

RAF Football Association - E-Bulletin

## RAF FA Plate Final – 20/21 Season



### RAF High Wycombe 2 v 3 RAF Valley – 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 Challenge Cup 'The Keith Christie Trophy' and the RAF Plate Final. The RAF Challenge Cup competition has been running since 1920 and remains the RAF's premier inter-station competition, with the Plate running alongside in recent times.

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.

This year's finalists were both visiting the Velocity Stadium for the first time and were both up for embracing the occasion. With travelling distances for the two sides significantly different, it would be interesting to see what such an early start for RAF Valley would have on the match. With the sky overcast and minimal wind, the game kicked off. RAF High Wycombe were fast out of the blocks and took the game to Valley, putting pressure on the ball with a high press and after only 2 mins, Valley conceded a corner following a High Wycombe attack. With the ball swung into the danger area, Valley's defence failed to clear and Flt Lt Tom Williams nodded home at the back post to put High Wycombe into the lead.



The loss of their captain through injury unsettled them slightly but the pressure continued and there only looked to be one side capable of winning this match. However, after 15 mins Valley started to ask a few questions of their own.

With one attack cleared for a corner, the ball was delivered across the box and evaded several High Wycombe players to allow Flt Lt Matt Apagone to stretch and toe home the leveller on 16 mins from a couple of yards out.



Injuries were not going in High Wycombe's favour and their keeper was forced off after 29 mins. Both sides continued to push for another breakthrough with High Wycombe's Scott Coates seeing his strong shot from the edge of the box going just over the bar after 39 mins. However, despite the efforts of the teams to create another chance, the half came to a close with the score still 1-1.

## HT 1-1

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half started as the 1<sup>st</sup> finished with both sides probing but it wasn't long before Fg Off Aidan Robinson put High Wycombe back into the lead with 49 mins on the clock. This lead didn't last long though as Valley rallied and on 56 mins SAC Sam Wiltshire levelled after seizing onto a defensive error. The best goal of the match proved to be the winner.

On 74 mins, SAC Sam Wiltshire got his second to put Valley into the lead for the first time in the match. His chance was created by great work down the left flank to beat the defence and a lovely cross pulled back to the penalty spot, met by Wiltshire with a confident side foot finish



past the keeper.

High Wycombe pushed hard for another equaliser and it nearly came on 86 mins but Valley Keeper, Gareth Owen pulled off a brilliant save to maintain their lead.

With the clock ticking down, another of half chances for High Wycombe came to nothing and the officials bought the match to a close. RAF High Wycombe 2 – RAF Valley 3.

## Match Officials

Referee – Adam Baguley  
 Asst – Vincent Thomas  
 Asst – Phil Wrightam  
 4<sup>th</sup> Official – Chris Jones



## Man of the Match

SAC Sam Wiltshire

High Wycombe Team	RAF Valley Team
Cpl Michael Gray	Mr Gareth Owens
Flt Lt Scott Coates	Cpl Bryn Parry
Flt Lt Tom Williams	Cpl James Wraith
Flt Lt Andrew Cramoysan	Mr Ralph Wilkinson
Sqn Ldr John Carter	SAC Matt Love
Sqn Ldr Kevin Lee	Flt Lt Mike Fox
Cpl Terence Kynerston	Cpl Aaron Williams
Mr Alfie Ellis	Flt Lt Matt Apagone
Fg Off Aidan Robinson	Mr Gwyn Jones
Sqn Ldr Tom Bellows	Cpl Tom Owen
Flt Lt Joshua Palmer	SAC Sam Wiltshire
Subs	Subs
Flt Lt Adi Porter	SAC Alex Archibald
Fg Off Oliver Berwick	Mr Jack Diamond
LCpl Chok Bahadur Gurung	Cpl Sullivan-Jones
Cpl Michael Joyce	Cpl Jaya Rees
Cpl Ian Evans	Mr Jon Morton
Cpl Chris Smith	SAC Adam Carballo
Pte Dec Lynch	

Management Team	Management Team
Sgt Mark Bradley – Manager	SAC Alex Archibald – OIC/Manager
WO Andy Gibson - Assistant Manager	SAC Alex Ashcroft – Assistant Manager
Fg Off Aidan Robinson - OIC	

**RAF High Wycombe**



**RAF Valley**



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