

THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA
ISSUE 2 NOVEMBER 2008



COVER STORY:

The Aldershot Army Show - see page 20

ALSO FEATURING:

Respect in the Army FA

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WELCOME FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN BRIGADIER E R DUNCAN OBE ADC

It gives me great pleasure as the Vice Chairman of The Army Football to introduce the second edition of the Army FA magazine.

Last season saw our Women's and Under-23 development side win the Inter-Services Tournament whilst the Men's Senior team won, on the first time of entry, The Southern Counties Cup. The Women's team also secured the South and West Counties Championship, where they remained unbeaten throughout. These performances, given the restraints of operational commitments, show a great deal of depth and talent available within the Army.

Selection for the representative teams is both an honour and a major achievement for the unit and the individual. Without the support of units our aim, which is to win all three Inter-Service Competitions would not be achievable.

There are also tremendous opportunities within our coaching and referees departments. Our Football Development Officer operates courses throughout the year and our active refereeing department recruit new officials at their regular basic courses held in Aldershot and Germany. We are always actively looking to attract Army personnel to become involved in the game, whether it is as a player, coach, referee or administrator.

Last season's Army Challenge Cup was won by 9 Regt AAC and I wish all units competing in this season's competition the very best of luck.

The Army FA along with a number of other Counties has entered into The FA's **Respect** programme and I would encourage you to read the article on pages 4 and 5.

Finally, I would also like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of Army Football. Without your generosity we would be unable to function in the successful way that we do. It is greatly appreciated.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our magazine and if you believe you can contribute to future editions, please contact the Army FA.

**Vice-Chairman Brigadier
ER Duncan OBE ADC**



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ARMY FA GUIDELINES FOR

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHARTER STANDARD LEAGUE PROGRAMME

The FA Charter Standard League Programme is an initiative that is designed to help and support football in a number of areas including:

- Deliver an improved service and support structure to leagues
- Help implement the principles of Long-Term Player Development
- Deliver on the **Respect** programme.

The Army FA has nominated the following to be FA Charter Standard Leagues: Massey Trophy (Mens) (Divisions 1 and 2) Inter-Corps League (Womens)

WHAT IS RESPECT?

Respect is a new and continuous Football Association programme – not a one-off initiative. Its goal is to allow people to play, officiate and watch football without having to be subjected to abuse and mockery. The message is clear: we must all improve standards of behaviour- on and off the field.

Respect offers everybody in grassroots football a high-quality, safe, enjoyable experience that is nationally recognised.

By signing up to this we are demonstrating that we are committed to raising standards and addressing poor behaviour within the league and member clubs.

In addition the representative teams will be expected to set the highest standards and implement the main criteria of the **Respect** programme.

MATCH OFFICIALS AND WORKING WITH THE TEAM CAPTAIN

The referee will work with the team captains to manage the players and the game effectively. The referee must control the game by applying the Laws of the Game and dealing firmly with any open show of dissent by players (eg not move away from the incident, but stay and deal with it).

The captain has no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game but he has a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of his team. The referee has the authority within the Laws of the Game to issue disciplinary sanctions without recourse to the captain.

Even if the captain is some way away from an incident when the referee feels he needs him involved in a discussion with a player, the referee will call the captain over rather than using any other senior player. This will ensure that the captain remains the point of contact for the referee.

These guidelines should be seen as an additional preventative/supportive tool for referees to manage the game effectively. The key to the above is using the captains in a more visible way, where appropriate.

FAIR PLAY HANDSHAKE PROTOCOL

The following protocol should be applied where possible:

- The starting 11 from both teams, together with the match officials (including any appointed fourth official), should take part in the handshake.
- Each team should line up on the same side of the half-way line that they enter the field of play, with the match officials in the middle.
- The home team, led by their captain, then walks to shake hands with the match officials, and then with the away team's players. Once each home team player has finished shaking hands with the last away team player they disperse to their favoured end to kick-in.



THE RESPECT PROGRAMME



- Once the last home team player has completed the handshake, the away team then follows their captain, passing in front of the match officials to shake hands before dispersing to the opposite end of the pitch from the home team.
- Once the handshakes have been completed the match officials then proceed to the centre circle for the coin toss.

Whilst we understand that it may be difficult to implement this protocol in every case, we would ask that referees do what they reasonably can to ensure its implementation.

CODES OF CONDUCT

This is the responsibility of each group to whom the Codes are aimed: young players, adult players, spectators/parents, Coaches/Managers, Club Officials and match officials.

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour within the game. (Further details are available within the packs that are supplied to clubs, leagues and officials). **Respect** works on placing responsibility for their actions on individuals.

Each **Respect** Code of Conduct explains that action can and will be taken through the Army Football Association if the code is broken.

As a directive from the Army FA, we emphasise the importance and significance of the role that coaches and managers have to play to ensure the long-term success of the **Respect** programme. Discipline on the pitch is clearly linked to discipline within the technical areas and we expect managers and coaches to again set the highest standards of conduct and behaviour.

DESIGNATED SPECTATORS' AREA

Respect recommends that a Designated Spectators' Area is provided and **Respect** barriers and/or marked areas are used. If these methods are used, the Designated Spectators' Area will be marked on one side of the pitch. It is recommended that fans from both sides stand behind this barrier on one full length of the pitch. This allows the coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players get instructions from just one side of the pitch.

MONITORING RESPECT – FULL-TIME

Monitoring behaviour is a key element to measuring the impact of the **Respect** programme. One method of evaluating the success of the programme is that referees officiating within leagues which use The Football Association Full-Time Management system will be able to log on, using their 2008-09 FA number and Registration number and answer basic questions about the behaviour of the teams, officials and spectators at specific matches and to state their own enjoyment of the matches they officiate. A separate instruction will be sent to referees when this service is available to use.

Please note that **Respect** is at the introductory stages. It will be an ongoing programme. Separate guides are available for Referees, Clubs and Leagues. Individuals will receive the guide that is relevant to their role in football.

Respect



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NO WORRIES IN AFRICA OH YEAH?

By Colonel (Retd) Harry Vialou Clark

The Bata Shoe Co. advertises its wares as suitable for 'Those Who Know Africa'. I thought I did, too, but as they say, you learn something new every day. My decision to sponsor a football tournament has resulted in many of the elements associated with corruption including greed, jealousy, dishonesty and self-aggrandisement. Am I down 'earted? Not a bit! Let me explain.

I have been working in Africa (Kenya, actually) on charity matters for many years and finally decided that it was time I helped some of the thousands of young men who waste away their days with nothing much to do other than cause problems. As an 'old soldier' I learned of the galvanising effect sport has on the moral and interest of young people throughout the world and of the very positive effects of football in particular. I decided to have a go in our corner of Kenya (Gilgil).

We now have a football tournament comprising 14 teams raised mainly from the most deprived areas around the townships of Gilgil and Langalanga. Trouble is, there are very few pitches and anyway, only one team had a recognisable football strip. No player had boots. Something had to be done, and fast.

As luck would have it one of my closest friends happens to be a past Chairman of the Army FA. I asked for his help, and



Happy very small girls receive their enormous T-shirts

quick. It came, fast, thanks to the wonderful help given to me by your Secretary. My Volvo Estate was loaded to the gunwales with good quality second-hand Army strips and new juniors' strips, originally made for Portsmouth FC. Also in the haul were Army Women's Football Team T-shirts. Two days later we arrived in Nairobi with most of the kit, courtesy of BA. Now that's fast! It was then that we had our bitter-sweet experiences.

I called a meeting of all teams in the league and told them that there would be a 'lucky dip' for the bundles of goodies. Within a few moments of 'The

Co-ordinator' calling the team captains to come forward a near riot ensued. It seems pre-planned corruption had been unveiled and 'the 'lads' were not having it. I ordered all kit to be reloaded into my LWB Landrover and to everyone's amazement I drove away. I still have the Army kit safely in store until the committee sort themselves out and I return to Kenya in January. We will see! By chance I met a keen European football enthusiast who lives locally who has agreed to bring order to the proceedings. He will do so, I feel certain.

NOW THE SWEET EXPERIENCES:

The distribution of the juniors' kit was quite a different story. In front of more than 1,000 people I was able to present to two primary schools 'in the bush' socks, shorts and shirts donated by Portsmouth FC. What joy! It is very unlikely that the two schools will play against each other so the referee's job will not be impossible.

The brilliant yellow women's t-shirts were gratefully received despite being somewhat oversize for our under-fed youngsters. It just remains for me to thank the Army FA and all those involved in the wonderful donations. Things will be sorted out so that all the underprivileged players have a fair share of the goodies. Please do not give up on us at this early stage. This is, after all is said and done, Africa, and it is football we are trying to promote.



Happiness is dreams of football

ARMY SENIOR FOOTBALL TRIALS 2008-09

The Army Senior Football Trials for 2008-09 were conducted at Pirbright in late September 2008. This year the Corps were very proactive, nominating players of a high standard. The trials catered for 50 players and over the week achieved its aim of selecting a strong squad that would go on to reclaim the Inter Services Trophy back from the RAF and retain the Southern Counties from last season.

Some members of the squad arrived with some excellent credentials but one to note was a former Kenyan National player who had represented his country at Under-17, Under-20, Under-23 and has four caps at senior level – and another who had played at a high level in Scotland, representing Falkirk, Stirling Albion, Alloa Athletic and Stenhousemuir.

The first of the opening trial fixtures was away to Uxbridge FC. The Coach, Capt Steve Bates, selected a side of youth with little experience to see if the team could play with confidence. Uxbridge scored the only goal of the game after 15 minutes from a set piece. At the interval, after some encouragement from WO1 Paul Fagin, the Army came out fighting and competed well despite going down to ten players through injury; the referee did not allow any additional substitutes. Thank you to Uxbridge FC for what has become an annual fixture.



Training continued in addition to a visit from Camouflage Magazine who interviewed and took photographs with Cpl Dean Inf, Cpl Douglas RLC, LCpl Haley R Sigs, Sig McGee R Sigs, LBdr Thompson RA and Pte Francis RAMC showing off their skills.

With Andover FC pulling out of the next friendly the Army FA acted swiftly to arrange a match with Badshot Lea at the Aldershot Military Stadium. The Combined Counties side proved to be good opponents and attacked the Army from the outset pushing them back and deserving their 15th-minute lead. The Surrey side went into the interval with a two-goal lead in a half that was cut short due to a bad injury to Cfn Roberts whom we all hope makes a speedy recovery.

The second half produced entertaining football and, although the Army continued to press, they were 3-1 down at one stage. However a dramatic finale saw the Army eventually win 5-4 with goals from Cfn Roberts, LCpl Haley (2), Cpl Thomas, Rfn Ettelle. Thanks go to Badshot Lea for making the game at short notice and being competitive throughout.

The final fixture was again at the Aldershot Military Stadium against another Combined Counties side, Camberley Town FC, in a fixture resurrected after a couple of years break. Again the visitors went into the interval in the lead, 2-1, but the Army demonstrated how much they have improved with a determined comeback for a second successive match. The Army were overall winners by 4-2 with goals scored by LCpl Haley (2), Cpl Thomas and Rfn Ettelle. Again thank you to Camberley Town for a hard-fought fixture – and good luck for the season.

The first post-trial match was played in Leicester at the home of Oadby Town FC against HM Prison Service. The Army took control of the game and had the better of the early exchanges. Pete Etelle opened the scoring on the half hour after a quick free kick from LCpl Haley. Cpl Jordan marshalled the Army defence excellently and two late goals sealed victory through Rfn Ettelle and Sgt Lavelle although the home side did net a consolation goal deep into injury time. It was, however, a deserved 3-1 victory for the Army.

PRODUCING WORLD-CLASS PLAYERS

AN OVERVIEW OF THE FA'S 2008-12 STRATEGY FOR COACHING IN ENGLAND

By Sir Trevor Brooking, The FA's Director of Football Development

Anyone who watched a thrilling Spain win Euro 2008 surely needs to accept that without radical change and investment in English football we will continue to fall behind many other countries in the technical development of our players.

The stark fact that we haven't won a major international tournament for 42 years emphasises why we must emerge from our current time warp and bridge the gap that has undoubtedly emerged.

Understandably, everyone who cares about English football has an opinion about how this gap should be bridged. Our job, as the game's sole training provider for coaches in England, is to ensure the bridge we now build has firm and lasting foundations.

This means forging all the informed and qualified opinions in and around us into one cohesive strategy, based on a vision to create a world-class coaching system which produces exceptional coaches and highly-skilled players.

In turn, such a system should generate players and coaches who can perform at the highest international level. On a wider note, it should enable players of every ability to improve – and derive the maximum enjoyment from our national sport.

Our vision encompasses the entire game in this country, and through consultation with the professional and grassroots games, we are clear about the major challenges we face.

These challenges have helped us frame the five pillars we need to put in place if we are to move from our coaching infrastructure from good to great:

1. A world-class FA Coaching System
2. A first-class coaching workforce
3. Enhanced and sustained support for coaches
4. Coaching as a profession
5. Research, leading to continuous development

The good news is we start this four-year strategy in good shape. A huge amount of work has brought up to this point and on the horizon, the opening of the National Football Centre in 2010-11 will be a massive fillip for the game in this country.

Ultimately, we will have more qualified, specialist coaches, and a higher progression rate through the coaching awards. Clear professional career pathways will be established and we aim to have a top-level pool of English talent capable of becoming England manager and working in the Premier League.

Overall, we will have more and better players and drive up the performance of England teams at all age levels. It all means in four years' time we will have a further platform on which to build and aim even higher.

- *Each of the five pillars which support the overall Coaching Strategy are underpinned by a series of planned activities with deadlines for completion and delivery.*

The full list of activities and the entire Strategy itself – called 'Developing world-class coaches and players' – can be read in full at TheFA.com/coachingstrategy or by requesting a printed copy from your County FA.



"ULTIMATELY, WE WILL HAVE MORE QUALIFIED, SPECIALIST COACHES, AND A HIGHER PROGRESSION RATE THROUGH THE COACHING AWARDS."



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FUNDING – AND HOW TO FIND IT

Finding funding for grassroots football initiatives takes time and tenacity – and as pressure grows on grant distributors, it's a tough task and a tough ask.

To help you in your funding quest, here's a rundown on some grant-making bodies sympathetic to football, other than the well-known Football Foundation – football's biggest supporter.

Some of these funding sources are localised, and have only been included where similar schemes operate elsewhere across England.

Please be aware that every grant application has its own eligibility criteria and terms and conditions – it is vital you understand these before making your case.



Finding funding for grassroots football projects is a constant challenge

1. Charitable Trusts – grants for community-based projects:

There are over 300 active Charitable Trusts operating in the UK, some of whom are sympathetic to sport and football. Most of these trusts are location-specific – some examples include:

- Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust: supports community initiatives, including sporting activities, capable of creating safer communities. Other police forces operate similar trusts. www.beds.policepartnership.org
- Birmingham International Airport Community Trust Fund: backs community groups affected by the operation of the airport. Sports projects are eligible and similar schemes are run by other airports. www.bhx.co.uk
- Capital Community Foundation, Deutsche Bank, London: supports community projects throughout London, including sporting projects. www.capitalcf.org.uk and follow 'Grants' tab.
- Community Foundation for Calderdale: supports the quality of life for people in Calderdale, including sports projects. Visit www.cffc.co.uk and follow 'Grants' tab.

2. The Big Lottery Fund:

The Big Lottery Fund will distribute more than £2.3 billion between 2006-09 through a range of area-specific and themed programmes. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

3. Local Authority discretionary grants:

Many local authorities have their own grant programmes with locally-agreed terms and conditions. It would be impossible to list all these here but each local authority will publish details of these schemes on their websites – alternatively, the Funding Officers employed by local authorities will be able to assist.

4. Landfill Tax Credit Schemes:

These are schemes operated by individual landfill site operators aiming to support local community groups within defined distances from landfill sites. There are many examples of operators running such schemes nationally. To find out if there's a scheme near you, visit: www.environmentagency.gov.uk/yourenv under the heading 'what's in your backyard'.

Need more help?

The internet is a great resource for accessing information about grants and funding. Advice is available from the 'DirectGov' website: www.direct.gov.uk Follow the 'Home and Community' tab and then the 'Getting involved in your Community' tab.

In addition, there is a free to access grant-search facility called GrantNet available at: www.grantnet.com

Sport England also produce a guide around funding at: www.sportengland.org and then follow the 'Get Funding' tab.

As we all know, without funding, many existing grassroots football schemes could not survive – and many new ones could simply not get off the ground. But if you've a good case to make, with defined outputs and benefits to participants, you'll be surprised how many doors you can unlock.

Of course, funding can also come in the form of sponsorship from private sector companies, and sometimes you can form agreements where sponsorship and public sector funding dovetail. But that's for a future issue.

In the meantime, good luck!

TOGETHER, WE CAN RESPECT TO THE HEART

We hope you're already aware of the drive to address unacceptable behaviour at every level of football – a push we've called 'Respect'.

There is a real and present danger to our national sport based on statistics like these:

- 7,000 referees a year leaving the game because of the abuse they receive – on the pitch and from the sidelines.
- 98% of referees have been verbally abused. 27% have been physically abused.
- One-third of all grassroots game being played without a qualified referee.
- 846 grassroots matches being abandoned last season due to unacceptable behaviour from players and/or spectators.
- There is significant drop-out among young players, due to over-pushy and sometimes abusive comments from the sidelines.

Of course, a lot of football is played in a competitive, friendly and respectful environment. But from the extensive research we've undertaken and from personal testimonials and stories, some of behaviour displayed on and off the field is simply appalling.

So you might be reading this and thinking, "Respect doesn't apply in my league/club" – but it does. Even if you've got it 'right' we need you to continue to set an example, and if you've taken a good look in the mirror and know you've got a problem in your league/club, we're here to help.

Okay, how? We all know changes in behaviour take time and effort and it's easy to duck the issue by looking at other areas of the game and saying, "well, if they can't get it right, why should I bother?". The fact is football has a problem, and it's not going away. What's needed is a collective commitment across the entire spectrum of the game. A united approach will create an unstoppable momentum towards change – for the better.



That's why we are really encouraged that every authority in the game is right behind Respect. The Premier League, The Football League, Professional Footballers' Association, League Managers' Association and the Professional Game Match Officials, led by The FA, have joined forces with us at the top of the game.

And the response in grassroots football has been equally positive. We are also grateful for generous funding from the Football Foundation.

The intentions are there, now it needs those of you who run and influence the game on a day-to-day basis to really embrace Respect and implement it fully throughout your league or club.

To help you in this task, we have crystallised all the suggestions we've had to improve behaviour into four practical steps. Fully embracing Respect means implementing the steps which apply to you – and being fully conversant with those which don't:

1. Codes of Conduct
2. Designated Spectators' Area
3. Captain taking responsibility
4. Referee managing the game

Through the County FA network, we're asking as many leagues as possible to sign up to Respect and implement all four practical steps through their clubs and

RESTORE OF FOOTBALL

Respect



registered referees. Sign-up is not mandatory, but based on our common love of football, we hope as many leagues as possible will answer the call.

Certainly the debate and comment Respect has provoked in the national media is extremely welcome in my view. We need to create a climate of opinion where everyone in football agrees bad behaviour is simply unacceptable – this will go a long way to shifting behaviour itself.

As a parallel example, look at how a concerted campaign over several years, has turned smoking from something once considered cool and glamorous into something which society now frowns upon. The long-term benefit of this change in

attitude will significantly improve the nation's health and the burden on the NHS. The same applies to Respect and football. Like the anti-smoking drive, it's been borne from a genuine concern for the health of football.

If together we can create a climate where abusing the referee and/or players is recognised as directly against the spirit of the game, football will benefit hugely – both in the numbers of referees we can recruit and reversing the trend of young players leaving the game, due to touchline pressure from pushy parents and over-zealous coaches. Who knows how many David Beckham and Steven Gerrards have already been lost?

This 'climate change' will take time, so please don't think Respect is a one-off, attention-grabbing campaign. It's intended to last many, many years, until it's woven into the very fabric of football. It's taken a long time for behaviour in football to get to the state it's in – and it will take a long time to turn the tide and move in the opposite direction.

That's why we will be constantly evaluating the effect of Respect and seeking feedback from all quarters.

If you're not involved yet, football needs you on board. To find out more about Respect and to sign up, visit www.TheFA.com/Respect or contact your County FA.

GOVERNMENT HERALDS SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP



Football often gets a rough ride with negative headlines all-too-often courting the attention. But one area in which English football is leading the way is in harnessing our national game's potential to change society for the better and improve the quality of life for ordinary people.

The Football Foundation invests £40m each year into communities thanks to funding provided by The FA, the Premier League and the Government. Kickz is a flagship example of one initiative that uses football and other activities as a tool to engage our most disadvantaged young people and make communities safer.

Earlier this month the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP gave Kickz a ringing endorsement as he joined young people at the Kickz project delivered jointly by Everton and Liverpool Football Clubs, with local partners including Merseyside Police. Kickz sessions take place in the most deprived estates in professional clubs' catchment areas, three times a week, 48 weeks a year.

Mr Burnham used the visit to announce the findings of the first ever annual Kickz report which showed that the Kickz programme had engaged over 16,000 young people across the country, with more than 2,300 of them achieving outcomes such as FA Coaching badges or Sports Leadership awards.

One of the strengths of Kickz is its strong partnerships. It was initially created by the Metropolitan Police and the football industry. It is now managed nationally by the Football Foundation and delivered by 18 Premier League and 13 Football League clubs' community teams across the country, working in partnership with local police forces.

Kickz is also the official sports charity of Wembley Stadium, which has provided 150 stadium tours and hosted workshops and consultations for young people on the project. Wembley is also hosting the first ever Kickz Awards on 30 October. The FA meanwhile has provided 900 tickets to the England versus Czech Republic game and 500 tickets to England U-21 matches.

As well as football and sport activity, educational sessions are also offered to young people about issues such as healthy lifestyles and the dangers of drug use and carrying weapons.

"If you ever needed evidence of how sport can reach out and help young people then

Kickz is it," explained Mr Burnham. "It shows how football can work in the community to reduce crime and give young people hope of a better life."

He continued: "It also brings people together, which is why I am delighted to see that my club Everton and Liverpool have joined forces and are now working together to give something back to the communities that are the bedrock of the clubs. It is vital that football stays in touch with its roots."

The Kickz session Mr Burnham visited took place at Anfield Sport and Community Centre, Breckside Park – a facility that was built with funding from the Football Foundation – demonstrating how football and Government money is combining to rebuild the country's local sports facilities as well.

Illustrating the football-police partnership Mr Burnham was joined at the Anfield Kickz site by Merseyside Police's Deputy Chief Constable Bernard Lawson. DCC Lawson said: "Kickz adds to an overall strategy to address crime and anti-social behaviour in key areas of the city. It is also designed to provide opportunities for young people to interact with Police staff on positive terms, giving the opportunity to help break down any potential barriers."

"Solutions to local issues are strengthened by working together, and I was pleased to see that the Safer Knowsley Partnership recently acknowledged the Everton/Liverpool Kickz partners, for their contribution to crime and disorder reduction."

You can download and read the full Kickz First Season Progress Report by visiting www.footballfoundation.org.uk/kickz.



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Michael Owen wears the UMBRO Nazionale kit

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- View payments your club has made.

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"This is a fantastic step forward in an effort to get a qualified referee to officiate on every FA sanctioned game. Just need to publicise this more so clubs, secretaries and managers etc are aware and start accessing the service. Beats thumbing through the County FA book!"

Tim Perry
Level 5 referee

"Just wanted to say this is a great idea, easy to navigate. I am very enthused and impressed and shall use the services regularly."

Tracey Crutchfield
Club Secretary, Dover Rangers Colts FC

"The Burton Junior Football League have been using Full-Time for a number of years now and are 100% satisfied with the system. Initially we only used it for fixtures, but as we have grown as a league we are using more and more of its features. With almost 4,500 fixtures this season, we need a system that is robust and reliable. Our managers, players and parents have become totally reliant on Full-Time for all the fixtures, player statistics and player registration information."

Mark Jones
General Secretary, Burton JFL

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Respect

SEAE & REME ARBORF END-OF-SEASON TOUR



The Squad

OIC Football: Capt Del Rogers
Scribe: WO2 (AQMS) Daz Willshire

Tired of playing in the mini-world cup in Holland and with our club finances at an all-time high due to the very tight control of the purse strings by WO2 'Ebenezer' Codd, it was agreed that we'd like to do something different for our end of season tour in 2008. A tour to the Algarve in Portugal over the May bank holiday weekend was decided.

Not wanting to work too hard, we employed Burleigh Travel Ltd to organise the tour itinerary which included flights, overseas transfers, accommodation and fixtures. All that was left for us to do was to get ourselves to and from Gatwick airport and pay the bill. The selected tourists, 22 in all, included a 50/50 mix of junior and senior ranks from across all three teams, coaching staff and the OIC football who justified his place by appointing himself



Sgt Mark Durrans getting the better of SSgt Loz Lawrence on the beach

ARBORFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB – PORTUGAL 2008



Cfn Tony Lannon scoring the winning penalty

reserve goalkeeper – he played for the Army Crusaders you know! We met at 3.30am on a wet Friday morning and got off to a great start as SSgt Loz Lawrence forgot his passport!

We arrived in Faro mid morning after a short three-hour flight from Gatwick and were promptly met by our tour representative who then transported us to our accommodation in the heart of Albufeira, some 30 minutes away. The accommodation complex consisted of self-catering apartments, each sleeping up to six people, restaurant, pool, gardens, tennis courts and the all-important bar. After settling in and a swim in the pool, the rest of the day was free to explore the local area and 'The Strip' which was a mile-long street of bars and restaurants only ten minutes away.

On the Saturday we were due to play FC Loule, but this fixture was cancelled several days before due to a clash of venues. Not to be disheartened, training still took place at the nearby sports complex and ended with a fiercely competitive game of head tennis. With the game cancelled, we had a slot to fill and decided to take advantage of some of the amazing golf courses situated in the Algarve. A steady nine-holes was enough for most of the non-golfers, with some of the veterans going round again.

Sunday involved an excursion to the local water park with its 100ft slides and then on the night we took the strip by storm dressed as Superheroes for our fancy dress night.

Monday morning involved a late start followed by training on the local beach at Praia de Oura much to the amusement of the holidaymakers. This was followed by a game of football on the beach and some team bonding in the sea! We relaxed in the accommodation complex in the afternoon prior to being picked up and transported to our fixture against the University of Algarve that evening.

An artificial pitch and substandard changing facilities didn't create the best of first impressions, but the opposition manager and team were very friendly – and very competitive. The game started at a fast pace and didn't really settle down. To our surprise, grassroots Portuguese football is not only fast but very physical, with some very dubious challenges that the referee seemed happy to let go. The Portuguese were not a great passing side and liked to run at us, having the better of the early chances; some great defending by Sgt Flash McMillan stopping them taking the lead. With LCpl Kunle Atiba (Royal Marines) leading the line and some great play down both flanks from Cfn Ben Read and Cfn Gaz White we were unlucky

not to leading at half time. In the second half we started to really stamp our authority on the game as our superior fitness started to show. Despite numerous chances the game ended in a 0-0 draw.

The opposition manager was clearly not happy with the result and asked if we wanted to settle the match with a penalty shoot-out. After a great opening save by Cfn Chris Wing, Cfn Gaz White put us 1-0 up. Another save by Chris Wing, a goal by Cfn Ben Read and a further miss by the opposition meant Cfn Tony Lannon had to score his penalty to win the match, which he did and we finished 3-0 winners.

After a night celebrating, Tuesday was free to explore the Old Town and do some last-minute shopping for souvenirs and 'I'm Sorry' presents for the wives and girlfriends back home. We were transported to the airport early evening and arrived back in Arborfield shortly after midnight ready for work the next morning.

The tour was a fantastic success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those attending; we are already looking forward to next year's tour but have the small matter of this coming season to take care of first.

**"THE TOUR WAS
A FANTASTIC
SUCCESS AND
THOROUGHLY
ENJOYED BY
ALL THOSE
ATTENDING."**

PUTTING ON THE SKILLS AT THE ALDERSHOT ARMY SHOW

The Army FA attended the Aldershot Army Show for the first time in July and the skills sessions they organised in the football arena proved to be one of the most popular attractions at the event.

Over the four days of the show literally thousands of children, aged between four and 16 took part in demonstrations arranged by Army FA, assisted by Football Association Tesco Skills Coaches provided by Middlesex County FA.

Billy Miller and his team of volunteers from the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers worked with the FA Skills Coaches, including Chris McGinn and Ian Mortimer, to provide some excellent sessions for the participating children from ages four to 16 years of age. The main focus was around the five to 11 age group, incorporating participation through the FUNDamental aspects of the game.

Army FA Football Development Officer Steve Stone and Secretary Billy Thompson oversaw the event, which proved to be an excellent experience for all of those



youngsters taking part. They were ably assisted by Gill Jones and Sue Clarke from the Army FA office.

On the first two days of the show, the coaches were kept busy by visiting schoolchildren from Hampshire and surrounding counties, who took part in football skills-related competitions.

The winning participants from the Staunton Community Sports College won a variety of football coaching equipment for their schools. It was an excellent four days at the show and the Army FA will certainly be attending again next year.

Congratulations to the students from Staunton Community.



BY PLANE TO COACH IN BOTSWANA

By Steve Stone

The visit by myself and another FA tutor, Eddie McCluskey, was part of the UEFA-CAF Meridian project that has partnered England and Botswana together. This objective of this initiative is to assist the development of African Football Associations. Our remit was to deliver a variation of the FA Level 1 course and identify possible tutors from the candidates.

Botswana has a population of about 1.9 million, is ranked 115 in the FIFA world rankings and is considered to be one of Africa's wealthiest nations by virtue of its diamond mines. We were based at Gaborone, the capital. Botswana, which has 120 clubs divided into a Premier Division and a Northern and Southern First Division with feeder leagues below.

The visit lasted ten days and began with a chauffeur-driven ride to London Heathrow and a visit to the Club world lounge followed by a very comfortable business class flight into Johannesburg. From here we completed our outward journey and arrived in Botswana 22 hours after leaving home. We settled into our hotel and planned the next day's events.

Day one of the course started with a televised opening ceremony where speeches were made to officially welcome us to Gaborone and the home of the Botswana FA.



Now that's a centre half!



Botswana FA training facility

The facilities were much better than I had anticipated.

The first of many required adaptations was when we realised the candidates were all coaches from either the national Leagues or national teams and included some ex-international players – not really ideal candidates for a Level 1 course, so we quickly changed the content to Level 2 technical and skills sessions, punctuated with some Level 3 phase of plays and 8v8 sessions.

The course was received very well, we worked from 8am till 5pm and had numerous official functions to attend most evenings. One evening was spent at the Botswana FA's equivalent of the PFA awards, which was televised live and we were guests of honour. Another was watching their Under-20 national team play in a friendly pre-season game which gave us quite an insight into where the coaches were tactically, because the coach of the team was on the course.

The visit flew past, and the course concluded with a closing ceremony again attended by the media and senior representatives of the Botswana FA.

On the last day, the Botswana FA kindly organised a Safari trip for us which was worth getting up early for. The Safari was

excellent and it was fascinating to see African animals in their natural habitat.

So in conclusion, a very successful visit, the experience was very gratifying both professionally and culturally, the coaches and officials seemed impressed with our work, and has invited us back next year, so maybe, if I am lucky, I will go again?

"THE CANDIDATES WERE ALL COACHES FROM EITHER THE NATIONAL LEAGUES OR NATIONAL TEAMS."



ARMY TEAMS UP WITH ALDERSHOT LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM

The Army has given its stamp of approval to the Aldershot Town Ladies football team as brand new strips, proudly sporting the Army's 'Be the Best' logo across the front, were unveiled in early October.

The Shots Ladies team currently compete in the Southern Region Premier League and play their first team matches at Farnborough Gate.

Club officials, including its Chairman John McGinty, along with Army Recruiting Officers and players from both the Army's Ladies' Team and Aldershot Town Ladies joined together at the club's EBB Stadium at the Recreation Ground in the heart of the 'Home of the British Army' to welcome this new association.

Riding high on the back of their most successful season to date, having won the South and West Counties Cup and being crowned Inter-Services Champions, the Coach to the Army Ladies Football Team, Captain Sandra Hodgson MBE said: "This is an excellent opportunity for recruiting girls

into both the Army and the football team. Hopefully fans of Aldershot Town will see their girls wearing the new kit and come along to the Army Stadium to take a look at us."

Sandra was joined by the Army ladies' leading striker; Private Kim Holden from Aldershot-based 27 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, who had a kick-about with her counterparts from the club.

Aldershot Town Chairman John McGinty added: "This association with the Army has been too dormant for far too long. I want to see the three main players, the town, club and garrison all coming together to be there for each other.

"Any Service personnel, be they from here in Aldershot Garrison, RAF Odiham or anywhere else for that matter, will be welcomed into any league match at concessionary prices on production of their ID card." His ladies' team skipper, Emma North, added: "As a team we always do our best, now we have it written on our shirts."



LOW QUALITY IMAGE

The new football strip was unveiled at the 'Home of the British Army'



LOW QUALITY IMAGE

L to R, John Hargreaves (Ladies Club Secretary), Andy Liddicott (Ladies 1st Team Manager), John McGinty (Club Chairman), Captain Sandra Hodgson (Coach to the Army Ladies Team) and Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Hall (Army Regional Recruiting)

"THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR RECRUITING GIRLS INTO BOTH THE ARMY AND THE FOOTBALL TEAM."



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One match in three is played without a referee because of abuse from players.

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