

THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA

Issue 8 – Summer Edition 2011



IN THIS ISSUE

NEW FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL

ANOTHER FINE SEASON FOR REME FOOTBALL

Get **into** Football



www.armyfa.com

**ARMY
FOOTBALL**

CONTENTS

COUNTY STAFF

Secretary

Maj WTE Thomson
billy.thomson@armyfa.com
Tel: (Civil) 01252 348571
Tel: (Mil) 94222 3571

Deputy Secretary and Referees Secretary

Mr Graham Brookland
graham.brookland@armyfa.com
Tel: (Civil) 01252 348574
Tel: (ATN) 94222 3574

Discipline and Registration Secretary

Mrs Sue Clarke
susan.clarke@armyfa.com
Tel: (Civil) 01252 348574
Tel: (ATN) 94222 3574

Coaching and Development Officer

Steve Stone
steve.stone@armyfa.com
Tel: (Civil) 01252 347280
Tel: (ATN) 94222 2280

Coaching and Development Administrator

Gill Jones
gill.jones@armyfa.com
Tel: (Civil) 01252 347962
Tel: (ATN) 94222 2962

Office Administrator

Carol Williamson
carol.williamson@armyfa.com
Tel: (Civil) 01252 347962
Tel: (ATN) 94222 2962

Army Football Association
Ministry of Defence (ASCB)
Clayton Barracks
Thornhill Road
Aldershot
Hampshire
GU11 2BG
Fax: 01252 348630

www.armyfa.com

Proudly Sponsored by:



ANDY HALLIDAY BLOWS WHISTLE ON ARMY CAREER	3
NEW FESTIVAL A FINE SHOWCASE FOR ARMY FOOTBALL	4
ARMY WOMEN REGAIN INTER-SERVICES TITLE	6
NOT QUITE SIR ALEX, BUT WE CAN DREAM	7
ACCOLADE FOR ARMY OFFICIALS AFTER FOOTBALL LEAGUE GAME	7
ARMY REFEREES GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH	8
THE FA PULL-OUT MAGAZINE – HERE COME THE GIRLS	9
A NEW ERA	10
TEAM BY TEAM	11
THE MANAGERS	14
PLAYER PROFILE – THE WHITE STUFF	16
FROM NEWCASTLE TO LONDON FOR A WORTHY CAUSE	17
END OF AN ERA AS GARY BIDS FAREWELL TO THE CRUSADERS VETS	17
CORPS FEMALES STAR IN ANOTHER FINE SEASON FOR REME FOOTBALL	18
FORCES' IMPORTANT ROLE IN GROWTH OF KENYAN BOYS' TOURNAMENT	20
HARROGATE DEFEAT GUNNERS IN ARMY YOUTH CUP FINAL	21
EXCITING PROSPECTS FOR NEXT SEASON AS NEW TALENT EMERGES	22
RLC TAKE TITLE AFTER ROYAL SIGNALS FALL AT THE FINAL HURDLE	23

WELCOME



I am delighted to have taken up the appointment of Chairman of the Army Football Association and look forward to the challenge of continuing to improve all aspects of

Army Football in the coming months and years. "The Soldiers' Game" is an excellent magazine and I welcome the opportunity to write the foreword to the 8th edition.

The 2010-11 Season delivered mixed results for our Representative Teams. The Army Men's Team, although undefeated in the Inter Service Competition, lost out to the RAF on goal difference. The Army U23 Development Team also lost on goal difference to the RAF. However, the Army Women's Team won the Inter Service Competition for the first time in three seasons. This is a tremendous achievement and it is great to see the Women's Team setting the pace and example for the men to follow.

The inaugural Festival of Football provided a very successful environment for the climax to the season with the finals of the Army Challenge Cup and the Minor Units Competition. The Festival of Football included a host of different activities throughout the day culminating with the two finals at the Aldershot Military Stadium. The Army Minor Units Cup Final was won by 4 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn defeating 104 FS Bn REME 2-1. The 111th Army Challenge Cup Final was won in a thrilling penalty shoot out after extra time by 3 YORKS who beat 9 Regiment AAC. 1 SCOTS are also to be congratulated for their victory against 42 Engr Regt in the final of the Army Six-a-Side competition on 25th May.

Our officials continue to punch above their weight and, for the first time at a Football League fixture (Notts County versus Bristol Rovers), all

four officials were from the Army – Major Danny McDermid (RLC), WO1 Andy Halliday (RAPTC), Sgt Declan Ford (REME) and LCpl Rob Ellis (RAMC). It was particularly appropriate that this historic and most notable achievement occurred at the home of the oldest football league club in the country.

I am very pleased to announce that funding has been secured for a new Football Development Centre in Aldershot. The new Centre, which will open in 2012, will provide the 21st Century environment for the development of coaches and officials to run football throughout the Army. It is a key element of the drive to increase the number of appropriately qualified officials and coaches in order to expand the Soldiers' Game with a particular focus on the development of the women's game.

Looking forward, we are starting to plan in detail the events to mark our 125th Anniversary, which will run from April 2013 to April 2014. The first meeting of the Army Challenge Cup Committee was held on Friday 17th April 1888 and the first Final was played on the 27th March 1889 at the Kennington Oval when the 2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders beat 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment 2 - 0.

Finally, I would like all of you who volunteer your time and energy to run the management and administration of Army football at all levels. You are key to ensuring the further successful development and promotion of Football in the Army, increasing participation at all levels and in all forms of the game. And we could not achieve what we do without the continuing and generous support of all our sponsors, for which we remain hugely grateful.

Maj Gen Bruce Brealey
Chairman – Army Football Association

"THE NATION'S GAME SUPPORTING THE ARMY'S AIM"



ANDY HALLIDAY BLOWS WHISTLE ON ARMY CAREER

It's been more than two decades since Andy Halliday earned his stripes as a soldier. And you have to go back much further, to the late 19th century, to trace the historic origins of Newcastle United and West Bromwich Albion's famous striped-kit designs.

But it was among the two famous Barclays Premier League clubs that Andy marked the end to his last season as a serving soldier officiating at the highest level of the game.

Andy has just blown the whistle on an Army career that spans nearly three decades, with him making decisions at the elite level of football since 2005.

The 45-year-old father of two attended an Army referees dinner in Aldershot to mark the end of his 26 years in the military and found himself "welling up" after being awarded the Dobson Trophy for his contribution to the Army FA.

"I had to make a speech, but I just couldn't," said Andy, who grew up in Meikle Sypland, Dumfries and Galloway, but now lives in Ripon, North Yorkshire. "I welled up. I thought to myself: 'What are you doing, you daft idiot?' I couldn't speak because all the emotions just came out.

"There's so much I'll take away from my time in the Forces, and I've made lifelong friends."

Andy enlisted in 1985 and spent time in Germany, Scotland, England and Wales. He earned his first stripes as Lance Corporal in 1987 and was promoted all the way up to Warrant Officer Class 1.

He served seven years in the Royal Signals before joining the Royal Army Physical Training Corps in 1992, staying until retirement from service. He has now taken a job as a tutor at Craven College in Skipton.

"There's no question I'll miss the camaraderie of being in the Army," he said. "That's very special. In many ways, though, you get the same kind of thing as a linesman. The banter when meeting up for games is similar and you bounce off one another.

"There's also that level of trust you have to have in your comrades, whether it be on the field of play

in football or in the military field of operations or exercises."

Andy has also served on the Army Football Referees Executive Committee for 12 years and believes the grassroots being grown in the Army FA are developing nicely.

He said: *"Aspiring referees with the Army FA have a very good profile because of their background discipline and training, which stands them in good stead. It's looked upon as a positive because you have the tools to deal with pressure and decision-making."*

He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals in 2006 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 2010 for services to Army sport.

But it was in the lower tiers of the Scottish



Photographs – ©Corporal Paul Morrison, Army Photographer

Highland leagues, in Wales's top division (then the Konica League) and also in the West Yorkshire pyramid system that he flagged up his skills before running the line in front of massive crowds at the likes of Old Trafford, Anfield and Stamford Bridge.

Andy, married to Cindy and dad to Zoe, 21, and Jack, 17, said: *"People sometimes ask me, 'Do you ever get nervous?' But I've never let it get to me that way. It doesn't matter if it's making decisions in front of 60 people or 60,000. I've been used to dealing with a lot of people – there were 600-plus people in the regiment for a start.*

"There was one high-profile game when I made a mistake and I learned a lot from it and became a better official for the experience. That wasn't too long after my first Premier League game."

In his penultimate game of the season, Andy was the referee's assistant at Ewood Park the day Manchester United clinched the point they needed against Blackburn Rovers to win the title.

There was a controversial penalty decision Andy was involved in before Wayne Rooney stepped up to score. The decision was proved right.

At Newcastle's St James' Park, however, it was 38 minutes before the first big decision of the game. West Brom's goalkeeper Scott Carson parried a shot before scrambling to his line in an attempt to stop the ball crossing over.

And that's when Andy slipped up – literally. He lost his footing on the glossy turf but had a good enough view of the ball to award the goal in a game that finished 3-3 in front of an energetic and vocal stadium packed with 51,678 supporters, mainly Magpies, to bring the season to a close – along with Andy's dual role as soldier/linesman.

"There's always a transition to life beyond the Army that soldiers who leave have to deal with," he said. "But being involved in football is great because you're still part of a special team every week and you still make loads of friends by meeting so many people.

"My work with the Army FA continues, however. Once a soldier, always a soldier."



4 MECH BDE HQ and SIG SQN – winners of the Minor Unit Cup

NEW FESTIVAL A FINE SHOWCASE FOR

The Army FA Executive Committee's decision to introduce a Festival of Football to celebrate its two main cup competitions proved a resounding success as the Aldershot Military Stadium paid host to football for the first time in a year in May.

It has been a difficult task organising matches while the venue has been closed for the re-laying of the athletics track at the Queens Avenue stadium, which has been the home of the Army Challenge Cup Final since 1894.

In addition to the staging of the 111th Challenge Cup and Minor Units Finals, the aim was to widen the perception of what Army football offers. There was a presence from the Army refereeing fraternity, who also held their training day and end-of-season presentation dinner over two days, while 22 mascots provided by the Aldershot Town FC Elite and Centre of Excellence sections proved a popular inclusion, especially when the juniors aged from eight through to 14 took part in half-time competitions during the second match interval.

Fittingly, though, this was an opportunity to recognise the growing number of sponsors whose support is increasingly valuable to the Army FA as we look to the future with vision and direction.

Towergate Wilsons, sponsors of the competition since 1984, were present, as were representatives of HP, the new official sponsor of the Army FA, Trinity Insurance, Selex and Fujitsu. The Royal British Legion was also involved as the Army FA continues to express its support for the organisation, which is celebrating its 90th year.

All the sponsors, in addition to other firm supporters of the Army FA during the past year, including Aldershot Town FC, were invited to the Officers' Mess in St Omer Barracks for a pre-match luncheon in appreciation of their continued commitment to Army football.

It set the scene nicely for the opening match, in which 104 FS BN REME paired against 4 MECH BDE HQ AND SIG SQN from Catterick Garrison. It was the first time either side had reached the Minor Units Cup final. 4 MECH took the lead just after halfway in the first half, when Sig Damien Burrell latched onto a fine through-ball from Sig Sean Lane. An excellent call from assistant referee Gnr Lucas Bomela allowed Burrell to slot home.

4 MECH extended the lead just past the hour, when a long punt from keeper LCpl Simon Shrimpton was met by Cpl Robert Simpson, who judged the ball perfectly as it bounced over the centre half before angling it with his head into the far corner of the net.

LCpl James Riches did reduce the arrears late on, but it was too late to influence the match despite a late rally that earned keeper Shrimpton the man-of-the-match award for a commanding performance. The Award was presented by Towergate Wilsons representative James Frankland. 4 MECH Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Captain Simpson lifted the trophy, presented by Brigadier Steve Vickery, to the delight of those present from the Tidworth-based unit.



Cpl Adam Collington (captain) 3 YORKS, winners of the Army Challenge Cup



Aldershot Town FC Elite (mascots)

ARMY FOOTBALL

Teams

104FS: Fuller, Shand, Carter, Soetendal, Crockford, Martinson, Hymas, Doughty, Riches, Warburton, Plawecki. Subs: Sutton, Topley, Cowan, Piper, James

4 MECH BDE HQ & SIG SQN: Shrimpton, Sands, Harker, Dawber, Geering, Dixon, Bradbury, Simpson, Kettleson, Burrell, Lane. Subs: Farrall, Mathews, Padgett, Whittaker, Cox

Referee: Sgt Steve Scott (RE)

Assistants: Gnr Lucas Bomela (RA), WO2 Ronnie Barker (RAMC)

Fourth: SSgt Ken Hughes (REME)

There was much anticipation as the 111th Army Challenge Cup final paired Warminster's 3 YORKS with Dishforth's 9 REGT AAC. The fixture was a repeat of the 2008 final, in which the AAC ran out comprehensive victors. This encounter was a much tighter affair, and it started explosively.

3 YORKS took the lead on five minutes, when Cfn David Reid netted with a back-post header. The lead lasted just nine minutes, though, as AAC levelled when Cpl Barry O'Neill rose unmarked from Cpl Derek McCracken's corner to head home.

There were chances for both teams as the match progressed, but it headed into extra time. Airtsp Michael Mullenger came closest to snatching the lead for AAC during this period when his header was somehow forced behind at the final moment for a corner.

Indeed AAC were the stronger side in the latter stages of extra time and 3 2YORKS had impressive goalkeeper Pte Paul Jones to thank for keeping them in the contest, no more so than when he made a dramatic a one-handed save.

The match was livening up, and AAC responded well. O'Neill drove goal-bound, forcing a one-handed save from Pte Jones while Airtsp Barry Pryce's curling effort from the left was headed off the line by LCpl Baxter.

Fittingly, the match went to penalties yet another slice of drama in the inaugural Festival of Football. There was plenty of excitement too as a nerve-wracking finale saw AAC's O'Neill have a spot kick saved before referee Captain Marshall deemed that keeper Jones had moved early. The re-take was also saved by Jones and, when Airtsp Barry Pryce skied his spot kick over the bar, it was all over for the North Yorkshire-based regiment as 3 YORKS turned the tables from 2008 by winning on spot kicks 4-3.

The man-of-the-match award, presented by Towergate Wilson's Rod Breeze, went to Pte Jones from 3 YORKS, another goalkeeper receiving the accolade.

Army FA Chairman Major General Bruce Brealey presented the Army Challenge Cup to victorious 3 YORKS captain Cpl Adam Collington and team members to end a hectic schedule of football at the Aldershot Military Stadium.

The celebrations were just about to start.

Teams:

3 YORKS: Jones, Bishop, Baxter, Collington, Hill, Gillard (Willie 59), Carrig, Harrison (Barnes 105), Reid, Shinn, Woodward. Unused: Tomkins, Cartledge, Humphries

9 REGT AAC: Lunn, Gray (McLear 69), Bates, Coghlin, Yau, Carroll (Mullenger 79), Gore, McCracken, Barrett, O'Neil, Pryce. Unused: Sibanda, Deardon, Butler

Referee: Capt Alan Marshall (RE)

Assistants: Major John Roskelly (RLC), WO1 Stacey Woodley (REME)

Fourth: WO2 Steve Glyde (R Sigs)

Major General Brealey said in his programme notes: *"We look forward to two hard-fought matches played, and supported, in the spirit of sporting values, where it is essential that we uphold the values of a true sportsman both on and off the field. It is important that we represent a benchmark for the national game's Respect programme."*

His wish was commanded, and the Army FA's new Festival of Football initiative is certainly here to stay.

Graham Brookland –
Assistant Secretary Army FA



ARMY WOMEN REGAIN INTER-SERVICES TITLE

The season kicked off with a trial week at Deepcut to select a squad of 21 players for 2010-11. The first fixture to test that squad was against the Metropolitan Police at home in Aldershot.

The Army started the brighter, with efforts from Cfn Jess Moran and Lt Maz Beanie before Sgt Krissy Wright gave them a well deserved lead just before half time.

Eight changes were made at the interval, but this did not hinder the home side's dominance, and chances were taken by Cfn Yvette Kemp, Gnr Leanne Stringer and Sig Rachel Wheatman.

The Army doubled their advantage by a goal from Cfn Jess Moran before the visitors got a late consolation. Final score: 2 – 1.

The next opposition were Portsmouth Ladies, who ply their trade in the Premier League Southern Division. From the first whistle, the Army were on the offensive, putting the visitors on the back foot, with Cfn Jess Moran, Gnr Bianca Ross and Sgt Krissy Wright all coming close.

Portsmouth Ladies were making substitutions at regular intervals to try to stem the tide, but Cfn Jess Moran opened the scoring before the break.

The second period found Portsmouth testing goalkeeper Gnr Roxy Roberts and the defence of Pte Lisa O'Neill and Bdr Lou Banton. Eventually the defence could do nothing to stop the visitors, who scored three times.

The attack tried their best to reduce the deficit, with shots from Sgt Helen Lee, Pte Holly Pointon and Lt Grace Irvine, but all were unsuccessful. Final score: 1 – 3.

The heavy snow in December meant the Army had to wait until the New Year before meeting the stiff opposition of the London FA in the Southern Counties Cup.

The Army came into this match with a much-depleted squad due to injuries and work commitments, while London could boast players from the Arsenal, Watford and Millwall squads. The Army opened the scoring in difficult

conditions through LCpl Kelly Cox, but this only brought the opposition to life and they responded with some slick passing and movement to score five times before the interval.

The second half started as the first had ended, with London scoring a further three times without reply.

To their credit, the hosts were testing the away keeper with fine efforts from Sig Sian Gooch-Hatton and LCpl Kelly Cox before Sig Amanda Turnbull got a late goal to finish the scoring. Final score: 2–8.

The last match before the Inter-Services competition saw the Army visit Middlesex FA. An encouraging performance on a heavy pitch saw the visitors take an early lead through a penalty from Sgt Juliette Brown. The hosts scored twice before a late goal from Lt Maria Beaney secured a well-deserved point for the Army. Final score: 2 – 2.

Before the Inter-Services Championships, the squad managed to steal some training time together at Southwick Park, where they based themselves for a few days before the first fixture against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth.

This was always going to be a tight encounter, with the home side having drawn their opening fixture with the RAF. The hosts stated their intent by winning a corner in the opening 10 minutes, which resulted in a shot coming back off of the crossbar. This seemed to galvanise the Army into action, with efforts from Sgt Krissy Wright, Sig Amanda Turnbull and Cfn Yvette Kemp before Cfn Max McIver broke the deadlock by rounding the home keeper and passing into the empty net.

The Army kept that attacking tempo at the start of the second half with attempts by Cfn Jess Moran and Sig Rachel Wheatman before a lapse in concentration let the Navy back into the game. Pressure was now mounting on the Navy goal

with LCpl Kelly Cox eventually grabbing the goal the Army deserved. Final score: 1 – 2.

It was back to Southwick Park for a few more days before the second fixture in the Inter-Services Championships. The RAF team were always going to be tough opponents, but the Army knew that, by avoiding defeat, they would be crowned champions.

Both teams started brightly, with Gnr Roxy Roberts keeping the RAF at bay with some fine saves. At the other end, both Cfn Max McIver and LCpl Kelly Cox made sure that the away keeper was also kept busy.

The second half produced the same as the first, with Gnr Roxy Roberts again denying the RAF. The Army did come close on occasions, with Cfn Jess Moran and Gnr Bianca Ross having really good attempts on goal. Both teams played some excellent football in a keenly contested match, which saw an added eight minutes played after an injury to Gnr Roxy Roberts.

After the final whistle, the Army were crowned Inter-Services champions. Final score: 0 – 0.

Sadly the final match of the season, against Sussex in the Southern Counties Cup, had to be called off. It had been rearranged from its earlier date due to the snow but had been booked during the Easter holidays. With block leave, injuries and operational tours, the Army were unable to put together a credible squad and hence had to forfeit the game.

So, at the end of the 2010-11 season, the Army women's team had played six games, winning two, drawing two and losing two. However, most importantly, they had won the Inter-Services Championships for the first time in three years.

The team and staff would like to thank their sponsor, Vic Baker from Trinity Insurance, for all his support (both financial and on the sidelines) throughout the year. In addition, a big thank you goes to the Army FA staff and the Executive Committee for their continued support of women's football.

NOT QUITE SIR ALEX, BUT WE CAN DREAM

Army FA coaches gather at Aldershot

The first gathering in 2011 of the Army Football Coaches Association took place on 24 March at Fox Lines in Aldershot. Nearly 35 Army and civilian coaches lined up in the cinema at the School of PT.

Kicking off the programme was Billy Thomson, the Army FA Secretary, who gave a fascinating insight into the new Army FA developments. He talked about the Festival of Football, the plan for a showcase fixture and the opportunity to raise the profile of Army football.

The second lecture involved WO2 Chris Oakes, who gave an informative talk on sports nutrition, based on understanding blood groups. It certainly got everyone thinking - pre-match meals will never be the same again.



After coffee, the Army Head Coach, Joey Collins, gave an interesting talk on the approach adopted by the Army team during the Inter-Services build-up. He spoke about elite performance and squad ethos as key to doing well. Positive thinking was order of the day.

The morning finished with a good interactive

session with Danny McDermid, our Football League (Championship) Army referee. Danny deliberately provoked conversation, and the coaches were quick to come back to him with some alternative views on refereeing. In truth, it was a revealing exchange and perhaps emphasised that refs and coaches do need to talk to one another more often.

After lunch, the Army FA tutor, Steve Stone, ran a practical session on the role of the lone striker. Ideas and drills were exchanged as the REME football squad were put through their paces.

The weather was glorious and the Vice Chairman, Brig Mitch Mitchell, paid a visit to the session.

Major Dave Manners now takes the reins for organising future coaching days. Certainly there are many pro coaches who have offered lots of their time.

Regards and happy coaching,

Brigadier Steve Vickery, Army FA Coach Co-ordinator, afacoachcoord@gmail.com

ACCOLADE FOR ARMY OFFICIALS AFTER FOOTBALL LEAGUE GAME

A presentation to four history-making soldiers was made by Brigadier Mitchell, Vice Chairman of the Army FA, at the pre-lunch before the Army FA Festival of Football in May.

A presentation to four history-making soldiers was made by Brigadier Mitchell, Vice Chairman of the Army FA, at the pre-lunch before the Army FA Festival of Football in May.

The four soldiers were all appointed as officials to the Football League match between Notts County and Bristol Rovers on Saturday, 19 March, 2011.

Pictured are WO1 Andy Halliday, LCpl Rob Ellis, Brigadier Mitchell, match referee Major Danny McDermid and Sgt Declan Ford.

Rovers won the match 1-0 but were eventually relegated, ironically with County, then managed by Paul Ince, surviving. County spokesman Jamie Dixon said:

"Notts County was delighted to welcome four serving soldiers as match officials for our game against Bristol Rovers. The club is always keen to publicise the work of those that sign up to protect our country at home and abroad. Everyone here



has nothing but the utmost respect for the work of the Armed Services."

Graham Brookland – Referees Secretary – Army FA

ARMY REFEREES GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Football League match official Sgt Declan Ford reflects on another positive season for Army refereeing.

As a current member of the Army FA Referees' Committee, I was kindly volunteered by the Chairman, Major Brian Murdoch, to put pen to paper and highlight the promotions achieved by Army referees this season.

It is always a pleasure to be able to report on all the positive achievements of our referees, a reward for all the hard work that the individuals put in during the season.



Deserved recognition for Captain Alan Marshall, who controlled the 111th Army FA Cup final excellently at the Aldershot Military Stadium in May. Alan is presented with a memento by Army FA Chairman Major General Bruce Brealey.

For those of you who are unaware of how a referee gains promotion, the process sees junior referees independently assessed on three or four games, and they then receive a written report on their performances. If the referee performs to the expected standard in these games, he will be promoted to the next level at the end of the season.

Once a referee has achieved his basic promotions and is able to referee at the lower levels of civilian non-league football, the promotions become harder to achieve as the referee is assessed more regularly with a referees' league table determining the best-performing referees.

On promotion into professional football, you are assessed on every game. It is a steep promotion pyramid, with fewer and fewer available promotion slots at each level.

For Army referees, this year pride of place must go to Capt Dave Woolford, who has achieved promotion onto the National List of Assistant Referees. This means he will be lining across all three divisions of the Football League next season.

It is a tremendous achievement, and it also means that, with the move of WO1 Andy Halliday to Civi Street, the Army still has four officials operating on the Football League, meaning that we continue to punch above our weight when you consider the size of our pool of referees compared to our civilian county counterparts.

Dave has cause for a double celebration as he has also been promoted as a referee to Level 2B, which means he will be refereeing on the Blue Square North and South as well as refereeing the reserve teams of the Premier and Football Leagues.

The Army FA has also had three referees promoted to Level 3. John Roskelly, Steve Glyde and Stu Jack will now be refereeing at the higher echelons of non-league football on leagues such as the Ryman (Isthmian), Evostick (Northern Premier) and Southern Leagues – a very high standard of football I am sure they will fully enjoy.

Promoted to Level 4, which will see them lining on the above leagues while refereeing on such as the Hellenic, Combined Counties and Wessex Leagues, are Lee Cunningham, Neil Hanley, Andy Moore and Neil Walsh.

For these guys, this is the first step into senior non-league football and also means that the Army FA has no influence on their future promotions as these will be achieved based on their performances in their civilian matches compared to their civilian referee counterparts.

The referee team for the 2011 Army Challenge Cup final with John Roskelly (left), Alan Marshall (referee), Steve Glyde and Stacey Woodley, who has recently been promoted to the Select List of Army referees. In addition, Roskelly and Glyde have been promoted to join Alan Marshall at Level 3.



It is very good for Army football that we are continuing to achieve promotions at the top end of the refereeing pyramid, but equally important is the promotion of our junior referees as they begin their hopefully long and successful careers.

So a big pat on the back to our promotees to Level 5 - senior county referee - Nigel Bamford and Reg Varney, and our new Level 6 referees, Ronnie Barker, Lucas Bomela, Andy Cuthbert, Jack Halliday, Chris Hastings, Kwame Hinson, Mark Hounsell and Rim Rimmington MBE.

Final congratulations must also go to Stacey Woodley and Steve Glyde, who have been promoted to the Army Select List. This is an exclusive list in Army football for which all L5s and above are eligible. It is used to provide the referees for Army representative games and other prestigious matches.

Well done Stacey and Steve for a consistently high level of performance on Corps games.

So another successful season for Army referees has concluded. All successful candidates will undoubtedly be looking forward to the new challenges that next season will bring. For those who were not successful, the aim will be to bounce back next season and achieve promotion.

Let's hope that, in season 2011-12, Army referees continue to perform well and we can move even more of them into the upper echelons of professional football.

GET INTO FOOTBALL

The FA supplement dedicated to the grassroots game



Meet the teams

Meet the players hoping to help their team to victory in the new FA WSL

"An exciting, bright future"

Four managers explain the importance of the new league to the women's game

Captain's log

From garden kickabouts to the Gunners armband, Faye White on her rise to the top



HERE COME THE GIRLS!

The FA WSL kicks off a new era in women's football and eight teams are aiming to make history

The FA
WSL ★

Get **into** Football



A NEW ERA!

Eight teams are battling it out for the big prize in The FA WSL, which kicked off in April. Here are the runners and riders...



ARSENAL LADIES FC

Home Meadow Park, Boreham Wood FC

Manager Laura Harvey

Captain Faye White (above left)

Website www.arsenal.com/ladies

Arsenal Ladies have been one of the most successful clubs in women's football since their inception in 1987.

In 24 years, the Gunners have collected an unbelievable 33 trophies, including 12 FA Women's Premier League titles, ten FA Cups and a UEFA Women's Cup, with much of their success coming under the guidance of Vic Akers. The Former Cambridge United player was First Team Manager for an incredible 22 years, before bowing out at the end of the 2008-09 season with a third domestic treble, winning The FA Women's Premier League, The FA Women's Cup and The FA Women's Premier League Cup.

The Gunners still boast the experienced international talents of Irish goalkeeper Emma Byrne, England's Faye White, Katie Chapman and Rachel Yankey (right), plus Scotland striker Julie Fleeting, along with a host of young stars emerging.

The likes of Ellen White, Gilly Flaherty, Jordan Nobbs and Lauren Bruton will be looking to maintain the club's winning culture with the dawn of the new WSL.



BIRMINGHAM CITY LADIES FC

Home Knights Lane, Stratford Town FC

First Team Coach Marcus Bignot

Captain Laura Bassett (above right)

Website www.bclfc.com

Just weeks before the start of The FA WSL, Birmingham City Ladies FC received a welcome boost, when their male counterparts – fresh from lifting the League Cup at Wembley – announced their official support of the club.

It was another significant milestone in the history of one of the oldest clubs in the women's game and yet another indication of The FA WSL's widespread appeal.

City were formed in 1968 by a group of female supporters. They played friendly games locally until 1970 when they joined the newly-formed Heart of England League. Having established an Academy for junior teams in the early 1990s the club is now benefitting from that investment in youth. As the club entered the new millennium, several players began to emerge through the junior ranks and by 2003 not only were players making progress within the club but also on the international stage, with nine of the playing staff turning out for the

Three Lions at some level. Today the squad includes a number of full internationals, including Karen Carney, Dunia Susi and Laura Bassett.





CHELSEA LADIES FC

Home Imperial Fields,
Tooting & Mitcham United FC
Manager Matt Beard
Captain Kylie Davies
Website www.chelseafc.com

Over the past five seasons Chelsea Ladies have become one of the strongest women's teams in the country after gaining promotion to The FA Women's Premier League in 2005.

Like their male counterparts, they have set themselves high standards, aiming to produce a first team that is consistently capable of finishing in the country's top four, something they achieved in the two previous seasons, finishing third behind Arsenal and Everton in 2009 and 2010. The club has established strong foundations and is building on those through its Female Centre of Excellence and Academy College Programme – aimed at producing players with the ability and mentality to perform within the senior sides. The club also has the support of the Chelsea first team, with captain John Terry generously offering assistance.

The squad boasts several internationals, including Shelby Hills (left) who has six caps for the England U19s.

Chelsea will meet Arsenal in the first ever FA WSL match on Wednesday 13 April.

BRISTOL ACADEMY WOMEN'S FC

Home WISE Campus, New Road, Stoke Gifford
Manager Mark Sampson
Captain Corinne Yorston
Website www.bristolacademywfc.fawsl.com

The progress of Bristol Academy

Women's FC over the past decade has been quite a remarkable story, particularly now they're preparing to dine at women's football's top table.

From their early beginnings as a youth outfit, in 1998 Bristol Rovers Women's FC was formed as a senior club following a merger with Cable-Tel Ladies Football Club in Wales. Via a partnership with Filton College and a change of name in 2005, Bristol Academy is now one of the most recognisable brands in the women's game.

Filton won the prestigious National FA Charter Standard Colleges Female Football Award in 2006 for its Female Football Development Centre (FDC).

Students at the FDC benefit from the centre's unique set-up which provides the opportunity to participate in football alongside an array of academic courses.

This relationship has provided Bristol Academy Women's FC with the kind of foundations that will help the club grow even further.

Manager Mark Sampson has also added recognised names such as Corinne Yorston and Siobhan Chamberlain.



DONCASTER ROVERS BELLES

Home Keepmoat Stadium, Stadium Way
Manager John Buckley
Captain Vicky Exley
Website www.doncasterroversbelles.co.uk

As one of the oldest and most successful teams in women's football, Doncaster Rovers Belles will view the launch of The FA WSL as an opportunity to return to winning ways.

The club began life in 1969 as Belle Vue Belles FC and by the early '80s the Belles had established themselves as the one of the game's leading sides, picking up their first FA Women's Cup title in 1983. They would go on to win the famous trophy a further five times, with only Arsenal and Southampton having won it more.

With the launch of The FA's Women's National League in 1991, Doncaster showed their enduring quality by lifting the inaugural title and achieving a momentous double by also securing The FA Women's Cup.

Former Celtic, Partick Thistle and Doncaster Rovers winger John Buckley has been at the helm since 2003 and under his guidance the Belles have maintained their status in the top flight.

They endured heartache in the 2009 Premier League Cup Final as Arsenal once again proved their tormentors, but Buckley will be hopeful that his young charges, along with a few new faces from overseas, will be able to write a new chapter in the illustrious history of this proud club.



EVERTON LADIES FC

Home Rossett Park, Crosby
Manager Mo Marley
Captain Jody Handley
Website www.evertonfc.com

With England Women's U19s manager Mo Marley (left) in charge, Everton have established themselves as one of the powerhouses of the women's game.

Despite losing The FA Women's Cup Final to Doncaster Rovers Belles in 1988, they went one better a year later beating Friends of Fulham to lift The Cup for the first time in their history. The club became known as Everton Ladies in the mid-'90s and despite the disappointment of losing The FA Premier League Cup Final to Millwall in 1997, they continued to make their mark, achieving their biggest success to date the following season when they won The FA Women's Premier League.

At the helm during much of this time has been former Toffee and England international Marley. Since 2002 she has led the Blues to League Cup (2008) and FA Cup (2010) glory, as well as finishing second in the last five seasons of the Women's Premier League. With seasoned internationals to call upon – including Rachel Brown, Rachel Unitt, Fara Williams (above right) and Jill Scott – Everton are sure to be one of the main contenders.

LINCOLN LADIES FC

Home Ashby Avenue, Lincoln
Manager Rod Wilson
Captain Megan Harris
Website www.lincolnladiesfc.com

As one of two WSL teams not to have come directly from The FA Women's Premier League – both Lincoln and Liverpool spent last season in the Northern Division – the Imps have yet to experience the top flight of women's football.

Finishing runners-up in the Northern Division for the past four seasons, they came agonisingly close to reaching the Premier League. But with their place now secured in the WSL, they will be relishing their opportunity to shine on the biggest stage.

Manager Rod Wilson has made a host of new signings to line up alongside captain Megan Harris and former goalkeeper Nicola Hobbs (right), with eight of those players coming from Leeds Carnegie including England internationals Sue Smith (below right), Sophie Bradley and Jess Clarke.

Since its inception in 1995, the club has enjoyed excellent local support, providing the perfect base on which to build. Proof of their popularity was demonstrated when they played the entire 2002-03 season, their first in the Premier League Northern Division, at Sincil Bank Stadium, becoming the first women's side to play a full season at a professional league ground.



LIVERPOOL LADIES FC

Home Skelmersdale & Ormskirk College Stadium, Skelmersdale
Manager Robbie Johnson
Captain Vicky Jones
Website www.liverpooladiesfc.co.uk

Carrying one of the most famous names in world football, it would be understandable to think there will be a heavy weight of expectation on Liverpool Ladies FC when The WSL kicks off. Yet in reality the Reds will be one of the underdogs of the inaugural campaign.

Having started life in 1989 as Newton LFC, the club changed its name to Knowsley United two years later and were founding members of The FA Women's Premier League in the early '90s. In 1994 they took on their current moniker and it may well have been an inspiration, as they reached back-to-back FA Women's Cup Finals in 1995 and 1996.

Since then, the club has endured a tumultuous time, with promotion following relegation seemingly the norm. As such, they spent the 2009-10 season in the Northern Division and managed to go the entire campaign losing only one game, once again finishing top of the league.

That strong form should provide positives for manager Robbie Johnson, who has a large squad at his disposal and also benefits from being able to draw upon talented players from the Liverpool Girls Centre of Excellence.





“The WSL will be the beginning of an exciting future for women’s football”

Don’t take our word for it, here’s what some of the managers are saying

MATT BEARD

Chelsea manager
(pictured right)

“I believe it’s going to be the closest fought women’s league for many years. Each team has quality throughout their squads, which may mean anyone can beat anyone on their day. I feel with The FA WSL being played mostly out of the men’s season, it will give the players an opportunity to show how talented they are and hopefully attract new fans to the women’s game.”



“The FA WSL will give young girls something to strive for with it being shown on TV and with the extra media coverage that the league will attract. They can see it is possible to have a career as a female footballer as they continue their development. All of the teams will have improved from last season. Every side has added quality to their squads and the league will be closer and more competitive than in the past.”

JOHN BUCKLEY

Doncaster Rovers Belles manager

“Everyone at the club is excited about the start of The FA WSL. Over the last 12 months an incredible amount of work has gone on at the club both on and off the pitch. The league has the potential to take the women’s game to a new level. If every player and club gets fully behind The FA and their vision for The WSL then the league will be the beginning of an exciting and sustainable future for women’s football.”

MARK SAMPSON

Bristol Academy manager



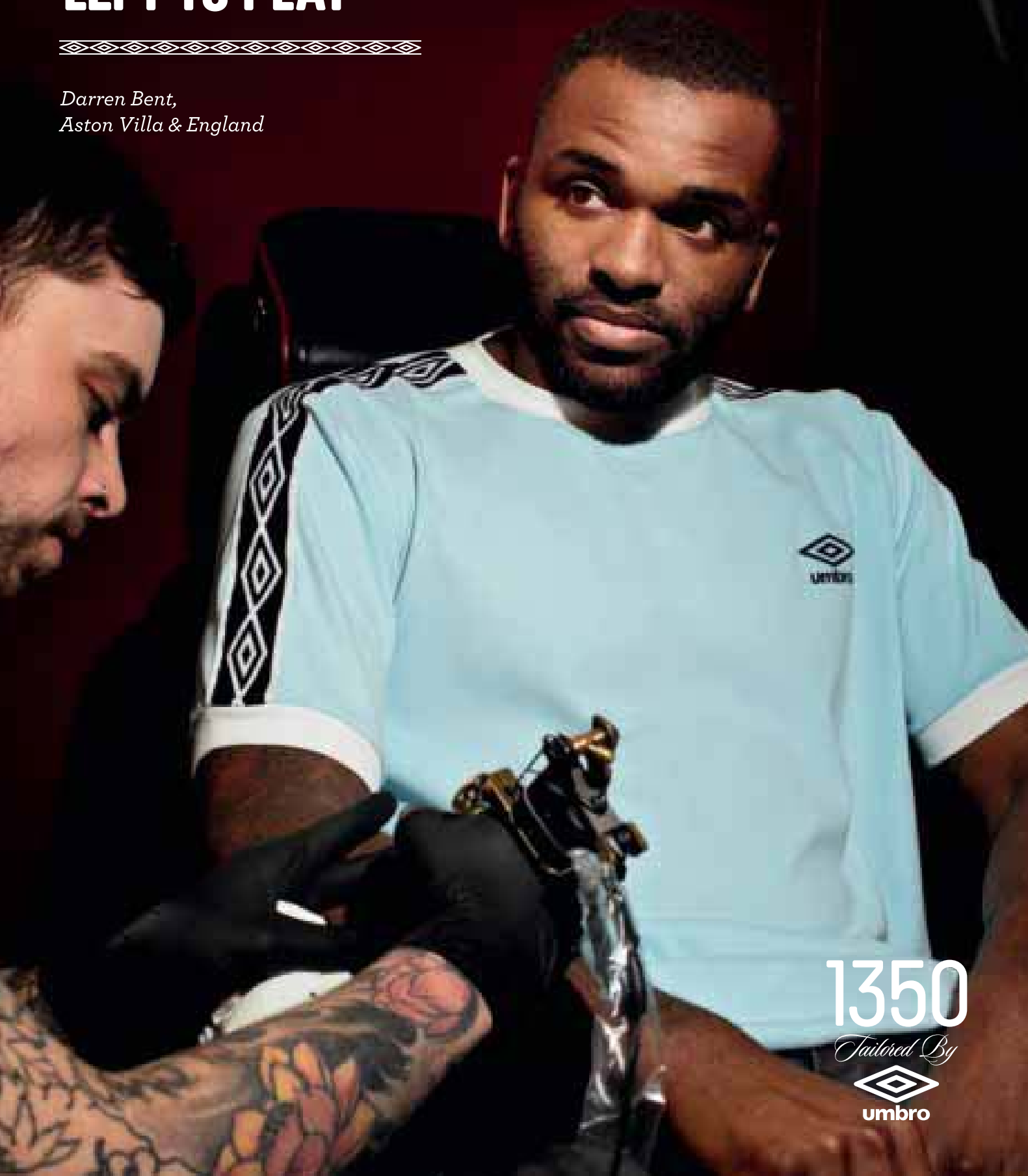
ROBBIE JOHNSON

Liverpool Ladies manager (above)

“It’s certainly going to raise the profile of the game and hopefully encourage more people to get involved. The investment in the game will drive standards and if the product is good enough, it will entice more to watch it. The FA WSL will be a far more physical and tactical league this year. The players will be more technically adept which will have a big impact on the quality of football – which is great news for the fans.”

AFTER THE 90, THERE ARE STILL 1350 MINUTES LEFT TO PLAY

*Darren Bent,
Aston Villa & England*



1350
Tailored By

umbro



If you're interested in playing, coaching or become part of the beautiful game, visit TheFA.com/GetIntoFootball

THE WHITE STUFF

From garden kickabouts to leading out the England team, Faye White talks about her path to the top and future plans

On Monday 27 June in Wolfsburg, Faye White will lead the England Women's team into their second consecutive appearance at the FIFA Women's World Cup Finals.

The skipper turned 33 last month and has been a fixture in the England set-up for 14 years now. White also wears the armband for Arsenal Ladies and has lifted an array of domestic and European trophies during her time in Boreham Wood. The centre-back has subsequently become a role model for young, football-loving girls across the country. But how did she first get into the game?

"I have always been sporty, so I'd be out in the garden with my older brother kicking a ball," White recalled. "I used to watch my dad play in his Saturday team and he also used to coach my brother's team, Horley Town, so when I was about ten I used to go along to those sessions and I got involved in their training until I was about 13. Back then, football wasn't really a sport that girls were encouraged to take up, but I loved it."

After three years of playing with her brother and his

Horley Town team-mates, White decided to go to an all-girls coaching session and it was here that her path to the England team began when she met the coach of a local girls' side, Horsham Ladies. White very quickly worked her way into the reserve side and became a first-team player aged just 14.

The path to the England Women's team is a lot different today, though, and White is delighted with the progress the women's and girls' game has made during her career.

"There are now more opportunities for a player to find and join a girls' team," she said. "There are so many more girls' teams out there than there were 14, 15 years ago and that's brilliant. Girls can receive quality coaching at a younger age and maybe work

their way into a Centre of Excellence via talent camps, things we didn't have when I was younger.

"My first experience of the game was having to play with boys, but now girls can play with other girls. Girls playing football is now completely socially acceptable. Rather than having to just play with their older brother, girls

can play with friends their own age. It makes them feel like football is a sport for them and not just for boys.

"They have got female players they can look up to as role models, as any boy would have, and they can go out and try and emulate them on the pitch."

White is so enthused by the development in the women's game that she now spends a lot of her time delivering coaching sessions to schools, a career she hopes to further pursue once she hangs up her boots.

"I got into coaching when I was 18 because I loved the game and I wanted to learn more about it while I was still playing," White admitted. "I thought it would benefit me and now I want to help the players of the future.

"I'm studying for my UEFA 'B' licence and I'd like to coach at a high level because that's where I've played most of my football.

I'm ambitious and I'd like to win things as a manager."

Whenever she can, White visits the Arsenal Ladies' Centre of Excellence to see the next generation of Gunners. "It's so refreshing to see the ability the girls have got at that age. Because of the coaching they are now receiving, the standard is a lot higher overall than when I was their age."

Great coaches need great inspiration, and one coach White pays tribute to for his support and guidance is her coach at Horsham Ladies, Jim Muir.

"He realised that I needed to join Arsenal to progress further and he really encouraged me. He was a great coach and he always looked to coach the game in a way that was easy to understand. Hopefully I can take that attitude into my coaching career."

FAYE'S COACHING HIGHLIGHT

I went to Highbury Fields School for a coaching session for 20-odd 14 year olds and there was this one little 11 year old among them called Abigail Mills. Her teacher knew she liked football, so she asked me if I'd let her join in. Boy did she stand out!

Some of the things Abi was doing against girls three years older than her really took me by surprise; she was only a tiny little thing but she was doing Cruyff turns and dribbling past two or three players.

I gave her teacher some details of the Arsenal Centre of Excellence and she's been there ever since. She is now in the England U15 side.

It's really rewarding to see how she has progressed since that coaching session. She's still tiny but she'd be one of the better players and bigger characters in any team. I'm delighted she's had the chance to develop.



Faye White takes every opportunity to coach young players



FROM NEWCASTLE TO LONDON FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

IN AID OF ABF – The Soldiers' Charity and Great Britain Disability Football Association

Three Warrant Officers from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers have just completed *'The Premier League Stadia Challenge 2011'*.

WO1 (ASM) Mick Cotton and Mark Schorah, alongside WO2 (CSM) Cliff Johnson, rode on cycles between 16 and 22 May from Newcastle United FC to Tottenham Hotspur FC, visiting every Premier League ground en route.

They also visited Selly Oak Hospital, the National Memorial Arboretum and Headley Court. The journey was over 630 miles and took the team over some arduous terrain – and through some very inclement weather.

The riders are still raising funds by taking part in smaller events, such as a 24-hour enduro ride at The Meadows in Sandhurst, but the focus and indeed climax of the fund-raising is a charity black tie event at Manchester United's Old Trafford International Suite on Saturday, 30 July.

During this gala dinner, there will be an auction of various sporting memorabilia, such as David Beckham's signed England shirt and Usain Bolt's

signed running spikes. We are also including *'Money can't buy'* items, such as a day fishing with Big Jack Charlton, *'A day at the King's Troop RHA'*, *'CRARRV car crushing'* and *'Being a soldier for a day'*.

The event is predominantly football-based. You do not have to attend to bid for items as there will be an internet capability before and on the night. Visit the following websites for all the details:

www.studsandspokes.com for information on the bike ride, including blog, information about the riders and charities we are supporting.

www.afvevents.co.uk for information on the gala dinner and the auction items.

If you are able to facilitate us, please contact myself for any information you require:

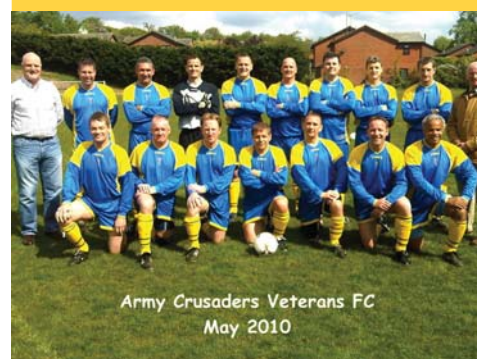
WO1 Graham Scott

DEME-OD-Estbs-WO1@mod.uk – 01189 763870

End of an era as Gary bids farewell to the Crusaders Vets

Lt Col Gary Gordon RLC recently handed over the reigns as manager of Army Crusaders Veterans and, to mark this end of an era, an afternoon's golf was played at the Pine Ridge course in Deepcut.

Gary was joined by his successor and Club Secretary, Maj Andy Campbell, Club Treasurer Maj Andy Dick, Lt Col Nick Byrne, Maj Pete Brierley, Maj John Roskelley and Capt Paul Fagin. It was clear to all that, during his recent sabbatical, Gary had managed to keep his eye in and played a lot of golf. After a long (longer for some) 18 holes, players were joined by Lt Col Mike Valencia and Maj (Retd) Fraser Dryburgh for a meal in the clubhouse.



Crusaders Vets – tour of Cyprus. Gary Gordon is left of the goalkeeper

Gary resurrected the Army Crusaders Veterans' team in 2003, and has corralled dozens of older officers to dust their boots off and continue playing for the last eight years. This is no mean feat, occasionally frustrating maybe, but by employing the wonder of technology he has maintained a thriving team almost single-handedly.

Gary will be missed by all who have served with him both on and off the pitch.

He has retired after a full soldier and Late Entry Officer career and has secured an NRPS position as JRL0 Scotland and will be settling in Sterling, at least until the outcome of Project AVANTI is known...

Army officers over the age of 35 are encouraged to sign up for the Crusaders Veterans. Details can be found at <http://www.crusadersfc.org.uk/veterans/index.html>

Chairman: **Colonel D E Cook OBE**



CORPS FEMALES STAR IN ANOTHER

REME Corps football is healthy and vibrant, if not quite breaking through to attain the Inter-Corps Massey Trophy success we aspire to.

REME continues to be recognised as an FA Charter Standard Club and our success is undoubtedly sustained by an exceptionally committed, positive and all-volunteer committee of administrators and coaches.

Football continues to be the REME soldiers' game of choice, routinely attracting the greatest number of participants. Entries into all competitions remain high and, given unit commitments, this proves the continued popularity of football with our soldiers.

At unit level, following on from 6 CS Bn REME's narrow loss in last year's Challenge Cup final, REME teams made up three of the eight semi-finalists in both the Major and Minor competitions, with 11 Bn REME making the semi-finals of the Major competition and 104 FS Bn REME and 50 OPR Coy making the semi-finals of the Minor competition. 104 FS Bn REME went on to the Minor Unit final but were narrowly beaten by 4 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

CORPS LEVEL

Our young, talented men's side again fell just short of winning the Inter-Corps Massey Trophy. We will look at all aspects of our Corps set-up to ensure we go one better next year.

The female team have had another superb season, winning the league and cup double, only conceding two goals in the process. This is a magnificent performance and REME ladies' football is leading the way.

Two men and two women have achieved Combined Services representation this season. Five men and seven females are now in their respective full Army squads and eight men are now representing the Army at under-23 level.

REME representation at the highest levels of football has never been stronger. Corps football continues to move forward and it represents an important outlet for our soldiers to balance the busy commitments of operations and in-barracks life

CORPS MALE TEAM

The match summary for the season is shown below.

Season	P	W	D	L	F	A
2010 - 11	15	6	5	4	27	22

The aim was to build on last year's success, yet after an average start coupled with an early exit

from the Woolwich Cup, it looked as though the season for REME would be effectively over by early 2011.

However, a strong run of results, coupled with a similar poor run for our main rivals, left everything to play for at the final fixture.

The permutations of the game against the Royal Signals were vast, but a win for REME would secure the quadrangular and other results and a four-goal swing to REME would also secure the Massey Trophy.

However a no-score draw gave the Royal Signals the Quadrangular Trophy, by a single goal's difference, and ultimately led to the Massey Trophy being lost to the Royal Logistic Corps.

REME did however win the Boyne Cup, Gunner Cup, Bulmer Cup and Pearce Salver during the season.



Gen Boyne presents the Boyne Cup to REME skipper Cpl Reilly.

FINE SEASON FOR REME

CORPS FEMALE TEAM

The match summary for the season is shown below.

Season	P	W	D	L	F	A
2010 - 11	11	10	0	1	40	2

Another outstanding season for the women's team, sweeping aside all they play. A comprehensive league and cup double, conceding only two goals in the process, is impressive indeed.

REME women now have a firm presence in the full Army squad, with Cfn Kemp achieving Army Colours and Cfn Moran receiving her Army cap. The future of REME women's football is bright and REME lead the way as women's football continues to go from strength to strength.

UNIT LEVEL

104 FS Bn REME won through to the final of the minor unit Army Challenge Cup, where they were narrowly defeated by 4 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

This is the third year running that the Corps has had a Bn team in the Army Challenge Cup final, and with the current wealth of REME talent coupled with emerging talent in the schools the potential exists to have another REME unit in the final next year.

The Craftsman Cup sixes competition again achieved maximum entries, and only time and hours of sunlight prevent more teams being permitted to enter.

Although both the training schools dominated the finals, a number of LAD sides took significant scalps in the early rounds, resulting in many of the battalion sides not making the knock-out rounds.



Gen Boyne and Brigadier Mitch meet the teams on the final day of the Quads.

The Craftsman Cup this year achieved record entries, and the finals at the Daly Ground in Bordon were very strongly contested, with successes for 11 Trg Bn in the majors and 39 Regt RA Wksp in the minors. Both teams went on to beat the respective winners in Germany to be crowned Corps champions.

Combined Services – The following players were called up to represent the Combined Services in the 2010-11 season:

Male	Female
(1) Cpl Reilly	(1) Cfn Jeffries
(2) Cpl Lannon	(2) Cfn Mclvor

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

Army – The following players were called up to represent the Army in the 2010-11 season:

Male	Female
(1) Cpl Reilly	(1) LCpl Johnson
(2) Cpl Lannon	(2) Cfn Jeffries
(3) LCpl Roberts	(3) Cfn Kemp
(4) LCpl Shuttleworth	(4) Cfn Maxwell
(5) Cfn Green	(5) Cfn Mclvor
	(6) Cfn Moran
	(7) Cfn Willis

INTER-UNIT COMPETITIONS

Craftsman's Cup

Senior winners:	11 Trg Bn REME
Junior winners:	39 Regt RA Wksp REME

CORPS SIX-A-SIDE COMPETITION

Winners:	11 Trg Bn REME
Plate winners:	10 Trg Bn REME



FORCES' IMPORTANT ROLE IN GROWTH OF KENYAN BOYS' TOURNAMENT

Retired Army officer Harry Vialou Clark, who was born in Kenya and continues to dedicate himself to projects aimed at improving life for Kenyan children, reports on the success of the 2011 renewal of a football tournament he has been involved in for several years.



A football tournament in Langalanga, Kenya, has been going on in some form or other since about 1993. It started with the caddies from the Gilgil Country Club, expanded when MP Jayne Kihara saw the political advantage of lending her name to a modest competition started in 2004 and expanded again when Steven Johnstone's company, called PAC3000, decided to 'own' a football club.

That was in 2005, when Steven cycled, with other intrepid souls based in Suffolk, from Nairobi to Langalanga Primary School.

In 2006, Steven donated considerable funds for use by the embryonic Langalanga football team, which at that time had about 16 young boys and men who kicked a ball about as best they could.

In 2007, Jayne Kihara lost her seat and the football tournament stopped. There was much disappointment at losing the tournament (not at losing that MP) and Steven was approached to see if he was prepared to widen the number of beneficiaries of his money.

He agreed to divert his money from a single team (now called Langalanga FC) to embrace a few nearby clubs who wished to join in a tournament. Initially the players decided to call it the Colonel VC Football Tournament, then the Colonel VC/ PAC3000 Football Tournament and now, finally thank heavens, it is officially called the PAC3000 Football Tournament.

Participating teams have steadily increased from six to 11 to 16 and now 24. There is now talk of starting earlier in the year and having even more competing teams. Look out Chelsea!

OTHER DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Without the initial enthusiasm and generosity of Steven Johnstone, literally hundreds (thousands?) of young men and boys in our area of Kenya would have been denied the excitement of playing in and supporting their team. But many other vital supporters in the UK have also made considerable donations and given moral support.

I acknowledge the help received from General Richard Peck and, through him, the British Army's own football club. There are so many youngsters in our area who wear the caps and t-shirts bearing the logo of that club.

I am indebted to the Gwynn-Davies family in our village of Penton Mewsey in Hampshire for rounding up unwanted kit from donor teams their sons play against. In particular, our sincerest thanks go to Sqn Ldr Neil Hope for his huge contribution to the success of our tournament in Kenya. Without his support, we would not have so many young Kenyans who are off the booze and are fit and excited about the next match.

Our kit arrives through the good offices of the Royal Air Force and the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK), formally BATLSK. Clearly without their support the competition would instantly die.

Much of the donated kit passes through our garage in Penton Mewsey, where Alison, my wife, and Anne Smyth sort it and prepare it for onward travel to Kenya. On arrival in Gilgil, Mr Mathenge, my long-suffering project manager, stores it all in his office or in his home to await collection and distribution by us when in Kenya.

Finally, I record with grateful thanks the efforts of Wg Cdr Steve Smyth MBE, who co-ordinates the activities of the various agencies involved.

THE FINALS

The tournament this year culminated in a spectacularly successful afternoon on 20 February.

Played under clear blue skies in the presence of about 400 people, the two teams played the game in a spirit that would have made any amateur team manager very proud. The discipline and desire to play well was obvious from the start. The referee and linesmen were always right, and the coaches walked the touchline offering sensible advice.

Before the match, I was officially welcomed as the guest of honour and was invited to meet the two teams. I was escorted by the team captains in the manner seen on TV. Drinks were served to the invited guests at half time and a running commentary was given by two knowledgeable local people on a system that could be heard around the stadium.

The grounds looked as good as possible, despite the very dry and dusty conditions, with the grass recently cut and the pitch carefully marked out. Huge banners proclaiming the PAC Football Tournament were hung at various prominent places, including across the road into Langalanga township.

At the end of the match, both teams shook hands and there were many hugs in the African manner. Two uniformed Kenya Army soldiers, bearing loaded AK47s, were thoughtfully brought in by Mathenge, my project manager, to affect crowd control.

The Chairman of the PAC3000 Football Tournament, Mr Peter Karoki, was clearly in charge and he can be justly proud of his efforts.

It was a most memorable afternoon, which produced these results:

Finals: Gilgil Youth 4 v KASA 2

Semi-finals: GAS 2 v Homeboys 1



HARROGATE DEFEAT GUNNERS IN ARMY YOUTH CUP FINAL

Army Foundation College, Harrogate 4–3 Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill (after extra time)

Junior soldiers from the Army Foundation College put four goals past the Royal School of Artillery to claim the Army Youth Football Cup in a thrilling final at Harrogate. Junior Soldier Brett Marshall, 17, scored all four as Harrogate eventually beat the ‘Gunners’ 4-3 after extra time.



It was the first time the cup had been contested since 2004, and the travelling opposition were determined to push the hosts all the way in the revived competition.

Marshall, who was top scorer for the tournament and named man of the match, admitted: *“It was hard, but we kept our heads up and played together really well as a team.”*

Harrogate’s teenage soldiers had reached the final after a series of play-off matches against under-18 sides from the Royal School of Artillery in Larkhill and the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick. The team representing the Army Foundation College had played together just twice previously, having arrived in Harrogate only in January.

The first half of the final was a scrappy affair as both teams started with determination, and chances soon appeared at either end. The home side were first to capitalise and took the lead after only seven minutes despite protests that the Harrogate player may have been offside.

Harrogate continued to push the visitors with a number of direct attempts on goal, but after 32 minutes Larkhill equalised from a corner. Harrogate responded immediately to restore the lead at 2-1.

The second half was more settled, with both teams enjoying more space and better passing. After some very nice build-up play, Larkhill grabbed a second goal on 73 minutes to level the match.

With the game evenly poised and about quarter of an hour remaining, you could sense the cautious approach – and tired legs – of both sides with so much at stake.

The match should have been settled in the final minute of normal time, when Harrogate were denied a winning goal by the referee after the ball apparently crossed the line.

With long shadows beginning to stretch across the pitch, the referee added an extra 20 minutes. Larkhill were first to score seven minutes into added time, and the contest came alive once again. A couple of minutes into the second half of extra time, Marshall levelled matters from the spot after a handball in the visitors’ area.

At 3-3, the match looked to be going to penalties when, in the last minute of added time, Marshall beat the keeper to slot his fourth goal into the net. A few seconds later, the referee’s final whistle signalled jubilant scenes for the home side and ensured that the silverware stayed in Yorkshire.

Earlier Harrogate’s female footballers had also defeated Larkhill 3-1 in the final of the Female 6s competition.

The team captain of the Harrogate Female 6s side, Junior Soldier Abi Hardey, said: *“We’ve all done so well today, and I’m very pleased for Harrogate. We beat them 3-1 despite never really playing before. Hopefully we can now build on this success and get the team up and running.”*

Tournament organiser WO1 Harry Kharikou said: *“I’ve been in Harrogate for two years, and it’s been an aspiration to revive the Youth Cup.”*

“There’s a good standard of football at under-18 in the Army. I mentor football for the junior soldiers at Harrogate, both male and female, and there’s a nucleus of young talent that come through the gates. We often go out and play civilian clubs in the local community.”

The youngest soldiers in the British Army come to Harrogate from across the UK and are destined to join the infantry, Royal Artillery, Royal Armoured Corps and Royal Logistic Corps. The 16 and 17-year-olds complete a 42-week programme of military, leadership, educational and vocational training at the college before undertaking their specialist phase two training elsewhere in the UK and eventually joining their regiments.

Captain Laurence Roche



EXCITING PROSPECTS FOR NEXT SEASON AS NEW TALENT EMERGES

End-of-season report: by Major Richie Bell, Army Football Team Manager

Set against the constraint of having lost half last season's squad to Op Herrick, the Army team began season 2010-11 at the trials and training camp in late September with a batch of a dozen untried and untested 'new boys'.

A new Head Coach, WO2 (YofS) Joe Collins (former CS and Army Captain), ably assisted by Dean Boughen, Paul Alford, Simon Bell and Nige Wiscombe, outlined his plans for the season, expressing how this year's squad faced particular challenges due to the quantity of Army players absent on duty.

Niceties over with, Joe and the coaching staff set about moulding this disparate and unfamiliar group into a formidable team. The week went well - two wins and a draw in the pre-season matches and a progressive training programme that gave every individual the opportunity to show their talent and develop their rapport and understanding of each other as players. The outcome was that every player was selected to the squad list for the season.

Our first competitive fixture saw the Army travel to Oadby Town in Leicester to meet the Prison Service in an annual 'blood-and-thunder' game. This is normally not for the faint-hearted, and this time was no different. A couple of individual errors against a strong Prison Service side saw the Army narrowly miss out in a closely fought game, which went to the Prison Service 3-2.

The Southern Counties Championship loomed

quickly into view, and as champions the whole squad were determined to put up a strong challenge to retain the coveted trophy.

Our first match against Middlesex at Dulwich Hamlet was an even contest and, despite a wonderful opportunity that fell to Army frontman Sig Sam Agar with only seconds to go, the match finished 1-1.

There followed a disappointing series of weather-enforced postponements, which left the Army squad sidelined from November until February, when they met the Amateur Alliance in another closely contested 1-1 draw.

London FA followed and, despite a dominant display, the Army were once again held 1-1, a result that meant retaining the trophy was now unfortunately beyond us.

Our penultimate Southern Counties game saw us pitted against the strongest team in the competition on a night where injuries and non-availability had left us weaker than we would have liked. Ultimately, those circumstances conspired to affect the result and Sussex ran out worthy 4-0 winners, not the result we wanted moving into the Inter-Services.

The pre-Inter-Services training trip to Elmpt in Germany set the squad up nicely for what lay ahead, and a confident team arrived at HMS Tremaraire on Wednesday, 9 March, to face the Navy in their own backyard. A good start by the Navy put the Army under pressure for the first 15 minutes and a long night beckoned.

Gradually, though, the Army worked themselves into the game, with the midfield five beginning to dominate, led by the Army skipper LCpl Jay Bates. This increased effort and pressure paid dividends with a perfectly executed set piece, a free kick 40 yards out, which was driven to the back post for Sgt Al Jordan to head past a despairing Navy keeper.

The second half continued in the same vein, with the Navy desperately trying to get the ball forward early only to be thwarted time after time by an Army back four at their best.

The match slipped away from the Navy as the Army continued to press with their midfield now in control. The final whistle came with the Army 1-0 winners, recording their first Inter-Service victory in seven outings.

A week later, we hosted the RAF with the wonderful and much appreciated support of Aldershot Town FC. A win would secure our first Inter-Services Championship for four years, and the nerves and tension in the dressing room before kick-off were palpable.





RLC TAKE TITLE AFTER ROYAL SIGNALS FALL AT THE FINAL HURDLE

MASSEY ROUND-UP 2010-11

Another season of thrills and spills on the Corps circuit saw some pretty interesting results in one of the closest finishes to both divisions in recent times.

Division One is traditionally won during the Quads week by one of the Quads teams, but this season the Royal Logistics Corps muscled their way in to spoil the party. Despite a late setback in their penultimate match versus the Adjutant Generals Corps, where a late penalty awarded against them led to a 3-4 defeat, they picked themselves up, dusted themselves off and went on to defeat the Infantry 3-0 in their final match.

This took place on Friday, 13 May, at 1100 hours, so the result was known to the Royal Signals, who only had to beat the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to retain the Massey in a 1400 kick-off the same day.

Fortunately for the Royal Logistics Corps, the Royal Signals failed to overcome their opposition and the 0-0 result sealed the deal.

At the foot of the table, competition was also intense, but the Infantry eventually wilted under intense operational pressure and will need to regroup next season in Division Two.

Ironically, the Infantry won the Woolwich Cup earlier in the season in a superb final against the Royal Signals and hosted by Warminster Town. So they were impacted by the cup curse - winning the cup but failing to retain their premier status.

TEAMS	PLAYED	WON	DRAW	LOST	FOR	AGAINST	DIFF	POINTS
RLC	12	7	2	3	27	21	6	23
R SIGNALS	12	6	4	2	25	14	11	22
REME	12	5	4	3	20	16	4	19
RE	12	5	2	5	31	22	9	17
AGC	12	2	5	5	16	25	-9	11
RAPTC	12	3	4	5	21	25	-4	13
INFANTRY	12	2	3	7	13	33	-10	7

Division Two was equally close as the Royal Artillery fought to regain their Division One status at the first attempt. It went right to the final match, which the Gunners had to win to guarantee promotion at the expense of the Intelligence Corps, who continue to punch well above their weight.

Their opponents were the Army Air Corps, who on their day can beat anyone. In a closely fought match, the Gunners eventually came out on top with a 0-2 result.

TEAMS	PLAYED	WON	DRAW	LOST	FOR	AGAINST	DIFF	POINTS
RA	8	6	1	1	25	8	17	19
INT	8	6		2	14	16	-2	18
RAC	8	3	1	4	19	17	2	10
AAC	8	2	2	4	16	19	-3	8
AMS	8	1		7	7	21	-14	3

Looking forward to next season, the plan is to get all the Corps signed up as Charter Standard Clubs and to introduce the Respect protocol with vigour.

The Army started at a fantastic tempo, and should have been ahead within five minutes, Sgt Barry Rizza forcing a close save from the keeper. They maintained this pressure and, after 25 minutes, a fantastic strike by LCpl Jay Bates from fully 30 yards dipped over the outstretched RAF goalkeeper.

The first half continued in the same way, with two further opportunities from Cpl Phil Piercy and LBdr Ryan Kane going begging. It was 1-0 at half time and that was the least we deserved. The side went in for the interval in good spirits.

The second half was a complete turnaround. The RAF came out with a newly galvanised spirit and the nerves returned for the Army side. The RAF were much the better side, and the first half dominance of possession the Army had enjoyed switched to the RAF.

The equaliser came after 20 minutes, and other opportunities to win the match were spurned in much the same fashion as they had been by the Army in the first half. A 1 – 1 scoreline reflected Jimmy Greaves's best-loved catchphrase: *"It was a game of two halves."*

The RAF ran out 4-1 winners against the Navy at Shrewsbury Town on 23 March, and lifted the Inter-Services Trophy for 2011. Well done to them, but I am sure we showed enough over the two games to give them food for thought next year.

This was a mixed year for the Army, who were just short of tangible success (winning the Inter-Services) once again. We did win the Mercury Cup (Navy), the Grenadier Guards Trophy (Met Police) and shared the Carrington Cup with the RAF, so there were some pots for the cabinet.

The most positive point to be taken from the season is the quality of the young players who have moved up from under-23 level and the new talent that has been spotted throughout the season, something to look forward to for next year.

Army Player of the Year –
Cpl Rob Cooper-Tomkins RE

Player's Player of the Year –
Cpl Rob Cooper-Tomkins RE



igoal®

it's in the bag...

Get ready for
new season -
7v7 & 9v9 approved
match goals
immediately available



INTRODUCING iGOAL V2

**DON'T ACCEPT
ANYTHING ELSE**

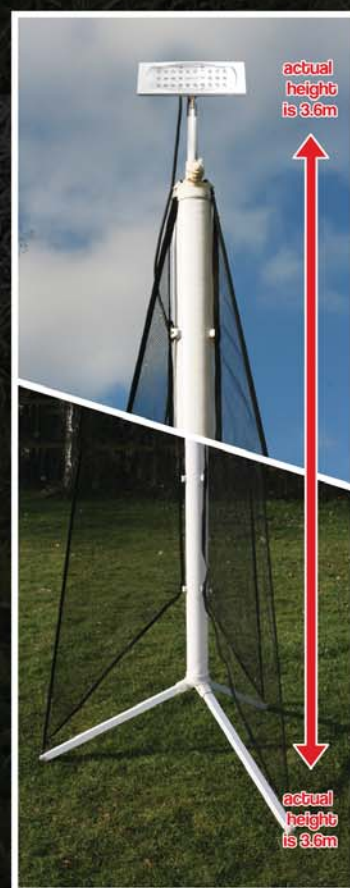
- Oversized bags
- Improved "rigid-air" frame
- Easier and more effective pump
- Better, quicker valves
- Updated net connectors
- Easier to follow Step by Step instructions for use

iLite®

it's in the bag...

**AVAILABLE FROM
JUNE 2011**

Using the same patented unique
rigid air technology as iGOAL the
newly launched iLITE offers easy to
use portable floodlighting.



as

www.airstructuresinternational.com

Contact us on **01635 517 590** or email us:
info@airstructuresinternational.com



Scan this with your smart phone
out watch and see the latest
product information. No scanner?
Check with your app store or go to
www.airstructuresinternational.com
on your mobile net browser."