

It was cold and damp setting at kick-off, for this winter away trip, in stark contrast to the sunny conditions of the last league game. The sun only briefly threatening to break through.

Leeds started the brighter, with an early left-foot shot from Jaydan Clarke-Thompson saved by the keeper. Shortly followed by a well-struck shot by Joe Jordan, just going wide. The early stages were a midfield battle, with neither team getting a foothold in the game.

Then after 9 minutes, Nottingham had their 1st presentable opportunity with a good through ball, but Josh Prior read it well and cleared the danger, off the toes of the onrushing striker. This led to 2 corners in quick succession, both well cleared.

Nottingham maintained the pressure requiring a last ditch tackle by Rudy Clarke to stop a certain chance.

Shortly after, there was some inventive play, when the Nottingham No 11 flicked up the ball on the edge of the area and volleyed it straight at the keeper.

Leeds hit back with a burst from midfield by Max Beckett, the through ball not quite getting to the lurking Lucas Alexander. The Leeds threat was being well-marshalled by some tidy Nottingham defending.

The last action of the 1st period was a Nottingham free kick from the right corner of the area, a shot just wide to the left.

0-0 at the break, Leeds showing some good pace on the counter attack.

Leeds started the 2nd period, as they had the 1st, on the front foot. With a burst down the left by Josh Akiti, but the keeper swept up the danger.

Nottingham countered, with a quick break down the right, No 14, squared to No 11, whose 1st time shot was well saved by Josh Prior, only for the rebound to fall straight to No 14, who slotted home 1st time with a good instinctive finish. 1-0 to the home team on 22 minutes.

Leeds went hunting an equaliser and some neat interplay on the edge of the area nearly putting Harry Gardner in, only for the defence to clear. Then there was a scrappy few minutes, leading to Josh Akiti robbing the last defender only for No6 to battle back with a last ditch challenge.

2 minutes later, Nottingham had some pressure with a snap shot being well saved by Josh Prior. The subsequent corner being cleared. The home side maintained the pressure with another shot by no 9. A minute later, the same player was unmarked and hit a sweet half-volley just wide. The same player was becoming a menace and had another volleyed

snapshot well saved by Josh Prior. No 9 got his reward for some positive endeavour when slotting home a great defence-splitting through ball, to double the lead, 2-0 on 36 minutes.

However, a minute later, Leeds found a way back into the game. With a penalty for a foul on Jayden Clarke-Thompson on the left side of the area. Which was coolly slotted home, to the keepers left just inside the post. 2-1 to the hosts. Game on!

From the restart, Leeds got an early corner, which was well cleared. At the other end, the home side had a free-kick which was blazed over. Then came a pivotal moment after 43 minutes. A dangerous Nottingham cross from the right was saved, only for it to deflect pinball-fashion, onto a defender then into the path of a Nottingham striker, who couldn't miss from a yard out. 3-1. A body blow to the Leeds fight back.

2 minutes later 3 became 4, when an angled shot from the right side of the area, took a wicked deflection off a home team player, to roll in the opposite right corner of the Leeds goal. The away team pushed to try and claw back the advantage, but struggled to create clear chances due to some strong and dogged defending by the home team. Leeds had a couple of free-kicks in the final third and a couple of corners but were unable to find another goal.

So 4-1 it finished. It was a determined effort by Leeds against a competent, organised physical team. Leeds can count themselves slightly unlucky, not getting the luck in key moments.