey's grasp as the whistle went.

The second period saw two changes for Leeds and one of these, Brad P, was soon on the rampage which allowed Jack C to cross for Hayden who missed his header before Russell clipped the ball back in towards Jack D but his shot was charged down. Nottingham had a shot which was wide of the mark before Sam W charged down another effort and then the next wave was deemed to be offside. Hayden then had a shot for Leeds but it was straight at the keeper although moments later he was on target. Jack D slotted a perfect pass around his man to Hayden who looked, saw the advancing keeper and coolly lobbed him. Superb finish. 3-0.

At the Leeds end Russell wanted too much time and was caught in possession which resulted in a Nottingham corner that was headed well by the mid-landers but off target. A warning for complacency. Some good passing by Leeds allowed Max a sight of goal. His shot was well struck but equally well collected by the Nottingham keeper. Brad P then drilled a shot into the near post. Russell then produced a turn of pure magic but his shot was deflected over. Jack D was the next to have a pop with a solid shot but it was straight at the keeper.

Leeds were now pouring forward with alarming regularity and Brad P had another shot wide. Hayden then headed wide from Jack D's cross before Leo almost sold Joe short in the Leeds goal just moments after he'd replaced Harvey. A shot from Jack C was touched on by Hayden but the keeper was steady. Leeds were now virtually redundant at the back with Sam W and Leo pushing high. Russell played in Jack D who had two crosses towards Hayden but he couldn't capitalise on either due to good defensive work by Nottingham. Still 3-0 as the whistle blew.

The final period had Joe, Leo, Sam W, Brad P, Alfie, Brad W, Max, Russell and Jack D in attendance. Leeds were on the ascendency early doors but without carving out any opportunities and Nottingham had a couple of forays forward but they too could not find an end product. A free kick conceded by Brad P had Joe diving to save although he was thankful for a Russell being on hand to tidy it up. Sam W was then replaced, due to injury, by Jack C and this saw Max drop into a defensive position and he was soon busy making a good tackle. Max then headed a shot off the line. Nottingham were doing much better in this period but then a Leeds broke and Alfie passed to Brad W who forced a great save from the keeper. From the corner Jack D reacted quickest and beat the keeper at his near post for 4-0. Nottingham were then awarded a penalty which seemed very harsh given that not a single player from either side appealed and when the whistle blew they started to line up for a free kick. Bemused as all but the referee were the Nottingham player eventually stepped forward and placed the ball on the spot. It was hard and low and arrowed home as Joe stood rooted to the spot. 4-1. It was Leeds' turn to push forward from a restart and the Nottingham keeper made a brave save at the feet of Brad W. An offside decision each followed before Leo played a dangerous ball across his own box and Jack C was caught in possession as Nottingham continued to search. Another shot followed but, predictably, was wide.

There was to be no more action as the referee brought to a close the day's play.