Wirral FA U11's 2 – Leeds Schools FA U11 2 – 7th February 2015

Trips to play Merseyside teams generally provide the toughest of tests for Leeds Schools' teams and this week was no exception as Leeds U11 'A' team managed to salvage a creditable 2-2 draw after finding themselves two goals down going to into the final third of the game against Wirral Schools.

Leeds started the game brightly with Saul Kane chancing a long distance lob which just cleared the cross-bar but the remaining period became a scrappy affair as two good teams combined to cancel each other out. Leeds probably had the better chances though with Josh Stones fierce free-kick which rattled the cross-bar being the highlight.

Wirral were showing a lot of quality though throughout the team and after an early flurry from Leeds in the second period, they started to dominate the game.

The home team's goals when they came were disappointing though for Leeds as they came from defensive lapses. The first came from a long throw that was allowed to bounce in the six-yard box and was headed in at close range unchallenged.

The second was from a corner taken quickly which found Leeds napping and an early strike inside the box was deflected past keeper Fin Wade.

2-0 at the end of the second period and it did not look hopeful for the young Leeds side.

The boys did not see it like that and after a few tactical changes by Mr. R the team came out for the final third ready to take the game to Wirral.

Saul Kane started to find space in midfield and scooped a smart through-ball to the on-running Charlie Costello whose squared pass found Cassidy Hanakin with space and time to find the net.

2-1 and Leeds started to press hard for an equalizer with Josh Stones dominating in the middle of the park.

Saul Kane again picked the ball up on the right hand side of the midfield and played a lovely one-two with Cassidy Hanakin before executing a superb chip over the Wirral keeper and into the top corner of the net.

Cue massive celebrations amongst the young Leeds squad but the game was far from over as both sides pushed for a winning goal.

Josh Stones came closest to snatching the winner as he fired a close range shot just over the bar after reacting first to the re-bound from a brilliant run and strike from Cole Roberts.

However, at the other end Leeds had keeper Fin Wade to thank as he ensured the points were shared with a magnificent late save with his feet when faced with a last minute one-on-one with the Wirral striker.
A fair result overall and a very competitive game in the Trans Pennine league but the Leeds team will have felt the happier on their journey home as they showed great team spirit to come back and get something out of the game against the odds.