

THE SOLDIERS' GAME

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARMY FA

Issue 9 – Winter Edition 2012



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"The Handbooks were first rate, they were everything I expected. The finished book was received by all as excellent value for money.

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Wally Hedgley
Central Warwickshire Youth League

"We are very happy with the handbooks and have received no end of positive feedback.

Our website administrator said it was 'one of the most professional handbooks he had ever seen and a real credit to the Bromsgrove League.' All our clubs were really shocked at what was presented to them; they expected the old black/white printed format!"

Simon Burgess
Bromsgrove and District Football League



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WELCOME



ACTING VICE CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Brigadier Steve Vickery

As we look forward to another exciting Inter-Service series of matches, it is a

pleasure to be asked to pen this introduction to our Soldiers' Game magazine.

With the current Vice Chairman deployed on Op HERRICK, it is a timely reminder to everyone that the Army remains as focussed as ever on operations. Many of the current Army teams, Under 23, Women and Men have now served on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, reflecting the busy tempo of modern service. But football and sport play an essential part of military life fostering physical fitness, courage, camaraderie and respect for others.

The last 12 months has seen a whirlwind of activity at both grassroots and senior level. I would describe the highlights as:

- Staging our first Festival of Football in May 11 where we held the minor and major Army Cup Finals in Aldershot.
- The Women's team triumph in the Inter-Service competition.

- The new partnership with Team Army to help fund our footballing objectives.
- Raising the profile of the successful Referees' Association.

So where are we heading? If I was to describe our major objectives as we move forward, it would be:

- Win on the pitch – reclaim the U23 and Men's Inter Service Championship.
- Prepare for a memorable celebration in 2013 – our 125th Anniversary.
- Build a leading-edge Development Academy at Queen's Avenue.
- Help unit level OICs obtain information and financial support.

And finally, no matter how you are involved in Army Football, please help us to achieve further success. We have a great game to cherish, but working together it could be ever greater!

REMARKABLE RETURN TO FOOTBALL OF INJURED PARA WHO WAS TOLD HE COULD LOSE A LEG



A Paratrooper who was told his leg might be amputated after he was injured in Afghanistan has returned to the football pitch as the Army team's midfield dynamo.

Lance Corporal Tony Fitzpatrick, of 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment, was shot in the legs four times after his patrol was ambushed in Helmand Province last December.

But, after extensive surgery and treatment at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, LCpl Fitzpatrick is back to full fitness. The 30-year-old completed his recovery by pulling on the red shirt of the Army football team to play in a 5-0 win over Sussex FA in the Southern Counties Cup.

LCpl Fitzpatrick, from Leicester, said: "I really felt proud to get back on the pitch. I used to take my fitness for granted, but after being injured I know I can't do that. My injury has given me a new view of life and I focus on what I can do and get on with it."

LCpl Fitzpatrick was first selected for the Army team in September 2009 and played four matches that season, as well as for the 2 PARA team that won the Army FA Challenge Cup in April 2010. In October 2010, he deployed on

a six-month tour of Afghanistan.

On December 30, 2010, LCpl Fitzpatrick was shot during a night operation in the Nahr-e-Saraj (South) area.

He said: "Our patrol base had been attacked from the same location several times and we went out to search the compounds. All of a sudden we came under heavy fire and I felt three rounds pass through my right thigh, and then another one through my left thigh."

Within 20 hours, LCpl Fitzpatrick was back at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, where he had five operations before spending a month at Headley Court.

The father-of-one said: "You're told the worst in hospital, and that was that my right leg might be amputated. I can remember lying in bed and thinking that was the end of my Army career and playing football. But I was determined to do my best, and the treatment I had was brilliant, particularly at Headley Court. I worked really hard and the staff pushed me, both physically and psychologically."



LCpl Fitzpatrick went back to 2 PARA in June and immediately returned as a tough-tackling centre midfielder for the battalion football team. Then he was selected for the Infantry team and called up to train with the Army.

Major Richie Bell, manager of the Army football team, said: "From his first trial, LCpl Fitzpatrick stood out as a tenacious midfielder, who was extremely fit with good technical abilities. In his first season he played well and we were looking to him to take on a bigger role on his return from Afghanistan."

"When I heard about his injury, I thought that was the end of his football career, but then he was back playing and I invited him to come down for training. He impressed so much that we put him straight into the starting eleven and he more than justified his selection."

LCpl Fitzpatrick, who is married to Kerry-Marie and has a four-year-old son, Joshua, said: "I know I've been lucky and the surgeons can't believe the recovery I've made. It's brilliant to play football again at a high level, but what means the most to me is that I'll be able to have a kick-around in the park with Joshua."

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Dawson, Commanding Officer of 2 PARA, said: "LCpl Fitzpatrick's recovery is a prime example of the formidable spirit and character of the Paratrooper. The determination and grit he has shown to get over his injuries and back on the football field is a credit to himself, the Parachute Regiment and the Army."

GLORIOUS 150-YEAR HISTORY OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

by WO2 Darren Taylor, RE AFC Asst Manager

“Sappers moved in unison, showing the advantages of combination football over the old style of individualism” — Sir Frederick Wall, FA Secretary 1895-1934



The Royal Engineers Association Football Club (RE AFC) was formed in 1863 by Major Francis Marindin, an Old Etonian, and was one of 15 clubs that established The Football Association in 1871 and introduced The FA Challenge Cup.

Major Marindin, captain of the Engineers' team, was a member of The FA committee from the outset, becoming President of The FA in 1874 and serving in that capacity until 1879. As a referee, he also officiated in a record eight FA Cup finals and was considered *“one of the outstanding referees who really knew the rules”*.

The Royal Engineers dominated the early years of The FA Challenge Cup. In the inaugural year of the competition (entry fee £1), the Sappers reached the final without conceding a single goal and were odds-on favorites

to beat the Wanderers. The final took place at Kennington Oval on 16 March 1872, but the Wanderers dominated the game and won 1–0.

Between 1871 and 1879, the Royal Engineers played a total of 65 FA Cup ties, contesting four finals and winning the competition in 1875. The team's success was built on teamwork, and the Sappers were credited with developing the passing game, replacing the long-ball and dribbling tactics favoured in the early years.

The 1875 final was against Old Etonians, again played at the Kennington Oval. Major Marindin had divided loyalties and withdrew himself from the team. The score at full time was 1-1 and, in a replay three days later, the Sappers clinched a 2-0 victory to win the cup, an achievement that is symbolised today in the club's badge.

In 1971, the Corps was presented with a threequarter-size replica of The FA Cup to commemorate the centenary of The FA, and the trophy now resides in the RE HQ Mess at Chatham.

The Royal Engineers and Wimbledon FC are the only existing clubs to have won both The FA Cup and The FA Amateur Cup, the latter having been won by the RE AFC in 1908.

Eight players have earned international caps while serving with the Royal Engineers (six for England, two for Scotland) and the Sappers took part in the first international football match to be played in France after liberation in 1944.

In recent decades, the Royal Engineers have remained at the forefront of football in the Army, regularly winning competitions at both unit and Corps level and continuing to play the game in the spirit of their illustrious forebears. 28 Engineer Regiment's nine Army Challenge Cup victories in 13 seasons between 1990 and 2002 is a record unlikely to be surpassed.

The 2012-13 season will see the RE AFC commemorate its 150th anniversary with some high-profile fixtures and events. In July, the RE AFC will play Gillingham FC at Prestfield Stadium and will also be participating in a pre-season tournament involving Chatham Town, West Bromwich Albion and Nottingham Forest.



SHOTS LADIES AND ARMY MEDICS JOIN FORCES FOR CHARITY

Members of Aldershot Town Ladies FC and the Army Medical Services women's team were present at the Shots' FA Cup First Round replay against Maidenhead United.

Holly Gayler, from the Shots' Ladies, teamed up with an Aldershot fan and went head-to-head against AMS captain Holly Pointon and a Maidenhead fan in a half-time crossbar challenge.

The players were present to promote their friendly at the Aldershot Military Stadium the following evening in aid of the Army Medical Services' chosen charity, the Great Ormond Street Hospital. More than £700 were raised for the children's hospital.

The match itself, which the Shots won 3-1 after coming from behind with goals from Jade Ferguson, Amy Lawrence and skipper Emma North, was watched by a good vocal crowd with keen support from both sides.



“It's always a good occasion when the ladies get the chance to pit themselves against teams from the Armed Forces. We played the Royal Logistic Corps in a pre-season friendly last year and won 3-0, played RAF Odiham last season and drew 2-2 and now we've taken on a very respectable AMS side and won 3-1.

“We have a couple of players (Amber Marsh – REME, Hannah Bramhall – Army representative side) who play for their Army teams, and we also hope to play the Army women's side sometime next year, so we are very much keeping our Armed Forces ties alive and kicking.”

Matt Leary, Aldershot Town Ladies Club Secretary

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Aldershot Town Ladies FC on behalf of my players and coaching staff for the excellent charity fixture that was played for Great Ormond Street Hospital, with Aldershot Ladies being deserved 3-1 winners on the night.

“The AMS Ladies have only benefited from playing against such a high calibre of opposition as Aldershot Town Ladies. We would like to wish the Shots girls all the best for the remainder of the season and look forward to playing and supporting them in the future.”

Capt Scott Hempsey, Head Coach, AMS ladies football



NEW TALENT EMERGES AT ARMY WOMEN'S TRIALS

By Captain Sandra Hodgson, Head Coach

That time of the season was upon us again. It seemed like only a few weeks ago that the Army women's team were being crowned Inter-Service Champions 2011, but already it was back to begin preparations for the upcoming season.

What better way to start than 32 trialists turning up at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, on the afternoon of 19 September? They comprised previous Army players and 22 Corps players attending for the first time.

After the initial welcome brief, delivered by Head Coach Capt Sandra Hodgson MBE, it was time for the dreaded fitness testing, which took place at the Aldershot Military Stadium, with a sports scientist came from Lucozade, Chris McManus, in attendance.

The testing began with some hydration testing. Urine samples were analysed to determine hydration levels with some interesting results - warning the players of the requirement to remain hydrated.

The fitness testing included various elements from the vertical jump to repeated sprints, ending with the yo-yo test, which ultimately measures the stamina of the players.

Chris then gave the team a presentation on the importance of hydration and good nutrition in sport. This was received by the team extremely well.

The following morning was the first chance for the staff to begin looking at the trialists' football ability. The morning incorporated some basic skills and drills. The afternoon

consisted of a round-robin system covering both attacking and defensive sessions.

It was refreshing for the coaching staff to have so many new faces, and there was plenty of talent on show – the standard was much higher than in previous years.

This created a real buzz around the training sessions from both players and staff.

Day two consisted of a trip to Watford FC. This began with the Club Secretary, Richard Walker, meeting the girls and giving them a tour around the facilities, showing them what is available to professional footballers.

Then it was into the tactics room, where we were briefed by Watford FC's opposition analysts, who spoke about the preparation the players receive for their forthcoming fixtures. It was an extremely interesting brief, and it was hard to believe the type of information the team receive on the opposition, from phases of play that the opposition frequently use to their organisation at set plays, and even down to which foot the opposing player will turn or prefer to strike the ball with.

We then went to observe Watford Academy players train and had a chat from the Academy's head coach on the day-to-day life of the players, from their schooling and training commitments to breaking into the

first team.

Then we watched the senior players train under the watchful eye of Head Coach Sean Dyche and the Assistant Coach, ex-Nottingham Forest star Ian Woan. This was a superb experience, particularly seeing how quickly the professionals move the ball.

The team were already happy with their day's work, but then it got even better.

Watford FC's first team coaches took them for a training session. The girls were warmed up by the fitness coach with some really high-tempo drills and then handed over to Ian Woan.

As expected, a fantastic session was put on, and the girls worked extremely hard. Watford FC were very impressed by the standard of what is a very young group of players.

After the session, the girls had a chance to get some autographs and chat with the staff on various aspects of management. The day with Watford FC was a resounding success and was enjoyed by both players and staff.

Wednesday was match-day with a game scheduled against Oxford Ladies FC. Work on phases of play and set plays took place in the morning. Due to the large numbers, two teams were fielded, each of which would play a half.

On arrival at the stadium on the evening of the match, the excitement was evident

THE BATTLE IS ON FOR NO.1 GOALKEEPING SPOT

By AWFT GK Coach – Cpl Darryl Evans



around the squad and the girls waited with anticipation to get their first taste of Army representative football.

A resounding 6-0 victory proved an excellent opportunity for the staff to see how the players adapted to playing in a competitive match, and of course it was a great result for the first match of the season.

A relaxing morning in a local spa followed, although maybe the ice pool was not quite so relaxing - but they can't have it all their own way.

The afternoon continued with some more specific football work and an SAQ circuit, which was timed in teams to encourage the girls' competitiveness and to provide a little bit of fun. The coaches concluded the day with phases of play, incorporating shooting and finishing, and finished with an 11v11 - the last chance to observe the players before selecting the squad for the season.

On the final day of trials, interviews were carried out and the squad was decided upon. After a debrief, the teams were released back to their units.

The trials week was a complete success, and the plethora of new talent on show was refreshing to say the least. All main efforts are now focused on defending our Inter-Service title, which is the goal each season, as well as competing in the Southern Counties League.



The two keepers who turned up for trials week were veterans of the Army set-up who helped us claim back the Inter-Service title. So this year, I thought I would put together a challenging few days for the goalkeepers. It started with a great first day with a few circuits to test the fitness before we could jump into the agility sessions I had planned for them over the coming week.

We have now recruited a further goalkeeper to add to the bunch due to operations and work commitments of the Army.

The arrival of Sgt Becky Davis will keep all the goalkeepers on their toes. Even though she missed trials week, she has progressed extremely well and is not just fighting for the No.1 shirt but has a great chance, like the

other keepers, of securing that shirt for the all-important Inter-Services.

All in all, I am extremely proud of the work all the keepers have put in over the past few months and the progression of all three is outstanding. I can guarantee that any one of them could put that shirt on and make the Army and their Corps, and most importantly themselves, proud.





SO HEART-WARMING AS KABUL YOUNGSTERS BENEFIT FROM SOLDIERS' COACHING EXPERTISE

By Warrant Officer Paul Hughes

Soldiers from 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) from Colerne hosted a football development afternoon in Camp Souter, Kabul, on 24 October for 27 boys from the local Qabel Bay School.

The day was organised by Warrant Officer Paul Hughes, who earlier this year completed his UEFA B Licence with the Army FA and has been a part-time coach with Swindon Town Football in the Community Trust for several years.

Before the arrival of the boys, Paul organised his coaches - Warrant Officer Stu East, an FA Level 1 coach, and two of the Regiment's football stars, Lance Corporal Dan Hardy and Signaller BZ Bazakwic. Paul ran through the day's activities and pumped up 27 footballs. The coaches were smartly kitted out in their Swindon kits, which had been kindly donated by Swindon Town FC earlier in the tour.

GREETING ON ARRIVAL

The boys arrived full of energy and enthusiasm, and the language barrier was soon broken through the international language of football.

The boys were greeted by the coaches with the aid of interpreters and were soon being put through their paces with a fun warm-up. A short technical session was followed by an introduction to the basics of dribbling before moving on to performing a range of turns using footballs donated by ISAF.

All the coaching equipment, including bibs, cones and mini-goals, were also donated by the Regiment and given to the school to assist them in setting up a regular team.

FUN AND FOOTBALL

Once the boys were in full flow, they were given the opportunity to put their new skills into practice through a range of fun games. The passion and enthusiasm for football was clear as they fully engaged in the practices.

It was heart-warming to see the smiles and hear the laughter as everyone immersed in the joy of the sport. A real competitive edge was shown by

took on their coaches and displayed some of their new skills in an impressive victory - the final score is not really worth mentioning here.

PRESENTATION TIME

To round off a fantastic day, the boys each received a football and were presented with medals and goodies, kindly donated by Swindon Town Football in the Community Trust, by the Commanding Officer of the Kabul Support Unit.

The boys did themselves and their school proud with their effort throughout. The local Malik (community leader) and school head teacher were delighted with the day and expressed their gratitude for showing the boys the support and community spirit felt by the soldiers in Kabul.

The Malik went on to explain that football can and will be a focus for the boys at the school and will help provide a positive direction towards their future development. With links now forged with the school, the soldiers are planning to provide football strips and boots in the near future.

The day was made possible by the hard work of Staff Sergeant Simon Donnelly and 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) soldiers from the Souter Force Protection Transport Company in Kabul through their tireless efforts to build on the community spirit in the area in which they serve.



all and every ball was contested as the boys gave 100 per cent throughout.

To end the session, the boys were split into four teams for a mini-tournament and asked to choose their own team names - Barcelona, Real Madrid, Liverpool and Man United, despite Paul's efforts to encourage a Swindon team.

MINI-TOURNAMENT

The mini-tournament played out as each team met in a league format. Initially things were tense, but the goals began to flow and the Real Madrid team just edged the overall competition.

As a final exhibition match, a Qabel Bay select



GET INTO FOOTBALL

The FA supplement dedicated to the grassroots game

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Ian Bogie made over 350
League appearances in his
15-year playing career and has
been manager of Conference
Premier Gateshead since 2007



Get **into** Football

CLIMB THE COACHING LADDER!

If you love football and have an interest in crossing the white line, then **Ian Bogie**'s experience is a fine example

After guiding his club to a tie with north-east rivals Blyth Spartans in The FA Cup First Round Proper this weekend, Ian Bogie is hoping to continue his coaching education as boss of Conference Premier outfit Gateshead.

The former Newcastle United midfielder grew up playing alongside big names in English football such as Peter Beardsley and Paul Gascoigne, won The FA Youth Cup and played a major part in an FA Cup giant-killing.

Since retiring from playing, the man who says his life is all about "football, football, football" has gone on to earn his coaching badges and from 2007 has been in charge of the Tynesiders.

Although picking up nearly 400 League appearances for a string of clubs including Newcastle, Preston, Millwall, Leyton Orient and Port Vale, Bogie looks back fondly on his time playing in the streets of Newcastle and making his first steps with the Magpies.

"I was brought up in the east end of Newcastle in a place called Walker," he said. "I started playing in school, then at the age of nine I moved on and played for the famous Wallsend Boys Club, who have nurtured many football stars, notably Alan Shearer, Peter Beardsley and Steve Bruce. There were some fantastic footballers who came through the ranks there.

"When I was 15 I represented England schoolboys and was lucky enough to play at Wembley a couple of times, which was a fantastic experience, then a year later I



joined Newcastle United on my apprenticeship.

"I played with Paul Gascoigne in the youth team when we won The FA Youth Cup in 1985. Gazza was in central midfield and was the star of the show. I remember we won 4-0 in the second leg of the Final at Watford and he was outstanding alongside Joe Allen. There were nine players from that team who went on to play for Newcastle United's first team."

Bogie was one of them. Turning professional a year after The Youth Cup success, aged 18, he remained at St. James'

Park for another five years before switching to Preston North End, but it was at Port Vale that he enjoyed one of his biggest moments.

"In 1996, when I was at Port Vale, we were drawn against Everton in The FA Cup, who were the holders at the time after beating Manchester United in The Final the season before," he recalled.

"We played them in the Fourth Round and I got the equaliser at Goodison Park to make it 2-2. In the replay at a packed Vale Park, we beat them 2-1 and I got the first goal, which was a great memory for an unfashionable club like Port Vale. To beat a club of the stature of Everton is something I'll never forget."

But football has always been a passion throughout his life, and Bogie explained just why he loves being involved in the game at any level he can.

"Whether it's at grassroots level or professional, football for me is all about the camaraderie, the teamwork and keeping fit. That's what we instil at Gateshead and they are the most important things I think, being outdoors and doing something you love."

He added, "I've loved football from an early age and I keep saying this, but you don't see kids playing in the parks anymore, using their jumpers for goalposts, and I think it's important we get back to that, seeing youngsters learning their skills kicking the ball about on the streets.

"That's how the great players of old learned how to play and fell in love with the game. It's all about getting out there, practising and learning on a regular basis."

However, when Bogie's career on the pitch ended, he didn't give up the game and has worked through The FA's Coaching courses to reach Level 3. "I took my first coaching qualification when I was at Leyton Orient in the mid '90s. When I came back home to the north-east I took more badges. It's not something I ever thought about while I was playing, being a coach or a manager, I was solely focused on playing.

"I plied my trade as a kid and for me it was just football, football, football. When I came out of playing, football was all I knew so it was important I took my qualifications, and they have taken me to where I am today."

If you are keen to follow in Ian's footsteps and get on the coaching ladder, why not check out the array of courses on offer from The FA and local County FAs? You can find out all you need to know to get involved at TheFA.com/YourGame



SIOBHAN CHAMBERLAIN

A fine season that included six clean sheets saw Chamberlain help her side reach both The FA Women's Cup Final and the Champions League. An agile and reliable shot stopper, Chamberlain's consistent season was capped off by picking up the gong for Save of the Season at this year's FA Women's Football Awards.



SOPHIE BRADLEY

Bradley has shown composure and maturity beyond her years at the heart of the Lincoln defence and looked equally at home when deputising for Faye White against Japan in the 2011 World Cup. Bradley reads the game superbly and has developed a solid partnership alongside the experienced Casey Stoney.



CASEY STONEY

Stoney's summer move from Chelsea to Lincoln signalled the intent of the Lady Imps and the England vice-captain has certainly shown why she was such a coveted signing. A great organiser of her side, Stoney leads by example and has even chipped in with the odd goal.

The inaugural season of The FA Women's Super League came to a close in September after Arsenal Ladies clinched the League and League Cup double. Now, we can reveal the WSL all-star team as voted for by the managers



KIM LITTLE

The Scottish international has been instrumental for Arsenal in their treble-winning season with her quality on the ball and ultimately her goals proving decisive in many matches. Little's vision, speed and touch make her unplayable at times and rightly led to many naming her as one of the very best in The FA WSL.



KATIE CHAPMAN

Since retiring from international football prior to the World Cup, Chapman's shown no signs of hanging up her boots any time soon. Her partnership with Little formed the basis for Arsenal's treble charge. Chapman's ability to combine tough tackling with superb distribution makes her a key player in Arsenal's midfield.

DREAM TEAM

GOAL OF THE YEAR

Young England defender Jemma Rose had already gone close with a similar effort against Birmingham City in a match live on ESPN ten days earlier, but against Donny she found the top corner beautifully to clinch the three points. See the shortlist by scanning the QR code here:



The top three

Jemma Rose Bristol Academy 41%
Toni Duggan Everton 25%
Rachel Yankey Arsenal 24%

The new WSL season will begin next spring, but until then visit the official website at **FAWSL.com** for all the latest news and to view all the goals and highlights from last season.

WOMEN'S AWARDS

Women's football took centre stage last month at the 13th annual FA Women's Awards at the prestigious HAC in London.

The awards capped off a huge year with the launch of the WSL, England's World Cup campaign and the UEFA Champions League Final taking place at Craven Cottage.

"The awards recognise the wonderful work done by so many people this year. It's a great day for women's football," said Sue Hough, Chair of The FA Women's Committee.

Full list of winners

Top Goalscorer, The FA Women's Premier League
 Gemma Bryan,
 Charlton Athletic

Top Goalscorer, The FA WSL
 Rachel Williams,
 Birmingham City

Young Player of the Year
 Jemma Rose,
 Bristol Academy

Digital Award
 Gillingham

FA Club of the Year
 Bristol Academy

Coach of the Year, The FA Women's Premier League
 Mick Mulhern,
 Sunderland

Coach of the Year, The FA WSL
 Laura Harvey,
 Arsenal

International Player of the Year
 Jill Scott, Everton

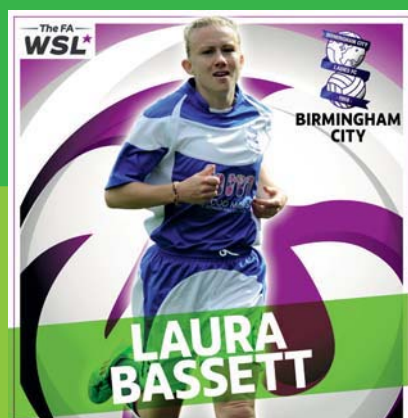
Players' Player of the Year
 Rachel Williams,
 Birmingham City

Special Achievement Award
 Fay Glover,
 Nottingham Forest

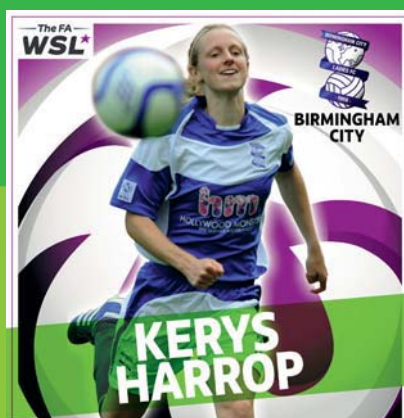
Goal of the Year
 Jemma Rose,
 Bristol Academy

Save of the Year
 Siobhan Chamberlain,
 Bristol Academy

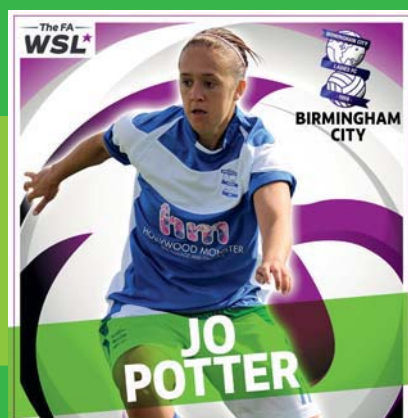
Fan of the Year
 Lisa Paterson-Sleep,
 Sam Paterson-Sleep



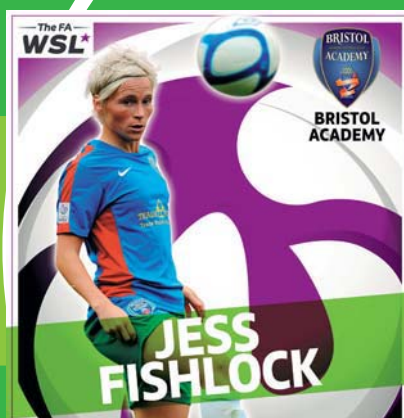
While Birmingham's frontline has been well lauded this season, much of their success has been built around their ability to keep things tight at the back. City's captain has been a rock for her side and almost led them to the title. Bassett's tenacity in the tackle and passion on the pitch makes her a crucial part of City's side.



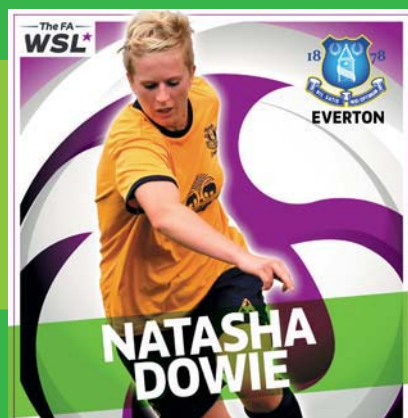
Harrop has shown all sides of her game and her versatility has been a boon for the Blues. Defensively Harrop has demonstrated her ability to deal with the League's very best, while going forward she has proved not just a quality outlet but a scorer of some spectacular goals as well.



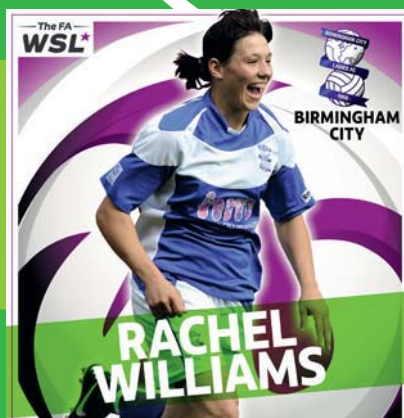
Birmingham's midfielder Potter has been in sumptuous form for David Parker's side with her dead-ball delivery and eye for goal, making her team one of the most feared going forward in the League. Her eye for a pass is second to none and on many occasions it has been Potter's assist that has led the way to another Blues goal.



The diminutive Welsh international plays with a passion and determination that helped lift her side in important games and saw her net a superb goal in the Champions League. Bristol's top goalscorer worked hard at her game in the first half of the season and was rewarded with a flurry of goals after the break.



Everton's second half of the season revival coincided with Dowie really finding her scoring boots after the World Cup break. Finishing the season with nine League goals, Dowie's natural instinct in front of goal coupled with her clinical finishing ability makes her one of the best young strikers in the country.



Eighteen goals in 18 games is not a bad return for someone who before this season had never played up front. The League's top scorer was in excellent form and added The FA WSL Players' Player of the Season to her Golden Boot award. Williams' pace, strength and eye for goal have been rewarded with an England call-up.



TEAMWEAR

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SEASON 2011 - 2012





PITCHING IN TO HELP CLUBS

What's Your Pitch? is helping small football clubs with their day-to-day running, from earning a sponsorship deal to getting in the newspapers

Running a club can be hard work and The FA know it's not always easy to get everything done off the pitch. If you're keen to get your side seen and heard amongst the community, and try to attract new sponsors but you're not quite sure how to do it, What's Your Pitch? can help you to get noticed.

It's got all the tools you need to get started and The FA have created handy templates, fact sheets and downloads to make it that little bit easier for the volunteers who run the thousands of clubs playing football up and down the country. From sponsorship to social networks, fundraisers to football reports, we've got it covered.

Whether you're just kicking off your club's marketing or you've already got going, head over to TheFA.com/YourGame where we'll give you a helping hand to get your club the boost it needs. What's Your Pitch? has split all of the facts you need to succeed into four simple sections.

Going for Promotion This looks at the different routes that you can take to win your side some great exposure and the best ways for you to connect with your community.

Sponsorship Scoring yourself a sponsor and finding funds is an essential part of

keeping your club running smoothly and we have all the information you need.

Club Crest We'll show you how to celebrate your club's ethos and values through your crest and all of your communications.

The Back Pages This final section of the site can help your club to hit the news stands and gain your side some winning exposure, with plenty of advice on how to spread your stories to all the right people.



So give your club the best chance of standing out from the crowd, get logged on to TheFA.com/YourGame and see your club grow and flourish.

Your Game

This month marks a focus on The FA's Your Game campaign, which is bringing awareness to as many people in football as possible. The campaign runs until the end of December 2011.

In partnership with McDonald's, The FA have developed the Your Game website, which offers free, qualified advice to all; from parents to coaches to clubs.

TheFA.com/YourGame was created exclusively with the grassroots game and club needs in mind and offers a multitude of useful advice, such as:

- Help with all the administrative duties
- How to develop your facilities
- How to source much-needed funding
- How to keep your club finances on track
- Help for parents in choosing the right club for their children
- Advice on how to get into volunteering
- McDonald's coaching drills
- McDonald's monthly competition

The Your Game site also contains current news affecting the grassroots game in addition to fantastic competitions. Recently, in partnership with McDonald's, The FA offered the chance to win £100 coaching vouchers or a place for a team and their coaches to take part in a Masterclass at Wembley. So keep logging on for all the latest competitions.

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



including 12 women's and girls' sides and three adult men's teams, giving the club's older children a pathway to progress after youth football. For Hardy, who has been at the club since introducing his eldest son there 19 years ago, Wyrley Juniors is a huge part of his life.

"The Charter Standard Community Club Award was really recognition for everyone who put in their time and really worked hard to make things happen. We've got over 100 volunteers, over 60 qualified coaches, a really enthusiastic committee and tremendous parental support."

If you live near Wyrley Juniors, in the south of Staffordshire, and are keen to get involved, visit their website to find out more about the club wyrleyjuniors.net. Or check out TheFA.com/YourGame to learn about similar opportunities near you.

ONE VISION

Thanks to a little help and a lot of hard work, Wyrley Juniors are proving that anything is possible, even at grassroots level

2011 has been a good year for Wyrley

Juniors FC. In August the Staffordshire club, whose motto is 'To Compete And Enjoy', were named The FA's Charter Standard Community Club of the Year at the McDonald's Community Awards at Wembley. But more recently they have seen a ten-year plan come to fruition as their brand new club home at Long Lane nears completion.

Last month the club, which is an official feeder to League One outfit Walsall, held an open day to commemorate the handing over of the clubhouse and next season their teams will be able to start using the four new pitches.

"We had the vision of our own clubhouse, our home, maybe 12 years ago," said Club Chairman Keith Hardy. "It's just gone from there, raising the money and having to overcome the pitfalls, like planning permission."

The club were able to raise £1.15m for the project after receiving funding from

various bodies, including over £900,000 from the Football Foundation, along with donations from Walsall FC and local environmental trusts. "We've also raised money at the club from things like sponsored walks, swims and quiz nights. We've done all sorts to get funds together," added Hardy.

"We had an open day in October when the clubhouse was handed over to us, but we have to wait until next season before the pitches are ready. A couple of weeks ago Budweiser also sent The FA Cup down to the new ground.

"We're looking forward to the first game there. We've spoken to Walsall and we're hoping they will send a team to come along to play against our first team. It will be a special day for the club."

Originally founded as a youth football club in 1982, Wyrley Juniors now runs over 40 teams for 650 players,

**Keith Hardy,
Club Chairman of
Wyrley Juniors**



"OUR SURVEY SAYS..."

Share your views on grassroots facilities to help shape the future..

The FA are giving everyone involved in the grassroots game their chance to have a say about grassroots facilities.

The FA recognise and understand that facilities are a key part of the grassroots experience and are very keen to listen to your views. The FA are committed to do all they can to support grassroots facilities.

The FA really need to hear your views. Please take the trouble to complete the short survey (address below).

All those who leave contact details will be entered into a draw to win a signed England shirt and one of ten Umbro goody bags.

Please don't miss this important opportunity to help shape how The FA invest in your facilities in the future. Visit TheFA.com/FacilitiesSurvey



AWFT - THE SEASON SO FAR

By Captain Sandra Hodgson, Head Coach

Oxford City were the first opposition to test the Army players. The Army were a goal to the good after only 60 seconds, when Sig Shanice James tapped in a goal-bound effort from Pte Rachel Rigby before the ball crossed the line.

Rigby would not be denied her own glory and scored a hat-trick in five minutes. The Army could have gone further ahead with chances falling to Gnr Bianca Ross, Pte Libby Dixon and the ever-impressive Rigby.

Ten changes were made at the interval, but this did not hinder the home side's dominance as Ross put them five to the good only three minutes after the restart. She then scored her second from a corner.

The last goal of the night went to LCpl Tara Lofts after she won the ball just inside the opposition half and ghosted past three tackles to shoot from 25 yards.

The Army were solid in defence with good performances by Pte Kez Aaron, LCpl Lucy Foreman and Gnr Jordan Frayne. Final score was 7 – 0.

Our second opponents were HM Prison Service who visited The Aldershot Military Stadium. They provided a more physical opposition than in our previous game. The visitors had the brighter start, with efforts denied by Cfn Michelle Stokes and LCpl Hannah Bramhall. This seemed to spur the home side forward as Cfn Jess Moran and Pte Libby Dixon tested the visiting keeper in quick succession.

The opening goal came from a fine pass by

Moran to Captain Maz Beaney, who rounded the keeper to stroke the ball into the empty net. The opposition did not let that deter them as Bramhall and Gnr Jordan Frayne had to break up attacks on the Army goal.

The second goal came from a corner swung deep into the penalty area and met by the head of ATpr Siobhan Cockram.

Half time saw the Army change their entire team due to the large numbers of players available to the head coach.

Within 60 seconds of the whistle, the opposition were picking the ball out of the back of the net after a fine strike by LCpl Kim Holden. Goal number four was scored by Pte Rachel Rigby after good work from LCpl Yvette Kemp. The final goal belonged to Cfn Nat Walker, who tucked the ball beneath the keeper from six yards.

Once again, the defence were strong and resolute with Sgt Juliette Brown and LCpl Lucy Foreman leading the line. Final score: 5 – 0.

The next opposition were Portsmouth Ladies, who ply their trade in the Premier League Southern Division.

From the first whistle, the Army were put on the defensive by the visitors. An excellent through-ball, which split the Army defence, left Sgt Becky

Davis one on one with a Portsmouth striker, who found the back of the net with a clinical finish.

The home side were finding it difficult to adjust to the pace and tempo of the game due to the high standard of the opposition. When they did manage to adapt, they found that the opposition keeper was in fine form, denying efforts from Cfn Max Mclvor, Sig Meg Horrey and Cfn Jess Moran.

Portsmouth started to take the upper hand again, with both Sgt Juliette Brown and Sig Jordan Frayne holding firm. Pressure on the Army defence by Portsmouth paid off with a second goal five minutes before half-time.

Both teams started the second half at the same pace, with LCpl Kim Holden, Pte Rachel Rigby and Moran denied by the away keeper.

At the other end, Davies was kept busy by the lively Portsmouth attack. The third goal came from a corner when the Army failed to clear their lines. Straight from the kick-off, Holden played through for Mclvor to bring out another fine save from the visiting keeper.

From the clearance, Holden picked the ball up just inside the opponents' half and fired between the two central defenders to score from 30 yards to reduce the deficit.

With players tiring, chances fell to both teams before the final whistle but none was taken. Final score: 1 – 3.

Games played 3, won 2, drawn 0, lost 1.



ARMY FA CONTINUES HEALTHY CIVILIAN CLUB LINKS

By Graham Brookland, Army FA Assistant Secretary/Referees Secretary

The Army FA has continued its healthy links with a number of civilian clubs throughout the United Kingdom.

There was plenty of activity at npower League Aldershot Town's EBB Stadium in October, when Sir Alex Ferguson brought his Manchester United side to Hampshire for a Fourth Round Carling Cup tie. The match, in front of a sell-out crowd of just over 7,000, was broadcast live throughout the world, including on Sky Sports.

From the soldiers' perspective, the evening was a real success. Ten serving personnel helped with a collection in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and raised £1,400.

Deepcut-based 25 Training Regiment (RLC), the CRLO and the Corps of Drums supported

the event too, the latter with a 10-minute drumming piece at half time. The souvenir match programme included a two-page article and photographs highlighting the excellent link that the Army FA has with Aldershot Town FC.

Sir Alex Ferguson commented afterwards about the excellent example set by the soldiers. The current FA Premier League champions won 3-0 on the evening, courtesy of goals from Michael Owen, Dmitar Berbatov and Antonio Valencia.

The staging of the 2012 Inter-Services matches has been supported by Aldershot Town FC too. For the first time in its history, both the Women's

and Men's Inter-Service matches will be on the same day.

On Wednesday 14 March 2012, the Royal Navy will be the opponents. The women's match starts in the afternoon followed by the men's fixture in the evening. In addition, Blue Square Conference South side Farnborough are staging the Development (under-23) Inter-Services match versus the RAF FA on the afternoon of Tuesday 28 February.

Fellow Blue Square side Basingstoke Town also showed their support for the military recently by hosting a group of Army referees for a development evening at their Camrose Ground, where the Hampshire side entertained Welling United in a promotion-chasing encounter.





ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION 2012 COACH EDUCATION CALENDAR

1st4Sport Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football – Fee £100

6th -9th Feb 2012
30th April – 3rd May 2012
14th – 17th May 2012 Germany
16th – 19th July 2012
17th – 20th September 2012
19th – 22nd November 2012 Germany

1st4Sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football - Fee £225.00

26th – 31st March 2012
21st – 26th May 2012
25th – 30th June 2012 Germany
6th – 11th August 2012
1st – 6th October 2012
26th November – 1st December 2012

FA Level 1 Goalkeeping Coaching Award – Fee £120

7th – 9th March 2012
12th – 14th June 2012

FA Level 2 Goalkeeping Coaching Award – Fee £150

13th – 15th August 2012
5th – 7th November 2012

1st4Sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football – Support Days

18th 19th January 2012
9th – 10th July 2012
24th – 25th September 2012
3rd – 4th December 2012

1st4Sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Football – Assessment Days

20th - 21st February 2012
28th – 29th May 2012
1st – 2nd August 2012
8th – 9th October 2012

Basic First Aid for Sport Course - £40

12th March 2012
12th November 2012

FA Youth Award Module 1 – Fee £80

23rd -26th January 2012
23rd – 26th April 2012
24th – 27th July 2012

FA Youth Award Module 2 – Fee £100

16th – 19th October 2012

Coaching Association Days

22nd March 2012 (Psychology)
12th July 2012
13th September 2012
6th December 2012



FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THE ABOVE COURSES PLEASE CONTACT STEVE STONE OR GILL JONES AT THE ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ON (CIV) 01252 347962 (MIL) 94222 2962 EMAIL GILL.JONES@ARMYFA.COM



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Contact: Graham Brookland on 94222 3574 or 01252 348574

E Mail: graham.brookland@Armyfa.com

MOOD (FORMERLY SALAMANDER) SPONSOR ARMY REFEREES

In September 2011, Army Football was proud to announce a new partnership with MOOD (formerly Salamander). For the coming seasons they will be sponsoring Army Referees – a growing Association that now boasts over 200 members with a number of officials regularly working in the professional game. The Chairman of Army Referees, Major Brian Murdoch warmly welcomed the new partnership as ‘an exciting adventure with many opportunities for the Army and MOOD’.



Representing MOOD, Mr Laurence Beardmore spoke of his enthusiasm for the new sponsorship arrangement: ‘The profile of Army Referees from grassroots to the professional game is very impressive. MOOD is delighted to play its part in assisting Army Football with this new partnership’.

The Head of Marketing at Army Football, Brigadier Steve Vickery added that ‘Army Referees are enjoying a surge of interest and this new sponsorship further enhances their profile –

attracting more soldiers to officiating is one of our main goals in Army Football’.

Pictured in September 11 at the home of Army Football in Aldershot are (left to right), Major Brian Murdoch (Chairman Army Referees), Major Pete Conn L4, SSgt Kenwyn Hughes L4, SSgt Steve Scott L5, Mr Laurence Beardmore (MOOD) and Lieutenant Colonel Tony Rock (Previous Chairman).



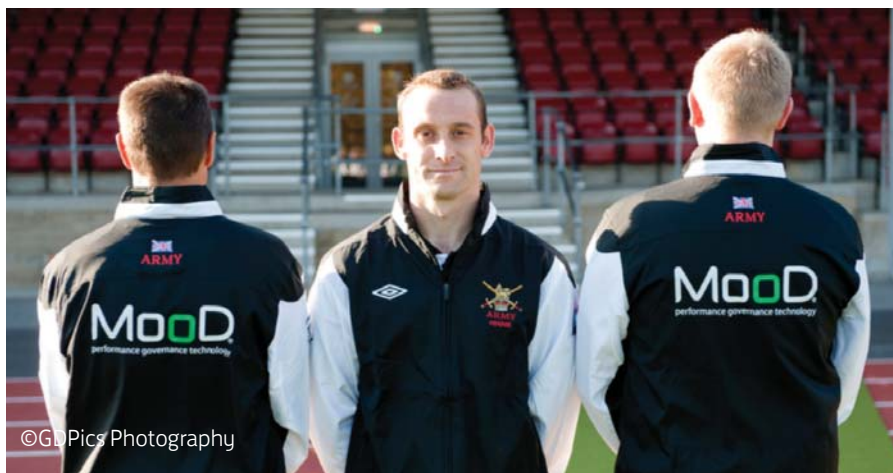
ULTRA ELECTRONICS SPONSOR MASSEY TROPHY

Earlier this season, Army Football was proud to announce a new partnership with Ultra Electronics. For the coming seasons they will be sponsoring the Massey Trophy – the prestigious Inter Corps Football competition.

The Chairman of Massey Football, Colonel Andy Phillips expressed his enthusiasm for the new partnership and spoke about the benefit to Corps teams across the 2 Divisions of Massey football. On behalf of Ultra Electronics, David L'ski, a former REME Corps player in his younger days, confirmed that ‘this new partnership is an exciting opportunity for the Company. Our link to Army sport is very important and we are delighted to team up with the Massey Trophy’.

Army Football's Head of Marketing, Brigadier Steve Vickery commented: ‘This initiative by Ultra Electronics has been enabled by the excellent work of TeamArmy. We in Army Football are very grateful to enjoy the support of such an important Defence company as Ultra Electronics. We look forward to a long and enduring partnership’.

This photograph was taken at Deebcut during the Massey RLC v REME fixture in November 11 celebrates the launch of the new partnership. Pictured from left to right are members of the current Massey champions from the RLC; Captain Vinnie Kelly, Lt Col Gary Hawker, Sgt Paul Douglass, David L'ski, WO1 (RSM) Sean Birchall.



FROM QUEENS AVENUE ON A COLD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TO...

By Declan Ford, Level 2A referee

Changes to the refereeing pyramid in the summer meant I was lucky enough to be classified as a 2A Panel select referee for 2011-12. So I would be refereeing mainly on the Blue Square Premier (Football Conference), one promotion away from becoming a Football League referee.



I had the feeling my season had started well, and this was confirmed when I received an FA appointment to a NextGen Cup game. This is a new tournament I hadn't heard of until this appointment.

The tie, on paper, looked great, Tottenham Under-19s v PSV Eindhoven Under-19s. I did some research and found that the tournament was a new venture and was run like a mini-Champions League for the youth sides of some great teams. It was played in a group format initially, and teams such as Barcelona, Inter Milan and Marseilles were taking part.

A little disappointingly, the Spurs game was played at their training ground, and PSV were

defensively poor as Spurs ran out comfortable 4-1 winners. It was a good experience, even though the game was played at a much slower pace than I was expecting and there was no real bite to it.

A couple of weeks later, I received a second appointment in the competition, Aston Villa v Ajax. This was to be played at Villa Park on Tuesday 23rd November. A little bit of digging told me Ajax had won 2-0 in Amsterdam earlier in the competition, Villa needed a point to qualify for the quarter-finals and Ajax were currently top of the group. An interesting and challenging game was in prospect.

And so it proved. Played in front of a decent crowd, it was a game both teams wanted to win,

and being at such a great venue just added to the experience.

Villa have had an excellent youth and reserve set-up for years, and the team they put out included two over-age players with first team experience. Gary Gardener was one of them and he would prove the difference on the night.

Ajax played exactly as you would expect, very comfortable on the ball, lots of short passes in a patient build-up, but they also had defensive steel that would bubble to the surface late in the game. The team sheet showed that the former Dutch international Ronald de Boer was their assistant trainer.

The game was an exciting, end-to-end contest, and it certainly helped that all the Dutch players spoke good English - my Dutch is not as good as it could be. I was then able to speak to them rather than rely on just the whistle and body language. Establishing a good dialogue with players is an important part of refereeing that is often overlooked but often reaps rewards in terms of your match control.

That said, you can only manage so much, and when Ajax went 3-0 down late in the game (Gardener hat-trick), a couple of frustrated reckless challenges brought yellow cards. To me, this just highlighted the need to remain alert and aware to changes in the tempo of a game as frustrations get the better of players. In a game where I'd had very little in the way of ill-discipline, I finished with three cautions in the last 10 minutes.

The final whistle brought a friendly handshake and a 'well played referee' from Mr de Boer.

Both games were brilliant experiences for me, certainly different from the rough and tumble of professional Conference football, and will aid my development as a referee. I would love to referee a quarter-final if one of the English teams are playing at home, but that decision rests with The FA.

I hope this gives a brief glimpse into the opportunities available if you have the determination and ability to progress up the pyramid. Keep working hard at whatever level you officiate because you never know what appointment is just around the corner.

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