

RAF FA - Festival of Football 2021/22 Season – 21 Oct 2021

A new venue for the RAF FA Festival of Football this year due to the need to mitigate the COVID risks. With Shrewsbury Town FC Hub offering just what was needed, the arrangements were put in place to provide the opportunity to see which units would come out on top. With a fantastic turnout of 30 teams from across the UK the draw for the groups was made and the competition commenced with the weather being kind, following a downpour the evening before.

The group stages were soon underway and games were played at a frantic pace, with the compact pitch size leading to many, many shots per game. With TSW Stafford, Wyton A, Shawbury and Henlow all unbeaten in the group stages. However, some groups were very competitive with Benson and Wittering coming out with 3 wins and a draw in their group that also included a decent Boulmer team. This group would prove a number of teams who reached the later stages of the Plate and Cup competition. Highest scorers in the Group stages were Digby A^t with 25, with Lossiemouth B conceding the most goals with 26 against.

TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Lose	For	Against	Points
Leeming – 1st	4	3	0	1	22	6	9
Waddington A	4	3	0	1	15	7	9
Cosford – 3rd	4	3	0	1	11	9	9
Wyton B	4	1	0	3	8	14	3
High Wycombe	4	0	0	4	2	21	0

TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Lose	For	Against	Points
Shawbury	4	4	0	0	12	6	12
Brize Norton A	4	3	0	1	13	6	9
Waddington B	4	2	0	2	13	12	6
Digby B	4	1	0	3	6	12	3
Honington	4	0	0	4	6	14	0

TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Lose	For	Against	Points
Stafford	4	4	0	0	15	9	12
Marham A	4	3	0	1	17	9	9
Scampton	4	2	0	2	12	12	6
Brize Norton B	4	1	0	3	9	16	3
Halton	4	0	0	4	7	22	0

TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Lose	For	Against	Points
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Benson	4	3	1	0	13	6	10
Wittering	4	3	1	0	16	8	10
Boulmer	4	1	0	3	11	17	3
Coningsby B	4	1	0	3	10	13	3
Valley	4	1	0	3	10	16	3

TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Lose	For	Against	Points
Henlow	4	4	0	0	18	11	12
Northolt	4	2	1	1	14	7	7
Coningsby A	4	1	2	1	13	12	5
SecureCloud+	4	1	0	3	5	18	3
Lossiemouth A	4	0	1	3	8	12	1

TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Lose	For	Against	Points
Wyton A	4	4	0	0	21	8	12
Digby A	4	3	0	1	25	15	9
Marham B	4	1	1	2	16	17	4
Odiham	4	1	1	2	13	16	4
Lossiemouth B	4	0	0	4	7	26	0

Plate

The Plate competition saw 2 teams with byes in the first round but the goals continued to fly in. Boulmer and Odiham looking particularly lethal in front of goal on one side of the draw to reach the semi-finals. On the other Wyton B and Brize Norton B progressed to the semi-finals. Wyton B put in an impressive performance to knock out Brize Norton B 5-1 but in the other game 12 goals were scored with Boulmer smashing in 9 to reach the final with a 9-3 victory over Odiham. The final was a far closer affair with some excellent goal keeping and clinical finishing. Boulmer came out on top, winning 3-1 to take home the Plate.







1 Winners RAF FA Festival of Football Plate - RAF Boulmer

Cup Competition

Over in the Cup competition the intensity of some games was relentless. Every game was contested with some high-quality finishing and some equally as good saves. With 16 teams progressing to this stage, it was Wyton A, Benson, Wittering and Northolt that made it to the Semi-Finals. Northolt looked in control in their game but Benson came from behind to win 4-3. Wittering edged a 1-0 victory over Wyton A, with Wyton denied an equaliser when a thunderbolt of a shot hit the bar and bounced down on the goal line, the crowd were screaming for a goal but the Referee was unmoved and in a difficult position as it happened so fast.

Benson's Brodie Gray was also chosen as the 'Player of the Tournament'.

It was great to see a number of teams remain to watch the finals and the crowd created a great atmosphere for the players to contest the final. In the Final of the Cup, Benson edged it, securing a 2-1 victory over Wittering to bring a close to proceedings.





2 Player of the Tournament - Brodie Gray, Benson





3RAF Benson - Winners RAF Festival of Football Cup

After another successful Festival of Football, a huge thank you goes to the match officials, the staff from Shrewsbury Town FC Hub for their hospitality on the day and also to the RAF FA's sponsors, especially SecureCloud+ who provided a team for the event and also provided executive support for post tournament presentations. For their continued support to RAF Football we are extremely grateful.

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