

ARMY  
FOOTBALL

# THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA  
ISSUE 4 - NOVEMBER 2009



## COVER STORY:

Army Women's team trials

## ALSO FEATURING:

Our starring role in Hollywood, Infantry tour to LA

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## THE ARMY FA WELCOME

**I am delighted to introduce the fourth edition of 'The Soldier's Game'. There have been a number of changes to our executive committee; however we are pleased that the Commander in Chief Land Forces, General Sir Peter Wall continues as our President. We welcome General Tim Inshaw as our Chairman, and Brigadier Jake Thackray as the Vice Chairman. Army Football also has a new post, Director of Marketing Col Steve Vickery.**

We are pleased to have been supportive of a number of initiatives involving Help for Heroes of which has been named The official charity of The Football League. Players from each of the Armed Forces will be taking part in 'The Heroes Cup', a celebrity charity match between England and the Rest of the World at the Madejski Stadium (Reading FC) on 12th November and we are also currently involved in a charity initiative planned for Wembley Stadium in November where a Royal Navy team will play an Army/RAF select, in aid of the Bobby Moore Cancer Fund.

The Major and Minor Units cup competitions are progressing well and there has been a significant increase in entries from BA (G). The Army men's senior team under new coach, Capt Lee Dyson have started the season strongly and have recently returned from a successful tour of Croatia to mark the 65th anniversary of the Liberation of the Dalmatian Coast. All three teams had an excellent turn out for the trials and we wish them every success for the forth coming season.

We have recruited 250 plus Match officials this season which is a healthy increase on last season. We are privileged to have Army representation in the Premier League, Football League and Conference and it is an indication of the opportunities that are available for committed soldiers who become Referees.

Our Football Development department under the stewardship of the FDO Steve Stone is extremely busy with courses well attended in the UK and Germany. We also have a commitment to develop closer links with civilian clubs and local community groups which is working well.

There is no doubting, however, that we would not be able to provide the service that we do to football, without the support of our sponsors. We are therefore extremely grateful to Serco, Towergate Wilson, Trinity Insurance, Fujitsu and UMBRO for their continued support.

### Billy Thomson

Major (Retd) W T E Thomson  
Secretary Army Football Association



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# OUR STARRING ROLE IN SO MANY HIGHLIGHTS IN INFANTRY FOOTBA

**By Lt Col Pat Cloney (MBE)  
Infantry Football Secretary**  
**The Infantry football tour to Los Angeles (15-23 April) finally departed from Heathrow a little delayed but happy all the planning had finally come to fruition.**

Much hard work had gone into the preparation, with generous sponsorship from Canary Wharf allowing us to place a deposit to secure the tour dates. After an uneventful flight, we arrived and met our transport to move to the Marina Pacific Hotel, located on Venice Beach.

Later that day, we met for some light training on the beach - with temperatures in the 80s. Although the running around caused a few raised eyebrows, the local population were obviously used to strange sights such as this and continued surfing and sun bathing.

That evening we had our first game against local opposition, Seahorse FC. The pitch condition was extremely poor and did little to help either team.

After a shaky start, we came out victorious, winning 3-2 with goals from LCpl Kirt King and LCpl Dean Walker. While the American team were technically sound, our fitness and desire to win meant we pressured for most of the game and dominated the last half-hour.

On advice from hotel staff, the 'two scousers', LCpls Dean Walker and 'Pas' Parry, arranged for the players to attend the LA Dodgers baseball game against the Colorado Rockies to experience the atmosphere of America's national game. While the hype and crowd participation (vocal predominantly) was excellent, the game was slower than we



Group photograph (Photo reproduced by kind permission of Splash News LA).

expected. However, a good day out was enjoyed by all and the experience was a definite must.

Our second game was against Hollywood All Stars Football Club (HOASFC), the team managed by Vinnie Jones. HOASFC are currently second in a league of 12 teams. Before the game, the sides joined together for a team photo, and Sgt Gavin Wood presented an Infantry Shield to the Hollywood All Stars captain.

The squad is selected from a mixture of ex-footballers, local celebrities (Ziggy Marley, son of Bob Marley) and Spanish/European expats.

It was refreshing to find the playing surface was in far better condition than in our first game, with an artificial turf surface ideal for our style of football. However, when looking over the opposition, it was a bit disconcerting to see that, as well as Vinnie Jones, we were up against Richard Gough (ex-captain of Scotland and Glasgow Rangers) and Warren Barton (ex-Newcastle and Wimbledon).

Both players had come out to LA to

play for local teams and stayed on - who can blame them? On a better note, the goalkeeper was American actor Anthony Le Pagula (lead actor in 'Without a Trace').

The game was a hard-fought affair, as HOASFC were playing to maintain their reputation after beating 3 Rifles last year on a similar tour. However, the conditions and standard of players available to the Infantry meant we quickly dominated, with Vinnie Jones saying he would wait until later to come on as we were "too fit" - or words to that effect.

With about ten minutes to go Vinnie joined the fray (this meant that there were 12 HOASFC players on the field) and they pulled back a goal to make the final score 7-2. Throughout his appearance, Vinnie prowled the field looking extremely menacing.

The following day we played our final game against Uplands Sports. The fixture was played on an indoor artificial turf. It was a good surface, but by this stage the lads' feet were suffering and we were carrying a few injuries. The opposition, a mixture of expats, Eastern Europeans and Spanish Americans, played to a good standard and the team split down to play two seven-a-side games. We came through with both our sides winning (8-3 and 5-2), finishing the tour winning three from three.

After a day's rest, we ended the tour with a visit to the Home Depot stadium, home of the LA Galaxy. It also supports a second team, Chivas (formed to attract the Spanish element), and a ladies' team, LA Sol.

LA boasts a number of major sporting activities, and it is a constant battle for the management at Home Depot to attract supporters to the ground, hence the move of David Beckham. The facility also boasts the Pete Sampras tennis school and the David Beckham Academy, and is used by US



Home Depot Stadium.

# HOLLYWOOD

## LL TOUR TO LOS ANGELES

national teams (junior and senior sides).

Unfortunately, we were booked in on the hottest day of the year, and, after the initial briefing, we were taken to watch LA Sol train. We then moved to the front practice pitches for our training session.

At this stage, a number of players were still carrying knocks, and we were once again playing on artificial turf, hard on the feet and joints (for the older players). Coaching expertise was provided by Ralph Perez, who is the lead coach for LA Galaxy and who had previously coached the US national team at the 1994 Olympics – they lost to Brazil in the semi-final.

Ralph provided a structured light training session for about an hour, concentrating on skills rather than fitness in light of the temperature and injuries. A great time was had by all and some



**Back Row:** LCpl Walker, LCpl Carter, LCpl Storrie, Gdsm Culbertson, Sgt Wood, Cpl Gill, Gdsm Morris, LCpl King, Mr Garland and Cpl Ward.  
**Front Row:** Pte McWilliams, LCpl Parry, LSgt Byrne, Gdsm Falconer, Cpl Moran, Cpl Creighton and Cpl Hickie.



**LCpl Walker (2 Lancs) against Richard Gough, © Splash News LA.**



**LCpl Storrie (5 Scots), © Splash News LA.**



**Warren Barton and LCpl King (2 PWRR), © Splash News LA.**



**Sgt Wood (1 Scots), Richard Gough, LCpl Storrie (5 Scots) and LCpl Walker (2 Mercian).**

valuable lessons learned. At the end of the session, Lt Col Cloney (Chair, Inf football) presented Ralph with an Infantry shield as thanks.

We took lunch in the executive box overlooking the pitch, followed by a tour of the stadium. This included a visit to the team changing rooms. Unfortunately David Beckham's kit had been removed – a possible sign that he may not be reappearing at the end of his stint with AC Milan? The tour ended with a picture opportunity on the café deck overlooking the pitch.

The final days of our visit were spent enjoying the delights of Los Angeles, visiting attractions such as the Chinese Theatre,

the Walk of Stars and Universal Studios. Entertainment was also provided daily on Venice Beach, which is famous for its varied sidewalk acts – everything from musicians to street acrobats.

The tour was enjoyed by all, and it is only right and fitting that we thank those who made the trip possible.

Our main benefactor was Lt Col (Retd) Richard Kemp CBE, who kindly provided sponsorship from Canary Wharf Security. This came at a vital time in the planning process as we had to provide money up front as a down payment. In addition, Richard also managed to source £5,000 from Arsenal FC, a kind and generous donation.





LCpl Walker (2 LANCs), Pte McWilliams (5 SCOTS) and LCpl King (2 PWRR).



Back Row L to R: Cpl Hickie, LCpl Storrie, Gdsm Morris, Richard Garland, LCpl Walker, Cpl Gill, Sgt Wood, Vinnie Jones, LCpl Carter, LCpl King, Bdr Ward, Gdsm Culbertson. Front Row L to R: Pte Etale, Cpl Hickie, Pte McWilliams, LSgt Byrne, Gdsm Falconer, LCpl Parry and Cpl Moran.



Pte Etale (3 Rifles) and Richard Gough, © Splash News LA.



Vinnie Jones, © Splash News LA.



Cpl Moran (1 Mercian), LSgt Byrne (1 IG), © Splash News LA.



## 2010 COACH EDUCATION CALENDAR



### 1st4Sport Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football

Fee £85

(must complete Football Parent on line)

[www.thefa.com/grassrootsnew/falearning/courses](http://www.thefa.com/grassrootsnew/falearning/courses)

1st - 4th	March	2010
4th - 7th	May	2010
26th - 29th	July	2010
6th - 9th	September	2010
1st - 4th	November	2010

### 1st4Sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football

Fee £190.00

(must complete FA Laws of the Game on line)

[www.thefa.com/grassrootsnew/falearning/courses](http://www.thefa.com/grassrootsnew/falearning/courses)

15th - 20th	February	2010
5th - 10th	April	2010
31st - 5th	May - June	2010
2nd - 7th	August	2010
25th - 30th	October	2010

### 1st4Sport Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Football

Fee £210.00

16th - 22nd	August	2010
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### FA Level 1 Goalkeeping Coaching Award

Fee £85

17th - 20th	May	2010
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### FA Level 2 Goalkeeping Coaching Award

Fee £110

13th - 16th	September	2010
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### FA AGE APPROPRIATE COURSES

#### FA Youth Award Module 1

Fee £60

23rd - 26th	February	2010
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#### FA Youth Award Module 2

Fee £60

5th - 7th	October + 1 Further Day	(Please call office to confirm date)
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For further details of the above courses please contact Gill Jones at The Army Football Association on (CIV) 01252 347962 (MIL) 94222 2962 or email: [gill.jones@armyfa.com](mailto:gill.jones@armyfa.com)

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# CRUSADERS SHOW THAT LIONHEART SPIRIT

**Not since the days of Richard the Lionheart has Cyprus seen the likes of the Army Crusaders football team, who returned from their successful autumn expedition to Akrotiri earlier this month.**

The Crusaders, the British Army's officers' football team, led by Lt Col Gary Gordon, undertook a three-match, week-long tour, playing top Cyprus opposition in gruelling temperatures in excess of 30 degrees C.

"The sapping heat and short time to acclimatise made the matches a real challenge," said Maj Martin Aspin. "But I was really impressed by the character shown by the whole squad."

It was character, perseverance and moments of brilliance, in particular a wonder goal by Capt Sam Mackie, that ensured a heart-stopping 4-4 result against a very talented and youthful Cypriot Akrotiri FC. Also cashing in with goals were Maj John Rendall and Maj Mal McGeoch, while man-of-the-match Maj Tich Walton marshalled an effective back four.

The second match, against the military team the Akrotiri Legends, promised to be an even more challenging encounter, and so it proved. The Crusaders, playing in their changed red and black strip, shook off their first-half cobwebs and came back like a pack of wolves in for the kill in the second half.

A magnificent performance by Capt Si Langham and crucial saves by stalwart goalkeeper Lt Col Nick Byrne kept the Crusaders in the match. However, despite a promising fightback, the Crusaders, increasingly vulnerable in defence as they threw men forwards, eventually succumbed to a strong Legends side by a flattering 3-0 scoreline.

Player manager Lt Col Gary Gordon, striving for a win in the Crusaders' final match, started with his third different formation in as many games.

Time on the training ground was well rewarded on this occasion as the Crusaders put a below-par Erimi FC to the sword. Four goals from tour top scorer Capt Sam Mackie, a powerful headed finish by Maj Andy Campbell and a stunning left-foot solo strike

from Lt Col Paul Redwood provided the Crusaders with six goals as they tore apart the opposition.

Erimi FC were unable to capitalise on several good chances at the other end, with a goal-line clearance from Lt Col Les Caruthers and a strong showing from Maj Lee McKenzie at the back helping to earn only Lt Col Nick Byrne's second ever Crusaders' clean sheet.

The Army Crusaders would like to give special thanks to Capt Eddie Murphy and Maj Gerry Porter for their sterling work on and of the pitch, which supported a highly successful tour.

The Army Crusaders are open to all serving officers and have a first XI and a veterans' XI (over-35s). If you would like to play or require more information, please contact Maj Martin Aspin (first XI) on 01264 385561, [martin.aspin682@mod.uk](mailto:martin.aspin682@mod.uk), or Lt Col Gary Gordon (veterans) on 01869 257317, [gary.gordon303@qcis.mod.uk](mailto:gary.gordon303@qcis.mod.uk).



The Crusaders Team before an impressive 6-0 victory.





# FA NEWS

## Funding update

**There is no doubt that due to the demanding economic times we are in, finding funding for football projects will continue to be a challenge.**

In recent weeks, The Football Foundation has highlighted the fact that demand for capital funding is oversubscribed - see the following link:

**<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/apply/facilities-grant/notice-for-projects-awaiting-approval-for-facilities-grants/>**

However, The Football Foundation has also announced the launch of a new small grants scheme (capital) called 'Build The Game' due to be officially launched on August 1 this year. The 'Build the Game' programme is aimed at smaller capital projects and has a flexible and simplified application process. For more information regarding 'Build The Game', please contact

your local County Development Manager at your local County Football Association (see details on page three of this magazine).

There are still other live funding streams that you may consider. Sport England has recently launched new programmes including a 'Rural Communities Fund' and an 'Innovation Fund'. Sport England also operates a Sportsmatch scheme which matches all private contributions, pound-for-pound, up to a maximum of £100,000. For information on this and other Sport England funding programmes, please see: **<http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx>**

Funding for local community projects is also often available from the local authorities, many of which run small grant schemes. For advice and information regarding such schemes, either visit your local authority website or call and ask to speak to a 'funding officer'.

Finally, anyone interested in accessing other funding sources for specific projects should contact their county development manager at the local County Football Association. Most County FAs have access to a grant search system called Grantfinder - county development managers will be able to offer you access and advice regarding other specific grant sources relevant to your project.



# Respect one

The audience for the Respect programme is enormous and has required work with professional, semi-professional, amateur, women's and disability football, with coaches, adult and youth players, managers, spectators, club officials and referees.

Across the grassroots game, 540 leagues and 53,000 teams opted into Respect and implementing measures to improve behaviour. Throughout this first season, the impact of Respect has been monitored and we want to share with you the following statistics on the impact of Respect:

- In the professional game, player behaviour has improved. There have been 44% fewer cases of mass confrontation and a 50% decline in cases of reported harassment of referees. Referees report an improved relationship with players but feel that some managers could set a better example to players and spectators.
- There has been an increase in the volume of dissent cautions in all leagues apart from the Premier League. The professional game match officials however believe this to be a result of more referees dealing with on-field dissent instead of tolerating it as in previous seasons.
- The use of a team captains to assist the referee to manage player behaviour is considered of value.
- Compared to the same period for season 2007-08, there has been an eight per cent rise in referee numbers. There are more student referees in training. The FA is ahead of its recruitment targets for referees and currently has nearly 26,000 registered referees.
- The number of serious assaults on referees declined by 10 per cent in 2008-09 but, disappointingly, over 500 referees still reported being subject to physical abuse. This is clearly not acceptable.



In August 2008 The FA launched its Respect campaign to answer a plea from you, the officials involved in grassroots football, to improve behaviour. Two high profile incidents in the Premier League combined with a clear message from FA grassroots football research showed that action was needed – and fast.

# year on

- The FA had a considerable impact in youth football, with advertising and educational promotions helping to deal with the problem of abusive touchline parents.

- In the national game cautions for dissent have risen by three per cent but there has been a decline in charges for misconduct and the number of dismissals.
- The use of designated spectators' areas marked by barriers, a painted line or cones is an effective way of improving spectator behaviour. Nearly 11,000 clubs took up the offer of financial support from the Football Foundation to purchase barriers.
- The vast majority of those involved in football agree that the Respect scheme is definitely needed and that it is a long-term programme that requires constant reinforcement and reinvention.

The FA's focus for 2009-10 will be more of the same. The FA and County FAs have a clear responsibility to lead Respect, and you can speak to your County's Respect Lead Officer if you want to find out more information.

**The FA has issued new codes of conduct with sanctions for the coming season. If you have signed up to Respect, you will be sent new code sign-up sheets and posters by your County FA. You can view the new codes by visiting [TheFA.com/Respect](http://TheFA.com/Respect).**





# The FA Youth Award – innovation in coaching young players

The FA Youth Award is proving to be a groundbreaking course. It is the first course to be specifically designed for those who work with young players and feedback has been extremely positive following last year's launch of Module One – 'Developing the Environment'. Module Two – 'Developing the Practice' has been piloted and interest is growing as the course is rolled out across the country.

The FA Youth Award marks a different approach to developing young players as it focuses as much on 'how' to teach players as on 'what' to teach them. By adopting this new approach, the course encourages coaches to develop a greater understanding of how players learn.

This method of developing young players also uses practical activities looking at the vitally important areas of self-esteem, motivation and how to manage mistakes. By raising awareness in these areas, and how they link with the development of our young players, the coach is given an insight into the components which need to be present in order to create a vibrant and enjoyable learning environment for the players. If implemented, this will allow the players to not only

develop their football skills, but also their personal skills which will help them as they grow up.

The FA Youth Award is the first course that looks specifically at coaching young players. The course applies the FA's four-corner model as it looks at the player in four key developmental areas:

**'Physical,' 'Psychological,' 'Technical' and 'Social'.**



Football is then packaged through a number of exciting new activities in such a way that it "fits" the player and not the other way round. This marks a progressive change in coaching philosophy, creating a truly player-centred approach to the coaching and development of our young players.

Three modules are being delivered for The FA Youth Award:

- Module One: 'Developing the Environment' - focusing on the 5-11 age group – **available now.**
- Module Two: 'Developing the Practice' - focusing on 12-16 year old players – **coming this summer.**
- Module Three: 'Developing the Player', with emphasis on the 17-21 age group – **coming soon.**



Feedback from students who have already completed Module One has been extremely positive:

**"I have found it very thought provoking and I think that it hits the button on coaching youth players."**

**"I found the class discussions out on the field post-practice, as well as the classroom work, an extremely valuable part of the course."**

**"Best FA course I have been on."**

To enrol on Module One, candidates need to be at least an FA Level One qualified coach, or alternatively a qualified teacher can undertake a one-day introductory module before taking Module One. The FA Youth Award provides an alternative coaching pathway for those who specifically want to work with younger players.

With the new FA Youth Award promising to be one of the most popular FA courses yet, we encourage people to make sure they take their places soon and put themselves at the forefront of football coaching.

**For further information about the courses, contact The FA Learning team on 0870 8500 424.**



# Introducing FA Members' Services

**Members' Services is a new online facility being offered by County Football Associations and The Football Association. It's free to all affiliated leagues, clubs, referees and coaches.**

Our aim is to provide online information to leagues, clubs, referees and coaches, giving them access to their football, reducing the administrative burden and giving them up-to-date information instantly, whenever they need it.

Members' Services is available from any County FA website, via the Members link. You'll need to know your FA Number (FAN, which used to be referred to as an NPD) and you'll need to get a password, which can be obtained automatically from the The FA systems.

At present Members' Services is available to the following people:

- Leagues: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- Clubs: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- Referees: All registered referees
- Coaches: All coaches

When you first request access, the system will check your details (cross-referencing with the FA/County records), and once you have a password, you can login and access your information.

**Club secretaries, chairmen and treasurers can access the following information through their County website:**

- View your Club Information online
- Update your contact information
- View your FA accreditations
- Keep up to date with your latest club discipline
- Check which players you have registered (County registered only)
- Football Pages – Find a Referee tool
- Keep up to date with your County FA financial records for your club
- Feedback on what other services you would like.

**League secretaries, chairmen and treasurers can access the following information through their County website:**

- View your League Information online
- Update your contact information
- View your FA accreditations
- Weekly Discipline Statement online – keep up to date with discipline
- Link Full-Time information to County Team information
- Football Pages – Find a Club and Find a Referee
- Keep up to date with your County FA financial records
- Feedback on what other services you would like.

**Referees can access the following information through their County website:**

- Check your contact details
- Update your contact information
- View your FA accreditations
- Maintain availability
- Enter Weekly Behaviour marks for Full-Time fixtures you officiate
- Feedback on what other services you would like.

**Coaches can access the following information through their County website:**

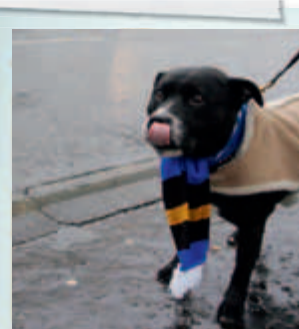
- Check your contact details
- Update your Contact Information
- View your FA accreditations
- Display yourself on the Find a Coach tool
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# FA Charter Standard criteria changes

The criteria for The FA Charter Standard Club programme has been slightly modified to reflect the views of over 37,000 people who were consulted on the development of The FA's National Game Strategy 2008-12. Many of the changes also replicate examples of good practice that have been implemented by FA Charter Standard clubs and as a result The FA's Charter Standard Club programme is further raising standards and supporting the needs of grassroots football.

From July 2009 all new clubs will have to adhere to the new criteria together with those existing FA Charter Standard Clubs renewing their status in season 2009-10. However for existing FA Charter Standard clubs a transitional period has been allowed to provide sufficient time and support.

Following the Goals and Enablers of The FA National Game Strategy the additions made to the criteria are as follows:



## Goal 1: Growth and retention

- Clubs to have a link with a local school, FE college or university to recruit new players.

## Goal 2: Raising standards

- First Aid equipment to be present on match days and training sessions.
- Clubs to implement the Respect programme codes of conduct.
- Clubs to host a briefing for players, parents/carers, spectators, coaches and managers to discuss on- and off-field behaviour.
- Community Clubs to run a workshop on why and how to address poor behaviour and improve standards.

## Goal 3: Better players

- One coach to attend The FA Age Appropriate Introductory Module by July 2010.
- Development and Community Clubs: one coach to attend The FA Youth Award (L3) Module 1 by July 2010.
- Community Clubs: one coach to attend The FA Youth Award (L3) Module 2 by July 2011.
- No more than 1:16 coaching ratio and two adults present at all sessions/games.

## Goal 4: Running the Game

- Development and Community Clubs to have a development plan based on the National Game Strategy template.

## Enabler: Workforce

- A volunteer co-ordinator is nominated and roles identified for volunteers in the club.
- Development and Community Clubs: head coach identified with L2 and Youth Award (L3) Module 1 by July 2010.
- Community Clubs: one coach to attend FA Mentoring course by July 2011.

A great deal of support is available from your County Football Association and this includes:

- An Application and Support Resource CD-ROM that has the new criteria and many documents that include the Respect programme codes of conduct and development plans.
- Accessing FA Age Appropriate Introductory Module and Youth Award (L3) coaching courses.
- Guidance on developing your club through the Football Development workforce and accessing funding.
- Guidance from the County Welfare Officer on how to address poor behaviour.

Alternatively, documentation can be found at: [www.TheFA.com/CharterStandard](http://www.TheFA.com/CharterStandard)

For season 2010-11 it is planned that all clubs will be supported through an annual health check process with their County FA to ensure all existing clubs adhere to the new criteria.



# Safeguard children through training, best practice and responsible recruitment (CRB)



Call: 0845 210 8080  
[TheFA.com/footballsafes](https://www.thefa.com/footballsafes)



**Respect**

# TWO VIEWS OF THE ARMY

## A PLAYER'S PERSPECTIVE

**Monday morning and we were formed up ready to start the Army FA women's football trials. The players and staff were ready for what was going to be a gruelling few days' training followed by a friendly match against the London FA. Many of the previously selected players turned out for the trials, with a substantial number of new players ready to make their mark.**

The first morning started off with a presentation and introduction to all the staff - Major Ian Groom, team manager; Capt Sandra Hodgson MBE, the head coach; WO2 Jim Murchie, assistant coach; Sgt Lisa Grieves, kit manager and coach.

After the administration was done, and having got over the initial shock of being told we were doing fitness tests, we were on our way to the gym to undertake the MSFT or 'bleep test', as it is known to most - something of a shock to those who have never been to trials before and wished they hadn't taken advantage of the full English for breakfast beforehand. After an impressive few minutes of 'phys', we were then out onto the fields, where the real work began.

The atmosphere in the team was very good and morale was high. We began with some warm-up drills, and we were soon into

possession-sided games and, finally, an 11 v 11 situation - an ideal opportunity for Capt Hodgson to look at the talent. The technical ability among the trialists was excellent, so the coaching staff had their work cut out making a selection.

Much of the next day was spent doing an impressive football circuit (which, can I just say, was horrendous), and mainly working on movement off the ball, possession and first touch. The competition among the group was getting quite high and the standards were being raised day by day. Unfortunately, we took some casualties, who suffered minor injuries and were forced to sit on the sidelines and observe.

As a reward for working immensely hard during the first two days, the coaching staff organised an ice bath/steam session at the local health complex in Bagshot.

Much to the amazement of the players we were able to relax and enjoy the warm feeling of the jacuzzi and steam room, followed of course by plunging into the ice bath. To my horror, this actually worked, and legs felt great the following day - which was match day.

The team spent the morning working on set plays. The news came in that London FA was unable to field a team, and therefore we

## Lt Maz Beaney AGC

all had the opportunity to play against one another in a friendly at the Aldershot stadium and showcase our talent one last time.

The game itself was very close and, indeed, very entertaining. It was 0 - 0 at half time with the final score 2-1 to the Reds. Every player fought her heart out for a chance to be selected for the Army squad. The head coach and coaching staff were very pleased with the game and had the hardest decisions still to make.

The highlight of the week was a trip to Wembley for all the trialists and staff. We were fortunate enough to receive a personalised stadium tour, which included the pitch, executive boxes, managers' and players' area, the media area and interview room, team changing rooms and baths and, eventually, travel up the 110 stairs for a photo opportunity with The FA Cup at the Royal enclosure. A perfect way to end such a physically demanding week.

The trials were concluded with what all players had been waiting for - the verdict: whether we were in or out. Those who were not selected for the squad were encouraged to try again next year, but those lucky enough to be selected were able to look forward to the next game, against Middlesex FA.



Day 1 Trialists.



Arrival at Wembley Stadium.



# WOMEN'S TEAM TRIALS

## THE COACH'S PERSPECTIVE

## Capt Sandra Hodgson MBE

**With trials week upon us and a good turnout of 33 players expected from the various corps, the challenge as always was making the week demanding, both physically and mentally, developing and assessing players, and then, of course, selecting a strong squad.**

A general assessment of fitness was conducted, and there were some impressive results.

Having been involved in the Army set-up

both as a player and a coach for the past 10 years, I have noticed most significantly the increase in the technical ability of the players coming through. Many players have played for good clubs and County FAs, and there have been some ex-internationals too.

A slight disappointment came towards the end of the week as London FA was unable to raise a team. However, from a coach's perspective, this was an ideal opportunity to have the players play against each other at the Army stadium, and all of

them were left under no illusions that they were all fighting for their places.

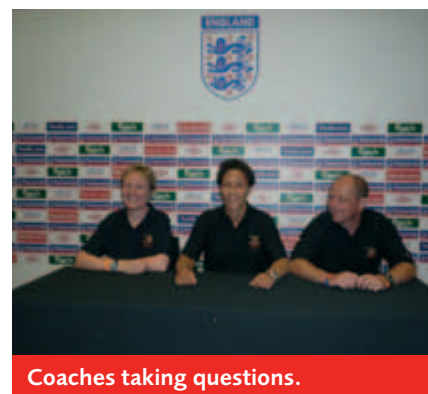
They all took this very seriously, and a great match ensued. Friendships were put aside until after the match. With the final selections decided, a relaxing day at Wembley was planned, and all the players and coaching staff had a fantastic time there. What better way to end the week than doing the walk of fame up the Wembley steps and kissing The FA Cup? A great week!



A birds-eye view.



Sir Bobby Moore statue.



Coaches taking questions.



Army Captain – Sgt Juliette Brown.



Relaxing in the England dressing room!

# ALL ACTION IN CROATIA:

## DIARY OF ARMY SENIOR TEAM'S FOOTBALL TOUR

By **LCpl Rob Ellis RAMC (Level 3 referee)**

The Army FA senior team were recently invited by the President of the Republic of Croatia to play in a commemorative match against Hajduk Split. This match was organised to commemorate the actions by Croatian Sports Club Hajduk during World War II. The game took place on 15 September and coincided with the 65th anniversary of Hajduk's involvement in the Great War.

### WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER

The team had a briefing in the afternoon before preparing for a pre-tour friendly against the APTC, which was played at 1700 hours so that, after the game, we could watch England v Croatia at Wembley. The Army senior team proceeded to beat the APTC 5 – 1, which must have been an omen as England then beat Croatia 5 – 1 to qualify for the World Cup in South Africa.

### THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

The afternoon training session consisted of some crossing drills, shooting practice and a few games between the players and coaching staff - to decide who got the first round in when we arrived in Split.

### FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

I think the last time I saw 0600 hours was during basic training. However, this was the time for reveille, ready for breakfast and the transport to Gatwick. We touched down in Split to be met by the Defence Attaché to Croatia, Lt Col Jonny Lowe RLC. After our first team photo, we were then on our way to our accommodation, courtesy of the Croatian Navy. The team coach, Capt Lee Dyson, soon had us out on the training ground.



War memorial.



Team line-up.

### SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

This was to be our first fixture - against the Croatian Navy at Hajduk Split's ground. On arrival at the ground, I was amazed at the size and the set-up. The stadium could hold 35,000 fans and was a beautiful sight.

Much to pleasure of the team, the changing rooms had been laid out with all the players' kit already hanging up.

Leaving the tunnel, we were greeted by Maj Gen Tim Inshaw, who had flown out from the UK to watch the game. He met all the players and staff individually and wished us good luck. We also met our host, the President of Croatia.

The team played well, finally losing 1 – 0, although they displayed the spirit and fight that we would expect of our soldiers in any sort of battle. The officials all had a good game and the play was entertaining to watch. The post-match meal and presentations were hosted by the Mayor of Split at his official residence.

### SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER

After breakfast, we were picked up to play cricket against a local cricket club, which turned out to be thoroughly enjoyable. The Army FA football team managed to win, earning us at least one victory in Croatia.

### MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER

Today we went on a tour of Split Palace and surrounding areas. This was thoroughly enjoyable and an insight into the heritage and history of the country. A quiz night organised by Sgt James Lavelle and SSgt Kev Haley followed dinner as a team-bonding exercise.

### TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER

Hajduk Split v British Army was the second game of the tour and was televised live, courtesy of BFBS. The Croatian FA decided I could not referee, although I was able to take part as assistant referee.

The experience of working with foreign officials gave me a few hurdles to overcome, such as the language barrier and slightly different styles of refereeing. The match was a normal run-of-the-mill game, with hardly any involvement on my part. The Army lost 9 – 0. They were purely outclassed by a team of professional and skilled players. All goals and highlights can be watched on YouTube.

### WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER

For our last day in Croatia, we boarded a Type 23 frigate to take a two-hour ride to the island of Vis, courtesy of the Croatian Navy. There we visited the memorial for the personnel who lost their lives during the World Wars. The bond was apparent between the British Army, the Croatian Defence Forces and Hajduk Split. After placing wreaths at the memorial sites, we ate in the local village courtesy of the British Ambassador.

### THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

Today we arrived back in the UK following our week in Croatia. Overall the trip enabled me to visit a beautiful country, and to experience the prestige of refereeing abroad and the opportunity to represent Army referees in my first Select List appointment. I would encourage all referees to aspire to do their best so they can have the same opportunities.



# VICTORY FOR THE SEASON'S OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

**After the stunning week in May when the Gunner team won one of the most prestigious trophies in inter-corps football, the Gunner Football Player Awards were held fittingly on board HMS Victory at Portsmouth on 16 September by kind permission of the ship's company.**

The fantastic venue was the idea of WO2 Terry Gaunt, who went on to do an outstanding job organising the event, where the good and the great of Gunner Football assembled to recognise and reward those deemed worthy.

After a guided tour of Lord Nelson's flagship and a fabulous dinner below deck, the squad retired to the bar, where the annual awards were presented by the Gunner Head Coach of both the men's and the women's sides, the Gunner Chairman and the Gunner President. The winners were:

Regimental colours	<b>SSgt Carl Andrews</b>	7 Para RHA
	<b>Bdr Claire Selway</b>	32 Regt RA
	<b>LBdr Siobhan Haynes</b>	47 Regt RA
Combined Services colours	<b>Lt Gavin Smyth</b>	4 Regt RA
	<b>Bdr Christian Holliday</b>	4 Regt RA
	<b>LBdr Brid Thompson</b>	4 Regt RA
Most capped player	<b>Bdr Christian Holliday</b>	4 Regt RA
Goal of the season	<b>Bdr Gary Smith</b> (versus the Sappers, May)	16 Regt RA
Player of the Quadrangular tournament	<b>Bdr Gary Smith</b>	16 Regt RA
Best first season	<b>Lt Gavin Smyth</b>	4 Regt RA
Young Player of the Year	<b>Gnr Paul Young</b>	7 Para RHA
Players' Player of the Year	<b>Gnr Paul Young</b>	7 Para RHA
Player of the Year	<b>Gnr James McDonnell</b>	5 Regt RA



From left to right: Sgt Rob Cummin, WO2 Terry Gaunt, LBdr Ashley Tickner, SSgt Patch Armstrong, Bdr Claire Selway, Sgt Craig Hilton, Bdr Tom Chaney, WO2 Carl Williams, Sgt Mal Barrass, Mr Mark Stoodley, Sgt Ian Saunders, Mr Sammy Ward, SSgt Carl Andrews, Sgt Brett Wilkes, Lt Col Mike Kelly, LBdr Siobhan Haynes, LBdr Maxwell Victory, Lt Col Mike Valenzia, LBdr Steph Spink, LBdr Ron Eugene, Bdr Chris Pollitt, Maj Brian Ransom, LBdr Micky Ruark, LBdr John Richards, Gnr Paul Anglesey, Gnr Dean Tootell, Capt Terry Reilly, Gnr Jo Alexis, Gnr Paul Young, Sgt Mark Dewhurst, LBdr Jerome Murphy, Gnr Ryan Kane, Gnr James McDonnell, LBdr Tom Sherwood, Sgt Harry Boardman, LBdr Phil Burke and Bdr Gary Smith.

And finally, Sammy Ward was asked if he would put his name to a trophy that recognised the person the players and staff believed gave the most to Gunner Football in the last 12 months.

Sammy gave 20 years to Gunner Football as a player and then 17 as coach, during which time he travelled from his home in Sunderland to coach the team at Woolwich and then at Larkhill. He travelled over 153,000 miles (six times around the world) and, in those 17 years, he only missed two fixtures (both re-arranged games).

We were honoured to have Sammy travel down from Sunderland once again and join Mark Stoodley (an ex-Gunner player himself) to present in person the inaugural award to Sgt Mark Dewhurst (19 Regt RA) for his selfless commitment and continued hard work.

Gunner Football will hold its awards evening next year at the Emirates Stadium on 8 September 2010 and hopefully precede the evening with a Gunner v Gunner match for Help for Heroes.



# HERO'S WELCOME AT ALDERSHOT TOWN

**Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry VC was an honoured guest at Aldershot Town's recent Coca Cola League Two match at home to Bury.**

Johnson, of the 1st Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross in March 2005. He received the highest military decoration for valour in the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces for twice saving members of his unit from ambushes in 2004 at Al-Amarah, Iraq. He sustained serious head injuries in the latter engagement. He was formally invested with the Victoria Cross by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 27 April, 2005.

Johnson received a tremendous welcome from the supporters prior to kick-off as he was introduced to the 3,000-plus crowd.

He was representing the Help for Heroes charity, and was supporting the Aldershot Town Ladies team's 2010 calendar at the



**Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry VC with Aldershot Town Ladies.**

official launch. Help for Heroes and Cancer Research are the beneficiary charities from the calendar, which is now on sale at

[www.footygirlscalendar.com](http://www.footygirlscalendar.com). The Aldershot Town Ladies team is sponsored by Army Recruiting.

## THE THREE MAJORS

**Is this a first for the Army FA? Major Gary Connolly, a Level 3 National Contributory League referee and Panel List assistant referee, and Majors Pete Conn and Brian Murdoch, both National Contributory League assistant referees, were appointed recently to referee the Carlsberg Trophy fixture between Hungerford Town and Taunton Town on Saturday, 17 October.**

Important fixtures of this sort are allocated on merit, and clearly age is no barrier to success. The combined ages of the three officials was way past 130 years, with a combined service of almost 90 years - confirmation that this job really does keep you young (at heart).

Brian Murdoch is the current Chairman of Army Referees, Gary Connolly is Chairman of 4 Div(E) and Pete Conn is a member of the Army Referees' Committee, having recently handed over the mantle of Chairman BA(G) on posting back to the UK.

Both Hungerford and Taunton play in the Zameretto (Southern) League Division 1. The fixture did not disappoint the paying spectators, who witnessed an evenly fought, entertaining, end-to-end tie played in good spirit.



**The three majors prior to kick-off.**

Hungerford went in at half time leading 1-0, but it was in the second half that the game really came to life. From 4-1 down and a seemingly lost cause, Taunton continued to chase and scored on 85 minutes to make it 4-2.

On 90 minutes, the referee awarded a penalty to Taunton, 4-3 with still five minutes added time to play.

However, despite some frantic, nervous

defending, Hungerford hung on for a 4-3 victory and to win bonus of £2,300 from the competition sponsors.

In congratulating the men in black, the Taunton manager commented that they were the best set of match officials he had seen all season. Clearly attendance at the Army FA Level 4 development days last season was really beneficial!





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ENGLAND**



# The team bus

**'Arry** – Midfielder and awesome dribbler (especially in his sleep)

**Matt** – Goalkeeper and tone deaf, 'sings' along to anything and everything

**JJ** – winger and professional whinger, can't drive himself but slates everyone else

**Sharky** – Striker and fastest 'shotgun' caller in the west

**The Don** – Captain and backseat driver

Whatever your level, find a team near you. There are 30,000 men's 11-a-side teams signed up for this season and they need players like you.

Plus check out The FA's new YouTube channel for the chance to make your team famous:

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