

RAF FA Ladies vs RN Women played at The TNS FC Oswestry



The second match of the 2019 Inter-Service fixtures for the RAF Ladies saw the RN visit TNS FC Oswestry for the first time. Having played the LRT home fixture at the Park Hall Stadium, home of TNS FC, Oswestry last season, and the RAF took the opportunity to return. On a mild evening with minimal wind, the conditions were excellent.

The RAF were quick out of the blocks, with Ash Mackenzie threading through a lovely pass between two defenders to set Rachel Griffiths up as she surged through the middle. Showing good strength to hold off the defenders, she got a powerful shot away but the ball fizzed past the left post with the RN keeper beaten.



Minutes later the RAF broke through again, beating the offside trap to get Keri Haywood in, as the RN keeper narrowed the angle, she opted to go for a lob but the ball went just wide. On 13 minutes the RAF nearly opened the scoring again with a free kick from the right hand side of the box, 25 yards out. The ball was lifted into the box and evaded all the defenders efforts to clear and bounced just in front of Lauren Impey who just couldn't get a touch to divert the ball goal wards and the RN keeper was relieved to gather the loose ball.

RAF FA E-Bulletin – LRT vs RN. IS19

This seemed to fire up the RN. Nicky Davies in the RAF goal was called into action, having her palms warmed by a strong shot from 18 yards out. RN pressure was building and another ball clipped into the RAF box saw Ciara Boylan shape up to shoot but Davies was out very quickly and cleared everything out, flattening the RN striker in the process and clearing the danger. On 22 minutes the deadlock was broken. An unfortunate own goal from Emily Wyse who headed backwards towards her own goal on the stretch, 6 yards out under a lot of pressure from Haywood.



The match was developing nicely into a good spectacle with both teams fully committed to playing football and show their desire to win. This was demonstrated fully when Lauren Impey produced a crunching tackle in midfield to win the ball back and stop a RN attack dead in its tracks. It looked like the half would finish 1-0 to the RAF as both sides cancelled each other out but with 2 minutes left on the clock, the RN broke down their left flank, the attacker beat her defender and drove into the box, looking up to pick out a pass she curled the ball into the middle but it bounced off the RAF defenders arm and went out of play. Surprisingly to the crowd, the Referee gave a penalty, this looked harsh from the stands but there wasn't too much protesting from the RAF players. Anthea Kaptein stepped up and put the ball into the bottom corner with Davies going the other way.



It nearly got worse for the RAF in added time after the RN broke again but the RAF defence of Howes, Hollingsworth and Rutherford all contributed to a series of block following an initial save from Davies. This was the final action of the half as the teams departed down the tunnel with everything level.

The second half started like the first with the RAF quick to get about the RN team. McIntosh replaced Haywood who had a knock in the first half. With 9 minutes of the 2nd half played, Ash Mackenzie received the ball, controlled well and

then slid a lovely pass into Zara McIntosh who used her pace to get into the box on the right side. As the RN keeper came out to close the angle, McIntosh took it around her and side footed home to put the RAF back in the lead. A lovely quick move with a cool finish.

Lauren Impey nearly added to the score line following a strong header from 12 yards out but the RN



defence somehow managed to clear the danger when a goal looked more likely. The RAF were high in confidence and this was starting to show as they worked the ball around quickly. More good work from Ash Mackenzie on the right who again set up McIntosh who held up play waiting for help. Cat Beaver joined the attack and McIntosh pulled the ball back to the edge of the box for Beaver to shoot but her effort went high and wide.

The RN were not done though, a couple of corners in quick succession saw them come close with a ball to the far post being met by a firm header but the effort was off target. With Lauren Cassin on for Sam Wylie and Tasha Kenny on for Ash Mackenzie the RAF used up their allotted subs.



Symons nearly added to the tally when she worked an opening and then fired her shot on target. Unfortunately it was straight at the RN keeper. With 5 mins shown by the 4th Official there was still time for the RAF to push for another goal. On 94 minutes, Tash Kenny latched on to a loose pass and quickly went for goal with a fine left footed strike into the net to finish the game on a high.



The Cassar Cup (RAF vs RN) was awarded after the match by Air Vice-Marshal Tamara Jennings, President designate for the RAF FA. This means that the RAF can still win the Inter-Services with the final match between the Army and RN next week deciding the final standings.

Final score 3-1.



Squad

Sgt Nicola Davies
SAC Rachael Howes
SAC Emma Hollingsworth
SAC Rachel Rutherford
Cpl Cat Beaver (Capt)
Cpl Rachel Griffiths
SAC Nicola Symons
Cpl Ashleigh MacKenzie
Cpl Lauren Impey
SAC Samantha Wylie
SAC Keri Haywood
SAC Steph Lee
Sgt Zara McIntosh
SAC Lauren Cassin
SAC Lauren Welsh
SAC Leanne Davison
Fg Off Natasha Kenny
SAC Laura Parsons

Match Report – Sqn Ldr Garf
Parker – Director of Comms
Photographs – Mr John Elliott and
Sqn Ldr Garf Parker



RAF FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION SPONSORS



The charity that supports the RAF family



SecureCloud+



THALES

Air & Ground