

THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA

Issue 14 - October 2015



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ARMY HONOURED BY WORLD CUP FINAL REFEREE

2015 PRESIDENTS DINNER



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Welcome

A warm welcome to the latest edition of The Soldiers Game as we look ahead to another busy season of football in the Army whilst reflecting on the achievements over the past 12 months at all levels. The magazine covers a variety of disciplines within our game and provides a fresh, healthy overview highlighting the strength that there currently is within the Army FA.

Football in the Army is rightly regarded as "The Soldier's Game" with an estimated 10,000 soldiers actively participating in the Army's primary synopsis sport. In addition we have 200 or so qualified match officials, serving 18 leagues, and a large number of qualified coaches at varying levels of the game, running football not just in the Army but in the local communities where they are based.

The 2014-15 season delivered mixed results for our Representative Teams. The Army Men's Team having won 4-0 against the RAF in the Inter Service Competition, lost out to the Royal Navy in Portsmouth. There was good news, however, for the Under 23 and Womens teams who both secured their respective Inter Services; the latter for an impressive fourth successive season.

129 teams entered the Army Challenge Cup and Minor Units Competition, which culminated in the County Cup Finals at the Aldershot Military Stadium. The finals included a host of different activities throughout the day. The 115th Army Challenge Cup Final was won for the first time by 7 Regt RLC who defeated 30 Signal Regt, 4-0. The Womens Edwards Trophy saw REME defeat the RA, 4-0. The Army Minor Units Cup Final was won by Upavon Station.

This season a productive 123 teams have entered cup competitions and firm instructions are in place to complete each specific round by the end of each month in order to ensure a smooth transition to complete all matches up to and including the semi-final stage by the end of February.

Vibrant inter-corps sports competition remains in the Massey Trophy with all cap-badges represented with the RLC as the current holders. The winners of the Women's Inter Corps competition were the AGC.

We are making some essential changes to the structure of Army football to adapt to the reduction in size of the regular Army, the closer integration of the regulars and reserves, and the withdrawal from Germany. There is a detailed explanation within regarding the changes within unit football.

Sport is critical to the Army. It produces individuals who are better able to tackle physical and psychological stress of operations – and also rebalances their quality of life when they return. Football is fundamental part of Army sport, Football remains the Nation's game, but it is also the Soldier's game.

There is a greater focus of efforts and resources to support grassroots football. We aim to make life easier for the unit football officer, to get players out on the pitch with sufficient strips and balls, coaches and officials and support from the chain of command. If we can get this right then our representative teams will thrive as improved talent emerges from the bottom up.

We are also, of course, extremely grateful for the support we get from our Governing Body the Football Association and our sponsors all of whom have contributed greatly towards the success of the association. Your continued support remains integral to our progression and we continue to strengthen our relationships with all sponsors.

Importantly too, we also express our appreciation to the role of the volunteers who devote so much time, commitment and enthusiasm within so many differing roles promoting Army football. Without doubt this is a major factor that ensures that we can continue to administer the game in the way that we do. Without your support it would make life so much more difficult for us to achieve. Whether it is as a player, coach, officials, manager or administrator your support is invaluable. We remain hugely grateful.



BRITISH ARMY FOOTBALL TEAM SLOVAKIA – MATCH REPORT

OIC: Major C H W Moffat REME
General Manager Army Football

They say that when something appears too good to be true then it often is. However, on this occasion I can report that a 'too good to be true' story turned out, in every way, to be better than anticipated.

Let me set the scene. I received an email offering the Army Football Team the opportunity to visit Slovakia, all expenses paid (less UK transfers) with accommodation in a major hotel and spa complex in the High Tatras mountains with the aim of playing against the Slovakian Army. We would travel with a team of English Premiership Legends and rub shoulders with the likes of Gaizka Mendieta, Andy Cole, Louis Saha, Luis Boa Morte, Micheal Mols, Paul Scharner, Stephane Henchoz.....and be coached and mentored by Iain Dowie. The offer also included a new strip and both Sky Sports and our very own BFBS would film the whole experience. So what's the catch - a reasonable question considering the offer. No catch! The offer made by Dr Jan Telensky, a major Slovakian businessman with strong links to the UK and a massive fan of our military, to come and play in the new Slovakian Football Development Stadium in Poprad was genuine. We could not turn this down - so we agreed to travel.



Dr Jan Telensky welcomes the Slovakian prime Minister to AquaCity

On the 28th May a flight on Wizzair from Luton into Kosice and a two-hour drive through some spectacular scenery brought us to Poprad, nestled on the lower slopes of the High Tatras Mountains. Our accommodation for the four-day trip was AquaCity resort; a spa and fitness centre with state of the art facilities and situated a mere 100 yards from the new stadium complex. After check in, a bit of lunch and a quick tour, the team set out for a coaching session with Iain Dowie and Luis Boa Morte. The training pitch, as you can see from the photo, was not wanting for a backdrop. Later that evening the staff attended a wine tasting session with Jan, his staff and some notables from the professional game, a relaxed way to finish off day one of this almost surreal adventure.

Day two, match day, and the team were back on the training pitch preparing for a game against an opposition we knew absolutely nothing about. With some passionate words from Iain Dowie still ringing in their ears the lads set about preparing for the match. I was called away on duty, missing the morning session with Ian for a quick meeting with the Slovakian Prime Minister, Mr Robert Fico, where I presented him with a signed Army shirt. The British Ambassador, Mr Andrew Garth, and some of his staff arrived shortly thereafter and I met with them for coffee before kick off. The Ambassador and his staff were very supportive of what we were doing and they really enjoyed meeting with the team after the match. The Ambassador even dropped in on the team in the changing room post match to congratulate them on their efforts.

Now to the match. On a warm afternoon and with National Anthems complete a

respectable sized crowd filled the stadium to watch us play the Slovakian Army. With instructions from head coach, Capt Joey Collins, to play a high pressing game and to 'get at them', the Army dominated from the first whistle to the blast for half time. Wave after wave of attacks beat against the Slovakian defence but they refused to yield, working like Trojans to defend their goal. Eventually, and after striking the woodwork twice, Wilkinson was on hand to slot home after the keeper could only parry from Glass' powerful strike that rebounded off the post into the path of a grateful Wilkinson. A one nil advantage at the end of the first half quickly became two as Sapper Currie, brought on at the interval, doubled the score; the army were starting to open their legs. Strong performances from Emmerson (skipper for the day), Farkins, Molyneux and Williams were a real tonic for the coach and gave him the freedom to make changes, at will, without affecting the army's hold on the match. Two soon became three as Currie bagged his second after rounding the keeper with style and composure.

The gulf in fitness and class was starting to tell and the army really started to open up the Slovakian defence (see picture as evidence) and it was only some poor finishing, splendid goalkeeping and a bit more woodwork that prevented the lead from growing. Bates (Reservist), on as a substitute, and keen to display his talent, burst down the left and placed an inch perfect pass for Currie, who still with a bit to do, rounded the keeper again and completed his hat trick. With only a few minutes left on the clock, Farkins conceded a needless free kick on the right hand edge of the box. The Slovakian army took advantage of the error to strike an accurate shot passed

Below: Currie rounds Slovakian Keeper to finish with ease



Below: Wilkinson turns away to celebrate after opening the scoring



Below: Without a Slovakian in sight Army press home the advantage





Iain Dowie takes the team through its paces

Smythe in the army goal. Maybe the diplomatic thing to do in letting the Slovaks score but it ruined a well-earned clean sheet.

The referee ended proceedings with a long blast of the whistle and pleasantries were exchanged between players and staff. I sensed the Slovaks were glad to hear the whistle but from their demeanour, I can also report that they enjoyed the experience just as much as our lads. It remains to be seen whether we are able to invite them back to the UK for a return match. Who knows, this may just have been the start of something.

A reception was held after our match, in the interval between the two games, and the team took advantage of what I can only describe as some of the finest hospitality on offer. Jan and his guys really looked after the team. We settled into the stand to cheer on the premiership legends and created enough of an atmosphere to draw praise from the Slovak crowd. The legends game went as expected, a bit slower pace, a bit more technical and with the premiership legends running out 2-1 winners thank to two strikes from the imperious Spaniard, Gaizka Mendieta.

The evening ended with a formal reception in the AquaCity Ballroom and the team presented Jan and his team with some gifts accompanied by our humble thanks. We ran out of Army FA ties (which became very

sought after) but with the British Ambassador, the Mayor of Poprad, the Slovakian Director of their MoD and Chief Executive of the British Chamber of Commerce all kitted out in Army colours, the cupboard was empty. We presented Iain Dowie and Louis Boa Morte ties and coasters to say thanks for their work with the team. I'm sure we will see more of Iain in the future as he developed a real bond with the lads.

Day three was a relaxed day with the team taking full advantage of the facilities in the resort and the local hospitality. Five of the party were invited to take part in a Pro-Am golf tour at the nearby Black Swan Golf Club. This proved to be another great event and we could not have been looked after better,

I know that Agar and Bates feel slightly guilty about walking away with the top prize. Later in the day we all settled down, pros, army players, Jan's team and the teams from BFBS and Sky Sports, to watch the FA Cup Final. It was interesting to get the professional view on the match and with Lee Mason (Premiership Referee) on hand, we got an expert insight into some of the referee's decision making faux-pas. Jan had arranged for the boys to visit his club on the mountain and the rest of the evening was spent enjoying more hospitality while dancing under Madonna's Cadillac, which for some unknown reason adorns the ceiling above the dance floor.

The team were up early on day four to begin our extraction from Slovakia; a few bleary eyed but happy faces said their farewell to the Ambassador, Jan and his team and boarded the bus for the airport. Looking out the window as we pulled away from the hotel and the beautiful mountains in the background I could not help thinking that this whole experience had been an almost surreal yet wonderful experience. The hospitality extended to the team throughout the trip and the welcoming friendly nature of the Slovak people is what I will remember most, that and spending a couple of hours in the company for Gaizka Mendieta over a glass of red wine. I'm sure everyone on the team will have brought home their own memories of this one in a lifetime experience. Thank you Dr Jan Telensky for turning the 'too good to be true' into a reality, Army Football is in your debt.



L-R (centre three): The British Ambassador, Dr Jan Telensky and Mr Vladimir Tarasovic enjoy the match, you don't need to guess who's winning.

Below: Major Moffat, General Manager Army Football, presents Dr Telensky with a memento of the team's visit



Below: Major Moffat presents Maj (Retd) Terry Butterworth with a small token of our thanks



71 Engr Regt retain the Challenge Cup

ARMY RESERVE FOOTBALL UPDATE - MAJOR STEVE CLOUT - SECRETARY ARMY RESERVE FOOTBALL

Football continues to develop across the Army Reserve, where we are seeing an increase in units participation, a strengthening Mens Representative Team and the big success last season; the start of a Womens Representative Team.

Regular Corps sides and even the Womens Representative side have been benefiting from the silks of reserve players within their teams for a for many years but it is only this season that we have been successful in pulling together a specific AR Representative side. The Womens World Cup and seeing over 30.000 supporters at the womens FA Cup final is a sign of how popular the womens game is now and it is great that there is the opportunity for the best players in the Army Reserve to get to play together. Team Secretary Capt Jenny Ross has run three development weekends and is confident that there will be a competitive team for the start of next season.

It was two cup final wins out of two for 71 Engr Regt when they retained the Challenge Cup in April. In a well supported match at the Military Stadium they overcame a strong 152 (North Irish) Regt RLC to win for the second time in two years. Earlier in the year the 152 (North Irish) Regt RLC had won the Army Reserve 6's played over a weekend in Grantham, something that they are hoping to repeat in the summer. These are currently the strongest teams in the Army Reserve and it should be no surprise that they provide ten of the players to the Mens Representative Side.

Less than twenty four hours after landing in Cyprus the Army Reserve Mens Team were back on the road for the ninety minute trip

to Dhekelia Garrison. The floodlights were already on as the sun set and despite the heat the Army Reserve Team set off at a high tempo against their first opponents Dhekelia Garrison. Goals from Ocdt Nathan Bell and Team Captain for the evening Cpl Dom Seery sealed the first win of the tour. The second match was played in strong winds at and against RAF Akrotiri. The station had a strong side with a mix of RAF and Army players. RAF Akrotiri started the stronger and made an early break through, but goals from LCpl Marty O'Neill 2, and LCpl Darren Roland 1

sealed the second victory. The third match required a revisit to Dhekelia Garrison where the British Army Cyprus team were the opponents. Goals from LCpl Marty O'Neill, Gnr Wayne Duxbury and Cpl Rob Storrie were enough to cap off an excellent 3-1 win and an excellent tour.

If you would like information on Army Reserve Football please visit the ArmyFA Web site or email steve.clout@armymail.mod.uk.



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Joe Collins steps down as Head Coach

At the conclusion of the recent 2014/15 season Captain Joe Collins stepped down as Head Coach of the Army mens representative team.

In a football career spanning 25 years, Captain Joe Collins has played at every level in the military. He has captained the Royal Signals Corps Team, the Army 1st XI and the Combined Services 1st XI.

He played 169 games for the Army and over 50 games for the Combined Services and was awarded the Army Player of the Year trophy on five separate occasions. He moved to coaching when injury forced his retirement from playing and has since has been the Head Coach for the Army 1st XI since 2011.

His football achievements are self-evident, but it is through sustained commitment to the development of others, to the mentoring of junior and wounded soldiers and to charitable endeavours that Capt Collins has delivered that extra element of service.

As a mentor, he is an unparalleled Army Football Coach. As the Team Manager of the Army Development Team, he nurtured, created and inspired his U23 charges to win three Inter Service Titles. His understanding of how to motivate both the soldier and the player in these teams is what led to their success and stands as illustration of the selfless commitment required to be an exceptional coach and motivator. Following this, he assumed the appointment of Army Head Coach in 2010/11 and has presided over a period of progression for the Army. This has included a 2-1 victory versus the Bundeswehr in Germany, when the opponents were the current World Army champions.

During 2014/15 his team averaged three goals per match with highlights including another victory versus the German Bundeswehr, 1-0, in the commemorative Game of Truce at Aldershot Town FC where over 2,500 witnessed the match. This was followed by an excellent 4-0 win versus the RAF in the Inter Services ending their eight year reign. The Army were just three minutes away from Inter Services success the following week before the Royal Navy netted a late winner at Portsmouth's Fratton Park.

Through his exceptional commitment to Service football, Captain Joe Collins was widely held to be the best player of his generation; he later delivered equally unprecedented success as a coach. For his sustained and selfless dedication to Army football over a quarter of a century Joe received a Service to Football award at the recent Army FA Presidents Dinner in Aldershot.

The Army FA extends its sincere thanks to Joe for his invaluable and dedicated service to the association over many years.



New Head Coach

The Army FA are pleased to welcome the appointment of a new Head Coach, Team Secretary and Under 23 Coach.

After the conclusion of the recent interview process WO1 Simon "Dinger" Bell has been appointed as the new Head Coach. "Dinger" has previously coached the Royal Engineers where, since 2012, he has steered them to win the Woolwich Cup three times. In addition he has been in charge of ATR Lichfield (2003-06) and 28 Engineer Regiment (2006-08) winning a number of trophies at both units.

Currently Head Coach of the Leek Town U16's development squad "Dinger" has previously been involved at Army representative level as Assistant Coach between 2010 and 2012 and won the Inter Services and South West Counties as a player between 1996 and 2002. He also represented the Combined Services FA.

He currently holds a UEFA "B" coaching certificate and has recently completed his FA Youth Module 1 and 2. He is due to apply for his UEFA A coaching licence.

The representative Team Secretary will be Capt Danny Proctor. A former Army youth player Danny made 42 appearances for the Army captaining the side in 1997/98. He has also won the South West Counties and Inter Services in addition to representing the Combined Counties six times. Last season he was involved within the Inter Service winning Army Under 23 set up and is also a former REME manager.

The new Under 23 Head Coach is Capt Paul Dale. Paul has been Manager/Head Coach of the Army Medical Services since 2002.



He also holds his UEFA B Licence and part 1 of his UEFA A. In civilian football Paul is first team Coach/Assistant Manager at Evo-Stik Southern League step four side Godalming Town.

The Army FA welcomes "Dinger", Danny and Paul to their new appointments.

Major Richie Bell has retired from his position as Army Team Manager

Richie had been involved within the representative set up since 2002 where he was Assistant Coach; he became Team Manager in 2009.

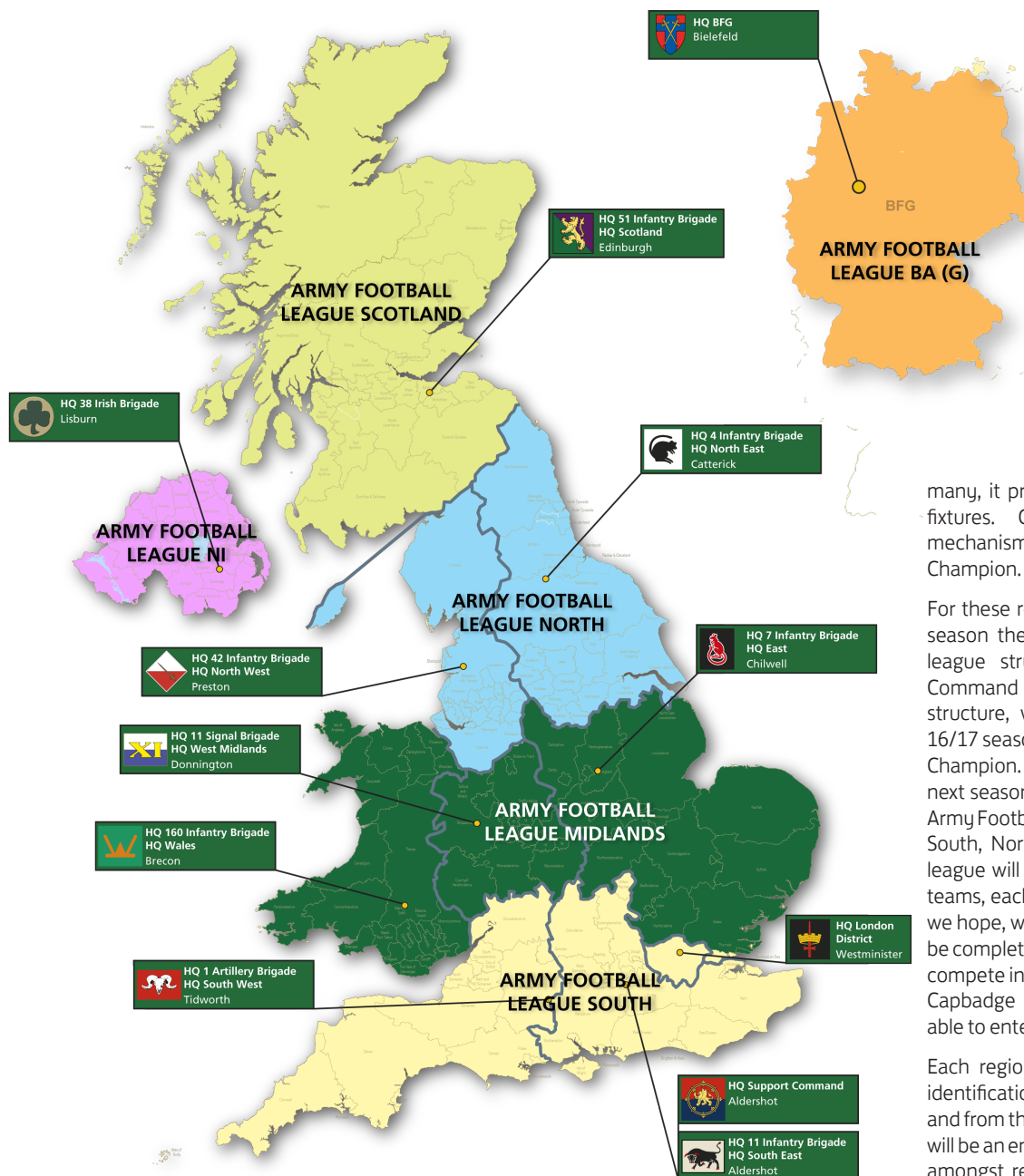
After his playing career was cut short at the age of 22 with a snapped cruciate ligament Richie continued his involvement in the game after attending a sports diploma course in Loughborough University in 1989. He also passed his FA half badge coaching courses in 1991.

In addition to the sterling work Richie contributed to the Army FA he has also coached and managed the Royal Signals where in his eight year spell the corps won six league titles, six Quadrangular tournaments. He also coached 3 Div Signal Regt in 2007 when the team finished the season with 10 trophies.

In appreciation of his excellent dedication to the Army FA, Richie was awarded a Service award which would have been presented at the recent Presidents Dinner. Unfortunately he was unable to attend due to other commitments. The honour will be awarded to Richie at some stage in the future.

The Army FA wishes Richie every success for the future and thanks him for his outstanding contribution to the organisation.

Re-structuring Army Unit Football – Why and When



many, it proves impossible to play all their fixtures. Critically, we currently have no mechanism for identifying an Army League Champion.

For these reasons, at the start of the 15/16 season the Army FA is introducing a new league structure based on the Support Command (Sp Comd) regional sports structure, with a system in place for the 16/17 season to determine the Army League Champion. Units wanting to enter a league next season will play in one of the following: Army Football League Scotland, NI, Midlands, South, North or BA(G). Importantly, each league will consist of no more than 9 or 10 teams, each playing each other once which, we hope, will allow the majority of fixtures to be completed, while giving units the ability to compete in the Army, Divisional, Brigade and Capbadge cup competitions that they are able to enter.

Each region will end the season with the identification of a regional champion unit and from the 2016/17 season onwards, there will be an end of season Army FA competition amongst regional champions to determine the overall Army League Champion.

The details of how this competition will be run will be promulgated in due course, if not done already, by your regional chairmen and secretaries. Our aim is for Army football to replicate professional football in that there will be a major cup (the Army Challenge Cup – akin to the FA Cup) and league competitions running concurrently, meaning that units have something to compete for all season. To date, our proposals have received widespread support from across the Army football community and, with your continued support, we believe that the new structure will improve the profile, competitiveness and level of participation of the 'soldiers' sport' significantly – this is a positive development in the delivery of unit football.

For the past 12 months the Army FA Unit Football Sub-Committee has been conducting a review into the delivery of Army Unit football. In order to inform the review we have distributed questionnaires to all units, held numerous meetings and conducted focus groups with regional representatives in order to understand how we can improve the quality and organisation of unit-level football.

The first point to note and the overwhelming conclusion that we drew from our work was that, in its current format, unit-level football is extremely healthy, with more units taking part in league and cup competitions than ever over the last few years. We, at the Army FA, continue to be very grateful for the outstanding support that we get from

across the Army at all levels that allows us to achieve our aim of getting as many soldiers and officers (male and female, Regular and Reserve) playing the sport as possible. However, redeployment of units from Germany creates opportunities to improve how we deliver football to units and one aspect we have identified as needing to evolve is the Army's league football structure.

Currently, Units play in a range of independent, stand-alone leagues as there is no pan-Army league structure. The feedback that we received suggests that there is no real kudos at Army level for units who win the various leagues, often there is no promotion or relegation, leagues are different sizes and conflicting commitments mean that, for

ARMY HONoured BY WORLD CUP FINAL REFEREE

2010 World Cup Final Referee Howard Webb was the Guest of Honour at the annual Army FA Referees Dinner at RMA Sandhurst.

Approaching 70 people attended the function which is held to conclude two days of a referees gathering which also includes the RAFA Training Day which was held in Aldershot earlier in the day conducted by Chief Instructor WO2 Andy Halliday.

Webb spoke superbly leaving those in attendance in fits of laughter at the dinner and he also presented a number of Referees with awards to commemorate their service in 2014/15 or, indeed, to recognise lifetime achievements for Referees soon to leave the service.



Howard Webb presents The Le Breton Trophy to WO2 Wayne Perrin

The Dobsons Trophy winner was awarded to WO1 (RSM) Mark Hounsell. This is the award made to the referee considered to have made the most significant contribution to Army Football during the season about to attend. It has been in existence since 1989 when it was donated by Major Alan Dobson on his retirement as Army FA Secretary.

The Le Breton Trophy was donated by Mr Brian Le Breton in 2007; Brian was the Assistant Secretary and Referees Secretary for 21 years. The criteria for the award is for the Level 7 Referee who has shown the most potential and commitment during the year. The winner was WO2 Wayne Perrin.

Presentations were also made to WO1 Steve Finch and Lt Col John Roskelly in recognition of many years loyal service to Army FA Refereeing; both are soon to leave the service.

For the first time too Army Caps were presented. This is for Referees who have completed one representative match after being promoted to the Army Select List. Recipients for the first batch of presentations (there will be more to follow) were Lt Col Roskelly, WO1 Finch, WO2 Halliday and SSgt Declan Ford.



Howard Webb presents the Dobson Trophy to WO1 (RSM) Mark Hounsell

Annual Army FA Referees Dinner Guests on the steps of RMA Sandhurst



All Change For Womens Rep Team

The Army FA are delighted to welcome WO2 Mags McAteer as the new Head Coach. Mags played Army football as a central midfielder for nine seasons with over 60 appearances. She also represented the CSFA on six occasions. She became a member of the coaching staff in 2008 working under Sandra Hodgson. In 2014 she took responsibility for the team whilst Major Hodgson was on tour in Afghanistan and the Inter Services was retained. She has also represented her country (Northern Ireland) at Under 21 level. Assisting WO2 McAteer will be Sig Bex Dawells. The Army FA looks forward to working with the new coaching team.



Army Football Women

After trials week in September the Womens team embark on a busy schedule in the Southern Counties Competition. This season's competition commences on Wednesday 21st October at Corinthian Football Club where the Kent FA are the hosts. A visit to Middlesex the following month (18th November) will be followed by the final match of the competition on Wednesday 20 January at the Aldershot Military Stadium. Sussex FA have rejoined the competition and will be the opponents at the home of Army football. The Inter Services competition will commence in March. The home opponents this time around will be the Royal Navy on Wednesday 9th March in Aldershot followed by a visit to Cosford the following Wednesday afternoon where WO2 McAteer will attempt to guide her squad to a fifth successive Inter Services title.

WOMEN FIXTURES

TRIALS (28 Sept to 2 Oct)

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----|------|----------------------------------|
| Wed 30 Sept | TRIALS v Brighton & Hove Albion | H | 1930 | |
| Thu 1 Oct | TRIALS v Maidenhead UTd | H | 1945 | |
| 21 Oct | Kent (SCC) | A | 1930 | Corinthian Football Club DA3 8LY |
| Wed 18 Nov | Middlesex (SCC) | A | 1930 | |
| Wed 2 Dec | TBC | TBC | | |
| Wed 20 January | Sussex (SCC) | H | | |
| Wed 24 February | TBC | TBC | | |
| Wed 2 Mar | RN v RAF (I/S) | | | |
| Wed 9 March | ARMY v RN | H | 1500 | |
| Wed 16 March | RAF v ARMY | A | 1400 | |





ARMY FOOTBALL WOMEN'S TEAM VISIT WEST HAM UNITED

Unbelievably (as a massive 'Hammer's' fan) I attend Army football trials and I am informed that the final day of the trials week was a visit to West Ham's training ground. Whatever the week threw at me I was going to make it too the end!!!

So the day of reckoning arrived and a journey to my hometown was upon us, an early start got us to the training ground in good time. Of note on arrival were all of the super cars parked in the car park, we were met here by the head of visits who had been the liaison and organizer along with Sgt Helen Lee and was responsible for us being there, Laura Berkin.

From here we moved to the training pitches to await the arrival of the team. The training facilities and condition of the pitches were second to none with everyone wishing they were able to play on grounds like that every week.

The players started to filter out for training and so too did the cameras of our players, all trying to get a photo of the big names as they got closer. We were fortunate enough that the West Ham Team came across and allowed the Army team to have a photo with them before their training session started, the un-declared Hammers fans may have struggled with player identity, however one player we did all seemed to know was the legend that is Teddy Sheringham!! now part of the 'Hammers' coaching staff., he was unbelievably friendly, happily posing for photos with all of our players.

As if things could get any better we were then treated to a chat with manager Sam Allardyce, he gave us an overview of what sessions we were going to be watching that day and the problems he faces as a manager even with the top quality players that he has to select from.

All that remained was to watch and admire the quality of the players in front of us. With amazing first touches, pinpoint passes and quality finishes. The West Ham fans amongst us were getting excited that the players were in good form and were weighing up their team's chances for weekend!

We continued to observe several great session's with all players, and were able to take something away even though we were observing from the sidelines.



An amazing day was had by all, the West Ham players and staff being very welcoming, all of them prepared to answer questions, sign autographs and pose for pictures, as a 'Hammers' fan and as a football player we were all extremely grateful for their hospitality.

For me it was a memorable way to end a challenging trials week and it is hoped that we will be lucky enough to get invited back again!

Cpl Jordan Barnard
REME



Major Sandra Hodgson MBE

Head Coach Army Women's Football 2006 – 2015

So after 9 seasons it is time to hand over the mantle. I have had the best time as both a player and coach in Army football.

Representing as a player for both the Army and Combined Services made me extremely proud every time I pulled on the shirt. For some players including me this was and still is the highest level they will ever play at. I had the good fortune to work under many coaches, of note was the late Major (Butch) Maycock - R Sigs. I played alongside some great players and some pretty average like me (but with a big heart and a desire to win much bigger than their playing ability!!). Winning the Inter Services was always the mission at the end of each season, I was lucky to pick up the trophy as a player and captain of the team many times. But all things must come to an end, and I made the decision to hang up my boots as one of the elder members of the team whilst I was still being selected in the first 11.

After a discussion with Steve Stone I was convinced to embark on my coaching journey. I started coaching the RLC Corps team. Surprisingly I did not miss playing as much as I thought I would and coaching gave me a real sense of purpose. I went on to complete my Level 1 and Level 2 in relatively quick succession. Being able to see something that you have practiced on the training ground come to life on the pitch really does give you a buzz, I was hooked; coaching was definitely the right move for me. Next was securing my UEFA B licence and gaining a Level 1 Coach Educators licence.

The opportunity to coach the Army team came up two years later and I was grateful to get the job. For me a natural selection for my assistant was Margaret McAteer, we had turned up for Army trials some 8 years earlier together a true friend who shared the same values as me, and so the journey began. Our aim from the outset was to

ensure that the all players who were selected as part of the squad, were not only playing to improve themselves, but in order to make the women's team as successful and as professional as it could be.

There have been many highlights to being Head Coach of the Army ladies team; of course winning my first Inter Services as coach in 2009 is up there with the fondest of them. Visiting the professional clubs such as Watford, Reading, West Ham as part of our strategy to show the players what good looks like. Touring in America, Canada and the wonderful Brazil, the tour of a lifetime. Meeting Roy Hodgson and socialising with the England coaching staff, watching the team train and play Brazil in the Macarena Stadium was simply amazing.

What has been the resounding reason for our success; the quality of the players which has significantly improved over the years, many of them bring with them a raft of experience. With players past experiences that include caps for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, American academies, playing for previous clubs such as Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol City and Bristol Academy and School of Excellence, Somerset County and Liverpool to name but a few. It is the players that kept me wanting to stay season after season.

So to say a last farewell we entered the Nottingham International Cup in July 2015. We played against teams such as Wolves, Nottingham Forrest and Stoke City, what a way to end!! With some great football being played against teams who train regularly train and compete every weekend. We came runners up in this competition was a huge achievement.

I feel that it would be wrong of me to sign off without a few thank you's to those people who have helped me be successful throughout this journey, the reasons

why, well they know; the whole team at the Army FA office (past and present), Steve Stone, Phil Virgo, Lt Col Alison Curnow, Jim Murchie, Chris Steele, all support staff past and present, SSgt Juliette Brown, SSgt Krissy Wright, Maj Steve Dridge, WO2 Margaret McAteer, WO2 Jules Hodgson and last but by no means least all of the great players who I have been lucky enough to coach, your drive and enthusiasm have made it a pleasure to be part of the most successful Army football team.

I wish the new team and all of the players the best of luck for the future and hope you all enjoy writing the next chapter of the teams' adventures.



BRITISH ARMY FOOTBALL SUPPORTS FOOTBALL IN KOSOVO

Lieutenant Colonel David Jones, Adviser to COM KSF, and member of the British Army Football Board of Management, has worked his resourcefulness and magical skills to attract and ship out to Kosovo, football shirts and associated items to support Kosovar individuals, teams and charities across all communities of Kosovo. None of this would have happened without the support of British Army Football Association and especially Secretary Major Billy Thomson.

Colonel Jones over the last few months have been distributing high quality Nike England national football shirts, shorts as well as other British Army football items to over 500 individuals, of all ages. As part of the process, he consulted widely and inclusively as possible, to target groups and individuals, who may be in need, required additional support as a new initiative or as a great opportunity to encourage the playing of football and growth of participating sports.

The teams and individuals receiving kit have come from all parts of Kosovo, spreading from Pristina to Peja and from Prizren to north Mitrovica. A diverse range of recipients for example children and young people from One to One Children's Charity who work alongside disabled individuals; support to the establish a women's football team with the Kosovo Security Force (KSF); working alongside minority communities supplying football shirts to Football Club Gračanca and Branko Radičević School in north Mitrovica. Other more established football clubs were also supported including, Football Club Vëllazërimi in Gjakova and Football Club Liria in Prizren, as well as Football Club "Shpresa" in Mitrovica and Football School "Drenasi" in Glogovac.

All participating teams also received a certificate of appreciation from the His Excellency Ruairí O'Connell, British Ambassador Kosovo and Lieutenant Colonel David Jones, as recognition of participating in this initiative and encouraging sport and healthy living in Kosovo.

Ambassador O'Connell said "To excel at sports demands dedication, sacrifice and honesty. There is nowhere to hide on a sports field. And in honest sporting competition, sport empowers individuals and breaks down and breaks down barriers. I hope that this kit, donated by the British Army Football Association, can help empower people across Kosovo but also break down barriers in society, in the spirit of honest, dedicated, sporting competition".



Football Club Shkolla



One to One Children's Charity Ferizaj



Mayor of Gjakova - Mimoza Kusari Lila



One to One Children's Charity Peja



THE GAME OF TRUCE

The Game of Truce was played on Wednesday 17th December in honour of the 1914 Christmas Truce and the impromptu games of football that took place in no-man's land. The British Army football team took on the German Combined Services.

The Game of Truce was a collaborative venture between the Football Association, the Army and Aldershot Town FC and was the culmination of the FA's 'Football Remembers' event in which players, staff and fans were encouraged to commemorate those who swapped football boots for Army boots 100 years ago. VIP guests included the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Nicholas Carter, FA Chairman Greg Dyke and football legend Sir Bobby Charlton, as well as Dr. Brauksiepe.

The Game of Truce attracted worldwide media interest, with more than 60 journalists

and TV crews from across the world covering the game and match highlights shown in Germany, Canada, the USA and Italy as well as here at home. The kick off was broadcast live on The One Show on BBC1 and the match was the centrepiece of a special edition of the BBC's Football Focus that was broadcast on 27 Dec 14.

The only goal of a fiercely competitive game was scored after three minutes, with Lance Corporal Calum Wilkinson slotting in the rebound after German goalkeeper Andreas Forster fumbled a shot. It was to prove the German keeper's only mistake of the night as he pulled off a string of superb saves to deny the Army. In the 90th minute the Germans hit the bar, only for the Army to break downfield immediately and hit the post - but the boys in red deservedly held on to win 1-0 in front of a crowd of nearly 3,000 supporters.

The Game of Truce raised thousands of pounds for the Royal British Legion and for the two German military charities and was a wonderful way to commemorate those soldiers from both sides who spent Christmas 1914 in the trenches



GOC BRITISH FORCES GERMANY HANDS OVER CHEQUE TO GERMAN GOVERNMENT

On 3rd March Maj Gen John Henderson, General Officer Commanding British Forces Germany, handed Parlamentarischer Staatssekretär Dr. Brauksiepe the German share of the charity collection taken during the Game of Truce World War 1 commemorative football match between the Bundeswehr and the British Army, which took place in Aldershot on 17 December 2014. The approximately £2640 will be shared equally between two German military charities: Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.v. and Einsatzversehrte Soldaten Bundeswehr.

Right, Oberst Bernd Grygiel who commands the Bundeswehr Sports School, the Staatssekretär, the GOC and Herr Markus Meckel from the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge.



Left, Maj Gen John Henderson, General Officer Commanding British Forces Germany, handing Parlamentarischer Staatssekretär Dr. Brauksiepe the German share of the charity collection taken during the Game of Truce World War 1.

2015 PRESIDENTS DINNER

The Army FA Presidents Dinner has grown in stature over recent years to include a variety of disciplines within The Soldiers Game and, indeed, with aspirations to grow it further in the future.

The 2015 event was held in May at St Omer Barracks in Aldershot and reflected on a healthy season covering the nation's game within the military. The guest speaker was the respected former FA Premier League referee Ray Lewis; the man who also officiated the tragic 1989 FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough.

In addition to the awards and presentations that take place to recognise achievement at unit, corps and representative level, the event is also staged to thank the healthy list of sponsors who support the Army to whom we are extremely grateful. Sponsors include, Hewlett Packard, Fujitsu, Towergate Insurance, Mood, Ultra Electronics, Trinity Insurance and Selex ES. Army Football is also strongly supported by Team Army, Royal British Legion, Army Sports Lottery and the Army Sport Control Board.

RBL PRESENTATION



Cheque awarded to Gary Ryan RBL from proceeds raised at Game of Truce match

Proceedings began with the presentation of a cheque for £2643.79 to The Royal British Legion from the proceeds raised at

the Game of Truce fixture held at Aldershot Town Football Club in December 2014 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of one of the most iconic moments of World War 1. Gary Ryan received the cheque on behalf of the RBL. The other beneficiary charity was the German War Graves, the sports therapy for the treatment of deployment related health issues at the Bundeswehr Sports School. A presentation was made earlier in the year in Germany. In total £5287.58 was raised from the match where over 2,500 spectators attended.



Army FA Staff from R-L Jenny Cuthell, Graham Brookland, Gill Jones, Billy Thomson & Carol Williamson



Capt Andy Clarke receives trophy for Division 2 winners from Ray Lewis



Pte Matt Glass receives player of the season award from Maj Gen Radford



Gnr Colin Brooks receives Reservist player of the season award from Maj Gen Radford



Capt Joe Collins receives award from Gen Julian Free



Cfn Rachel Gwilliam receives player of the season award from Maj Gen Radford



Capt Sean Birchall receives Division 1 trophy from Ray Lewis



Sandra Hodgson receives award from Maj General Nick Pope

Pte Matt Glass completed his first campaign with the Army Mens team by being awarded the Player of the season. A tremendous season for the RLC man had also seen success at corps level and a call up to play for the UK Armed Forces (formerly Combined Services). Cfn Rachel Gwilliam received the Womens award as the Inter Services trophy was retained. Indeed such was the importance of Cfn Gwilliam that all the stops were pulled to ensure that she was called back from BATUS to participate in the tournament. The Players' Player of the Season was also awarded to the former Hartlepool and Ipswich player too. The Army Reservists formed a welcome part of the

awards process for the first time. Gnr Colin Brooks, the current Reserve captain, received his Player of the Season award. The left sided defender formed part of an unbeaten side during the course of the campaign.

Corps football was well represented with Capt Sean Birchall picking up the Division 1 trophy as Coach of the RLC whilst RAPTC Chairman Capt Andy Clarke received the trophy for the Division 2 winners.

To conclude the ceremonies two "Service to Army Football" awards were made for two distinguished individuals who, respectively, were stepping down after outstanding contributions. Retiring mens Head Coach

Capt Joe Collins received his award after a career spanning 25 years at every level of Army football. Major Sandra Hodgson MBE made a sincere and emotional speech outlining her appreciation and enjoyment representing the Army Womens team as a player and over the last nine years as a hugely successful and respected Head Coach.

Brigadier "Mitch" Mitchell informed the packed gathering of the good health of Army football but also outlined that the ambition is to continue to grow the association whilst also providing a greater focus of efforts and resources to support grassroots football.

All in all a good evening was had by all!



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. The current President is Brig Steve Vickery late R SIGNALS, the Chairman is Lt Col Colin Francis RLC and the Secretary Maj Andy Campbell R SIGNALS.

A highlight of the 2014 / 15 season was on 10 Dec where a combined First and Veterans Team formed to play the UK Parliamentarians (MPs) team in a game commemorating the No Man's Land match played during the World War 1 Truce in 1914. The game, at Burton Court, Chelsea and was organised in conjunction with ABF – The Soldiers' Charity and £500 was raised courtesy of Maj Gerry Porter's efforts.

The crowd were tremendous including 2 classes from the local school who cheered the Army for the full 80 mins - 10 mins cut short to enable the MPs to get away for PMQs by midday. It was difficult to choose

a starting 11 from the 20 players available but we took to the pitch with a strong side including ABF beneficiary and honorary Crusader for the day Cpl Andy Garthwaite.

With former Premiership Referee Dermot Gallagher officiating the game was always going to be clean but it was clear from the onset that we were the stronger side. On 15 mins we broke through with Andy Garthwaite scoring from 10 yards - a better script couldn't have been written.

On 30 mins a 40 yard strike by Capt Nick Barnes sailed over the keeper for 2-0 and it was only a matter of time until the next and Maj Dan McBirnie headed in to make it 3-0 before half time. Changes were made every 25 mins or so to ensure all players got on the pitch and the midway team instruction was about not getting too excited and remembering to keep our shape when we don't have the ball. On 50 mins Maj Tony Frank rose to score from a corner for 4-0 and inspired to join in a good performance, Lt Col Colin Francis ignored his apparent knee injury for a cameo role - scoring with his first touch for 5-0.

Despite my cry of "let's not concede Crusaders!" a free kick was floated into our box and the ball bounced around for a while until it fell to the opposition striker to bundle in from 2 yards. The 5-1 final score was a fair reflection and everyone agreed it was a great occasion which should be repeated on a regular basis.

Presentations followed with the MPs man of the match going to Scottish Labour MP Jim Murphy, not his only defeat in 6 months... Sandwiches and a few soft drinks were consumed in the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Pensioners Mess where old and new acquaintances were made or renewed.

A short clip from e-magazine London Live reporting on the match is here <<http://www.londonlive.co.uk/news/2014-12-10/it-may-not-have-been-england-vs-germany-but-it-was-almost-as-competitive>> which captures our first and fourth goals.

Looking ahead to the 2015 / 16 season we are busy planning the 3 yearly overseas tour in order to develop and enhance cohesion within the club whilst raising the profile of football within the Army's officer cohort. This years tour is to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia in late Sep where 4 competitive games are planned.

Lastly, a plea for everyone involved in unit and representative football. If you have Officers playing "The Soldiers' Game" then inform them that Army Crusaders are fit and well and always in need of support. 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.

The pictures below show Crusaders and UK Parliamentary FC prior to the game on 10 Dec followed by the presentation of the winners' trophy by COS ABF Brig (Retd) Robin Bacon.

Maj Andy Campbell, Secretary Army Crusaders FC.

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Lieutenant Colonel David Jones MBE

Football Remembers Christmas Truce Game

Pristina, Kosovo, 12 December 2014

2014 marks the start of many national commemorations of the centenary of the start of the First World War and football playing its part in these events, through the Football Remembers project.

As part of this initiative there was a week of commemoration football games between 6th and 14th December, across the UK and the world. These games were to represent the Christmas Truce of 1914, when a football match was played between German and Allied troops and is historically remembered for bringing the war to a temporary halt. Prince William said, "We all grew up with the story of soldiers from both sides putting down their arms on Christmas Day, and it remains wholly relevant today as a message of hope over adversity, even in the bleakest of times".

Not to be left out, Lieutenant Colonel David Jones, NATO Adviser to COM KSF, organised

a game in Pristina, on Friday 12 December 14, in the massive Tito-era Pristina Sports Centre. Colonel Jones made a funding application to the FCO and receiving support from British Embassy two teams were made up with officers and soldiers from KFOR, reflecting the international dimension of countries that participated in the 'Great War'. The Allies team included soldiers from UK, France, Irish Republic, Portugal, Greece, Italy, USA, Canada, Estonia and Romania, with the Central Powers team players coming from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

A large crowd welcomed the players and the children from Elena Gjika Elementary School onto the pitch and the players were presented to the British Ambassador Ian Cliff; German Ambassador Ms Angelika Viets and Deputy Commander KFOR Brigadier Anton Waldner. Following the playing of the

Kosovo national anthem the teams played in a competitive but friendly natured game that ended in a fittingly, 5-5 draw.

Ian Cliff British Ambassador said "the Christmas truce on the Western Front in 1914 was a clear example of humanity triumphing over the horrors of war. Today we saw nations who were once enemies in WW1 now collaborating as part of KFOR supporting peace and co-operation between the different communities of Kosovo".

Lieutenant Colonel David Jones said "it was a great experience to organise and play in a game that included 15 different nations and the final result could not have been more perfect".



2015/16 Basic Referees Course



23/27 Nov (UK North)

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Combined Services United Kingdom vrs French Defence Force Monday 20 October 2014

Having had a very good pre-Kentish Cup Competition against Portsmouth Academy a week earlier the Combined Services Footballers were in a good position to commence the week against the strong French Defence Force at Burnaby Road Portsmouth. The Combined Services, skipper SAC Tom Clisse led the side out full of self confidence and positivity. The team had a very good balance of talent available from all three single services with the starting eleven consisting of 3 Navy (AB R Emmerson, LPT L

Foxhall and AB L Cashman), 3 Army (SSgt B Rizza, LCpl S Paddock and LCpl S Agar) and 5 Royal Airforce (Cpl Woodhouse, Cpl Ellis, SAC T Clisse, SAC J Debnam and SAC D Dixon). The team had been well drilled with outstanding coaching sessions from Flt Sgt Nick De-Long and Capt Joey Collins that had cemented a well disciplined side into accepting that the French Defence Force would maintain the ball for long periods of the game but when in possession the CSFA had to be positive and pick the right pass at the right time.

The CSFA started the match well and had a couple of half chances by LCpl Sammy Agar (Army) and AB Leon Cashman (Navy) but it was SAC Jack Debnam (RAF) who continued his outstanding performance by evading the French defence and calmly firing home from 10 yards in the 67 min which proved to be the winning goal and had set the tempo and standard for the week.

Netherland Defence Force vrs Combined Services United Kingdom Thursday 24 October 2014

Having watched the French Defence Force inflict a 6-3 humiliating defeat of the Dutch Defence Force in the mid-week game it would have been easy for the CSFA to be complacent. However with the veteran coaching staff of Major Basher Bates, Major Alan Higgins MBE and Captain Nigel Wiscombe supported by General Manager Lt Col Mick Cotton this was quickly stamped out and with only one change made the CSFA faced the Netherland Defence Force knowing that a draw was enough to secure victory.

Apprehensive but determined the CSFA team once again skippered by SAC Tom Clisse (RAF) were ready to regain the Kentish Cup on home turf against the Netherland Defence Force on a bright and breezy

Friday in Portsmouth. The team started with confidence and were rewarded with an early goal from Sig S Paddock (Army) playing only his second Combined Service fixture. The Dutch displayed their natural flair and talent but were unable to break down the defence superbly marshalled by SAC Danny Dixon (RAF), the rear guard of the CSFA for some years now. The early goal had given the CSFA confidence and had further opportunities that were keeping the coaching staff on their toes. It was not until the 78 minute when a break away counter attack started by Cpl Matty Ellis (RAF) in his own half saw him continue his run and finish in style from an inch perfect pass from LCpl Sammy Agar (Army). A silly free kick conceded by Cpl Alex Woodhouse (RAF)

saw Captain Gavin Smyth (Army) beaten at his right hand post in the 85 minute setting up a rather anxious last 5 mins. The CSFA remained resilient and the game finished 2-1 to the CSFA ensuring victory and the Kentish Cup was regained.

Regaining the Kentish Cup had more meaning in this the 100th anniversary of the Great War ensuring that the modern service footballers display the desire and passion portrayed by Major Kentish when he introduced this fixture in 1921. The victory was poignant as it closed the chapters of the footballing/coaching careers of Major Basher Bates and Major Alan Higgins MBE who retire from over 25 years of service football.



REME Women's FC retain the Edwards Challenge Cup

By Lt Col (Retd) John Edwards OBE

On a wet Wed morning at the Aldershot Military Stadium, REME Women's FC retained the Edwards Challenge Cup by beating the RA 2-1. As our reader will know, Football is a funny old game and this match was no exception because REME scored in the first minute with an own-goal, the Gunners equalised in the 87th minute and then in the last minute, LSgt Heski Johnson lobbed the advancing keeper to secure the win and the cup. Col REME, Col Dan Scott ADC and Chairman of REME Football, Col Max Joy OBE were pitch-side to witness the team's delight and also LCpl Yvette Kemp collect the trophy from an equally delighted Lt Col (Retd) John Edwards OBE. Army FA Vice President, Maj Gen Tim Radford DSO OBE, COS UKLF, awarded LCpl Kemp with "Player of the Match".



Right, REME Women's FC – Winners of the Edwards Challenge Cup (for a consecutive 2nd year)

Below Left, As LSgt Heski Johnson sprints off to claim the accolades from her fellow players after scoring a brilliant last minute winner. LSgt Johnson last played competitive football on 9 May 2013, and on this very pitch when, unfortunately, she damaged her ankle playing against the AGC in the End of Season Tournament Final; welcome back Heski! Cfn Chelsey Sneado, arms raised, celebrates on the touch-line and would have normally played in defence but was required to do Army rugby (egg chasing) training that morning in preparation for the match the following day against the RAF; after this game, Chelsey was awarded her Army Cap – well done!



BFBS TV post match interview with the REME Captain, LCpl Yvette Kemp, who is keeping a grip on the Cup.



REME Skipper, LCpl Yvette Kemp, lifts up the cup!

Women's Inter Corps League Table 2014/15

The league this season was dominated by the AGC who won all of their seven games, scoring 41 goals and only conceding 4 goals; a terrific goal difference of 37. Their first game was against the AMS, champions from last season and it was closely contested but the AGC won 2-1 which set the scene for the rest of their season. A highlight of the season must have been their win over one of their main rivals, the REME, 5-2. The AGC earned, not only, the title of 'Champions', but also, their tour to Spain in Jun. "Well done to Kristina Wright and all the girls!"

A special mention goes to the INT/AAC, who won their first game since the league was founded by beating the RE 3-0. Despite the results, a special mention must also go to the Sappers, who have just joined the league, and like REME only a few seasons ago, are finding their feet but, nevertheless, are still playing good football. Indeed, I have to say that the standard of football overall this season was extremely high and this does credit to the players and coaching staff.

Here's to next season!

| Team | P | W | L | D | F | A | GD | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| AGC | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 4 | 37 | 21 |
| RLC | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 31 | 14 | 17 | 14 |
| REME | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 10 | 12 | 14 |
| RA | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 2 | 11 |
| R SIGNALS | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 17 | 2 | 8 |
| AMS | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 23 | -8 | 7 |
| INT/AAC | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 27 | -22 | 4 |
| RE | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 44 | -40 | 0 |



Inter Corps Women's Football End of Season Tournament - 6 a-side

Previously the End of Season Tournament (EoS) has been a 11 a-side competition, and REME Women's FC have won the trophy 4 times in the last 5 years but with the introduction of the Edwards Challenge Cup last year, it was decided to change the EoS into a 6 a-side competition. Capt Melissa French R Signals volunteered to organise the tournament at Blandford selecting a date which coincided with "The Quads"; a fine week of football that was. REME got to the finals by beating the RLC "B", AMS "A" and R Sigs "A" to meet in the final a well 'drilled' and dare I say it, "Talented" RLC "A" side, who got revenge, on behalf of their "B" team, to win 2-0.



Semi Final – REME v R Sigs "A". LCpl Nat Walker gets close attention from the R Sigs' defender. (In photo Nat 1 – Chairman League (Des), Col Ash Boreham, can be seen in the background wondering "Just what was he taking on!")



Semi Final – REME v R Sigs "A". Eyes on the ball – Cfn Rachel Gwilliam, LCpl Amber Marsh and running hard to keep up, LCpl Yvette Kemp.

Winners – RLC "A"



After the tournament, Season awards were presented to Cpl Jordan "Barney" Barnard – Players' Player of the Year, and LCpl Yvette "Kempy Kemp" – Manager's Player of the Year.

During the Awards Ceremony, Evening function, Cfn Rachel Gwilliam received her Army Colours from Lt Col Alison Curnow, Chairman of the Army Women's FA. Cpl Barnard also received her Army Colours but was unable to attend the function. Cfn Gwilliam was to be presented with the Army Players' Players Award at the President's Dinner.

REME help the Army retain the Inter Services Cup by Lt Col (Retd) John Edwards OBE



*L-R: Cfn Jemma Dinning,
Cfn Rachael Gwilliam,
LCpl Yvette Kemp,
Maj Sandra Hodgson MBE RLC
(Head Coach),
Cpl Jordan Barnard and Cfn Bianca Ross.*

The cup is 'The Chatterton Cup' and was presented by the RAF. The cup is named after Flt Lt Mike Chatterton, who joined the RAF aged 21, and spent almost 40 years service in the RAF, retiring in Jun 2011. Mike followed in his father's footsteps because his father, John, was a Lancaster pilot in WWII.

Five REME players started the game against the RAF in the Inter Services Tournament 2014/15 at the Aldershot Military Stadium on Wed 18 Mar 15 and three of them got on the score sheet for a fine 5-3 victory. The three goal scorers were: Cfn Jemma Dinning, Cfn Rachel Gwilliam, and on her last day in the REME/Army, Cfn Bianca Ross(2). Cfn Gwilliam's goal must be a contender for "Goal of the Season", a 30-yard, perhaps 35-yard, shot that left the RAF keeper in 'no-man's land'.

The following week at Fratton Park, home of Portsmouth FC, the Army beat the Royal Navy 2-1, to win the Inter Services

Tournament for the fifth successive season – and guess what? REME girls were at it again because the scorers were Cfn Gwilliam and LCpl Yvette Kemp. I could not attend this match but was told that LCpl Kemp's goal, "was amazing" – thank you Yvette for letting me know!

At the start of the season Cfn Hannah Connearn was in the Army Squad but then left REME – I hope she joins the REME Reserves.

For last the last 3 years as Chairman of the Army Inter Corps League, my vision for Army Women's Football has remained unchanged

and is, "For as many females as is possible to have the opportunity to play this wonderful game so that the Army team has lots of capable and talented players to choose from in order for it to be the best Inter Service Team". A mouthful I know, but to that end, the Army is still the team to beat.

My League Secretary, Capt Gino Hinson, and I have now done 3 years in post and given our succession plan, it's time for us both to go, it's time for a change, it's time for fresh eyes and ideas; I have handover to Col Ash Boreham (Col AMS and Millwall fan); he is wished well for next season and the future.

Royal Signals Ladies v Stoke City Ladies by Lt Col (Retd) John Edwards OBE, Mighty Potter fan

Having been told that the Royal Signals Women's FC would be spending their May Bank Holiday up in Stoke playing Stoke City Ladies then, as a Mighty Potter fan, I thought there's an opportunity to get to "The Brit" to watch another game of football – this was the day after I'd been there watching Stoke City putting 5 passed Liverpool.

As a Stoke Season Ticket holder, I knew I'd be ok for a seat but I need not have worried because unlike the previous day when we put 5 up Liverpool, it wasn't a full house but, nevertheless, those watching saw an enjoyable game. I'm sure that SSgt Dave Tuck, who arranged the game, will have an article in this edition that will tell us how well they did and if he hasn't, take it from me that the girls done good, and did something that I've always wanted to do – play football on Stoke's pitch – well done you all!



SP COMD (UK SOUTH)

The Sp Comd (UK South) Association Football season runs in line with the Army FA's Forecast of Events to encompass both a regional league and Major & Minor Units Knockout Cup Competition.

The league and cup competitions are contested between Units that fall under the UK South Regional structure encompassing both Major and Minor Units. This allows a competitive approach whilst reducing the T&S burden.

The 2014/15 season ran from 8 Sep 14 through to the 30 Apr 15. The league included 61 teams whilst the Knockout Cup had a total of 56 teams, 42 Major Units and 14 Minor Units. The Regional Six-A-Side Competition saw 32 male and 2 female teams enter with 4 qualifying for the Army Six-A-Side Competition.

LEAGUE

The UK South League Structure comprised of 5 leagues; 3 Central and 2 West. The breakdown was as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------|
| a. Central Premier | - | 6 teams |
| b. Central Division 1 | - | 11 teams |
| c. Central Division 2 | - | 8 teams |
| d. West Premier | - | 16 teams |
| e. West Division 1 | - | 20 teams |

The UK South leagues ran themselves; Units arranged fixtures and booked Referees for all of their matches through the Regional Referees' Secretary. We had on occasion, fixtures that couldn't be facilitated by an appointed referee, however locally sourced and qualified referees were used at the acknowledgment of the Referee's Secretary. This ensured both teams could still play the fixture and encouraged the 'Sport for All' message.

The Central 3 Divisions saw a strong amount of matches played to a very high standard. The eventual league winners were:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| a. Central Premier | - | 10 (Trg) Bn REME A. |
| b. Central Division 1 | - | ATC Pirbright. |
| c. Central Division 2 | - | Army Air Corps Centre |
| d. West Premier | - | 11 Signal Regiment A |
| e. West Division 1 | - | 4 RIFLES. |

The West Premier Division saw 11 Signal Regt A Team secure a second successive league win; a well-deserved achievement. As the 11 Signal Regt A Team won the Premier League it was 4 RIFLES who came out as West Division 1 Champions. They finished some 27 points clear from the Runners-Up who were Minor Unit finalists 19 Tank Transporter Sqn RLC. WO2 John Bolam had done an outstanding job to re-build the team after the long serving Capt Roberts left.

In the Central Divisions, the premier League was comfortably won by 10 (Trg) Bn REME. The Phase 2 REME side went unbeaten all season only conceding 3 goals along the way. The Central Division 1 League however wasn't so clear cut. The league was eventually won by ATC Pirbright edging it from Larkhill based, 32 Regt RA. The Wessex Gunners fell short in the last week of the league by losing to 11 (Trg) Bn REME who finished up in third place. The bottom tier of the Central Division was won by the Army Air Corps Centre. The consistency of the Phase 2 outfit saw them victorious.

SIX-A-SIDE COMPETITION

The 2014/15 season culminated in the 6-A-Side competition that was held on Dennison Barracks, Hermitage on the 6 May 15. As stated in para 3, 32 male and 2 female teams entered with four qualifying for the Army Six-A-Side Competition. These were:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| a. 6 Bn REME | - | Winners. |
| b. 1 AAC | - | Runners Up. |
| c. 26 Engr Regt | - | Third Place. |
| d. SIB Regt | - | Fourth Place. |

This competition was a fitting way to end an extremely successful season.

KNOCKOUT CUP

The UK South Knockout Cup Structure was in two parts; Major and Minor Units. Units competed against one another throughout the season. The knockout competition ran alongside the league, culminating in the finals that were held on 15 Apr 15 at the Aldershot Military Stadium.

Minor Unit Final. The Minor Unit final was played between 1 AAC, Yeovilton and 19 Tank Transporter Sqn RLC, Bulford. The final was played in blistering heat and on a very dry but well groomed pitch. The match started in electric fashion with 1 AAC taking an early lead, followed by a 19 Tanks equaliser from the penalty spot from Pte Andrew Baxter. As the match settled



down with some attractive football played, 1 AAC again took the lead through AirTpr Lewis Davies; his second goal of the match. Cpl Kenny Makunde (19 Tanks) made it 2-2 going into half time. The second half saw both teams with equal chances, with 1AAC just having the edge. The Yeovilton based side stole the lead late on through their veteran striker SSgt Andrew Price to hold onto victory. The 1 AAC Skipper WO1 Stuart Henry was awarded Man of the Match and his team took the spoils

Major Unit Final. The Major Unit Final saw a third consecutive final appearance for Tidworth side 26 Engr Regt. On the last two occasions, the Engineers had been on the losing end, would this be third time unlucky for SSgt Rob Finn's men? Their opponents were an 'in-form' RTR. After their emphatic Semi-Final victory win over 1 YORKS they headed into the match with confidence and were led by an experienced WO2 Craig Murphy. The Tankies took a surprised lead after 20 mins and headed into half time 1-0 up.

The second half saw RTR goalkeeper Cpl Robert George make a series of 1-on-1 saves to keep his side ahead. This outstanding performance saw him awarded with the Man of the Match accolade. As the pressure mounted 26 Engr Regt broke their deadlock and equalised to set up a fitting finale.

As the referee Maj Harry Felstead blew for Full Time, it took the final into Extra Time. It seemed that the Engineers would come out victors as they kept breaking through to test the Tankies keeper; however the RTR kept plugging away and defended like Trojans. Their hard work and fighting spirit paid off. As the clock neared the end and penalties were in sight, 26 Engr Regt pushed on for their final attack. This broke down and saw the RTR pounce down the opposite end and at the death steal the cup from beneath the Engineers' noses!

CONCLUSION

With any football season, it had many ups and downs with times of frustration and times of joy and excitement; I guess that's football. The best teams won and were deserved winners, as they say, "you are only as good as your last performance". A huge thank you has to go to all Management and Playing Staff of all Units that entered the league and cup competitions and to the enablers to ensure football remains the 'Soldiers' Game'.

JESSAM

SSgt (SSI) RAPTC

Sp Comd (UK South) Secretary



THE ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ROADSHOW 2015

In 2013 a group of 8 soldiers embarked on a nationwide tour of the country to visit a number of football league clubs. This was with a view to bring a splash of military panache and character to the professional summer camps that were being run for children and young adults from all walks of life.

After the successes of 2013 and 2014, we aimed to make the roadshow a much bigger event with a lot more emphasis not only on football, but also through social media to show not only to the participants, but to the local community what we as a professional army can bring to their local club.

During this last roadshow we engaged with approximately 1200 young players that were participating in summer football camps and the NCS program. and approximately 15000 over social media. Many were keen to participate in the session and show their competitive side when the stopwatch came out as they were being timed on the football assault course.

Our average day would consist of leaving the hotel early doors to drive to our location, set up the assault course and await the first group of players. The warmup would then be taken by our embedded PTI; Kev 'The Q' Haley. In which he would inform and demonstrate to them the standards we expected to see throughout the session, hands on hips and hands in pockets are awarded with prizes,

The Projects and Schemes that the Road Show Team engaged with are as follows:

- School Holiday Course.** These courses are run by the Football in the Community Departments and generally host up to 300 children aged between 4 - 18.
- Kickz Project.** These projects work with 12 - 21 year olds from areas suffering anti-social behaviour issues during evening sessions and weekend sessions.
- National Citizens Service.** This offers 16 - 21 year olds the opportunity to complete challenges and make friends whilst conducting numerous activities. It also gives them chance to build on skills for work and life.

which naturally consisted of press ups! After their short warm up they are summoned over to the course. In the short amount of time it takes to travel 20 metres standards are soon forgotten and are enforced again by SSgt 'Corps Dave' Tuck.

The first time around the course is a practise, the second time is timed. During the course they are faced by a short leopard crawl under the cam net, agility poles, a 'hit the target' stand, more crawling underneath tunnels before attempting to score in the inflatable goal; of which has cut out scoring sections in the rear.

After the session there are gizzets given out to the participants, a frisbee, a small football, a referee pack; containing a whistle and cards, and a wristband. It was a pleasure to see the kids enjoying what we had put on for

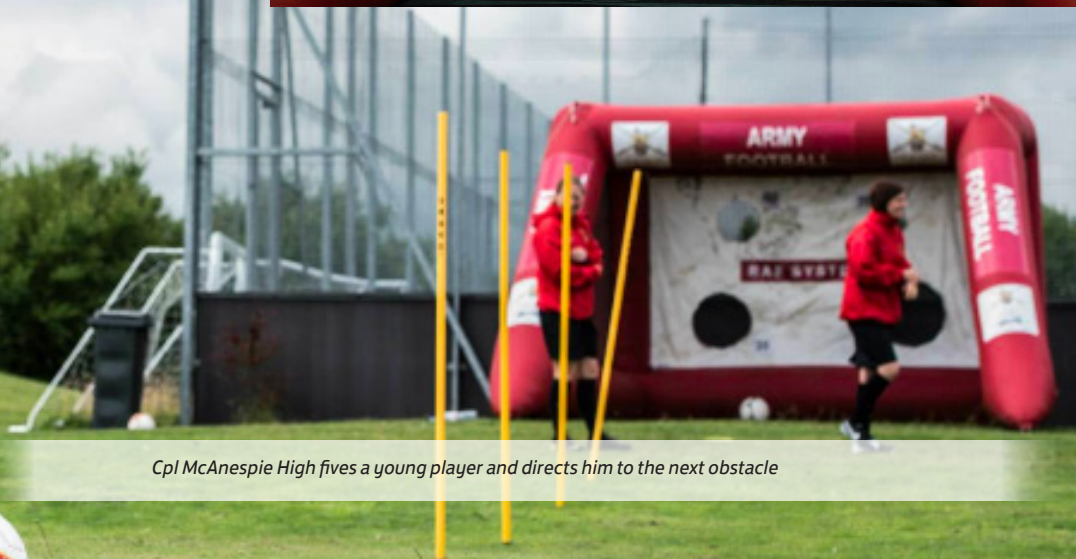
them and then to receive 'presents' at the end. Hopefully the roadshow will attract the attention of bigger clubs as we progress over the next couple of years and strive to make it bigger and better in all ways possible.

Our stopover in Burton seen the first of many external visitors and we were lucky to have the Chairman of Army Football, Brigadier Mitchell MBE, Lt Col (Retd) Cotton MBE and Maj (Retd) Thomson pay the team a visit and see at first hand the team deliver its coaching clinic and first class Civil Engagement. Whilst in Burton Brigadier Mitchell and Lt Col Cotton took the opportunity to hand out the Army's promotional gifts and talk to the participants.

By LCpl Dobson 30 Signal Regiment and WO2 (QMSI) Kev Haley HQ RAPTC



Bolton Wanderers Mascot "Lofty the Lion" Joins the Road Show team



Cpl McAnespie High fives a young player and directs him to the next obstacle

ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ROAD SHOW 2015



The clubs we visited can be seen on the road show map left.



Army promotional hand-outs included a mini football's, Frisbee's, referee pack's, hand clapper's and Army FA wristbands



Above, The Roadshow Team:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| WO2 (QMSI) Kev Haley | - HQ RAPTC |
| SSgt Dave Tuck | - 1 NATO Sig Bn |
| Sgt Steve Durham | - 1 Sig Regt |
| Cpl Jay McAnespie | - 22 Sig Regt |
| Cpl Jay Bates | - 37 Sig Regt (Missing from the picture) |
| L/Cpl Pete Dobson | - 14 Sig Regt |
| L/Cpl Jenny Keane | - 5 Med Regt |
| Pte Rachel Rigby | - 17 Port & Maritime |



A child in Swansea using his Army referee kit to give the photographer, L/Cpl Pete Dobson a yellow card



WO2 (QMSI) Kev Haley begins the session with a military style warm up

ARMY FOOTBALL SUPPORTS AFRICA APPEAL



The Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Charitable Appeal has been running since 2006 with its base at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. It is organised by Wing Commander Neil Hope MBE and is linked to the RAF, RAF Shawbury and RAF Football. The Appeal is designed

to deliver Aid through the global appeal of football. Kits are regularly donated through clubs from the national team, down through the leagues to grassroots teams, in addition to many personal donations from members of the public.



The Appeal, which has delivered over 102000 items of football kit (including over 34500 football shirts), sports equipment and school clothing and equipment to 48 countries worldwide since its inception, regularly completes delivery trips to Kenya, in East Africa, as the country where the appeal has its best links and delivery routes. Over the years over 30 different people, from members of the Armed Forces through to members of the Football Association as well as civilians, have travelled to Kenya with Neil to make kit deliveries in some of the poorest areas of the country.

The photos show The Kitemgela Football Team dressed in ARMY FOOTBALL track suits kindly donated by The Army Football Association. The Deliverance church has promised through the senior Pastor Mohammed Kamwaro to assist the team play in the Kajiado County Football League this season.

For further details or to donate please contact Wg Cdr Neil Hope MBE on 01939 250351 Ext 7101 or 07903135508 or neil.hope684@mod.uk or through the RAFFA at <http://www.royalairforcefa.com/>

MEN/U23 FIXTURES

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 5-12 Sept | TRIALS | | Aldershot |
| Tue 8 Sept | U23 TRIAL v GODALMING T | H | 1930 |
| Thu 10 Sept | TRIALS v CAMBERLEY T | H | 1930 |
| Tue 22 Sept | U23 v PETERBOROUGH UTD | A | 1300 |
| Tue 6 October | HM PRISON | H | 1400 |
| Tue 27 October | ARMY v TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Wed 11 Nov | Amateur FA (SCC) | A | 1930 |
| 29 Nov/2 Dec | German Bundeswehr | Postponed | |
| Wed 27 Jan | Met Police (GGT) | H | 1930 |
| Tue 2 Feb | U23 v TBA | TBC | TBC |
| Wed 3 Feb | RAF U23 v RN U23 | TBC | |
| Tue 9 Feb | ARMY v TBC | TBC | |
| Wed 10 Feb | ARMY U23 v RAF U23 (I/S) | H | 1400 |
| Wed 17 Feb | RN U23 v ARMY U2 | 3 | A |
| Wed 2 Mar | RN v RAF (I/S) | | |
| Wed 9 Mar | ARMY v RN (I/S) | H | 1900 |
| Wed 16 Mar | RAF v ARMY (I/S) | A | |



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