

Chester Le Street 2 – 2 Leeds

A long journey north on a lovely sunny September morning saw Leeds take on a decent Chester Le Street team. Leeds opened very brightly and with Matty Webb and Jonny White marauding down the right and putting in cross after cross, it seemed only a matter of time before Leeds took the lead. Oliver Brown in the heart of defence was a colossus and ably supported by Jack Grassham they provided a steely barrier in front of keeper Jake Donohue.

Good efforts from Harry Barton and Charlie Owen were blocked on the line by last ditch defending and Tom Spence unfortunately could just not get a shot away when closed down. It was a bit of a shock when against the run of play CLS broke out of defence caught the Leeds defence square and a fine through ball saw the striker nip in behind Webb and finish smartly by chipping Donohue in the Leeds goal. This spurred Leeds on and a quickly taken free kick by Brown saw Webb make a darting run to the by line and his smart cross at the far post was turned in by Charlie Owen 1-1. Leeds SFA was now in the ascendancy and Barton and White were once again unlucky not to score after creating space to shoot. Something had to give and from a poorly taken goal kick Spence pounced on the ball and drilled a sharp shot under the keeper, 2-1 to Leeds

Leeds continued to press forward and good foraging runs by Joe Ingleson and Tom Crowther unfortunately petered out. Archie Owen was lively down the left and the newly introduced Lleyton Garbutt Everett was a commanding presence at centre back. Corner after corner was taken by Leeds but with no end product, CLS started to have a little more of the play and Tom Naisbitt, the CLS No 10 waltzed through two poor challenges to prod home the equaliser.

Leeds felt a little hard done by and maintained the pressure, a lovely free kick from Brown was met by Spence with a deft header but it didn't have the pace to beat the home keeper. Donohue in the Leeds goal had a fairly trouble free morning but still had to be sharp out of his goal to smother a few through ball. Jarvis Barker was creating space and holding up play well and drove in two fine strikes, one smartly saved and the other going narrowly wide. The same player set up Crowther with a great pass inside but the CLS keeper saved well.

There were to be no more goals and Leeds travelled home in the knowledge that this was a game they should have won, but as a newly formed squad, the improvement was there for all to see and hopefully an exciting season ahead.