

RAF Football Association - E-Bulletin

RAF FA CUP 'THE KEITH CHRISTIE TROPHY' AND RAF FA PLATE 19/20 UPDATE

## RAF Akrotiri Progress to Quarter-Finals

### RAF Akrotiri 5 RAF Leeming 1

SAC Liam Thornton was RAF Akrotiri's star man as he bagged four goals to ease his team to victory in this RAF Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> round clash.



The RAF Cup has been freshened up this season with a straight knock-out format and the inclusion of RAF Akrotiri. The match was played in the Akrotiri village stadium and there are not many matches played in December in lovely warm sunny conditions, perfect for the spectators which included Station Commander Group Captain Christopher Snaith.

Both teams supported the Rainbow Laces campaign with a number of players wearing the coloured laces. The first twenty minutes were very even with no chances created at either end; the first real opportunity came in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute when Leeming's Nick Aston saw his 20-yard shot parried away for a corner by home goalkeeper Stuart Grant. The resulting corner kick resulted in Jake Moore firing well over the bar.



The deadlock was broken on the half hour mark when Leeming's captain Jake Moore was dispossessed of the ball by Akrotiri's Liam Thornton who ran on before clinically slotting the ball past advancing goalkeeper Ross Martin to put the home side 1-0 up.

The goal really settled the home side and they should have doubled their lead on 38 minutes but Thornton squandered an easy chance from just 6 yards out. Two minutes later though and the striker made no mistake when his run beat the off-side trap and his looping header from a Jake Burns cross on the right sailed over the keeper to make it 2-0.

Any chance that RAF Leeming had of getting back into the game ended when Thornton completed a first half hat-trick in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute with a powerful header from another Burns

cross. This giving RAF Akrotiri a comfortable 3-0 half time lead.



Into the second half and Akrotiri fired a chance over the bar whilst at the other end Leeming forced a couple of corners before the game was well and truly put to bed in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute. It was a Sean Kinsella through ball that released Allando Davis who showed his pace before rounding the goalkeeper and slotting the ball home to make it 4-0.



To their credit, Leeming's heads did not drop and they kept plugging away, they reduced the arrears with 59 minutes on the clock. It was a cracking 20-yard strike from David Holt that made it 4-1. Leeming went on to force another couple of corners and put together a couple of nice moves but were unable to add to their solitary goal.

Liam Thornton missed a great chance for Akrotiri when he put a free header wide from 6 yards in the 76<sup>th</sup> minute. At the other end keeper Stuart Grant pulled off a great save when he stopped and held onto Ben Mearns fierce strike for Leeming.

The goalscoring was wrapped up in the 86th minute with another good finish from man of the match Liam Thornton, giving a full time result of RAF Akrotiri 5 RAF Leeming 1.

After the match a jubilant RAF Akrotiri manager, Flight Sergeant Richard ‘Bomber’ Lancaster commented, “First twenty minutes we were poor, we didn’t execute our game plan and Leeming caused us a few problems. The water break came at the right time and other than a five-minute spell in the second half we pretty much dominated the game. We look forward to welcoming RAF Northolt in the next round. I left RAF Northolt for Cyprus so it will be good to catch up with Sergeant Danny Bartley and his team”.

Teams:

RAF Akrotiri	RAF Leeming
1 SAC Stuart Grant	1 Cpl Ross martin
2 SAC Jake Burns	2 SAC Andrei Demyanchuk
3 SAC Aaron Lewis	3 SAC Nick Aston
4 SAC Carl Edwards	4 Cpl Shane Shardlow
5 SAC Shaun Brian	5 SAC Jake Moore
6 Cpl Simon Oakley	6 Cpl Scott Dawson
7 Allando Davis	7 Cpl David Holt
8 Sgt Greg McHale	8 SAC Liam Farrell
9 SAC Liam Thornton	9 SAC Ben Mearns
10 Cpl Sean Kinsella	10 Cpl Matthew Lazenby
11 Flt Lt Scott Cater	11 Cpl Stuart Jardine
12 Sgt Jack Elkin	13 Cpl James Newton
13 SAC Michael Ralph	14 SAC Cameron Mercer
14 Flt Lt Tom Williams	16 SAC Jack Joyce
15 SAC Matthew Hyland	
16 Cpl James Ireland	
17 SAC Richard Hassall	
18 Cpl Steve Harries	

Referee: Mark Bell (RAF FA)

AR: Nick Mason (Army FA)

AR: Rob Lord (Army FA)

Match Report – Mr Vince Williams – Secretary RAFFA

Photographs – RAF Akrotiri Photo Section



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