

The RAF Cup

‘The Keith Christie Trophy’

and

RAF FA Plate Final 2017

RAF FA Plate Final

RAF Leeming v RAF Benson

RAF Cup ‘The Keith Christie Trophy’

RAF Waddington v RAF Honington

The RAF Football Association RAF Cup ‘The Keith Christie Trophy’ and Plate Finals

Chairman’s Foreword Gp Capt Rich Pratley

I am delighted to welcome you to Thame United FC and to the RAF Football Association Cup ‘The Keith Christie Trophy’ and the RAF FA Plate Finals. The competition has been running since 1920 and remains the RAF’s premier inter-station competition. The Cup competition was renamed in honour of a stalwart of RAF Football who unfortunately died in 2015 to recognise the fantastic support he provided to RAF Football throughout his career. RAF Marham were the winners of the Keith Christie Trophy and the Plate competition was won by RAF Benson.

My thanks to Neil Garnett and his team for allowing us to use the Club’s facilities today.

Over the last 8 months, RAF stations across the country have been engaged in 62 RAF Cup matches, 4 more than the previous season which is encouraging. A remarkable 282 goals have been scored this season in the competition. If proof were needed, this serves to underline that football remains the largest participation sport in the RAF. This would not be possible without the vital contribution of the players, coaches, managers, and officials who willingly give so much for football – my thanks to each and every one of you. Also, thank you to all our valued sponsors whose continued support provides the vital foundation for us to deliver and provide football opportunities to all.

Delivering RAF football throughout the year is often challenging and I would like to thank the officials and backroom staffs, whose unswerving support to the game is vital. Similarly, the work of my Trustees, the RAF Football Association Executive Committee and the RAF Sports Board, as well as the backing of my sponsors, remains equally essential. Like me, they recognise that football makes a vital contribution to the RAF’s operational capability by promoting fitness, teamwork and improving morale and that sport and the opportunity to play sport, remains a key benefit of RAF life.

My congratulations to the teams RAF Waddington, RAF Honington, RAF Leeming and RAF Benson who have made it to the RAF Cup ‘The Keith Christie Trophy’ and Plate finals and my thanks to the referees and their assistants for officiating at the matches today. Enjoy the matches and enjoy the occasion.

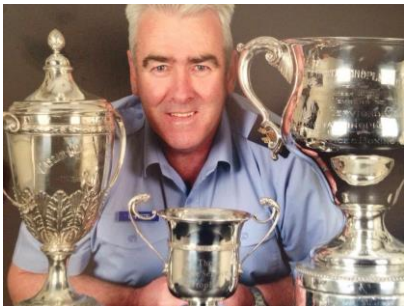


RAF Cup Winners 1920 to 2016

1920-21 Cranwell	1959-60 Melksham	1989-90 Brize Norton
1921-22 Henlow	1960-61 Yatesbury	1990-91 St Athan
1922-23 Cranwell	1961-62 Cranwell	1991-92 Lyneham
1923-24 Manston	1962-63 Yatesbury	1992-93 Coningsby
1924-25 Cranwell	1963-64 Ballykelly	1993-94 Kinloss
1925-26 Flowerdown	1964-65 Finningley	1994-95 Waddington
1926-27 Martlesham Heath	1965-66 Benson	1995-96 Coltishall
1927-28 Eastchurch	1966-67 Finningley	1996-97 Bruggen
1928-29 Henlow	1967-68 Scampton	1997-98 Leeming
1929-30 Henlow	1968-69 Waddington	1998-99 Bruggen
1930-31 Martlesham Heath	1969-70 Scampton	1999-00 Boulmer
1931-32 Boscombe Down	1970-71 Marham	2000-01 Leeming
1932-33 Martlesham Heath	1971-72 Thorney Island	2001-02 Leeming
1933-34 Henlow	1972-73 Kinloss	2002-03 Marham
1934-35 Upper Heyford	1973-74 Lyneham	2003-04 Lyneham
1935-36 Leuchars	1974-75 Lyneham	2004-05 Lyneham
1936-37 Cranwell	1975-76 Henlow	2005-06 Leeming
1937-38 Manston	1976-77 Lyneham	2006-07 Coningsby
1938-39 Shawbury	1977-78 Brize Norton	2007-08 Wittering
1948-49 Halton	1978-79 Wattisham	2008-09 Cosford
1949-50 Halton	1979-80 Brize Norton	2009-10 Cosford
1950-51 Cosford	1980-81 Marham	2010-11 Wittering
1951-52 St Mawgan	1981-82 Brize Norton	2011-12 Cosford
1952-53 Cosford	1982-83 Wyton	2012-13 Coningsby
1953-54 Innsworth	1983-84 Wyton	2013-14 Benson
1954-55 Kinloss	1984-85 Abingdon	2014-15 Waddington
1955-56 Melksham	1985-86 Brize Norton	2015-16 Marham
1956-57 Innsworth	1986-87 Kinloss	
1957-58 Kirkham	1987-88 Locking	
1958-59 High Wycombe	1988-89 Wyton	



THE KEITH CHRISTIE TROPHY



The Keith Christie Trophy was named in honour of one of RAF FA Football's greatest coaches. The trophy that is presented to the winners of the RAF Cup was renamed in 2016.

During his career, Warrant Officer Keith Christie gave outstanding service of the highest order to the Royal Air Force over which time he has unwaveringly committed 30 years to Royal Air Force Sport; his main focus being

the delivery of Service Football. His exemplary service was characterised by the outstanding example of leadership he consistently displayed during his involvement with the Royal Air Force Football Association. Keith worked tirelessly at all levels of RAF Football, commencing in the 1970s, with Station Football moving onto the RAF Representative Development Squad and finally the full RAF Senior Team in 2006. He selflessly devoted his own time to the development of young airman through the medium of team sport and his determination to provide them with the highest level of coaching and instruction; this indelibly marked him as an exceptionally dedicated and effective leader who led by personal example.

Where Keith brought transformational change was in his role as the Senior Representative Men's Team Manager, where he produced an unprecedented level of success. This was all the more impressive as the first non-commissioned Team Manager. During his time with RAF Football he always committed elongated hours of his own time to ensure the guidance and direction given to players and coaches under his charge is second to none. The care, patience, skill and the long hours he put into his work made him an outstanding example to all. By sheer force of character, energy and devotion to his role he achieved exceptional results and that has truly been to the benefit of others and his Service as a whole.

He personally developed an entire generation of players and coaches within his service and altruistically dedicated his energy for the sole benefit of RAF sport. This has seen him involved at all levels of Service football from Stn, Group, Command as well as full Representative and Combined Service. Keith was and still is an individual who is highly respected as well as being popular and widely admired. His level of self-sacrifice was far in excess of the normal requirements of military duty and, as a man of genuine modesty; he never saw his efforts as anything special. However, the fact that his self-sacrifice towards the development and benefit of others motivated many other officers and airman to follow his fine example and actively involve themselves in RAF Football, is a testament to his outstanding ability and commitment to serve others. Sadly, Keith passed away in 2015.

The Road to the Final

Group Stages

Group 1 (North)

RAF Lossiemouth 4-4 RAF Leeming
RAF Linton-on-Ouse 0-6 RAF Leeming
RAF Linton-on-Ouse 2-3 RAF Lossiemouth
RAF Leeming 4-0 RAF Boulmer
RAF Lossiemouth 10-0 RAF Boulmer
RAF Boulmer 0-10 RAF Linton-on-Ouse

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RAF Lossiemouth	3	2	1	0	17	6	+11	7
RAF Leeming	3	2	1	0	14	4	+10	7
RAF Linton-on-Ouse	3	0	0	3	12	9	+3	0
RAF Boulmer	3	0	0	3	0	24	-24	0

Group 2 (Central)

RAF Digby 0-5 RAF Waddington
RAF Scampton 3-3 RAF Coningsby
RAF Cranwell 2-1 RAF Scampton
RAF Coningsby 2-0 RAF Digby
RAF Coningsby 3-0 RAF Cranwell
RAF Waddington 6-0 RAF Scampton
RAF Waddington 1-1 RAF Coningsby
RAF Digby 0-10 RAF Cranwell
RAF Cranwell 0-7 RAF Waddington
RAF Scampton 3-0 RAF Digby

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RAF Waddington	4	3	1	0	19	1	+18	10
RAF Coningsby	4	2	2	0	9	4	+5	8
RAF Cranwell	4	2	0	2	12	11	+1	6
RAF Scampton	4	1	1	2	7	11	-4	4
RAF Digby	4	0	0	4	0	20	-20	0

Group 3 (Central)

RAF Shawbury 10-0 TSW Stafford

RAF Cosford 10-0 RAF Valley

RAF Shawbury 1-3 RAF Cosford

TSW Stafford 1-3 RAF Cosford

RAF Valley 2-9 RAF Shawbury

TSW Stafford 10-0 RAF Valley

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RAF Cosford	3	3	0	0	16	2	+14	9
RAF Shawbury	3	2	0	1	20	5	+15	6
TSW Stafford	3	1	0	2	11	13	-2	3
RAF Valley	3	0	0	3	2	29	-27	0

Group 4 (East)

RAF Honington 3-2 RAF Wittering

RAF Marham 8-2 RAF Lakenheath

RAF Wittering 1-1 RAF Marham

RAF Lakenheath 1-4 RAF Honington

RAF Honington 7-2 RAF Marham

RAF Lakenheath 4-6 RAF Wittering

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RAF Honington	3	3	0	0	14	5	+9	9
RAF Marham	3	1	1	1	11	10	+1	4
RAF Wittering	3	1	1	1	9	8	+1	4
RAF Lakenheath	3	0	0	3	7	18	-11	0

Group 5 (East)

Chicksands 2-3 RAF Northolt

RAF Wyton 16-0 RAF Henlow

RAF Henlow 0-5 Chicksands

RAF Northolt 8-0 JSU Northwood

RAF Henlow 0-11 RAF Northolt

RAF Wyton 10-0 JSU Northwood

Chicksands 10-0 JSU Northwood

RAF Northolt 1-4 RAF Wyton

Chicksands 0-0 RAF Wyton

RAF Henlow 10-0 JSU Northwood

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RAF Wyton	4	3	1	0	30	1	+29	10
RAF Northolt	4	3	0	1	23	6	+17	9
Chicksands	4	2	1	1	17	3	+14	7
RAF Henlow	4	1	0	3	10	32	-22	3
JSU Northwood	4	0	0	4	0	38	-38	0

Group 6 (West)

RAF Halton 1-2 RAF Benson
RAF St Mawgan 1-12 RAF Brize Norton
RAF Benson 10-0 RAF St. Mawgan
RAF Brize Norton 10-0 RAF Halton
RAF Benson 3-4 RAF Brize Norton
RAF St Mawgan 10-0 RAF Halton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RAF Brize Norton	3	3	0	0	26	4	+22	9
RAF Benson	3	2	0	1	15	5	+10	6
RAF St Mawgan	3	1	0	2	11	22	-11	3
RAF Halton	3	0	0	3	1	22	-21	0

Group 7 (West)

RAF Odiham 9-3 RAF High Wycombe
RAF High Wycombe 0-4 Swanwick Mil
Swanwick Mil 0-3 RAF Odiham
MoD St Athan 10-0 RAF High Wycombe
Swanwick Mil 1-5 MoD St Athan
MoD St Athan 2-3 RAF Odiham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RAF Odiham	3	3	0	0	15	5	+10	9
MoD St Athan	3	2	0	1	17	4	+13	6
Swanwick Mil	3	1	0	2	5	8	-3	3
RAF High Wycombe	3	0	0	3	3	23	-20	0

Quarter Finals

Cup

RAF Cosford 2-1 RAF Brize Norton
RAF Honington 3-1 RAF Wyton
RAF Odiham 3-2 RAF Northolt
RAF Waddington 3-2 RAF Lossiemouth

Plate

RAF Benson 7-0 MoD St Athan
RAF Coningsby 2-4 RAF Marham
RAF Shawbury 5-2 RAF Cranwell
Chicksands 0-5 RAF Leeming

Semi-Finals

Cup

RAF Honington 4-0 RAF Cosford (played at MoD Stafford)
RAF Odiham 0-1 RAF Waddington (played at RAF Wittering)

Plate

RAF Marham 1-3 RAF Leeming (played at RAF Coningsby)
RAF Benson 8-0 RAF Shawbury (played at MoD Stafford)

MATCH OFFICIALS

PLATE FINAL

Referee: Cpl Chris Arnell
Assistant Referee: Cpl Darren Berry
Assistant Referee: Cpl James Astley
4th Official: Sgt Gary Hurst

CUP FINAL

Referee: WO Tony Wingate
Assistant Referee: SAC Chris Binney
Assistant Referee: Cpl Ryan Woods
4th Official: SAC(T) Adam Baguley



RAF Cup 'Keith Christie Trophy' Finalists

RAF Waddington			
Rank	Name	Position	Remarks
SAC	Dan Carter	GK	Goalkeeper, great shot stopper although that ability didn't stop him getting lobbed from 60 yards in the final two years ago. In his last month in the Air Force and is off to start a new career in the film industry.
SAC	Anthony Johnston	GK	Goalkeeper, has ably filled in this season whilst Carter was OOA. Not the sharpest tool in the box, being the only fit keeper on camp decided to play outfield before a big game and smashed his collarbone leaving us with no GK for weeks!
SAC	Jake Burns	Def	Promising young player who plays at Full Back or CH, strong tackling and comfortable on the ball, ex RAF Dev Squad, this door slammer has bags of potential. Rumour has it he's PVR'd and applied for a slot on Geordie Shore.
Sgt	Matty Davies	Def	Incredibly fit Left Back, Former RAF U23 and CS Cyprus. Matty's arrival in the squad required some upgrades to the changing rooms, plug sockets for sunbeds and hair straighteners have now been fitted, along with lots of mirrors.
SAC	Danny Dixon	Def	Represented the RAF and CS for most of his career and played in all of the '7 in a row' RAF IS winning squad. He is a career SAC who last completed a full week in work in 2003. However if moaning was a trade he would be a WO by now. His penalty in the Semi Final was crucial although it bounced 3 times before it went in. A formidable player who captains the side today.
SAC	Stu Greenlees	Def	CH or utility player, played for Forres Mechanics in the past, this man needs a DNA test, a white Englishman with an afro and a broad Scottish accent. Understanding him is difficult, which is why we now bring a translator to every match.
SAC	Ben Mannion	Def	Centre Half who has broken into the team this season. 'Biscuit ankles' or 'glassback' is cultured on the ball with a good read for the game, just a shame he was blessed with a plasticine body, we put his boots on for him, just to stop him pulling something.
Cpl	Jay Seymour	Def	Industrial defender who starts most of his tackles in the warm up, no nonsense stopper from the 'Row Z' school of defending, follicly challenged Boro fan whose pre-match meal is

			Parmo and chips. Back from MPA with a six pack.... which we'll be drinking at full time.
LAC	Luke Davies	Def	Centre Half straight in from training. 'Dennis' is just 21 and a product of the Southampton youth academy, settled in well and is a great addition to the squad.
Cpl	James Greenhalgh	Mid	Central Midfielder who on his day is irreplaceable, has attracted interest from the RAF SRT. Rochdale's greatest export and a regional heartthrob. He just beat Bill Oddie and Jimmy Cricket to the title.
SAC	Joe White	Mid	Joe has been a revelation when he has played. Hard tackling midfielder who can play a bit too. His face tells you he plays a lot of rugby, somebody could have given him a gumshield. Got kicked in the head once too often and woke up supporting Man Utd.
Cpl	Chris Hamilton	Mid	Plays the number 10 role with bags of experience, Ex Scottish Pro who has represented the RAF, also known as the 'nagging wife' because he is relentless on the pitch. Doing his coaching badges, and as one player said the other week, he is a really, really good player.
SAC	Jack Wilde	Mid	Another Attacking midfielder, new to the squad and has settled in well, bags of skill and pace. Another product of the GEF school of football, it makes you wonder how anything gets fixed in there as they are always playing football.
LAC	Zak D'Sylva	Mid	Midfielder who has recently joined up with the squad, has a great left foot. Has a proper footballers name and Pablo has recently broken into the Mexican international side which is why he can't play every week.
SAC	Chris Waring	Mid	Midfield/utility player who has just broke into the 1st team - has filled in at RB, steady and composed. And yes yet another GEF footballer, never shuts up in the changing room.
SAC	Dean Johnson	Mid	Centre Midfielder who has played RAF Dev, back in the squad as he must've heard there was an RAF Cup Final coming up.....recently split from his long term girlfriend who then decided to break back into their house and claim his prized spoons collection, much to his dismay.

SAC	Joe Barrett	Att	Big Striker who is a handful in every way. Ex Barnsley, who can only be described as the white Ledley King, due to the fact his aching body can't train he just plays games. The only player I know with a two week post-match warm down.
SAC	Ross Walker	Att	Named the 'machine' as he just keeps running, made the RAF Squad 2 years ago after some eye opening performances. Won the cup in 2015 with Waddo, often seen on Matty's sunbed and borrows his hair straighteners. Important player today for us.
SAC	Mike Ellerington	Att	Attacker posted in only last month, scored on his debut and is a very useful addition to the squad. He'll be hoping to make the 18 but has been earmarked if he doesn't to do all my admin, he doesn't know this yet, but he soon will.
SAC	Graeme Donley	Att	Attacker who has been in and out of the squad but deserves to be involved, totally committed and has good quality on the ball. RAF Cup Final R/Up 14' when at Leuchars. Another one who's part time job is in GEF in and around his football.

Management Team

Rank	Name	Appointment	Remarks
Sgt	Leigh Kinroy	Manager	The gaffer retired 3 years ago through injury, former midfielder, RAF U25s and Strike Command, 4th RAF Cup final, having won in 98' and R/Up in 08', 10'. First coach in the RAF was Keith Christie who taught him all he knows. Last Season in Station Football before bowing out after 22 years.
Cpl	Ryan Watts	Asst Manager	Former RAF Waddington Captain at Centre Half and Lincs League Cup winner, ex RAF Cyprus. One of many fireman in the squad. Now coaching and assisting the gaffer with a look to running the team next season.
Sqn Ldr	Kenny Hemlin	OIC	The OIC is RAF Waddington's most capped player having been here since 1994, recently won the RAF Vets Tournament as captain and was a prolific goal scorer in his day. Played at Llandudno, Matlock and Elgin. Plays Vets for the RAF and Icarus, and is a proper football player, fan and now controls things at the top.

RAF Waddington's Road to the final

A comfortable 5-0 win away at Digby got RAF Waddington off to a good start. This was followed by a comprehensive 6-0 home win against RAF Scampton. A late equaliser from RAF Coningsby led to a 1-1 draw but the group stage was finished off with a devastating 7-0 win away at RAF Cranwell, sealing qualification with some of the best football the team had played all season.

The Knockout Stage of the RAF Cup saw Waddington paired in the QF against RAF Lossiemouth but with home advantage. After going 1-0 up, Lossiemouth had a man sent off early in the 2nd half. Stretching the lead to 3-0 up, Lossiemouth scored two late goals to make the final score 3-2. Into the Semi Final and a one sided first half saw SAC Harry Cross win a penalty which captain Dixon despatched. RAF Odiham rallied in the 2nd half but Waddington deserved the win to make the final.

Played	Won	Draw	Lost	F	A
6	5	1	0	23	3



RAF Honington

Rank	Name	Position	Remarks
Cpl	Danny Hayes	GK	An experienced player both as a Goalkeeper but also outfield where he can play almost anywhere. Danny is also a manager within civilian football, working as JNCO supply at the FP Centre Hayes has won the RAF Cup before.
Cpl	Steve Bradley	FB	Our team Captain Steve is also experienced and multi rolled but has found his niche at right back this season. A committed hard working player who will cover almost every blade of grass.
Cpl	Glen Shepherd	FB	Glen has probably been the most consistent player we have had all season, happy to play out of defence on either foot Glen will look to support in attack as well as being mindful of his defensive responsibilities.
SAC	Hayden Pain	CB	Plays at centre half for Honington and is SRT right sided full back, intelligent and consistent throughout Hayden is developing fast. His calmness on the ball is in advance of his experience.
L/Cpl	Jake Milliner	CB/CM	A totally versatile player Jake adds value all over the park. Intelligent with the ball and economical with output he will end the game as he started it. Plays for the RAF Regt Corps football team and is a keen civvi weekend footballer.
Cpl	Michael Atkinson	CM	The PTi recently back from International duty with Belize Michael is found as a Full back at SRT level but sits in the holding role for Honington where he is a player that controls large periods of the game by his strength and balance which allows him to control the pace of the game.
Mr	Sammy Leutchford	LM	Left the service within the last few weeks Sammy started the season as Left back producing some strong performances going forward, so much so that he stayed forward in the left side of midfield. A great left foot and a box to box player if on his game he is a real handful.
Cpl	Michael Goddard	RM	Goddard a man with a big future, playing on the right side of midfield with an engine that gets him through a serious amount of work. A PTi by trade I am hoping that the U23s will take a good look at this man.
Cpl	Michael Campbell	STK	A man with pace and an ability to score lots of goals, forms part of the SRT squad and plays in the local leagues. The former Scotland U23s frontman is an instructor

			within Basic Regiment Trg at RAF Honington.
L/Cpl	Robbie Priddle	STK	Robbie is probably one of our unsung heroes again covering serious ground all through our match play, looking to link up with his strike partner at every opportunity Robbie makes life difficult for anyone he plays against.
SAC	Ryan Emmerson	AM/STK	Ryan plays with a freedom that most can only dream of, give him the ball and anything (literally) may happen. The RAF Regt Gunner from Middlesbrough always gives his best, he is definitely one to watch.
SAC	Ollie Hall	DM	Ollie is a relatively new member of the squad, working in LSF at Honington he is strong in the tackle and reads the game well. I have high hopes for Ollie over the next couple of seasons and hope that he can play representative football in time.
SAC	Michael Flavell	AM	Michael from the West Midlands is a pacey attack minded midfielder with a fierce strike of the ball. Serving on 2 Sqn RAF Regt he is a relatively new addition to the squad.
SAC	Tyrell Millwood	CD	Ty or Milly is a strong central defender that has the ability to play out from the back. Happy with the ball at his feet with a good range of passing too, Ty can play anywhere across the back as required.
SAC	Sammy Hollis	MID	U23s RAF is a skilful ball player who loves to have the ball at close control. Can be a real game changer, developing his game all the time. Probably one of our best trainers.
L/Cpl	Nick Parr	GK	Nick has just returned from Op SHADER and is SRT squad member. Solid and strong between the sticks, he commands his box well and extremely quick in his distribution.
SAC	Tom Wilks	MID/DEF	1 Sqn RAF Regt Wilksy great on the ball and knows how to feed the ball most of us dream of playing. A real bonus for any team he adds value by slowing play down and moving the ball economically.
Cpl	Neil Everitt	DEF	Taff has played in Def and midfield this season but loves to have the ball at feet in the left back role. Always the first man at trg and the last man away! After the Gaffer that is!
L/Cpl	Dec Lee	AM	Dec is the joker amongst the pack and awesome in the dressing room, a real squad player who will give his last effort for the team. By the way he can also strike the ball great on the volley when the opportunity arises.

Cpl	Ian Williamson	MID	Ian a recently qualified coach plays anywhere in the midfield area, great close control and can see and deliver that 30 yard ball. Has been injured recently but is now back and looking strong.
Cpl	Matt Holden	CB	Matty strong in the challenge and great in the air, but equally happy with the ball at feet. The 2 Sqn RAF Regt man is another RAF Regt Corps footballer, a family man that gives 110% in all that he does.
L/Cpl	Rhys Banfield	DEF	An absolute terminator! Banners works tirelessly up and down the right side offering great defensive qualities and also the pace to run the overlap. Playing civvi football on Saturdays with many of the other players he has played a large part in us getting here today.
Sgt	Dan Bracegirdle	STK	PTi/ATi Dan is a character all over the pitch and is always on hand to get amongst the play. A great finisher Dan likes to strike on sight of goal, shortly deploying away to the Falklands he will be missed in our early part of next season.

Management Team

Rank	Name	Appointment	Remarks
FS	Steve `H` Harrison	Manager	A former RAF Cup winner with RAF Bruggen in the 90s H a Norwich City fan from the Fine City itself has returned to football management after a long time away! The 51 yr. old is still happy to name himself as a sub if needed.
FS	Steve Simms	Asst Manager	Steve a former striker at RAF Regt level is also a former Rugby League champion. Needless to say he has a great training ethic and brings something different to the party when we look to get every last ounce out of our players.
FS	Warren Robinson	Coach	Big Wazza formerly an SRT Central Defender always remembered as the man that can head a ball further than many men can kick it. Has added immense value during the season when Steve Simms was deployed away on Op Shader. He has been a real support in the winter period when it is most difficult to get on the trg pitches.

RAF Honington – Road to the Final

The Cup Run started with a very hard fought game against RAF Wittering that RAF Honington won late on. Before going to RAF Lakenheath/Mildenhall for another tough game where Honington created a lot of chances but came up against a goalkeeper that seemed to stop everything with any part of his anatomy. High point of the group phase was beating last year's winners RAF Marham who were obvious favourites to come and give Honington a lesson! A very strong performance saw them progress into the quarter final stage against RAF Wyton. A team they had already beaten heavily early on in the season. A totally different set of players and a great game saw Honington go through after going down to 10 men with 20 mins to go. The Semi-Final saw the team leave Honington before they even knew where they would be playing due to poor weather in Leek Town, with the game eventually played against RAF Cosford at MOD Stafford. A very strong performance from RAF Honington saw them advance into the Final.

Played	Won	Draw	Lost	F	A
5	5	0	0	21	6

A mention must go out to those that have been made unavailable due to attending career courses or having been posted away. SAC Moggy Morris, All Arms Commando Course, Mitch Whiley who got injured on a promotion Course, SAC Robbie Molloy who is currently in the Falklands. FS Si Ballard who is deployed to Jordan and L/Cpl Ben Myatt posted to Leeming on promotion and to the lads who have already left the service that played earlier in the campaign, Connor Peacock and Lewis Pacey.



RAF FA Plate Trophy Finalists

RAF Benson		
Rank	Name	Position
Sgt	Ian Pallace	GK
PTE	Nathan Edmond	GK
SAC	Chris Emmerson	GK
SAC	Scott Walker	CB
Cpl	Ricky Williams	CB
Sgt	Sam Ireland	CB
FS	Rob Gray	CB
SAC	Ben Keen-Toombs	FB
SAC	Aaron Beattie	FB
Cpl	Connor Crofts	FB
SAC	Matt Ross	FB
SAC	Garry Ferguson	FB
Cpl	Alex Smallshaw	MID
SAC	Ben Fitzmartin	MID
Cpl	Lewis Brownhill	MID
Sgt	Matt Waters	MID
Sgt	Mike Fellows	MID
Cpl	Luke Willis	MID
Flt Lt	Matt Williams	MID
SAC	SAC Kirk Watson	FWD
Cpl	Cpl Jack Walsh	FWD
SAC	SAC Cam Roovis	FWD
SAC	Jackson Hall	FWD
SAC	Sam Mason	FWD

Management Team

Rank	Name	Appointment
FS	Rob Gray	First Team Manager
Sgt	Mike Fellows	First Team Assistant Manager
Cpl	Phillip Downes	Second Team Manager
SAC	Rob Harness	Second Team Assistant Manager
Sgt	Ian Pallace	GK Coach

RAF Benson – Road to the Final:

After finishing second in the group stages of the RAF Cup to RAF Brize Norton, RAF Benson entered the RAF Plate and were awarded a quarter final home tie against MOD St Athan. A comfortable 7-0 victory ensued despite Benson having to replace goalkeeper Nathan Edmond with defender Ricky Williams, after he dislocated his shoulder in pulling off his only save of the game.

The semi-final saw a strong Benson squad travel to the neutral venue of MOD Stafford to play RAF Shawbury. Despite the efforts of the M6, the “4G” pitch and the wind, Benson produced a solid display to beat Shawbury 8-0 and rightfully earn their place in the RAF Plate Final.

Played	Won	Draw	Lost	F	A
5	4	0	1	30	5



RAF Leeming

Rank	Name	Position	Remarks
Mr	Jordan Aspinall	GK	Formerly SAC Aspinall now employed with Babcock, he has previously represented the RAF MDS. He is an excellent communicator with a larger than life personality.
Cpl	Davie Jones	Def	Team Captain, he is a traditional centre half who is willing to run through a brick wall for his team.
LCpl	Curt Lerner	Def	Last season's Player of Year in his first season at left back, he has made the position his own. An ever present this season, he has also contributed with a few goals.
SAC	Greg Lawrie	Def	A composed and skilful defender, his second season has been disrupted with Ops and injury.
SAC	Ben Tewkesbury	Def	In his first season with the club, he only broke into the side at Christmas. Since then, the no-nonsense full back has been an ever present in the team.
Cpl	Gary Duncan	Mid	Gaz has been used sparingly this season due to being the busiest man in the Air Force. Possessing a culture left foot, he has put appearances all along the left-hand side.
SAC	Matt Muddiman	Mid	Another one in his first season, he has put in some excellent displays out wide, chipping in with a few goals as well. He took time out for his boxing, but is back with us for the end of the season.
Cpl	Aaron Mackay	Mid	Having only just arrived at the Unit, he has found himself playing in the heart of defence due to a shortage of personnel. He has good strength and is quicker than Cpl Jones, so he might have found a new position.
SAC	Jack Burdon	Mid	This is Jack's first season with the club and has had to be patient for opportunities in the middle of the park. An ever present, he can always be relied upon.
SAC	Chris Grant	Mid	He missed last season largely down to Ops, but has had a resurgence in the side, putting in some tough tackling displays in the centre of the park.

SAC	Mark Unwin	Mid	In his first season with the club, Unwin is the engine of the team and has put in consistent performances throughout, chipping in with some important goals
LCpl	Jon Kelly	Mid	Kell is a composed central midfielder who loves a tackle. He has the ability to get hold of the game and dictate the tempo.
SAC	Liam Farrell	Mid	Liam has been used as a utility player this season. Naturally a central midfielder, he has also put in impressive performances at right back when called upon. Solid in the tackle and an extremely reliable member of the Squad.
SAC	Aaron Bricknell	Mid	Aaron has just joined us from phase 2 training, formerly on the books at Exeter City and a Cornwall County representative; he is looking to get back into the game after a period out
Cpl	Stuart Cormack	Mid	This is Stu's 2 nd stint with the Unit. Having recently returned on promotion from RAF Waddington where he was a regular in their 1 st Team. Possesses a great engine in the centre of the park.
SAC	Lee Sellar	Attacking Midfield	Sellar is naturally a winger who is comfortable on either side. He possesses excellent feet and always has a trick up his sleeve. An ever present this season he has contributed with some important goals.
SAC	Jordan Smith	Attacking Midfield	An extremely talented player, with the intelligence to match; he has represented the RAF at MDS and SRT level. He only got involved midway through the season, but has contributed with several goals to date
SAC	Scott Maxwell	Attacking Midfield	He has had a great impact in his second season with the Club and is also an ever present in the RAF MDS. Has chipped in with some excellent displays this season and on his day can change a game.
SAC	Ryan Frazer	Forward	"Fraze" is a deceptively fit winger, turned striker and a scorer in last year's Final. He possesses the canny knack of being in the right place at the right time and has contributed with some significant goals this season.
Cpl	Glyn Stockport	Forward	"Stocky" has provided experience and a steady football head. Still extremely fit at 41yrs young, he represents the RAF Vets and has managed to lace his boots up for another season.
SAC	Ash Stott	Forward	This is Ash's first season with the club, but has not featured as much as we would have liked due to being made of glass.

Management Team

Rank	Name	Appointment	Remarks
FS	Wayne Manville	Manager	The straight talking Scouser has been involved with the set up for a couple of years, but was unfortunate to miss out on last year's Final due to Ops. Known to lace his boots in times of crises, the lads have their fingers crossed his new ones get lost in the post.
FS	Mick Clarke	Player/Manager	Clarkey has been involved with the set up for 10 seasons. Unfortunately, for the Squad, he still hasn't hung his boots up. Having represented the RAF at U25, Senior and Vets level, his experience is invaluable.
Flt Lt	James Maguire	OIC	

RAF Leeming – Road to the Final

The RAF Cup started with an end to end 4 – 4 draw away to Lossiemouth in the Northern Region Group. This was followed by two straight forward victories against RAF Linton-on-Ouse with RAF Leeming putting six past them without reply (6-0). Then followed another clean sheet and a further 4 goals in a 4-0 victory against RAF Boulmer.

Having reached the Plate quarter finals, RAF Leeming were drawn against Chicksands. A convincing and clinical 5 – 0 win away saw Leeming progress to the Semi-finals. A tough draw against the holders of the RAF Cup, RAF Marham played at RAF Coningsby saw a very solid, counter attacking approach lead to a 3 – 1 win.

Played	Won	Draw	Lost	F	A
5	4	1	0	21	5



RAF FA Sponsorship

RAF Football continues to be extremely strong across a broad portfolio of activity. Of note, it remains the largest participation sport in the Service, with thousands of personnel playing, officiating or coaching the sport every week. It has also acted as a key vehicle for community engagement and recruitment, through activities such as charity events, the coaching of youth football and visits to professional clubs. Finally, the various RAF representative teams continue to demonstrate levels of excellent on the pitch as they endeavour to return to winning ways.

To enable this level of activity, the RAF FA requires significant assistance. This support comes in many forms; from the army of behind the scenes committee members and backroom helpers, through to pitch side supporters and, crucially, financial assistance. The provision of the latter comes from many sources, with the National Football Association and the RAF Sports Board both providing the mainstay of support to RAF Football. However, to enable the Board of Trustees to develop the RAF FA along the pillars of Excellence, Participation and Community, additional financial support is required. This is where the RAF FA's commercial and charitable supporters are vital.

The RAF FA is extremely fortunate in that the 16/17 season is again one of its most health years in recent history in terms of financial support from sponsors. This money makes a significant difference, as it enable a plethora of activity to be conducted, which would be unachievable without this support. The organisations that provided this support, and the areas of the Association with which they are affiliated are as follows:

Cool Water Direct. As the longest serving sponsor of RAF Football, Cool Water Direct provide generous support in the form of a car for the RAF FA HQ.

Thales UK. A sponsor of RAF Football since 2014, Thales UK support the RAF U23s Men's Development Squad.

RAF Benevolent Fund. Another major supporter of RAF Football, the RAF Benevolent Fund sponsor the RAF Festival of Football and is the secondary sponsor of the Senior Representative Team.

The RAF Association. The RAF Football Association's Primary Sponsor, RAFA specifically focus their support towards the Ladies Representative Team and the Referees

ISS. In their fourth year as a Sponsor of RAF Football, ISS are the main sponsor of the Senior Representative Team.

Cool Water Direct. As the longest serving sponsor of RAF Football, Cool Water Direct provide generous support in the form of a car for the RAF FA HQ.

SecureCloud+. The sponsor of the RAF Cup and Plate competition is SecureCloud+, who have taken an extremely active role in this year's completion. Of note, in addition to their generous financial contribution, they have also hosted all of the draws in their company offices, putting 'Chappers' and the BT Tower to shame.

In addition to the RAF Cup and Plate, SecureCloud+'s support also extends to the RAF Football Association's Annual Awards Evening, which this year takes place on 25 May 17. Amongst other things, their kind donation enables the price of tickets for this event to be halved for Junior Ranks, thereby enabling the RAF Football community to celebrate success collectively.



SecureCloud+



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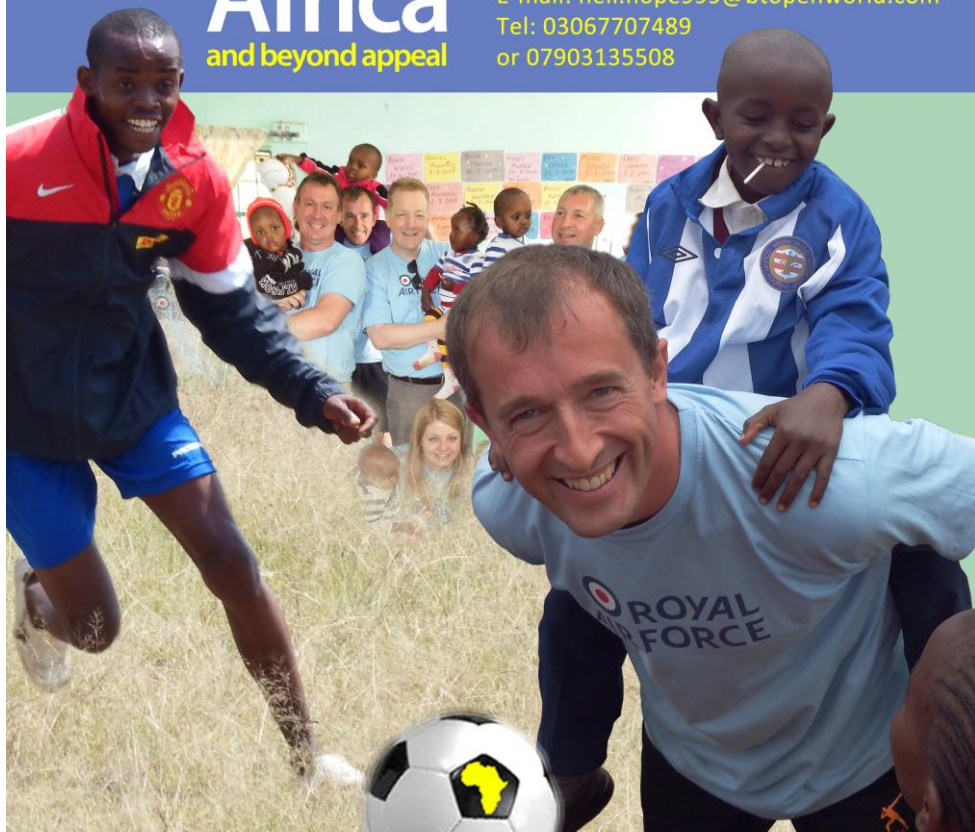
Contact the Appeal Co-ordinator

Wing Commander Neil Hope MBE

E-mail: neil.hope999@btopenworld.com

Tel: 03067707489

or 07903135508



Since 2006 over 160,000 items have been donated and distributed to schools and centres in over 50 countries across the world, ranging from football kits and toys to school uniforms and stationery. These items bring joy to many. <http://www.royalairforcefa.com>

RAF FA Courses



Detailed information on all RAF FA courses can be obtained by contacting the Football Development Department of the RAF Football HQ at RAF Brize Norton.

Football Dev Offr John Duff Tel:

Mil 95461 5989

Civ 01993 895989

Email: bzn-raffafootballdevoffr@mod.uk

Football Dev Asst Sheila Haining Tel:

Mil 95461 5559

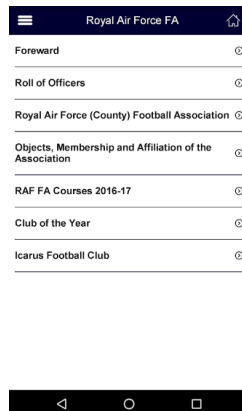
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Read more at <http://www.royalairforcefa.com>



RAF FA Application



The RAF FA have embraced digital technology and converted their annual Football Association Handbook utilised by all football teams affiliated to the RAF FA to launch a bespoke application.

This will greatly assist the management of RAF football by allowing players, management and officials' access to key information whilst on the side-lines. The app is available in both the Apple App Store and the Google Play store to ensure maximum availability of this excellent new tool.

To find the RAF FA application, personnel are advised to search the respective store using the term "Royal Air Force FA"

Our 2016/17 Handbook App is available to download from the App store and Google Play store for FREE.

Apple: <https://goo.gl/SdCFEV>

Android: <https://goo.gl/19IUQd>

Programme of Events:

Plate Final

RAF Leeming vs RAF Benson

- 1045 Team Photographs
- 1050 Presentation of Teams
- 1058 National Anthem
- 1100 Plate Final Kick-Off
- 1300* Presentation of Trophy and Man of the Match
**(timings will slip 30 minutes for extra time and a further 10 minutes for penalties if required).*

RAF Cup 'The Keith Christie Trophy'

RAF Waddington vs RAF Honington

- 1345 Team photographs
- 1350 Presentation of Teams
- 1358 National Anthem
- 1400 Plate Final Kick-Off
- 1600* Presentation of Trophy and Man of the Match
**(timings will slip 30 minutes for extra time and a further 10 minutes for penalties if required).*

