

RAF FA - Festival of Football 2019 – 2 Oct 2019



Manchester once again played host to the annual Festival of Football where teams across the RAF battled it out to take home the cup for another year. A fantastic turnout of 24 teams from 14 Units ensured a great atmosphere and the competitive spirit made for some great football to be played.



The group stages were soon underway and games were played at a frantic pace. From the outset several teams looked to stamp their authority on the tournament with RAF Boulmer and Marham's 'A' teams along with RAF Halton and Shawbury all making strong starts.

As the group stages came to a close, the top four would progress through to the Cup competition and the bottom two to the Plate competition. RAF Wittering ended up as top scorers in the group stages with an impressive 22 goals, with RAF Leeming conceding just the one goal throughout five games.



Eight teams entered the Plate competition including RAFFA Sponsors SecureCloud+ and the RAF Association. Tightly contested, the competition threw up a couple of surprises and it was eventually RAF Benson, who only managed a single point in the group stages, and RAF Waddington B who reached the final.



Both teams stepped up their performances for the final and matched each other blow for blow. With the scores level at 3-3 at full time, the match went to penalties. It was RAF Benson who kept their nerve and took home the Plate after winning the shootout, with RAF Waddington's Liam Ross named as man of the match.



Over in the Cup competition the standard of football increased even more and the intensity of some games was relentless. With so many high-quality teams, some of them had to miss out and it was RAF Halton and RAF Marham 'A' who lasted the distance and made it to the final. And what a final it was as RAF Halton stormed into a 2-0 lead with many thinking they had done enough to seal victory. Marham brought on the impressive Alan Woodcock and transformed the game as they came from behind to win 3-2 and finish the tournament as Cup winners, with Woodcock also taking the man of the match award.



After another successful Festival of Football, a huge thank you goes to the match officials, the staff from Fives Soccer Centre Trafford for their hospitality on the day and also to the festival sponsors RAF Benevolent Fund as well as our sponsors of the RAF Cup SecureCloud+ the for their continued support to RAF Football.

Sgt Stu Jones

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