

# Jak Trueman Challenge Cup



The Jak Trueman Challenge Cup took place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of February at 1:30pm at Almondvale Stadium. The Jak Trueman Challenge Cup is an annual event in memory of the West Calder High School pupil who had a rare form of leukaemia. Jak Trueman sadly passed away on the 2nd of February 2015. He was well known in the school for his happy charisma and was successful in many areas of his schoolwork. He was in both Junior and Senior School Wind Bands playing the tuba. He was also a terrific goalkeeper for Mid Calder Colts. Jak's goalkeeping idol was Neil Alexander, an ex-Rangers player. He was able to visit Jak a lot in his last few months. Neil has become the TeamJak patron. He played in the Challenge Cup last year but sadly couldn't make it to the event this year.

This is the second Jak Trueman Challenge Cup to take place. Last year Mid Calder Colts, some famous footballers and Neil Alexander played against Jak's teachers and other famous footballers. It finished 7-5 to the teachers after a thrilling contest. All the money raised goes to the TeamJak charity. It was set up by Jak and his Mum Alison.

Jak decided to set up the charity for young leukaemia sufferers. At the moment TeamJak has raised an astonishing £180,000! This is a fantastic achievement for the charity and they will go onwards and upwards following this. TeamJak has opened Jak's Den, a place for young people with cancer to chill out. It has counselling rooms for siblings and families affected by cancer. This will be extended to include counselling for any purpose and with fully trained child counsellors available when necessary, a large hall for musical theatre classes & sports classes, music and drama rooms/multi-purpose rooms for therapy or support sessions and meetings and a neutropenic café – for people following a medically prescribed diet and those with a low immune system.

The teams involved in this year's Challenge Cup were most of Jak's fellow football friends, most of Jak's teachers and the Forth One All-Stars. The first game to be played was the Forth One All-Stars vs The Teachers. The first half of the game finished 1-0 to the Forth One All-Stars. At half time there was a penalty shoot-out for any person in Primary School. That lasted the full 15 minute break. There was also an HD Kindle Fire to be won; the tickets were still on sale during half time. Eventually the kindle was won by the Campbell family. In the second half Jak's friends got a chance to play against the Forth One All-Stars in a small game. Eventually the Forth One All-Stars' old legs got tired so on came the teachers to defend their title. After the two teams had knocked lumps out of each other the game finished 2-2! So they went on to a penalty shoot-out... The shoot-out finished 5-4 to the Forth One All-Stars. The teachers were distraught after Mr Hughes missed a penalty to hand their cup over to the new winners!

It was a brilliant day out and everyone who was there will be eager for the return next year!