

## **UYSWC snatch victory in thriller**

York ladies came out on top in a closely fought battle away at Leeds Beckett that ended 14-13 to the visitors.

York started the game confidently, taking the lead and the control of the game early on. Excellent attacking play by Ellie Roche and Louise Highton led to the first goal from player of the match Beth Richards. With a smaller pool than normal, however, York struggled to find maintain their rhythm, allowing Leeds two goals in quick succession. Richards pulled it back level shortly afterwards, before Leeds scored again despite solid defending by Laura O'Regan. Back in their stride, York piled on the pressure and Highton netted her first goal of the game to end the quarter 3-3.

The UYSWC ladies started the second quarter strongly with captain Fiona Whiting finding the net to put her team in front. Not to be outdone, Leeds countered hard and brought the score back level. Quick passing between Emily Sutcliffe and Sarah Peacop led to Richards' third goal of the game, before the home side equalised with a wild long range effort. The teams evenly matched, it took a fantastic shot from O'Regan to edge York in front at the halfway point.

The third quarter saw York starting hesitantly, and despite keeper Fran Falcini's best efforts the home side were able to score twice shortly after the restart. Highton had several good attempts blocked before finding the back of the net, and Richards grabbed her fourth to re-establish York's lead. The girls seemed rattled by some questionable refereeing, and before long Leeds had found their way past Falcini twice more to go into the final quarter with a slim 8-9 advantage.

Leeds were not letting their lead slip easily, and went two goals ahead after another long range shot early in the fourth quarter. Fired up, York pressed hard, and a superb drive by Becky Mott led to her second goal in as many games. An on-form Richards drew York level before Katherine Newton edged them in front. Falcini pulled a fantastic save but Leeds did not ease up, scoring again to make it 11-11. Richards found the net to notch up her fifth of the game before Leeds once more outsmarted the York defence to equalise. York were forced to defend hard, but a ball cleared by Peacop found its way to Richards and the back of the net. Leeds scored with a minute left to play and it looked like the game was destined for a draw until Whiting fired home to lead her girls to victory.

Captain Whiting was happy with the result: "I'm impressed by how well we pulled through; it was a bit scrappy but we came out on top. Onwards and upwards!"

YORK: Falcini, Richards, Hall, Chidwick, Sutcliffe, Peacop, Highton, Newton, Roche, O'Regan, Mott, Whiting (c)

Player of the Match: Beth Richards

