

# THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA

Issue 13 - Summer Edition 2014



## IN THIS ISSUE

ARMY FA ROADSHOW - 2014

PEACEFIX 2014 MONTE CASINO TOUR

TAKING FOOTBALL TO AFRICA

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## Welcome

A warm welcome to our rather late 'summer' 2014 issue of The Soldiers' Game Magazine, a great read and my first as Chairman after 6 years as Vice Chair! Having skirted the edges of both Corps and Army football as a player it is a huge privilege to eventually make it to the administrative 'top'. Can I first pay a special thanks to our outgoing President, General Sir Peter Wall, and Chairman, Major General Bruce Brealey, who have both

done so much to support and to drive improvements into Army Football from top to bottom. It is terrific news that the new CGS, General Sir Nick Carter, has agreed to be Army Football's President. Rightly he has decided the Soldiers' Game should have CGS as its President; I wholeheartedly agreed!

This edition contains many interesting articles from unit, Corps and Representative perspectives, both regular and increasingly a resurgence of Army Reserves football, as well as officials. This link from unit to representative football helps highlight the 2 areas I want to focus on to improve Football across the Army over the next 5 years. First, to improve the competitiveness and organisation of unit football with a revamped league structure across the UK in parallel with units returning from Germany. My intent is have this new structure in place by the start of next season. Brigadiers Richard Parkinson ("Parkie") is leading this work and has canvassed views already. Second, I want to improve the links between Army Football and the communities in which we serve and live. At the heart of many communities is the professional football club and I want to re-energise the football links with these clubs and the County FAs which administer the game locally. Colonel Richard Hayhurst is leading this work and he will come out with our plans this year, building on the great success of our Football Roadshow which toured 9 professional clubs youth programmes this summer. A brilliant effort from this team led by QMSI Kev Haley and SSgt Dave Tuck.

Breaking news! We intend to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War with our own Game of Truce against our German counterparts in December at Aldershot Town FC. Please put this date in your diaries and come along. I hope it will be a fitting night reminding us how Football can reach across many divides even on the battlefield.

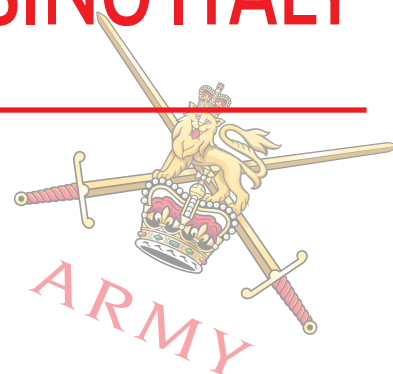
Finally, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who devote such time and energy to running Football across the Army and in your local civilian clubs and leagues. With busy jobs it is too easy to forget that sport, and football in particular, is an integral part of life in the Army and our 'team first' ethos. It is the volunteers, whether coaches, officials, managers or administrators that make it all tick. I, and the players I know, are extremely grateful. To pick one volunteer out - my volunteer of last year was undoubtedly Major Steve Clout whose energy raising Reserves Football from the proverbial ashes has been quite outstanding; thank you Steve. And, of course, we could not achieve half of what we do today without the generous support of all our sponsors and Team Army, whose adverts you see throughout this Edition. I am hugely grateful for your continued support.

Brigadier GI Mitchell



# PEACEFIX 2014 MONTE CASSINO ITALY

## AAC MONTE CASSINO TOUR MAY 2014



After a difficult season, which saw the AAC football side relegated from the top flight of Army football, we had been selected to represent the Combined Services in an international sports tournament to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the battle of Monte Cassino. A battle which cost the allied forces 55,000 lives to break the Gustav line which ran east to west across Italy.

The UK contingent consisted of teams made up from Combined Service Athletics, Army Equestrian and Army Fencing and the AAC Corps Football team. All teams would compete in various sporting competitions in their disciplines.

After arriving in the early afternoon we were greeted by the Italian Forces Captain who would be our liaison officer for the duration of our stay. The squad was driven straight to the Monte Cassino University, which sits in the valley below the monastery where all those lives were lost and providing an epic as well as sombre backdrop for the opening ceremony to be held.

After getting changed into uniform we were informed the parade would be outside. The start consisted of an R22 helicopter throwing leaflets onto the parade, replicating the warning leaflets the

Americans distributed in a similar manner prior to bombing the Monastery all those years ago.

PEACEFIX, as the event had been coined was officially opened and the guest of honour was the Italian Chief of Defence. Numerous speeches were given stating the importance of reconciliation, the necessity to remember and to focus the countries rivalry onto the sports pitches. A torch was lit and troops from Italy, Germany, Poland, France, USA and the UK marched off in front of a crowd of spectators and dignitaries.

After the soon to be familiar 35 minute drive to our hotel "La Grotte" the team settled down to what was soon to become a very familiar dinner of Pasta, Ham and Cheese.

Rooms were allocated out, and the team prepared for a busy and competitive day ahead.

Waking early and travelling into Monte Cassino, the team arrived at the Stadium where the competition would be held. The sun was out and the pitch wet, perfect weather for football. Little did the team know it would soon become a hot and very dry couple of days.

The teams were split into two groups; the competition was to run on a league basis

where in order of qualification the finals would be decided on day 2, the two top teams from each group playing in the main final.

The games were to be 45 mins straight, followed by a further fixture of 45 minutes between groups of three sides. We drew the German and a Monte Casino select sides. Our opponents were playing first, allowing us to have a look at the standard on display. The Germans certainly looked the part playing in a German national kit, but were soon put to the sword by what turned out to be a very accomplished Monte Cassino side. The Germans were outclassed, struggling for possession and eventually succumbing 2-0 to the Casino Select XI.

Now it was our turn to play the Germans, followed by Casino XI. The manager WO2 Daz Breedan opted for his familiar 4-2-3-1 formation, leaving the team in no doubt of their roles in the forth-coming 45 minutes. The team started quickly, with the first goal coming within the first 4 minutes; things were going well... It soon became evident that the continental style of European football was upon us. The Germans, leg weary from playing the Casino side could not contain the pace, power and fresh legs of the AAC. With the



*The Finalists AAC v Italy*



*War Cemetery Cassino*





*WO2 Daz Breeden (the gaffer) masterminded the victory against the Cassino University.*

score at 3-0, the decision was made to rest some key players for the next match. Sgt 'Nev' Nevins was brought on for a cameo in a defensive midfield role to steady an already ruler straight ship, within 15 minutes he had not only successfully played his pre-briefed defensive midfield role, but also left wing, centre back and striker... Truly inspirational; if, slightly over ambitious for the experienced player.

Next was Monte Casino XI, they played good football, were well drilled and skilful

With the game drawn 1-1 at full time, the team believed they were through, having a better goal difference after beating the Germans by a bigger margin. However, officials dictated that a penalty shoot-out was required.

It was to be a best of three contests. Three volunteers were selected with ourselves drawing first penalty. Up stepped WO2 Scotty Peck, who using his experience sent the keeper the wrong way and placed the ball home. The opponents' penalty, taken by their striker was hit well but straight down the middle., to which Cpl 'Daz' Lunn saved. Attempting to stifle the obvious excitement, up stepped Airtpr Mickey Mullinger who coolly slotted the ball into the bottom corner giving the keeper no chance. The opposition converted their penalty well, leaving Cpl Lunn no hope of producing another piece of magic. Meaning we had to convert this single penalty to go through, this pressure

penalty was given to LCpl Ryan Smith. In typical fashion, and with a pause mid run up to make everyone's hearts leap, he dispatched the ball into the corner. We were through.

The next day the team travelled to the stadium, the atmosphere on the bus was tense. We had seen the Italians the previous day, during which they had beaten the French 10-1 and the USA 8-0; however we were confident we could compete. As we lined up for kick off, in the familiar formation and with the sun beating down the national anthems were sang. The game was as expected, the Italians looking to win set plays in influential areas of the field and ourselves trying to play a fast paced English game. The game was a stale mate, with very few opportunities for either side.

The team was struggling to get into the rhythm of the game, with constant stoppages and the first half finished 0-0. Early in the 2nd half the Italians broke through to seize possession, the ball was sent across the box and with WO2 Peck outnumbered at the back post it landed at an opposition foot and was driven home. The whistle was blown and the team crumpled.

The closing ceremony was conducted in the university, and awards handed out, the runners up plaque was awarded to the team, who by now had taken in just how much of an achievement it was to have

beaten the Cassino side and competed at this high level against the Italian National Combined Service side.

On Monday the 19th of May the UK team travelled to Monte Cassino Cemetery, where there were representatives from every country that fought in the battle. At 1010 hrs the guest of honour arrived, being the Army Air Corps own Capt Wales, with the team providing an escort to protect him from the Italian crowds', he signed the book of condolences and took the parade. Wreaths were laid by Major Curphey (Corps Football Officer) and Sgt Tysoe, who's Great Grandfather, fell in the battle. The last post was played and the crowd silent. After the crowd had dissipated, the team then said their goodbyes to Monte Cassino and our Italian hosts and flew home.

We offer our appreciation of gratitude to the CSSB for funding the flights for the UK team and for giving the AAC team this opportunity to play football in what was no doubt a true sporting celebration to commemorate those brave Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors who fought at Monte Cassino and across the Gustav Line.

Finally, thanks must be passed to the Italian Military, who sponsored the whole event and ensured all nations were hosted in tremendous style.



# THE ARMY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP 1914

LT COL MIKE YOUNG

On Easter Monday 13th April 1914, the Army Service Corps team from Woolwich won the prestigious Army Football Cup for the first time. It was considered the highlight of the year until War was declared, in August, and has been largely forgotten since then, except by a small handful of historians.

The Army Football Challenge Cup was instituted in 1888, the first winners being 2nd Battalion The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, and has always been played on the Army Football Ground on Queens Avenue in Aldershot. To reach the final of the 1913-1914 season, the Woolwich team had been victorious against the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards, the 19th Hussars, 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles and 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters. In the final they met the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment from Colchester who, as the local county regiment, came as favourites. The ASC had other ideas.

A huge crowd attended the match, grossly exceeding the 12000 capacity of the football ground. King George V and other members of the Royal Family were greeted by Lieutenant General Sir Douglas Haig, GOC-in-C Aldershot Command. The Band of the Black Watch provided much appreciated music on a fine spring day.

Referee for the match was a Lt W C Clover of the Leicestershire Regiment, with linesman also from his regiment. The Hampshire team were in black, the ASC Woolwich team in blue. Sgt Cooper, Captain of the Woolwich team, won the toss and elected to play with the



breeze. The match was a closely fought affair, with two equally balanced sides of contrasting style. The Hampshire's were fast and clever; the ASC, less skilled but more determined played more effectively as a team. Sgt Williams of the ASC won the day with the only goal of the match in the 38th minute.

HM The Queen presented the trophy, the silver Warwick Vase, to the Commanding Officer ASC Woolwich, Lt Col C S Dodson, along with a silver replica for permanent retention: members of the ASC received gold medals. For the record, the team consisted of the following: (forwards) Sgt Williams, Dvr Sayers, LCpl Houghton, Cpl Grist and Pte Butler; (half backs) Sgt Gibb, Pte Hushar and Cpl Rowe; (full backs) Sgt Cooper and LCpl Newberry; (goalkeeper) LCpl Bird; (reserve) LCpl Launchbury. The trainer was RSM Hoppin.

After the match, team members were taken to the HQ ASC Officers Mess in Stanhope Lines (later renamed Buller Barracks), where the trophy was christened with copious quantities of champagne, followed by similar visits to the Corporals' Mess, canteen and Sergeants Mess before the train returned them to Woolwich. A tremendous crowd greeted the team on their arrival at Woolwich Arsenal Station, headed by the Mayor of Woolwich who led them into the nearby Royal Oak Hotel for further celebrations. What must have been a weary group of footballers was eventually allowed to make its way home to the barracks in Grand Depot Road. The next day was a normal working day; after all it was only a football game!





# ARMY FOOTBALL TEAM SEASON 2013-2014

The Army Football Team began season 13/14 freshly invigorated by the introduction of a new One Team concept. This innovative approach saw the U23 and First Team squads merge into one squad of players, coached by the same staff and managed as a single entity. This concept is designed to ensure that the very best players in the Army get to play as early in their representative football careers as possible. The pre-season week at Hermitage over the period 23 – 27 September saw a total of 32 players (24 trialists) come together for a development week under the watchful eye of Capt Joe Collins, SSgt Ian Saunders and Goalkeeping Coach SIOPT Nige Wiscombe. The first 3 days were fast and furious, putting the new boys through their paces and providing as much opportunity to show their technical ability and fitness as they needed to make an impact. Wednesday evening saw a change

to the normal trials fixtures as the Army had to travel to Brighton for a rearranged fixture against Sussex in the Southern Counties Cup (SCC). This fixture came about as a result of the abandonment of the previous seasons SCC game at half time on a wet and windy March evening due to a waterlogged pitch. Our first game of the season with a trophy on the line, nevertheless a confident Army side took to the field with 6 new boys on show and played with pace and aggression throughout. The dominance of the Army team saw a win by 2 goals to nil, the scorers being Cpl Jay Bates and Pte Aidy Kirby. The season was off to a flyer with a trophy already in the Army cabinet. The following day brought a friendly against Aldershot Academy at the Military Stadium and gave the Head Coach a chance to blood the remainder of the development week squad. More of the same followed with another professional and powerful display

which meant the Army left the field 3–1 winners.

A two week break gave the coaching staff an opportunity to fine tune the squad and those selected were informed before the team got together again to face the Prison Service at the Military Stadium. A terrific performance saw a hat-trick from former Army Skipper WO2 Glen Davidson, a brace from Cpl Kev Cameron and another from Aidy Kirby sealing a 6-1 victory against a physical and aggressive Prison Service side. On the 30th of October the Army travelled to Uxbridge to play Middlesex in their first competitive fixture of the season. Another dominant display from the Army saw a 3-1 victory, with goals from LCpl Sam Agar (who departed 4 days later on H18), Cpl Dot Cotton and Pte 'Mick' Mills. A great start to the season 4 wins on the bounce and confidence was soaring.

Pte 'Mick' Mills v AFA







LCpl Callum Wilkinson U23 v RAF

at the Navy saw the Army, with nothing to play for but pride, draw 2-2 (both goals from Sig Luke Noble) with a strong Navy side.

2 warm up matches against Wimbledon and Farsley AFC set the Army up for the Inter Service Championship, starting with a home fixture against the Navy. Despite being in front 3 times in the match, and a sterling performance from LCpl Sam Agar, returning from Herrick 18, the Army were held to a 3-3 draw, with a brace from Cpl Jay Bates and the third from LCpl Callum Wilkinson, by a good Navy side who never gave up throughout. The RAF fixture away at Shrewsbury Town brought the season to a close. A good start from the Army who scored in the first 10 minutes (Wilkinson pen) after Agar was brought down in the box, was rubbed out when a driven shot was adjudged to have struck WO2 Glen Davidson on the arm from 3 yards, this allowed the RAF to equalise from the spot. The Army then had 2 good chances with good saves from the RAF Keeper maintaining parity. Despite a voluble half time team talk from the Coach and the Skipper SSgt 'Riz' Rizza, the Army were unable to get going in the second half and fell behind to 2 good finishes by an RAF team growing in confidence. A late goal for Gnr Tom Broadbent was scant consolation for a deeply disappointed Army squad who failed to turn up on the night.

Another season over, and another missed opportunity as far as the Inter-Service Championship is concerned. That said the words of the Head Coach, Capt Joe Collins should resonate in the minds of all the players involved. '.....there are a lot of positives to take from this, we've added 5 or 6 new players and it has been good experience for them'. It is a sad farewell to Lt Col Mick Cotton MBE, who moves from the General Manager's Appointment, upstairs to become Project Officer for Army Football. The Army Management Team would also like to thank WO2 Glen Davidson and SSgt Barry Rizza for their dedication as players and Captains of the Army Football Team as they draw a line under their playing careers. Cpl Jay Bates and LCpl Gav Greenfield will also be sorely missed as they depart for pastures new as civilians; all the best for the future, your support, dedication and achievements have not gone unnoticed.

Our biggest test was up next, a 13 hour journey to Germany to play the Bundeswehr in their Physical Training School at Warendorf. The friendly reception and smart accommodation were an ill disguised attempt to make us relax, and after a day of training and a cultural visit to nearby Munster the Army set up to play the Bundeswehr in their own backyard. The game was all that was expected, fast, furious, aggressive and powerful, both sides went at each other from the outset. A couple of early spurned chances by the Army side gave the Germans the momentum they were searching for and after 20 minutes they were beginning to get on top, but a quick break by the Army striker LCpl Callum Wilkinson saw him brought down in the box for a penalty which he despatched with power and precision. The Germans fought hard for the next 60 minutes, enjoying the lion's share of the play but always looking susceptible to a quick break from the Army's pacey front line. With 5 minutes remaining the stoic army defence seemed to have got the job done, but just when you think you're safe the Germans sneak up on you, and as the overworked Army centre half pairing worked hard to clear from a corner the ball fell to the feet of the Bundeswehr number 6 who fired home from 16 yards. Both coaches were content to settle for a draw, but the players thought otherwise, and as the Germans pushed for victory the Army left back Cpl Will Rowell cleared the ball upfield to the substitute striker LCpl Jay Macanespie who sprinted 40 yards to the edge of the German box, drew the defender, and drove it low and hard across the six yard area for Sig Luke Noble to tap in at the far post. A great end to a fantastic 3 days in Warendorf.

With Germany a fast fading memory the Army side reset for the SCC and a match

away against the Amateur Football Alliance, a hit an miss performance earned a hard fought draw against a mobile and quick side that pressurised us from the outset. Having conceded early in the first half, LCpl Gav Greenfield headed in from a corner in the last 10 minutes to share the honours. Our next game on the 29th of January was a home fixture against the Metropolitan Police for the Grenadier Guards trophy. Despite leading at the break 2-1 with goals from Gnr Nathan Tidy and Sig Luke Noble (pen) a hard fought contest against quality opposition ended in a 3-4 win for the Met Police, who scored 3 quick goals after the break before LCpl Gav Greenfield pulled one back with minutes to go.

Our next two fixtures featured the U23 element of the squad, who squared up to the RAF and Navy in the Inter-Service Competition. A great start for the Army, beating the RAF 2 - 0 with goals from Sig Luke Noble and LCpl Callum Wilkinson at the Military Stadium was nullified when, due to a misunderstanding relating to eligibility, the RAF were awarded the match and the Army deducted a further point due to the fielding of ineligible players. The second match away



LCpl Sam Agar v RAF



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# OFFICIALLY A SUCCESS!

The most recent Army FA Basic referees course took place at the Aldershot FDC in June. It was attended by 22 students with a wide range of football experience. The course started off with an initial assessment of knowledge to give the tutor work force a starting point putting the emphasis on “knowledge of the laws” and not what happens on TV, this was the most heard phrase of the week. The course was 85% practical with sessions outside on the field of play enabling the students gain knowledge and experience. The tutors for the week were SSgt Steve Scott, WO2 Rick Harden, WO2 Andy Halliday, WO2 Stu Jack and SSgt Andy Moore, all experienced referees and tutors who have progressed through the Army system. The week was a success with excellent interaction and participation including a final assessment of knowledge that showed improvement for all. This means that the Army FA has 22 new level 9 referees and the objective now is to support these officials to complete their first six matches in order to progress to Level 7.

## JUNE REFEREES COURSE CASE STUDIES

### Lt Simon Weston

“I became football officer for 22 Engineer Regiment in December last year and arranged a number of friendlies with local units. On a couple of occasions the referee had to pull out last minute and so I refereed training matches between the two teams. I enjoyed it but also realised the complexity of refereeing and often found myself in the wrong position and getting in the way. I wanted to attend the course to understand where I should position myself and learn the finer laws of the game. As an added bonus I can now act as a (official) replacement referee for my unit if required and will referee other units and local civilian leagues.”

### Sgt Phil Piercy

“As a former Army Footballer I thought about what I wanted to do when I stopped playing, having already done some coaching badges I thought why not try being a referee. It is my aim to get as far as possible, hopefully to the Football League and I can't think of a better starting place than refereeing within the Army.”

### SSgt Lee Cox

“I attended the referees' course for a number of reasons; I have recently retired from 11 aside football and want to continue in the game. I am also a coach at a local club and this will help at weekends to referee the kids football when a qualified official doesn't turn up. I found the course enjoyable and it has enhanced my knowledge of the game. The tutors showed that they are knowledgeable they shared both this and their experience with the course. I am looking forward to starting my refereeing life and hope to progress as far as I can.”

### SSgt Brian Slinn

“I attended the referees' course to assist with my coaching of a local youth team. There isn't always a league appointed referee for a game so I wanted to be best placed to step in on these occasions. It also gives me another avenue to stay involved in the game I enjoy. The course was enjoyable and it was different to look at football from the position of the match official. I am looking forward to putting lessons learnt into practice and I want to progress as far as I can.”



The Army FA run four courses per year in the UK, usually based in Aldershot. In addition there is likely to be a course held in Germany during 2015.

The dates for the forthcoming UK courses are:

13th to 17th October 2014

26th to 30th January 2015

18th to 22nd May 2015

Further information is available by visiting the Army FA website:

<http://www.armyfa.com/refs/basic-courses>



# ARMY OFFICERS FOOTBALL (CRUSADERS)

The Army Crusaders is the Army Officer Corps' representative football team. It was formed in 1922 and consists of both a First Team and a Veterans (Over 35s) Team. The current President is Brig Steve Vickery late R SIGNALS and the Chairman is Lt Col Colin Francis RLC.

The First Team managed by Maj Dan McBirnie RLC play up to 12 fixtures each season against both military and civilian opposition such as RMAS, the Defence Academy and Hampshire Fire Service.

The Veterans Team, managed by Maj Andy Campbell R SIGNALS compete in the West London Veterans Football League (WLVFL) Premier Division which accounts for 16 games a season and up to a further 8 fixtures are played against military and civilian opposition including RAF Officers (ICARUS), Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) and Old Dorkinians.

A mixed First and Veterans team have been ever present at the Annual Easter Festival played at Liverpool Ramblers FC in Formby, who are steeped in football history and played in the inaugural FA Cup competition. This years Tournament saw a welcome mix of First and Veteran Team players which allowed the ever present stalwarts to breathe slightly easier – see photo below.

Recent overseas tours, again of mixed First and Veterans have included USA (twice), Hong Kong, Germany and Cyprus with the next planned for the end of the coming season 2014/15.

It is planned to hold two special fixtures this season; one versus the UK Parliamentary Football Club – MP's to commemorate the match played during the World War 1 Truce in 1914 and the second versus the US West Point Academy who will be touring UK in 2015.

There is very little opportunity to meet and greet prior to introductions on the pitch let alone conduct a training regime so the emphasis is always on attempting to get at least 5 of the same players from the previous match to turn up. Both Crusaders teams fully embrace the One Army concept and ethos where both teams have Reservist officers playing alongside their Regular counterparts.

This season has seen an improvement in First Team results and player availability; perhaps tied in to the reduction in operation pull on units as well as the increased recruiting effort at RMAS and Shrivenham, formerly an exceptional source of talent. Unbeaten before Christmas and with an overall 50% win ratio the noteworthy successes were

versus RAF Officers – ICARUS and the first 70 minutes at 2-2 versus ROYAL SIGNALS recently before their fresh legs and exuberance took over.

The Veterans Team retained a top four finish in the WLVFL Premier League of 9 teams; again with a 50% win ratio and too many high scoring draws to mention. Home and away victories versus RAF Officers – ICARUS are again the highlight and we are unbeaten against the RAF for 4 seasons. Recruiting remains an issue as the fitter over 35s wish to remain playing first team football but we have a few playing for both currently.

Lastly, a plea for everyone involved in unit and representative football. If you have Officers playing "The Soldiers Game" then please advise them that Army Crusaders are fit and well and always in need of support. Any officer, of any age interested in getting involved should approach the Crusaders FC Secretary who will be able to provide further details and registration information.

**Maj Andy Campbell**  
Secretary Army Crusaders FC.

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# INNOVATIVE

An idea by a British Army officer has started to gain some real momentum and is already having some impact, in the Western Balkans. For many of the British military personnel who have served in the Balkans, they understand some of the complexities of the region in terms of its people, politics; culture; religion and most of all its history. Lieutenant Colonel David Jones RE, is trying to break down perceived barriers and improve international relations, through the medium of football.

Colonel Jones, Adviser to the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and also currently Chairman of British Army Reserve football, shortly after arriving in country set up a KSF football team to play 11 aside games, as there was a tradition of playing small sided indoor football and there was an appetite and a perceived benefit, for greater participation to play the more senior version of the game. Running alongside this Colonel Jones saw an excellent but challenging opportunity to introduce the playing of international games, between the Armed Forces from the region. This would be an initiative that has never been attempted, in the region, especially with Kosovar military personnel participating.

With anything new and starting from scratch, selecting a team from the KSF ranks was not easy as Colonel Jones aspired to create a team that contained a good cross community representation and a team that reflected the Kosovar population. Developing a representative team required training that would include playing local opposition. Teams from the lower and middle leagues of the Kosovo domestic leagues were more than willing to play KSF, and it was encouraging, during this build-up period, the military boys never lost a game, against local opposition.

KFOR was the next hurdle to jump over in this evolution of the team, a match the team did not fear, even though NATO representatives potentially had twice as many players to select from. On a wet afternoon in Pristina the KSF team, using the entire 22 player squad, throughout the game, beat their international military colleagues, by an extremely comfortable 2-0 score line.

In the background Colonel Jones was working his political charm persuading



# FOOTBALL IN WESTERN BALKANS



and encouraging neighbouring Armed Forces to play one other. The inaugural game was between the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) and the KSF, played in Pristina Football Stadium. With a crowd of several thousand people and the full trappings of a senior international game, with a marching military band, the playing of national anthems, VIP delegation, high media interest the game was played under tense rivalry and a high tempo throughout. KSF should have won the game at a canter, hitting the wood work on four occasions however the 0-0 score line, in hindsight, made for a better diplomatic result.

Late summer, early autumn games have now been arranged between the KSF and Military of Montenegro; Macedonia

Armed Forces; Croatia Armed Forces, as well as the return leg in Tirana, against AAF. So the ball is now defiantly rolling and the future is brighter for a more colligate and inclusive approach to international military sport, across the region. It is very much envisaged that these games will promote closer working relationships, greater mutual understanding between nations and development of a culture of esprit-de-corps.

Louise Taylor, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Kosovo said "I am really pleased by this example of international co-operation through football, as it is a game that binds people and nations together, a universal language understood throughout the world. In the short term it

can only benefit the region and I am very pleased with UK MoD is taking the lead".

Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati, Commander KSF said "Lieutenant Colonel Jones has worked exceptionally well to develop stronger links and friendships between our neighbours, and I very much hope this initiative goes from strength to strength".

Lieutenant Colonel David Jones said "I have really enjoyed the journey so far and look forward to the planned games in the autumn, both home and away. I feel this project has the potential to make a real difference, as no matter where it is played, football can unlock the best in humanity".



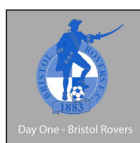


# ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

After a hugely successful 2013 Army Football Roadshow a team was assembled to progress the work carried out and make 2014 a bigger success and as a step into progressing the aims of the Roadshow into 2015. The team was as follows:

a.	WO2 (QMSI) K Haley	-	Royal Army Physical Training Corps
b.	SSgt D Tuck	-	Royal Corps of Signals
c.	L/Cpl J Mackie	-	Royal Corps of Signals
d.	L/Cpl P Dobson	-	Royal Corps of Signals
e.	Sig R Paddock	-	Royal Corps of Signals
f.	Pte J Keane	-	Royal Logistic Corps
g.	Pte R Rigby	-	Royal Logistic Corps

Due to the interest from the 2013 Roadshow more clubs wanted the Army team to visit and deliver the Army football obstacle course and coaching. A plethora of clubs asked for us to visit but the team was only able to visit 11 clubs over an 11 day period and this year was the introduction to some of the premiership club. Offers are already being made for the 2015 Roadshow.



Day One - Bristol Rovers

On 27th July 2014 the Army Football Association Roadshow team made their way to the South East to visit Bristol Rovers. We were invited to attend the annual

Open Day and the management wanted the Football Assault Course to be the main attraction. On arrival, we were given our area and quickly went about the set up. It didn't take long and within minutes we had children and adults lined up ready to test themselves on our little challenge. Our stand proved to be very popular and even prompted the Bristol Rovers Players and Staff to come and watch, obviously looking for new talent. The day became a blur, lunch was on the move between running around with the participants and before we knew it, it was time to pack away and go home. Over 200 children took part so overall a successful day.

a day earlier. The team cracked on and was shown the local park across the road. Due to the size of area and numbers expected we set out a reduced obstacle course. Before we had finished setting up we already had spectators who were ready to go, well we had a child had his dad! He was enthusiastic and obviously wanted to work on his fitness having 5 attempts at the course before anyone else arrived. The community engagement officer from the club set about visiting areas around the park to get the children to come across and have a go. Soon the numbers rose steadily to 20 and made the day a little bit more worthwhile. The children really enjoyed themselves and wanted more so when we finished packing away we had a 15 vs 7 game. Team Army made hard work of the fixture but overcame in the end by the narrowest of margins.

were very enthusiastic. Once we got set up, the children were split into 3 groups of 20. The children were on a soccer school's programme which made the experience all that much better for them and for us as they paid good money to be coached and now we were offering something different. Once the children had the opportunity to have a trial run of the assault course and familiarise themselves with what they needed to do, they were ready for a little bit of competition. The Children were set off in teams and timed which prompted the club staff to get involved and show them how competitive they could be. It became obvious that the staff could not overcome the pressure of competing with their peers or indeed the children and when the moment of glory came they fluffed their shots, missed the targets, got caught in the nets or lost their shoes. We had our first visitor of the tour, The Army Football Manager, Major Ritchie Bell (22 Signal Regiment). He was very impressed by the children and was on hand to give out some of the gifts and present the Army Football Pennant to the community engagement officer, Mr Adrian Dove.



Day Two - Bristol City FC

On the 28th July 2014 the team saw themselves entertaining the other side of Bristol and visiting the Reds of Bristol City. We arrived at Ashton Gate

Stadium a little hesitant; this visit was a last minute addition to the tour as we started



Day Three - West Brom

On 29th July 2014 we had an early start which saw the team make their way from the South East to the Midlands to visit our 1st premier league club, West

Bromwich Albion. After the initial recce the team were really excited at the prospect of visiting a big club and the club themselves





# ION ROAD SHOW 2014



Day Four - Stoke City FC

On 30th July 2014 we made a short journey up the M6 to the potteries to visit Stoke City. We arrived at a Longton Rugby Club a mile away from the Britannia Stadium.

The children were early and running around, excited at the prospect of completing an Army obstacle course. We set up on a grassed area out the back of the rugby club as a last minute adjustment due to the Stoke City coaches trying to contain the children within the fenced 3G pitch. Once we were up and running we had 4 groups of 15, which worked out quite well as we could have 2 groups before lunch and 2 groups after. The set up was pretty much similar to West Brom but with a little adaptation. This time we managed to get 2 cam nets set up to offer a little bit more of a challenge. The weather was a bit of a challenge as the wind decided to pick up and send the inflatable balls across 3 rugby pitches! We had another visitor to the tour, Lt Col A Hitchman (Royal Artillery) who worked with the Civil Engagement Team. He was impressed by what was going on and between him and the team we looked at various ways in which we could make the road show bigger and better by bringing in more military elements and recruiting the help of the local units. We were also visited by the local newspaper and the club's media officer, a lot of pictures were taken, interviews given and one of the children managed to get his own personal training session by WO2 (QMSI) Kev Haley for the cameras.



Day Five - Wigan Athletic



Day 7 - Wigan Athletic

We made 2 trips to Wigan Athletic on 31st July and 2nd August 2014. When we arrived at the Wigan Youth Zone the place was buzzing with children of all ages. It also coincided with the annual Patron's Dinner so there were visits from the Mayor of Wigan, Mr Dave Whelan, the Chairman of Wigan Athletic and Founder of the Youth Zone and a whole host of entourage. The idea on the 31st was to set up a small scale assault course for the more senior children to be put through their paces and for them to then to take on the Team Army side. Once again Team Army decided to make hard work of the fixture but again came through victorious. We were visited by Capt (MAA) A Clarke (Royal Army Physical Training Corps) and the Army Football Head Coach,

Capt J Collins (Royal Corps of Signals) who were keen and eager to get involved and show off their skills. On the 2nd we were expecting over 300 children and we were not disappointed. Due to the bad weather all the children from Wigan found shelter at the Youth Zone and the Army team catered for all. Fortunately, we were able to use the main sports hall, as all other programmes were cancelled to allow us to make use of the indoor facilities. When we started pulling the equipment through the doors and started to set things up, curiosity started to creep in and children started to line up to get a peak. When it was time to start there was about 100 children ready to go. We normally had a 'beat the keeper' stand for the children to tackle and one young lady took a vested interest in what was going on, it wasn't to have a go but to replace the goalkeeper. As the kids started to ramp things up the goalkeeper started to get going herself and







turned into a young Joe Hart. She did so well that she ended up being the goalkeeper for Team Army in the mini tournament. We had to be known as a country and it turned out we were Brazil and we faced some stiff opposition including Argentina, England, Portugal, Iraq and Germany. Brazil got to the final of course and were up against Argentina. Argentina were the Youth Zones number 1 team and actually played in competition against other under 14's. They were very confident about the final as they had won all of their games except the very 1st game against Brazil. The final was that important it even fielded a qualified referee. The game was played well and was highly spirited with Brazil overcoming their nearest rivals 5 v 3. The gifts we gave away went down a treat, especially when 300 children started blowing whistles and waving the hand clappers around in the middle of the Youth Zone reception.



We made 2 trips to Bolton Wanderers on the 1st and 3rd August 2014. On the 1st we met at the newly named Macron Stadium and Adam Warriner was our host with his team. We were also met once again by the Army Head Coach Joe Collins. All the vehicles lined up in convoy ready to make the 1 mile journey to the Academy Training Ground where the days activities were to get under way. We were joined once again by Capt Andy Clarke and by our final member of the team Pte Jenny Keane (Royal Logistic Corps). With the full team and 2 visitors in attendance, the time it took to set up was halved as was the packing away. During the day we had 6 teams of 8 who were split down into 3 groups, 4 teams playing in a tournament and the remaining 2 teams joining up to take

part in the challenge. Although the weather was miserable everyone was high spirited and willing to get involved; there was only 1 unhappy face who obviously didn't like doing press ups when he missed the target. Once all 3 groups had attempted the mini assault course it was time for the best team of the day to take on Team Army in a 15 min 8 A-Side game. Once again Team Army made hard work of the tie by going 2v0 down in the 1st 5 minutes. Once we found our feet and got into our stride we easily dispatched the opposition 6v2. On Sun 3rd of Aug we were invited back to a friendly, Bolton Wanderers play Vitesse Arnhem who shares the same sponsors. We were asked to set up part of our stand outside the stadium for the incoming supporters to have a go before the match begun. This proved to be once again a big hit and we must have cleared at least 300 of the gift packs in the 2 hours. Once the game finished we quickly recharged the batteries in preparation for the epic drive up to the North East and visit Newcastle United.



On 4th August 2014 we visited 1 of the biggest names in English Football, Newcastle United. Last year we only visited championship clubs and now we were heading to St James Park, the spiritual home of Sir Bobby Robson to try and forge links with Newcastle United. The day was going to be a little different than the rest of the tour as we were going to work with older kids who were on the National Citizen Scheme (NCS). These were individuals who did not know what they wanted to do in life but knew they wanted to learn life skills, wanted to gain knowledge and experience in different things in order to develop themselves and give them a good start in life. For us as a team it could have gone 2 ways, they would be really keen and motivated or they didn't really like football and just wanted





the day to pass so they could go shopping. Fortunately 95% did like football and actively wanted to get involved. Because of the age and eagerness the warm up was quite easy and we could develop it and temper it a little bit better so this time we decided to throw in the casualty drag and the fireman's carry and fair play to them, they gave it all a go. When they got tired and started to shy away, the press up challenge was handed out, encouraging them to soon get involved again. We only did the assault course for a short while because the kids just wanted to play football and the guys amongst them wanted to see how hard the Army was and kick lumps out of us! We played a 'winner stays on' format with the games lasting 5 minutes. After winning 5 games on the spin, Team Army got a bit tired and decided to give the kids a go, well that's our excuse anyway. At the end, the kids wanted to put together a superstar team to take on Team Army but the short break did us the world of good and we reigned victorious.



On 5th August 2014 it was time to return to our favourite club of last year's road show and home to one of the most famous clubs in world football, Sheffield Wednesday. Everything about the club, its staff and the day in 2013 wanted the team to go back and work with them again. The day was to be split into 2 halves with the 1st half being split into 3, so the morning was going to run pretty similar to the rest of the tour with 3 groups running in a round robin. As the 3rd and final group were about to go through the team competition we were joined by 2 of the newer, younger generation of 1st team who fancied their chances and wanted to give it ago. Sheffield is a city that is trying to get all sports joined together in an initiative to get more children involved and off the streets so we were also joined by 3 of the stars who play rugby league for the Sheffield Eagles. Again they fancied their chances and wanted to be involved in the team competition. Now when the whistle blew the kids were even more determined to do well and try and beat the superstars. The 2nd half of the day saw the team set up on a park with a smaller amount of the kit and we were joined by a few of the NCS programme from Sheffield. Like Newcastle they wanted to get involved

and they walked around the park to get the children over to take part. All in all another great day with Sheffield Wednesday and we will look forward to working with them again in the future.



On the 6th August 2014 the team had to embark on the longest journey of the tour from Yorkshire down to London to the home of Leyton Orient. As soon as we arrived we were met by Neil Brown and he showed us where we were setting up and we quickly got to it. The day was to be split into half with 2 groups before and 2 groups after lunch. We started with the older children and worked our way down to the younger children. The groups we encountered at Leyton Orient were completely different from any we had coached before. They were of mixed variety, mixed ability and mixed aged so it was a little more difficult. It was clear we were dealing with disadvantaged children with various kinds of learning deficiencies or limited attention spans. That aside, the team did really well to deal with what was put in front of them and still managed to deliver great coaching and good fun for the children. During the day we were visited by various people including Capt Donnelly (Irish Guards), Major (MAA) Chapple (Royal Army Physical Training Corps), SO2 LonDis and the Garrison Sergeant Major WO1 Stokes (Coldstream Guards), all of who were interested in our efforts as a team and what the Army could do as an organisation within London District to improve community engagement.



On 7th August 2014 we travelled a few miles across London to the current FA Cup holders, Arsenal. As the day wore on we got talking to Anthony David who was working with the National Children's Alliance (NCA) and works with Arsenal as part of their community programme. He loved what we did and how we did it and showed interest in getting us to the emirates. We set up at a local park just around the corner from the Emirates Stadium. We had over 60 children turn up to take part and challenge themselves on the mini assault course. We

had a couple more visitors to the tour and they included Major Pete Conn (RE) and WO1 (SMI) Lee Davidson (Royal Army Physical Training Corps), SMI PD LonDis. Both were keen to get involved and Major Conn found himself in goal for Team Army and the SMI found himself to be the referee. He was that committed he didn't even take his tie off.



On 8th August 2014 the team made the journey to the last club of the road show, and another of our favourites, Reading. During the recce we met with Liam Thorne who wanted to get kids from the other side of the city to take part in the programme, so this year we took the road show to Woodley Goals Centre. From the outside it didn't look much as we were on an industrial estate but around the back of the facility it opened up into a multi pitch arena with 10 3G pitches and floodlights. Once again we found ourselves being involved with Brazil and ended up on pitch number 2 named Brazil. The weather was on the brink of spoiling the day but we still managed to lift the spirits and entertain 3 groups of 20. We had our final visitor of the road show whilst we were at Reading and we were fortunate to have the Chairman of Army Football, Brigadier Mitchell (Late REME) to present the Army Pennant, speak to the children and brief up the team. He was happy with what we had achieved and the feedback he had received.

Earlier in the year we had visited Maidstone United and put up a makeshift mini assault course based on last year's tour. This was all part of the War and Peace Celebrations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW1 and saw schools from England and Germany take part in sports including rugby, cricket and hockey

All good things must come to end and Reading was the final destination for the Army Football Association Road Show 2014. It has been yet another amazing experience and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved. It has been an exhausting 11 days but massively worthwhile, the interest is building at a rapid pace and we look forward to the 2015 road show for which preparations have already begun.



# THE SEASON IN SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP FROM A COACHES PERSPECTIVE

## SSGT M F MCATEER (AAC)

The season began back in September 2013 with the Army Women's football trials week. This was extremely well attended and it was evident early on that we had an abundance of new young talented players hungry to be part of the Army squad. The players who were successful during trials week were then welcomed as part of the squad for 2013/14 season. After trials week the coaching staff caught their breath and we were encouraged by how young and talented the players coming through were. We had an excellent mix of some seasoned Army footballers combined with great youth who played without fear and were hungry for success.

Before we knew it the first match of the season was upon us. We were at home to Sussex. I had some experience of how Sussex played and I had been to watch them and was very impressed by what I saw. They were a well organised team who moved the ball accurately and quickly, and who had previously won the Southern Counties Competition. We had done our homework well and set up to combat their counter attacking strength by playing a holding midfield player just in front of the back 4. We began the season with a 4-3-3 formation, which allowed us added protection in front of the back 4 but also played to our strengths as we have some fantastic pace going forward. The game plan we set out with allowed us to have a lot of possession and ultimately we took the lead and held onto that 1-0 lead until the last 5 mins where the Sussex LM delivered a cross come shot that earned them the draw. The game gave the new players a feel for county football and how good a standard it actually was and as head coach I walked away from that game excited although slightly disappointed by not holding on to the 1-0 lead. The performance the players gave at that level was exceptional and it consolidated my formation for the season which was not going to change, I would continue with 4-3-3 for the remainder of the season.

Unfortunately the next few months were not kind to us with regards to the Great British weather, and primarily the flooding that was so prevalent during the winter. As a squad we continued to meet for training and resorted to playing friendlies instead of the County games that were postponed due to weather. We played Aldershot ladies during these periods on 3G and worked hard on our formation, organisation and pace of play. Aldershot ladies were always willing to help

us out during this period and this allowed us to keep working hard on the training ground in order to prepare for the remaining Southern Counties fixtures and ultimately retaining the Inter services at the end of the season.

We then began preparation for the Middlesex game which would be our first fixture away from home. As head coach I was very familiar with Middlesex and had played them numerous times whilst involved with Army football. I again set out with a game plan that would allow us to keep possession and remain very disciplined defensively until we could counter as I knew we had the pace to disrupt any defence. This plan certainly paid off as we had long spells of possession in the first half and we countered in the 15th minute when we broke down the right with our Capt SSgt Krissy Wright who maintained her composure and fired high into top right corner of the net to put us 1-0 up. We remained extremely comfortable and went in at half time pleased with our performance. As the second half began we were prepared that Middlesex would come out of the stalls quickly. We maintained our discipline and organisation and we reduced them to having to play long balls over the top which we were happy with. We continued to soak up the pressure in the second half and remained stalwart in our organisation. Middlesex continued to shoot from outside the box but I knew it would take something special to beat my goalkeeper Pte Terri Brown from that distance. We ran out 1-0 winners and had gained 3 well deserved points in the Southern Counties.

We would play our final fixture in the Southern Counties away to the best team in the competition in my opinion Kent knowing which ever team won that game would be crowned Southern Counties champions. We went into that game believing we could win as that had been the mentality all season, again we started brightly and as we had done all season adopted the same game plan that had worked for us. We took an early lead through some great play with the goal being scored by Sgt Helen Lee. We went in at half time 1-0 up knowing we had 45 minutes to play to get our name on that trophy. The second half team talk for Kent obviously boosted them as they came out at 100mph. They had long spells of possession and equalised midway through the second half. We still believed we could win and picked ourselves up. The players showed immense determination and worked for each other tirelessly, unfortunately Kent got the winner with 5 mins left and were crowned Southern Counties champions. I was extremely proud of my players and they gave an excellent account of themselves playing against players who train and play together week in and week out. The disappointment throughout the squad was clear as we had come so close just to be pipped at the post. The players showed amazing character throughout the season and were just beaten by a better team on the night. Their performances throughout the Southern Counties Competition was some of the best football I have seen from an Army side in 15 years both as a player and a coach, and the credit ultimately belongs to the players.





## INTER SERVICES FROM THE CAPTAIN'S PERSPECTIVE

### SSGT KRISSY WRIGHT AGC (RMP)

The Inter Services for me is the make or break of our season. It's what you think about throughout the year. This year, the team had undergone a lot of change with players, formation, staff etc. There were a lot of new, younger players who hadn't yet experienced the atmosphere and pressure of the games against both the Navy and the RAF. The intensity of these two games is far different to any other games I've experienced as captain.

The team atmosphere before both games was excellent, with all the girls confident that we would be able to retain the Inter Services. All the players enjoyed the build up and training prior to the games. As captain, I felt a responsibility to help keep the girls focused and help alleviate any nerves or

worries before the games. Despite the years I have been playing – I still suffer from nerves before these games so I knew how it must have been for the younger members of the team. I was confident though the girls would handle the pressure and enjoy the occasion.

The games, as always, were hard fought. The Navy and RAF were committed to every ball and tackle and gave the girls no time to think or relax. I found this out at great length during the game against the RAF! I had to make sure the girls kept their composure with tackles flying everywhere, trying to put us off our game.

During the games, there was the pressure of trying to make sure I did my job, as player and captain, and, at the same time, ensuring

everyone else was doing theirs on the pitch. It was about ensuring the girls played as a team and worked hard for each other. Making sure they didn't place too much pressure on themselves - which is easily done. It was about keeping their focus and working 100 % to the final whistle – which was proved against the Navy with two goals in the last few minutes.

As captain – there is no greater moment then lifting the Inter Service trophy. But more importantly, I was happy the team and staff had been rewarded for our hard work over what had been a challenging season.

## MAJORCA 2014 FEMALE FUTSALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### FROM A PLAYERS PERSPECTIVE

#### CPL SARAH JAFFE (RS)

The journey to Spain for the Army Women's Football Team began with an early rise on the 8th May, the players all eager to add to their 2014 victory in the Inter-Services. As they set off to compete in the Mallorca 5-a-side tournament spirits were high, only to be heightened by the sight of their competitors at the opening ceremony, with teams spanning from Italy, Norway, Luxembourg, Slovenia and beyond.

The tournament kicked off on the first day with the majority of games being played. The Army as ever came prepared entering an A and B team, however were quick to discover that they faced some deceptively stiff competition, keeping the coach, SSgt Mags Mcateer (AAC) very busy. The A team was captained by SSgt Krissy Wright (AGC, RMP), and despite valiant efforts from everyone, goals were hard to secure. The B team, captained by LCpl Jess Treharne (RLC) put in some great performances, leaving them to rely on the results of a few games as to whether they were proceeding through to the Semi-Finals. Points were close, meaning the B teams fate was not known until the Sunday.

Off the pitch the Army players were not slow to take advantage of what Mallorca had to offer, relaxing at the beach, limbering up by the pool, and even testing the odd Jet-Ski. Sunday came around quickly and the A team played their last match of the group stages, easily securing a win. The stiff competition however, made the success not enough to progress to the next stages, resulting in an

over all 5th place, enabling the B Team to advance through and play Norway. Norway proved to be a strong side beating the Army and going on to win the tournament.

Third place however, was still up for grabs and team B went head to head against Luxembourg. Early on the Army went 1-0 down, though some close chances and quick passes kept morale high. Patience and perseverance paid off when Cpl Ed Taylor-Koff (RE) scored a blinding goal to equalize and put the pressure back on Luxembourg. Just before the final whistle blew, a hard tackle from Luxembourg resulted in a well timed penalty. A quick substitution and Sig Bex Wells (R Sigs) stepped up to take a successful penalty placing the B Team in an admirable over all 3rd place.

All the players had put in an amazing effort and had deserved to let their hair down at the Pirate themed closing ceremony. In true British style, they showed off their dancing



skills to the other teams from around the world, putting in a sterling performance of the Macarena, rounding off a very successful tournament with both teams producing a good performance and fantastic results.





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# GUNNERS WIN THE TREBLE

## THE BIRTH OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY FOOTBALL CLUB

The Royal Artillery have been playing football since the late 19th century. They lost 1-0 to Bishop Auckland in the 1896 Amateur Cup Final though two seasons later they went on to win the Southern League title. This team played all their matches in Portsmouth and were the first team to have Fratton Park as their home ground.

Much of the football played in the early 20th century was played by the three factions of the Royal Artillery in their own right. The Royal Horse Artillery/Royal Field Artillery, Royal Garrison Artillery and the Royal Artillery all were very active in their own right. Records show that the Royal Artillery at Woolwich regularly played the Royal Engineers at Chatham; the earliest fixture took place in Chatham in 1895 though the result is not known. Although the two towns are just 26 miles apart it took the best part of a day to get there overland so the usual mode of transport was down the Thames by boat. The three parts of the Artillery effectively functioned as separate corps until 1924, when the three amalgamated and became one regiment. Only then can the Gunners claim to have a representative side based on the organisation of today with games against the RAOC, The Durham Light Infantry and the Sappers.

The Royal Artillery have a tenuous link with Arsenal FC so far as that in 1886 soldiers and workers at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich formed a football club initially known as Dial Square (named after the workshops in the heart of the complex), playing their first game on 11 December (a 6-0 victory over Eastern Wanderers) on the Isle of Dogs. Renamed Royal Arsenal two weeks later the club entered the professional football league as Woolwich Arsenal in 1893. They moved to north London in 1913. Royal Ordnance Factories F.C. was another successful team set up by soldiers of the Royal Arsenal but only lasted till 1896.

## THE ROYAL ARTILLERY FOOTBALL SQUAD SEASON 2013/2014

RANK	NAME	REGIMENT	RANK	NAME	REGIMENT
Gnr	Tabberner	1 RHA	Gnr	Nabli	12 Regt RA
Gnr	Copeman	1 RHA	Bdr	Ward	14 Regt RA
LBdr	Farley	1 RHA	Gnr	Nixon	14 Regt RA
Gnr	O'Malley	4 Regt RA	Capt	Smyth	14 Regt RA
Gnr	Molynueax	4 Regt RA	Gnr	Stone	39 Regt RA
Gnr	Tidy	4 Regt RA	Sgt	Dunkerley	14 Regt R A
Bdr	Jackson	5 Regt RA	Gnr	Nowill	16 Regt RA
Gnr	Armstrong	5 Regt RA	Gnr	Ceesay	16 Regt RA
LBdr	Barnes	7 Para RHA	Gnr	Reynolds	16 Regt RA
Bdr	Bush	7 Para RHA	Bdr	Victory	19 Regt RA
LBdr	Davis	7 Para RHA	Gnr	Norran	19 Regt RA
Capt	Head	7 Para RHA	SSgt	Willis	19 Regt RA
Gnr	Lewis	7 Para RHA	Gnr	Kandoje	19 Regt RA
Gnr	Conroy	7 Para RHA	Sgt	Eugene	19 Regt RA
Gnr	Maconnel	7 Para RHA	Gnr	Coombes	19 Regt RA
Gnr	Tootell	7 Para RHA	LBdr	Roper	26 Regt RA
LBdr	Frake	12 Regt RA	Gnr	Dunn	26 Regt RA
LBdr	Morrison	12 Regt RA	Gnr	Woodcock	32 Regt RA





## Gunners Win the Treble

### ROYAL ARTILLERY FOOTBALL CLUB FINALLY END THEIR BARREN RUN OF TROPHIES BY WINNING THE WOOLWICH CUP FINAL MON 7 APR 14

It was a cold and stormy Monday night at the Aldershot Military Football Stadium when the Royal Signals came up against the might of the Royal Artillery in the final of the Inter Corp Woolwich Cup. The Royal Signals had won the Woolwich Cup on 2 previous occasions and were last years winners so they arrived full of confidence expecting to win again. The last time the Royal Artillery won a major trophy was back in 2009 and had never won the Woolwich Cup.

After a poor start and down 1-0 nil at half time it could only get better and better it did. What ever the manager Capt Vance Worsley RA said inspired the players and they out passed, out played and out fought a shell shocked Royal Signals team to win comprehensively 5-2. The scorers were Gnr Williams 47 Regt RA, Bdr Holliday x2 101 Regt RA, Gnr Lewis x2 7 (Para) RHA.



### ROYAL ARTILLERY FOOTBALL CLUB GO INTO THE INTER CORP QUADRANGULAR (QUADS) FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 4 POINTS BEHIND THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

The Royal Artillery Football Club then moved onto to the Inter Corp Quadrangular Football Tournament (Quads) over the period 12-16 May 14. The Quads is the Inter Corp Quadrangular Football Tournament which was first competed for in 1969/70 involving REME, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and the Royal Artillery. Each Corp hosts the competition towards the conclusion of the season usually in May this year was the responsibility of the Royal Artillery. This also completes the Inter Corp Massey League which started back in September and after a long season we knew that we had to win all our matches and pray that the Royal Engineers would drop points after they were given the game against the Army Air Corp due to fixture pile up prior to the tournament.

The preparations were complete, Shrapnel Park was looking its best and so was the weather. The players just had to prove to themselves that they could do it. After shaky starts the true potential of this inspiring and young football team came to light. They played skilful, slick and fast moving football that was a joy to watch but at times giving us older members of the club a few heart attack moments. The final match on the Friday was a winner takes all affair against the Sappers. After a fantastic game the Gunners came out victorious 4-2 and securing the Treble, a clean sweep of all Inter Corp silverware, an achievement to this day never done by any Corp side. The scores were as follows:

Mon 12 May 14 RA v REME Won 2-1

Wed 14 May 14 RA v R Signals Won 5-3

Fri 16 May 14 RA v RE Won 4-2

Gnr Molyneux 4 Regt RA was awarded the Player of the Tournament.

Bdr Holliday 101 Regt RA was awarded the Player of the Season and Top Goal Scorer.

On behalf of the President of the Royal Artillery Football Club he would like to thank all the commanding officers that had players represent the Royal Artillery as listed below and hope the support continues for the start of the 2014/15 season on the 19 Sep 14. It is important that we mention this week's match officials. We all watch the almost constant haranguing of referees and assistants on television and at football grounds and it leaves a bad taste. As a disciplined organisation we must ensure that the correct respect is given to all of the match officials. Without them we would not have a game. Equally, I would like to welcome

all spectators; thank you for coming. I believe that the provision of, and participation in, Army sport is vital in this day and age. With units so heavily committed to training for, and being on, operations sport is a welcome recreation for all our soldiers and officers. Please get involved; from supporting your Regiment all the way through to playing. If you cannot play, referee; if that is not your thing, help organise. You can even become a coach. The coaching staff led

by Capt Vance Worsley RA and Sgt Brett Wilkes have started to build up a good backroom staff but we constantly need more volunteers. The current RAFC Secretary Maj Paul Milton MBE RA is handing over to Capt Eddy Edwards RA to continue the development of the RAFC and Capt Jan Humphrey RA is also stepping down after his exceptional contribution to the RAFC over the past five seasons but we need more volunteers.

The tables below show previous winners of all the trophies available:

WOOLWICH CUP WINNERS					
2006/07	R Signals	2009/10	RLC	2012/13	R Signals
2007/08	RE	2010/11	RE	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>RA</b>
2008/09	AGC	2011/12	RE		

INTER CORP QUADRANGULAR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS					
1970	REME	1985	RE	2000	RA
1971	REME	1986	RE	2001	REME
1972	REME	1987	R Signals	2002	RE
1973	REME	1988	REME	2003	R Signals
1974	REME	1989	RE	2004	R Signals
1975	REME	1990	REME	2005	R Signals
1976	RE	1991	RA	2006	R Signals
1977	R Signals	1992	RA	2007	R Signals
1978	REME	1993	REME	2008	RE
1979	REME	1994	REME	2009	RA
1980	REME	1995	RE	2010	RE
1981	No Competition	1996	RA	2011	R Signals
1982	R Signals	1997	REME	2012	REME
1983	REME	1998	RA	2013	R Signals
1984	RE	1999	RE	<b>2014</b>	<b>RA</b>

INTER CORP MASSEY FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS					
1993/94	REME	2000/01	RE	2007/08	RE
1994/95	RE	2001/02	RE	2008/09	R Signals
1995/96	Infantry	2002/03	R Signals	2009/10	R Signals
1996/97	Infantry	2003/04	Infantry	2010/11	RLC
1997/98	RA	2004/05	R Signals	2011/12	REME
1998/99	RE	2005/06	R Signals	2012/13	R Signals
1999/2000	Infantry	2006/07	R Signals	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>RA</b>



# TAKING FOOTBALL TO AFRICA AND BEYOND CHARITABLE APPEAL – KENYA 2014







The Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Charitable Appeal is run by Wing Commander Neil Hope MBE, who is based at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire in collaboration with the RAF Football Association. The Appeal began in 2006 with the intention of collecting unwanted football shirts to be re-distributed to the needy in Africa. After a successful launch the Appeal branched out to worldwide deliveries and to date has delivered 90210 Items including 30948 Football shirts to 45 countries worldwide.

As part of the Appeal Neil has made many journeys to Kenya, in East Africa, to deliver kits and other items to schools and orphanages around Nairobi and Gilgil. Many service and civilian personnel have joined Neil on the trips visiting areas such as Kibera, the largest slum town in Africa housing over 1 million people in shacks with little electricity, no running water or sewerage systems. On 2nd June 2014 Neil again travelled to Nairobi, with a mixed service and Football Association party to make a total of 29 deliveries of over 6500 items in 7 days.

Army FA were pleased to make a donation of Army FA and CSFA kit to the appeal which was delivered by the RAF in June. The Kibera Celtic ones are a team set up in the huge Kibera slum to get kids away from the slum. The lady with the Army shirt in the first picture is Cpl Sarah Komen, of the British Army, currently serving at Herford, but from Nairobi, Kenya. The Woodard are at the Woodard School in Gilgil, set up by Lt Col (Retd) Harry Vioulou Clarke MBE. The little boy in the 2nd picture is called Clarke and was named after Harry.

#### Woodard School

Woodard School was built through donations by the Woodard organisation through the efforts of Colonel (Rtd) Harry Vioulou Clarke MBE. Harry has been a long standing friend of the RAF Appeal. The school educates up to 250 children in a purpose built school which has laboratories and some excellent facilities. The children all walk to school each day from up to 5kms away. A school year costs parents 20000 Kenyan Shillings (Approx £130) a year. Whilst in English terms this is a tiny amount the average monthly wage for most Kenyans is equivalent to around the daily rate at minimum wage in the UK (Approx £45). After a tour of the school facilities the party handed over items donated by the Army FA, Westmoreland FA and Tim Oakes.

#### Kibera Celtic FC

Kibera Celtic FC has been a long standing friend of the Appeal and has received lots of kit through the years. They are an inspirational football club led by John Oyoo. They began as a club designed to give the Youth of Kibera a place in life and something to keep them busy. They have developed into a fantastic club with the main team now in the Kenyan 1st Division, the 2nd tier of Kenyan football. The party visited John and some of his players at the Kibera Celtic Boardroom, which is effectively a shack behind a car dismantlers at the top end of Kibera slum. Most of the team were unavailable as they were playing a friendly against Premier League team, KCB (Kenyan Commercial Bank). The party donated training bibs from QPR, footballs from Alive and Kicking, Norfolk FA shirts, football boots and trainers from North Riding FA, England kit, Army FA shirts, and jackets from the RAFFA and CSFA shirts.

If you would like further information on this article please contact:

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# ARMY RESERVE FOOTBALL UPDATE

ARMY RESERVE FOOTBALL CONTINUES TO BENEFIT FROM THE DECISION IN 2013 TO ALIGN WITH THE ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. THE REPRESENTATIVE TEAM CONTINUES TO BUILD, AN EXCELLENT CHALLENGE CUP, THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL SIXES AND AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF AR CORPS SIDES

## ARMY RESERVE CHALLENGE CUP

71 Engineer Regt became the 82nd winners of the Army Reserve Challenge Cup when they beat beat Yorkshire UOTC after extra time. Twenty-six Army Reserve units entered the knock out competition which started in October and concluded at the Aldershot Military Stadium in April. The 4-1 win over Yorkshire UOTC saw the team become the first Royal Engineer unit to lift the trophy since it was initially presented in 1921. LCpl Robert Toal gave the sappers the lead with a first half penalty but 71 failed to take advantage of their superior possession and a wonder strike from Yorkshire's Captain OCDT Ashley Garratt in injury time took the game into extra time. An early extra time strike by LCpl Marty O'Neill and then a further two goal by Spr David Wright and Spr Ryan Cameron both clinically taken when Yorkshire were chasing the game secured the cup which was presented by Major General B Brealey in one of his last official outings as Chairman of the Army Football Association.

### Key Dates for the 2014/15 AR Challenge Cup

Round 1 matches to be completed by 19th October 2014.

Round 2 matches to be completed by 14th December 2014.

Quarter Finals to be played on 22nd February 2015.

Semi Finals to be played on 22nd March 2015.

The final will take place at the Aldershot Military Stadium on Saturday 25th April 2015. (2pm).

## ARMY RESERVE REPRESENTATIVE SIDE

Over 30 players attending the trial weekend held in August which resulted in a significant improvement in the quality of the team from the previous year. Initially beaten by Icarus 2-1 in November the team went on to win against the Crusaders and the RMA Cadets 1-0 and 4-1 respectively.

Next season there will be three competitive matches over three months in 2015 allowing the trials to take place a little later over 1/2 November 2014:

### 2014/15 Fixture List

2 Nov 14	Army Reserve v Cove Select XI
1 Feb 15	Army Reserve v Crusaders
1 Mar 15	Army Reserve v Icarus
28 Mar 15	RMA Cadets v Army Reserve
6th to 14th June 2015	Summer Training Camp

Aldershot Mil Stadium (11AM)
Aldershot Mil Stadium (11AM)
Aldershot Mil Stadium (11AM)
RMA Sandhurst (2PM)

## ARMY RESERVE WOMEN

We have had mixed success in finding female footballers in the AR after a campaign earlier in the season. Not enough to field an AR team, but those that came forward have been linked up to their Corps sides and in some cases the Army Women's team.

## INAUGURAL ARMY RESERVE NATIONAL SIXES

We have launched a sixes competition this year. Qualifying days were held throughout June in four locations across the country and the finals were held in August.

## ARMY RESERVE CORPS FOOTBALL

The RLC have been running a successful Corps side for many years but until this year they have been the only AR Corps to be playing football at this level. On Sunday 30th March the RLC beat the Royal Signals Corps side 5-2. At last they have another AR Corps side to compete against. The Royal Engineers about starting a third. WO2 Neil Brewster (RLC) and WO1 Chris Moore (RS) have been the driving force this year to make this happen. Corps football is an important part of the plan to have a sustainable setup within the Army Reserve structure.







## RLC FOOTBALL SPONSORED BY 'AGILITY DEFENSE & GOVERNMENT SERVICES' GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Football within the Royal Logistic Corps, both male and female, has recently gone through a period of enforced transformation. This change has been from the top down and has resulted in a clear structure to support all aspects of Corps football.

Brig Parkinson (Late RLC) has been an active supporter of Corps football for many years and he accepted the invitation to become the new President. Lt Col Colin Francis MBE took over as Chairman from Lt Col (Retd) Gary Hawker with Capt Sean Birchnall continuing as the manager of the men's team and WO2 Lisa Grieves managing the female team.

The main drivers for change were results from both Corps teams and soldier participation.

Both Corps teams have struggled over recent seasons' with availability and the lack of young players progressing to Corps level being the main stumbling blocks. The management, coaching and support elements of both teams have now been aligned to support each other; this has also resulted in a male and female Director of Football being appointed to ensure that all young soldiers joining the Corps are given every opportunity to play at the highest level possible.

The football diary has been restructured to ensure that all major Corps football events are in the right time during the season in order to ensure maximum participation and support to the Corps teams. Regiments are now competing regularly and support all Corps level events. The benefits from

playing competitive football cannot be underestimated; as well the obvious physical ones, the ability to develop teamwork, enhance unit cohesion and maintain morale are all vitally important as the Corps evolves under A2020.

### FESTIVAL OF SPORT

Historically the RLC Major Units competition for males was played throughout the season however; commitments and deployments meant many fixtures were unfulfilled. The President of RLC Football proposed that the competition be competed over a two day period in Grantham. In its second year, the competition has proved a huge success with in excess of 300 soldiers playing football over two days. This year's competition was held between 3 – 5 June and involved 13 teams. The competition was fiercely competitive and resulted in 3 Logistic Support Regiment winning the main competition and Defence School of Transport winning the plate competition.

Running concurrently was the RLC female 6 a side tournament. This attracted 9 units and some 75 female soldiers. The competition was extremely hard fought with the final between 29 Regt and 27 Regt proving to be an excellent advert for women's football within the Corps; 27 Regt ran out winners by 2 goals to 1.

### SIX-A-SIDE COMPETITION

The male six a side competition is also competed for over two day's at Grantham and attracts Regimental and Squadron teams from across the Corps. On the first day all teams are placed into leagues and play each other once. The top teams in each league progress to the knockout phase of the main competition and the bottom teams play for the plate trophy. This year's competition will be held 9 - 10 Sep and already we have entries which will see in excess of 200 soldiers competing.

### REFEREES

Referees within the Corps are also thriving with the RLC currently having over 30 registered referees at various levels. WO1 (RSM) Steve Finch is the most senior official within the Corps and as well as being an assistant referee on the Football League he also had the prestigious appointment of refereeing the Army Cup Final this season.

Two major promotions this year saw Cpl Lloyd Higgins and Cpl Ndoda Dlamini being promoted to level 4 referees where they will officiate on supply leagues (the first step on semi-professional football).

Always looking to recruit although a healthy amount of male referees the Army are struggling to recruit females. Should anyone be interested on becoming a referee contact WO1 (RSM) Finch on 95351 6223 or Graham Brookland at the Army FA on 94222 7069.



## CORPS TEAMS

The nucleus of the male team is now young, talented and enthusiastic and many under the age of 23. Many of these players will take the Corps forward and also support the Army senior and U23 teams in the future. It has not come without its challenges and results have been affected as players adapt to playing at a higher level of football however, most now have a full season of experience behind them and will go from strength to strength. Capt Sean Birchnall has managed this transformation with assistance from WO1 Tony Birchnall and Ellis Langford, the future for the Corps team looks promising.

The female team is in a similar mould to the male team. The necessity to replace the senior players within the squad with new energetic females has been forced upon us and once a period of stabilisation and development has passed the female team will become competitive again at Corps level.

The RLC are one of only two capbadges with a Corps Reserve team. The team currently play six fixtures throughout the season culminating in the traditional Regular v Reserves game for the White Cup which is played during the RLC Corps Open Day in July each year.





# MASSEY TROPHY 2013/14 END OF SEASON REPORT

## DIVISION 1

There were a total of 41 fixtures in Division 1 of the Massey Trophy during the 2013/14 season with 184 goals scored. The RA set the early pace with impressive victories against the Infantry and R SIGNALS but the RE never let the Gunners get too far ahead. The destination of the Division 1 and Massey

Trophy titles was eventually settled at the annual Quadrangular Tournament between the RA, RE, R SIGNALS and REME at Larkhill in May. These games also double as Massey Trophy games and the final league positions were not decided until the very last game of the tournament and season. In a tense

encounter the RA eventually ran out 4-2 winners against the RE, thereby winning the Treble of the 'Quads', the Massey Trophy and the Woolwich Cup. After having been promoted the previous season, the AAC were relegated to Division 2: Final league standings were as follows:

MASSEY TROPHY 2013/14 - DIVISION 1 TABLE									
Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Points
1	RA	12	9	2	1	43	18	25	29
2	RE	12	9	1	2	28	12	16	28
3	REME	12	5	2	5	26	23	3	17
4	R SIGNALS	12	5	1	6	25	27	-2	16
5	RLC	12	3	4	5	24	29	-5	13
6	Infantry	12	4	1	7	24	34	-10	13
7	AAC	12	1	1	10	16	43	-27	2*

## DIVISION 2

A total of 19 fixtures were completed with 64 goals being scored in Division 2. The RAPTC, relegated from Division 1 the previous year, led for much of the

season but the AGC carried its Woolwich Cup form into the league. As with Division 1, the winner was not decided until the last game of the season with

the AGC beating the RAPTC 2-1 at Hermitage and winning the league and gaining promotion to Division 1. Final league standings were as follows:

MASSEY TROPHY 2013/14 - DIVISION 2 TABLE									
Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Points
1	AGC	8	6	1	1	23	6	17	19
2	RAPTC	8	4	3	1	21	11	10	15
3	AMS	8	3	0	5	9	14	-5	9
4	INT CORPS	8	2	1	5	8	23	-15	7
5	HCav & RAC	8	2	1	5	5	12	-7	5

## WOOLWICH CUP

All twelve Corps sides compete in the knockout competition that is the Woolwich Cup. There were a eleven games in all, completed over 4 rounds, and with 56 goals scored. In the semi-finals the RE lost 2-1 to the R SIGNALS after the game went to extra time and in the other semi-final the AGC narrowly lost to the RA 4-3. The final was held at a damp Aldershot on Monday 7 April with the Gunners eventually winning 5-2 against the R SIGNALS but it was more of competitive game than the scoreline suggests. Both the finalists completed in all four rounds of the competition. (there is a good report on the game and a couple of photos in the May 2014 edition of Soldier, p.92)

## FAIR PLAY

The teams in the Massey Trophy also compete in a Fair Play competition. The AAC won the Fair Play competition in Division 1 and the H Cav & RAC won the Fair Play competition in Division 2, conceding just one booking in the eight games it played. Over the course of the season there was an average of just two cautions per game; a very good statistic given the competitive nature of the games played.

\* Deducted 2 points for inability to complete a fixture.

## 2014/2015 SEASON

The fixture list for the 2014/15 Massey Trophy is now out and available on the Army FA website. In a change to this year's competition, and in addition to the normal relegation and promotion from each division, there will also be a play off game between the teams finishing sixth in Division 1 and second in Division 2 to determine a further relegation or promotion.



# A GOOD NIGHT HAD BY ALL

St Omer Barracks in Aldershot was the venue for the 2014 Army FA Presidents Dinner; an annual occasion to recognise achievements within all areas of Army football alongside an opportunity to officially thank and express appreciation to the loyal sponsors who continue to show their support to the most participated sport within the military. It provided a fitting host too with guests welcomed by the musicians from the QOGLR on a scenic evening in Hampshire.

After such a hectic schedule during the 2013/14 season the dinner was also the final event within the calendar to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the association too. To recognise this, a montage of historical photographs stemming from the inaugural 1888/89 season through to the current day was displayed to all the guests who also received a limited edition "125" display coaster.

The distinguished guest speaker was the hugely respected football journalist Henry Winter. In addition to a knowledgeable and witty speech about the Armed forces and football in general the Daily Telegraph correspondent then took questions and answers from the floor. 48 hours later he swapped the climes of the United Kingdom for the warmer shores of Florida prior to arriving in Rio De Janeiro for the World Cup Finals.

The occasion also provided the opportunity for annual awards to be made in addition to special presentations to those standing down from service who have served the Army FA with distinction over the years.

The President of the Army FA (CGS) General Sir Peter Wall GCB CBE ADC Gen initiated proceedings with the presentations of the Representative team Players of the Season. This award is provided to the player who contributes most to the game both on and off the field of play. Players who receive this award are considered to have shown leadership skills, setting examples in behaviour and who have shown the qualities of a sportsman or woman.

LCpl Gavin Greenfield (RE) received the mens award. The Essex born defender had been praised the previous year by Stuart Pearce who, as England Under 21 Coach at the time, took a number of coaching sessions in the build up to the FA Legends match played at Reading FC in May 2013. Due to operational duties Pte Rachael Rigby (RLC) was unable to collect the Womens Player of the Season award. Pte Jen Keane (RLC) was present and the Lancaster born midfielder collected the Players Player of the Season trophy.



*Principal Guest Henry Winter (L) with Army FA Secretary Major Billy Thomson and Major General Brealey*



*CGS presents Army Womens Players POTS Award to Pte Jen Keane*



## 2014 Army FA Presidents Dinner

There were two Refereeing awards presented too with the outgoing SSgt Steve Scott being awarded his RE Corps Colours. He leaves the Army after 24 years and has been a stalwart of Army Refereeing in a variety of positions serving the association impeccably.

The highest accolade for any Army FA referee is to receive the Dobsons Trophy. It was donated by Major Alan Dobson on his retirement in 1988 as the Army FA Secretary. It may be won by any level of Referee. Members of the Army FA Referees' Committee consider nominations by the Divisional Committees for the Referee who has made the most significant contribution to Army Football during the said season. The recipient this year was SSgt Andy Moore, the Chairman of UK North Referees. He has been a driving force keeping the division



*Henry Winter with players from the Army Womens Team*



*Incoming Chairman Brigadier Mitchell with presentation to the outgoing Major General Brealey*

progressive during a multitude of changes within the division.

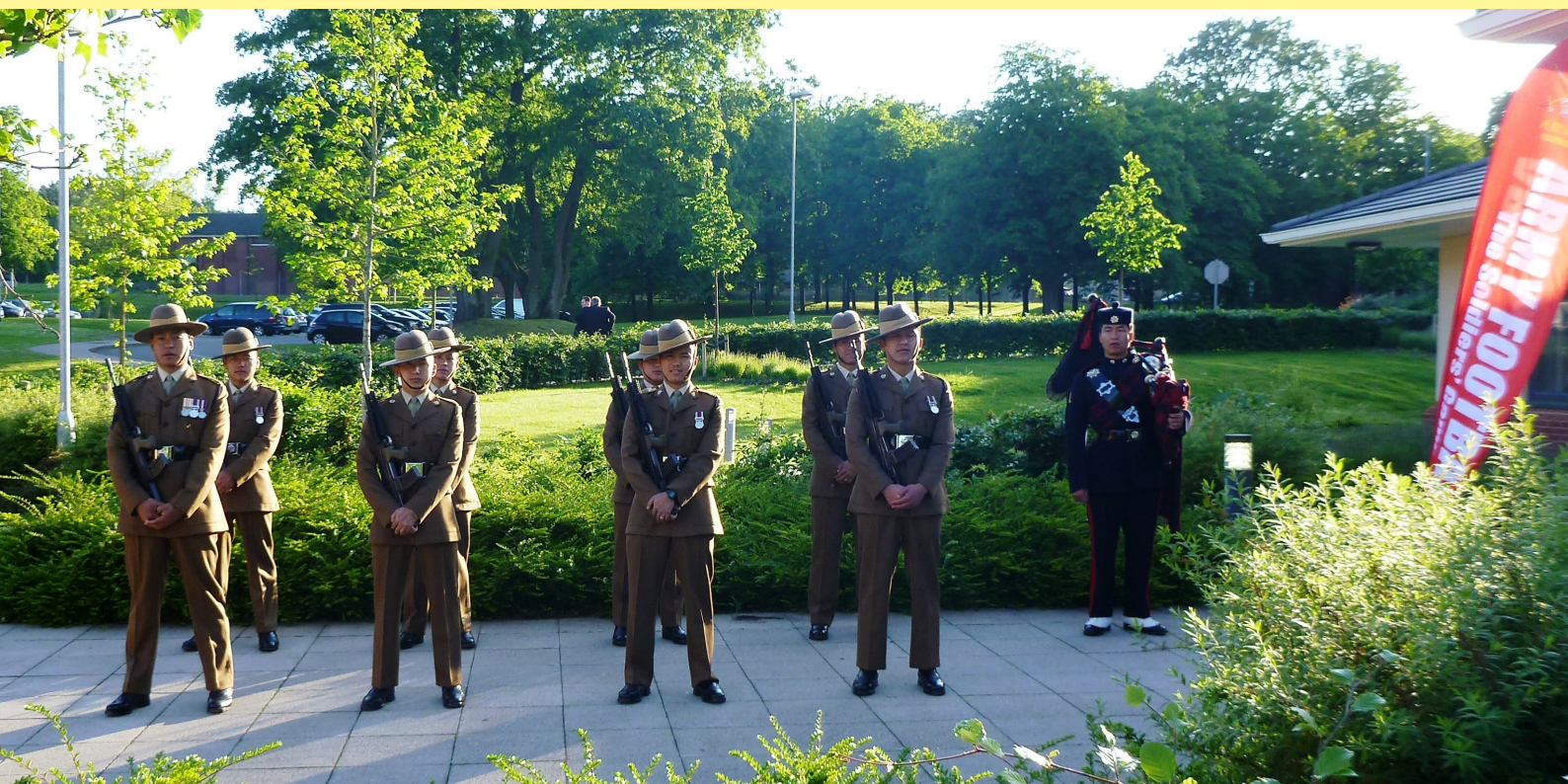
A special presentation was also provided to outgoing Mens representative Chairman Lt Col Mick Cotton who had served the team since 2006. He will continue his involvement within military football as Chair of the CSFA team who embark on the 2014 Kentish Cup competition in Portsmouth shortly.

Army Football also said farewell to our President, General Sir Peter Wall who spoke fondly about football in The Army and his involvement over the past seven years

Incoming Chairman Brigadier Mitch Mitchell also made a presentation to Major General

Bruce Brealey who is also stepping down from his role as Chairman after a very busy period. In his speech he highlighted the excellent progress the association had made. He emphasised that during that period there had been a solid structure created where the foundations can be built on, in addition to the notable achievements made including Army Football becoming a Charitable Trust, the 125th anniversary and the opening of the Football Development Centre in Aldershot.

With an estimated 10,000 soldiers actively participating within the sport the Brigadier confirmed that football is rightly regarded as "The Soldiers Game".



*Guard of Honour courtesy of The Commanding Officer '10 Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment' for our President, General Sir Peter Wall*



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# ARMY

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## Can I join?

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All members of the Army Reserve are eligible to join; payment is made in advance by annual cheque, made payable to "Army Sports Lottery". The minimum period of membership is 12 months.

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ARMY



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