



THE SOLDIERS' GAME

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019/20

ISSUE 19



Let's make football safe - not sorry



Dear Football Fraternity,

You will have seen the Social Media posts announcing my assumption of the Chairman's position for the Army Football Association. I am absolutely thrilled to have been selected and it will be an enormous privilege to continue the excellent work that my predecessor, Maj Gen 'Mitch' Mitchell, has driven into the beautiful game over the last decade; we will celebrate his immense contribution once we emerge from the current COVID-19 dictated situation.

By way of first announcements, which you won't be surprised to hear are all impacted by the current COVID-19 battle, I thought we'd provide some clarity on where we are with the leagues and cup competitions that were in flight when we went in to lockdown. It is our intention to bring all cup competitions to their natural conclusion, i.e. all seen through to the completion of cup finals. This would see no more than 12 games being played, ideally before the end of the 'current season' or as a curtain raiser for the next. With regards to the leagues that remain unfinished we intend to follow the Governing Body's direction and cease leagues

with immediate effect. There will therefore be no league winners, runner-up etc and no promotions or relegations. This applies across all levels of the game within the Army.

You will also find an update on courses, be they coaching or officials focussed and some reassurance regarding support to those who need to complete continuation training and how to apply for extensions.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming years and driving the Trustees and the Executive committee to continue developing Army Football across every single tier, be that male, female, regular, reserve, representational, Corps or within units.

Yours, in Football,

Niall,

Brig N M STOKOE OBE
Chairman Army Football Association.



ARMY FA OFFICES

Whilst the Army Football Association offices remain closed, which is in line with the Army Sports Control Board directive and Government policy on social distancing, the staff will continue to work from home for the foreseeable future but maintaining the support that you all need; the team have access to IT so please continue to email in any requests or RFIs you might have.

All of the 45x recognised Army sports have been scored into categories. Football currently sits in the RED zone which means it is unlikely to start until more relaxed social distancing measures are announced. It is anticipated unlikely to restart before 01 September although it is acknowledged that we are operating in an environment where NGB guidance is in some cases changing frequently and there is huge pressure on the Government to continue to relax social distancing further. Both of these factors will have consequences for any subsequent recommendation for a particular Army sport to recommence.

With regards to the current status of Army Football please note the following information:

2019/20 LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

In line with the current governing body advice all grass roots league football for the 2019/20 season, which includes the Massey and Women's Corps leagues, plus the regional leagues are to cease and be declared null and void. There will be no promotion or relegation from any league competition.

2019/20 ARMY FA CUP COMPETITIONS

It is the aim of the Association to complete the following cup competitions:

- Challenge Cup Major Units
- Minor Units Cup
- Reserve Cup
- Men's Corps (Woolwich)
- Women's Corps (Edwards)

Whilst this is the current direction for the Army FA it will, of course, be dependent on further advice from the Governing Body and the ASCB. If it becomes apparent, at a later date, that the completion of these competitions would not be feasible and potentially stretch too far into the 2020/21 season a new directive will be issued. All other intra-Corps and unit cups (including regional) and small sided competitions are to be made null and void.

2019/20 INTER SERVICES

A decision regarding the completion of the 2019/20 Inter Services competition will be made by the UKAF Committee in due course. This is not Army FA led.

2020 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

The 2020 Annual Awards Dinner, scheduled for June, has been postponed. Plans will be made to re-arrange a new date once there is further clarity with regards to COVID-19 restrictions.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

All courses are suspended until January 2021 are cancelled. We intend to provide a level of support to all learners that have attended Army FA courses and are still in date for completing the Level 2 or 3 courses during this suspension of football activities (extensions of time to complete will be available).

Teaching blocks and support visits are suspended until further notice, so dates for continuation of last season's courses and starting dates for next seasons courses will be promulgated as soon as the go ahead to resume is provided by the governing body.

For any further advice, questions or support please contact Steve Stone steve.stone@armyfa.com

REFEREES

All referee courses are also cancelled. New dates will be issued once the governing body has lifted the current sanction.

OVER SEAS VISITS (OSVS)

OSVs are suspended until 30 Sep, as part of the Army's overall analysis of discretionary overseas travel. A further decision will be made on 01 September as to whether a further extension to this will be made

There is no disputing that Covid-19 has provided challenges to football not experienced since the end of World War 2. Indeed the suspension of the game in March has ensured that for the first time (outside of the two world war years) since 1888 the prestigious Army Challenge Cup Final, the joint oldest domestic cup competition in the world, was not completed in season. We hope this will be remedied at some stage later this year.

This edition of The Soldiers Game is to recognise and celebrate the season and those who played their part up to Covid-19 whilst also providing information about potential plans for when football can be resumed at the appropriate time, following guidance from the Football Association and the Army Sports Control Board. For the time being- please Stay Safe!



Chairman:
Brigadier Niall Stokoe OBE

Joined Board in 2015 with initial responsibility for Men/Corps representative football. Niall replaced Major General "Mitch" Mitchell MBE as Chairman in April 2020. A former Chairman of the Massey League and has also served as Chairman, then President of Royal Signals Football. Played from regimental level through to Army Crusaders and as a Youth Coach in the civilian world.

Vice Chairman:
Colonel Colin Francis MBE ADC

Colin has been a Trustee since 2015 where he was initially the Trustee for Unit Football. He has been Vice Chairman since June 2019 when he assumed the appointment from Colonel Richard Hayhurst OBE. Having been Chairman of the RLC Football FA and the Crusaders (Army Officers' Football Club) he is now the President for both clubs. He has played the beautiful game at Unit, Corps and Army level.



Colonel Dave Jones MBE QVR

Dave has been the Army Reserve Trustee since 2015. In addition to being the current Chairman of the Reserve he also Chairs the Army Crusaders (Officers) football.

Colonel Neil Blenkinsop

Neil was appointed Trustee earlier in 2020 concentrating on Unit football.



Lt Col Jim Fallon

Joined as a Trustee in 2018 Jim is responsible for Football Development. He has approaching 15 years experience in a variety of coaching roles from junior to adult including Futsal and Mentoring adults. He originally completed his Level 2 in 2005.



Lt Col Chloe Plimmer-Sayce

Chloe is a recent addition as Trustee replacing Col Ash Boreham as Womens representative.

A player from corps through to Army level Chloe was most recently the Vice Chair of the Royal Engineers AFC. She was also RE AFC Secretary from 2015 to 2019.

Lt Col Alex Atherton

Alex has also recently joined as a Trustee; appointed in May 2020. He is responsible for Army Men's representative and corps football. For the past five years Alex has been Vice-Chair of RLC AFC. He has also played for Army Crusaders.



Major Nigel Bamford

Nigel joined the Board in June 2020. He is responsible for Army Referees, replacing Lt Col Gary Connolly who stepped down due to leaving the Army shortly. Nigel has extensive experience as a player, coach and Tutor. He also managed AMS between 2015 and 2020. He is also a Level 4 Referee.

Mr John Taylor

John is the Independent representative on the Board. He has served that position since 2013. An extensive football background is primarily through the Middlesex FA where he has been Chairman since 2011 overseeing the move to a new HQ in Northolt in 2018; a community development that includes two 3G pitches. He also serves as an FA Councillor too.



PRESIDENT

Gen Sir Mark Carleton-Smith KCB CBE ADC Gen

VICE PRESIDENTS

Lt Gen Stuart Skeates

Maj Gen David Eastman

Maj Gen Sharon Nesmith

Maj Gen Darren Crook

Maj Gen Celia Harvey

Brigadier Simon Banton

WO1 (Army SM) Gavin Paton



**ARMY
FOOTBALL**

WHILST THE ARMY FA OFFICES ARE CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS PLEASE CONTACT STAFF VIA EMAIL ONLY.



SECRETARY: Major WTE (Billy) Thomson

Tel: 01252 787067 ATN: 94222 7067, Email: William.thomson@Armyfa.com

Billy has been our Secretary since 2001. He joined the Army in 1971 serving 30 years. He was Assistant Secretary of The Army Youth Team 1991 -1993 and Assistant Manager of the Army Senior team 1993-1995. In 1995 he became General Manager of the Army Men senior team until retirement in 2001. He is also the Army representative on the Council of the Football Association (FA).

ASSISTANT SECRETARY and REFEREES SECRETARY: Mr Graham Brookland

Tel: 01252 787068 ATN: 94222 7068, Email: graham.brookland@Armyfa.com

Graham joined the Army FA in 2007. He is Co founder of Aldershot Town Football Club, formed in 1992, for whom he served for 21 years in a variety of roles including as full time Company Secretary for a decade and later Head of Media when the club were in the Football League. Graham has received his 25 Year Service Award from the Hampshire FA and 20 Meritorious Service Award from the Aldershot DFA. In 2015 he authored a book "To Make A Dream Survive" reflecting on his time at Aldershot Town; over 1000 copies have been sold.



DISCIPLINARY SECRETARY: Jenny Cuthell

Tel: 01252 787069 ATN: 94222 7069, Email: jenny.cuthell@armyfa.com

Jenny has been in the role since 2013 having served 22 years in the REME. Jenny deals with all grassroots matters including affiliation, discipline and welfare. She is the Whole Game System technology lead for the county as well as the Designated Safeguarding officer.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: Steve Stone

Tel: 01252 344703 ATN: 94222 2703/2704 Mob: 07775 671461

Email: steve.stone@Armyfa.com

Steve became the Army FA Football Development Officer in 2002. He has been a Coach Educator/ Tutor for the FA since 1996 and his extensive list of qualifications includes UEFA A, FA Academy Managers Licence and FA Youth award. Steve is a qualified teacher and teaches on all the FA courses up to Level 3/UEFA B. Over the years his experiences include coaching both the Royal Navy and Army representative sides at all levels and genders, managing /coaching civilian teams from step 3 to step 6 in the football pyramid including Southampton Ladies in the FA Women's Premier League. Steve has also worked part time in professional club academies.



ADMINISTRATOR/ACCOUNTS OFFICER: Gill Jones

Tel: 01252 787071 ATN: 94222 7071, Email: gill.jones@armyfa.com

Gill has worked at the Army FA for 17 years having previously worked at Middlesex FA for three years. Starting as a player with District Line Ladies in 1975 Gill shortly became Club Secretary and held this position through the club's transformation to Wembley Ladies in 1992 and Barnet Ladies in 1998. Having been instrumental in securing Barnet Ladies, as London Bees, a place in the Women's Super League in 2013 Gill finally retired as Club Secretary in 2014.

Currently Treasurer of the Greater London Women's Football League's Gill also served on the Management Committee of the FA Women's Premier League for several years until its reformation in 2014. A member of the Middlesex FA Women's & Girls' Football Committee since its formation in 1998 Gill is now the current Chair of that committee. Gill is a proud recipient of the Middlesex FA Meritorious Service Award.

ADMIN, MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP ASSISTANT: Kate O'Hara

Tel: 01252 787070 / ATN: 94222 7070, Email: kate.ohara@armyfa.com

Kate joined the Army FA in April 2019. A life-long follower of Farnborough Football Club, she played for the Women's Civil Service Football Team late 70's/early 80's and played for the MoD Royal Aircraft Establishment (mixed) 6 a-side team (against inter Depts and other MoD units). A supporter of local Youth Football club, helping with wellbeing Kate is a match day official to ensure respect to players/referee & linesmen from supporters is adhered to.





ARMY FOOTBALL

FROM THE ARMY FA OFFICES

The staff of the Army FA look forward to the return of grass roots football. Covid-19 has provided pressures for every household, every business, every football association. We are no different. Since mid March the Army Sports Control Board offices in Aldershot have been closed and staff have all worked remotely at home. During this period there has been plenty to do in order to ensure we are best equipped for when the return eventually occurs.

Working with our new Chairman and Vice Chairman we share a vision statement for the future and, to this, each Trustee has been requested to provide key achievable targets for all areas of the game and will serve as indication of what we intend to achieve for the sport in this coming season and set the conditions for future development and good governance.

Internally there remain key areas where we must achieve in order to meet our own set targets from our governing body. It has been agreed that ALL teams (unit/corps/rep) will NOT be required to pay an affiliation fee for the 2020/21 season due to a directive from the Army FA, supported and initiated by the FA.

However, it is essential that every team that affiliates registers all players on the WGS system. This is now a requirement from the Football Association and vital to our own organisation with regards to future funding streams.

Also from 2020/21 the ASCB are supporting development through SOTR (Statement of Training Requirements) which will mean that certain coaching courses and Referees courses will be funded for participants; the precise arrangements of how this will be administered is still to be confirmed.

An additional priority remains that we ensure that we continue to apply and meet the Governing Body direction on Safeguarding of players, coaches, officials and administrators of Army Football.

The focus on governance, finance and assurance responsibilities within the ever expanding Army Sports Control Board remains a critical focus too.

Good governance and administration are a pre requisite of a successfully run organisation. We are, however, there to provide support, assistance and guidance to all members of the football community be it clubs, teams, sponsors, coaches, development, officials or administrators. We are there for you and look forward to the day when we start seeing you all again within our own activities on the field of play or in the classroom!

Editor: Graham Brookland

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As already confirmed in this review **Brigadier Niall Stokoe OBE** is the new Chairman of the Army FA replacing the outgoing **Major General "Mitch" Mitchell MBE** who has been in post for six years and served as a Trustee for over a decade.

A passionate football player, coach and fan with a deep-rooted love of The Soldiers' Game Niall has been Involved at grass roots level as a Youth Coach in the civilian world in addition to operating as the Chairman, then President of ROYAL SIGNALS football since 2012. He has been an Army FA Trustee for the Men's Representative sides and Chairman of the Massey League since 2015. As a player he played at regimental level from 1992 through to 2013 and for the Army Crusaders from 1996 – 2006 and also represented the Pentagon and British Embassy while serving in the USA between 2006-08.

Upon his appointment as the 46th Chairman of the association, formed in 1888, Brigadier Stokoe said,

"I would like to first thank General Mitch for his incredible work in leading Football in the Army these last six years. Under him, the game has thrived, with player participation at an all-time high and increasing levels of referee and coaching excellence across the board. We as a Committee have professionalised too and it has all been down to his passion for the Soldiers' game and desire to the best for all who enjoy this fantastic sport. Thank you for leaving such big boots for me to fill!"

CHAIRMAN ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION - BRIGADIER N M STOKOE

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Since first playing in the Army at RMAS, my desire to develop the game and its reach across the Army has been paramount. I have, as R SIGNALS Chairman, resurrected the Ladies Team and we now have far greater participation from our female soldiers, including an annual knockout competition as a result. I have too sought to professionalise the way in which we organise and resource football across the Corps with as much emphasis on the grass roots (Regtl) as the Corps levels. I have, I hope, brought similar levels of passion and governance to my role as an Army Trustee. The Massey and the Mens' sides are thriving, with the throughput from U23 to Senior side being of particular note.

As a coach, I have been involved in youth football since 2006. This remains my real passion (now I no longer play), enabling me to give back and nurture our next generation of football enthusiasts. As well as ensuring my coaching qualifications remain up to date, it has given me a thorough understanding of the grass roots and youth elements of the game.

I see the role of Chairman as the opportunity to continue to give back, to reinforce the principles of good governance and sound organisation the Army FA currently enjoys. To act as an Ambassador for the Soldiers' Game and use my experience and footballing network for the good of the sport in the Army. To ensure its continued wide participation as well as its place as an exemplar County within the Football Association. I recognise and relish those aspects of the role that will see me engage 'up and out', seeking opportunities with a variety of external stakeholders as well as creating the space and freedoms for the Army FA office and its Trustees to carry out their roles in the delivery of the game for all to enjoy.

It is the Soldiers' Game and to be its Chairman is a singular honour.

NEW CHAIRMAN FOOTBALLING HISTORY

- Player - Represented at Regtl level from 1992 - 2013. Army Crusaders from 1996 - 2006. Represented the Pentagon and British Embassy serving in the US 2006-08.
- Manager - Regtl Football Officer 1993 - 2000. Managed Crusader's 1st XI 2001 - 2004.
- Coach - McLean Youth Soccer U14s (USA) 2006-08
- Coach - Moormead FC - 2008 - 2016
- Coach - Kew Park Rangers (u14 - u18) - 2016 to present.
- Chairman R SIGNALS FC 2012 - 2019.
- President R SIGNALS FC 2018 - Present.
- Trustee Army FA - 2015 - Present.

Outgoing Chairman General Mitch leaves the Army in August. He said,

"I am delighted we have secured Brigadier Niall to be the next Chairman. The Soldiers' Game deserves a Chairman who is a great people person; who can help secure the funding we need to raise the standards across the whole game and in every format; who is prepared to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into running the game every week; who has a vision for where football needs to be in the future; and who is a passionate football fan themselves. Niall is that Chairman. I simply could not be handing over to a better football leader and football fan, although I do worry about his football taste: he is a Spurs fan!"

I am incredibly sad to leave. It has been a huge privilege and great pleasure to have been the Chairman of the Soldiers' Game. I have many people to thank for their support and hard work but I will only pick out one group – our volunteers-who run the game at all levels. You are the lifeblood of football across the Army. Thank you."

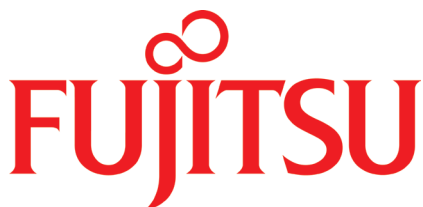




WE REMAIN EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO OUR SPONSORS OF ARMY FOOTBALL; ESPECIALLY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

YOUR SUPPORT, INVOLVEMENT, FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP REMAINS SO IMPORTANT TO US ALL- THANK YOU:

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<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

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<https://www.talktotrinity.com/>





The Men's Team began the 2019/20 season with the aim of retaining the Inter Services that was won so convincingly the previous season.

Head Coach, Maj Sean Birchnall RLC kept the same backroom staff with the addition of Sgt James Lambley AGC taking on the goalkeeping coach responsibilities and Capt Tony Birchnall and WO2 Gary Adamson, both RLC, managing the media ops for the team.

There were changes made to the playing squad; a few forced by commitments and career aspirations and some by making the step up from the U23 squad.

The team began the season in September with a shorter than normal training camp in Aldershot; this included a fixture against a local civilian team, Alton FC who proved a test that was needed so early in the season. This was followed, in October, by the annual fixture against the Prison Service away in Preston. Having lost to them the previous season, it was good to get back to winning ways with a hard-fought victory.

The squad returned in November for another fixture, which was unfortunately lost to the weather however; the benefits from being together and working on shape and patterns of play cannot be underestimated.

After the Christmas break the squad returned with a strong fixture against Basingstoke Town, who play at Step Four of the FA's Non-League pyramid. An extremely competitive game, all the players involved got valuable minutes working on the shape and how we want to play come the Inter Services.

The final fixture prior to the Inter Services saw the team play the Aldershot and District Football Leagues 125 Anniversary game against Camberley Town at the Aldershot Military Stadium. This again proved to be an invaluable fixture against a strong and physical team which enabled us to work on different styles of play and gave us the opportunity for a final look at players in a variety of positions.

Going in to the Inter Services unbeaten and without conceding a goal gave the squad so much



confidence and proved to the staff that how we were asking them to play was the right way for the strengths of this squad. The first fixture, against the RAF at Shrewsbury, was a very tight affair. The belief in the squad and their understanding of shape was to prove crucial as we soaked up a lot of pressure from the RAF however; when the chance came, Sgt Callum Wilkinson RLC linked up with his strike partner, Sgt Matt Glass RAPTC, who took the opportunity to win the game 1-0.

Due to the situation with Covid-19 the second game against the Royal Navy has been postponed. We are extremely positive that the competition can be played to a conclusion later this year and that we are allowed the opportunity to retain the Inter Services.

Major Sean Birchnall,
Head Coach



@ArmyFAMensTeam



@armymensfootball



Photograph supplied by Nicky Hayes



AWFT2 Lois Jacobs receiving belatedly her 2019 POTS Award after the Essex match from Lt Col Sandra Hodgson

2019 brought upon a new dawn for the Army Women's football team as we said goodbye to Head Coach WO1 Mags McAteer after a very successful reign and she handed over to Sgt Lee Barry who was appointed as her replacement stepping up from assistant coach.

This season offered the chance for the coaching team to look to the future and a high number of younger players attended trials week. With fresh

impetus and youthfulness, the squad was put together and hoping to regain the Inter services title back from the Royal Air Force.

The opening game of the season was an away tie against the usually tough Middlesex FA. The Lionesses were slow out of the blocks and were down at half time 2-0. However, after a half time team talk the ladies came out all guns blazing in the second half and soon brought the scores back level. Despite peppering the Middlesex goal, they unfortunately couldn't find a winner and the game ended in a well fought 2-2 draw.

The first home game of the season offered up the ladies a chance to gain revenge against Essex FA. Essex FA have come to forefront of the southern counties league in the last few seasons and again they had some highly talented youngsters on show. The game was a tight affair and unfortunately Essex managed to hold out for a tight 1-0 win.

With a big break until their next competitive fixture against the RAF, the Lionesses managed to arrange two friendlies against Bournemouth and Yeovil Ladies. Yeovil only recently relegated from the Women's Super League gave the ladies a chance to put their skills against a team of high quality. Both games were competitive and gave the ladies great workouts in preparation for the Inter Services.

The Inter services were finally upon for the team. A good week was spent training in Tidworth before the team moved up to the Midlands to face the RAF at RAF Cosford. With the recent flooding in the area



Photograph supplied by Nicky Hayes

we were met with a heavy pitch. However, great thanks must be given to the groundsmen and both teams had to cope with the conditions. With several Inter services debutants the ladies appeared overawed at the start of the game and allowed the RAF to take an early lead. The ladies then came into the game and were the dominant force for the remainder of the game. Despite hitting the post and peppering the RAF goal they could not find their deserved equaliser. As the full-time whistle was blown the RAF were jubilant and the Army came to the realisation that they needed results to go for them if they were to regain the Inter services.

Due to the COVID 19 epidemic the remainder of the season was cut short and we didn't get to find out how the Inter services would have ended. The team look forward to hopefully getting back on the pitch soon and rectifying their last result.

SSgt Aaron Creighton



Photograph supplied by Nicky Hayes



@AWFTLionesses



@awftlionesses





It was a positive start to the 2019/20 season in terms of player progression with Bryn Beange, Clay Bryant and Sean Thomson making the seamless transition from the U23s squad into the senior squad. Nathan Donnachie, Ethan Zimmerman and Lloyd Gardiner had a taste of being part of the Senior Squad as they travelled to Germany and Jersey during pre-season.

New faces were added throughout the season across 10 different cap badges, based on talent ID and recommendations by Corps and Regimental Coaches and they added great depth and value to this years' squad, proving that Corps and Regimental Football is a great steppingstone into representative level.

Our first fixture of the season started with a 0-2 away win at National League Academy side Kidderminster Harriers with second half goals from Skillington and Storie.

The second fixture was a home test against another very good National League Academy - Aldershot Town. Early goals from Donnachie and Skillington was enough for the Army boys to earn an excellent 2-1 victory.

The last fixture of 2019 was in November against 1 Yorkshire Regiment – a well drilled, committed Regimental side, who boast huge success in recent years having won back to back Army Challenge Cup

finals in 2017 & 2018 would provide a competitive fixture for the young Army outfit. The Army U23s came out on top in a 4-0 win with goals from Tandy, Hicking, Gardiner and Beange capping a very promising performance to finish the calendar year.

Our first fixture of 2020 was against Army Reserves who we knew would be well organised and disciplined and that was the case as we struggled to get any momentum in the game, both goalkeepers were on fine form to see the match finish in a goalless draw, a third clean sheet in the four fixtures of the season to take some positives from.

Our final fixture before the Inter Services was an away trip to Sydenhams Wessex League side Alton FC in the Aldershot Senior Cup. Despite being 3-0 down at half time the team managed to claw their way back into the game to make it 3-3 with goals from Hicking and a Donnachie brace; one with his head and one a spectacular overhead kick saw the Army young guns searching to complete the comeback. With 5 minutes to go Hynd had the ball in the net but the referee overruled his assistant to disallow the goal. Alton went up the other end and scored against the run of play to win the game 4-3 and progress into the next round.

The U23 Inter-Services saw the Army host RAF at Aldershot in a tight encounter, Army took the



lead through Hynd, before the RAF hit back to equalise in the first half.

A tight second half with missed opportunities from both sides ended with RAF being awarded a 94th minute penalty and no mistake was made from the spot. 1-2 RAF.

The Army travelled to Portsmouth to face the 18/19 competition winners Royal Navy, knowing only a win was required to have any chance of silverware.

Army started strong and took control of the game, both teams had chances and headed into the break goalless. The Army scored two goals in quick succession mid-way through the half with goals from Nathan Donnachie and Liam Silver.

Despite pulling back a late goal, the Army held on to a worthy 2-1 win.

The final game of the competition would mean

that all three teams served a chance of victory depending on the score line. The RAF were in the driving seat as they knew a win would be enough for them. They hit 4 passed the Royal Navy without reply to be crowned this years' U23 Inter Service winners.

With senior team Head Coach Sean Birchnall watching the youngsters over the campaign, Scott Hynd, Liam Silver, Clay Bryant, Sean Thomson and Bryn Beange were all called into the senior squad for their Inter-Service competition to demonstrate that the Army U23 squad has had another promising season in creating a pathway into the senior set up.

SSgt Gerwyn Griffiths
Head Coach



@ArmyU23





The FA's Women's Strategy 'Game Plan for Growth' aims to make the Women's game the number one choice of sport for Girls and Women. To be achieved a list of priorities were embedded into the Army FA Strategy for the Women's Game.

The main priority was to build a sustainable and successful high-performance system for Women's Football in the Army based on three layers; Army Representative Level (Army Women's Football Team- AWFT), Army Corps League Level and Army Unit League Level, with supporting Cup Competitions.

In order to support the plan a development squad was launched during the 2018/19 season to be a support mechanism. After the inaugural trial season was deemed a success an interview process provided the opportunity for SSgt Ryan McDowell (AGC) to be appointed as the Head Coach of the Development team assisted by Deputy Head Coach Sgt (SI) Yvette Kemp (RAPTC) with a support team of up to eight personnel have played more matches.

A convincing 7-1 victory versus AFC Bournemouth was followed with a close run affair at an extremely cold venue in Bulford in February where they were 1-0 victors versus the Army Reserve Womens team. A future fixture against the Metropolitan Police was planned for March but postponed due to Covid-19. The most notable success of the progression of the Development team was the replication of training at the same camps as the senior team with matches planned for successive evenings in order

for the teams and coaching staff to support each others matches.

The attendance of unit COCs was also pleasing to see as the camaraderie has developed. The aim, moving forwards, will be for the squad to establish itself in the Development circuit whilst also creating an identity whilst continuing to work with the AWFT.

The Amazons squad were also involved with a Community Engagement initiative in March on International Womens Day in 2020. They formed part of the communication and team-working skills team at the Foundation of Light, the official charity of Sunderland FC.

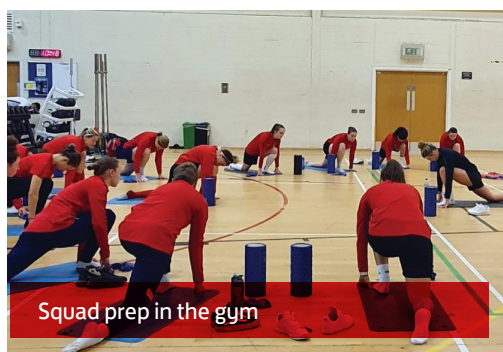




Royal Artillery players in Amazons squad



International Womens Day at Sunderland FC



Squad prep in the gym



Sappers players in Development squad



@AmazonsArmy



@Army_amazons_fc



The pandemic has obviously had a major impact on our season, we delivered two Level 1 courses qualifying 35 coaches and delivered one full course of three blocks at level 2. Two level 1 courses and the second Level 2 course were cancelled due to the CO19 restrictions, plus two extra courses programmed for the Ghurkha Regiment and the Royal Artillery.

We also qualified 15 new Goalkeeping Coaches at level 1 unfortunately the other scheduled level 1 and Level 2 GK courses also fell victim to the virus.

With regards to Level 3 (UEFA B Licence) courses I am trying to put forward a plan to the FA to allow the Army to deliver a course, the FA have said we need to "show a requirement to deliver" so to that end I have asked for appropriately qualified military personnel to contact me to express an interest to attend a Level 3 course. To date I have 20 names, we need at least 40 applications to provide evidence of requirement. A course will require a minimum of 24 learners working with a team at the appropriate level.

The introduction of Futsal has made some minor progress with equipment purchased for centres North and South and two referee courses being delivered. If you are interested in starting a Futsal

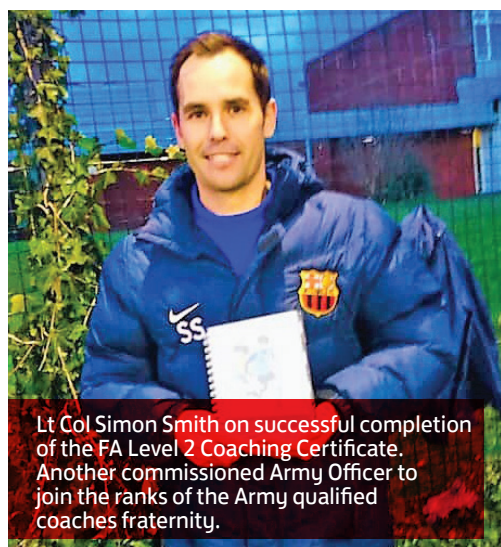
league or organising a tournament or just require further advice, please contact either myself or Lt Col Jim Fallon.

This year's CPD events were both cancelled due to the pandemic, but the reality is they were both poorly supported and would have had minimal numbers attending, if you have any views or ideas as to why levels of attendance to events continues to be low then please let me know.

We continue to aspire to create a cohort of coaches to form an Army Coaches Association and to develop the concept of founding Corp Coaches Associations to link CPD events and coaching days. If you are interested in heading up a Corp Coaches Association for your Corp, then please contact me for support in this venture.

The Mentoring Scheme has also been slow to develop, we had contact from 4 people interested in forming a team to deliver but both meetings were cancelled because people could not attend. I think having, learnt from this lock down that on line meetings are effective, this will be the way ahead for us in the future to get some of these initiatives moving.

Steve Stone
FDO



Our FDO Steve Stone carries out visit for Level 2 and 3 observations during the football season. Over the last two seasons, prior to lockdown he had carried out 85 visits.

These covered games/training over weekends and evenings. He also provided mentoring and support to Army Coaches during the day in local and regional camps.



WE WELCOME OUR NEW TRUSTEE FOR WOMENS FOOTBALL

LT COL CHLOE L K PLIMMER-SAYCE RE

A keen (but retired) football player and fan with a deep-rooted desire to enable others to take part in The Soldiers' Game. Currently involved in Corps Football as the Vice-Chair of the Royal Engineers Association Football Club which promotes and employs the 'One Club' concept.

FOOTBALLING HISTORY

- Player - Represented at Corps (REME) and Army level: 2000-2002.
- Player - Brought out of retirement to play for the new RE AFC Ladies team: 2012-2015.
- RE AFC Club Secretary: 2015 – 2019.
- RE AFC Club Vice-Chair: 2019 – Present.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I love being involved in Corps football and take real pride in being in a position which enables others to play. I am fortunate enough to have been given a great many opportunities to take part in sport (Corps/Army Football, Corps/Army Hockey, Corps Netball and Alpine Ski Instructor) whilst I have been in the Army and have a real desire to do the same for others.

I see the role of Trustee in the Women's game as the chance to act as an Ambassador for our sport and a chance to give back. It is through the hard work and dedication of people involved in both Army and Corps football which enable opportunities for our soldiers. Being a Trustee would give me a podium from which I can promote and encourage Women's football.

I don't have the longest list of coaching or playing credentials but what I do have is passion, a desire to see things run properly and an aim to promote The Soldiers Game. I am relishing the opportunity of becoming a Trustee of Army Women's Football.



Army Women Rep squad 2000/21
with goalkeeper Chloe Plimmer Sayce

Owen Munford Studios ©

**ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S TEAM 2000-2001
INTER SERVICE CHAMPIONS**

Aldershot 310717

REAR ROW - Sgt J Lannie, REME (Assistant Coach), Pte Goody, RLC WO2 S Robson, RLC Cpl J Portlock, R Signals LBdr H Savage, RA LCpl J Morris, RLC Lt C Plimmer, RE LCpl K Wright, AGC (RMP) LCpl A Hood, RLC Pte J McKay, RLC SSgt M Harman, R Signals (Assistant Manager)

FRONT ROW- Maj (Retd) TC Knight (Secretary) Sgt P Mitchell, R Signals Pte N Bayley, RLC LCpl K Holmes, Int LCpl A Cottier, RLC Lt Col V Hall, AGC(ETS)(Chairperson) LCpl J Brown, RLC Pte C Ham, AGC(SPS) Pte Gutteridge, RLC LCpl Z Burgoyne, RLC Mr B Le Breton (Assistant Secretary)

ABSENT ON DUTY - Maj CA Maycock, R Signals (Manager) Capt J Sheppard, RAMC (Physiotherapist) WO2 G Pascoe, RLC (Assistant Coach)

THANK YOU COLONEL ASH

Colonel Ash Boreham (RAMC) has stepped down due to leaving the regular service after 27 years. He has been a Trustee for three years during which time there has been a huge transition within the Womens game. We place our sincere appreciation to Col Boreham for his sterling work during his tenure and confirm that formal recognition will be made post Covid-19 restrictions.

Ironically his final weeks serving saw him involved in the transformation in nine days of the NHS Nightingale Hospital at the EXcEL Centre in East London to treat COVID-10 patients.

As Commanding Officer of 256 City of London Field Hospital and the military lead for the project in turning the centre into a temporary hospital with an initial capacity of 500 but with expansion plans to 4000, if required, which would make it the largest hospital in the UK.

A Millwall Season Ticket holder Colonel Ash said, *"I have carried out two tours of Iraq and one of Afghanistan, yet this was the greatest mission of my career."*

"I'm from London, I have friends and family in London. Many of the people and soldiers working here, are from London. It is very personal, it cannot be anything else."

"It focuses the mind, and that is why you have everyone pulling together, there is one common purpose. You are saving people's lives."

We wish you and your family well in the future Ash and thank you for your superb support of the Womens Game.





MENS CORPS ROUND UP 2019/20

ARMY FA NARRATIVE:

Pre Covid-19 the conclusion of the Massey Trophy was set to become a mouth watering prospect with Royal Engineers and Infantry set to battle out a “winner takes all” match at Chatham in April.

However, due to Covid-19 the decision to cancel the leagues was taken in accordance with National Governing Body guidelines for the grass roots game and additional consultation in order to make sure we were in keeping with consistency.

The intent is to maintain Cup competitions, while ceasing the leagues. This seemed prudent especially the Army Cup, which has only not been played during the World Wars, to aim to complete. As yet we don’t know whether that will be possible,

but await further NGB guidelines and ACSB determination at the appropriate time.

This notwithstanding, what we cannot do is to allow one of the Corps Leagues/Divs to complete and not the others. The difficulty being that in order to maintain consistency there were 20 matches remaining that would have had an influence on promotion and play offs within the three Corps Leagues (men and women). It was simply not going to be possible in a (if at all) compressed back of the season (Jul – Sep) and this was the consideration behind the original decision. Parity across all the leagues was essential.



CAPT ANDY BEDWARD PROVIDES AN UPDATE FROM THE MENS CORPS COMPETITIONS DURING 2019/20

HOME NEWS FIXTURES RESULTS STATS REFS CONTACT RESPECT

Massey Trophy - Division 1

League Table						
POS		P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Royal Engineers	9	6	1	2	15
2	Infantry	9	6	1	2	9
3	Royal Logistic Corps	9	5	1	3	10
4	REME	9	2	4	3	-4
5	Royal Signals	8	2	2	4	-6
6	Army Air Corps	8	0	1	7	-24

[Table detail](#)

DIVISION 2

30 scheduled fixtures of which 12 were not completed due to NGB direction. 75 goals scored averaging 4.2 per game, an increase on 18/19 stats. The race for promotion was heading to the wire. Whilst the Gunners were looking strong for the title and promotion, the RAPTC were heading into form and hot on their heels. The AGC and AMS both had an outside chance of challenging for the playoff game due to the closeness of the division. With the season null and void with no promotions, Div 2 promises to be a really entertaining, competitive and spirited competition in 20/21 once the Soldiers Game resumes.

HOME NEWS FIXTURES RESULTS STATS REFS CONTACT RESPECT

Massey Trophy - Division 2

League Table						
POS		P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Royal Artillery	7	6	0	1	15
2	RAPTC	5	3	1	1	9
3	Adjutant General's Corps	6	3	0	3	0
4	Army Medical Services	7	2	1	4	-11
5	RAC	5	1	1	3	-6
6	INT Corps	6	1	1	4	-7

[Table detail](#)

DIVISION 1

30 scheduled fixtures of which 4 were not completed due to NGB direction. 102 goals scored averaging 3.92 per game, a reduction on 18/19 demonstrating the competitive nature of the division. The division was very close this season, with a title deciding fixture between the Infantry and RE unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. The RE continuing their fine 18/19 form, however, the Infantry Managed by Capt Jimmy Blair have had a really successful season which has been the culmination of 3 years hard work Improving all areas of the club. With the Army Air Corps placed bottom, the Royal Signals remaining fixtures against the RLC and AAC would have been critical to deciding who would occupy the play off position between themselves or the REME. As it stands the title will not be decided and no team will be relegated this season. The AAC conduct throughout the season has been first class as has their approach to the soldiers game and they are rightly awarded the fair play trophy across the 2 Massey Divisions.



CUP COMPETITIONS

The Quadrangular tournament was scheduled for July 20 and to be held at RSME Chatham.

Provisionally there is discussion in holding the competition in Sept 20, however, the final decision will most likely rest with the 4 capbadges once the fixtures for UKAF, Army and Corps have been published, subject to the resumption of the beautiful game!

The Woolwich Cup saw 10 of 11 fixtures played with a replay of the 18/19 final between the RE and Royal Signals scheduled for May 20 at Lichfield City FC and hosted by the AMS.

The fixture is still likely to be played, dates, times

and location TBC, once permission from ASCB has been granted to resume competitive sport. With 54 goals scored averaging 5.4 per fixture, it has been an enjoyable competition so far – roll on the final!





UNIT SIX A SIDE

The 5th Army Women's Inter Unit Six-A-Side Football competition took place at the Prince William of Gloucester Bks, Grantham over the period 18-19 Feb 2020. The competition which is open to ALL Army units and support establishments who have Army personnel on staff continued and had over 100 females playing football over a two-day period, won by 4 Regt RA who were watched by their CO and RSM lift the Cup. The competition remains extremely demanding and each team played at least 9 games.

Organiser Major Mark Normanton said,

"The tournament went extremely well and all involved were very positive. Unfortunately the weather on the second day was not great but it didn't affect the moral of the teams. We had quite a few visitors on the second day especially from the CoC which was brilliant to see, they all annotated that the event was outstanding and they will all enter their units into future events.

"The real plus was the football itself and the attitude of the players, another bonus was that every team

attended with coaching staff for the first time ever. We had senior staff officers playing supporting the junior ranks from their 2 Star HQ, Phase Two Trainees (they even made it to the final), Reservists and Regulars underlining that the tournament reached out to all aspects of the firm.

I take this opportunity to thank the Officials who were outstanding throughout and really helped mentor those playing for the first time."

RESULTS:

Army Cup Winners - 4 Regt RA

Army Cup Runners Up - 8 Trg Bn REME

Army Plate Winners - 34 Fd Hosp

Army Plate Runners Up - HQ 1 Div

The Army 1966 Commemorative Cup was due to be held over the 26-28 May 20 at Prince of William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham and would have been open to all women's 6 aside teams in the RN, Army and RAF including Defence Contractors (Reserve, Regular and OTCs). It would have been the major Womens event of the season.

The Corps League and Edwards Cup were progressing well prior to Covid-19 with a very tight table. In order to ensure the wellbeing of our troops it was agreed to play the Semi Finals of the Edwards Cup on two separate days in Aldershot, this resulted in the AMS beating the AGC 1-0 and the REME beating the RA 1-0. The Final was due to be played in Grantham to open the 66 Tournament.

STATE OF THE NATION

The target remains to continue to push the Corps and AFWT to support the nascent grassroots set up thus working well together and improve communications. It is important to sustain the Inter Corps and invest in the Grassroots to progress to the next logical step, a Unit League based on 9v9 which is supported by the Army FA.

We welcome Lt Col Chloe Plimmer-Sayce who replaces the outgoing Womens Trustee Col Ash Boreham.



ARMY WOMEN'S INTER CORPS LEAGUE - 2019-20

Team	Games Played	Win	Draw	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Points
AGC	4	2	2	0	17	7	10	8
AMS	4	2	1	1	17	6	11	7
RLC	3	2	1	0	13	4	9	7
REME	4	2	1	1	15	8	7	7
SIGS	4	1	1	2	8	12	-2	4
RE	3	0	3	0	5	5	0	3
RA	4	0	3	1	5	10	-5	3
INT	4	0	0	4	2	30	-28	0



ARMY CHALLENGE CUPS

Covid-19 ensured that the prestigious Army FA Challenge Cup Major and Minor Units Finals were not completed in season for the first time, outside of the two world wars, since the competitions inception in 1888/89.

In total 108 teams entered the two competitions. There were five matches still to be completed in the Major Units competition.

3 RSME, who last won the competition in 1997 were due to play 3 Regt RLC to determine who would play 1 Yorkshire Regt in the semi final. 1 Yorks were successful finalists in 2017 and 2018 but unable to defend the trophy in 2019 due to a deployment in Estonia.

The ever emerging 8 Trg Bn REME had progressed to the semi final and were due to play the winners in 2015 and 2016 7 Regiment RLC or ITC Catterick in the other match.

The remaining teams in the Minor Units Cup were at the semi final stage with the matches as follows:

5 Regt AAC v 34 Field Hosp

Arm Cen v 1 Scots

The competition is currently postponed and further directive will be provided in due course as to whether it will be completed.

The Army Sixes, scheduled for May in Aldershot has been cancelled and will resume for 2021.

WHEN FOOTBALL DOES RETURN ARMY UNITS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY AFFILIATION FEES FOR THE 2020/21 SEASON DUE TO SUPPORT MECHANISMS PROVIDED BY THE FA AND ARMY FA TO ENSURE FOOTBALL CAN RETURN WITH THE MINIMUM OF ADMINISTRATIVE PRESSURE ON ALL TEAMS.







Army Masters football continues to grow and this season has seen a significant increase in the number of fixtures and the number of players pulling on the Army shirt.

The focus for this season was to continue to improve the team set up by playing competitive fixtures at good venues to ultimately prepare for the Inter Service fixtures against the RAF and Navy.

There is also one eye on the World Masters Game in Japan 2021, an opportunity to retain the trophy we won in New Zealand in 2017.

The season started well and gained great momentum with a number of strong performances against good opposition including Man City, Wales and Royal Wootton Bassett.

The team scored plenty of goals and there were some stand out performances, Cpl Storrie, WO2 Adamson and WO2 Rizza are of particular note.



The Inter Services were cut short due to the COVID 19 pandemic so we go again in preparation for 20/21 Season when ever that may be.

Masters football is the opportunity to represent the Army at representative level as you enter the twilight years of your career.

The criteria requires you to be over 35 years of age and have represented the Army team in the past.

If you are over 35 and are still playing football in the Massey Trophy, please send your details to the secretary:

Capt Matt Spruce

matthew.spruce816@mod.gov.uk





Tuesday 28th April 2020 was an emotional day for Army Football. It saw the end of an era as Chairman **Major General "Mitch" Mitchell MBE** stepped down from his role after nearly a decade involved at the highest level of the association.

Mitch and his fellow retiring Trustees will be properly acknowledged for their service at the appropriate time post COVID-19.

As a Trustee, Vice Chairman and Chairman it has been a truly special period for the association during "Mitch's" tenure. It has thrived with an increase of activity across all sections of the game added to the advancement in Community Engagement initiatives highlighted by the successful Games of Remembrance events between 2014 and 18. In addition the Board of Trustees has professionalised under Mitch's guidance.

"It has been a privilege and pleasure to be Chairman of the Soldiers' Game. I have many people to thank but I will pick out one group- our volunteers- who run the game at all levels. You are the lifeblood of Army football. Thank You."

Major General "Mitch" Mitchell MBE

"Best wishes Mitch. Enormous thanks for all your very hard work for The Soldiers Game"

Army Sport Control Board

"Thank you General Mitch for all you have done to improve Army football. We certainly appreciate all you have done and particularly benefited at grass roots level from the initiatives you have implemented"

Infantry Football

"Fantastic servant to the development of the Soldiers' game and a pleasure to have worked under you in your role. You've taken the Army FA to a new level and I'm sure that will continue with the new Chairman. Good luck to you and the family in your next chapter"

Joe Collins, former Army Head Coach

"General, Thank you for everything you have done for the soldiers' game. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and witness your passion for football and making life better for our people"

Steve Parker- Home Command and Standing Joint Command (UK) Corporal Major



A massive thank you for all your hardwork in helping ATFC. It has been an absolute pleasure to have known you as Chairman of the Army FA and i hope we continue to keep In contact The commitment with corporate covenant, Truce match , army annual dinners and many other ventures and support provided. We will never forget. The relationship between Army FA and the Shots will continue and the legacy continues. You have been a proper bloke and it has been a pleasure knowing you.

Shahid Azeem, Chairman Aldershot Town FC



“Brilliant- a really brilliant contribution and leadership. Football for all women/men, reserves/ regular. Force for good- international engagement and UK community engagement. Standards; scale, quality, players, officials, coaches and administrators.... And loads of fun too. Thank you.

Richard Hayhurst OBE, former Vice Chairman

“A great bloke... and someone that always takes the time to stop and speak to me no matter how busy he may be. He has done so much for Army Football and we are all very grateful for your time, dedication and love for the game.

Glenn Haughton OBE- Former Army Sgt Major



“Ten years is a very long time and your contribution to the “Soldiers’ Game” has been second to none. To pick just one highlight from your contribution, The Game of Truce at Nottingham, which will be a memory that lives on, with all those involved who I know were extremely grateful, not only to play at those prestigious grounds, but also to be involved with the commemoration. Retirement from the Army looms at the end of July, but I’m sure a very successful second career will follow. Can I therefore, on behalf of all the team here in Aldershot, thank you for your immense contribution to Army Football, and wish you every success for the future.”

**Major Billy Thomson
(on behalf of the Army FA Staff)**





Maj Gen Bill O'Leary joins the players and staff

Major Steve Clout, Secretary of Army Reserve Football looks back on the last twelve months of Football in the Army Reserve.

The Army Reserve Women's Representative Team kicked off their pre-season in August with a weeklong training camp based at Grantham. As well as a full training schedule they enjoyed fixtures against Lincoln City Ladies Reserves and Grantham Town Ladies, winning both games comfortably. The camp was timed to coincide with the Army Reserve Sixes, which included the Women's Corps and the Men's unit championships. For the sixth year Grantham hosted the sixes although this was the first time as a Corps competition for the women. Maj Gen Bill O'Leary was on hand to witness three great finals with AMS the inaugural winners of the Army Reserve Women's Corps Competition, 299 Para Sqn, 23 Engr Regt the winners of the Shield and 152 (North Irish) Regiment RLC sixes champion.

A week before the sixes Reservist SSgt Craig Heppenstall represented the Army and Army Football at the Community Shield. In front of a full house at Wembley the match between Liverpool and Manchester City finished 1-1, with Manchester City winning 5-4 on penalties. At the end of the match Staff Heppenstall was on hand to support

the presentation of the runners up medals to the Liverpool Team. Craig played for the Army Reserve for over 13 years and is now Army Reserve Team physiotherapist and conditioning coach. He is a soldier in 299 Para Engineer and is currently the recruiting and P Company SCNO.

Over the summer new coaches were appointed to both the Men's and Women's Teams. Sig Susannah Wells (Bex) became the Army Reserve Women's Football Team Head Coach. Bex is a signaller with 71 Signal Regiment and has been working with the Army Women's team, as the assistant coach. She has a long history in football from representing England U18s in 1997 to being with the National Women's Football Academy 1999-2000. Bex has played for Sunderland Women, Memphis, Watford Ladies and Rochdale Ladies. She has taken over the reins of the team following WO1 Karl Clark setting down after an extremely successful time in charge. WO1 Margaret [Mags] McAteer was appointed to the post of Army Reserve Men's Football Team Head Coach. Mags joined the Army in 1998 and was selected for an Army Football trial whilst still in training. Since then she has had over sixty appearances for the Army and also represented at United Kingdom Armed Forces. Mags started her coaching journey whilst still playing and qualified



as a level 2 coach in 2005, she retired from playing shortly after this and was appointed assistant coach for the Army Women's representative Team in 2007. In 2015 Mags was appointed Head coach for the Army Women's team and stepped down at the end of the 2018/19 season.

The last weekend in September 19 saw the Corps Championships being held in Grantham. Five teams took part in the 11-a-side format, playing a shorter version of the game. The Infantry Corps side retained their win from 2018, although they were pushed to the end by a strong Royal Engineers team.

September also saw the start of the Army Reserve Challenge Cup. 32 Units went into the hat and before the lockdown 154 Regt RLC had secured their place in the final and 4LANCS and 156 Regt RLC are still waiting for football to restart before we will know the final line up. The aim is to get the semi-final and final played when it is safe to do so and hopefully completed by November 20.

In October 4 LANCS, Army Reserve Challenge Cup winners, beat the Army Challenge Cup winners 21 Engineer Regiment 7-2 in the Army FA Super Cup. This saw the first Reserve side to win this prestige competition at a well attended final at the Fleetwood Town Football Academy.

In the New Year the representative teams did get up and running, with the men with a win over RMAS, and draws with the Army U23s and RAF ICARUS. The Women's Team had just the one fixture, before the lock down, when they played the Army Amazons, narrowly losing 1-0.

Maj Gen Bill O'Leary, first Reservist to hold an Army FA Vice President position, retired from the Army in March 20. During his tenure he was a very active supporter of Army Reserve football, attending games and representing the Soldiers Game at a senior officer level. We have been fortunate to have secured the services of Major General Celia J Harvey, Deputy Commander Field Army, as our new Vice President and she is looking forward to participate, as soon as it is physically possible.



@ARWomenFootball



ARMY FA SUPER CUP

The Cup for the Undisputed Champions of Army Football

Colonel David Jones MBE QVRM, Chairman of Reserve Football

Colonel David looks back on the over the last six years to the origins of the Army FA Super Cup and looks to its future.

It may surprise you to know that the top Unit in British Army football is 4th Battalion of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, a Reserve Army Unit. In October 194 LANCs, Army Reserve Challenge Cup winners, beat the Army Challenge Cup winners 21 Engineer Regiment 7-2 in the Army FA's Super Cup. So what is the Super Cup, when did it start and how can it be that the Army Reserve now hold the top position in the British Army?

Prior to 2013 football in the Territorial Army [TA] had been organised and supported via the Army Sports Control Board, as a separate body from the Army FA. Units would affiliate to their local County FA and the cup competitions were run by Regional Brigades, with a national competition for the regional winners. By the time the TA was

rebranded to the Army Reserve the Army FA had already taken TA football under its wing and embraced the one Army concept. Major General Bruce Brealey, the then outgoing Chairman of the Army FA, had never attended an Army Reserve football match but agreed to present the trophy at the 2014 Challenge Cup Final. I am not sure what he expected but by his initial reactions that his expectations were not very high.

The 2014 final was between 71 Engr Regt and Sheffield UOTC. Rob Storrie who had played Combined Services when he served in the Regular Army was at the centre of the Glasgow based team. He had built an excellent team around him that were on top from the start. Sheffield UOTC were also well organised and managed to take the match into extra time when their centre forward scored in the 89th minute from the half way line. The match went into extra time and 71 went up through the gears and won convincingly. The quality of the match convinced the Chairman that a Reserve unit could compete with a Regular unit and the cup to find the Champions of Champions was born.

Over the next five years the cup would be played for on four occasions. The inaugural final was played in Glasgow and won by 22 Signal Regt 0-2.

The Royal Signals had an outstanding team made up with many of the Corps squad, so a 2-0 win was a respectable result. After experiencing a number of issues with getting the 2016 fixture scheduled it was agreed that the competition would not be played.

The format of the game was that the Reserve Unit will host the fixture at their location; normally played over a weekend and taking place during the September / October period, almost as a season opener like the Community Shield.

One of the drivers for this format was to take the opportunity to increase community engagement activities in that part of the UK.

As this had not worked out the previous year the decision was to hold the match at the Military Stadium Aldershot. 154 (Scottish) Regt RLC had been the surprise winners of the Army Reserve Cup in April and were no match for 1 YORKS who had become Army Champions in May.

The Yorkshire Regiment destroyed the team from Glasgow 8-0 to extend their winning run that would continue with winning the Army Cup the following season.

152 RLC Regt had won the TA Cup in 2013, were runners up in 2016 and 2017 and then finally lifted the Army Reserve Cup again in 2018.

The chance for the team from Northern Ireland to take on the Army Champions meant a trip to Tallinn as 1 YORKS had been deployed to Estonia.

The match was held in a downtown Tallinn stadium, which attracted a large crowd including many locals to watch this international spectacle.

The Army higher command embraced the fixture as an important community engagement initiative in Estonia and the Tallinn mayor and other local dignitaries attended.

It was also live-streamed on Facebook, with several thousand hits. 152 were well drilled and ran the Army Champions really close, losing by a single goal in what was a very competitive and entertaining game.

And so it was to the 2019 Super Cup Final between 4 LANCS v 21 Engineer Regt. Back out to the regions with the local Army Reserve unit hosting the game. Fleetwood Town FC Training Academy was selected and 4 LANCS had won the Army Reserve Challenge Cup under the direction of the

player coach Joey Collins. In a game that was not as one sided as the score would suggest, 4 LANCS became the Army FA Super Cup Champions by beating 21 Engr Regt 7-2 and becoming the first Army Reserve team to win it.

A recent development is that there is now a high quality solid silver Cup for the fixture, as the former BAOR Challenge Cup has returned from Germany and has been redesignated as the Army FA Super Cup. This competition has gone from strength to strength in a pretty short period and is developing into a cup that units want to be named champions of champions.

- 2015** 71 Engr Regt lost to 22 Signal Regt 0-2.
- 2016** Not contested
- 2017** 154 (Scottish) Regt lost 8-0 to 1 YORKS.
- 2018** 152 RLC Regt came very close when losing 2-1 to 1 YORKS in Tallinn, Estonia.
- 2019** 4 LANCS win 7-2 against 21 Engr Regt



4 LANCS Current British Army Super Cup Champions



22 Signal Reg 2015 winners



152 RLC Regt and 1 YORKS being addressed after the final in Tallinn, Estonia



Major General Bruce Brealey attends his first British Army Reserve football match



152 (North Irish) Regiment RLC -
Winners of the Army Reserve Sixes



299 Para Sqn, 23 Engr Regt -
Winners of the Shield



AMS Winners of the
Army Reserve Womens Corps Competition



Army Reserve Corp Champions - Infantry



Army Reserve Mens Representative Team



Army Reserve Womens Representative Team



Army Reserve Womens Representative Team



SSgt Craig Heppenstall represented the Army and
Army Football at the Community Shield.



THANK YOU LEE

SSgt Lee Carter epitomises the commitment and devotion required as a volunteer for Army football. Lee is shortly to leave the Army but Women Director of Football Major Mark Normanton pays this tribute to Lee:

"Since 2015 SSgt Carter has devoted a great deal of his own time to help enhance the limited opportunities for women to play regular football within the Army. Historically these opportunities have only been afforded to the elite level players.

On hearing about an unofficial initiative to improve the opportunities available for women to play football whilst serving SSgt Carter instantly volunteered his services to assist. He didn't come from a football background, but he did understand that the initiative needed to be a success and it was the right thing to do. What he lacked in football knowledge he made up for in work ethic and a dogged determination to ultimately change history whilst fighting prejudice.

From the beginning, he has shown outstanding resourcefulness. No task is below him, be it building goals, erecting tents, cleaning changing facilities to name but a few and he has constantly displayed exceptional professionalism and dedication. Due to work commitments SSgt Carter willingly gives up a great deal of his own time to support the women's grass roots game. He has given up leave without question and has missed numerous family events so that he could help plan and execute games and tournaments, always putting the needs of the soldier first.

Throughout his commitment to this unofficial secondary role SSgt Carter has constantly

performed above the level one would reasonably expect and his dedication is humbling. He asks and expects nothing in return for his hard work and commitment, instead he seems content in the knowledge that our soldiers are being given an opportunity to play sport, whilst enhancing their social standing and understanding of teamwork. He also strives on the fact that the grass roots game is defiantly changing perceptions for the good. In all, without his dedication the women's grass roots game would not exist in the Army.

Whilst coming to the end of his military career many would sit back and think sorely of themselves and their future. Not SSgt Carter, instead he has put the needs of others first and shown the initiative, leadership and meticulous attention to detail that symbolises the historic ethics of military leadership. Due to his drive and selfless commitment he has helped enable well over a thousand of our young soldiers to partake in sport, entering both leagues and tournaments, some of which have been open to Tri Service establishments and civilian teams. he was also instrumental in helping set up a new women's development strand whilst also committed to the equipment care manager role within his own Corps Team.

Due to his dedication, the women's grass roots game has been transformed, exceeding all expectations. He has defiantly changed perceptions whilst also inspiring a generation of soldiers and his devotion to task is worthy of recognition."





“

I just wanted to drop you a note to say how superb the team of officials we had for last night's game were. From the pre-game administration to the officiating during the game itself they were thoroughly professional and superb. As a team they controlled the game and allowed it to flow. Too often people are quick to complain about the officials and so I thought it important to reflect when they had done a good job.

”

“

I just wanted to express my gratitude and appreciation in regards to the Army FA officials. The communication and adaptability of your team is nothing short of superb. Simple things like including us in the official's calling notice email so we know a person will be at the game is a huge "warm and fuzzy" and one less thing to worry about before a fixture. Officials are hard to come by and I think the Army FA are leading the way in this case. People are quick to jump on the backs of an official and rarely give praise where it is due.”

”

Although Covid-19 brought the season to a halt in mid March the season has been another success for the Army Refereeing fraternity overseen by outgoing Chairman Lt Col Gary Connolly (REME), covered else where in our review. In total 248 referees were registered during the season including six female.

The most notable achievement was the number of promoted candidates. In total 72 officials were promoted from Trainee through to L3; a remarkable achievement.

LEVEL 3 (CONTRIBUTORY LEAGUES) ARE:

Rob Finn (RE)

Ash Allen (RAPTC)

Ben Duffill (RAC)



LEVEL 4 (SUPPLY LEAGUES) ARE:

Steve Tymms (AAC)

Dickie Doorbar (AGC)

Mark McGowan (RTR)

In addition to the above successful candidates we are also delighted to learn that Aaron Conn has been promoted to L3 through the Kent FA. Aaron, whose Dad Pete is a former Army FA Referees Chairman and a fellow L3 official, started his refereeing career with the Army FA coming through a basic course held in Herford, Germany and was developed and supported for many years through the Army FA system.

LEVELS 7-6 AND 6-5

Andy Biggin (AGC), John Reed (REME), Lewis Royle (Infantry), Simon Towe (Infantry), Gary Wroe (RLC)

LEVELS 6-5

Mark Beverley (RAPTC), Lee Cowan (Infantry), Michael Ford (RAC), Danny Hannigan (REME), Ian King (RE), Eddie Nichol (Infantry), Keith Ross (Infantry), Nige Saunders (AGC), Henry Woodcock (RLC)

LEVELS 7-6

Dan Bishop (RAPTC), Harry Charles (REME), Andrew Desroches (REME), Sean Dunn (RLC), James Frame (AGC), Pradeep Gurung (RGR), Stephan Harris (RAPTC), Gibril Jallow (RLC), Dan McLaren (RE), Olu Olumese (AGC), Luke Quinton (REME), Bri Russell (RAMC), Sean Smith (Infantry), Chris Vaughan (RLC)

TRAINEE TO LEVEL 7

Atabong Agendia (RLC), Robert Barn (R Signals), Lee Barry (Infantry), Paul Blakelock (Infantry), Ian Boal (RLC), Leon Bradley (R Signals), Tailor Brown (REME), Dominic Buswell (CAMUS), Graham Cairns (REME), Steven Chong (AGC), Andrew Crozier (R Signals), Maurice Davies (AGC), Paul Divers, Ian Dodds (Infantry), Alan Duncan (Infantry), Barrington Ellison (RLC), Jim Fallon (REME), Ashley Foster (Infantry), James Furey (Infantry), Elihu George (AGC), John Gothard (RE), Steven Harford (AGC), Will Hodgson (AGC), Christian Hogg (RLC), Luke Holmes (RE), Dylan Johnson-Williams (Infantry), Robert Lord (REME), Danny Lyon (Infantry), John Pluckwell, Jamie Quenault (REME), Sawalhang Rai (AGC), Arturo Robinson (RLC), Satkar Bikram Shahi (R Signals), Chloe Smith (AGC), Sam Sowdon (RE), Laura Spriggs (Int), Jack Ward (R Signals), Ashley Williams (Infantry).

OBSERVERS

We say a warm thank you and good bye to Major Andy Carter MBE who leaves the Army. Andy was the Lead Observer and 5 to 4 Promotion Candidate Co-ord. He has handed over to Capt Richie Pickin. In total there were 142 observations carried out for the Army FA during 2019/20; this, of course, during a shorter season period too.

BASIC COURSES

A busy schedule for basic course delivery saw three completed in addition to two Futsal Referee courses. Covid-19 saw the postponement of the March course in Catterick where we had 18 soldiers confirmed on the course. In total 50 personnel completed the basic course during the 2019/20 season plus 44 on the Futsal course.

COVERAGE.

As at 9 Mar 20 403 fixtures had been refereed; a total of 520 fixtures were refereed last season. Out of the 103 male and female rep/corps fixtures there was a full set of three officials for all but one of those matches. In total for all 403 matches 62% included a team of three officials.

THE FUTURE

We welcome our new Chairman Major Nigel Bamford. It is the intention of the Army FA Referees Committee to re-commence our annual calendar of events as soon as it is permitted through the Army Sports Control Board and governing body instructions.



@ArmyFAReferees



@armyfareferees



WELCOME NIGEL !

Major Nigel Bamford RAMC recently joined the Board of Trustees on 01 June 20.

A stalwart veteran of the game and still eager to show off his prowess when representing the Army Crusaders Vets on the field, as well as applying the Laws of the Game in his referee capacity. He is a massive advocate for The Soldiers' Game. An avid Wolverhampton Wanderers fan he has recently handed over the role of Army Medical Services Manager to take up the appointment the of Chairman Army Referees

FOOTBALLING HISTORY

- Player – Represented every unit from 1993 - current.
- Player - Represented at Corps (AMS) level: 1999 - 2007.
- Player – Represented Army Crusader Vets: 2018 - current.
- Player – Sunderland O40 League for Richmond Town.
- Coach – Red and Whites u10s Hohne, Germany.
- Coach of Richmond u16: 2016 – present.
- Manager of Unit Teams: 1999 - present
- AMS Manager: 2015 – 2020.
- Referee since 2007, currently level 4.
- Secretary BA(G) Referees 2008 – 2013
- Chairman UK North Referees 2013 - 2017
- Army Referee Chairman: 2020 – Present.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I continue to love the sport the military really introduced me to. I have enjoyed every minute on the FoP as well as the socialising and team building off it. I have managed to build up a great portfolio of contacts and skills that I have been able to transfer to my everyday life. The Army has been good to me in many sports areas, I have represented the Tri-Service/Army /Corps in X-Country and Athletics the Army/Corps at Football and X-Country and the AMS at Cricket/Hockey. These opportunities have only whetted my appetite to try even more and provide more opportunities for more sport within my workplace.

I have been coaching since 1995, and qualifications and further development have followed ever since. I believe it is important to give back to these sports the same levels of enthusiasm and enjoyment they have given me. These coaching roles have kept me grounded and continue to assist me with day to day leadership and management techniques.

I have been a Referee since 2007 and have seen the referee fraternity with in the Army grow and provide an excellent service to grass roots football. I have been fortunate to climb the referee ladder to level 4 and have completed the tutor and observation courses allowing me to help develop the referees of the future.

I see the role of Chairman of Army Referees as a great opportunity to give even more back to The Soldier's Game, from this position I will be best placed to see and hear about Army Football, how its developing and then be in a better position to give support with an exceptional cohort of ever-growing referees.





After 16 years as an Army FA Referee, the last two as Trustee and Referees Chairman Lt Col Gary Connolly (REME) stepped down last month as he leaves the Army.

The departing Chairman said “My tenure was always only going to be for two years, it has been a privilege and honour to represent Army officials collectively and watch the individual progress of so many.

“The sudden end of the 19/20 season could not have been predicted, I’m confident football will return when the time is right and safe; I have utter confidence that the referee family will step straight back onto the field of play to facilitate and support the Soldiers’ Game.

“I am incredibly grateful to everybody including the central office of the Army FA for the support, guidance and friendship, not just during my tenure as chairman but the 16 years in which I have been involved with Army football. Collectively they have been outstanding. Special thanks also to the executive committee, divisional chairmen and all of the volunteers who make a significant contribution adding tremendous value across both Army and civilian football – thank you.”



“Gary has been the epitome of the committed and professional volunteer who are the very lifeblood of football across the Army. As an official and Trustee he has never failed to go that extra mile to support the Soldier’s game and to ensure the Referee’s cohort are

brilliantly managed, led and looked after. He is also just a top, top fellow, and doesn’t (yet) wear glasses, at least on the pitch. Thank you for your total commitment to Army Football – our referees organisation is second to none in the game. And, of course, being REME I would have expected no less! “Arte et Marte”

Major General Mitch Mitchell MBE
(Army FA Chairman 2015-2020)



“Those who know football, who know football in the Army do not talk about the players; they talk about the officials, the coaches, the volunteers who organise the matches and the leagues, those who give their time willing in delivery of the game for all. Chief amongst these in recent years has been Gary Connolly. We have benefitted hugely from his commitment, his relentless pursuit of excellence amongst his refereeing cohort and his deep-felt love for The Soldiers’ Game. I echo Gen Mitch’s comment, the referees are really the exemplar to all of us in the football community and it is Gary’s leadership which has ensured this. So thank you Gary, fair winds and don’t listen to those comments about glasses.....”

Brigadier Niall Stokoe OBE
Chairman Army FA

FOREWORD BY CHAIRMAN UK ARMED FORCES FOOTBALL –

AIR COMMODORE SIMON HARPER OBE MA RAF

As we look forward to the new season and resuming football following the COVID-19 hiatus, UKAFF continues to enjoy unprecedented success on the pitch. The Men's Team retained the Kentish Cup for a 4th successive time last year and the Women's Team has achieved significant success on the international stage. The commitment, quality and leadership of Army players, coaches and

officials has been vital to this success and will be equally important as we re-start football and look to maintain UKAFF's unbeaten run in international competition. While the record-breaking achievements of UKAFF on the pitch are driven by an enduring commitment to 'professionalism', it would not be possible without the strength, passion and quality of the grassroots game. At every level, and across the Army FA, the support and encouragement of UKAFF has been vital - thank you for all that you do and good luck for the forthcoming season.

UKAF WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE TEAM



UK Armed Forces Women squad have enjoyed another notable 12 months with Single Service Women's football now being more competitive than ever.

UKAF Women came together for the first time of the 2019/20 season, hosted by the Army FA Football Centre at Aldershot, in August 2019 to prepare to face the Irish Defence Force. The first fixture for new Head Coach, Sgt Karl Milgate, saw UKAF winning comprehensively 8-0 with the highlight being the impressive Cpl Olivia Dixon from the Army scoring her first UKAF hat trick.

This fixture also included a clean sheet for Army goalkeeper Jess Horsley. Goals also scored by the prolific Cpl Kelly Aldridge and, most notable, a UKAF debut for Pte Demi Edwards, showing Milgate's emphasis on ensuring opportunities being provided to younger players with potential as well as those with proven abilities.

The turn of the year into 2020 saw UKAF Women host a historic fixture against Portsmouth Women FC (Tier 3) at HMS Temeraire. UKAF Women, again with a strong core of players representing their International flag from the Army side unfortunately couldn't finish off the game after coming from behind and losing late into the game, 2-1. Cpl Olivia Dixon again scoring the UKAF goal on the evening.

In total, during the 2019/20 season, 14 Army players and staff have represented UKAF Women.

ARMY REPRESENTATIVES 2019/20:

SSgt Alan Crozier	Jess Treharne
Jess Horsley	Daisy Burnfield
Lucy Foreman	Lois Jacobs
Rachel Rigby	Olivia Dixon
Kelly Aldridge	Demi Edwards
Shannon Weston	Tara Parker
Terri Trowbridge	Delise Clifford.

Unfortunately, UKAF Women were not able to defend their Presidents Cup in the Netherlands to try and retain the trophy for the 4th time due to COVID-19.

The support shown from the Army FA across all areas this season towards UKAF Women has been vital and helped progress Women's service football further once again. An exciting and enhanced football calendar awaits Army players selected to represent the UK Armed Forces Women when Service football resumes.



@UKAFWomen

UKAF MEN'S REPRESENTATIVE TEAM



The season began in May, with the Squad travelling to Dublin to face the Irish Defence Force (IDF) who were preparing for the CISM World Military games in Wuhan, China in October. The IDF have fielded strong opposition over the years and this encounter proved to be another tough contest with UKAF running out 2-1 winners, L/Cpl Sam Atkinson (Army) scoring the winner from the penalty spot.

The second fixture of the season saw the team take on current British Universities & Colleges Sport champions, The University of South Wales in Cardiff. An outstanding team performance produced a 3-0 victory with LCpl Rob Farkins (Army) skippering the side scoring two great goals.

In November, the UKAF side travelled to Worthing FC who were flying high in the Isthmian Premier Division. Another great test for the side saw another outstanding 2-0 victory with L/Cpl Stoneman (Army) scoring the second after great individual play.

The success in the early part of the season continued and culminated with the winning of the Kentish Cup, established in 1921 and competed for

against France and The Netherlands, for a historic 4th consecutive time in December 2019 in Bergen Op-Zoom, Netherlands. The opening fixture saw the French dominate the hosts and a 5-0 victory made our fixture against the powerful French a must win game. The squad were well prepared, fully focused on the task at hand and a dominant display saw the UKAF team record a fantastic 4-1 victory, setting them up for the final fixture against the hosts. Skipper LCpl Rob Farkins (Army) scoring the 4th with a great header capping off an outstanding individual performance.

The players and management knew the importance of the final fixture of the season against The Netherlands, it would define their season and re-write the history books! The team got off to a flying start with L/Cpl Dan Stoneman (Army) scoring the opener after 1 minute and Cpl Ryan Paddock (Army) adding a second from a set piece in the 10th minute. The UKAF side were in full control and were unlucky not to add to their tally and conceded a sloppy goal in the 40th minute which made for an interesting second half. The players deservedly held on and 'the rest is history'!

ARMY REPRESENTATIVES 2019/20:

LCpl Luke Cairney	Sgt Callum Wilkinson
LCpl Jo Gorman	L/Cpl Adam Wakley
LCpl Rob Farkins	Cpl Kyle Cassell
LCpl Ryan Paddock	Cfn Bryn Beange
LCpl Sam Atkinson	WO2 Gary Lewis
LCpl Dan Stoneman	Capt Mark Evans
Sgt Matthew Glass	

EPILOGUE BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RETD) MICK COTTON

As General Manager of the UKAF Men's Football team for the past 11 years I can speak from experience and proud to say that all the Army players and management, both men and women, who have represented UKAF Football this season are excellent ambassadors for Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

For the past 5 years Flight Sergeant Nick De-Long has been Head Coach of the Men's Team and he has won every competitive fixture during his tenure. He has furthered the identity of UKAF

Football, both with professional football clubs in the UK and Internationally, and has developed and implemented a vision for UKAF Football which is fully embraced. Whilst the success of the team is engraved on trophies, his legacy and the respect he has across the 'footballing community' was eloquently and wholeheartedly explained by LCpl Rob Farkins in his address at the Kentish Cup Banquet in The Netherlands on Friday 13 December 2019.....What a night!!



@UKArmedForcesFA



@ukaffootball



ARMY OFFICERS FOOTBALL (CRUSADERS)

Army Crusaders is the Army Officer Corps' representative football team. Formed in 1922 it consists of a First Team and a Veterans (Over 35s) Team. Both teams remain alive and well but recent seasons have seen a down turn in availability for both sides.

We continue to plan for our Centenary celebrations in Season 21 / 22 with the intent to conduct an Overseas Tour – likely Brunei and surrounding countries alongside a high profile game at a significant football venue.

Army Crusaders maintain and support the One Army One Team concept with Regular and Reserve players playing for both sides. Further, both the Chairman and Secretary are Reservists.

Clearly, along with all Grass Roots Football COVID-19 decimated the latter half of the season for both teams with games postponed in March and not a ball kicked since.

GAME OF REMEMBRANCE V UK PARLIAMENTARY FC (UKPFC)

NOV 19

Delayed due to BREXIT activities and then Covid-19 took its toll. However Maj Andy Campbell and Maj Dan Berry attended the HAC and ABF event at Finsbury Bks to celebrate the partnership and Army Crusaders featured heavily in the on screen

slide shows and briefing. At the time Capt Chris Chant was undertaking the 3 Peaks Challenge in support of ABF and this was mentioned specifically not a ball kicked since.

ANNUAL EASTER TOURNAMENT

Army Crusaders have been ever present and would have attended the 65th anniversary tournament this Apr but for COVID-19 restrictions.

FIRST TEAM UPDATE

This season has been focused on rebuilding, with new management taking over and many experienced players moving on. Nonetheless, the traditional opening game of the season against the Crusaders Vets provided a stern test and a closely fought affair ended 5-5 with the First Team edging it on penalties to win the President's Shield. New manager Maj Steve Bee quickly set about drumming up interest and exposure off the field in order to deliver on it.

Events off the field have been key this year, aiming to lay the foundations for long term success in the future. Engagement with Soldier Magazine was closely followed by a partnership with BFBS to conduct pre and post-match interviews with First Team players; broadcasting to the service community.

The rejuvenation of the Club's Twitter account (@ArmyCrusaders) has added further exposure and a platform from which to message potential players and the wider military audience. Further,

the re-invigoration of the 'Ron Bell Trophy' with RMAS has forged a link and brought several new players to the club. Finally, securing Direct Sponsorship Agreements with Newman & Spurr Consultancy (NSC) for our match day strips and Thales for training equipment has increased the level of professionalism and visibility.

Results on the field were also encouraging and it seemed like only a global pandemic could halt the progress of this squad which was unfortunately limited to just 5 games. A convincing 3-1 victory against RMAS saw the team bring home the Ron Bell Trophy. However, this was followed by losses versus 2 MI Bn and the Int Corps whilst experimenting with line ups before the grandstand game against RAF ICARUS at Burton Court, London was COVID cancelled at the last minute.

Despite the losses, the play and swagger on show was encouraging and the team were developing a smooth passing style; just lacking that incisive killer instinct in front of goal. Special mention to the 'ever-green' Maj Steve Plant who managed to bag 4 in 4 (although it coulda/shoulda/woulda been more). Further 'mentions in dispatches' to Maj James Bamber as a driving force at the heart of midfield, Capt Dan Walker showing solidity at the back and Veteran Capt Dave Evans (the 'Welsh Xavi') who often dictates the tempo of games as the calm head in the middle of the park.

We look forward to building on the efforts of this season under the new management of Maj Joel Springall, best of luck Joel !

VETERANS UPDATE

DIVISION 1 OF WEST LONDON VETERANS LEAGUE (WLVFL).

The same issues prevailed this season of not being able to field a full side each week. We once again gave points away through Forfeit by not fielding a team and whilst performances and attendance improved with good results in Feb leading into Mar the season was taken away from us. The early stage of the season had the crucial impact – fielding just or even less than 11 players a number of times resulted in too many defeats by a single goal which reflected a lowly league position as the season halted.

After much deliberation and adoption of what I can only describe as the WLVFL version of Crickets Duckworth Lewis calculations Army

Crusaders fell into relegation territory and will drop to Division 2 for next Season. This was hotly contested as we had 4 games left with which to muster 4 points which was more than achievable so a very disappointing decision all round.

TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT SEP 19.

There was a single positive note to this season with The annual triangular tournament played between Army Crusaders, AGC and RAF ICARUS Vets in commemoration of former AGC player Jack O'Regan. Army Crusaders won both games to win the Shield for the second time in 3 years.

MANAGEMENT. The Army Crusaders President is Colonel Colin Francis with Colonel Dave Jones as Chairman. The First Team Manager has been Major Steve Bee with Major Joel Springall Designate for Season 20/21. The Secretary and Veterans Team Manager remains Major Andy Campbell should anyone wish to engage / enrol with Army Officer's Football?

Major Andy Campbell

Secretary Army Crusaders FC

andrew.campbell691@mod.gov.uk

Armycrusadersveterans@hotmail.com



@ArmyCrusaders





The FA Adult Charter Standard Club award is a Key Performance Indicator for the Army FA set by the governing body (The FA.) We have been tasked with having 50% of our affiliated clubs achieving Charter Status. The reward for the Club Secretary for filling out the application form is 10 footballs and £100 Nike voucher to be redeemed online to pay for coaching equipment. At the time of writing we have 35.57% of our affiliated clubs designated as Adult Charter Standard which equates to 74 clubs.

I sent out an application form to 208 affiliated club secretaries via email, after I had completed all the required paper-work I resent the forms to those that did not reply first time. I will re-send the forms to the remaining 136 affiliated clubs that have not complied which will allow them to obtain the free coaching balls and equipment and in doing so support the Army FA in meeting this compulsory target.

Thank you very much to those clubs that have returned the forms, please remember to complete the annual health check on the Whole Game System to maintain your Charter Status and keep our statistics compliant with the FA performance indicators.

Steve Stone
FDO



A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE- TO BE CONTINUED!

We look forward to continuing our friendship with Aldershot Town once the Covid-19 situation is clearer. The foundations of the relationship between the club and Army FA remain rock solid. We were proud to sponsor the National League match v Yeovil Town earlier in the season in gratitude of the support provided by the club.

The main initiative during the season was due to be based around the Army v Royal Navy men Inter Service match that was due to be played at the EBB Stadium in March; eventually postponed due to Covid-19. There had been plenty of work behind the scenes involving the Army Mens rep team and the Shots Foundation Community Trust.

Coaches and players from the club and Army were due to visit five local schools who had chosen to be involved: Waverley Abbey, St Josephs, Elvetham Heath, Fernhill Kite (Ash Vale) and Cambridge Primary. The visits were to include coaching on the sports field, Q/A sessions from pupils allowing them to propose questions relating to all matters either football or personal reflection.

All pupils were to be invited to the match and prior to it a Six A Side tournament was due to be held involving eight pupils from each school (four male and four female). In addition each school would have between them nominated 22 pupils to walk out with individual players prior to kick off in addition to

the provision of ball boy/girls. At half time a penalty shoot out competition would have been staged at the East Bank end. Each pupil participating would have received a commemorative medal too.

We truly hope that we will be able to resurrect this scheme in the future. Particular appreciation is given to Capt Tony Birchall (RLC) and John Monday from the Shots Foundation for their tireless work in building the project. Also to Shots boss Danny Searle who expressed great interest in the project and was happy to provide players and management to support the initiative.



UK SOUTH FOOTBALL

The UK Southern Leagues (UKSL) 2019 / 2020 Football Season commenced on Wed 11 Sep 2019; consisting of 50 Unit teams affiliated and registered from 3 regions within the South. The UKSL was re-structured to ensure maximum participation from each region, to minimise the travel for fixtures and to enhance competitiveness for each league.

This structure consisted of Central & West regions disseminated into 7 competitive football leagues varying from Premier to Division 2. The East region unfortunately had no registered teams due to Operational commitments so was suspended.

With the league seasons well under way, both Major and Minor Unit teams began their respective League Cup competitions in good form; it was no surprise that the training battalions were amongst the front runners as favourites to lift the trophies, however some unforeseen results ensured all was in the balance and up for grabs. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, both the Major and Minor competitions were halted at the Semi-Final stage.

The UKSL Committees' intention is bring both League Cup competitions to their natural conclusion. This would be achieved ideally as a

curtain raiser before the start of the 2020 / 2021 Season and will only be authorised in-line with Government and the FA's direction.

Unfortunately, and with great regret, the 2019 / 2020 league competition ceased in May upon receiving FA guidance and was declared null and void with immediate effect.

This unforeseeable end to the season will undoubtedly disappoint all those involved and prevent accomplishment for the teams that were leading a championship or ahead in the promotion chase.

The UKSL Committee would like to thank all Service personnel involved for their continued support and hope to resume our beloved sport at the earliest opportunity.

SSgt (SSI) P Noble RAPTC
UK South Football Secretary

Over the seven league competitions 82 matches had been completed in addition to a Major and Minor Units Cup competitions that was due to have a "double bill" finals day in Aldershot in April.

1 Regiment RLC were confirmed finalists in the Major Units after a narrow semi final 1-0 success versus 3RSME. They would have played either 47 Regt RA or 8 Trg Bn REME "A".

ARMCEN had also progressed into the final and would have played either Queens Royal Hussars or Hermitage Station.

In the league competitions **11 (RSS) SIGNAL REGIMENT** were eight points clear at the top of the Western Premier League although both 8 Trg Bn REME and 1 Yorkshire Regiment were both unbeaten and had three games in hand each.

3RSME were five points clear of ATR Winchester in the Central Premier.

In Divisions 1 **1 COLDSTREAM GUARDS** were six points clear of 3 Regt RLC in the Central whilst **8 BN REME "B"** led the table by a point from 1 R Welsh who had three matches in hand.

HERMITAGE STATION were a point clear of 17 Port and Maritime and RMP Bulford who both had games in hand in the Central Division 2.

ARMCEN and **47 REGT RA** were battling it out at the top of Western Division 2 with four points the difference.

In Western Division 3 **32 REGT RA** led the way having won all their matches so far.



UK NORTH

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, like everywhere else, football ceased in mid-March, where the UK North Premier Division and respective league cups were coming down to the business end. ITC Catterick & 5 Regt RA have been strong in all fronts, with 32 Engr Regt lurking in the background, it promised to be an exciting end to the season.

It has been pleasing to see some units playing football, despite not having their strongest teams. 3 RHA and Light Dragoons have been good examples of this, using more than 30 different players, developing strength in depth for the new season. We hope to see more units to follow this lead.

The opening of a 4G facility at Marne Barracks, Catterick Garrison this season proved to be a great asset with the wet winter playing havoc for fixtures on grass. Wednesday afternoons has seen up to 3 fixtures on this facility, and with 2 similar facilities near completion at Wavell Road, Catterick Garrison, these will prove to be a worthwhile investment.

There have been numerous soldiers playing civilian football and having success within the Northern and Wearside leagues with Cpl Sam Atkinson (32 Engr Regt) being voted Carlisle City player of the season.

This season has also seen 80% of fixtures covered by a full team of officials including friendlies, something that is appreciated by units but also the refereeing committee in the UK North where they continue to develop the newly qualified officials in competitive fixtures.

Whilst there is no start date for the new season, there are plans in the background to restart the season with a 2-day competition, getting the soldiers playing the soldiers game, whilst using it as a opening the 4G facilities at Wavell Road.

Sgt Simon Thorburn





UK MIDLANDS

The UK Midlands 2019/2020 Season carried on from a fantastic 2018/19 Season with over 25 Teams from the Midlands spread between 3 divisions. Last years season saw a large turn out of teams participating in the Festival Of Sport 6's Competition, the UK Midlands 6's and the league itself.

Teams were extremely proactive in ensuring their affiliation and management roles were in a great place prior to the season commencing with registration taking priority initially.

There were vast changes in the management of the teams with new roles and team players coming in and going out, this was great to see new opportunities opening for individuals, especially in such busy times as ever for unit readiness and commitments.

As always the Divisions were going to be extremely competitive with fixtures set to be very interesting from the off. The 2019/2020 Season was set to have a 6's competition held at Carver Bks Wimbish on the 6th April 20, however due to COVID-19 this was postponed.

The League did see over 20 teams enter which would have been a fantastic tournament if it was anything to go off last years.

In the background to the Football league and competitions we have seen 3 new referees badge into the league ensuring the support is given from all areas as always.

The FA and ASCB has been instrumental and supportive through registration, fixtures and funding avenues.

33 Engr Regt (EOD&S), 35 Engr Regt (EOD&S) and Group Support Unit took part in a overseas Football Tour to Spain where they were unfortunately halted half way through due to COVID-19.

They did however manage to play 2 games getting that vital experience with overseas teams and cementing some competitive spirit whilst flying the flag for the Army FA. A rich vein of talent and success still runs through the Midlands Divisions with new players arriving all the time. We look forward to starting a fresh 2020/2021 League and Cup to capture more great sport within the Army and Tri Services.

SSgt C Sharpe RAPTCI





COL N R BLENKINSOP - TRUSTEE ARMY FA

An enthusiastic footballer (now retired) and passionate Sunderland AFC supporter with a lifelong love of the sport. Participated as a player at Regtl level throughout military career, now delighted to help develop and support grass roots football across the British Army.

FOOTBALL HISTORY

- Player – Durham University; RMAS 1st XI; Army Crusaders 1993-96; Regtl Football 1992–2014
- Supporter – Sunderland AFC (from cradle to grave).
- Trustee - Army FA - 2020 -

“Unit Football maximises participation in the Soldier’s game and provides flexible, inclusive and accessible playing opportunities for all. It provides the foundation upon which all higher representative football is built. It is therefore an honour and privilege to represent Unit football within the Army FA.”



The annual Referee events were unable to occur in May due to COVID-19 restrictions. Usually the pinnacle of the season it includes an initial gathering at the Challenge Cup Final in Aldershot followed the next day with the Referee training day (RAFA) concluding in the evening with the annual awards dinner at RMA Sandhurst where the two annual awards in the Referee fraternity are the Dobson and Le Breton Trophies.

The Dobson is awarded to the referee who has made the most significant contribution to Army Football during the course of the season. The Le Breton is for the level 7 official who has shown the most potential and commitment during the campaign.

Following scrutiny of citations by the Referee Executive Committee, Chairman Lt Col Gary Connolly announced the winners through a recorded video message to the Referee social media page. The two successful candidates were:

Dobson – SSgt Steve Tymms AAC

LeBreton – WO2 Dan Bishop RAPTC

The Chairman added *"I thank all personnel who took the time and effort to craft the citations."*

"Steve Tymms has made a huge contribution on and off the pitch and is fully deserving of the Dobson award. In the Le Breton category Dan Bishop has had an outstanding first season. I look forward to seeing his referee career flourish in the future."

"All the candidates nominated for each category have contributed significantly during the course of the season and are making a huge difference to Army football."

"I look forward to the time when COVID-19 restrictions will allow for a formal presentation of the trophies to the winners."

The candidates nominated were:

Dobson: Capt Grant Cuthbertson (LD) Cpl Kieran Corrigan (R Signals)

Le Breton: WO1 Simon Towe (Inf), SSgt Andy Biggin (AGC), Sgt James Garsrud (RAC)

Steve Tymms is currently Referee Secretary for UK Midlands and an active Observer and Mentor for Army and civilian football. After securing back to back promotions he has just been nominated to the FA for Level 4 consideration. Dan Bishop came through his Army Referees course in January 2019. Since then he has completed over 150 fixtures and is also the Appointment Secretary for UK South. He has also been successful in achieving promotion to Level 6.



**ARMY
FOOTBALL**



NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED

The Army Football Association are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Trustee of Army Men's Representative and (Massey) Corps Football – Lieutenant Colonel Alex Atherton RLC.

Alex has been the Vice-Chair of Royal Logistic Corps Association Football for over 5 years. As a player, he played at regimental level from 1998 and has also represented the Army Crusaders Football Club.

Upon confirmation of his appointment he said, *"I am absolutely delighted at being appointed as the Trustee of Army Men's Representative and (Massey) Corps Football and I am incredibly grateful to the Chairman of the Army Football Association, Brigadier N Stokoe OBE for providing me with this opportunity. I can't wait to get started on this new and exciting journey as an Ambassador for Army Football and I look forward to playing my small part in promoting, developing and delivering the very best for The Soldiers Game".*

He will be replacing Brigadier Niall Stokoe OBE who was appointed the new Chairman last month.

Confirming the new appointment our Vice Chairman, Colonel Colin Francis said,

"I am delighted to welcome 'Athers' to the Army FA Board. His selection as the Trustee responsible for the Men's representative sides and the Massey League will allow him to bring his significant experience, as a player, coach and leader of the beautiful game, to the fore. The success of the RLC Football Association, both male and female, at all levels, owes much to his passion, energy and commitment and I am sure he will continue to develop The Soldiers Game with the same tenacity as he has displayed throughout his footballing career."



We were sorry to learn of the passing of former Chairman Major General William Withall CB, aged 91; announced in the April edition of the RE Journal.

An all round sportsman who joined the Army in 1950 he was appointed to the role of Chairman in 1980 and retired from the Army in 1984.

We send our deepest sympathies to General Bill's family at this difficult time.



During the course of the 2019/20 season we have been privileged to be involved in the 125 Anniversary celebrations of the Aldershot Divisional Football Association culminating in being invited to play in the Commemorative match which was staged at the Aldershot Military Stadium in February; current Senior Cup holders Camberley Town were the opponents.

The Army FA was a huge influence in the formation of the Aldershot DFA in 1894 and have been proud that the strong links between the associations have remained.

Indeed their first ever President was the Royal Duke of Connaught who was also Commanding Officer of the British Forces in Aldershot and President of the Army FA from 1904. Army teams also dominated the Senior Cup competition up until the end of National Service winning the trophy on 42 occasions and a further eight times up to 1993 when 2nd Trg Regiment RE were successful.

We were also privileged to be involved in the organising committee for the commemorations which commenced in August 2019 at Aldershot Town FC with an Anniversary Dinner, attended by Secretary Major Billy Thomson and compered by Assistant Secretary Graham Brookland.

The commemorative match saw a 5-0 victory for the Army against the Combined Counties League side. Prior to kick off presentations were made to the Royal British Legion and Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice for whom over £2000 has been raised from fund raising during the season of which the Army FA has been closely involved. The presentations were made by Aldershot DFA representatives Mike Gardner (Chairman) and John Marchment (Vice Chairman) to Lt Col Mick Cotton MBE (representing the Army FA for RBL) and Leanne Magee from the Hospice.



John Benfield, representing Hampshire FA, presented a Long Service Award to Aldershot DFA's Eddie Spraggett who has served the organisation in a variety of roles over the past 26 years and grass roots football for over 50 years.

We have been privileged to be involved in the anniversary which, has, unfortunately been cut short due to Covid-19 and a number of events will be carried over to next season.





We are grateful to The Grass Roots Tourist Blog for permissions to use this article.

Please visit: www.thegrassrootstourist.com for more excellent articles.

Name: Luke Cairney
Club: Hungerford Town
Position: Goalkeeper
Age: 28
Twitter: @LukeCairney2

Whenever a non-league club draws Football League opposition in the FA Cup, there's always one tired cliché that gets trotted out by the commentary team. "Look at that, the left back's just taken the ball off Johnny Big Potatoes – he's a postman during the week!" For those of us who watch or are involved with non-league football though, players with day jobs are just another factor which makes football at this level unique.

Every semi-professional squad boasts a few fitness instructors and sports coaches, usually a handful who work in the construction industry, and a smattering of office workers, amongst a myriad of other trades. Almost all the players have to make sacrifices, both in football and in their day jobs, to balance the two commitments, with annual leave and early finishes a regular occurrence. A TFL worker on night shifts, for example, might have to move heaven and earth to make that tricky Tuesday night away trip to Truro City. Not many players, however, have to balance the commitments of playing football at semi-professional level, with the requirements of serving in the British military.



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Throughout the conversation with Luke, it's clear that he has a very rational approach to decision making, and this was apparent when he was released by the Clarets aged sixteen. A changing room conversation, with his parents present, ended Luke's dream of professional football, leaving him absolutely devastated like so many other teenagers who don't get offered that elusive first professional contract. So many players drift away from the game in that situation, and when Cairney decided to pursue a position in what he describes as the "stable job and good career" of the British Army, it was easy to imagine him being one. For readers who are uninitiated with the military, Cairney entered a training process, which put his footballing endeavours on hold until he reached the trained strength, but once he'd completed training and joined the Royal Engineers, he quickly found his feet in the Army football system.

Having joined the Army, Luke progressed through the various levels of military sport, first playing at Unit level, and then being selected to represent the Army, before finally being selected to represent the UK Armed Forces Team – following in the footsteps of the likes of Gary Holt, Lee Bradbury, and current Swindon Town defender Tom Broadbent. I ask Luke about the standard of Army football, how would the team compare to what we see in non-league, and he is effusive in his praise – "most of the players were Academy level, and it didn't work out for whatever reason, so the standard is really high. Probably National League, National South – there's some really talented players in the Army". With recent Gibraltar international, and former Football League player, Jake Gosling recently joining the RAF, it's easy to see what he means when discussing the standard in the UK Armed Forces team...

The Army has a proud tradition when it comes to sport. Four serving soldiers competed at the last Winter Olympics, Heather Stanning became a double Olympic champion whilst also a commissioned Royal Artillery Officer, and England Rugby Union international Semesa Rokoduguni is still a Lance Corporal in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. But, when it comes to football, nowhere is the Army tradition grander than in Cairney's corps – the Royal Engineers. Indeed, they can boast of being the only military side to have won the FA Cup, when AFC Royal Engineers took the trophy in 1875. However, despite this proud legacy, sportsmen still have to balance their athletic commitments with professional ones (unless they play rugby...), and the job always comes first.





And it isn't just the standard of players that earn Cairney's praise. His bosses and colleagues in the Royal Engineers draw compliments too. The modern Army prides itself on being a good employer, and Luke's bosses have been more than understanding when it comes to his football career. In his current position, as a Lance Corporal at a training unit, Luke has been able to really throw himself into football – but it's not always been like that. Five deployments to Kenya, as well as one each to Cyprus and the Falklands, it's no surprise that it took him a while to get back into football outside the Army, particularly as a goalkeeper. What manager wants to see their 'keeper disappear for 3-6 months of the season? Now though, as long as the work is done, they support him taking the time to play, and cutting away early if necessary – it was exactly this attitude which led to Luke getting back into civilian football with Andover Town in 2016.

A season with Andover was followed by a year at Farnborough, before Luke tried his luck on a trial at Thatcham Town in pre-season 2018. With the Kingfishers coming off the back of a Wembley FA Vase triumph, manager Danny Robinson was understandably happy with his squad, and no move materialised, but there was a silver lining to that particular cloud. No sooner had the trial finished, Cairney was offered a move to Poole Town, which he took with both be-gloved hands.

Despite the four hour round trip to play home matches for Poole, Luke had a happy – and very impressive – two seasons on the Dorset coast, where he was regularly touted as the best 'keeper in the league, and not just by Dolphins fans.

During his first season, a strong Poole side rode a spring surge in form to pip Kings Langley to the last play off position, looking to bounce back from relegation at the first attempt. [Heartache soon followed though, as they were dispatched by the Met Police in the Final, courtesy of a highly contentious Jack Mazzone header.](#) A mention of that goal and a wry smile spreads across Luke's face – "it still hurts now...". I remember the goal – and the game – clearly. As a photographer behind the goal, I'll diplomatically say that VAR might have seen things differently to the officials at the time... Another thing stood out on the day, and not just Luke's highly un-military regulation haircut – but the performance of the two goalkeepers. Berti Schotterl, between the sticks for the Met, moved on to Lokomotive Leipzig in the summer, but Cairney stayed at the Tatnam Gound, and took his form into the next season.





Prior to the COVID-enforced cancellation of the season at Steps 3-7, Cairney had the best goals conceded per game (1.15) record in the Southern League Premier Division South, which was also lower than the average in any of the top seven non-league divisions. He also had the most clean sheets, and was part of the meanest defence (28 conceded in 27 games) in the league. When I ask Luke if he considers this a season he's kicked on personally, his response is very telling – and probably in keeping with the team ethos you'd expect from a professional soldier. "Well, I love this club, and I love playing for them – if it wasn't for the defence from the whole team, I would have been conceding a lot more goals." I'm interested in how he perceives the season at Poole Town – who were one of my early favourites for promotion, but sat 9th at the end of the campaign – and whether they failed to live up to expectations. With the best defence in the division, surely they should have achieved more, and the table gives a good indication why – they were the lowest scorers in the top half. When I ask Luke why that might have been, he seems at a loss "yeah, obviously we didn't score as many as we should. We had brilliant strikers, with James Constable and Jake Scrimshaw, but for some reason we just couldn't make it happen. We definitely wanted more from that season."

Unlike most footballers, Luke actually saw two seasons curtailed by coronavirus. Every year, in March, the inter-services football tournament kicks into gear, as the players from the various branches of the Armed Forces go into training camps, and then play set piece matches. After a 1-0 victory over the RAF at Shrewsbury Town's Montgomery Waters Meadow, the Army looked well poised to

take their fifth consecutive title against the Royal Navy, before the global pandemic struck. That RAF game was played on the 12th of March, meaning Cairney had to miss Poole's win over Beaconsfield Town. He played the previous one, a 1-1 draw away to Blackfield & Langley. Little did he know at the time that would be his last match in a Dolphins' shirt.

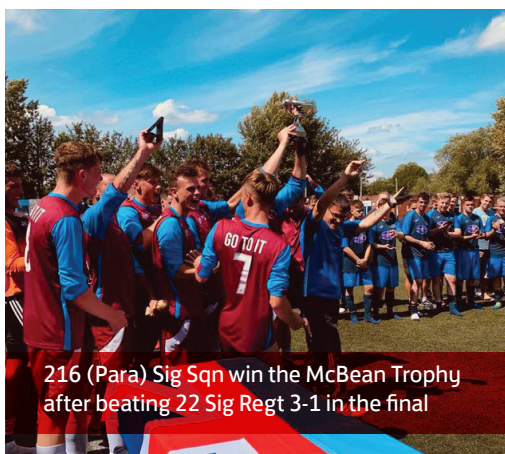
Fate is a cruel mistress, and had Poole Town won that Final at Imber Court in 2019, it's hard to see Cairney leaving the Dolphins – it's evident throughout our chat that the club has a special place for him. However, at 28, Luke still has ambitions to play as high as he can, and after 25 clean sheets in 82 appearances at Poole, when Danny Robinson messaged him with the opportunity to play National League South football, he decided to take a chance.

With the news that there will be no relegation or promotion between Steps Two and Three, Hungerford Town will have another season in the National League South, and appointed Robinson to replace Ian Herring who left in May. Luke feels that his strengths in the game – particularly kicking and footwork – will stand him in good stead at Step Two, but knows that he'll be facing a different challenge this season. Not only are the strikers more physical, but the grounds and attendances are that much higher, and that's exactly what appealed. Cairney was won over by Robinson's plans to attack the division, to be the underdogs who bloody the noses of the bigger clubs – "he really wants to go and get results at the likes of Maidstone and Havant & Waterlooville, and that really attracted me."

It's an interesting time at Hungerford right now, after the departure of Ian Herring. Herring had become synonymous with the Crusaders during his time at the club, and made many friends in the league with his management style and personality. However, the new man Danny Robinson comes with an exciting track record. An FA Vase winner with unfancied Thatcham Town in 2018, he also won the Hellenic League the same year, and had his squad sitting top of the Southern League Division One South at the end of this season. At only 34 years old, he's a rising star on the non-league management scene and definitely worth keeping an eye on. With Hungerford signing a raft of new players, including highly-rated Ryan Beckinsale and Sol Wanjau-Smith, whilst also retaining key men such as Mike Jones, it's exciting times at Bulpit Lane. The key to survival though, is having a solid foundation, and who better to build that, than a Royal Engineer – especially one who was the best 'keeper at Step Three last season.



6 SCOTS win the Bernard Vann VC Memorial Cup.
The team defeated 5 Fusiliers 4-1.



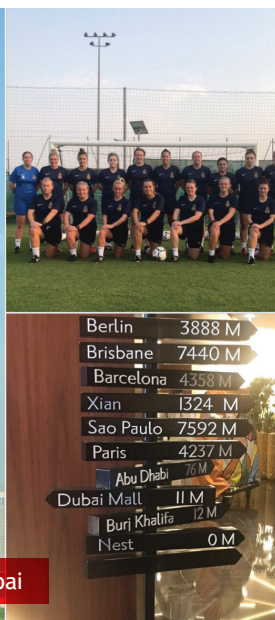
216 (Para) Sig Sqn win the McBean Trophy
after beating 22 Sig Regt 3-1 in the final



England international Millie Bright attending
the ASCB Sports Awards in Sandhurst



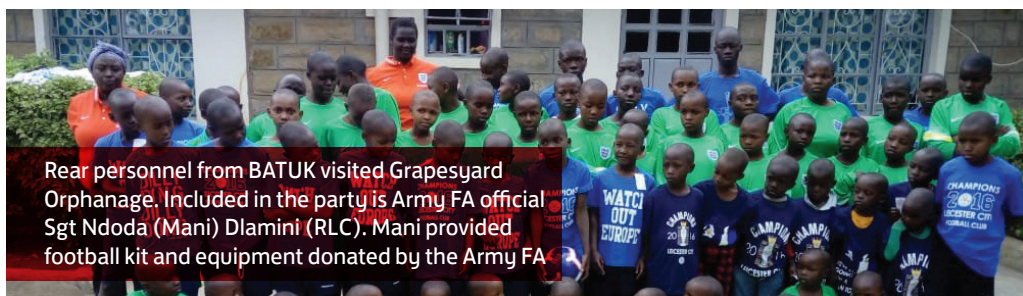
AGC Womens Team in Dubai



Army FA support Kosovo Security Force
Women's Football with a new kit - great
support from Lt Gen Rama COM KSF to
develop women's sports



Gareth Southgate at the UKAF Awards in London



Rear personnel from BATUK visited Grapesyard Orphanage. Included in the party is Army FA official Sgt Ndoda (Mani) Dlamini (RLC). Mani provided football kit and equipment donated by the Army FA



Supporting JordanShirts.In memory of Jordan Sinnott . A footballer who sadly Lost his life in tragic circumstances.



Queens Royal Hussars win the 2019 Cavalry Cup beating Royal Tank Regiment in the final



Coldstream Guards provide kits in Kenya from the Aldershot based Junior Shots team



Members of Royal Signals FA meet Rio Ferdinand and Joe Cole at the FA Premier League match between AFC Bournemouth and Manchester Utd



Andy Bedward (far right)

We say thank you to Capt Andy Bedward as he steps down as Secretary of Mens Corps Football.

Andy has been an excellent Ambassador for the Army FA whilst serving in his position which, for the early stages he combined successfully during a posting in Cyprus.

Thank You Andy and we wish you well in the future.

OUTGOING MESSAGE FROM ANDY BEDWARD

"Having been the Massey Trophy Secretary for 3 seasons I will handover in Aug 20 once the new season, Full-Time and Whole Game Systems have been set up and ratified by the AFA. I have enjoyed my time working with the Army FA and the Massey Trophy immensely, however, as Lt Col

Alex Atherton RLC assumes the position of Massey Chairman and AFA Trustee for Male Representative sport I feel it is the right time to handover to a new team. I have learnt much about the game during my tenure and look forward to being involved with Regimental and Corps football once again in 20/21. A highlight of my time as Secretary has been watching the growth of Infantry football, BZ to Jimmy and Wagsy and best wishes for 20/21. Many thanks to Brigadier NM Stokoe OBE for the opportunity and privilege of holding the appointment of Massey Secretary, to the 12 club secretaries who do amazing work, often behind the scenes to facilitate player release and ensure the soldiers game continues to thrive. Finally, special thanks to Graham Brookland at the Army FA who has supported, guided and advised me throughout my appointment, truly appreciated."



The FA Premier League Under 12 Truce Tournament was held on Sunday 10 November; the seventh year of the competition.

The concept of the event originates from World War 1 when soldiers from both sides of the conflict came out of the trenches and gathered in no mans land where amongst activities football matches were played.

The qualifying rounds are played on Remembrance Weekend hosted by the three services. The Army FA hosted in Aldershot, Royal Navy (Portsmouth) and RAF (Cosford).

At the Army FA event all teams and spectators were welcomed by our Army Under 23 Development Head Coach SSgt Gerwyn Griffiths (RE). In a particularly moving ceremony, An Ode to Remembrance followed by the poem "In Flanders Field" was read by two players before The Last Post, a minute's silence followed by Reveille.

A further poem "The Game: Christmas Day 1914" written by Ian McMillan was read with the words

further provided by players from the respective teams. A player from each team then read aloud names of those who represented their clubs who were killed in conflict before laying a wreath around the pitch perimeter.

A busy day of football commenced with 10 teams in competition. Group A consisted of Manchester City, Arsenal, Norwich City, West Bromwich Albion and Leicester City. Group B included Tottenham Hotspur, Swansea City, Watford, West Ham United and Manchester

United.

SSgt Griffiths provided the winning trophy and medals to Manchester City who defeated Tottenham Hotspur 3-0 in the final. They went on represent the FA Premier League in Ypres in Belgium joined by the winners of the other UK based tournaments and teams from Belgium, France and Germany.





November 2018 saw Nottingham host two football matches between British and German Armed Forces to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War and to remember the sacrifices made by tens of millions of serving personnel and civilians.

With its strong links to football, Nottingham was the perfect place to hold this Armistice event. Notts County hosted the women's game and Nottingham Forest host the men's.

Moving forwards a year and prior to the English Championship match between Nottingham Forest and Derby County presentations were made from monies raised from the day to four charities.

On the pitch were the Lord Lieutenant of Nottingham, Sir John Peace, together with Colonel Colin Francis, Deputy Chairman of the Army FA, Major Sean Birchall and Private Demi Edwards who were representing the British Army men's and women's team.

Sir John and Colonel Francis presented the cheques.

Calum Osbourne accepted a cheque for £15,000 on behalf of the Nottingham Forest Community Trust and Ian Boyd from Notts County Football in the Community will also accepted a cheque for £15,000.

George Dent from the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Benevolent Fund based in Loughborough accepted a cheque for £5,000 and its German equivalent also received £5,000. Mark Smith also received a cheque for 5,000 on behalf of Nottinghamshire Royal British Legion.

The Army Football Association would like to thank everybody who made the event possible including Fujitsu, Experian and the Army Sports Control Board and our partners who included the National Football Museum, The Woodland Trust, Never Such Innocence, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and the Lord Lieutenant of Nottingham.

Following the cheque presentation there was a Guard of Honour from the Army Cadet Force who were flanked by 12 Nottingham Forest Armed Forces Veterans club members who stood beside the Cadets for the Guard of Honour. The wreath laying was completed by Ralph McClure, one of the last surviving D-Day landing veterans from Nottingham. The veteran walked out with the two teams. Forest won the match 1-0 in front of a sell out 29,314 attendance.



100 YEARS OF ARMY FA REFEREES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

LATER THIS YEAR WE WILL MARK 100 YEARS OF THE ARMY FA REFEREES' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE FIRST MEETING WAS HELD AT THE WAR OFFICE, LONDON ON 11 OCTOBER 1920.

We will recognise this historic landmark in a suitable manner post Covid-19 but, for now please enjoy some key Timeline moments involving Army FA Referee achievements over the last century:

1920

- The Army Football Association Committee approved the formation of the Army FA Referees' Committee and the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel G H Impey DSC, Royal Sussex Regiment and Lieutenant A E Edwards, Royal Field Artillery, as its first President and Honorary Secretary respectively.

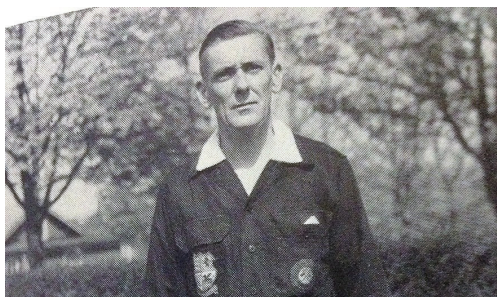
1921

- The Referee for the Challenge Cup Final was Capt Albert Prince-Cox (Late Royal Flying Corps). He went on to become an international referee and also manager of Bristol Rovers.



1952

- WO1 A W Smith (RADC) was appointed as Linesman at the FA Cup Final at Wembley between Newcastle Utd and Arsenal.



1955

- The all time record of 2000 registered referees was confirmed.

1959

- Major Dennis (RAMC) was appointed as Linesman at the FA Cup Final at Wembley between Nottingham Forest and Luton Town.

1965

- Captain A V Tennuci (RAMC) set up a unique record of being the only person to referee an Army Challenge Cup Final having won the competition as a player. He was in the winning Depot and Training Establishment Royal Army Medical Corps side in 1949.



1967

- The first British Army of the Rhine Football Association Referee Instructors' Course was held in Wuppertal under the direction of Captain A Dobson, Grenadier Guards.

1977

- Major A Dobson MBE was appointed a FIFA Referee Instructor and was appointed to conduct the first Referees' course dealing with third world countries.

1988

- Former Referees Chairman Major Dobson MBE retires as Army FA Secretary after 14 years and donates the "Dobson's Trophy" to be awarded to the Referee considered by the members of the committee to have made the most significant contribution to Army Football in the season about to end.

1994

- The Meritorious Service Award (MSA) is introduced. This is to be rewarded to all classes of referee who has provided a minimum of 10 years continuous service, served a minimum of five years on a regional committee and conduct to be judged irreproachable.

2001

- Major Tony Rock leads an FA delegation to Uganda to train their Referee Instructors.

2004

- Sgt Darren Adie becomes a FIFA Assistant - appointed through the Welsh FA.

2007

- Brian Le Breton steps down as Referees' Secretary after 22 years; the longest serving in the post. Brian donates the "Le Breton Trophy" to be awarded each year to the Level 7 official deemed to have shown the most potential and commitment during the season.



2010

- Sgt Dec Ford (REME) had the honour of being the first soldier to officiate at the new Wembley Stadium when he was an Assistant Referee for the League 2 Play-Off Final between Rotherham Utd and Dagenham & Redbridge.

2011

- The Football League match between Notts County and Bristol Rovers was officiated by four Army personnel. The Referee was Major Danny McDermid (RLC). WO1 Andy Halliday (RAPTC) and Sgt Declan Ford (REME) were Assistants. LCpl Rob Ellis (RAMC) was 4th Official.



2012

- Major McDermid officiated in his final match as an Army FA official as Fourth Official at the Football League One Play Off match between Huddersfield Town and Sheffield United at Wembley.

2013

- The 125th Anniversary of the Army FA is celebrated with a match between an FA Legends Team and the Army managed by then England manager Roy Hodgson and his Assistant



2015

- The Army Cap is introduced to be awarded to officials who have refereed either the Major Unit final, Inter Service, Kentish Cup or Woolwich Cup Final.
- The 2010 World Cup Final Referee Howard Webb is the official guest at the Annual Referees Awards Dinner at RMA Sandhurst.



2016

- WO2 (QMSI) Andy Halliday is Assistant Referee at the FA Cup Final between Manchester Utd and Crystal Palace at Wembley. In 2019 he retired as an FA Premier League official after 338 matches and also officiating the Football League Cup Final between Manchester City and Chelsea.



THE ARMY FA KEEPING FOOTBALL SAFE

The Army FA offers a range of safeguarding services and training to help create a safe and enjoyable football experience for everyone. We ensure safeguarding requirements are met as a requirement of club affiliation and we support clubs to maintain these standards. This includes making unannounced safeguarding visits to clubs.

SAFEGUARDING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

We offer a range of safeguarding services and training to help create a safe and enjoyable football experience for everyone. We ensure safeguarding requirements are met as a requirement of club affiliation and we support clubs to maintain these standards. This includes making unannounced safeguarding visits to clubs.

OBTAINING A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK (CRC)

If you are a referee seeking support with a CRC please contact our Referee Officer, Graham Brookland (E: graham.brookland T: 01252 787068)

HOW WE HANDLE REPORTED CONCERNS

All safeguarding issues are to be reported to the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer Jenny Payne.

**Please note, if your unit is involved in, or providing football for civilian U18's or Adults at Risk you must follow the Army and football guidance for such activities. Army Football have volunteers trained in safeguarding football and will help you. Please ask if you are not sure.*

For comprehensive information regarding our Safeguarding policy please visit:

<http://www.armyfa.com/about/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding-and-welfare/the-army-fa-keeping-football-safe>

GET IN TOUCH

Jenny Payne -

CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer

By phone: 01252 787069

Monday-Thursday: 08:30-15:00

Friday: 09:00-12:30

By email: safeguarding@armyfa.com





ARMY
FOOTBALL

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ARMY FA

ARMY FA MEDIA INFORMATION

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS ARE IMPERATIVE. THE ARMY FA HAVE THE FOLLOWING CENTRAL OUTLETS TO PROVIDE NEWS AND INFORMATION INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN:

Website: www.armyfa.com

Twitter: @armyfa1888 (4038 followers)

Facebook: ArmyFootballAssociation
(4391 followers)

Instagram: armyfa1888
(Our new addition recently)
(414 followers)

THE ARMY SPORTS CONTROL BOARD ALSO OPERATES THE FOLLOWING SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS:

Facebook: BritishArmySport (12,600 followers)

Twitter: ArmySportASCB (5308 followers)

Twitter: ArmySportsLTRY (8248 followers)

Instagram: BritishArmySport (8631 followers)

POC: Clare Simpson csimpson@ascb.uk.com

Tel: (Civ) 01252 787057 (Mil) 94222 7057 or
07539 872007 (mob)

MANY INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVE, CORPS, UNITS, DEVELOPMENT AND REFEREES HAVE THEIR OWN SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS. FOR CLARITY THE FOLLOWING IS ADVISABLE FROM THE ARMY FA WITH REGARDS TO USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA:

- Provide consistent and regular news features.
- Highlight events/fixtures/achievements
- Raise the awareness through social media.
- Any news items to be promoted into the wider domain via Army FA /Army Sport HQ in Aldershot to be sent to the above personnel and included where deemed appropriate through the central Army FA media channels including websites and publications.
- For Twitter posts please consider the following hashtag where appropriate #Armyfootball

***PLEASE NOTE** that whilst the Army FA is happy to provide guidance and advice regarding media issues it is not the responsibility of the Army FA central staff to produce individual news stories for any sections listed below.

If you require help, assistance or guidance please contact Graham Brookland on 01252 787068 or email graham.brookland@Armyfa.com

For comprehensive information on all Army FA news please visit:

Website: www.armyfa.com

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/ArmyFootballAssociation>

Twitter: @Armyfa1888 **Instagram:** armyfa1888



*A Sporting
Chance*

ARMY
SPORT CONTROL BOARD
FOUNDED 1918

THE ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY: SUPPORTING SPORT IN THE ARMY

In addition to a variety of sports grant available every week members will have the opportunity to win the following prizes:

1st Prize	£10,000
2nd Prize	£5000
3rd Prize	£4000
4th Prize	£3000
5th Prize	£2000
6th Prize	£1000
2 x	£500
15 x	£200
10 x	£100



Since its creation in 1993 the
Army Sports Lottery has:

- Raised **£50 million** in proceeds
- Given **£20 million** in cash prizes
- Awarded over **£25 million** in grants to Army personnel

gambleaware.co.uk
GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

The Army Sports Lottery is a non-profit making organisation that exists to support sport in the Army

For further details visit our web at:

www.armysportslottery.com



ARMY



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Email: lottery@ascb.uk.com

Web: www.armysportslottery.com