

RAF Football Association - E-Bulletin



**RAF FA Cup Final (Keith Christie Trophy) – 20/21  
Season**



**RAF Coningsby 0 v 1 RAF Honington  
– Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 21**



The Velocity Stadium, home of Oxford City Football Club, was once again the venue for this year's COVID delayed RAF Football Association Cup 'The Keith Christie Trophy' and the RAF FA Plate Final. The competition has been running since 1920 and remains the RAF's premier inter-station competition. Delivering RAF football throughout the last year has been challenging and it is only due to the officials, backroom staff, the RAF FA Trustees and Executive Committee and the RAF Sports Federation, as well as the backing of our sponsors that we were able to see the 20/21 season RAF Cup and Plate finals completed.

The finalists this season have both been regular visitors to the finals (Plate and Cup) over the past few years and both sides had been free scoring on their way to the final with the joint competition top scorers set to play against each other with SAC Jack Debnam (Coningsby) and Cpl Robbie Priddle (Honington) looking to secure not just a win but also the golden boot.

With the weather turning gloomy for June, the kick off was delayed due to the Plate competition post-match awards slightly over running with both sides working hard in the warm up to be ready to fly out of the gate.

Coningsby crafted the first opening of the match, with Elliot Dickinson receiving the ball in the box after it was partially cleared, settling himself, he shot but his effort was dragged wide of the post. This seemed to spark Honington who pushed forward, delivering decent balls into the box. Campbell was unlucky after 10 mins not to hit the target with a header from 8 yards out going just over. On 13 mins a long cross field pass set up Kristian Dixon who saw his strong left foot shot go just over from the edge of the box.

There was a muted call for a penalty when Cpl Robbie Priddle rose to meet a cross into the box with Coningsby Keeper Gorman coming out to punch the ball clear. He seemed to make contact with ball and man at the same time but the Referee had a full view of the incident and was unmoved by the Honington appeals, awarding a corner instead.



The scoring was nearly opened by a own goal with Honington playing the ball back to the keeper with more vigour than expected, resulting in keeper, Brightwell having to improvise and head clear, rather than risk giving away a free kick for a back pass.



Coningsby were moving the ball around well and making time to get their heads up, this led to Debnam playing in Speck just inside the box but he dragged his effort wide when he should have done better and at least tested the keeper. Honington's Campbell came close again with a long-range effort, seeing Coningsby keeper Gorman off his line. Hitting a good shot goal wards but Gorman did enough to get back and take the ball high, just under the bar to keep the scores level.

With the half coming to an end, Coningsby's Wiles though he had broken the deadlock, with a great shot towards to bottom corner but Honington's keeper Brightwell pulled off a brilliant save to tip it around the post.

**HT 0-0**

Chances continued to be created with Ditchburn going up for a corner, he saw the ball reach him at the far post but despite controlling the ball and looking to be composed, his effort lacked conviction and scuffed its way through to Brightwell’s arms without him having to move.

The deadlock was broken soon after with a racking ball from the Honington left full back putting Michael Campbell in behind the Coningsby rear guard. Showing great strength and speed, he held off the first defender and made his way into the box with a power run. Squaring his cross across the box, he set up Priddle for a side foot finish, which Priddle didn’t hesitate to complete, slotting home from 8 yards out.



Coningsby rallied to get to the match level and Wiles saw another effort go wide as the minutes ticked down. The last real chance Coningsby had to level was on 86 mins when they worked an opening with good interplay to set up Oliver Walker on the left side of the box, however, just as he prepared to strike goal wards, a fantastic tackle came in from a retreating Connor Balment to snuff out the danger when it looked like extra time was about to be needed.

As the game entered added time, Coningsby once again put the ball into the box in the hope of it falling to someone but the Honington defence marshalled the ball out of ball and the referee brought the game to an end with Honington the victors.



The match was live streamed by BFBS Sport and video highlights are available from BFBS Sport on their You Tube Channel - <https://youtu.be/raWABjkeNDs>

**RAF Football thanks BFBS for their continued support.**



Mr Rob Gittins, SecureCloud+ and Wg Cdr Jon Smith, RAF FA Director of Strategy present the RAF Cup (Keith Christie Trophy) to Sgt Michael Campbell, RAF Honington.



Referee FS Steve O'Neill  
 Asst Ref Sqn Ldr Lee Wood  
 Asst Ref Sgt Jay Hall  
 4th Off AC Josh Pickering



**Man of the Match**

Cpl Connor Balment - Honington

**Competition Top Scorer**

Cpl Robbie Priddle - Honington

RAF Coningsby Team	RAF Honington Team
SAC Dan Gorman	SAC Lewis Brightwell
SAC Elliot Dickinson	Cpl Jordan Oatley
SAC Jordan Watts	Plt Lt Leon Edmond
SAC Jack Debnam	Sgt Matty Holden
SAC Craig Ditchburn	Cpl Connor Balment
SAC Blair Bryant (Captain)	SAC Sam Cantley
SAC Oliver Walker	SAC Kristian Dixon
SAC Niall Gannon	LCpl Hayden Pain
Cpl Neil Speck	Sgt Michael Campbell
SAC Jonny Wiles	Cpl Robbie Priddle
Cpl Josh Brayson	Cpl Lee Broster
Subs	Subs
SAC Mark McKay	Cpl Chris Aston
SAC Tom Burberry	Sgt Richard Lusardi
SAC Matt Russell	SAC Tom Wilkinson
SAC Jack Knight	SAC Romaine Scott
Sgt Glen Shepherd	SAC Connor Bell
SAC Alex Dickinson	LCpl Darren Van Campenhout
SAC Daniel Simpson	SAC Connor Mantle
Management Team	Management Team
Cpl Scott Styles - Manager	FS Warren Robinson - Manager
Cpl Steve Smith – Asst Manager	
FS Justin Bramley - Coach	
Sgt Karl Ross – Coach	
Cpl Thomas Brason – Coach	
Cpl Nick Grove – GK Coach	
SAC Kier Lawrence - Physio	
Flt Lt Dale Craven - OIC	

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