

1961 Tunney Cup Final RMB Eastney 1 (Basford), 41Cdo RM 0

A brilliant individual effort by Eastney's left winger Basford five minutes from the end of extra time gave RMB Eastney the Tunney Cup for a second successive year,

In a game played in near perfect conditions we saw flashes of good football but the game never rose above ordinary. The man of the match was 41 Cdo's centre half Williams who, throughout the match controlled the commando rear-guard with superb calmness. He was always where he was needed & occasionally went into attack. Once he produced a 40 yard drive that nearly surprised Allen in the Eastney goal.

The first ten minutes brought bad passes & nervous errors while the teams settled down. Suddenly the game burst into action with Lynas, the Commando centre forward, heading just wide, McMasters missing badly from six yards & a good effort from Lynas going just over. Immediately after, Allen was called upon to deal with a difficult dropping shot which he just managed to tip over.

Torrence, running in at full speed, was foiled by an awkwardly bouncing ball & Bannerman. Did well to hold a point-blank shot from the winger. 41 Cdo then took command of the game and were unlucky when a powerful shot from Roberts struck the Eastney upright & Lynas was again only just off the target with another header. Then Houston scrambled the ball away with Allen helpless.

The Commando forwards attacked continuously after half time but without really threatening, until Lawson let go a thunderbolt which rocked Allen & needed a second desperate attempt to keep out. Stradling shot wide following good work by Riley who was spraying passes cleverly at this stage & 41 Cdo continued to call the tune but with less danger now.

The second half of extra time began with Stradling wasting a golden opportunity & Roberts on the opposite wing just missing with a good effort. Play swung back to the 41 Cdo half & five minutes from the end Basford seized a loose ball, sweeping past three defenders, he crashed the ball past Bannerman from an acute angle. 41 Cdo threw everything into attack in an effort to save the match but never looked like doing it & Eastney coasted to victory.

The Teams:

RMB Eastney Mne Allen, Mne Houston, Cpl Haslam, Cpl Freeman (Capt), CSgt Shakespeare, Mne Clare, Mne Torrence, Mne McMasters, Mne Towse, Mne Park, Sgt Basford.

41Cdo RM Cpl Bannerman, Mne. Taylor, Mne Bradshaw, Mne Callaghan (Capt), Mne Williams, Mne Kirk, Mne Stradling, Mne Riley, Mne Lynas, Mne Lawson, Mne Roberts.

Officials Referee Sgt Howard, Linesman Mne Brock, Musn Mann.

The Trophy was presented by General Van Ryzen USMC.