

Charity Football – Shropshire Family Fun Day Emergency Services Football Competition



Sunday the 29th July 2018 saw the annual Shropshire Family Fun day take place at the Shrewsbury College of Arts & Technology (SCAT), with an Emergency Services football competition being held including teams from the Army Rifles, Shropshire Fire Service, Shropshire Retained Fire Service, West Mercia Police, Shropshire Council and an RAF Shawbury/Cosford (RAF Shawford) combined team, led by FS Dan Jackson of RAF Shawbury ATC. FS Jackson has just handed over the reins of the RAF Shawbury football manager after 3 years in charge, so this was the perfect opportunity for him to potentially collect some more silverware prior to hanging up his tactics board. The day started off wet and miserable, but luckily this didn't continue, however the clouded sky and hidden sun saw some people wish they had applied the factor 50.

It was a long day of footballing ahead, with 5 matches of 15 minutes being played in the group stages, followed by a semi-final and then the final. Dusting off the cobwebs in the first game saw the RAF Shawford team draw 1.1 with the Fire Service, a very good footballing team. The remaining 4 games saw 4 wins for the RAF Shawford team, enabling them to progress to the

RAF FA E-Bulletin

semi-final as group winners. There was a slight delay in the semi-final fixtures being played due to the retained Fire Service having to depart on a 999 shout, they were however stood down from the call and were back at the tournament ready to play within 20 minutes.

RAF Shawford met the Shropshire Council in the semi-final, after a cagey start from both teams the RAF Shawford team went through as 3 nil winners. The other semi-final saw a grudge match between the Retained Fire Service and the Shropshire Fire Service, this was a hard-fought semi-final from both teams, with the Fire Service being victorious as 3.1 winners.

The final was a repeat of the first match which had seen the 1.1 draw, so it gave both RAF Shawford and the Fire Service a chance to avenge the draw and get the victory to become tournament winners. With all the spectators and other footballing teams now crowded around the field to watch the highly anticipated final, it finally got under way. Both teams tried to be the early aggressors, some slick passing and great runs resulted in chances at both ends. It was the RAF however that took the lead through some great team play and smart finishing. The Fire Service then had to try and create something special to get back in the game, this unfortunately for them led to gaps on the field which the RAF Shawford team could exploit. Another goal from the RAF team saw a 2-nil win in the final, and the RAF Shawford team crowned as tournament champions. Individual medals were received and a team trophy presented by players of Shrewsbury Town FC.





A big thanks to RAF Cosford who were able to supply 3 outstanding players who proved to be a huge help towards winning the tournament. The Family Fun Day and tournament will take place in 2019 also, date to be decided.

Team Players.

FS Dan Jackson (Player/Manager)
Sqn Ldr Ian 'Taff' Evans
Cpl Neil Hudson
SAC Reace Nichols
SAC Matt Hayes
AC Brodie Gray
AC Ben Bond
Mr Adam Jones
Mr Rich Litchfield

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