

## 2017 RAF FA Veterans 7-a-side Tournament



On a day more suited for ducks than football, the 2017 RAF FA Veterans Tournament was played at RAF Brize Norton. With the day run by Mr John Duff (RAF FA Football Development Officer), ably assisted by Phil Wilmot the event started with 11 of the 12 teams reporting, with only RAF High Wycombe having to drop out last minute due to other commitments, although they did provide 4 players to support other teams. With the draw was made and 2 leagues were formed and the proceedings started, with the captains briefed on what was expected.



In league A the competition was contested by a number of teams with Brize Norton (ADW), Benson and Cranwell all vying for a place in the Cup by finishing in the top two places of the league. What was not expected was that the final place would be decided on goal difference, with Benson pipped Cranwell by 1 goal.

Qualification for the Plate saw Icarus join Cranwell with Coningsby and Digby both destined for an earlier departure.





## League 'A'

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Brize Norton (ADW)	5	3	2	0	7	2	5	11
2	Benson	5	2	2	1	5	4	1	8
3	Cranwell	5	2	2	1	4	4	0	8
4	ICARUS	5	1	2	2	2	4	-2	5
5	Coningsby	5	0	4	1	3	4	-1	4
6	Digby	5	0	2	3	2	5	-3	2







### **League 'B'**

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Northolt	4	4	0	0	16	2	14	12
2	Odiham	4	2	1	1	7	9	-2	7
3	St Athan	4	1	1	2	9	9	0	4
4	Brize Norton (Stn)	4	0	3	1	3	4	-1	3
5	Honington	4	0	1	3	1	12	-11	1

League B saw Northolt set their stall out early with a free scoring approach, swiftly establishing their place at the top of the league. With Odiham and St Athan contesting the other Cup place, it would be the final match that saw Odiham progress, beating an improving Honington. With St Athan and Brize Norton (Stn) progressing through to the Plate semi-finals.





## **Knock Out Stages**

### **Plate Semi Finals**

Cranwell 0 – 1 Brize Norton (Stn)

St Athan 2 – ICARUS 2 (ICARUS won 3-2 on penalties)

### **Plate Final**

Brize Norton (Stn) 2 – ICARUS 1



The Plate final saw Brize Norton (Stn) take on ICARUS. Both sides had struggled earlier in the day to seal victories with Brize Norton drawing all but one of their league games and ICARUS only winning one of 5. However, both sides progressed after competitive semi-finals. Brize Norton (Stn) started the stronger, going 2 up before ICARUS responded. With both sides having further chances as the game clock run down, Brize Norton (Stn) were able to hold firm to secure the win.

After the match, the Brize Norton (Stn) captain was presented with the Plate trophy by Gp Capt Jones, Deputy Chairman of the RAF FA.





### Semi Finals

Northolt 1 – Benson 0

Brize Norton (ADW) 2 – Odiham 0

### Cup Final

Northolt 3 – Brize Norton (ADW) 2





It was fitting that the finalists this year were the teams that were the winners of their leagues. Both progressed after close semi-finals with Odiham losing to Brize Norton (ADW) and Benson being edged out by Northolt.

Both sides had been tight at the back throughout the tournament but Northolt had been clinical in front of goal scoring 17 goals in 5 matches on their way to the final.

The final itself was to be a close-run affair with both Brize Norton (ADW) and Northolt looking capable of snatching victory. However, it was the Northolt that were victorious with the final score 3-2 in their favour.



After the match, the Cup trophy was presented to the Northolt skipper by Gp Capt Jones, Deputy Chairman of the RAF FA.



More images of the event are available on the RAF FA Facebook page via the link below.

[RAF FA Vets 7-a-side 2017 Images](#)

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