

**RAF FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 2022 SPONSORED BY
SecureCloud+
PLAYED AT SHREWSBURY TOWN FC**



The RAF FA Festival of Football 2022 was held in Shrewsbury on Thursday 12th October and proved to be another successful event. 21 teams registered for the event representing 18 stations and a team registered from the competition sponsors SecureCloud+.

The event organization was once again exemplary and was down to the efforts of Andy Oakley, the RAF FA Football Competitions Delivery Team Leader. On the day Andy was ably assisted by Cpl Scott Ellis and Mr Sam Wheeler of the RAF FA Competitions Delivery Team and RAF FA Football Development Manager respectively.

Photographs were taken by Mr Steve Lympany who kindly gave up a day off to assist the team. As always there was fantastic support from the RAF Referees who officiated superbly. It was pleasing to see representation from the competition sponsor. SecureCloud+ entered a team into the tournament to show their support and also presented the trophies at the end of the day.

Overall, a fabulous day was had by all with a big thanks to Shrewsbury Town FC who provided us with the facilities for the event. Finally, a huge congratulations to both of the winning teams: RAF Wittering (2022/23 Festival of Football Cup Winners) and RAF Northolt (2022/23 Festival of Football Plate Winners). A full report of the football is below.

Group Stages

Group A was dominated by a strong Brize Norton team who ended the group stage with a 100% record scoring 25 goals in the process. They were followed through into the knockout stages by RAF Wittering, Boulmer and Odiham B. Leaving RAF Northolt to move into the Plate.

Group A	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
RAF Brize Norton	4	0	0	25	11	14	12
RAF Wittering	2	0	2	23	17	6	6
RAF Boulmer	2	0	2	20	20	0	6
RAF Odiham B	1	0	3	14	21	-7	3
RAF Northolt	1	0	3	10	23	-13	3

Group B was dominated by RAF Marham side who like Brize Norton in Group A qualified for the knockouts with a 100% record. Also qualifying for the cup knockouts from Group B was RAF Lossiemouth, Wyton A and High Wycombe. With RAF Benson moving into the Plate.

Group B	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
RAF Marham	4	0	0	23	10	13	12
RAF Lossiemouth	3	0	1	27	14	13	9
RAF Wyton A	1	1	2	15	13	2	4
RAF High Wycombe	0	2	2	8	14	-6	2
RAF Benson	0	1	3	7	29	-22	1

Group C was a slightly closer affair when it came to qualifying for the knockout stages of the cup with Halton beating Digby A to the final qualifying position by 2 points. The group was topped by Odiham A who were unbeaten in the group with 4 wins and a draw. RAF Coningsby and RAF Leeming also qualified for the Cup knockouts with RAF Digby A and SecureCloud+ moved into the Plate competition.

Group C	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
RAF Odiham A	4	1	0	20	10	10	13
RAF Coningsby	2	2	1	16	13	3	8
RAF Leeming	2	1	2	14	14	0	7
RAF Halton	2	1	2	15	16	-1	7
RAF Digby A	1	2	2	13	16	-3	5
SecureCloud+	1	0	4	8	15	-7	3

Group D saw the 4th team to qualify for the knockouts of the cup with an unbeaten record and the third to qualify with a 100% record as RAF Honington finished the group with 5 wins from 5 games. The final three qualification places for the cup knockouts were RAF Shawbury, Cosford and Boscombe Down. All three teams finishing on 9 points and only separated on goal difference. RAF Wyton B and RAF Digby moved through to the plate knockouts.

Group D	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
RAF Honington	5	0	0	19	8	11	15
RAF Shawbury	3	0	2	20	11	9	9
RAF Cosford	3	0	2	13	10	3	9
RAF Boscombe Down	3	0	2	10	8	2	9
RAF Wyton B	1	0	4	8	18	-10	3
RAF Digby	0	0	5	10	25	-15	0

Knockouts

Cup Competition: -

The top 16 teams (top 4 from each group) went through to the knockout stages of the Cup with the remaining 6 teams went into the knockout for the plate. Due to 2 teams dropping out on the day affecting the team numbers, the decision was made by the organizing team that the 2 teams with the worst goal difference from the Cup knockouts first round would be moved into the plate.

RAF Brize Norton	4	V	0	RAF Boscombe Down
RAF Marham	5	V	2	RAF Halton
RAF Odiham A	2	V	1	RAF High Wycombe
RAF Honington	2 (2)	V	2 (3)	RAF Odiham B
RAF Wittering	2	V	1	RAF Cosford
RAF Lossiemouth	1	V	3	RAF Leeming
RAF Coningsby	1	V	2	RAF Wyton A
RAF Shawbury	3	V	2	RAF Boulmer

The first knockout round of the cup saw a lot of closely contested games with little in them at the full-time whistle. The shock result of the day coming as the 100% record of RAF Honington was broken by RAF Odiham B on penalties after the teams played out a 2-2 draw in normal time.

The two team who dropped into the Plate competition were RAF Boscombe Down and RAF Halton due to the goal difference from their knockout games.

RAF Brize Norton	7	V	3	RAF Leeming
RAF Marham	2	V	5	RAF Wittering
RAF Odiham A	4	V	3	RAF Shawbury
RAF Odiham B	3	V	1	RAF Wyton A

The Cup Quarter Finals provided 2 games with comfortable results and 2 games with closer results as RAF Brize Norton continued their dominant form to beat a determined RAF Leeming 7-3. While RAF Odiham A scraped through to the Semi-Finals with a narrow 4-3 win over RAF Shawbury.

RAF Brize Norton	5	V	2	RAF Odiham A
RAF Wittering	3	V	1	RAF Odiham B

The Cup Semi-Finals following the trend of the previous games of the day provided plenty of goals. A 7-goal thriller saw RAF Brize Norton once again appear victorious with a 5-2 win over RAF Odiham A. Then RAF Wittering extinguished any hopes of RAF Odiham having representation in the final despite having 2 teams in the last 4, as RAF Wittering came out 3-1 winners.

Cup Final:-

RAF Brize Norton	3	V	4	RAF Wittering
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After a day full of eventful entertaining football culminated in the Cup final between RAF Brize Norton and RAF Wittering. The game was played at a frantic pace with RAF Wittering running into a 4-1 lead after the first 10 minutes. In the last five minutes of the game RAF Brize Norton mounted a comeback and with 40 seconds of game time left on the referee's watch scored to make it 4-3 and give everyone watching a blockbuster finish. RAF Wittering managed to keep possession of the ball for long enough and despite a few scares in the last 40 seconds, managed to hold on to claim their second 2022/23 Festival of Football Winners title.

Player of the match was selected by the main event sponsors SecureCloud+. For his excellent performances throughout the days football and his impressive performance in the final, the Player of the Tournament was awarded to RAF Wittering's Luke Gove.



Plate Competition:-

RAF Northolt	6	V	4	RAF Digby B
RAF Benson	6	V	4	SecureCloud+
Digby A	4	V	1	RAF Boscombe Down
RAF Wyton B	3	V	1	RAF Halton

The Plate knockouts got underway with the Quarter-Final games again seeing plenty of goals being scored. RAF Northolt and RAF Benson both progressed to the Semi-Finals in fine goal scoring form after both winning their Quarter-Finals 6-4, while RAF Digby A and RAF Wyton score 4 goals and 3 goals respectively on their way to the semi-finals.

RAF Northolt	4	V	2	RAF Benson
RAF Digby A	2	V	0	RAF Wyton B

The Semi-Finals of the Plate ended with the 5 man team of RAF Digby A earning a place in the Final after playing with the minimum of 5 players for the entire tournament. While RAF Northolt defeated RAF Benson 4-2 to book their place in the final.

Plate Final

RAF Digby A	2	V	5	RAF Northolt
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The Plate final was contested between RAF Digby A and RAF Northolt. Both teams came into the final after winning their semi-finals by a margin of 2 goals. Unfortunately, for RAF Digby A the lack of substitutes for their team was no starting to show and RAF Northolt proved to be too much. Showing there clinical skills in front of goal RAF Northolt won 5-2 to be named 2022/23 Festival of Football Plate Winners.



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