

RAF FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 2022 - PLAYED AT SHREWSBURY TOWN FC

The RAF FA Women's Festival of Football 2022 was held in Shrewsbury on Thursday 6th October with 12 teams registered for the station and branch/profession teams 5-a-side event this season. The RAF Boulmer/Leeming combined team won the prize for longest journey. With RAF Coningsby look for revenge over RAF Police A, following the 20/21 season competition that was held in June, where they lost in the final.

The weather was kind, with sunshine and very little wind making conditions excellent for football.

The event was organised by Sgt Jenni Whatton, A/FS Bobby McDowall and WO Si Waldock and as always, the Shrewsbury Town FC staff were all supportive. With the officials briefed and the format agreed, the teams just waited for the draw which divided the teams into two groups, it wasn't long before the matches got on the way.

In Group 1 the RAF Police A team continued where they left off in the last event, scoring for fun and going unbeaten. They were joined by a RAF High Wycombe team who equalled their point tally but couldn't match the goals scored. RAF Wittering and Shawbury A progressed into the Plate Semi-Finals as the 3rd and 4th best teams.

Group 1 League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
RAF POLICE A	5	4	1	0	+35	13
RAF HIGH WYCOMBE	5	4	1	0	+16	13
RAF WITTERING	5	2	1	2	+4	7
RAF SHAWBURY A	5	1	2	2	-3	5
RAF HALTON	5	1	0	4	-25	3
RAF BOULMER/LEEMING	5	0	1	4	-24	1

In Group 2 RAF Coningsby also impressed, going unbeaten with 5 straight wins, combining a strong defence with some clinical finishing. Close behind them was RAF Brize Norton/Benson combined side who like the RAF Police A team in Group 1 were also free scoring. Shawbury B joined their A team in the Plate semi-final and RAF Cosford made up the last of the Plate semi-finalists.

Group 2 League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
RAF CONINGSBY	5	5	0	0	+19	15
RAF BRIZE /BENSON	5	4	0	1	+45	12
RAF SHAWBURY B	5	3	0	2	-17	9
RAF COSFORD	5	1	1	3	-11	4
RAFP B	5	1	0	4	-17	3
RAF LIONESSES (MOVERS)	5	0	1	4	-18	1

In the Plate Semi-finals, both games were close affairs but RAF Cosford proved too strong for RAF Wittering in the end and RAF Shawbury B shocked their A Team with a late goal to progress to the Plate Finals.

Plate Semi Final

Team	GOALS		Team	GOALS	PITCH	TIME
RAF WITTERING	1	V	RAF COSFORD	2	3	1430
RAF SHAWBURY B	1	V	RAF SHAWBURY A	0	4	1430

RAF Police A's hold on the Trophy ended in the Semi-Finals with a close game against RAF Brize/Benson going against them. RAF Coningsby made their way in a more emphatic way, putting 4 past the RAF High Wycombe team.

Trophy Semi Final

Team	GOALS		Team	GOALS	PITCH	TIME
RAFP A	2	V	RAF BRIZE/BENSON	3	1	1430
RAF HIGH WYCOMBE	0	V	RAF CONINGSBY	4	2	1430

Plate Final



In the Plate Final, RAF Cosford were the stronger side, with several early chances and some lovely football to carve open the Shawbury defence. Despite Cosford's dominance, Shawbury battled hard until the end and were rewarded with a consolation goal to make the final score 4-1 to Cosford.





Team	GOALS		Team	GOALS	PITCH	TIME
RAF SHAWBURY B	1	V	RAF COSFORD	4	1	1500

Trophy Final



In the Trophy Final, both sets of goal keepers were engaged early but despite a number of shots flying goalbound, they were either saved or blocked. The defensive play of both sides made it difficult to create a clear cut chance but as the game progressed the deadlock was broken with the solitary goal scored by Lucy Farrow who was also named as player of the tournament following the completion of the tournament saw RAF Coningsby secure the victory and end the day unbeaten.





Team	GOALS		Team	GOALS	PITCH	TIME
RAF BRIZE/BENSON	0	V	RAF CONINGSBY	1	1	1510

At the end of the event, the officials for the day were presented with their trophies before the teams stepped up to receive their medals and the Plate and Trophy.



RAF FA Officials



RAF Cosford



RAF Shawbury B



RAF Coningsby



RAF Brize Norton/Benson



Player of the Tournament – Lucy Farrow

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