

RAF Football Association - E-Bulletin

RAF Ladies Representative Team 1 – 4 Swindon Town Women's FC

On a fine evening at Fairford Town FC the RAF LRT played Swindon Town WFC from the 4th tier of Woman's football. The game started with the RAF adopting a new shape under Manager CT James Bryden. The RAF started brightly and looked to play out from the back. Both teams tried to find weakness in each other but Swindon struggled under pressure in their own half.



Sgt Charlotte Arrowsmith

RAF as Cpl Jade Brown's pressure got the better of a Swindon Defender who went down injured – Brown's fierce shot across goal was tipped wide by the advancing keeper and both sides went in level at the break. Goal scorer Cpl Rachel Griffiths had to be replaced at half time due to injury, which saw the introduction of SAC Mollie Lambert in the RAF's midfield.

Sgt Charlotte Arrowsmith and Jade Brown caused plenty of problems and turnovers with some strong pressing on the right. It was the RAF who took a deserved lead when captain Sgt Catherine Beaver battled and won possession in the midfield and fed the ball to debutant SAC Chelsea Ansley who beat two players driving into the box down the left and her strong cross alluded Swindon defenders and the on rushing Cpl Rachel Griffiths slide and lunged to put the ball beyond the Swindon keeper.

Swindon while under a bit of pressure in midfield played the ball long behind the RAF backline on the right for their winger to drive forward at rapid speed and slot the ball into the bottom corner past SAC Emma Connington to make it 1-1 after 18mins. Both sides after had good passages of play and Swindon next came close to scoring as the left winger of Swindon got between SAC Rebecca Wadelin and Flt Lt Emma Hollingsworth but hit wide when 1 on 1 with Connington.

The RAF had the best chances closing in on half time. Cpl Rachel Howes met a Cpl Rachel Griffiths corner, and her header beat everyone but narrowly went wide. On around the half hour mark wide player Sgt Charlotte Arrowsmith had to be replaced due to injury after causing Swindon all kinds of problems on the right. The last chance of the half came to the



SAC Mollie Lambert



Sgt Catherine Beaver (Captain)

After the restart both sides battled but the fresher legs of Swindon who have had 5 weeks preseason training started to get the better of the RAF. Swindon took the lead in the 58th minute when a powerful shot flew over SAC Connington who almost got her finger tips on it. The RAF lost another two through injury in Defender Flt Lt Emma Hollingsworth and midfielder SAC Phoebe Oreshko. As tired legs took hold Swindon capitalised on the 74th Minute when their number 7 drove the ball inside the post from outside the area leaving Connington with no chance.

Soon after they made it 4-1 in unlucky fashion for the RAF as a Swindon Cross deflected off midfielder SAC Rebecca Wadelin and looped over SAC Connington. The RAF pushed and pushed with tired legs and SAC Chelsea Ansley was causing problems down the RAF's left but that 2nd goal they deserved just didn't come.

Manager CT James Bryden said after the match:

'I am extremely proud of every player as they gave everything today against a very strong and youthful Swindon side and tried to play the way we have been working on. This was for most of our squad the first few days of football in about 6 months and we could see from the side lines the legs going during the game, and then the injuries followed. If we looked at the game in three thirds, we had the better of the first 30 mins when we were fresher, maybe it was even in the middle third and then Swindon were the better in the last. You could see the fitness difference at the end, but this is something myself, and the players can learn from. It was fantastic to just get together and get playing and to be the first Rep team from the three services to do'. We now look forward to playing GB police in October now the football cobwebs have been dusted off'



Head Coach Cpl Chris Hamilton (L) & Manager Chf Tech James Bryden (R)

Line-Up

RAF LRT vs Swindon Town WFC

04 SEPT 20

-
- 1: CONNINGTON
 - 2: WADELIN
 - 3: WYLIE
 - 4: BEAVER ©
 - 5: HOWES
 - 6: HOLLINGSWORTH
 - 7: ARROWSMITH
 - 8: GRIFFITHS
 - 9: BROWN
 - 10: ORESHKO
 - 11: ANSLEY
 - 12: WELSH
 - 14: WINDER
 - 15: ANDERTON
 - 16: LAMBERT

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