

RAF Football Association

Plate Final Match Report

RAF Honington 2-0 RAF Odiham



After a couple of days of rain and a down pour in the morning of the match, it was a pleasant surprise to see the weather improve for the preliminary arrangements of this year's RAF FA Plate Final at the ASM Stadium, home of Thame United FC. Despite the amount of rain that had fallen the pitch looked in good condition but the weather would continue to prove variable as the teams walked out in driving rain with the wind swirling.



Both teams started brightly with good intensity in all areas. The wet surface was seeing the ball zip around, catching out both teams as they looked to fully adjust to the surroundings.

It wasn't long before the first chance was created, with Cpl Steve Watts meeting a great cross from the right-hand side to head the ball against the base of the post. The rebound came to Cpl Michael Campbell who controlled well but before he could get a shot away he was tackled by 2 defenders.

After 15 mins Honington created another decent chance, a surging run from Cpl Michael Goodard saw him progress 25 yards before firing his shot from 20 yards out. SAC(T) Matt Hyndman was alert and saved well, keeping a hold of the ball as a couple of Honington players looked to pounce. Odiham responded to the early pressure with an attack down the right side, working the ball well deep into the Honington half but before they could craft an opening, the ball was cleared.



Soon after Odiham gave the SAC Chris Adams something to do, following a foul on SAC(T) Dave Roberts in the middle of the pitch, SAC(T) Matt Hyndman drove the ball forward but it was cleared for a corner. SAC(T) John-Paul Nash swung in a good delivery and CPL Simon Newman rose well to head goal wards but SAC Chris Adams gathered calmly. A further chance from SAC(T) John-Paul Nash again saw SAC Chris Adams look unflustered.

With 25 minutes on the clock, Cpl D'Arcy Wilson sprinted forward down the left, making his way into the box using his power and pace to cause havoc, as he prepared to shoot, he was slide tackled. Whilst he pleaded for a penalty, it looked like a perfectly timed tackle from the side-line. The non-award of a penalty seemed to spur on Honington, who slide another ball into the box which was cleared by a stretching SAC(T) Matt Hyndman straight to a Honington player. A great cross to the far post saw Cpl D'Arcy Wilson look certain to score but under pressure he headed over. Minutes later Cpl D'Arcy Wilson was at it again, beating his man and powering through a couple of tackles he looked odds on to at least trouble the SAC(T) Matt Hyndman but blasted his shot skywards



when a bit of composure was needed.



Odiham continued to push forward when they could, with a long ball from SAC(T) Ben Greenwood pinged from the right to the left-hand side to switch the play, it was controlled well by SAC Myles Easton but FS Steve Bradley was quick to snap into the tackle pushing the ball out for a throw. However, nothing more came of the attack.

With the match nearing half time, Cpl Michael Goddard received the ball on the edge of the Odiham box. He jinxed his way past the first defender but as he looked to open up for a shot was taken down by the penalty spot. Penalty awarded, Cpl Michael Campbell stepped up and went for power down the middle, SAC(T) Matt Hyndman reacted and saved the attempt, pushing the ball up onto the bar but the rebound went straight back to Cpl Michael Campbell who dispatched it into the top corner.



A minute after the restart, LCpl Liam Morris played a nice ball to Cpl Michael Campbell who slid his reverse pass to Cpl Steve Watts to cross. Cpl D'Arcy Wilson looked favourite to get on the end of the cross but went down under pressure. With his arms raised aloft claiming another penalty, the Referee was uninterested and waved away the protest.

Just prior to half-time, Odiham broke and the ball was cleared for a corner. A good ball into the box looked promising but SAC Chris Adams did well to claw it out from under the bar to preserve the lead. **Half-time Honington 1 – Odiham 0.**

The second half started with both sides probing again to no avail but on 50 minutes, LCpl Liam Morris drove forward and unleashed a strong shot but it was blocked when it looked like it would trouble the keeper. Odiham changed things around with SAC(T) Jordan Greaves coming off to be replaced by SAC(T) Tim Atherton. Minutes later they worked an opening with SAC(T) Ben Greenwood, SAC(T) John-Paul Nash and SAC Myles Easton working an opening and curling a decent cross into the box but the Honington defence were resolute and headed clear.

After a series of niggly challenges, FS Steve Bradley saw himself entered into the Referee's notebook after fouling his man 40 yards out from the Honington goal. However, the free-kick came to nothing.



A long ball across the field to SAC Myles Easton created an opening but under lots of pressure from 2 Honington defenders he was forced to shoot early and saw his lob go straight to the SAC Chris Adams.

Honington upped their game and Cpl Michael Goddard broke down the right and cut in to cross into the box, Cpl Michael Campbell controlled well and unleashed a good effort but saw it

deflected out for a corner which came to nothing. SAC Myles Easton then had another chance at the other end but again was hurried to get his effort away and saw his shot spoon upwards and over the bar.

On 65 mins, LCpl Liam Morris again drove through the centre of the pitch and hit a powerful shot which was heading for the bottom right corner but SAC(T) Matt Hyndman managed to get a strong arm to it at full stretch and also managed to smother the ball as the attackers looked to pounce.

Minutes later LCpl Liam Morris was at it again, this time sliding a lovely pass through to the feet of Cpl Michael Campbell after a 15 yard run forward. Campbell smashed it goal wards but SAC(T) Matt Hyndman got down well and pushed the ball onto the bar, with the rebound falling back to Cpl Michael Campbell he saw his second shot go into the side netting.

SAC Aidan Goswell was replaced following an injury with Flt Lt Alex Toogood coming on.

With 73 minutes on the clock, Honington doubled their lead with a cool right foot strike to the bottom left corner from Cpl Michael Campbell from 10 yards out, his second of the match, leaving the SAC(T) Matt Hyndman with no chance of reaching it.

With the clock ticking down, Honington took off Cpl Steve Watts and replaced him with SAC Sammy Hollis. Odiham keep going and good inter-play between SAC Myles Easton and Flt Lt Alex Toogood allowed a shot from 20 yards out but it wasn't troubling SAC Chris Adams.

FS Steve Bradley was replaced by Cpl Paton.



Cpl Michael Campbell was trying for his hatrick but the Odiham keeper was alive to his latest effort. Cpl Michael Goddard then tried his luck with a decent shot after shaking off the attention of the defender but SAC(T) Matt Hyndman was again a match for it, saving well.

The final chance of the match saw Cpl D'Arcy Wilson latch onto the ball after a mistake in the heart of the Odiham defence, progressing into the box, he shot but the Matt Hyndman stood tall and saved well.

The Referee blew for time and Honington celebrate their 2nd year in a row of winning a trophy.

Man of the Match was awarded to Honington's LCpl Liam but Morris but he was pushed all the way by the Odiham Keeper SAC(T) Hyndman who also had an excellent match.



A great achievement from Honington, who for 1 week would be the reigning RAF Cup holders due to the Final being played at Watford FC on 8 May and the holders of the RAF FA Plate.



RAF Honington

SAC Adams
FS Bradley
Cpl Holden
FS Ballard ©
Cpl Molloy
LCpl Morris
SAC Hall
Cpl Goddard
Cpl Campbell
Cpl Wilson
Cpl Watts

Subs

SAC(T) Evans
Cpl Paton
SAC Grassam
SAC Hollis
Fg Off Proctor
Cpl Barber

RAF Odiham

SAC(T) Hyndman
SAC Greaves
SAC Easton ©
SAC Goswell
Cpl Newman
SAC Goulding
SAC(T) Greenwood
Cpl Alcock
SAC(T) Nash
SAC(T) Roberts
Cpl Roberts

Subs

SAC Knight
Flt Lt Toogood
LAC O'Loughlin
SAC Molloy
SAC(T) Atherton
SAC(T) Hindmarch

Management Teams

FS Harrison
FS Robinson

SAC Hayward

Officials

Referee	Sgt Richard King – RAF Coningsby
Asst Ref	Cpl Chris Arnell – RAF Coningsby
Asst Ref	Sgt Danny Curle – RAF Brize Norton
4 th Official	Fg Off Martyn Mitchell – RAF Cosford

Match Report by – Sqn Ldr Garf Parker, Director of Communications, RAF FA
Photographs by Luka Waycott – RAF Halton Photo Section

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