



A chance to do something good  
in Leeds in 2007/8



## **Futsal**

Futsal is the format of Small Sided Football that is recognised and supported by FIFA and UEFA with World and European Championships for club and National Teams.

It is a 5-a side game, (with a playing squad of up to 12) normally played on a slightly larger pitch with hockey sized goals and a smaller ball with a reduced bounce. It is played to touchlines and all players are free to enter the penalty area and play the ball over head height. As a small sided game players are constantly placed in situations where they must receive or play whilst under pressure or in confined spaces. As a game it places considerable demand on technique, movement, tactical awareness and fitness. The game is popular around the world but particularly so in latin countries. In Brazil, futsal is played exclusively in primary schools and is credited as the reason why the national football team has the silky skills we enjoy.

## **Who are futsal-leeds.org?**

A new organisation formed in 2006 to promote and provide more opportunities for coaching, refereeing and playing futsal in Leeds Its' aims are:

- To create a number of junior club, school team and open age leagues of both sexes from 2006
- To bring futsal to the whole of Leeds by 2011
- To create a Leeds Futsal Academy
- To use all the above to provide a pyramid system as a route to soon to be team representing Leeds in a new National League.
- To have the Leeds team win the National Championships by 2011
- To have Leeds futsal players representing England by 2011.

## **When will futsal-leeds.org begin working?**

During 2007 **futsal-leeds.org** will pilot a scheme in North and Inner City Leeds to introduce and promote futsal by working with:

- West Riding County FA,
- Schools Sports Co-ordinator Partnerships,
- Leeds Leisure Services
- Leeds Youth Service

Funding will be sourced to:

- train new coaches to enable them to create their own futsal teams. Training will be offered to existing coaches, teachers and inner city youth workers,
- provide free qualified coaching sessions in schools, clubs and inner city youth groups,
- provide courses on futsal rules to enable new or existing referees to officiate in the new futsal leagues,
- provide follow up support to new coaches, referees and players to ensure that they are able to achieve their full potential in futsal.

## **The new futsal-leeds.org leagues**

Invitations will be provided for teams to enter the new **futsal-leeds.org** leagues. It is envisaged that teams will come from

- junior football clubs,
- inner city youth clubs/scheme
- schools

Then from March/April 2007 **futsal-leeds.org** will provide:

- Weekend boys and girls futsal leagues/tournaments

Futsal gives the opportunity to provide sport to persons of all races, religions, social standing and sexes. Our leagues will be affiliated with the West Riding County FA but will be like no other leagues in the United Kingdom by the nature of their unique mix.

## **futsal-leeds.org want a level playing field**

In the UK today, if you want to progress in football, you need to be associated with a junior football club. If you are not playing in a club at primary school age by the time you reach 12 you might have missed the boat. Some primary schools provide football sessions, which might continue into High School but in a lot of cases the chance to continue playing is limited. If you live in an inner city area the opportunities to play are even more limited, **futsal-leeds.org** aims to change that. Our new leagues will comprise teams from junior clubs, schools and youth groups.

As stated above, the 2007 activity will be a pilot scheme. Following this Futsal will roll out across Leeds in a 3-year process from 2008 to 2010. Equal opportunity will be given to all children to compete from across the city, at all age groups

## **The futsal-leeds.org academy**

All futsal players should have the opportunity to progress as far as they possibly can within the sport. With this in mind during 2008/9 it is our intention to create a futsal academy. The academy will provide the following:

- A centre of futsal excellence within Leeds
- Specialist coaching
- Opportunities to play in representative games for Leeds against other junior teams from other cities.
- Formal links with clubs, schools etc to monitor players and involve them in the academy process.

It is extremely important that members of the **futsal-leeds.org** junior leagues believe the academy is there to improve the futsal game as a whole and not to relieve them of their better players. Thorough consultation taking into account the best interest the player will always be paramount.

## The futsal-leeds.org senior leagues

futsal-leeds.org's main thrust is to promote junior futsal, but it is supporting the work of Leeds Leisure Services in the re-launching the Leeds Futsal League which provides a gateway to the Futsal National Championships held every year in Sheffield. The 2006 winners, FC Barsa, were the youngest team competing and their performances drew the attention of the current England Manager Graham Dell. It is important that Leeds teams continue to create a good impression in such prestige tournaments.

futsal-leeds.org and Leeds Leisure Services will be introducing futsal to a number of sports centres, to create more new local leagues in 2007/8. The winners of the leagues will play off to provide the representative team for the National Championships.

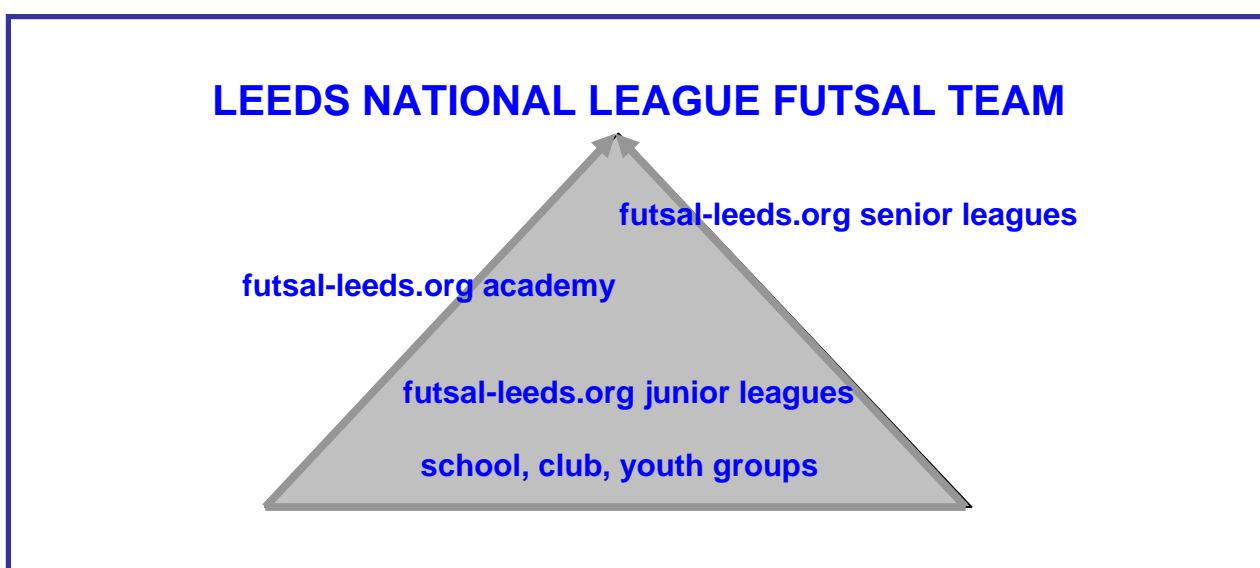
It is very vital that these leagues develop quickly and become well established, as they are the natural progression from the futsal-leeds.org junior league system.

Futsal is currently played in universities and it may be that these teams may also figure within the senior league system in the near future.

## The futsal-leeds.org pyramid

The success of any national sports team is dependent upon the quality of the players within the teams that supply its players. Professional clubs rely on local amateur clubs to find the players that they will need and they are reliant on there being a large number of teams playing the game. The same must apply to futsal.

### The pyramid



The pyramid provides a rational system of progression related to age and ability. Informal coaching in schools etc will lead to more players playing in teams in the junior leagues. Thereafter players will progress within the academy or move into senior leagues teams.

The pyramid system allows players performance to be regularly reviewed. For the pyramid to work properly, the system will consider players who appear to have been “overlooked” or come to the game late. No organisation can afford to ignore untapped talent .The current “World’s Best Individual Player” is Falcao, the Brazilian team Captain. He didn’t begin playing until he was 22!

## **Champions!**

**futsal-leeds.org** have no doubt that the work that Kevin Barr is currently undertaking with FC Barsa will lead to success in the existing National Championships. FC Barsa’s average age is under 19 and coupled with the team’s overall enthusiasm, the team can only improve. Indeed the vision of FC Bars becoming National Champions is based on a two-year strategy devised by Kevin. Of course if he meets his target it is very likely that some of his players will be knocking on the door of the England Manager.

## **A New National League**

It is expected that Leeds will be invited to provide a team to join a proposed new National League in 2008 ; a “*Super League*” which will have televised games. This will be a step up from the National Championships held in Sheffield.

This new league will be the ideal shop window for futsal in Leeds. **futsal-leeds.org** hopes to provide the opportunity for local players to become part of the playing squad.

## **Where to next?**

The popularity of futsal will be self-evident during the next 3 years. It is very likely that there will be more teams playing/wishing to play than facilities available. It will be necessary to provide more pitches. More school sports halls will need to be made available for the junior leagues. (With regard to the seniors, universities may allow their facilities to become available). However, the current facilities available in Leeds make it very difficult to envisage that further expansion can take place without the provision of a dedicated futsal centre capable of staging local and national league matches. **futsal-leeds.org** will be working towards finding funding for such a centre.

## Keeping in touch

You can find out what's happening at [futsal-leeds.org](http://futsal-leeds.org) by visiting our website [www.futsal-leeds.org](http://www.futsal-leeds.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the website futsal-leeds.org. At the top, there is a banner image of a futsal game in progress with the text "futsal-leeds.org" and "Futsal" overlaid. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: HOME, FC BARSA, LOCAL CLUBS, SCHOOLS, INNER CITY, THE LEEDS LEAGUE, MEET FUTSAL LEEDS, and CONTACT US. The main content area starts with a "Welcome to futsal-leeds.org" heading, followed by a "We're new!" section. This section contains several paragraphs of text explaining the organization's mission to develop the futsal game in Leeds, mentioning partnerships with the FA, Leeds City Council, and the West Riding County FA. It also details the formation of leagues for various age groups (U10, U12, U14, U16, U18) for both boys and girls. A "Futsal useful facts" section follows, highlighting the benefits of futsal for all ages and mentioning a local expert, Dominic Hales. Below this is a "Useful links" section with a link to "Keep track with futsal around the UK and the world by clicking here". A "News...news...news..." section is also present, with a link to "Read in futsal | Futsal in...". A small image of a referee is shown with the caption "We need referees!". At the bottom, there are three columns of text: "Need coaching (or need to coach?)", "Need equipment? (Don't know what you need?)", and "Just need help? (Problems getting started?)". Each column has a "Click here" link. The footer contains the copyright notice "Copyright © 2006 futsal-leeds.org | All Rights Reserved".