



# ARMY FA 2020/21 MID SEASON UPDATE



*The Soldiers' Game*

# A WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

## BRIGADIER NIAL STOKOE OBE



First and foremost, during these unprecedented times, I hope this update finds everybody as safe and well as can be. And I hope too that you have, between lockdowns, been able to enjoy some element of The Soldiers' Game whether spectating, volunteering, officiating or playing.

As you know, our 19/20 league season ended abruptly in March, in line with the English Football Association's (our Governing Body) direction that all football activity is null and void for the season. We were, however, given authority when football returned, to complete our Cup Competitions. Four competitions on our return to football in September were completed and I am extremely grateful to all those involved for their hard work, which enabled us to finish the 19/20 Season in such good order. It may not mean much, but to be able to look at that list of Army Challenge Cup Winners in the Garretts Clubhouse in Aldershot and know that we did not let COVID beat us, certainly makes me feel a sense of accomplishment. We were hoping that the outstanding Inter Services fixtures would also be completed, and we came close. However, the second lockdown meant the UKAF cancelled, with agreement from all Service Chairmen, the Men and Women's competition. We will look ahead to 2021.

We also had to postpone our Army Football Awards Dinner during last summer, which is invariably a cracking evening. Thanking all those Officials, Players, Volunteers and Sponsors who help deliver and playing the 'Beautiful Game' is important. I know too that the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, is disappointed not to be able to thank everybody in person this year. As our President he knows all too well the critical role you all play in our enduring success. We will re-schedule in 2021.

On a more positive note, it is testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of all those within Army Football that we have managed to commence 2020/21 with Corps leagues and unit competitions underway in October. The second lockdown has created further challenges but, with the support and guidance of our team, we will work to ensure that we can continue once we are permitted to do so and create viable, competitive leagues & competitions for all.

So, please look after yourselves, football is paused not cancelled and we will play again when conditions allow. Once again thank you to all, for your continued support to Football in the Army; without you we would not have The Soldiers' Game.



# ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OFFICE UPDATE

Please note that during the continued COvid-19 pandemic the offices of the Army Sports Control Board in Aldershot, where the Army FA staff are based, remain closed.

**Staff remain working from home and are contactable via the following contact details:**



## SECRETARY:

**Major WTE (Billy) Thomson**  
Email:  
William.thomson@Armyfa.com



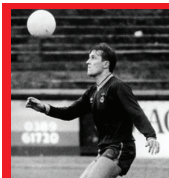
## ASSISTANT SECRETARY and REFEREES SECRETARY:

**Mr Graham Brookland**  
Email:  
graham.brookland@Armyfa.com



## Disciplinary Secretary/Affiliations/ WGS:

**Jenny Payne**  
Email:  
jenny.payne@Armyfa.com



## FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:

**Steve Stone**  
Email:  
steve.stone@Armyfa.com



## FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR/ACCOUNTS OFFICER/COVID-19 AUTHORISATION:

**Gill Jones**  
Email: gill.jones@armyfa.com



## ADMIN/SPONSORSHIP ASSISTANT/ COVID-19 AUTHORISATION:

**Kate O'Hara**  
Email:  
kate.ohara@armyfa.com

**\*NB** When the ASCB resume the Covid-19 authorisation process of representative/corps activity please, in the first instance, provide completed documentation for approval to Gill Jones and Kate O'Hara.

## THANK YOU TO THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR VALUED SPONSOR



**OR UPDATES ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS PLEASE VISIT  
OUR SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS:**

**Website:** [www.armyfa.com](http://www.armyfa.com)

**Twitter:** @armyfa1888

**Facebook:** ArmyFootballAssociation

**Instagram:** armyfa1888

**Please stay safe during these continued strange times.**

**THE SOLDIERS' GAME DESIGNED AND PUBLISHED: ESPORTS PUBLICATIONS**

**EDITOR: GRAHAM BROOKLAND**

We express our appreciation to Ian Morsman for the cover and images on pages 34/35 and 36/37. Thank you also to Kathryn Laws-Bates, Soldier Magazine and John Elliott (Oxhey Jets FC) for provision of images too.



## OUR COVID-19 GUIDE TO CORPS AND REP TEAM FOOTBALL OFFICERS FOR ASCB AUTHORISATION OF MATCHES

- Home Team to send Admin Instruction and Risk Assessment for both teams to be sent to the Army FA 14 days before the date of the match.
- Home Team Risk Assessment to include venue match being played at.
- Away Team Risk Assessment for playing away games.
- Admin Instruction for maximum of two days i.e. one Meet and Training Day and one Match Day.
- Admin Instruction to include a maximum number of 22 Players and Staff combined.
- No Training Camps permitted.
- No Friendlies permitted.



## CHANGES MAY BE MADE AT ANY TIME DUE TO GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION/ GUIDANCE.

This will then be sent to the ASCB Ops Team for approval and authorisation by Director, ASCB ten days before the match.

## PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING ASCB DIRECTIVE:

If the event location is subsequently included within a locally constituted lockdown area, or locality, or is subject to additional restrictions directed by the Government or local authority, then you must report the matter to the Army FA/ ASCB (opsbranch@ascb.uk.com) and the event will be reviewed and, if it cannot be moved/relocated, then it is likely it will be de-authorised.

Individuals are to seek authority from their CO as to whether they are content for them to participate in a fixture or sporting event if they will be travelling from or through, or are residing in an area or region that is subject to additional COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Government or local authority.

*ASCB will continue to monitor Government guidance.*





## What Happens if a Player Tests Positive for Covid 19.

- If a player tests positive, or if they have symptoms they must self-isolate from that point. The player must contact NHS 111. NHS Track and Trace will pick up from this point.
- The Club can carry on, but be mindful to ensure all the guidelines are strictly followed, on social distancing, hand washing etc. If Track and Trace contact a player, they must provide the details and then if deemed anyone needs to isolate this will be on Track and Trace instruction.
- Match play is not considered "close contact" so no action is needed unless individuals experience symptoms, in which case they must self-isolate from that point as per Government Guidelines.
- The Club are to inform the opposition, match officials and Army Football, if, and when a player tests positive. Both teams are to ensure the CoC of all players are informed.
- The Club is also asked to monitor further positive increases.





We were delighted to be able to maintain a record of completing every Army Challenge Cup competition (outside of the two World Wars and Boer War in 1899/00) since 1889. One of the oldest football cup competitions in the world the prestige of winning the trophy remains one of the highest accolades for an Army footballer.

When lockdown halted football in March there were still quarter final ties to be completed and a decision could have been made not to proceed. We are appreciative of all those teams who were flexible to ensure that the outstanding matches could be played within a couple of weeks in order to determine the final was ready to stage at the end of September.

With the Aldershot Military Stadium out of bounds due to maintenance work being undertaken we were grateful to Chris Fowke and all at Army Rugby Union for permitting the final to be staged

at the excellent facilities next door to the home of Army football.

7 Regiment RLC, based in Cottesmore were the victors with a convincing 4-0 victory versus Minley based 3RSME ensuring that they lifted the trophy for the third time in six seasons. The highlight of the day was the third goal as **OWEN KARAU** caught goalkeeper Dean Love off his line from close to the left hand edge of the halfway line. It was the goal that sealed the victory after early first half goals from **MATTHEW GREEN** and St Lucian **RAWLINS FERDINAND**. 7 Regt captain and Army player **SEAN WOOLLEY** netted a late fourth goal before lifting the cup.

Karau was also awarded the Man of the Match, chosen by Forces TV's commentator for the day Jon Knighton and Guest Summariser, Army FA Ambassador Sgt Yvette Kemp.





2019/20

ARMY

CUP

FINAL



# TRIPLE CROWN FOR THE ARMOUR CENTRE



Lt Col Alex Atherton

A new football venue in Bicester Garrison hosted two outstanding 2019/20 Cup finals for the Army FA in September. A football pitch converted in seven days saw the Womens Corps Edwards Challenge Cup Final (covered on page 12) followed by the mens Minor Unit Final as The Armoured Centre created history lifting the trophy for the third successive season in a 3-0 success v 34 Field Hospital.

New Trustee Lt Col Alex Atherton provided the post match congratulations before captain WO2 Danny Sumner lifted the trophy.

With the winners being based in Bovington and 34 Med travelling from York the Army FA were keen to find a suitable location as near as halfway as possible. Bicester provided the perfect fit.

An even first half saw both sides created chances but changes made after the interval by Armour manager Sean Everiss paid dividends as a comprehensive performance saw goals from Danny Hulme, Mark Greenhalgh and Garry Roberts put the contest out of reach for the medics. Roberts' strike from all of 25 yards sealed the match.

Speaking to Forces TV afterwards captain Sumner said, *"On the coach on the way to the match we looked at the trophy and noticed that no team had won it three times in a row. To achieve this makes us immensely proud and created a touch of history. We'd like to be back next year to defend the trophy again."*

The Army FA are indebted to Major Mark Normanton and the team at Bicester for their support, co-operation and flexibility to ensure the staging of both matches which proved a great success.



Minor Units Cup Final



The Armour Centre 3 in a row



Armour Centre Match action



# ARMY FA CHALLENGE AND MINOR UNIT CUPS 2020/21

With the conclusion of the 2019/20 competition it was all systems go to launch 2020/21 with the draw.

Draws for all rounds up to the fourth for the Major Units Challenge Cup were drawn on by the new Trustee for Unit football, Col Neil Blenkinsop alongside our Secretary Major (Retd) Billy Thomson and witnessed Army FA Disciplinary Secretary, Jenny Payne. In addition the first and second rounds of the Minor Units was also drawn.



FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ARE ABLE TO USE FULL TIME FOR THE ARMY CUPS.  
THE LINK TO SEE THE LATEST STATE OF PLAY FOR BOTH COMPETITIONS IS:

The FA League Website

**Army FA Challenge Cups**

2020/21

HS Counter: 191

Selected Cup / Competition: Army Challenge Cup (major units)

DATE/TIME	HOME TEAM	RESULT	AWAY TEAM	COMPETITION
H Cup: 04/11/20 13.00	1 ROYAL WELSH 1 R WELSH	1 - 2	27 Regt RLC First	Army Challenge Cup (major units)
H Cup: 04/11/20 13.00	29 Regt RLC First	1 - 2	1st Bn Welsh Guards First	Army Challenge Cup (major units)
H Cup: 30/10/20 13.00	2 CS Bn REAME First	4 - 3	Scots Dragon Guards SCOTTS DG	Army Challenge Cup (major units)
H Cup: 26/10/20 14.00	9 Regt RLC First	2 - 4	17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC First	Army Challenge Cup (major units)
H Cup: 26/10/20 14.45	1 RSME Regt First	2 - 0	3 Regt RLC 3 Regt FC	Army Challenge Cup (major units)
H Cup: 26/10/20 14.00	32 Engineer Regiment First	H - W	Royal Lancers First	Army Challenge Cup (major units)

<https://fulltime-league.thefa.com/ListPublicResult.do?league=168102666>



**121<sup>ST</sup> MAJOR UNITS CHALLENGE CUP FINAL**  
ALDERSHOT MILITARY STADIUM  
WEDNESDAY 05 MAY 2021  
1500HRS

**MINOR UNITS CUP FINAL**  
ALDERSHOT MILITARY STADIUM  
WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021  
1500HRS

# IT'S SAPPER TIME!

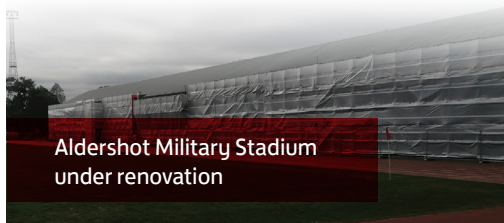
In a reverse of the 2018/19 final **ROYAL ENGINEERS** were the winners of the delayed 2019/20 Woolwich Cup Final beating Royal Signals 2-1 in Aldershot.

The match was one of the targeted competitions selected by the Army FA for completion as Covid-19 halted football in March. Despite the structural work being undertaken to the Aldershot Military Stadium stand and a six month gap since a match had previously been played at the home of Army football tremendous flexibility all round enabled the match to be played.

Signals started stronger and Army keeper Luke Cairney proved busy between the sticks for the Sappers.

After soaking up plenty of pressure the Engineers did take the lead when Sam Atkinson saw his acrobatic strike creep over the line from Jay Hubbard's free kick. Hubbard extended the lead after taking advantage of a quick clearance from Cairney to Dan Stonemans who lined the ball from the right into the path of Hubbard who slotted home from close range. The previous six time winners of the trophy were in command at the interval.

There was drama after the break when Signals were awarded a penalty. Cairney made a fine save from Kevin Cameron's kick only for the referee to award a re-take having deemed Cairney of moving off his line. It was duly converted. Cairney stood firm after the goal with a string of fine saves which was enough to see the Sappers through to victory.



Cpl Craig Stevenson, RE captain told Forces News afterwards, *"This is absolutely brilliant. I've been fortunate to lift the trophy before, and it's just nice to do it again. Signals won it last time so it's nice to get it back into our trophy cabinet"*.





# 2020/21 MASSEY TROPHY

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The original plan of completing four of the 2019/20 cup competitions by the end of September had proved successful with the Major and Minor Units Cups plus Men and Womens Corps cups.

This was always with the intent of being able to embark on the 2020/21 campaign in early October. To this three Massey Trophy matches were lines up on 2nd October. With the latest lockdown commencing on 5th November it will have an effect on the Massey and Woolwich Cup planning moving forwards. Indeed 10 league and cup matches will be cancelled during the lockdown period with a potential issue of an additional seven matches in December, dependant on government, FA and ASCB directive. Once the Army FA is aware of the guidance we will look at how to address this situation moving into 2021.

It was, of course, good to get some corps football back up and running. Nine matches were eventually played before Lockdown 2. On the opening day Infantry put aside their disappointment of last season's competition being "null and voided" with a comprehensive 5-0 victory v RLC at the Aldershot Queens Avenue 3G facility. Cpl Adam Wakley netted a hat-trick. Last season would have been concluded with a winner take all final day match v Royal Engineers. The recently crowned Woolwich Cup winners for 2020 have started the season with a 2-0 success at home to REME in Chatham

followed by a 1-1 draw at the RLC new home at the 4G Tilsley Park in Abingdon. REME recorded their first win of the season with a 3-1 success v Royal Signals at Beversbrook Sports Facility in Calne.

In Division 2 Royal Artillery, who won six of their seven matches last season prior to the March suspension, have commenced the season in good form. A 2-1 success versus RAC was followed up with a 2-0 win at Army Medical Services. RAPTC opened their campaign in new surroundings at the Aldershot Army Rugby Stadium. An entertaining affair saw goals from Sgt (SI) Glass (2), WO2 (QMSI) Bailly and SSgt (SSI) Crossett confirm a 4-0 victory v AMS.

**For all Mens Corps activity please visit:**

<https://fulltime-league.thefa.com/Index.do?divisionseason=158519458&league=5584420>





AMS celebration time

## AMS LIFT DELAYED EDWARDS CUP FINAL

After the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions the delayed Womens Corps Edwards Challenge Cup Final became the first football match to be played at corps/representative level and Bicester Garrison proved a marvellous venue for the match. A pulsating match saw Army Medical Services (AMS) defeat REME despite having to come from behind to retain the cup.

Del Clifford opened the scoring for AMS from the penalty spot in the 10th minutes. Jemma Dinning levelled matter with a terrific lobbed effort before UKAF and Army Womens played Kelly Aldridge coolly struck before the interval.

AMS dominated after the break as Kiera Fitzpatrick took advantage of confusion in the REME defence to level before Clifford netted the winner with her second penalty of the match after being taken out inside the 18 yard box herself.

Army FA Vice President Major General Darren Crook presented the Womens trophy.



Army VP Major General Darren Crook addresses players after Edwards Cup Final

Also in attendance were fellow new Army FA Trustees Lt Col Chloe Plimmer-Sayce, Lt Col Alex Atherton, and Major Nigel Bamford at the socially distanced Oxfordshire base.

The Army FA are indebted to Major Mark Normanton and the team at Bicester for their support, co-operation and flexibility to ensure the staging of both matches which proved a great success.



Edwards Cup Final AMS captain lifts trophy



# WOMENS CORPS ROUND UP

It was great to see the 2020/21 Womens Corps League season open in mid October after seven months on the sidelines.

AMS opened their season following on from their Edwards Challenge Cup success with a 5-0 win in Stafford versus Royal Signals. Delise Clifford, Demi Edwards, Kira Fitzpatrick and Nat Aspinall were on the score sheet whilst Molly McKinlay was voted Woman of the Match for the Medics.

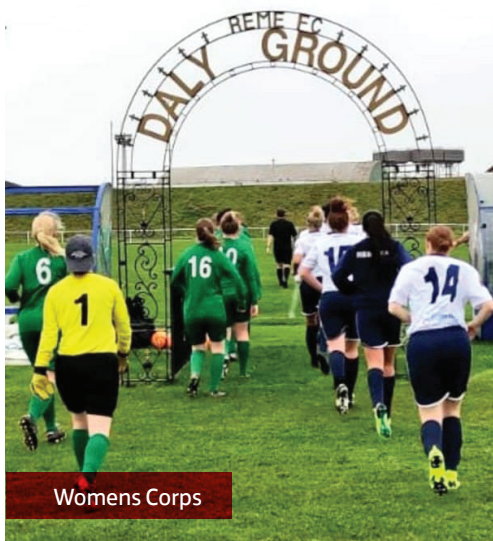
12 Regt RA Gnr Ornelas scored a fine header for Royal Artillery in a 6-0 win at the Int Corps.

Tara Guyler (2) and Tara Parker netted for Royal Engineers who defeated RLC 3-0 at Tilsley Park in Abingdon.

It was honours even in Worthy Down. Tailor Brown, also a qualified Army referee, levelled on the hour from an Yvette Kemp corner to earn a point in a 1-1 draw for the REME versus AGC. A number of new debutant for REME included England International Rugby League player Carrie Roberts.

In the opening Women's Edwards Challenge Cup Quarter Final match of 2020/21 REME progressed to the last four of the tournament courtesy of a 4-0 win v Int Corps. LCpl Dinning (2), Sgt (SI) Kemp and Cfn Cooke were on the score sheet.

Lockdown 2 has had an obvious impact on the season but good proactivity within the Womens game has seen dates for those fixtures lost in November already re-arranged for 2021.



Womens Corps



Half time for Sappers Women



REME Womens team

# 2019/20 INTER SERVICES CANCELLATION AND 2020/21 DATES

Every effort was made by the three Single Services and UKAF to complete the 2020 Inter Services that was halted due to COvid-19 in March after the Army Men had defeated RAF (1-0) at Shrewsbury Town FC whilst the Womens match produced the reverse at Cosford.

Extensive planning and discussions ensured that new dates were confirmed for early and late November for the completion of the Royal Navy v RAF and Army v Royal Navy matches.

Ironically on the opening day of Lockdown 2 the Army and Royal Navy were due to be concluding the mens tournament in Aldershot.

Once Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced to the nation that a new Lockdown would be enforced in England commencing on 5th November further discussions continued via Zoom and the only conclusion to be reached was the cancellation of the tournament.

The statement issued said, *“Regretfully, the UK Armed Forces Chairman and the three Single Services have cancelled the 2019/20 Inter Services competition because of the inability of the competition to complete due to Covid-19 restrictions.*

*Further to the RAF v Army fixtures (Men and Women) that were played back in March 2020 it was hoped to complete the Men's competition this week with the Royal Navy v RAF due to be played on Monday and the Army v Royal Navy playing on Thursday whilst the Women were due to play w/c 30 November 20.*

*All options have been investigated to complete the competitions (Men and Women) and the decision*

*to cancel has not been taken lightly. Previous 2019-20 Inter Services results will be expunged. The three Single Services will plan the 2020/21 Inter Services competition in the New Year.*

*The U23s Inter Services was completed in February 2020 and is unaffected.”*

Dates for the 2021 tournaments have been arranged as follows but please note these maybe subject to change dependant due to the current situation:

Wed 10 Feb	<b>Army U23 v RN U23</b> (Aldershot Mil- 1400hrs)
Wed 24 Feb	<b>RAF v Army U23</b> (Oxford City FC- TBC)
16 or 17 Mar	<b>RN v Army (Women) TBC</b>
Wed 17 Mar	<b>RN v Army (Men) TBC</b>
Wed 24 Mar	<b>Army v RAF (Women)</b> (Aldershot Mil- 1500hrs)
Wed 24 Mar	<b>Army v RAF (Men)</b> (Aldershot Town FC- 1900hrs)





# UK ARMED FORCES COVID-19 UPDATE

The Chairman of the UK Armed Forces FA, Air Cdre Simon Harper OBE MA RAF provides an update with regards to the UKAFF situation following the second national lockdown:

Since lockdown in March this year, UKAFF has worked tirelessly to resume football in a safe, timely and COVID-19 compliant manner. In close consultation with the UK Sports Board, single Service Sports Boards and single Service FAs, as well as the Head of Establishment with our partners at HMS Temeraire, we have led the work to revise and re-write Safety Management Plans, Risk Assessments, and create a pathway to resume football.

Our plans have been highlighted as best practice across the football community and I am incredibly proud that we have focused on what matters most – the safety, well-being and health of our players, coaches and officials. This has been a long, difficult and at times frustrating process and I recognise the exceptional work undertaken by so many.

By setting the example and leading the way, we have proved that it is possible to deliver football safely and the fact that the RN, Army and RAF Rep Teams were able to play some football until very recently is in no small part down to the work of UKAFF.

As a result of the lockdown measures in place across the UK, and the decision to instigate a second national lockdown across England from Thursday 2nd November, I have taken the very difficult decision to cancel all UKAFF activity for the foreseeable future and, with colleagues from the RN, Army and RAF, cancel this year's Inter-Service competitions; while I regret having to make such a decision the COVID-19 situation has made it inevitable. Your patience, professionalism and commitment to UKAFF has been both inspiring and humbling.

We will continue to work hard to re-start UKAFF activity as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. There is nothing better than representing UKAFF and your country. I look forward to seeing UKAFF on the pitch as soon as possible and ready for a busy and important 2021.

Until then stay safe and thank you for all that you do.



**Air Cdre Simon Harper OBE MA RAF**  
Chairman of the UK Armed Forces FA,



## WOMEN'S UPDATE

### BY LT COL CHLOE PLIMMER-SAYCE ARMY TRUSTEE FOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

It has been a difficult opening to the season for Women's football, as experienced by every section of Army Football. The cancellation of the 2019/20 Inter Services was confirmed in early November and, in line with the second lockdown, no football was permitted between 05 November and 02 December. All postponed fixtures will be re-scheduled by my Director of Football, Maj Mark Normanton in consultation with the Army FA. However, bearing in mind the number of matches (both male and female) which need to be rearranged, all of whom bid from the same pool of Referees, we need to organise this centrally to avoid clashes. Dates will be promulgated in due course.

We attempted to arrange training camps for both the Women's Senior and Amazons Development teams and, despite both being in advanced stages of planning, they all had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Thank you to everyone involved, I really appreciate your efforts and know how frustrating this has been but we now need to look for suitable dates in the New Year to run the camps.

Without volunteers within Army Football we would struggle to achieve what we do. **LT COL SANDRA HODGSON** has been an integral part of Army women's football since attending trials in the late 1990's. From initially playing Sandra, after a discussion with current Football Development Manager Steve Stone, completed her Level 1 and 2 badges in quick succession and became Army Head Coach in 2006 enjoying a successful nine years in the role experiencing regular victorious Inter Service competitions.

After handing over to her Assistant, WO1 Mags McAteer in 2015, Sandra moved into the role of Team Manager and continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes to enable Women's football. Unfortunately, the combination of her current involvement with the Covid-19 Taskforce and the fact that she is retiring from the Army next year has forced Sandra to make the big decision to step down from her role. She will be missed; I have never known Army football without Sandra!

Also stepping down after years of dedicated service to Women's football is **WO2 HELEN LEE**. Helen made her debut for the Army in 1998 as a 17 year old before going on to represent the Army over 50 times. When she retired in 2014 Helen joined the administration team as the Secretary and even though I have only had the pleasure of working with her for a short period I have been incredibly impressed by her dedication, organisational skills and passion for the game. As she is also nearing retirement she has quite rightly made the hard decision to hand over the reins in order to concentrate on her resettlement. She has made a big impact on the development of Army Women's football and like Sandra will be hugely missed.

We are also saying goodbye to **SSGT LEE CARTER** who left the Army in Sept. Lee got involved with football after being asked by Mark, my Director of Football, to give him a hand with some admin for a game. After that he became an integral part of the team and even though he is not a footballer, Lee enjoys enabling others to do what they love and I am hugely grateful to him for the support he has given to football within the Army.



And finally, for the REME Team Manager **SGT PETE SHAW** the delayed Edwards Challenge Cup Final in September was his final match after serving REME football as a player/coach and manager for 23 years. In addition, the RA are losing **WO2 RON EUGENE** who has been their female Coach for four years after representing both the Gunners and the Army as a player. Good luck to you both as you leave the Army and thank you for everything you have given to the beautiful game!

All of the above will be formally recognised at the appropriate time when Covid-19 rules become more flexible. Their dedication, energy and passion for the game has enabled and developed female football in the Army and we are forever grateful for their tremendous contribution over many years.

In summary, I just want to say thank you to everybody who continues to hard work to enable our female officers and soldiers to play football. It is not easy in the current climate and I know it is hugely frustrating to see all your hard work and efforts come to nothing when we have to postpone games, cancel training and stop friendly matches but unfortunately this is the nature of the beast at the moment and one we just have to deal with. Please rest assured that myself, my Director of Football and our new Inter Corps League Secretary Capt Caz Mantell will work alongside the Army FA staff to try and assist wherever we possibly can.



Sandra Hodgson and the Inter Service winning management team of 2012.



Helen Lee



It was good to see the Army FA Football Development Centre back in use in September and October for FA Level 2 Blocks. Unfortunately the proposed Block 3 module in mid November was another Covid-19 casualty. In line with the suspension of grassroots and non- elite football, face to face coach education courses will also be cancelled until post December 2nd.

In order to comply with FA and Government guidance stringent stipulations were put in place by Football Development Manager Steve Stone and Administrator Gill Jones to ensure the course, with a reduction in numbers of a maximum of 12, could go ahead after receiving the required authority from the ASCB.

There are currently many changes occurring within the FA Education Department that will effect how courses are operated in 2021 and we will update and advise as soon as we are in a position to do so.



Covid-19 secure Aldershot FDC prior to course







## FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

As you may now be aware the FA have decided to take all courses in house and change the delivery format from March next year. The new coaching pathway is still being developed but will look something like:

FA Playmaker (on line) - FA Safeguarding (online)  
 - FA EAIF (on line) - Level 1 certificate (on line) –  
 UEFA C Licence (part on line) – UEFA B Licence  
 (Format TBC) – UEFA A Licence (Format TBC),

There may still be some form of specialist qualifications in Youth football, Goalkeeping, and FUTSAL but as yet not confirmed.

Any learners who are still to complete qualifications are termed “in flight learners” and the FA are in the process of putting together a plan to get these learners through the course they are registered on.

This may give us an opportunity to develop our own coaching support/mentoring/education

programme in the future so please feel free to contact me ([steve.stone@armyfa.com](mailto:steve.stone@armyfa.com)) with any ideas thoughts or concepts on content that you think may help us develop a programme that meets the needs of Army coaches, coaching adults in the 11 a side game in the Army.

As I am sure you can imagine the situation is quite fluid and things have / are likely to, change by next year.

I have sent out application forms for Adult Club Charter Status to all points of contact listed on the Whole game system for Army FA affiliated clubs. Please fill in the forms and return it to me to get your free balls and equipment.

Please note you must be affiliated to apply and get this gift of kit.

Steve Stone



It has been a similar story for Army Referees due to Covid-19 restrictions so far this season. Indeed, it will be more than a calendar year by the time we are able to resume referee courses. Two courses were cancelled towards the back end of 2019/20. We aimed to resurrect two courses in Catterick for October and November but decided to cancel which, in hindsight, was a wise decision due to lockdown 2. We will be looking at announcing new dates by early 2021.

The ramifications of having approximately 80 personnel interested in becoming a referee and not being able to attend courses is severe. It will have a knock-on effect for a period as we have less officials entering into our system and, ultimately, after completing their first five matches to reach Level 7 then embarking through the promotion process.

Encouragingly, though, 40 Army officials have applied for promotion within their specific level and we are currently administering their packages which is, of course, a tall order due to the stop/start

element to the season due to Covid-19. The FA have revised the criteria in recognition to this which is supportive. Already two officials, Dan Bishop (6/5) and Barrington Ellison (7/6) have already completed their initial package allowing them to be considered for the next level.

There are challenges within the Tutor system with the FA revamping their own criteria with regards to Referee courses moving forwards. We will be in a better position to know how this effects the Army FA by the early part of 2021.

With four delayed cup finals of 2019/20 being played in September and October it was the appropriate opportunity for officials to be recognised with appointment to those matches. It was not an easy process and all officials had to comply with the Covid-19 regulations. This included three officials for the Army Challenge Cup Final, played at the Aldershot Army Rugby Stadium in September, travelling down from Catterick in full kit, arriving at the stadium by taxi and masks in tow!



We have 180 registered officials currently and we have been blessed with some excellent civilian appointments so far from the FA Youth Cup through to the FA Cup. Cpl Dec O'Shea (REME), the youngest soldier to referee the Army Cup Final as a 26-year-old in 2017, officiated in the Emirates FA Cup 1st round tie, shown on BBC Digital, between Banbury Utd and Canvey Island. In the FA Vase Army FA stalwart Major Rim Rimmington MBE (RLC) celebrated his 60th birthday weekend by being appointed to the FA Vase 2nd qualifying round tie between Fleet Town and Shrivenham. Rim successfully completed his referee course in 2009, just short of his 50th birthday, progressing through to a Level 5 Referee.

WO1 Ash Allen (RAPTC), who refereed the 2018 Army Challenge Cup Final, has been appointed to the England Under 18 v Coventry City U23 friendly at St Georges' Park in November. It has also been encouraging to view the progress of former Army officials too. Declan Ford (ex REME), who refereed the 2006 Army Cup Final, has recently completed 300 professional matches and officiated in the FA

Cup tie between Hull City and Fleetwood Town ; he is in his 15th season as a Football League official whilst Rob Dabbs (ex Int Corps) was 4th official at the recent FA Cup first round tie at Torquay Utd which saw a bizarre 6-5 win for visitors Crawley Town. It is also great to see another ex REME official, Kenwyn Hughes, progress. Coming up through the Army ranks he has been appointed to the English Football League list this season and officiated in the FA Cup 1st round at the tie between Scunthorpe Utd and Solihull Moors.

2021 will be a big year for Army Referees as we rise to the challenges that Covid-19 has provided.



Declan O'Shea



Rim Rimmington MBE



Declan Ford (2nd left back)

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month takes place every October. The British Army supports the annual celebration of the role of black people in our nation's story.

During the month coverage was provided highlighting the experiences of the many black soldiers who have served in our ranks and telling the stories of some of those who are currently serving through the British Army website.

One of those featured was Army Mens footballer **Captain Mo Sabo (27 Regiment RLC)**. Mo was taken to English Football League club Northampton Town FC to learn about Walter Tull, one of the first black professional footballers and Army officers.



Ironically Walter was born in Folkestone just two weeks after the formation of the Army Football Association in April 1888. His father, Daniel, was the son of a slave arriving in England from Barbados in 1876. He married Alice Palmer and had five children. Alice sadly died and Daniel, after remarrying and the arrival of another child, died from heart failure in 1897. Walter and his brother Edward were farmed out to a Methodist Orphanage in Bethnal Green.

After winning the FA Amateur Cup with Clapton neighbouring Tottenham Hotspur took an interest in Walter and he eventually signed for a £10 signing on fee and maximum £4 per week wage. Verbal abuse from opposing crowds, however, affected Walter's form and he spent much of his time in the reserves. Herbert Chapman, who went on to be one of the most influential and successful managers of the 20th century, signed Walter whilst managing Northampton Town in 1911; Walter went on to make over 100 appearances for the Cobblers.

The declaration of war saw Walter enlist with the 17th Middlesex Regiment in December 1914. Promoted to L/Sgt Walter was involved in the July 2016 Somme offensives. In March 1917 he was commissioned. On 25 March 1918 he was hit in No

Mans Land in Favreuil, France and died instantly from a bullet in the head.

In July 1999 Northampton Town FC erected a monument in Walter's memory outside their Sixfields Stadium. It reads:

*"Through his actions WDJ Tull ridiculed the barriers of ignorance that tried to deny people of colour equality with their contemporaries. His life stands testament to a determination to confront those people and those obstacles that sought to diminish him and the World in which he lived. It reveals a man, though rendered breathless in his prime, whose strong heart still beats loudly. This memorial marks an area of reflective space as a Garden of Remembrance."*



The approach road to Sixfields Stadium is called Walter Tull Way. 28 year old Capt Sabo, who also plays football for Isthmian League South Central division club Westfields FC, was joined by Historian Alex Churchill, to learn more about the history of Walter, as a footballer and officer. He said, "Walter Tull was a great man in Black History. He paved the way for future black officers to join the British Army.



*"What I have learnt most about Walter Tull that I can apply and use going forward is very much leadership by example and that resilience. For Walter, obviously starting out as a soldier, he deployed out initially very much leading by example and it was that performance and bravery and everything else that then earned him the recommendation to become an officer and literally lead by the front during the war."*

*"For me it is really important that we understand where we have come from, to use that and appreciate where we are today plus how we use that and learn lessons from that going forwards."*

*"It is slightly mixed emotions for me in that anything that raises awareness of black history and encourages people to learn about black history is fantastic and that is what black history month is there to do but the fact that there is a dedicated black history month, I think says that we are probably not doing enough at the minute, whether that is in schools or through other means to learn about that black history which is a shared history for everyone."*

To learn more about Black History Month visit: <https://www.army.mod.uk/news-and-events/events/black-history-month/>





## RESERVE FOOTBALL

### COVID-19 UPDATE FROM COL DAVID JONES

#### INTRODUCTION

I have been involved in football in the Army Reserve as a representative player, player / coach / manager of Unit teams, Army FA Trustee and Chairman of Army Reserve Football for many years and so I have seen the highs and lows. However, Covid 19 has brought unprecedented challenges to football and to our nation, as a whole.

Covid 19 and the restrictions that surround it is causing "Football in the Army Reserve" some significant issues. Although a green light to return to football and football training was provided pre Lockdown 2, as authorised by Army HQ and Army Sport Control Board [ASCB] there are some issues evolving that puts football in the Army Reserve at real risk and the individuals and teams participating.

#### CURRENT SITUATION / ISSUES AND CONCERNS

##### CONTEXT

Army Reserve football is a different beast than our Regular component, focused on weekend based activities and geographically nationally spread in all four countries of the UK, with potential cross border travel. These potential movements are causing unacceptable risks and also with recent regional lockdowns; different nations approaches has resulted in some real difficulties to co-ordinating efforts. Therefore, there are real challenges, at all levels.

#### ARMY RESERVE CHALLENGE CUP

We have made the draw for the 20/21 Season Challenge Cup however teams are already struggling to set up the matches due to restrictions, as AR football is a national organisation. Feedback from teams in Wales and Scotland have indicated that they cannot play at the moment, teams in England are struggling due to local lockdowns and

concerns that they cannot fulfil the additional steps required for COVID-19. We are already into October, only one fixture is confirmed and that is between two UOTC sides, Exeter and Oxford, and as we know universities are to the forefront of the Covid challenge. Two teams have already had to withdraw - referencing COVID as the reason. So going forward the Challenge Cup is facing difficulties, with the number of teams reducing and possible further national / regional restrictions on the horizon in the coming days the environment is not looking promising and the restrictions may add even more difficulties. There is reputational risk and creditability to Army Reserve football and Army FA as a whole, if the competition continues.

#### REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

We are planning to get the Men's representative team in for an initial weekend in Dec 20 and have five fixtures lined up for the New Year, including the Army U23s, Infantry Corps Team and ICARUS. The Women's representative team is yet to confirm their fixtures however they are expected to start again in the early part of the New Year. Although I feel we can apply the necessary steps to keep the players safe when they are in our care I am concerned that calling players in from all corners of the UK, problematic and if an outbreak was to occur could lead to further scrutiny. However, we still have potentially some flexibility with representative football and we can push the initial games in the New Year later in the season and potentially shorten the season with games in the latter part of 2021.

#### A WAY FORWARD

Following a period of consultation, we have agreed on the following approach, which has now been endorsed by the Army FA.



## ARMY RESERVE CHALLENGE CUP 2020/21

Decision to cancel the 2020-21 Army Reserve Challenge Cup.

## ARMY RESERVE CHALLENGE CUP 2019/20

Due to Covid restrictions from Mar 20, we still have one remaining semi-final to play and final remaining to play. Decision we will try and play the one remaining semi-final and final of 2019/20 AR Challenge Cup during the season. Potentially looking at the games to be played at the tail end of the current season, during the Apr – Jun 21 period. The situation will continually be reviewed, with a decision made nearer the time.



## REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

**Decision** that representative football will be put on hold, with the early planned activities being pushed further into the season but this situation will be continually reviewed / monitored, depending on conditions. However if the current situation / perceived future lockdown conditions continues there may be a high probability that no games will be played this season.

I understand for many the above decisions will be very disappointing but much is out of our control and we have a duty of care to you all and the wider community. I believe going forward grass roots football across the nation will be impacted even further by Covid and at this juncture we are only trying to manage future expectations, as early as possible.

We will keep you all updated of any developments.

So sorry for being the bearer of bad news and please do not hesitate to contact me, if I can be of further assistance.

**Best wishes  
David**

Chairman – Army Reserve Football



# FORCES NEWS

We are grateful to Jon Knighton, Julian Evans and all at Forces News/BFBS for their extended coverage of Army Football as we were able to complete the outstanding Cup Finals from 2019/20 in addition to featuring the Inter Service build up match between Army and Aldershot Town staged in October. Unfortunately the Inter Services was eventually cancelled as plans were in place for streamed coverage of our home matches versus Royal Navy similar to the Army Challenge Cup Final played in late September as Jon provided the commentary with Ambassador Sgt Yvette Kemp as co-commentator as 7 Regiment RLC lifted the trophy.

We look forward to renewing our relationship with Forces TV, BFBS and Soldier Magazine as soon as our calendar and events list is operational again.



Jon Knighton and Yvette Kemp



Jon Knighton



Winning AMS captain



Sean Woolley Army Cup Final





# WHEN WE SAY FOOTBALL IS FOR ALL... **WE MEAN IT.**

As England's national sport, with more than 30 million spectators, 11 million participants and 100,000 grassroots teams, football has incredible power to bring people together, pull down barriers and act as a force for good.

With this power comes responsibility. As the game's governing body in England, we consider this responsibility to be a day-to-day duty.

So much so that we've published our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan for 2018-21, which is now in its second year. You can download a copy from the Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination section of [TheFA.com](https://www.thefa.com).

It contains clear targets across four priority areas of work:

- The FA and its culture
- The England teams' support structure
- The game's grassroots workforce
- Inclusion programmes across the game

Our priority areas are also underpinned by our ongoing work to deliver a game free from discrimination.

All our targets are measurable. At the end of each completed year we publish a progress report. The latest one can also be downloaded from [TheFA.com](https://www.thefa.com).

We're determined to ensure football is **For All**.

# FOOTBALL OFFICERS

## UPDATE FROM JENNY PAYNE

Whilst we are taking an enforced break from playing the game, I thought this would be an ideal opportunity to get on top of the administration side of the game and to refresh you on a few points.

### AFFILIATION

1. It is a mandatory requirement that if you play any football, at any level, including friendlies, then you must be affiliated. Please contact me if you need help with the process.

### PLAYER REGISTRATION

2. It is now also mandatory that every player you play are registered fully through the WGS. Therefore, can you all please go onto your WGS and ensure that you have fully registered your players and submitted them for league approval. This has to be done for each and every player including all new players before they are eligible to play for you. Instructions attached Annex B.

### DISCIPLINE

3. When you receive a discipline notification you are advised to go into the discipline tab in your WGS and acknowledge the charge straight away. This will avoid you incurring a late response fine. You then have 14 days to pay, if you do not pay within the allotted time frame you will incur a late payment fine.

As the ASCB offices are closed the option to pay by phoning me is no longer available. Your players can, however, phone you and you can carry out the payment transaction online via your WGS, this is why it is important that your players are registered and you have acknowledged the charge, without this first being done WGS will not give you the option to pay online. Example attached.

If for any reason you can not pay online we do have a BAC's option:

BAC's (A screenshot of transaction will be required)

A/C: Army Football Association

A/C No: 11240917

Sort Code: 16-19-26

- With regards to your players receiving match suspensions, if you get into the habit of using the matches Tab in your WGS and add all your matches, the suspensions will automatically count down for each qualifying match played. If you do not do this then the only way suspensions will be cleared is if you inform me after each game and I clear it manually.
- When filling out your team sheet for the referee pre-match, can you please fill it in with your players names as they appear in WGS. The officials do not have extensive access to your team on WGS so can only search with the info you have provided on the team sheet. i.e. if Joe Blogs is written on the team sheet as Joey Blogs, when the referee submits his match report on WGS, the system will search for Joey not Joe and therefore not find him. The only option left to the referee is to assume Joey is a new player to your team and create a new account. A complete headache for me and for you.

### ARMY CHALLENGE CUP

4. All Army Challenge Cup fixtures are now on Fulltime and can be found at:

<https://fulltime-league.thefa.com/Index.do?league=168102666> .

Please contact me with the results as soon as you can post match, so I can keep Fulltime updated.

If you require further help with any of the above or anything to do with the administrative side then please contact me. I am always happy to help you through the processes or clarify any points.



Kind regards,

*Jenny*



# PLAYER REGISTRATION

## GUIDE ON HOW TO ADD PLAYERS ONTO YOUR WGS PORTAL

1. Select the link:  
<https://wholegame.thefa.com/Account/Login>.  
(if using MODNET the app will run better with Google Chrome as your browser).
2. Enter your Email and password. (If you haven't registered on WGS before, click **Sign Up**)
3. Select your Football Role tab, it should say **Secretary/Chairman** Unit Name.

Before you carry out the steps below please ensure that you have the correct details for all your players listed, this must include their own personal email address (do not use yours in duplicate, the system will freeze your account!!)

SELECT PLAYER REGISTRATION TAB in your WGS Portal (left hand side)

## ADDING ID CHECK-MULTIPLE RECORDS

1. Select ALL
2. Select green box labelled Identity Check (top right of page)
3. Select Government ID
4. Select official
5. add date
6. click "Add ID Check"

## PLAYER CONSENT (DO NOT USE "SELECT ALL" FOR STEPS 7-16, IT NO LONGER WORKS)

7. select all players on page 1 by ticking each individual box
8. Select green box labelled Confirm Offline Consent (top right of page)
9. Repeat steps above for each page

## ASSIGN PLAYERS TO TEAMS

10. select all players on page 1 by ticking each individual box
11. Select green box labelled Assign to Teams (top right of page)
12. Click "Select All"
13. Click "add players to selected teams"
14. Repeat steps above for each page

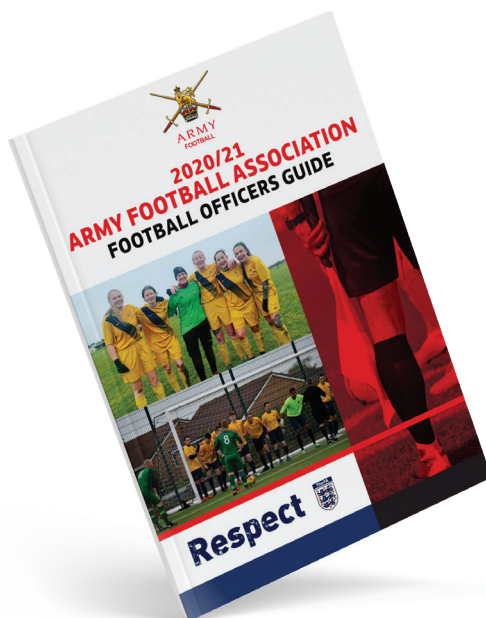
## SUBMITTING PLAYERS TO LEAGUE SECRETARY

15. select all players on page 1 by ticking each individual box
16. Select green box labelled Submit to League (top right of page)
17. Tick both boxes for international clearance
18. Select "Submit"
19. Repeat steps above for each page

You may receive error boxes for an individual(s). Carry out the actions as per the error message. If in doubt, please send me a screenshot and I will assist you in correcting these errors.

*Only when you complete all the steps above will your players be fully FA registered.*

*If you require help please select the help tab within the Player Registration Tab or go to <https://grassrootstechnology.freshdesk.com/support/home> If this does not resolve the issue, please contact the Affiliations Secretary at the AFA*



**CLICK TO OPEN  
FOOTBALL OFFICERS GUIDE  
SEASON 2020-21**

# ARMY FA UPDATES

## DECEMBER COVID-19 AUTHORISATION

The ASCB has agreed that the submission of AI and RA in regard to representative (including corps) fixtures in December proceeds, in the assumption that after this particular lockdown, we will be permitted to play sport. All teams have been contacted to provide the correct documentation to Gill Jones and Kate O'Hara. Please do not wait until the required 10 days, submit the documentation soonest, Ops would rather have plenty notice to look at these documents.

## WORLD MASTERS GAMES CANCELLED

We have now received formal notification from the International Masters Games Association that the WMG21 scheduled to take place in Kansai, Japan in May 21 has been postponed. The Games will now take place from 13-29 May 2022.

## UNDER 12 TRUCE TOURNAMENT CANCELLED

We were disappointed that the annual FA Premier League Under 12 Truce Tournament was postponed in November due to the Covid-19 situation. It would have been the seventh occasion the Army FA had hosted at Aldershot on Remembrance Sunday. Hopefully a new date will be allocated in 2021.



## REFEREES 100 !

The Army FA Referees' Committee was 100 years old in October. From a peak of 2000 officials in 1955, 27 Chairmen, 100's of volunteers too including mentors, observers, tutors we thank everybody who has played their part. We will celebrate with a commemorative brochure highlighting the centenary whilst also recognising the achievements of the current period too.



## THANK YOU ARMY RUGBY

Thank you to Chris Fowke and all at Army Rugby for your help and support in enabling us to use the Rugby Stadium in Aldershot for the delayed 2019/20 Challenge Cup Final and representative match between the Army and Aldershot Town U23 whilst the main stand at our Military Stadium was being renovated. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## IMOGEN KEEPY UPPIES

We were delighted to support the "7 Million Keepy Uppy Challenge". The campaign was instigated by 10 year old Imogen who, after being inspired by Capt Tom Moore raising money for the NHS, she decided to help too. Army FA Ambassador Sgt Yvette Kemp visited Imogen and presented an Army FA Womens shirt in addition to drumming up support within the Army football fraternity. Imogen was successful in not only 7.1 million (the amount of key workers within the UK) but also raising double her original target of £7,100. For more information please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/team/7millionKeepieUppieChallengeforCovidHeroes-Team#aboutSection>



# AN INTERNATIONAL IN THE RANKS



Although he had a quiet Army Challenge Cup Final Kevan Henry played a huge part in 7 Regiment RLC's progression to the final of the delayed 2019/20 competition. A 3-0 semi final success versus the in form 8 Battalion REME was notable for the performance of the winning teams' goalkeeper who made a superb triple save in the first half followed but a penalty save in the second half. Henry is a 25 year old who hails from St Vincent and the Grenadines. He has also represented his country on five occasions.

The Georgetown born shot stopped made his international debut in a 4-2 victory versus

Barbados in 2017 and has followed that up with subsequent appearances versus Dominica, French Guiana, Turks and Caicos Islands and Barbados again; two of those matches were in the CONCACAF Nations League qualifiers.

7 Regt manager Carl Blackburn spoke to Forces News regarding his new keeper and said, "He's only been with us for three or four months and 100%, he'll be getting a shout down at corps level. He's got five international caps, is a commonwealth soldier that's just come over. He was also excellent in the quarter final where he pulled off another world class save".



We are grateful for ASCB Imagery and Media Support AO Kathryn Laws-Bates for taking photographs at the following recent matches:

2 <sup>nd</sup> October	12 <sup>th</sup> October	14 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>INFANTRY V RLC</b>	<b>RAPTC V AMS</b>	<b>ARMY V ALDERSHOT TOWN</b>
Massey Trophy Div 1	Massey Trophy Div 2	U23











As an important build up to the subsequently cancelled delayed 2020 Inter Services the British Army Mens team hosted National League Aldershot Town's U23 team at the Army Rugby Stadium in October. Indeed the Hampshire outfit had recently won 4-1 versus RAF in Carterton despite having two players sent off.

A highly entertaining match for the neutral saw the Army sail into a 3-1 lead and seemingly cruising despite keeper Luke Cairney, who is playing at National League South side Hungerford Town this season, called into making a couple of early saves.

**ANDY MATTHEWS** took advantage at the far post to head home a corner to give the Army the lead. However this only lasted a short time due to a stunning long range strike from the ever dangerous Harvey Walker.

Former Alloa Athletic and Montrose player Scott Hynd's provided a left sided centre that was met by the head of **DAN WALSTER** whose looping header sailed past the helpless Shots keeper for an own goal.

A golden opportunity for Aldershot to level before the interval was thwarted by Cairney who saved well from Leandro Jardim's penalty kick.

When **JACK MAY** extended the Army lead with a diving header in the second half it looked game, set and match for Capt Sean Birchnall's side. However Aldershot never gave in and two late goals from Jamie Turner capitalising on profligate Army defending gave the Shots a share of the spoils.

Army Player/Coach Keith Emmerson told Forces News afterwards, *"We had a lot of new lads in and tried to play a different way. Some things worked and some didn't but that is football. It gives us something to prep for moving forwards"*.







## CRUSADERS 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM

Whilst the Crusaders first team have not been able to participate during 2020/21 due to Covid-19 restrictions plans are in place to commence the season as soon as possible with home matches remaining at the Aldershot Military Stadium. The Officer in charge of social media, Capt Adam Hardaker, took time recently to speak with Richard Wyeth at BFBS Aldershot to talk about the club who celebrate their centenary in 2022.

Speaking to Richard initially Adam reflected about the end of last season due to the pandemic. He said *"We played some really good football against Corps level sides but as we were gearing up towards the end of the season and games such as RAF Icarus COVID happened."*

*"This season has been frustrating. We were hoping to have a match versus the Defence Academy in Shrivenham (in October) but that was cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions. We have a good idea of what we want to do in the coming months, but this is dependent on COVID allowing."*

Adam did express the importance of having as large a squad as possible allowing for commitments and deployments. He added, *"A larger squad has developed and, in the last three to four years has sustained itself too from what I can see. It has helped with the drive we have from the Army FA and our sponsors Thales and NSC. This is good as we get the branding and awareness out there. A lot of fellow Officers don't know who we are. To be honest I only found out through a friend but have learned that it is fun, a good level of football and really engaging."*

Adam also confirmed the criteria of being able to play for Crusaders 1st and Crusaders Vets teams. He continued, *"For the first team you have to be a commissioned officer of any age. For the Vets team you must also be a commissioned officer but aged 40 plus for the league or 35 plus for friendlies."*

## CRUSADERS VETS

It has been a stop/start season so far for Crusader Vets who compete in the West London Veterans Football League at weekends. In their final match before lockdown 2, and after a COVID-19 check, the Vets did progress to the 2nd round of the League Cup with a comprehensive 7-2 victory v Claygate Royals. 5 of the goals were scored in the opening 20 minutes with some of the best football played in recent years. Home matches this season are being played at the Windsor Garrison Sports Ground, courtesy of 1 Bn Welsh Guards. League action has seen a mixed bag so far with a pulsating 5-4 victory v Hillingdon Abbots which saw Crusaders come from behind at 1-3 and 2-4 to win. Prior to this 2 second half penalties meant a disappointing 2-1 defeat at Hersham whilst the season commenced with a 4-2-win v Jamrock. Crusaders Vets look forward to 3 games on the bounce in Dec – subject to further lockdown of course.

Further details on Crusaders are available via Twitter [@ArmyCrusaders](#) or email to Maj Andy Campbell - [Andrew.campbell691@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.campbell691@mod.gov.uk)





## REMEMBRANCE MATCH SPONSORSHIP

We were delighted to sponsor the match ball at the recent National League match between Aldershot Town and Notts County on Remembrance weekend.

Our strong links with The Shots, with both organisations based in Aldershot, added to our recent association with Notts County from staging the 2018 Womens Game of Remembrance at Meadow Lane was a good reason for the sponsorship. However, the main reason was that the match was the annual Remembrance game at the EBB Stadium and the club always provide an impeccable and poignant occasion.

This time around it was even more challenging due to Covid-19 and the match being played behind closed doors. From a comprehensive matchday

programme, streamed coverage on the Shots TV channel to the installation of poppies within the stadium and a virtual wall of remembrance too the club covered the occasion in an excellent manner.

In total £1059-71 was raised for the Royal British Legion, Aldershot which was matched by the National League to total £2119.42. In addition there will be funds to follow from the Poppy match day shirts auction and the sponsored signed match ball which the Army FA decided to donate back to the club to raise further funds for the RBL.

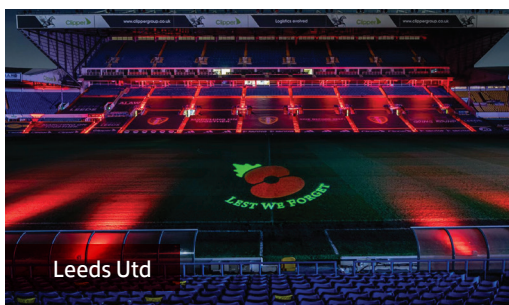
Prior to kick off a ceremony was performed including the presence of Aldershot Garrison Commander Lt Col Paddy Baines MBE and our own Secretary Major (Retd) Billy Thomson before a solitary goal gave Aldershot victory in the match.

















April 1945- Combined Services v Belgium in Brussels. Captain Tommy Lawton accepts a bouquet from the Belgian captain in front of 40,000 troops on leave watching the match.

## OUR HERITAGE TOMMY LAWTON

Tommy Lawton was one of the greatest forwards ever to wear the England shirt. Despite missing out on his "prime" years due to military service during World War 2 he managed 246 goals in 420 senior appearances including Chelsea, Everton, Notts County, Brentford and Arsenal. He scored 22 goals in 23 matches outside of the war years for England and 24 goals in 23 appearances during the war. On Christmas Day 1940 he played for Everton v Liverpool in the morning and then for Tranmere Rovers v Crewe Alexandra in the afternoon.

Tommy joined the Army in January 1940 and was a PTI for the Army Physical Training Corps in Aldershot. He played for the Shots during the war scoring 66 goals in 43 games including six in a 9-2 win v Luton Town.

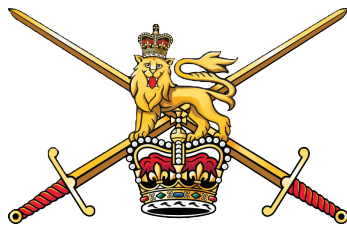


Scotland, Heart of Midlothian and Chelsea forward Tommy Walker (2nd from right) with APTC quartet Joe Mercer, Frank Swift and Tommy Lawton.



Company Sergeant Major Instructor Lawton takes a class of Army cadets





## ARMY FOOTBALL

# CONGRATULATIONS MITCH

Congratulations to our former Chairman **MAJ GEN GI MITCHELL CB (MITCH)** on being granted state honours by Her Majesty the Queen in the annual Birthday Honours List awarded as Companion to the Order of the Bath.

Mitch was Trustee of Army Football for 10 years and our most recent Chairman, stepping down in April.

We are still to formally show our appreciation to Mitch and several other superb volunteers of Army football who left their roles during 2019/20 but, due to Covid-19, official functions have not been possible to organise.





## WELCOME TO THE FA CHARTER STANDARD

Proud to support leagues and clubs where people want to play football

The FA is PROUD to make Charter Standard part of grassroots football in England.

The FA Charter Standard Programme is The FA's accreditation scheme open to all grassroots clubs. It aims to raise standards in the grassroots game through supporting the development of clubs. It also recognises and rewards commitment, quality and achievement.

These are the clubs who demonstrate they offer well-run and sustainable football. Those who achieve The FA Charter Standard are proud to prioritise qualified coaching and safeguarding as well as the values of The FA's Respect Programme as part of their game.

We encourage all clubs to explore the opportunity to become FA Charter Standard accredited, qualifying the relevant individuals to make the on-pitch environment a safe place and putting in place the policies and documents off-pitch to make sure they are built to last. When the time comes there will be an expectation and commitment for all accredited clubs to maintain or raise the standards and requirements that make The FA's kitemark accreditation programme PROUD to be the best.

### THE FA CHARTER STANDARD ADULT CLUB ACCREDITATION

#### MAKE YOUR CLUB PROUD TO ACHIEVE THE FA CHARTER STANDARD ADULT CLUB ACCREDITATION

If you're interested in achieving The FA Charter Standard accreditation, or just want to find out more, let's have a conversation contact [Steve Stone](#)

Any club affiliated to The Army FA can apply. Clubs must have at least one team playing within an FA sanctioned league.

To apply email: [steve.stone@armyfa.com](mailto:steve.stone@armyfa.com)

### BENEFITS OF FA ADULT CHARTER STATUS

#### FOR CLUBS WHO DO NOT ALREADY HOLD THE FA ADULT CHARTER STATUS:

**On Successful application the benefits and incentives are:**

##### New Clubs will receive:

- Certification
- Digital welcome pack, digital promotional assets,
- Nike Strike footballs
- Access to redeem a kit & equipment package
- Access to promotional resources and guidance
- Tailored support from The FA where applicable

#### For existing clubs who already hold the FA Adult Charter Standard Clubs status

On completion of an annual health check via The FA's Whole Game System every season from September:

##### Existing Clubs will receive:

- Nike Strike footballs
- Digital certificate, digital promotional assets

#### Becoming an FA Adult Charter Standard club is a simple application process.

Being accredited demonstrates you are a club who provides safe, fun and inclusive football environments for all to play and enjoy the game.

To start your club application process please download the application form [here](#) and return the completed form to [steve.stone@armyfa.com](mailto:steve.stone@armyfa.com)

For further information or to request an application form is posted to you please don't hesitate to get in touch.



# REFEREES THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO THE ARMY FA REFEREES APPOINTED TO THE FOUR DELAYED CUP FINALS OF 2019/20.



Referee: Sgt Jimmy McNee (RLC) with (L/R) Cpl Dickie Doorbar (AGC), Cpl John Painter (RAC) and WO2 Chris Bonnar (Infantry)



Referee: Major Nigel Bamford (RAMC) with (L to R) Sgt Simon Thorburn (R Sigs), Lt Col Mark Shapland (AGC) and Sgt Craig Jinks (R Sigs)



Referee: Sgt Andy Cuthbert (RLC) with SSgt Mark Beverley (RAPTC) and Cpl Kierran Corrigan (R Sigs).



Referee: Major Dickie Halloran (Infantry) with Referee Chairman Major Nigel Bamford (RAMC) and L/R: WO2 Dan McLaren (RE), Sgt Sean Dunn (REME) and WO1 Gareth Davis (Infantry).



*A Sporting  
Chance*

**ARMY**  
SPORT CONTROL BOARD  
FOUNDED 1918

## THE ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY: SUPPORTING SPORT IN THE ARMY

**In addition to a variety of sports grant available every week members will have the opportunity to win the following prizes:**

1st Prize	£10,000
2nd Prize	£5000
3rd Prize	£4000
4th Prize	£3000
5th Prize	£2000
6th Prize	£1000
2 x	£500
15 x	£200
10 x	£100



Since its creation in 1993 the  
**Army Sports Lottery** has:

- Raised **£50 million** in proceeds
- Given **£20 million** in cash prizes
- Awarded over **£25 million** in grants to Army personnel

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GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

The Army Sports Lottery is a non-profit making organisation that exists to support sport in the Army

For further details visit our web at:

**[www.armysportslottery.com](http://www.armysportslottery.com)**



**ARMY**



### CONTACT US

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