

RAF Football Association LRT Match Report



RAF LRT – RN Women 2 - 2



The RAF Ladies SRT concluded their 2018 Inter Services Championships with an away fixture against the Royal Navy at the Victory Stadium in Portsmouth. As both teams had been beaten 2-1 by the Army, winning the overall championships had gone but both teams were eager to win the Lynsey Miller Trophy. Prior to the match starting, a minute's silence was held to remember the tragic loss of an RAF engineer from the RAF Aerobatics Team following the awful crash of a Red Arrow earlier on that day at RAF Valley.



The game started with the Navy kicking off on a cold evening at HMS Temeraire, with all match officials being provided by the Army. The first real opportunity came after 8 minutes with Mackenzie's shot from the RAF going wide of the post following a smart turn in the box. Two minutes later the RAF were awarded a free kick outside the box, the set piece being taken by Rutherford. The resulting free kick was not dealt with by the RN defence and was cleared for a corner. From the corner, Howes fired a low shot past the keeper and into the net to make it **1-0 to the RAF**.

A fantastic start by the RAF was further rewarded with the RAF scoring a second on the 19th minute with a fantastic cross field pass by Beaver splitting the RN defence for Symons to run clear and fire past the RN keeper. **RN 0 RAF 2**.

The RN's first opportunity came after 27 minutes but Davies made a comfortable save from a long range shot to keep the RAFs lead at 2-0. 4 minutes later the RN were back in the match after the ball spun

free in the RAF box and O’Leary for the RN easily headed home to make it **2-1 to the RAF**. The RAF were straight onto the attack from the kick off with Lee running through but her resulting shot went wide of the post.

On the stroke of half time, the RN equalised following a great run by Bavister whose low cross from the wing was turned in by Timoney to make it **RN 2 RAF 2**.

Half Time – Royal Navy 2 Royal Air Force 2

The second half started with a flurry of substitutions by both teams which disrupted the pattern of play. On the 61st minute Howes from the RAF was shown a yellow card following a late challenge. The next opportunity to score fell to the RAF on the 65th minute but McIntosh’s strike was well saved by Lee in the RN goal.

The second half continued with both teams battling to take advantage, the standard of play expressed by both teams was of the highest standard and showcased just how much ladies service representative had progressed over the past few seasons.

The fourth official indicated that there was to be 7 additional minutes, during added time, Davies made two outstanding saves showing her international class to keep the score 2-2 with both teams sharing the Lynsey Miller Trophy



Full Time – Royal Navy 2 Royal Air Force 2

Quote from Team Manager Sgt Michelle Harvey-Perkins –

“While it is disappointing to have relinquished a 2-goal lead, my players did everything I asked of them today and showed quality, pride, team spirit and guts and I am extremely proud and honoured to be involved in this set up. The standard of women's football in the service is at an all-time high and it is my job, along with my staff to ensure it continues to develop and progress. Bring on next season”.

RAF Team

Nicky Davies	RAF Waddington
Nicola Symons	RAF Scampton
Kaye Widdicombe	RAF Benson
Rachael Howes	RAF Coningsby
Rachel Rutherford	RAF Brize Norton
Mollie Lambert	RAF Northolt
Samantha Wylie	RAF Odiham
Catherine Beaver (Captain)	RAF High Wycombe
Robyn Stewart	JHFS Aldergrove
Ash McKenzie	FDTC Crickhowell
Zara McIntosh	RAF Benson

Subs

Stephanie Lee	RAF Waddington
Lauren Welsh	RAF Benson
Jade Brown	RAF Waddington
Chantelle Lovell	RAF Valley
Rachel Dean	RAF Wyton
Millie Quinn-Downing	RAF Brize Norton
Lauren Cassin	RAF Coningsby

Scorers:

Rachael Howes
Nicola Symons

Report by Sqn Ldr Paul Harrap, SRT Comms Lead

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THALES



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