

RAF Football Association - E-Bulletin

The RAF FA Challenge Cup – Keith Christie Trophy RAF Marham vs RAF Odiham Venue - Oxford City FC Velocity Stadium.

17 Dec 2020



RAF Odiham



RAF Marham

RAF Odiham claim victory in the RAF FA Challenge Cup after beating RAF Marham in a tightly contested game.

Another bright winter day at Oxford City's Velocity Stadium, the 3G pitch looking pristine. The original fixture postponed in October and another national lockdown in-between, the excitement of the game ahead was etched on the faces of all.



Both teams had displayed great form in the competition so far and after the semi-final cancellation from Cyprus due to travel restrictions, RAF Odiham gained a pass to the final. With

talk pitch side of Marham’s dangerous pace on the wing and the strength of Odiham’s midfield, the promise of a great game was on the cards.

Shortly before kick-off both teams respectfully held a minute’s applause for Rowan, Brother-in-Law of Marham striker Tarren Moxon who sadly passed away in the summer.

A steady start for both teams, obviously enjoying the chance to be back on the pitch and testing for early weaknesses. Within 12 minutes Moxon is brought down just outside the box after a dangerous run and a free kick is awarded to Marham. Moxon hammers the ball through the wall only to be received comfortably by Briggs in front of the Odiham net.



Spurred on by the attempt, Marham started to increase the pressure and came close once again with a corner. A fantastic delivery into the box and onto the head of Coles who rattled the cross bar. several shouts contest that it went over the line only to be denied by the Ref.

The deadlock continued until a late decision penalty went in favour of Marham. Confusion whether it was handball or the late challenge on Moxon ensued, but it didn’t faze Williams. A confident shot straight down the middle past Briggs put Marham 1 up within 22 minutes.



Odiham hit straight back with an attack on goal. A long throw in, as good as a corner, was lobbed into the box followed by a clever flick on by Swales, a lucky clearance by Marham defender Eccott eased the counter attack.



Odiham maintained the high tempo pressure for the remainder of the first half desperate for an equaliser, a great reaction going 1 nil down by the Odiham side and a glimmer of their desire to win shining through. Marham were clearly relieved by the half time whistle.

The second half continued to build pace as Odiham battled for a goal and Marham defended their lead. It was until the 61st minute that an unnecessary foul by Coles on the edge of the box gave Odiham the upper hand. Loveridge whipped in a right footed pearler around the wall, truly testing the hands of the Marham keeper, unfortunately for Truman the rebound was pounced on by Jordan Jones and turned into the net with a tidy and precise header.



As the clock neared 90 minutes extra time looked a certainty, aside from a last ditch Odiham attempt, easily denied by the hands of Truman.

Extra time was dominated by Odiham pressure and the onset of cramp and fatigue for all players. Odiham forward Loveridge found the extra gear however, finding the energy for 3 great chances. Twice forcing great saves from Truman and a lucky goal line clearance by Eccott.



Odiham’s break finally came in the early minutes of the second half of extra time. Odiham sub Duxberry lobbed a ball into the box almost into the hands of Truman. Loveridge, with energy to burn, appeared from nowhere leaving the defenders stranded. Picking up the loose ball he rounded the keeper and slotted a neat finish into the net. Loveridge had played himself quite literally into the Man of the Match position.

A fantastic game of football with both teams fighting until the final whistle. Odiham gave it everything and quite rightly earned the opportunity to lift the RAF FA Challenge Cup Keith Christie trophy for the first time in the team's history.



Final score 2-1.

Squads

RAF Marham		RAF Odiham	
1	Cpl Lewis Truman	1	Cpl Christian Paulay Brigg
2	Cpl Charles Eccott	2	Cpl Jordan Beck
3	AET Reece Westwood	3	SAC James Mercer
4	SAC Graham McMahon	4	Cpl Marc Hughes
5	SAC Tom Bryan	5	CT Matt Swales
6	Cpl Reece Coles	6	SAC Rhys Calder
7	Cpl Liam Welsh	7	Cpl Brian Lindsay
8	SAC Tom Kendrick	8	Cpl James Greenhalgh
9	Cpl Martyn Williams	9	SAC Adam Loveridge
10	SAC Tarren Moxon	10	Cpl Jordan Jones
11	SAC George Barber	11	Flt Lt Matt Williams
Substitutes			
12	Cpl Craig Meggison	12	SAC Samuel Cook
13	AET Ed Levisaur	14	SAC Alex Duxberry
14	Cpl Ryan Watson	15	Sgt Steve Muir
15	Sgt Micheal Cook	17	Flt Lt Adam Fleming
16	Fg Off Matt Siely	18	SAC Dan Cooke
17	SAC Jason Lythgoe		
Officials			

Referee: Sgt Mark Forman, RAF Brize Norton
 Asst: Sqn Ldr Lee Hodgkinson, RAF High Wycombe
 Asst: Flt Lt Jack Deschoolmeester, RAF High Wycombe
 4th Official: Sgt Liam Hewlitt, RAF Wyton

Match Report – Fg Off Paul Stansfield – Deputy Director of Comms
 Photographs – Fg Off Paul Stansfield

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