

1963 Tunney Cup Final Depot RM 4, 43 Cdo RM 0 (*Played in 1964)

What a great game this was! Played on a fine sunny day with a fresh wind blowing from the Walmer end of the ground on a pitch which had a soft, slippery surface ideal for a good hard cup final.

MGRM was introduced to the players by their respected captains; a quick toss-up & the game began with Depot kicking into the breeze & sun. In the first 15 minutes it was the confident midfield play by 43Cdo that provided the most effective football, until the 18th minute when a fast inter passing move down the left wing finished by Ward snapping up a low cross in the penalty area & driving the ball firmly into the back of the net. This brought spectators & players alive & the tempo of the game increased together with better ball control, as all players adjusted themselves to the conditions.

The 43Cdo defence was playing some effective football, but the Depot defence was tackling quickly & not giving the 43Cdo forwards a chance to settle. In the 25th minute Towse (just home from 45Cdo) received a ball with his back to goal, turned passed two defenders, & placed a low hard shot past Park's reaching hands to put Depot 2-0 up.

For the rest of the half 43Cdo were on their heels, even though they had the wind behind them & Anderson was being closely shadowed by Ellis who continually disposed him before he could get into his stride. The depot forwards were now finding each other confidently, with Guest & Malham on the wings putting the 43Cdo goal in constant danger with their accurate crosses. Nicholson, Towse, & Ward worked hard to put the Depot further ahead ably supported by Miller & Ollivant.

43Cdo still made the breaks to attack the Depot goal, with some splendid ball control & dribbling by Commons & Anderson, Lewis covered a lot of ground in an effort to get them back into the game. North in the Depot goal played with commendable dash & confidence & kept the score at 2-0. Half Time.

The 43Cdo half backs Callaghan, Roden & McLean worked hard to supply their forwards with the vital pass, but the Depot defence remained firm with Underwood & Turnbull playing confidently. This half was Nicholson's of the Depot; he scored two further goals. Towse was now used to the English soil rather than the hard sand and was a constant worry to the 43Cdo defence, & almost scored when a cross from the left just trickled outside the post. Gradually the Depot became more & more dominating & only good saves by Park's & constant hard work by the 43Cdo defence & forwards prevented the Depot from going further ahead.

This was a first-class game with both teams trying to play fast constructive football combined with the hard tackling expected at a football final.

Depot RM team – Mne North, Cpl Underwood, Cpl Turnbull, Mne Miller, Cpl Ellis (Capt), Cpl Ollivant, Cpl Nicholson, B/Sgt Ward, Musn Guest, Cpl Towse, L/Cpl Malham.

43Cdo RM team – Mne Park's, Mne Shannon, Mne Wilson, Mne McLean (Capt), Mne Roden, Mne Callaghan, Mne Common, Cpl Lewis, Mne Powell, Mne Anderson, Mne Tandy.

Referee Sgt Taylor (RNC Greenwich), Linesman Sgt Barnes, Cpl Thompson.