

RAF Football Women's Survey

The responses to the RAF Women's Football Survey have been fully analysed and can be found at the following link, (the most effective method to view is to cut and paste into the Chrome browser):

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-NBQMB5QM8/>

What makes the survey difficult to fully act upon is the comparatively small number of responses, only 61 out of approx. 4,500 in the RAF, some of whom have no interest in football. I intend to run the survey again towards the end of this year and I encourage all RAF women to engage, interested in football or not; clearly the more responses, the more justification there is to take action. That is not to say that things are not available now.

The Lincs Services Football League are planning their annual Women's Football Event during Jun/Jul at Lincoln City FC, please watch the RAF Announcements page and RAF FA website for details; alternatively, email your interest to the Chairman of the LSAFL and he will ensure you are on the event mailing list.

Sqn Ldr Tony Clayton
Chairman, LSAFL
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Most of the comments within the survey results are accepted as completely fair and where possible are/will be acted upon, however, the best method of spreading the football message is by word of mouth and via your friend's network (I'm sure you appreciate the need to be cautious of putting too many event details on open source social media). The intent of the RAF FA and LSAFL, is to improve the availability of women's football for all that want it, recognising that it should include all age groups and abilities, with focuses on safeguarding and inclusivity.

Below is a response from the new RAF FA Director of Diversity and Inclusion, which I hope provides more evidence that delivery of women's football is being carefully considered with an intent for action. We just need your engagement.

Women's Football is an area that the RAF FA aims to develop further, and the results of this survey certainly support that objective. Currently, the Lincolnshire League run a successful women's event that provides the opportunity for women to get involved in RAF Football. Building on this success there is an aspiration to run a Women's White Cup and extend the Annual RAF FA Festival of Football to offer greater opportunities for more women to become involved with football both on and off the field. Involvement might include back-room support, coaching, refereeing or organisation, not just playing. We also need to provide opportunities for all levels of players from beginners to the more experienced, and for all ages. An annual

women’s tournament or a mini-league are two opportunities we are considering to increase grass-roots female participation in football.

I have recently taken over the new role of Director of Diversity and Inclusion for RAF Football and with the arrival of a new RAF FA Football Development Manager, Scotty Burry, in June 18, we are exploring all avenues to improve our effectiveness in this area and set some specific goals for next season; including this vision in our strategy and 3-year FA plan for the development of football in the RAF is essential. If you have any ideas or questions on this subject, please engage – the more involvement we can have with as many people as possible, the better. In the first instance, please contact Sqn Ldr Tony Clayton, who will be glad to hear from you, and who will be able to progress your enquiry or suggestion, appropriately.

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