

# THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA

Issue 11 - Winter Edition 2013



## IN THIS ISSUE

LEGENDS OUT IN FORCE TO COMMEMMORATE ARMY MILESTONE  
ENGLAND LEGEND COACHES ARMY TEAM FOR ANNIVERSARY DAY  
REME SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2013

Get **into** Football







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# Contents

LEGENDS OUT IN FORCE TO COMMEMORATE ARMY MILESTONE	4-8
ARMY OFFICERS FOOTBALL – CRUSADERS FC	9
THE ARMY GAME IS OUT!	9
ARMY REFEREEING- A BUSY TIME!	10
ARMY DEFEAT GERMAN BUNDESWEHR	11
THE OPENING OF THE NEW ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN ALDERSHOT PROVED A PROUD DAY	13
ENGLAND LEGEND COACHES ARMY TEAM FOR ANNIVERSARY DAY	14-15
ARMY FOOTBALL TOUR TO BRAZIL 25 MAY – 4 JUNE 2013	16-19
THE RA LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM	20
GUNNER GIRLS' GO FOR GOAL	21
THE MASSEY TROPHY	21
REME FA TOUR TO THE USA	22-23
REME WOMEN FC - "A HALF TOO FAR"	24-25
REME SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2013	27
FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT	28-29
ARMY RESERVE FOOTBALL	30



## Welcome

As 2013 draws to a close, we can look back on another very successful year of football in the Army. The highlights at Army level have been the 125th Anniversary celebrations with the Legends match at Reading, the tour to Brazil and the Roadshow in the summer. We could not have asked for better support from the FA and their Chairman (now departed), David Bernstein - both for the Legends match and in Brazil. I am sure our 2012/13 Season players and official of the year will never forget receiving their awards from Sir Trevor Brooking, Roy Hodgson and Stuart Pearce at the after-match dinner at the Madejski Stadium. These anniversary events are well covered later in the magazine. I also draw your attention to the opening of our new Football Development Centre and the excellent report on Army Reserve Football.

Thank you to everyone who gives their time and energy to enhancing football in the Army. My assessment is that we are in a very healthy state and most of that is down to the hard work of all the volunteers at sub-unit, unit, corps and Army level. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Major General Bruce Brealey





# **LEGENDS OUT IN FORCE TO COMMEMMORATE ARMY MILESTONE**

Extensive work behind the scenes led by Army FA Chairman Major General Bruce Brealey CB in conjunction with terrific support from then Football Association Chairman David Bernstein enabled a commemorative 125 celebration match to be played between the Army and an FA Legends select team at Reading FC's Madejski Stadium in May.

The original plans were announced at a launch of the event at Wembley in March and Bernstein was complementary surrounding the strong bond between the two organisations. He said, "It is a close relationship and we believe that we should celebrate the work of the Army whenever possible.

"In fact, the Army has a proud heritage with the Football Association going all the way back to the formative years in the 1860s. This was a more than fitting way to mark the Army FA's 125th anniversary".

The match and evening Presidents Dinner was all in aid of the Team Army Sports Foundation and Royal British Legion.

As highlighted in a separate article within this edition of The Soldiers' Game England Under 21 Manager at the time, Stuart Pearce, took

charge of the Army team and was pitted against England boss Roy Hodgson who managed the FA team that included an array of ex internationals with pedigree of the highest order.

The game itself proved an entertaining affair with the Army edging in front twice with goals from Cpl Jay Bates and Sgt Keith Emmerson before succumbing 4-2 against the experience and guile of their opponents whose goals were scored by Tore Ander Flo, Kevin Kilbane, presenter Ben Shepherd and Jan Age Fjortoft.

Sky Sports pundit Chris Kamara also featured for the Legends. Chris joined the Royal Navy at the age of 16 before being bought out by Portsmouth Football Club after just six months to launch a professional career of over 750 appearances and over 80 goals.

He spoke fondly of his counterparts on the day. He said, "It was a long time since I was in the armed forces but what a fantastic job they do. I really enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in this match."

Another stalwart of 57 England international caps Gareth Southgate added, "The link between the forces and Football Association is very strong and always has been. That is why such a high quality of player wanted to support the event because they recognise the commitment and dedication of those in the Armed Forces and they wanted to show their appreciation. The match itself was a great occasion and the attitude of everybody concerned was first class. It was a pleasure to be involved.

"The quality of the opposition didn't surprise us. We'd heard that they were good and we











saw how fit they were- certainly the team that started was very bright and we knew it would be a tough afternoon for us.

"I think that once we'd got to grips with playing again though, it was a little bit of experience that told".

Hodgson presented the Man of the Match Award to Army striker Sig Sam Agar who had impressed Stuart Pearce in the build up to the match as the former Nottingham Forest and Manchester City boss noted that "He is technically very good".

Yorkshire man Agar, currently serving in Afghanistan, is a former Bradford City and Halifax Town Apprentice and proved a handful throughout. He was heavily involved in the assist for Emmerson's goal which put the Army into a 2-1 lead.

After receiving his award from the current England boss he said, "It was a great occasion and all of the boys did well. I am very proud of them all. This was fantastic for us to be playing against these players."

Hodgson concluded speaking about his respect for the work that is undertaken by the Armed Forces. "The match was all about celebrating the vital role our soldiers have played over a huge period of time. The restorative power of sport for soldiers returning from conflict is something that allows football to lend in some small way a reward to those who risk their lives for their country.

"In professional football we are essentially here to entertain but the soldiers put their



CGS General Sir Peter Wall meets the teams



Cleo Higgins sings The National Anthem



## 125 celebration match

lives on the line and that is why this match was played. It was a wonderful opportunity for some of them to play against some of their sporting heroes and compete with players who have won some of the biggest prizes in football”.

### TEAMS

#### ARMY

Spr Luke Cairney (RE),  
Cpl Gerwyn Griffiths (RE),  
Sig Rob Lonorgan (Royal Signals),  
LCpl James Poulter (Royal Signals),  
LCpl Gavin Greenfield (RE),  
Sgt Barry Rizza (Royal Signals),  
Sig Sam Agar (Royal Signals),  
Cpl Jay Bates (Royal Signals),  
Sgt Keith Emmerson (RAPTC),  
LCpl Darren Clark (Infantry),  
LCpl Iain Robinson (Infantry)

**Subs:** Sgt Daryll Evans (RLC),  
Cpl Andrew Cottam (RE),  
SSgt Glen Davidson (AGC RMP),  
Cpl Kristian Stephens (REME),  
WO2 Simon (Dinger) Bell (RE),  
Spr Alexander Wright (RE),

LCpl Jay Hubbard (RE), Gnr Tom Broadbent (RA),  
LCpl Danny Haley (Royal Signals),  
Cpl Robert Cooper-Tomkins (RE)

#### FA LEGENDS

Tony Warner,  
Matt Le Tissier,  
Graeme Le Saux,  
Gareth Southgate,  
Paul Merson,  
Darren Anderton,  
Ugo Ehiogu,  
Danny Mills,  
Kevin Kilbane,  
Tore Andre Flo,  
Gary Neville

**Subs:** Nigel Wiscombe, Jan Age Fjortoft,

Chris Kamara, Ben Shepherd, Gaitzka Mendietta,  
Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Graeme Murty,  
Dietmar Hamann

**Referee:** Sgt Declan Ford (REME)

**Assistants:** WO1 (RSM) Steve Finch (RLC),  
WO2 Stacey Woodley (REME)

**Fourth Official:** Capt Gary Burton (REME)



*The Army Football team warm up in FvH T shirts, FvH is an International initiative opposing homophobia in football. In England it is the FA's endorsed campaign to tackle homophobia and prejudice against lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in grassroots football*



*Little Kickers having fun with Stuart Pearce. Launched in 2002, Little Kickers is the UK's leading toddler football programme. A positive, fun-filled pre-school football programme guided by the likes of FA qualified coaches, nursery school teachers, child health specialists and pro-active parents.*



## ARMY OFFICERS FOOTBALL – CRUSADERS FC

The Army Crusaders is the Army Officer Corps' representative football team. It was formed in 1922 and consists of both a First Team and a Veterans (Over 35) Team.

The First Team plays up to 12 friendly fixtures each season against both military and civilian opposition such as RMAS, the Defence Academy and Hampshire Fire Service. Home fixtures are played at the Aldershot Military Stadium, usually on a week night whilst away fixtures tend to take place in the South of England area.

The Veterans Team compete in the West London Veterans Football League (WLVFL) Premier Division which accounts for 16 games a season and up

to a further 8 fixtures are played against military and civilian opposition including RAF Officers (ICARUS), Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) and Old Dorkinians.

Home fixtures are played at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) and away games across the South of England area.

A mixed First and Vets team have been ever present at the Annual Easter Festival played at Liverpool Ramblers FC in Formby, who are steeped in football history and played in the inaugural FA Cup competition.

The club is entitled, as a representative team to tour overseas every 3 years in line with the other Army teams. Recent Tours have included Hong Kong, Cyprus and USA.

Whilst this publication is quite rightly entitled "The Soldiers Game", Officers do have their part to play, not just at unit level but at competitive level as well. For instance the current Army First Team Coach is a R SIGNALS Officer who has also been a Crusader in years gone by.

Any officer, of any age interested in getting involved should approach the Crusaders FC Secretary who will be able to provide further details and registration information.

Maj Andy Campbell, Secretary Army Crusaders FC.  
liag-so2ia5@mod.uk  
Armycrusadersveterans@hotmail.com  
07977 478038



The photo shows both the First and Veterans Teams at a recent Presidents v Chairman's Fixture at the Aldershot Military Stadium.

## THE ARMY GAME IS OUT!

A terrific new book written by respected author Jack Rollin celebrating 125 years of Army Football has been published.

The book traces the origins of football itself and reveals the influence the Army had in its development. It played a supporting role in the foundation of the Football Association in 1863 and through the successes of the Royal Engineers in the FA Cup 10 years later.

Army personnel figured prominently in the early international matches. The momentum increased with the formation of the Army FA in 1888 and the inauguration of the Football League, making the two competitions the joins second-oldest nationwide.

Royalty as Patrons regularly attended important matches including the start of the Inter Service tournament, firstly against the Royal Navy and then with the addition of the Royal Air Force. Wherever the Army served, football was not far behind. In The Great War, many professional footballers were among the casualties and won decorations.

The inter-war years saw the Army expand its football despite a reduction in numbers. The start of the Kentish Cup against its wartime Allies was another competition carrying on the tradition. In the Second World War, HM Government insisted the game would continue and many outstanding international players in the service appeared in fund raising matches. Once again the Royal Family was visibly supportive. Footballers again fought in all war zones and suffered along with their comrades. Immediately after the war, the introduction of National Service brought many outstanding young Football League players into uniform.

In the last 25 years there have been many tours abroad and a continual implementation of new competitions. These have been extended at different levels for representative teams, including those for women's football as well as youth and Under 23. Courses for referees and coaching have further expanded the Army's football structure and authority.

Despite the ever-present operational commitments imposed on a shrinking



Army, there continues to be growth in its sporting stature and this is reflected in The Army Game.

The Army Game is published by Tony Brown, 4 Adrian Close, Toton, Nottingham, NG9 6FL. Tel: 0115 973 6086 Email: soccer@inotts.co.uk Website: www.soccerdata.com Copies are available directly from Tony. Retail price is £14 with £2 requested for mail orders sent to Tony.



# Army Refereeing- A Busy Time!

There has been plenty of positive activity within the Army FA Refereeing community recently. The Academy, originally set up last year, and operated by Football League Assistant and Conference Referee Sgt Declan Ford, continues to support the next generation of soldiers who wish to progress their career as a Referee. The aim is to train the next generation of Army Referees and to give them every opportunity to succeed.

It started as the “boom” period of a healthy number of Army officials involved at the top end of the game (FA Premier League, Football League and Conference) deteriorated with many Army officials coming to the end of their time as a soldier continuing their officiating and benefitting civilian counties in the process.

All those involved within the Academy are 30 years or younger. Sgt Ford, who has recently returned from another tour of Afghanistan,

will continue the development programme into 2014 and beyond.

The recent Army FA Basic Referees course held in Aldershot proved a success as 20 new recruits passed the examinations to enable them to qualify as a new official. The 20 soldiers will now be able to commence their refereeing career and they will be supported by their local divisional representatives who will appoint and mentor them through the early stages of officiating.

It was the first time a Refereeing course has been held at the new Football Development Centre (FDC) just off the Queens Avenue in the Hampshire town and this proved a plus point too.

In addition to the practical and theory work that was undertaken by the Tutor workforce led by SSgt Rick Harden the students attended a Surrey Senior Cup tie played locally at Ash United.

The dates for the 2014 courses have already been agreed and the UK based courses will be held at the new FDC in Aldershot. There will also be a course in Germany to be announced too. The UK dates are:

**18 to 22 February (Mon to Friday)**

**17 to 20 June (Tue to Fri)**

**13 to 17 October (Mon to Fri)**

If you wish to attend an Army FA Basic Referees course please contact Graham Brookland by email- [graham.brookland@Armyfa.com](mailto:graham.brookland@Armyfa.com) or to find out more details call on 01252 787068

*Pictured is David Tuck who received £50 vouchers to use at kit suppliers A and H International in recognition to being the top student during the course.*







# ARMY DEFEAT GERMAN BUNDESWEHR

After the successful first time visit of the German Bundeswehr to Aldershot in May 2012 the return fixture was played in Warendorf in November. A terrific match saw the Army record a fine victory with a late effort from Sig Luke Noble. A hard fought encounter saw Capt Joe Collins' side edge in front on 17 minutes when LCpl Callum Wilkinson gave the visiting forces the lead. The match was heading for a British Army success until the Bundeswehr leveled with two minutes remaining with Andreas Gerdes netted. A second successive draw to follow the goalless encounter at Aldershot Town's Recreation Ground 18 months previously was looking likely until Noble stepped up to the plate. German Coach Georg Winkelhoch said afterwards, "I think we had 80% of possession but were a touch naïve in front of goal and it cost us in the end. However I was pleased with our performance and could ask no more of the players.

**Newspaper Article WARENDORF 7 November 2013**



From an Army FA coaching point of view we knew how good the German Bundeswehr would be after our previous encounter and we set up the team accordingly. We knew technically they would be very good and we would have to work very hard to keep our shape and balance when they were in possession of the ball. The first half was very evenly fought and after our first goal through LCpl Calum wilkinson and some other good chances we could have maybe gone in at the break 2 goals to the good. The second half they certainly had a lot more possession than we did but we defended excellently to limit their chances. When they equalised late into the game it felt like a bitter blow as the players had worked so hard and kept to the system we had worked on. All credit to the lads they were not for giving up the chance of a memorable win and hit the Bundeswehr with a counter attack and scored through an excellent bit of inter play between Lcpl Jay Macanespie and Sig Luke Noble to win the game. The fixture gave the opportunity to field 5 debutants and 4 U23 players who all did fantastically well against a team of experienced professional footballers. The game was played in a fantastic spirit and hopefully this is a fixture that will stay in the Army FA calendar.

**Capt J W A Collins (Head Coach – British Army Team)**





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## THE OPENING OF THE NEW ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN ALDERSHOT PROVED A PROUD DAY

The facility was officially opened by the Chairman of the Army Football Association, Major General Bruce Brealey, during the recent seminar held in Aldershot.

The Development Centre has a classroom which caters for up to 30 students, toilet facilities and office space and is adjacent to the 3G football pitch at the Wavell pitches on Queens Avenue, close to the Army FA headquarters in Fox Lines.

Army Football is grateful, to the Army Sport Control Board Charitable Trust, and The Football Association. They were represented by Major General (Retd) Christopher Elliott and Dylan Evans respectively. Without their financial support, the build would not have been undertaken. Army football is also looking forward to a sponsorship arrangement with Panasonic (Toughbook) who have generously supplied the latest digital equipment in support of our coaching centre.

The previous centre for those that knew it, was converted from garages behind Clayton Barracks in Aldershot using Army Football Association funding in 2006. During the intervening period approximately 7000 individuals passed through the facility. The new centre, which has disabled access, will now be in a position to assist Battle Back in delivering courses to disabled soldiers.



Old Football Development Centre, Clayton Barracks Aldershot

Football in the Army is regarded as "THE SOLDIERS GAME" and Army Football ambitions are to be the most effectively run and thriving sport within the Army, enhancing the Army's reputation nationally, supporting our Governing Body the Football Association (FA) in achieving their National Game Strategy.

This new Football Development Centre will show that the Army FA is leading and governing the game, providing and funding an effective teaching facility. It offers a purpose built training environment which

meets the needs of the Governing Body, and will enhance our ability to qualify the requisite number of coaches and referees, required to facilitate the needs of the Field Army. Inevitably this will improve the standard and performance of football, at a time when we should be looking to raise standards and encourage participation in sport. It has always been the Army FA ambition to have a qualified official, officiating at every match being played; this new facility will greatly assist us in achieving this ambition.



Opening of New FDC by Maj Gen Christopher Elliott, Maj Gen Bruce Brealey and Dylan Evans, The FA



# ENGLAND LEGEND COACHES A FOR ANNIVERSARY DAY

We were delighted to host former England international Stuart Pearce at the home of Army football in Aldershot in the build up to the 125 Anniversary celebration match between an England Legends team and the Army held at Reading FC's Madejski Stadium earlier this year.

At the time Pearce was in charge of the England Under 21 team and was responsible for preparing the Army team. There was, of course, a full responsibility too with England boss Roy Hodgson set to take charge in the opposite dug out.

Pearce took his role seriously though and spoke of his huge admiration of the Army. Indeed the 51 year old Londoner who represented his country on 78 occasions spoke about the fact that he attempted to become a soldier in his youth. He said, "I didn't quite make the grade unfortunately. My brother served in the TA for a number of years and I tried to get into the Army when I left school but managed to fail the interview but that's another story. My military connections over the past 10 years have been good. I have always tried to help the military where I can".

Pearce, who has visited and was greatly impressed with the facilities at Headley Court and Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham, was also complementary of the Army players too and stated that there were many disciplines within the soldiers that he wished civilian players possessed. He added, "Their enthusiasm for the game was fantastic and that gave me a lift. The most refreshing thing that they do is that if you put something into practice and ask them to do it then they do so. Obviously they are used to that in their daily routine but sometimes you have individuals and players who don't pick things up but these lads have and that means you can move on that much quicker".

The match itself resulted in a 4-2 victory for the FA Legends team who included the likes of Gary Neville, Gareth Southgate,

Graeme Le Saux and Paul Merson but the Army twice took the lead. Importantly the occasion raised funds for the Royal British Legion and Team Army Sports Foundation. It continued into the evening with an anniversary dinner that included the presence of CGS and Army FA President General Sir Peter Wall CBE MA, Sir Trevor Brooking, outgoing FA Chairman David Bernstein, Sir John Madejski, Peterborough United Director of Football Barry Fry in addition to Hodgson and Pearce.

Pearce was delighted with the response of his troops adding, "Both organisations have marked their own special year and underpinning it all is the charitable donations that will be made to two very good causes.

"The Army team were absolutely delighted to be out there and with the way the game





# ARMY TEAM

has gone. They played well in parts and did well to score two goals against the talent that was on show.

"I've actually seen them play better than they did in the match. I think they might have been a bit overawed by who they were up against.

"I have and the FA has a great deal of respect for the Armed Forces and what they do for this country. It has been a great few weeks for me being involved with the Army".

Army Head Coach Captain Joe Collins was equally praiseworthy about the involvement of Pearce. "To have Stuart taking the time to be part of our team was fantastic. For the lads and myself to go out and be representing the Armed Forces against players that we have looked up and admired for years and years is tremendous. This is an honour that will probably not come around again. We are so grateful for everybody who helped organise the occasion".





# ARMY FOOTBALL TOUR TO B

Following on from the hugely successful legends match at the Madejski Stadium on Sat 18 May 13 both the Army men's, women's and coaching staff and a couple of budding officials flew out to the Centre of Excellence in Brazil for a football tour between 25 May – 4 June inclusive.

After spending the night in St Omer Bks and the Travel Lodge look alike accommodation there, the Group moved direct to Heathrow for a connecting flight via Paris to the shrine of Rio. With the officials beefed up after meeting Mark Clattenberg in Paris (he is now an official mate of Paul Robinson), the group managed to arrive safely at the hotel after a wacky races trip from a very suspect coach driver. It was later to prove that in fact all drivers in Rio actually drive like that, so indeed that was an important part of the acclimatisation package.



*Paul Robinsons mate Mark Clattenberg*

Sunday 26th was dedicated to acclimatisation with the first training session kicking off in the Brazilian Navy's Physical Education Training Centre Admiral Adalberto Nunes on Mon 27 May 13. It was quickly assessed that a few injuries had occurred where Sgt Rizza, LCpl Agar, SSgt Lavelle and LCpl Carroll (GK) were carrying a few knocks. With the latter, it was later proved that the tour was indeed the curse of the Goalkeepers. During the same training session the Women's GK LCpl Nicky O'Donnell suffered a bad shoulder injury which was to end her tournament before it had really started.

The following day on Tue 28 May the training continued and the curse of the GK struck again when Sgt Becky Davies suffered an awful injury sustaining a fractured jaw. The medical services were at hand and thankfully she was looked after extremely efficiently. Eventually she had to undergo an operation at Hospital and again she was to play no further playing part during the tour. The women's team were now without a recognised GK. To her huge credit she managed to rejoin the group the

day after the operation. Directly after the training some members of the group moved to the Escola Municipal Londres for some Community Engagement (CE) work with local Child and repair works at the specific request from the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro.

Both Sig Luke Noble and LCpl Poulter who were involved in the task, commented on how much the local children had appreciated the commitment and time and trouble that the soldiers had spent with them



*LCpl Nicky O'Donnell just before the fateful injury*

## Match day Wed 27 May

The women's team kicked off the tournament first and had an excellent opening 20 minutes, then due to a suspect refereeing decision (by Brazilian officials) they conceded a goal followed by two more to give the Brazilian Army a 3-0 lead. A brilliant header by Gnr Jordan Frayne gave hope for a comeback for the women at 3-1, but the great skill and pace of the hosts coupled with them being used to the heat paid dividend and the hosts eventually ran out convincing winners 9-1.

The men's team started brightly and a brilliant referee decision (by the British Army officials) led to a penalty inside the first 10 minutes. Unfortunately the opportunity was missed by WO2 Kev Haley due to a fantastic save by the Brazilian keeper and then the men were ruthlessly put to the sword with a barrage from the hosts romping into a 3-0 lead inside the first 20 minutes. After an inspired reorganisation by the Coaches Joe Collins and Richie Bell and the shape of the team being changed, the men fought back in

*L-R, Sgt Keith Emerson, Sgt Gaz Lewis, The Royal Corps of Signals contingent at Christ the Redeemer*





# RAZIL 25 MAY – 4 JUNE 2013



*The victorious women's Host team (despite a suspect Ref decision)*



*The loyal home supporters!*



*The Royal Corps of Signals contingent at Christ the Redeemer led by the coach Joe Collins (Rear far left)*



## Army Football Tour to Brazil



*Lt Col (Retd) Mick Cotton toughing it out at the CE task*



*Sgt Gaz Lewis at CE task*

the second half with two goals from Sgt Keith Emmerson and LCpl Jay McAnespie and only succumbed to a late goal to the hosts who ran out eventual winners 4-2. Great credit must go to SSgt Lavelle for stepping into the vacant GK slot due to the absence of LCpl Carroll due to injury. Even Joe Hart could not have stopped two of the 30 yard screamers, unlucky Lavs – that's Brazilian football for you!

After the matches the group took in a cultural visit to one of the main attractions in Rio, Christ the Redeemer which drew to a close with the imminent arrival of the Vice president of the United States and a full security team who were very keen to remove all visitors from the visit area pretty Sharp!

**Thu 28 May** was a light training session on the Copacabana beach coupled with another CE visit to Morro dos Prazeres Favela for community work. The work consisted of moving sand up a 60ft flight of stairs

which was quite tiring for the group that attended. The physios Capt Mark Evans and Sgt Gaz Lewis had a special invite to join the England National team physio Gary Lewin in the England team hotel for a muscle development chat and a sociable beer!

**Fri 29 May** included a visit to the England national team training session with the group given the opportunity to have a picture with the England squad. The Security team at one stage were not aware of this and got very concerned as the group entered the training pitch, but after an intervention by Roy Hodgson (England Manager) and then the control of Billy Thomson (Army Football Secretary) they calmed down and the picture went ahead avoiding an international incident! Later that day, the group attended a cultural visit to the Sugar Loaf Mountain and a representation attended the England Football Association reception at the Rio Yacht club where they had the opportunity to meet Sir Trevor Brooking, Roy Hodgson, Gary Lewin, Gary Neville and Mr Bernstein.

### Match day Sat 1 June

After some debate as to who was to officiate the game, it took Maj General Brealey and his counterpart General from the Brazilian Army to come to an amicable agreement as all good Generals do. It was to be half each for both sets of officials. The women's team again kicked off first against a Ladies Carioca Select X1 civilian team and quickly went into the lead. The hosts replied to level the score 1-1, but the girls piled on the pressure and had a host of chances increasing their lead to 4-1. A brief fight back by the hosts at 4-2 was put to the sword with an impressive long range bullet shot from Pte Jen Keane to make it 5-2 and a final score of 6-2 was not flattering. An awesome performance inspired by the tactics of coach Capt Sandra Hodgson and a brilliant hatrick from Pte Rigby sandwiched between two goals from Sgt Lee. It was like watching Brazil.

The men's team came up against a powerful combined services team who had been in full time training since March in preparation for an overseas tour competition later this month (June). Two fantastic long range shots again and a tap in gave the hosts a formidable 3-0 lead inside the first 15 minutes. It was 4-0 after 18 minutes with a brilliant volley and it was looking bleak for the guys before they had hardly got out of the blocks until that true British spirit took hold and the lads stood firm which was a great credit to them. The tenacity of Cpl Jay Bates, LCpl Danny Haley and WO2 Kev Haley in midfield kept the hosts from further increasing the lead. Sgt Keith Emmerson worked hard to close down the pacey wing play and Sgt Rizza marshalled the rear guard in the defence. Sgt Gaz Lewis had the opportunity to make his debut and the lads held firm until the 77th minute, when against the run of play, the hosts scored a 5th. LCpl Sammy Agar slotted a late consolation penalty. Final score 5-1 to the hosts. Despite



## Army Football Tour to Brazil



*Capt Sandra Beaney (black shorts) master tactician!*



*LCpl Carroll – another curse of the goalkeeper's injuries*



*Brazil Captain 'Mr Yellow Card'*



*Tough conditions for the team but nice view for the fans!*

the Brazilian Capt being nick named 'yellow card' for his constant request (jokingly) for a card to be shown to our players, the game was conducted in Great Spirit.

**Sun 2 June the big match day** – In the morning a couple of the group bumped into Roy Hodgson (now a big mate of everyone) strolling along the Copacabana beach and wished him good luck for the game that evening. The group were invited to the Mayor of Rio's reception at Fluminense FC at lunch time and then were able to attend the Maracana stadium to watch England almost grab a famous win against Brazil. The tour concluded the following day with the return to England. It was a fantastic opportunity for the entire group to experience a tour abroad to culminate the 125th Anniversary of Army Football whilst fostering the team ethos, leadership, comradeship, discipline and loyalty which is often just expected of our soldiers. It's a soldier's game.





# The RA ladies football team

This year the British Army Football Association celebrates its 125th Anniversary and as part of the celebrations both the Army Men's and Women's Teams toured Brazil from the period 25th May to 4 June.

3 Members of the RA Ladies Football Team got selected to represent the British Army Ladies Football Team in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Bdr Dainton - 39 Regt RA, Gnr Clark - 19 Regt RA and Gnr Frayne - 39 Regt RA

The tour dates coincided with the England National Team fixture against Brazil on the 2nd of June.

We were invited by the English Football Association to attend the England Training session on Friday 31 May and England V Brazil at the Maracana Stadium on Sunday 2 June, in which we had the opportunity to meet the England Squad.

*Watching the England Training Session*



*Army FV and the Brazilian League Champions*



*GNR Clark with team mates getting hosted before the England V Brazil Game*





# Gunner girls' go for goal

A ladies football team from the Royal Artillery, (The Gunners), based at Larkhill went head to head in a highly contested game against premier club Aston Villa's Ladies team.

The Aston Villa ladies made the way from their home ground at Sutton Coldfield to play the Army Gunner girls' Football team at the home of Gunner Football, Shrapnel Park, Larkhill, on a cold and overcast Sunday afternoon recently.

Fellow Gunner soldiers and friends turned out en masse to cheer on the Gunner girls' as they kicked off the first match of the season in what was to be a tough and hard fought match against a well disciplined and professional Aston Villa side that are due to be promoted to the Super league shortly.

The Gunner girls had completed a successful season last year, finishing an impressive 4th in the Women's Army League.

Captain Nicola Gould (44) the Gunner football Ladies secretary said:

"This is a great start to the season for us being able to play against a club like Aston Villa ladies. We started last season with 9 players, this season we have amassed a squad of 35." Nicola said:

"We are massively supported by colleagues here at Larkhill, especially by the lads who coached and ran the male Gunner football teams, our support base has just grown and grown." Nicola added.

The logistics of getting all the players together was a challenging one for Nicola with the girls in

the team in different Artillery regiments from all over the UK. The player's team sheet looks like a Royal Artillery regimental map.

"Even on a Sunday which is traditionally a day off for the girls they have all turned up, some of them travelling some considerable distances, their minds totally focussed on the job in hand, playing football." Nicola concluded.

Player Bombardier Siobhan Haynes, (26) based with 47 Regiment Royal Artillery (RA) and has played regularly for the Gunners and The Army football Team as well.

Siobhan said "I had played football before I joined the Army. When I joined I was picked to play Gunner Football and from that selected for The Army Football which is such a great honour."

"I did stop playing for the The Army Team a few seasons ago as I started boxing for the Army, whoever this does not stop me playing football for The Gunners, I am really proud to be a Gunner

"And that is due to the fact that Gunners are simply the best." Added Siobhan.

Bombardier Lou Banton, (31), currently serving with 32 Regiment RA, at Roberts Barracks, Larkhill.

Lou started playing football at an early age having kickabout at home and primary school, her talent was noted at primary school where she was allowed to play for the boys team she was so good.

"Dad used to play local football and we used to live overlooking the old Millwall stadium, I really loved it!" Said Lou enthusiastically.

"It is a great game to play and good for team building, great for morale, but most of all its great to have fun playing as well!" Lou added.

Team coach, Bombardier Lee Broadhurst (29) serves with 14 Regt RA.

"It is a little different coaching the girls." Said Lee.

"I have to explain things in depth, break things down and add more definition, but that's where the difference ends.

"The sport is growing for the girls and this Gunner Ladies team could certainly go head to head with a few Lads teams and beat them." Remarked Lee

One of the spectators watching the match was Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) (retired) Andy Astbury.

"It is really great that the Royal Artillery have managed to get a team of the calibre of Aston Villa Ladies to play against." Said Lt Col Astbury, who deals amongst other things, is the Royal Artillery sport funding.

"Women's sport within the Royal Artillery is immensely important to the regiment and it is very important that we get the support for it."

The match was won this time by Aston Villa ladies but The Gunner ladies went away with some valuable experience under their belts which will no doubt help them in the future.

**UBIQUE! QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT** (Everywhere! Where right and glory lead) is the Royal Artillery's regimental motto and the Gunner ladies football team is certainly on the right road to glory in their sport.

## THE MASSEY TROPHY

The 2012/13 season saw a great deal of change in the Massey Trophy. There was a change of appointments for both the Chairman and the Secretary. Col Andrew Phillips stood down to deploy on operations and handed over the reigns to Lt Col Roger Morton and Maj Brian Murdoch's long-standing and hard work was passed on to Maj Tony Frank due to an overseas assignment. A big thank you to both for their efforts and hard work whilst in appointment.

The start of the season also saw the introduction of the FA Full Time league website and, whilst there were some initial teething problems, Rob Ellis worked tirelessly to make it work and the system will now continue for the forthcoming season. Finally, evening fixtures were also entered in to the calendar to try and ease the congestion at all levels of Army football. Although still in the early stages this was deemed a success and will also continue.

On the pitch, the competition continued in the two division format with each team playing each other twice. The newly promoted Infantry began their new campaign with a spirited performance against the RAPTC but ultimately went down 3-0. The holders of the Massey Trophy, the REME, lost their opening match by the same score line to a strong RA side. Division 2 saw new boys, the AGC, draw 2-2 with the RAC at the Oval in Tidworth, whilst the AAC drew their first match with the INT CORPS by the same score line.

The usual inclement weather played havoc with the finely balanced fixture list during the New Year and the evening fixtures began to prove their worth. Notable results throughout the season were the R SIGNALS beating the REME 6-0 in both fixtures and the AGC running out 7-1 winners against the INT CORPS at Worthy Down.

As is normally the case, the Corps Quadrangular Tournament involving the RA,

R SIGNALS, RE and REME, helped decide the Massey Trophy. The R SIGNALS won the Quads and this in turn allowed it to regain the Massey Trophy. The AAC gained promotion to Div 1 for the first time in their history in the last match of the season, whilst the RAPTC will play their football in Division 2 next season. The Woolwich Cup was won by the RE in a very entertaining final against the RLC that drew a large crowd at the Military Stadium in Aldershot.

Next season will see a change to the structure of the season with a gap for the Inter-Services tournament taking place between Feb - Mar. Although the season will be compressed, this should lead to an exciting season and is a step in the right direction for the One Army Concept.

Major Jeff Cotter



# REME FA TOUR TO THE USA



**The 24 Officers and soldiers making up REME FA's touring party to Boston and New York met up at Arborfield Garrison on the 15th of October 2013. They were issued tour Polo shirt and tracksuit and the staff conducted final passport and documentation checks. Travelling staff included Corps Secretary Major Del Rogers, Team Manager Captain Bobby Cowan, REME Coach SSgt Danny McNeill and Equipment Manger SSgt Alan Marsh. The playing staff would be made up of 20 Soldiers who had travelled from Afghanistan, Germany, Cyprus and the UK to represent the corps in the USA.**

After a 0500 RV on 16th of October at Arborfield guardroom, everyone was en route to Heathrow Airport looking forward to the next ten days. After check in and the customary blag by the playing staff, only two members of the touring party were upgraded to 1st class. No prizes for working out who they were but when 6 foot 8 inch Sgt Lord complained about his knees rattling off the seat in front, you could just about make out the chuckle of the corps secretary 100 metres ahead as he tucked into his five course meal.

We arrived in Boston for a four day stay landing at Logan International Airport before transfer to the Fenway Park Hotel, located just 50m from the world famous Fenway Park stadium, home of the Boston Red Sox. It just so happened that while we were in town, the Red Sox had made it to the play-offs for the 2013 World Series. Red Sox fever had gripped Boston and the boys would prove no exception.

After check in and the usual security brief and plan of action for the following day, the playing staff were given the rest of the afternoon to sample the sights and sounds of the famous city.

Day two of tour involved an excursion to the Gillette stadium, home of the NFL's New England Patriots, but more importantly for us, Major League Soccer's New England Revolution. We were given a guided tour of the stadium, Changing rooms and facilities by Academy director and our liaison Mr Devon Apajee. Devon was an outstanding friend to REME FA for the duration of the tour and the Revolution could not have done any more for us. Indeed, it had been confirmed the week before that a Revolution coach would take our training session. It was agreed by the Coaching staff that we would keep the fact that we would be training in the 74,000 seat Gillette Stadium until we arrived there. Needless to say, the players

really enjoyed the occasion. The Revolution coaching staff were impressed by the standard commenting on the ability of Cpl. Joe Crossley and LCpl Will Rowell in particular.

We arrived back at Fenway Park at about 1900 hrs before a group social at the Boston tavern. WO2 Terry Lynch, one of only two veterans of the corps LA tour in 1999 proved that there is no substitute for experience. Last man standing at the Baseball Tavern, he only left after a torrent of abuse from the barman who asked 'what he had done wrong' to earn his 'generous' one dollar tip for four hours of service. Terry has a reputation for being frugal with his cash, a statement only corroborated by his inability to buy training kit, choosing instead to steal that of his fellow players.

Day three of the tour would see REME FA face French Connection FC at the Edge Stadium in Bedford. It was clear from the outset that French Connection were competitive. After a nervous opening, goals from Cpl James McKenzie, Cfn Kris McWalters, Sgt Chris Kettleon and Cpl Joe Crossley were enough to see REME run out to an initial 4-1 win. French Connection were the lowest ranked side we would play during our tour and it was great to get off to a winning start.

Upon return to Fenway, with game one of the baseball play-offs in full swing, most of the players set out to enjoy the experience of being around the game.

Day four saw the group travel across the city on a tour bus to visit Charlestown. British Military history is entwined with the birth of the United States and our American tour guide took great pleasure in hearing our British accents. In groups we walked the freedom trail, a red (mostly brick) path through downtown Boston that leads to 17 significant historic sites. It is a 2.5-mile walk from the state building on Boston common to Old Iron side, the 300 year old USS Constitution.

The day also saw the management staff visiting the Afghanistan and Iraq memorial en route to the 294 steps to the top of Bunker Hill. As well as being a lasting dedication to the American Revolution, it provided unparalleled views of the Boston skyline.

Most of the playing staff had asked permission to attend the Red Sox play-off game that night citing it as a once in a lifetime opportunity. With some cueing for hours, buying exorbitantly priced shirts, the Sox didn't disappoint with a 7-4 win over the Detroit Tigers in game two of the play offs. A number of the party took in the New England Revolution's soccer game against Columbus Crew back at the Gillette stadium. The MLS may not have players with the ability on show in the Premier League, but they know how to put on a show. The national anthem was impeccably observed before a group of American Revolutionary soldiers fired musket after musket into the ground. Every goal was greeted with pop music and flashing lights and it really was a great experience. The 'Rev's' ran out deserved 3-2 winners in a must win game with a view to play-off aspirations.

Day five saw us check out of the Fenway Park Hotel and travel by coach to the HI Express at Madison Square Garden in New York. The coach trip took four hours providing many of the troops with the longest amount of continual sleep in four days.

After check in at our Hotel and the now customary forecast of timings and excursions for the next day, the players were given a free evening to explore. Time Square being located a mere 500 metres away, most ventured locally with SSgt Marsh adamant that he had to get a photo with the Naked cowboy before we could eat.

'Soccer' is now the second most popular sport in the USA in the key 12-24 age group after NFL and the most played children's sport in 37



## REME FA Tour

states. Everyone we met seemed to support Manchester United, Chelsea or Scunthorpe and wherever we went for a drink that night, there seemed to be comprehensive coverage of English Premier League and UEFA Champions League games.

Day six saw the group RV at 0900 hrs in order to make our way by subway across the city to Battery Park. From here we would pick up our Manhattan harbour cruise and visit the Statue of Liberty. The experience was enjoyed by the entire group. To get the best out of the experience, we broke down into smaller groups as some of the balconies on the statue were very tight. Upon return to Battery Park the management and playing staff were given a free day in New York. With a very busy two days ahead, the players were told that it was the ideal opportunity to visit Central Park, the Empire State Building, Radio City and the Rockefeller Centre. Every player was convinced that a visit to the 9/11 Memorial, America's national tribute to the men, women and children killed in the terrorist attacks of 2001 and 1993 was something that had to be done. It truly was a humbling experience. It conveyed the devastating perspective that terrorism has had on western society to several of our phase two soldiers yet to deploy on operations.

The evenings in NYC really do confirm the statement that New York is the City that does not sleep. Most players and staff decided to venture beyond Time Square with the proviso from Capt. Cowan that all players had to be in good order for the following day's fixture against a very well regarded New York Police Department FC. Our highly professional goalkeeper Cpl Chris Wing, and defenders Cfn's Keith Harkness and Jake Carvell were found watching the 1990 classic, Three Men and a Little Lady starring Ted Danson in their hotel room at 2100. Their professionalism on tour was unquestionable.

Day seven opened with an 11 AM fixture at Randall's Island against the Tri-state cosmopolitan league, and New York Amateur Cup winners, the NYPD. It was clear from the outset that they were a good outfit. Defensive mistakes led to the corps losing two very early goals, but an outstanding finish from Cfn Adam Sparrow meant that the corps went into the half time break 2-1 down. After a stern team talk and seven substitutions, the impressive and hardworking Cfn Kris McWalters took the game by the scruff of the neck and REME started to dominate. Another poor goal led to a 3-1 deficit before some fine interplay between Cpl Joe Crossley, WO2 Terry Lynch and Cfn Adam Sparrow resulted in a Sgt Kettleson tap in. REME pressed hard and with minutes to go a great through ball from L.Cpl. Jack Smith and a fine finish across the NYPD goalkeeper by Cfn McWalters meant REME took a deserved 3-3 draw.

The team headed back to the hotel by coach in good spirits, some with a new found respect for US amateur football. After a quick change the players were corralled into minibuses to attend our next group excursion to the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale. We were guests of the New York Islanders who were

playing the Vancouver Canucks in a National Hockey League game. The NHL is famous for providing high octane, skilful and aggressive ice hockey. The Ice Hockey was an enjoyable experience and the Islanders lost 5-4 in a highly entertaining game.

Upon return to the hotel the players were given a free evening but most took the opportunity for an early night.

Day eight began with a free morning. Most of the players took the chance to do a bit more sight-seeing and enjoy the shopping opportunities that NYC provided.

The team met in the foyer at 1900 hrs in order to head back to Randall's Park to play our final fixture against New York Athletic Club. To put the quality of our final opponents into perspective, the clubs amateur sportsmen obtained 10 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze medals at the London Olympics in swimming, track and field, and fencing. It has 8600 members and its football team play in the National Premier League, just below the Major League Soccer pyramid. The team is managed by Barclay Mackinnon, one of the world's first ever professional female footballers. In short, they were a well-respected side.

The Corps started well and for fifteen minutes competed very well. A forward line of L.Cpl. Rowell, Cpl Crossley and Sgt Kettleson worked hard in fulfilling Capt. Cowan's directive that defending had to start high up the park. As the game progressed it was clear that NYAC's midfield was very strong and they began to dominate possession. NYAC scored two very quick goals just before the 30 minute mark and added a third just before halftime. Their movement and fluid passing was impressive to watch but REME had worked hard and managed to create a couple of chances before the half.

The second half began as the first had finished. Some nice passing and movement through midfield resulted in REME hitting the crossbar from close range. NYAC broke from this and after a 10 pass move punished the back four for attempting to hold a high line. REME again pushed hard in midfield and another determined performance from Cfn Kris McWalters resulted in another goal scoring opportunity for himself. For the third game of the tour he finished well and REME finished the game with a 4-1 defeat.

We were invited back to the New York Athletic Club the night after, a venue located in Central Park West. The club was beautiful inside. Only at this point where we informed that the annual membership subscription was \$16000 a year. We were invited to eat, drink and make ourselves comfortable. The club was a far haunt from our end of tour presentation venue, Hooters New York where we were located only hours before, although that did have its own attractions. As decided by Maj Del Rogers and Capt. Bobby Cowan, Cfn Kris McWalters was presented with a silver pewter as the deserved player of the tour.

We departed for JFK international airport on 25th October and arrived back at Heathrow in the early hours of Sat the 26th.



The Corps owe a huge debt of gratitude to many organisations for the success of the tour. The Army Sports Control Board provided a significant financial contribution and some well needed advice. Quite simply without them the tour would not have taken place. The REME Sports Association also deserves commendation for their continued support towards REME FA and their significant financial contribution. Berlin Infantry Brigade Memorial Trust Fund provided significant financial backing to offset the cost of the tour for every individual involved. Devon Apajee, the academy director at New England Revolution was a great liaison and advertisement for MLS. The Rev's went above and beyond our expectations while hosting us and they deserve thanks for their efforts.

On a personal note, Equipment Manager SSgt Alan Marsh worked tirelessly in his capacity as both Equipment Manager and tour 2IC. Always washing kit and sorting stores while the players were able to enjoy themselves, the tour would not have functioned without his hardwork. Corps Secretary Major Del Rogers and SSgt Danny McNeill had worked for months around a busy Command and Staff appointments respectively to ensure all of the administration tasks were carried out and sorting all of the unglamorous necessities for any tour including the usual staff clearances, authority to travel and organising finances. For this they both deserve the thanks of everyone who enjoyed the tour.

In summary, The aims of the exercise were to allow REME officers and soldiers to compete against top level foreign opposition, foster team ethos and esprit de corps amongst a large and diverse football squad and finally and most importantly improve the team's physical stamina and mental robustness in preparation for a very demanding 2013/2014 Massey Trophy and Woolwich Cup campaign. Only time will tell how much the tour has contributed towards the corps success this season, but with regard to the initial two targets, the tour was an obvious success.

**Arte et Marte**  
**SSgt Danny McNeill**



*LCpl Heski Johnson takes a left hook from the keeper as she single handily takes on the Gunner defence.*



## REME Women FC - “A Half too far”

With players deployed and others unavailable due to training commitments, the REME Women's FC team for the End of Season Tournament had a few new faces. However, and to their credit, the team reached the final but with injuries in the semi-final, when they beat the RLC, 2-1, they just ran out of steam and were beaten by the AGC, 0-3; it was a “Half too far!”

It was not all disappointment because REME were crowned as League Champions (1005 record) and at the evening end of season ‘function’, the league trophy was presented by the Chairman of the Army Women's Football League, Lt Col (Retd) John Edwards OBE. He also presented individual REME awards to:

Players' Player of the Year – Cfn Hannah Connearn.

Manager's Player of the Year – Cfn Jess Moran.

*REME Women's FC – League Champions 2012/13. Cfn Jess Moran and Cfn Hannah Connearn proudly display their awards.*

*Chairman of the Army Women's Football League presents the league trophy to LCpl Heski Johnson. LCpl Johnson was injured in the semi-final, and neither the ‘magic sponge’ nor the words, “Get up and run it off” worked, because she ended up at Frimley Park hospital having her ankle plastered and missing the final!*







*Left top: REME Women's FC – League Champions and End of Season Tournament 2013 Runners-Up.*

*Above: End of Season Tournament 2013 Winners – AGC*

*Left: Chairman of the Army Women's Football League presents the End of Season Tournament Trophy to the Captain of the Winning Team - Sgt Krissi Wright AGC.*



*Cfn Jess Moran mixes it with the Int/AAC's number 6.*



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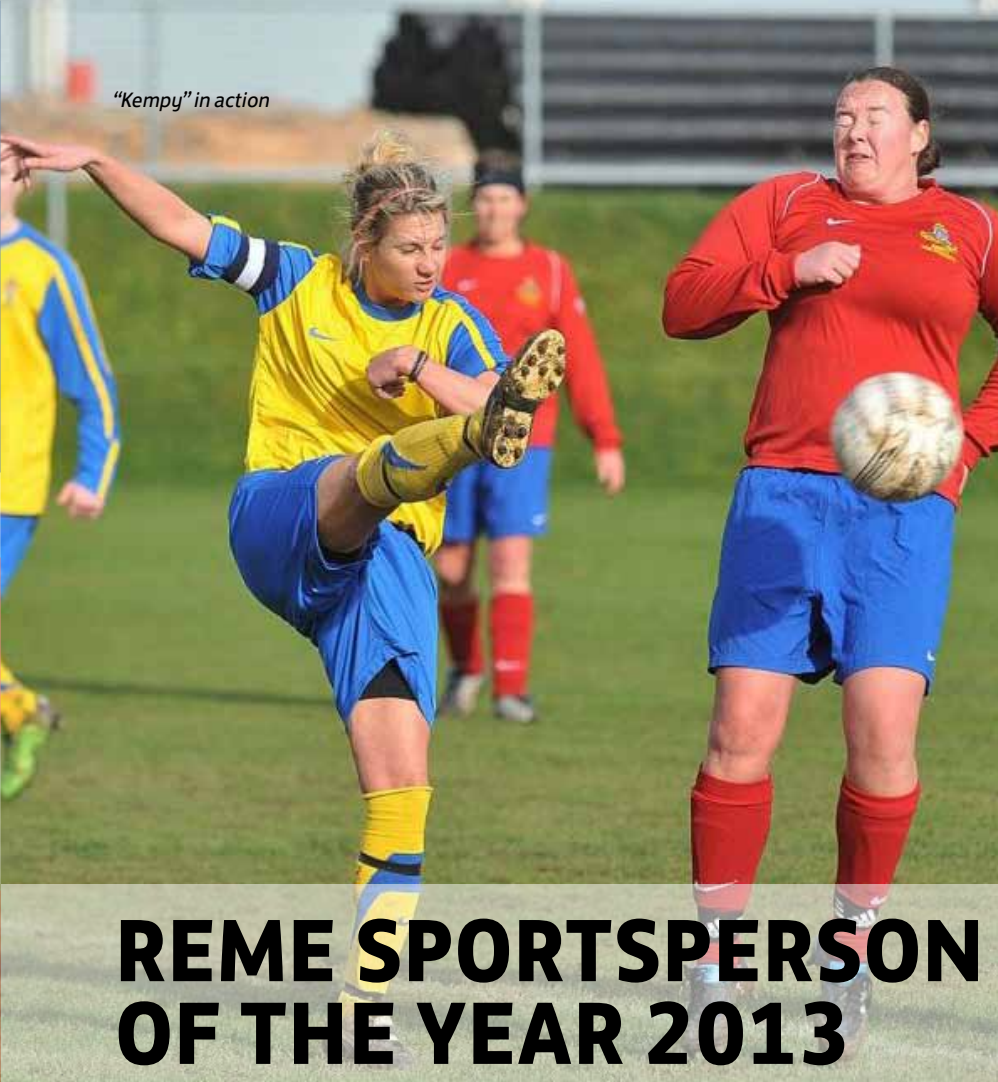
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"Kempy" in action



The President of the REME Sports Association, Maj Gen Paul Jaques CBE, presents the REME Sportsperson of the Year 2013 to LCpl Jules Jefferis, an excellent 'stand-in' for LCpl Yvette Kemp, who was unable to attend the REME Annual Sports Dinner and Award Ceremony due to other commitments – deployed on HERRICK 18



The REME Sportsperson of the Year Medal inscribed with 'LCpl Yvette Kemp'. The Rules of the REME Sports Association enable the selection of a REME Sportsperson of the Year, first contested in 2010. The aim is to encourage the pursuit of sporting excellence and to officially recognise and appropriately award those who have made exceptional contribution by their participation and achievement.

Against some very credible competition, the winner of the REME Sportsperson of the Year award 2013 was LCpl Yvette 'Kempy' Kemp of 6 CS Bn REME.

An extract from her citation reads:

LCpl Yvette Kemp joined the Corps in June 2008 and trained as a VM. During training she was identified as a sportswoman of considerable talent and with the emergence of REME women's football, she was swiftly identified as having great potential. LCpl Kemp very quickly established herself as a regular in the REME women's football team and despite her relative junior status, her conduct on the pitch showed true fighting spirit. She was made Vice Captain of the Women's team in 2010, and Captain for the 2012/13 Season, where her leadership qualities have inspired those around her time and again. She has been instrumental in developing women's football amongst female soldiers not just in the Corps but the wider Army.

During 2012 LCpl Kemp's leadership and drive has ensured that the REME women's football team has maintained the position at the very top of Inter Corp football; she led the team to a third successive Cup victory and they enjoy a 100% record in the current season. She was also a leading light in the tour to South Africa where she showed not only her footballing skill but also immense professionalism and compassion in dealing with local children, many of whom did not even possess a pair of boots. This showed another side to her character, although a true competitor, she understands the underlying nature and power of sport and what it can be used to achieve in the wider context!

LCpl Kemp is considered an outstanding soldier by her CO. She commanded a repair line on the BATUS Winter Rehabilitation Programme and her crew consistently exceeded productions targets. She then commanded an SV Calm FRT on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER and throughout completed all tasks and maintained high morale within her vehicle crew. In preparation for HERRICK 18, she has completed numerous equipment courses and field training exercises; proving to be technically and tactically astute.

Both on and off the pitch, LCpl Kemp has been an outstanding ambassador for Corps and Army women's football. Highly regarded by her peers, and her CO, she is a supremely talented and versatile all rounder, epitomising the work hard, play harder reputation of REME tradesman. Moreover, and even with her sporting commitments, she exemplifies our Corps ethos, "Soldier First, Tradesman Always".



With LCpl Kemp being unable to attend the splendid Annual Sports Dinner due to deployment on H18, CO 6 CS Bn REME, Lt Col Stef Crossfield, presented her with a battalion medal to commemorate this outstanding achievement of one of his soldiers



# FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

The most important achievement in Football Development has been the establishment of the new Football Development Centre in Aldershot which was officially opened in October but which has been open for business since June.

The establishment of the centre was the result of much hard work by a number of individuals and we just have the internal motivational artwork to complete. A flavour of the courses and coaching activities already held there follows in the report by our Football Development Officer (FDO) Steve Stone.

A significant aim is now to encourage the Growth of the Army FA Coaching Association and membership of the FA Licensed Coaches Club and to convince all involved in Football in the Army of the benefits of having qualified coaches who are registered and engaged in annual CPD.

We have also recently formed partnerships with a number of County FAs where we have large garrisons including North Riding FA where we have appointed Capt Paul Milton RA as our Army FA representative and we are seeking partnerships with a few more to enable some joint initiatives to be run between garrisons and local football facilitated by the Army FA through the Army FA Representative at the local County FA. We are currently seeking a volunteer for the same role as Pauls but with Staffordshire FA.

We have also just filled one of our 3 volunteer FDO roles and Capt Eddy Edwards has taken on the role of Grassroots (unit) FDO where he will work closely with Unit Football Officers to improve the Football Officers Handbook and look at other areas where we can develop football at unit level. Volunteers for the Small Sided Game (SSG)/Youth and Women's Football Development Officer remain vacant and volunteers would be very welcomed.

If you are interested in either one of the volunteer roles outlined or any aspect of coaching please contact either myself or Steve Stone via the Army FA.

Regards

**Dave Manners**  
Army FA Development Trustee

## FDO Report

The new Army Coaching and Development centre at Aldershot was handed over on 3rd May 2013 and after fitting out with all the required IT equipment, chairs, desks etc, came online for the first course which was a Level 2 Coaching Certificate on 24th June.





## Football Development



The new facility has proven to be a valuable asset to the Army FA Coach Education programme, it provides state of the art teaching aids with electronic white board, touch screen TV for DVD playback of coaching, training or game footage to enhance the learning process. The building is fully air conditioned and has Wifi access for students to utilise their Ipads and other electronic recording equipment when studying.

The associated 3G pitch has proved a great environment for the practical elements of the coaching courses and for Army team training, the fantastic surface has allowed practical sessions to be completed in weather that would have compromised the session on a grass pitch.

Since opening we have delivered a full range of FA courses and played host to Regional FA meetings, Army FA meetings and an FA CPD coaching day

The new building has been used by Corps teams for training days which have been delivered by Steve Stone the resident FA Coach Educator. All Corps teams can apply to use the facility when available and Steve is happy to avail himself to the teams for specialist coaching sessions as requested.



The Army representative teams Senior and U23, have also utilised the Development Centre and again with assistance from Steve have had some useful pre game work to develop the squad as they move towards their Inter Service games.

The coach education programme, up to and including July 2013, is available at [www.armyfa.com](http://www.armyfa.com) the programme for August 2014 – July 2015 will be available soon.

Contact number for the classroom is 01252 347703 (civ) 94222 7703 (mil)  
e-mail [steve.stone@armyfa.com](mailto:steve.stone@armyfa.com)



# ARMY RESERVE FOOTBALL

There have been some significant changes this year with the Defence Secretary, Philip Hammond, unveiled plans to have closer working between the Regular Army and a name change for the Territorial Army which will become the Army Reserve. There are many units that will be able to point to a closer working relationship already and I am pleased to say that also extends to the behind the scenes activities at the Army FA. There has been a major change in the way Football is being organised and I feel that this is bringing real benefit to Army Reserve Football.

For the last century football in the TA has been run separately from their regular counterparts, but over the last 12 months this has been changing and in July this year Major General Brealey, Chairman of the Army Football Association, confirmed that Army Reserve Football will formally come under the Governance of the Army FA.

## Unit Level Competition

Last season 24 units competed in the Challenge Cup. In the past this has been run in Brigades before Christmas and then Nationally with each Brigade champion coming in at the quarter final stage. This has changed and this is now a National Competition from round one. This balances out the competition where some areas had

one or two teams and others have seven or eight. 152 (Ulster) Transport Regiment RLC won the competition after a very strong showing in the final.

We also experimented with a plate which allowed units knocked out in round one of the competition a chance for additional games. Eight teams entered with 6 Rifles coming out winners after extra time in the final. 6 Rifles had just returned from a Football Tour in California which could have made the difference.

27 units have entered the draw for the 2013/14 season, with the final set for the 26th April 2014 at the Military Stadium in Aldershot. Major General Brealey has already confirmed that he will be attending to present the trophy to the winning team.

## Army Reserve Senior Mens Team

2012/13 Season was one of rebuilding. The Team had not played the for some time and although there were a core of players from previous seasons there were many more to find. The squad got together on four weekends through the year and at each of these weekends new players, who had been recommended by their Football Officers, were looked at. The tour went ahead and although successful on one level we were only able to take 17 players which demonstrated that their was still work to do.

The trials for 2013/14 season were held at the end of August and 26 players have been selected for the forthcoming season, this includes nine new players. We now look forward to matches against Icarus, Crusaders, RMA Cadets and a selection of teams in Cyprus next May.

## Future Plans

As well as working to build a Womens Football Team to represent the Army Reserve we are also starting to plan for regional 6-A-Side competitions which will feed into a National Final weekend. Plans are in an advanced stage to hold a training weekend in October for the Womens Representative Team, and I am keen to hear from players who would like to join us. The aim of the 6-A-Side completion is to give units who struggle to field 11 players the chance to be involved in the Soldiers Game and also assist in the target of getting a Football Officer in every Army Reserve Unit.

## Summary

Football in the Army Reserve is in a very healthy state. We are getting great support from the Army FA, Army Sports Control Board, Football Officers and Commanding Officers. For more information please visit the Army FA web site of contact Major Steve Clout - [steve.clout@me.com](mailto:steve.clout@me.com)





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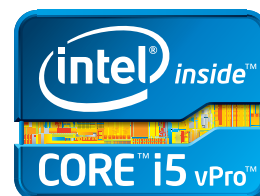


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