

THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA
ISSUE 1 – JULY 2008



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59 IND CDO SQN WIN THE MINOR UNITS CUP FINAL
BRITISH ARMY (GERMANY) FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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EXCITING NEWS FOR ALL GOALKEEPERS

Peter Shilton, the most capped England player of all time is joining Redyset as the official brand ambassador for IGOAL.

Redyset, who sponsored the Goalkeepers Arena in the Skills Zone at the 2008 Grass Roots Football LIVE show at the NEC, were delighted that so many goalkeepers were able to gain some of Peter's fantastic coaching during the 3 days.

Goalkeeping legend Peter made a record 125 National appearances for the England team. He was still playing at international level in the 1990 World Cup at the age 40.

Peter was the youngest player to play for Leicester City at the tender age of 16 - taking over from the equally legendary Gordon Banks.

Throughout his amazing 30 year career he played for 11 English league clubs through which he accumulated a record 1005 League appearances.

In 1977, Shilton joined the newly promoted Nottingham Forest and he was a big factor in them going on to win two successive European Cups.

During his playing career Peter won the PFA player of the year and has received the MBE and OBE for his services to football. In 1990 after his retirement he was awarded the Order of Merit by the PFA. Perhaps one of the most remembered moments in Peter's career was in 1986 when he became the victim of Maradona's cheating 'hand of God' and the famous individual goal Maradona scored by

snaking through the majority of the England side before rounding Shilton to score.

It was an amazing opportunity for anyone at GRFS to see Peter in action when he joined England U19 goalkeeper coach, Simon Smith, providing specialist goalkeeping sessions for 'the most important player in the team!' Peter also took part in the Celebrity Penalty Shoot-out competitions with some of his peers.

Redyset are delighted to announce that with effect from 31st May 2008 the 12'x6' Junior IGOAL, the 7v7 U10's match goal and the 16'x7' Intermediate IGOAL, 9v9 U12's match goal, are included in the Football Foundation Goalpost Safety scheme and clubs can enjoy the benefits of this scheme.

See IGOALS in action on www.redyset.com and start improving football skills anytime and anywhere.

Alternatively if you would like a demonstration or more information please contact us on 0844 800 8530.



Peter Shilton and the IGOAL



Sports Publications

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WELCOME FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN BRIGADIER E R DUNCAN OBE ADC

Welcome to the first edition of the Army FA magazine.

The aim of the Army FA is to develop, educate and encourage participation in all aspects of the game in the British Army, wherever you are serving. Whether you are a player or have attended a coaching course or are one of more than 200 registered Army referees, then this publication is for you.

You may be reading our new magazine, unaware of the massive football opportunities available for serving officers and soldiers in the Army. If you want to be involved in football as a player, official or administrator, the Army FA will encourage and support you.

The most prestigious competition is the Army Challenge Cup, which was first competed for in 1889. This season's competition was won by the 9 Regt AAC, at the home of Army football, Aldershot Military Stadium. We also have representative teams at men's senior, women's and under-23 development levels. All three teams won trophies during the 2007-08 season, which was encouraging, given the level of operational commitments.

We have tremendous opportunities within our coaching and referees' department. Our football development officer runs courses throughout the year, covering FA certificates at various levels of coaching, first aid and the treatment and management of injury.

Referees are always required, and are of fundamental importance to our game. A quarter of Army-registered officials are Level 4 or above. All our referees started by attending a Basic Referees course, and have progressed thereafter. Information on all our coaching and refereeing courses can be viewed on our website at www.army.mod.uk/armyfa.

We hope you enjoy the first edition of our magazine, and if you believe you can contribute to future editions, contact carol.williamson@armyfa.com.

ATR BASSINGBOURN FOOTBALL CLUB USA TOUR, 2008

Having had a successful season and winning the Anglian Services League, Army Training Regiment (Bassingbourn), ATR (B), embarked on a 10-day tour of the United States of America to enhance the ability and cohesion of the team by playing three prestigious US military teams. These were the United States Military Academy (USMA) West Point, the Marine Corps Base Quantico and the Pentagon.

This was the first time the regimental team had undertaken a tour of this nature. An enormous amount of hard work was invested in the exercise by OIC Capt Craig Seller RE, to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Cpl Gareth Morris RE and Cpl Neil Adams RE had also worked exceedingly hard on fundraising for the tour, and they were successful in raising over £2,000.

Departing from Heathrow on Sunday, April 27, the team flew into New York's JFK Airport and then transited to the USMA West Point for a day's training before the first match. Playing on a large Astroturf pitch, it was evident that USMA West Point were a very organised and physically fit team. We began the game well, scoring with a great strike from Capt Rich Wood RA in the first two minutes. After this, the West Point team stepped up their game and, even with a man of the match performance by goalkeeper Cpl Ash Coveney AGC (SPS) and an industrious second half display from Cpl Dom Cross RE, ATR (B) eventually lost 2-5.

This was a big blow to the team, but credit where credit's due – the USMA West Point would have given any British Army Corps side a run for their money.

After a rest day to take in the sights of New York City, the tour continued down to the US Marine Corps base, Quantico, approximately 45 minutes south of Washington DC.

With a day to train, prior to the game, the team were determined to get a win under their belts. The result was tight on a very hot and humid day, with the scores level at 3-3 at the final whistle. To determine a result, the game went into extra-time and, with clinical strikes from WO2 Collins APTC, Cpl Wilde LANCS, Cpl Gill YORKS and Cpl Dice RRF, the ATR (B) team ran out 7-4 winners.

The tour was back on track and morale was high going into our second day off, and an



ATR Bassingbourne at the Pentagon

opportunity to travel into Washington DC to see the sights.

As part of the tour, Capt Seller organised for the team to have a guided tour around the Pentagon, prior to playing their Select XI. Although this largely consisted of walking through corridors, it was very interesting, particularly visiting the memorial to those who lost their lives during the events of 9/11, located exactly where the plane hit. The guides painted a vivid picture of that tragic day and how the American psyche has changed in its aftermath.

Back to business the following day, we played the Pentagon, again on an Astroturf surface. After the initial shock of going 0-2 down to a team consisting of not one person under the age of 30 and one female, the team finally woke up in the second half, to run out 6-3 winners, our pride restored. It was a convincing end to an excellent and largely injury-free tour.

No mention is needed of Capt Rich Wood tearing ligaments in his knee after chickening out of a challenge with the Pentagon's female winger!

From there, it was off to the pub, where the Pentagon and particularly Major Niall Stokoe R SIGS (on secondment to the Pentagon) hosted the team excellently. Finally, the team headed to the college town of College Park in Maryland for our last night, before travelling home to the soldiers under training of ATR (B).

An excellent and successful tour – and many thanks to Capt Craig Seller for making it happen.



ATR Bassingbourne at The Marine Corps base Quantico

MINOR UNITS CUP FINAL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

59 IND CDO SQN RE 5

A SQN 1st Royal Tank REGT 0

A comprehensive victory for 59 Ind Commando saw them lift the Army FA Minor Units Cup at the Aldershot Military Stadium, in a one-sided match. Having only conceded one goal throughout the competition, they went into the game with plenty of confidence and took an early lead when, on eight minutes, Spr Kai Smith headed home from close range after Spr Danny Raggett's initial left-sided cross was headed goalward by LCpl Justin Dolly. His effort was parried by goalkeeper Tpr Craig Williams, into the path of Smith.

There were further opportunities for 59 Ind Commando and it was no surprise when, on 26

minutes, Smith broke free, down the right-hand side, and his low centre was slotted into the far corner of the net from close range by Dolly.

The match was effectively over, eight minutes later, when a superb through ball from Raggett found Spr Keiren Heywood, who ran and struck home, confidently, into the bottom far corner.

The second half continued in a similar mode. On 58 minutes, Dolly extended the lead with a close-range effort, and six minutes later LCpl Damien Wilson fired home a loose ball from 20 yards, with a well executed half-volley. Captain Heywood lifted the 2008 Minor Units Trophy for the 59 Ind Commando.

ARMY CRUSADERS

The Army Crusaders (or more correctly, the Army Officers Football Team) was established in 1922, and has played regularly since then. The Crusaders are an integral part of the Army FA and warmly welcome officers, both regular and TA, to play in either the 1st XI or the very buoyant Veterans team, if over 35. Home fixtures for the 1st XI are at the Aldershot Stadium, and their fixture list includes other armed forces and service teams, as well as university and local sides.

The Veterans play home fixtures at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and their fixture list includes a number of civilian clubs, largely in the south-east. Both teams have enjoyed recent post-season tours, with the 1st XI touring Hong Kong in 2007 and America in 2005, while the Vets tour a little closer to home, with Germany planned for this year. New talent is always welcome. To find out more, check the website at www.crusadersvets.mod.uk/veterans or call one of the following:



1st Team manager Maj Jez Johnson

07976 251 496;

Vets Team manager Lt Col Gary Gordon

01869 258317.

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ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION: 2008 COACH EDUCATION CALENDAR

1st4sport Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football

Fee £80 (must complete football parent online)
www.TheFA.com/grassrootsnew/falearning/courses
 September 1-4
 October 6-9
 November 17-20

1st4sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football

Fee £180 (must complete FA Laws of the Game on line)
www.TheFA.com/grassrootsnew/falearning/courses
 August 18-24
 October 20-26

1st4sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football – support days

August 5-6
 September 30-October 1
 November 11-12

1st4sport Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Football – support days

November 4-5

1st4sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football – assessment days

August 26-27
 October 14-15

1st4sport Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Football – assessment days

December 2-4

1st4sport Level 2 Basic Certificate in the Treatment and Management of Injury

Fee £160
 September 8-11

1st4sport Level 3 Intermediate Certificate in the Treatment and Management of Injury

Fee £180
 November 24-28

For further details of the above courses, contact Steve Stone or Gill Jones at The Army Football Association on (CIV) 01252 347962 (MIL) 94222 2962
 Email gill.jones@armyfa.com
 Courses are open to both military personnel and civilians

REFEREES' COURSES AND CONTACT DETAILS

2008 courses will be held on the following dates:

June 2-6	Herford BA(G)
July 14-18	Arboretum
October 27-31	Aldershot
Point of contact:	WO2 Kenny Thomson
Work phone:	94740 3120
Email:	armysenrec.edinburgh@afco.mod.uk or 01252 348571/4
Army FA	01252 348571/4
Military	94222 3571/4



All about the referee

- There are 230 referees registered by the Army FA.
- WO1 Andy Halliday (pictured left) is an FA Premier League assistant referee and Blue Square Premier referee.
- Captain Danny McDermid is a Football League referee.
- The Army FA has 49 Level 4 and above referees.
- They all started by attending a Basic Referees course that is organised by the ARMY FA.
- A Basic Referees course costs £57, of which £30 is returnable upon completion of six referee appointments.

ARMY SENIOR FOOTBALL SEASON 2007-08

The season started back in September, with 20 trialists joining 15 established players for three traditional pre-competitive matches. They scored two victories and suffered one defeat, with each game ending 1-0.

The find of the "trials" was Lance Corporal Shaun Reid Int Corps and, for most of the season, he played at right back, epitomising the coach's philosophy that if you are good enough, you will play.

In October, we entertained HM Prison Service at the Military Stadium in Aldershot, and a fiercely competitive game was won by the visitors, 2-1. The positives taken from the game were reflected in the next three Southern Counties matches against the Amateur Football Alliance (3-2), Middlesex (3-0) and London (2-1) all well-deserved victories, and the team were, on average, 25 years old.

Due to operational commitments, Captain Steve Bates relinquished the appointment of head coach in October, and we welcomed back Major Al Higgins until the end of the season.

The start of 2008 saw a number of players deployed on operations. However, this presented an opportunity to blood some young talent, including, for the first time in a number of years, officer cadets from Sandhurst. Matches against the English Fire Service (0-1), Civil Service (1-2) and Metropolitan Police (1-2) resulted in narrow defeats.

In February, we played our final Southern Counties fixture, against Sussex, and the visitors were comfortable 3-0 winners. But this competition was run on a league basis and, despite this defeat, we emerged as winners of the Southern Counties Trophy.

The defence of the Inter-Services (Constantinople) Cup began with a home match against the Royal Navy at Aldershot Town's Recreation Ground. Two evenly matched teams played out a 1-1 draw, with Lance Corporal Danny Haley opening the scoring, only for the opposition to respond within a few minutes.

The match against the Royal Air Force was played at Uxbridge and, disappointingly, the team struggled to reach the heights of their performances before Christmas, with the RAF deservedly winning 3-0 to become Inter-Service Champions, following their victory against the Royal Navy. Planning for next season is well under way, with trials, open to everyone, due to be held in September.



Army v Navy



RAF v Army

ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL



FOOTBALL FOUNDATION SAFETY SCHEME

When an FA study revealed that 41 per cent of Mini-Soccer goals, 50 per cent of five-a-side goals and 22 per cent of junior goals failed stability tests, it became clear that there was a problem that needed to be tackled. These 'dangerous goalposts' that do not meet basic safety standards were also responsible for some very serious injuries – especially to younger players.

Just over two years ago, the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity, set up the Goalpost Safety Scheme (GSS) to address the problem. The scheme provides funding for any not-for-profit organisation that has community football pitches and needs to install new goalposts that meet current safety standards.

The Goalpost Safety Scheme has now awarded grants of more than £1.4 million towards replacing dangerous goals that do not meet British safety standards, with new, safer ones.

Due to the scheme's success, the Foundation has doubled the Goalpost Safety Scheme grant ceiling from £1,500 to £3,000. The grants go towards half the cost of the new goalposts. An applicant may apply for a maximum of 10 grants and these may apply to one site or several.

Foundation grants now also go towards an extended range of goalposts, including free-standing goals and nine-a-side goals, which are seen as a stepping stone between Mini-Soccer and youth football. Previously, grants awarded through the GSS could only go towards the replacement of non-compliant goals. Funding can now also go towards brand new goals.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are welcome from FA-affiliated clubs, local authorities, schools which demonstrate commitment to football, local community groups and clubs in the National League System Step 7 and below. Clubs in Steps 3-6 of the National League System can apply for replacement goals for their under-18 youth teams. This applies where the under-18 team does not use the same pitch as the club's first team.

Unsafe goals eligible for replacement include:

- Goals made before 1996 (before British Standards were produced)
- Goals with metal cup hooks on posts and crossbars which have been illegal from this season
- Wooden goalposts
- Freestanding goalposts
- Mini-Soccer goals that have parts missing
- Rusted goalposts

The Football Foundation is dedicated to revitalising the grass roots of the game, constructing modern football facilities, developing football as a force for social cohesion and as a vehicle for education in communities throughout the country. Funded by the Premier League, The Football Association and the Government, the Football Foundation is the nation's largest sports charity with a £45m budget going straight into the heart of football.



CONTACTS

For more information on the Goalpost Safety Scheme, visit www.footballfoundation.org.uk or call Katie Higginson on 0845 345 4555 ext 4214.



FOUR YEARS OF ACT

The grass roots game has spoken – and the new four-year FA strategy for The National Game is the result. The strategy is called **Your Game, Your Say, Our Goal** and if you haven't seen a copy, you can download it at www.TheFA.com/grassroots.

It underpins the period between now and 2012, Olympic year, and will affect virtually every aspect of the game at local, county and regional levels. With this in mind, we wanted to give you some additional background to the strategy – and how it will affect you, whatever your role.

THE CONTEXT

The 'national game' covers all football in England excluding the Premier League, Football League and England squads.

By 'all football', we mean structured football, in leagues and cup competitions, as well as 'kickabout' football, played by people of all ages who play the game for pure enjoyment, be it in the back garden or in the park.

As far as structured football goes, there are 125,000 affiliated teams playing in 1,700 leagues, providing football for more than 1.5 million players every week. Quite simply, football is the biggest team sport in England and has more than 400,000 volunteers, including 22,000 active referees, plus a network of coaches, league and club administrators and paid staff.

'Kickabout' football encompasses an additional 6.8 million. That's 2.9 million adults and 3.9 million children. Across structured and kickabout football, 81 per cent of players are boys and 31 per cent are girls.

THE CONSULTATION

The National Game Strategy 2008-12 resulted from the largest consultation exercise undertaken in the history of grass roots football in this country – so it's based on first-hand, highly qualified opinion – yours. More than 37,000 football participants – and all major stakeholders – were involved.

From all the consultation undertaken, and an assessment of the priorities which emerged, four key goals quickly became apparent:

GOAL 1: To grow the game and retain participants: to increase the number of players, coaches, referees and volunteers – whilst retaining and developing those currently in the game.

GOAL 2: To raise standards and address abusive behaviour: to create a safe and positive environment.



TION AND INVESTMENT



GOAL 3: To develop better players: to improve the skill levels of five to 11-year-olds.

GOAL 4: To run the game effectively: to lead and govern the game with decisiveness and integrity.

In turn, it's clear two key elements must underpin all the work towards these goals:

1. A skilled workforce: we must recruit and develop a highly skilled and diverse workforce – paid and voluntary
2. Improved facilities: we must improve the quality and accessibility to training and playing facilities.

Finally, the effectiveness of the strategy will be severely hindered if we don't communicate and promote it, so an extensive marketing, PR and communications programme is now in place.

PARTNERSHIPS

The other key to delivering the strategy in its entirety over the next four years is to work closely with key partners in the private and public sectors – to deliver our goals and help deliver theirs.

So The FA will be working on a national level to strengthen existing partnerships – and form new ones. The same applies at regional levels, and the funds that all these partnerships access will then filter down to local levels and help contribute to the following wider issues:

- Creating a more healthy and active lifestyle for people of all ages;
- Working alongside the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics to drive participation and widen access to all forms of sport and physical activity;
- Reaching out to the most deprived communities;
- Engaging all communities in England.

CO-ORDINATING THE WORK

Strategies are one thing – carrying them out is another. The organisations at the forefront of delivering the National Game Strategy are the 47 County FAs.

Each county will be setting agreed targets to contribute towards the national targets set by the strategy, so if you want more detail on the strategy in your county, contact your County FA directly. Please refer to the contacts page, earlier in this magazine.

HOW THE STRATEGY AFFECTS YOU

No doubt you will be in one or more of the roles affected by The FA's new National Game Strategy. Here we explain how three key football providers and facilitators will benefit from the new strategy:

- Coaches
- Referees
- Leagues and clubs

Taking each in turn, here's a summary of the challenges faced in each group and the national targets set to rise to these challenges:

COACHES

There's no getting away from the fact that young English teenage players are technically behind their counterparts in leading countries across the world. Despite the fact that the England youth teams perform creditably in international competitions, we do not dominate as we should for a country with so many millions of people playing the game at various levels.

The debate over the reasons for our under-performance is varied, but one element is undoubtedly the quality and focus of football coaching at grass roots level. Two priorities emerged from the consultation we undertook:

1. We need to train more 'age-appropriate' coaches – coaches who can pick up on all aspects of a player's development at a specific age
2. We need to dramatically improve players' skills and techniques – particularly young players.

So what are we going to do?

- Appoint and train 66 specialist coaches to run The FA Tesco Skills Programme, working in various parts of the country with five to 11-year-olds. Ultimately, our goal is to have a coach focusing on skills embedded in every School-Sports Partnership in the country – 449 in all.
- Train high-quality coaches to work with specific age groups, both sexes and the disabled.

- Ensure there's at least one FA-qualified Level 1 coach working with every youth team.
- Encourage greater use of alternative small-sided football formats (3v3, 4v4 and Futsal) to improve technique and tactics.
- Incentivise already qualified coaches to attain higher levels of qualification.

REFEREES

At the last count, there were approximately 22,000 active referees in England, but this figure is dropping. One key reason is that abusive behaviour towards match officials – from players and the sidelines – is getting worse.

Ironically, given that some of that abuse comes from players, our research revealed that players' number one priority is to have a qualified referee for every game. The fact is we can grow the playing side of the game all we want, but if we do not also increase the number of match officials, the game cannot thrive – and in some cases, cannot be played at all.

So what are we going to do?

- Launch and invest in a wide-ranging campaign called Respect. One of its primary goals will be to eradicate abuse towards referees. The campaign contains Codes of Conduct for players, coaches and spectators, which they must sign. Crucially, there will be defined sanctions for breaking the Code – so bad behaviour will have consequences for the perpetrators.
- Build a national network of referee development officers to recruit and train new match officials.





- Train 8,000 new referees by 2012. We aim to have a qualified referee for every game.
- Engage with the professional game to agree tough sanctions against those who abuse referees at the highest level.
- Launch a national recruitment campaign called Get Into Refereeing. You can read about this on pages 16/17.

CLUBS AND LEAGUES

The 125,000 teams who play at grass roots level comprise 37,000 clubs who compete in nearly 1,700 leagues. That's apart from the many, many cup competitions.

The clubs and leagues provide the essential framework for the game – and need active support if they are to grow. In particular, they face the following three major challenges:

- Administration systems are seen as too bureaucratic and paper-based
- There's a lack of investment and resources to enable leagues to operate at maximum efficiency
- Clubs need increased financial support to implement outreach programmes to increase participation and raise standards.

So what are we going to do?

- Introduce a single web-based football administration system to make running a club or league a lot easier.
- Work with the Football Foundation to invest £300 million into new and improved facilities throughout the country.
- Raise standards by incentivising:
 - 75 per cent of the 55,000 youth teams to achieve the basic FA Charter Standard award;
 - 500 of the 1,700 youth leagues (30 per cent) to achieve the new FA Charter Standard League award;
 - Increase the number of official FA Community Clubs from 373 to 500.
- Appoint and train a club welfare officer within every youth club and youth welfare officer within every youth league.
- Further develop the league pyramid system and national cup competitions.



"THERE'S NO GETTING AWAY FROM THE FACT THAT YOUNG ENGLISH TEENAGE PLAYERS ARE TECHNICALLY BEHIND THEIR COUNTERPARTS."



YOUR GAME NEEDS YOU... TO STAY OR BECOME A REFEREE

We all know a football match without a referee simply doesn't work. It's like a building without proper foundations. But games without referees is exactly the situation facing more than 8,000 matches, every single week in England – including your county.

Correcting this situation is one of the key elements of The FA's recently published National Game Strategy for 2008-12, which features in another article in this issue. The fact is there's no point in increasing the number of people and teams playing football if we do not have the match officials to match the current playing levels, let alone future expansion.

So the push is on to train 8,000 new referees over the next four years, based on a statistical survey The FA undertook last November. As Ian Blanchard, The FA's Head of Referee Development, explains: "From the increasingly robust data we have at our disposal, we calculate there are 22,000 referees in this country, alongside approximately 38,000 matches played every week at all levels.

"These are what we'd term 'active' referees – which is a vital distinction. It's not enough to get people through a basic refereeing course."

ARE THEY ACTUALLY OFFICIATING?

"We define an 'active referee' as someone who has officiated in a minimum of 10 games a season. So our aim is two-fold. Firstly, to retain our current list of 22,000 active referees, and move them upwards through the referee development pathway, if that's what they want. And secondly, to recruit and train people to become referees – and stay referees."

So what are The FA and your County FA doing to increase the number of referees, and how can you help in this vital work to underpin the game we all love?

Most importantly, one of the outcomes of The FA's National Game Strategy has been to appoint a referee development officer (RDO) to every county. There are now 45 people in post – 43 full-time and two part-time – with others in the pipeline to complete the full complement covering the 47 counties and three armed services.

Ian is clear about the role he wants them to play. "The fundamental task of every RDO is to put in place a referee retention and recruitment plan, based on the unique factors of their county," he says. "What applies in, say, Herefordshire, may be a completely different set of circumstances to Lincolnshire,

CONTACTS

Want to Get Into Refereeing? Then don't wait. Make contact today with your County FA Referee Development Officer. They will be listed on the contacts page earlier in this magazine or register your interest at TheFA.com/referee

for example. We'll then agree and fund these plans with each County FA.

"We've already held an initial induction session at Warwick University with the RDOs, with a further get-together in June planned at our training centre at Staverton, Northamptonshire.

"As we progress, we'll build up a huge body of different experiences – positive and negative – and be able to share some examples of what has worked and what hasn't in our overall drive."

Each county plan will consist of two main elements:

1. The creation of overall awareness of:

- the need for referees
- the opportunities to train
- the personal and overall benefits to football and the community of becoming a referee.

This awareness drive will see poster campaigns, articles in the press and general information-providing.

2. The RDOs will work actively with the leagues in each county, and through them, with clubs, to make sure current players and administrators are aware of the issue the game faces – and to enlist recruits.

"Our aim over the next four years is that every team in every club – excluding youth teams, of course – should contain a qualified referee. That's going to be a tough ask, but we'll need to aim high if we are to rise to the massive challenge the game in this county faces."

Underpinning all this work are two central FA-driven campaigns.

The first is called simply Get Into Refereeing – part of the overall Get Into Football drive to encourage participation in all its forms. Get Into Refereeing has already seen adverts appear in the FA Cup semi-final match programmes – and on perimeter boards beamed to literally millions of viewers. Lots of further activity is planned to create a national understanding of the need to retain and recruit.

The second campaign is one which has already seeped into the national consciousness – Respect.

"We all know that one of the main things that takes referees out of the game and stops new ones is the amount of abuse match officials receive – from players and from the sidelines," says Ian. "The Respect campaign is tackling this head-on and is currently being piloted in seven counties. Once we have collated all the findings, and seen what's

worked and what doesn't, we'll be rolling out the campaign nationally.

"Our key aim is to make the role of the referee more respected – and for that to also help in our retention and recruitment work."

Ultimately, the push to generate more referees is aimed at all age groups.

"For example, we want to demonstrate to 18-year-olds that reaching the top as a referee is a potential career route. To current players, we want to encourage them to take a course so they can officiate once their playing days are over – or play a role for their club right now, when they're not playing.

"Equally, there's nothing to stop someone in their fifties taking up refereeing for the first time. Apart from anything else, it's a great way to keep fit."



Get into Refereeing



WELFARE OFFICERS APPOINTED TO HELP RAISE STANDARDS

The FA is providing funding for 41 County Associations to appoint welfare officers as a cornerstone of the ongoing work to create a fun and safe football environment for everyone – particularly children and young people.

So far, 30 county welfare officer appointments have been made and a number of interviews dates are already in the pipeline for the remaining posts. This new role is more wide-ranging than that of the previous voluntary post of County FA Child Protection Officer, as Rachel Tarr, The FA's Child Protection Manager explains: "The new role takes in responsibility for the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults. Whilst the initial work will focus on children's welfare, we do need football to be fully in tune with the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, which will soon become law. It's also crucial that we provide the right support for the volunteers in the clubs and leagues. Having a County FA welfare officer (CFA WO) will allow us to do that effectively.

"This will demand appropriate and responsible recruitment procedures – particularly for those whose work will involve children. It also requires CRB checks for people working with children – so we need our new CFA WOs to guide the leagues in their county, and, through them, the clubs, through this process."

All the CFA WOs will be given thorough training by The FA and then begin the work of ensuring each league appoints a welfare officer, and in turn, every club.

"We will then support our CFA WOs to run Safeguarding Children courses for all the welfare officers in the county, and develop support networks for this important group of volunteers," Rachel notes.

Overall, the appointment of the national network of CFA WOs will bring intrinsic benefits. It will help clubs and leagues understand their responsibilities, ease the process for CRB checks and broaden understanding of the benefits of The FA's Safeguarding Children and welfare officer workshops. It also means there will soon be a body of best-practice examples to be shared – and help underpin two of the goals of the National Game Strategy (see pages 10 to 13).

"We believe this network of welfare officers can help to raise standards by addressing the current poor behaviour on the sidelines – and helping people understand how they can play their part," says Rachel. "In addition, the work of the CFA WOs will play a part in 'growth and retention' as we seek to encourage the right people to stay in the game – and bring equally impressive people into it."

If you know anyone who'd be interested in becoming a welfare officer within football, please ask them to call the County FA.



RESPECT IS ON TRIAL

Right now, 16 leagues across seven counties are trialling Respect, an FA initiative to combat abusive behaviour – on and off the pitch.

Weekly feedback is being provided by participants in a 10-week pilot period. This feedback will be used to modify and make improvements to the campaign, which will be launched nationally at The FA Community Shield on Sunday, August 10, 2008.

The Respect trial contains four main elements:

1. Only the captain can talk to the referee
2. Spectators must remain in designated areas on the sidelines
3. All players, parents and club officials must read and sign a Code of Conduct, which sets

out their specific responsibilities and expected standards of behaviour

4. Everyone involved in the trial is encouraged to input into a weekly online survey. That's leagues, clubs, parents, players and referees.

All the above is supported by a range of explanatory literature.

"Improving behaviour was the biggest concern raised when we were putting together the National Game Strategy," says FA Chief Executive Brian Barwick. "That's behaviour towards referees and over-competitive behaviour by parents and spectators."

So we simply have to improve people's behaviour on and off the pitch if the game we all love is to flourish.



**Lose Respect
Lose the game**

ISN'T IT TIME YOU USED FULL-TIME?

Is your league using Full-Time, The FA's league administration website? If not, you're missing out on some great benefits. Even better, it's absolutely free. No set-up costs, no monthly fees – just log on to www.TheFA.com/Full-Time.

Full-Time enables league secretaries to create league and cup competitions in seconds, with wizard-based technology, guiding you through the entire process of league set-up, fixture scheduling and inputting player details.

In turn, club secretaries, managers and players can view league tables, fixtures, results and a range of player statistics. It dramatically reduces the workload on league secretaries and updates tables and fixtures in seconds. But don't just take it from us – here are just two of the people currently using Full-Time:

"This is such a major leap forward for the vast majority of football leagues in the country. At last they can say goodbye to the pencil, paper and calculator and hello to a very useful and powerful tool. Although it is called Full-Time, you do not have to be full-time to use it; quite the opposite. It will save many hours for league officers, up and down the country. I'd recommend it to anyone." **Steven Rooney** - Ipswich Sunday Football League.

"I have been using Full-Time and find it a 'must have' asset for running and maintaining our leagues. I run 18 leagues with more than 180 teams, and to be honest, without Full-Time,

I doubt if I could do it." **Richard Waldrum** - Burton Junior Football Leagues.

So don't wait. Join the ever-growing list of leagues benefitting, right now, from Full-Time.



IMPROVE YOUR PLAYERS' SKILLS

If your work in football involves coaching boys aged five to 11 and/or girls, you can help improve their skills by pointing them towards The FA Tesco Skills website.

TheFA.com/Skills is packed with easy-to-follow video tips and challenges, and is hosted by Chelsea and England's Frank Lampard, Arsenal and England Women's Kelly Smith and a team of specialist FA Skills Coaches who are experts in coaching young players.

The FA Tesco Skills Programme is a three-year programme co-ordinated by The FA and funded by Tesco and the National Sports Foundation. It aims to give one million children in England top-quality skills coaching by summer 2010.





THE SKILLS REVOLUTION

Developing the future of football in England

The FA Tesco Skills Programme is a revolutionary approach to youth coaching that is child-centred, focusing on both football skills and children's learning needs.

Sign your kids up to the Skills website for free coaching videos, football tips and fun games featuring England's Frank Lampard & Kelly Smith.

TheFA.com/Skills

ARMY WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM (AWFT) – SEASON 2007-08

The season started in early September 2007 when the team trials were held at Aldershot.

It was a predominantly new and young squad that the head coach, Capt Sandra Hodgson MBE, and her coaching team Cpl Mags McAteer and the newly appointed WO2 Jim Murchie had to work with and develop.

A large number of players 23 in total had trials, and with the six or so players remaining from the previous season, it meant there was a squad of around 28 for the forthcoming season.

During the trials week, the AWFT played a friendly against an experienced and tried AFC Bournemouth side and we were well beaten, 1-6 at the Military Stadium. The new side had an even more torrid time in October when they played a highly rated Middlesex side, away from home, and were well beaten again, this time 0-8.

Our next fixture provided a positive performance and we achieved a sound 2-0 win over the RAF in the South and West Counties Championship. League performances continued positively, with a comprehensive 5-0 win in November, against Gloucestershire. In January, we played Cornwall, who were the pre-season favourites for the league title, and in a very hard, tough and demanding match, the AWFT stuck to their attacking principles and played magnificently.

With 10 minutes to go it was 1-1 and end-to-end stuff. It is said that you make your own luck and we scored a most fortunate goal to take the lead. Then, with five minutes left, the Army goalkeeper broke a collar bone in a goalmouth incident and, with no reserve keeper on the bench, a central defender had to keep goal. The team managed to limit Cornwall's attempts on goal in the last few minutes and with a great effort by Cpl Brown in goal, the Army managed to hold on to its 2-1 lead until the final whistle. The final fixture in the league was away in Guernsey, which, with a much depleted side, the Army won 4-2, to win the South and West title for the very first time.

In the run-up to the Inter-Services Championship (ISC) in March, a creditable 1-1 draw with a good Barnet side gave the AWFT hope of retaining the championship.

This started against the Navy at Aldershot and in a very poor display the Army were very lucky to manage a 1-1 draw and a



Sgt Katie Holmes attacks in the Army v Navy match in the Inter-Services Championship

share of the Knight Trophy. With the Navy having beaten the RAF, we now needed to beat the RAF at Uxbridge by a two-goal margin. Returning to entertaining football, we retained the Chatterton Cup and the ISC's Williamson Trophy with a clear 3-0 victory.

At a presentation evening, held at the Military Stadium, silver salvers were presented to Sgt Katie Holmes and Cpl Juliette Brown for making 50 appearances, while Cpl Becky Davies and LCpl Jo Foy received their caps for making 15 appearances. The award for players' player went to Capt Laura Thombs, the manager's player was Cpl Helen Lee and top scorer was Pte Kim Holden.

My thanks go to all the players and staff for achieving the status of the most successful AWFT ever, in a season where player availability was the key.

I would like to thank Maj Skip Dunnett, my deputy chairman and general manager, for all his efforts, and Maj Rachael Shallcross, the physio, for looking after the walking wounded.

The trials for next season will be held in Aldershot in the week October 6-10, and players wanting a trial are asked to contact Sue Clarke on 01252 348574 to register their interest.

Maj Steve Elsey, Chairman



The Army Squad versus Navy in the Inter Services Championship. Photograph supplied by Owen Munford Studios

BRITISH ARMY (GERMANY) FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

BA(G) FA Chairman
Col S J Shirley MBE (Steve)
BA(G) FA Secretary
Maj R K Rimmington MBE RLC (Rim)
BA(G) FA Referees Chairman
Capt PWConn RE (Pete)
BA(G) FA Referees' Appointments
Sgt C Carter (Chris)

The 2007-08 football season in Germany has gone well so far, with units being able to play or compete in competitions only where other commitments have allowed.

The BA(G) FA Cup attracted 24 entries and was won by 1 ADSR, who beat 5 Rifles in a final at PRB Gutersloh a match that swung both ways before the Signallers from Hereford came out on top, winning 3-2. 1 ADSR came up against 3 Yorks in the Army Cup semi-finals, as the BA(G) FA representatives and, again at PRB Gutersloh, were narrowly beaten 2-3 by a very well organised Yorks side. The BA(G) FA Minor Unit Cup attracted seven entries, the final being won by 1 Regt RMP against 1 Regt AAC at Sennelager Training Centre. However, they were beaten by 59 Cdo Sqn in the Army semi-finals, so once again, unfortunately BA(G) did not have representation in either of the Army FA Cup finals.

It has proved difficult to play matches in the major unit leagues because of the operational and exercise tempo, but altogether, 25 matches were played, with 5 Rifles and 28 Engr Regt winning their respective leagues, and they went on to play 1 ADSR and QRH, respectively, in the semis. 28 Engr Regt (5-2) and 1 ADSR (on penalties, after 3-3) were successful, and will now play in the final, with the winners to be crowned BA(G) FA League

Champions 2007-08. The BA(G) FA Six-a-Side Competition was due to be played on May 14 at PRB Gutersloh, with 6 Sup Regt RLC looking to defend the title they won last season.

The top three teams from our competition go forward to the Army Sixes the following week, representing BA(G). The BA(G) FA



Major Unit winners 2008 – 1ADSR



2007 Sixes winners 6 Sup Regt RLC

ANY) ION



Inter-Corps Competition was run as a two-day festival very successfully for the first time last season. This enabled the corps to concentrate on getting their best squads together over two days rather than the previous format of intermittently over a season, which always created a problem getting the corps' standard players together. There were many surprises last season, with supposed underdogs progressing through to the semi-finals, but the Royal Signals came out on top in the final, against a very good AGC side.



2007 Inter-Corps winners Royal Signals



ARMY
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT



Feb Level 1 course

We had a few last minute cancellations on this one. Paul Fagin completed the course as part of his tutor training



Level 3 assessment February

FA assessors Geoff Pike (ex-West Ham) and Nigel Quincey (ex-RAF) assess the Level 3 candidates. Seven were successful on the day, so well done to those who passed



March Level 1 course

This was a McDonald's-sponsored course which provided each candidate with £300 worth of free kit



Level 2 assessment March

FA assessor Arthur Hammond protects himself from another sunny Aldershot day as he assesses the Level 2 course, along with Kevin Braybrook (ex-Portsmouth)



March Level 1 course

A local press photographer came in to take publicity photos for McDonald's (if this picture does not put kids off eating burgers, nothing will!)



Level 2 assessment March

Just a bit of rain on the day!

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR REFEREES

We can't all be the best footballers, but Wembley can still be the target, so take the opportunity.

Let's not beat about the bush – we (Army referees) all wanted to be footballers. In fact, many of us were, but there comes a point in time when fact takes over from fiction and time runs out.

The alternatives? Turn to coaching, become the OIC football, give up football and take up another sport, or just give up and become the armchair specialist. Then there's the refereeing option.

Most of our civilian equivalents would not dream of joining such a fraternity – too much responsibility, too much criticism, work and fitness, too much...

Fortunately, for army personnel, we have that requirement to be fit, we are trained to lead, and we quickly become used to taking responsibility – cadre courses, promotion courses, active service, artificer training, Foreman of Signals courses and the like.

Responsibility comes with promotion – be it as a LCpl, LBdr or on commissioning as a young 2Lt.

Though the vast majority of our referees are senior NCOs, warrant officers and experienced officers, there is a younger element of senior referees who are LCpls, LBdrs and junior officers – young men of the likes of LCpl Rob Ellis and Cpl Chris Steele – both RAMC – LBdr Nick Iddiols RA, LCpl Colin Allan PARA, LCpl Craig Welsh REME and 2Lt Peter King Royal Signals, who are all Level 4 referees.

More of that later, but these are the guys who will be refereeing the Army Challenge Cup and the Army Minor Units Cup finals in the Aldershot Military Stadium in the very near future, as well as the Corps Cup finals (REME, RE, RLC, RA, Infantry, Cavalry, R Signals).

These are the guys who will be refereeing the RAF v Royal Navy in the inter-service competitions, the RAF Cup winners v the RN Cup winners in the Inter-Service Cup Winners Trophy. They will also be involved in the early rounds of the FA Cup, the FA Vase and the FA Trophy. So how did they get there, how long did it take, and what of the future?

All started as Level 7 referees, having passed a referee course. Most of the Army courses take place in Aldershot and last a week, though local demand has recently placed courses in BA(G) and Northern Ireland. The course itself is not hard. Most of us have played football and know the basic fundamentals of the game, and these just need some tweaking. We need to decide which free kicks are classed as indirect (can't score from the kick) and which need to be penalty kicks or direct free kicks, what offences need an 'ear-bending', which require a caution (yellow card) or a sending-off (red card). Where should players be at the taking of goal kick, a corner kick, a throw-in or a penalty kick? As players, we may do it naturally, but as referees we must know ALL the requirements. So, having paid the course fee (currently £57 for Army courses), attended and passed the initial module of the course as a Level 9 referee, this is then followed by refereeing six matches of any age group from under-12 to veterans, under the guidance of a Level 9 coach.

On completion of the six matches, and having collected his match fees plus expenses, the referee attends a promotion seminar and is promoted to Level 7, and then has £30 of the original course fee returned. Now fully qualified as a Level 7 (L7) referee, he has the opportunity to move up the referees' ladder towards the Premiership (L1) and as an international match official with FIFA. The Army referee can be appointed to take charge of matches anywhere that the Army is serving. In locations in the UK, Germany and Cyprus, he comes under the control of his local referees'

committee, who appoint him to service matches and give him advice and encouragement (2 Div, 4 Div, 5 Div, BA(G), NI and Cyprus).

Having completed his first season and gained experience by refereeing Minor Unit matches and being an assistant referee on Major Unit, Army Cups and Inter-Corps matches, our L7 referee may now apply for promotion to L6. During this one-year promotion period he will referee a minimum of 20 matches, attend a promotion seminar in Aldershot, which includes a written Laws of the Game test and, additionally, be assessed on three of his games. Such assessments are written by a senior referee, covering such aspects as the referee's match control and application of the Laws of the Game, and are sent to the Army Referees' Committee, with a copy to the referee. On completion of all the requirements, the Army Referees' Committee considers the reports and, if successful, promotes our referee to L6.

Promotion to L5 follows the same pattern, but with more senior matches being refereed – Major Unit appointments and the Women's Inter Corps League.

Moving upwards, L5 referees are appointed to the Massey Trophy (Inter-Corps) matches. If posted in England, L5 referees have the opportunity of being promoted to L4. The latter requires a fitness test – a continuous 12-minute run that must cover at least 2,500 metres, plus two 50-metre sprints in less than 7.5 seconds each.

On successfully reaching L4, such referees are then placed on senior civilian leagues as assistant referees – such as the Southern League, Northern League and Isthmian League – and placed as referees on what are known as 'supply leagues' – basically, leagues that have clubs promoted to the lower divisions of the Southern and Northern Leagues.

Having attained L4 status, the referee now has to satisfy his civilian 'masters'. The FA – Northern and Southern areas – appoints L4 referees to matches. For the south, appointments could be anywhere from Dover across to Land's End, from Birmingham down to the South Coast. No longer is he a 'hobby referee'. He must now show plenty of commitment, have good communication and administration skills, and have the support of both his family and 'work' – especially for midweek evening kick-offs. He is now refereeing in front of paying customers.

The Army has 41 such Level 4 referees – some currently on deployment with their unit colleagues – as well as five L3s, two L2s and Capt Danny McDermid RLC on the Football League as an L1.

Our Level 4 referee's aim is not only to match Danny's achievement as a Level 1 on the Football League – he began as a young 25-year-old Cpl, ACC – but also to go that one step further and become the first Army FA referee to achieve Premiership status.

The Army, in many ways, has given them the opportunity. You could join them.



Capt Danny McDermid

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