

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



SCOTLAND V ENGLAND

SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2016 - 4PM KICK OFF
LESSER HAMPDEN, GLASGOW





SportsGuard

**UPGRADE YOUR
PERSONAL ACCIDENT
PLAYER INSURANCE**

WWW.SPORTSGUARD.CO.UK/PLAYER-UPGRADE

**DO YOU NEED TO
RAISE FUNDS?**



**GIVE
SPORT
.CO.UK**

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Scottish Amateur Football Association I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the Officials, Players and Background staff of the England International Team to Lesser Hampden as both teams prepare for the next stage in the UEFA Regions Cup.

It is important to recognise the excellent work done throughout the season by David Ramage and the International Committee and Bruce McNaught, our team manager, and his backroom staff in bringing all aspects of this fixture together.

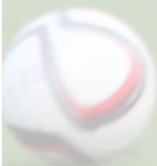
They are to be complimented on their sterling efforts having spent a great deal of time scouring the country for players and have done a tremendous job in recruiting fresh faces to form a strong squad and I am sure they will be well prepared for the challenge today.

I would also like to thank Thomas McKeown, the National Secretary, Technical Adviser Stephen McLaughlin and Mary Jardine the Administrative Assistant at the office for all the hard work that goes into organising this fixture and indeed throughout the year.

As we forge new friendships I hope that our friends from England enjoy their stay in Scotland and return home with fond memories of their visit.

I would also like to take the opportunity of wishing The England International Team all the very best when they represent their country and Football Association in Romania and let's hope we can meet up again in the later stages of the competition in June next year.

I hope that the players and backroom staff of both teams perform to the best of their abilities and enjoy the experience with the better team on the day coming out on top.



Charles R Gallacher

SCOTLAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGER : BRUCE MCNAUGHT

SFA COACH : RITCHIE WILSON

ASSISTANT MANAGER : COLIN MACLEOD

COACH : JOCK BROWN

KITMAN : JOE WALKER

PHYSIO : RONAN MURRAY



CHAIRMAN : DAVID RAMAGE

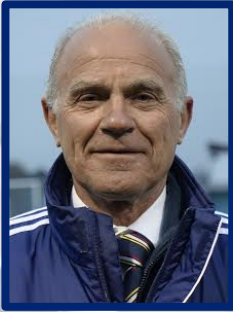
GEORGE DINGWALL

IAN SOMMERVILLE

THOMAS MCKEOWN

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I'd like to extend a warm welcome today to the "Auld Enemy" England who are representing the FA in the Intermediate Round of the UEFA Regions Cup later this month in Romania where they face the host nation, Russia and Serbia.

This is an excellent opportunity for their Scotland counterparts to build on their success in the Preliminary Round of the UEFA Regions Cup and prepare themselves for the Intermediate Round in October when Scotland travel to Malta to play the host nation, Ukraine and France.

While the England representatives went straight into the Draw for the Intermediate Round, the Scotland representatives had to pre-qualify from the Preliminary Round, and travelled in May to Lithuania to face the host nation, Estonia and France. The team rose to the occasion, drawing 1-1 with Lithuania (conceding a late equaliser), beating Estonia with a record 9-0 victory and sealing qualification with a hard fought 1-0 win over Sweden.

I have to commend the Scotland squad and management team not only for their excellent performances on the pitch but for their dedication and hard work throughout the week to ensure qualification, and for their exemplary behaviour and presentation on and off the pitch which drew favourable comments for the UEFA observers, hotel staff and locals. As Head of Delegation, I could not have asked for more and was very proud of them.

After today's game, Bruce McNaught and his back room staff will be finalising the squad for the trip to Malta which will be a difficult task with so many quality players to choose from. If the chosen players show the same will, desire and commitment shown in Lithuania, then I am sure qualification for the Final Round for the first time in June 2017 will be a real possibility.

So to today's game. I am sure this will follow any Scotland v England clash and will be a very competitive game but hopefully played in the right spirit. It is difficult to predict the outcome but I hope all the players enjoy the game with success to the better team on the day.

I would like to take the opportunity of wishing England all the very best when they travel to Romania to represent the FA and let's hope we can meet up again in the Finals stage of the UEFA Cup in June 2017.

I would also like, as ever, to thank the members of the International Committee for their invaluable contribution and support to me as Chairman of the Committee.

I would also like to thank Thomas McKeown, the National Secretary and the staff of Stephen and Mary at the office for all the hard work that goes into organising these games. And a special thanks to Ian Sommerville of the International Committee and Ronnie Hughes of the Executive Committee for their invaluable help and comradeship on the trip to Lithuania – this was really appreciated and contributed very much to the successful outcome.

David Ramage

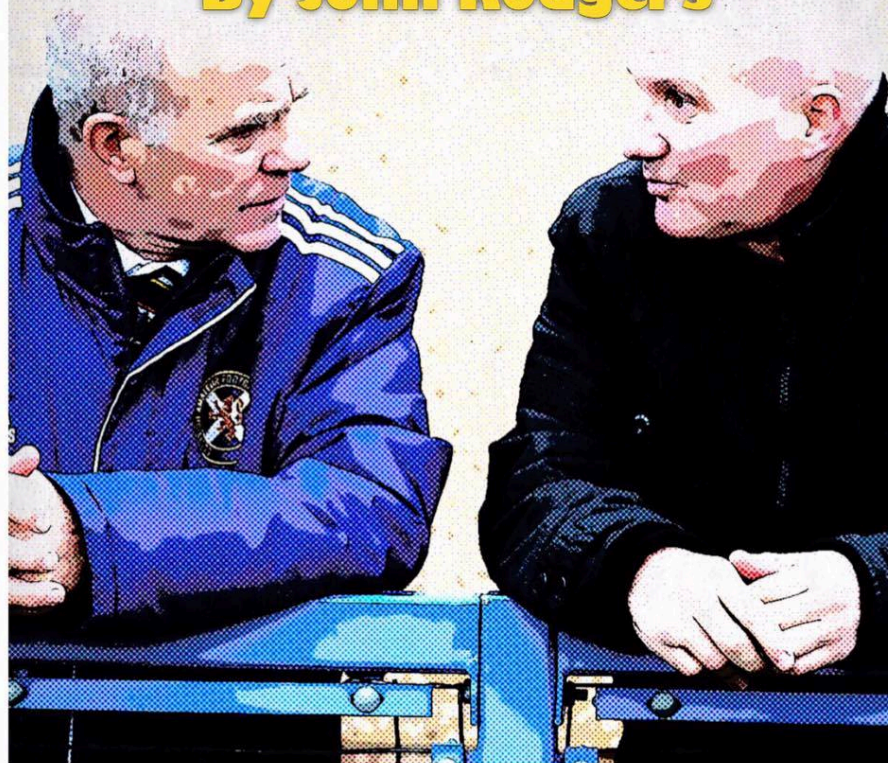
TODAY'S MATCH REFEREE



CHRIS GENTLES



The International Blog By John Rodgers



AT WWW.SCOTTISHAMATEURFA.CO.UK

SCOTLAND SQUAD

Stuart Wilson: Goalkeeper (Gartcosh United AFC)

An assured keeper, exceptionally comfortable on the ball and happy to operate as a sweeper well beyond the confines of his area. Great reflexes and shot stopper. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

David Tait: Goalkeeper (Bannockburn AFC)

Another assured keeper, who commands his area. Uses his height to great effect. Great reflexes and shot stopper. Boundless energy and great communicator. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Owen McCallum: Goalkeeper (Colville Park AFC)

Newest member of the international goalkeeping brigade and a player still in the formative stages of his playing career. Mature beyond his years. Great shot stopper and commands his area with confidence.

Harry Bruce: Defence (Bannockburn AFC)

An experienced and highly versatile defender. Comfortable in any of the backline positions or in a midfield berth. Calm in possession and strong in the tackle. A great organiser. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Kenny Feaks: Central Defence (Doune Castle AFC)

Pacy central defender who is also comfortable at full back. Strong in the air and firm in the tackle. Composed in possession and counter attacks well with his accurate passes out of defence. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad and scorer of Scotland's first goal in that tournament, netting against the host nation.

Ross Gallacher: Defence (Southside AFC)

Broke into the Scotland set up last season and acquitted himself well in the left back role. Great left foot and tenacious in the tackle. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Graham Butler: Central Defence (Craigshill Thistle AFC)

Joined the Scotland set up last season and quickly established himself as a commanding defensive presence. Comfortable in a central berth or at full back. Great organiser and communicator. Offers real aerial danger when joining the attack. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Andrew McGown: Central Defence (Bannockburn AFC)

Left-sided player, comfortable in the heart of the defence or at full back. Strong tackling and composed under pressure. Another who can spray passes from deep positions. A great leader, commanding in the air and threat at set pieces. Captain of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

SCOTLAND SQUAD

SCOTLAND SQUAD

Tony Jaconnelli: Central Defence (Craigshill Thistle AFC)

Second season with the Select. Vastly experienced and assured defender. Strong and pacy player, composed under pressure and dominant in the air. Seeks every opportunity to build from the back. Played a key role in last season's international matches.

Scott Maitland: Defence (Oban Saints AFC)

Scott broke into the international side last season and established himself immediately. An assured defender, comfortable on the ball and enjoys making runs down the flank from his full back position. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Gary Currie: Midfield (Bannockburn AFC)

Midfield. Now an established member of the Select. Highly skilful and pacy. Comfortable in centre out in wide position. Excellent scoring record with late runs into box. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Kenny McLellan: Midfield (Bannockburn AFC)

Centre Midfield. Composed and assured under pressure. Strong in the tackle and can spray passes from deep positions. Anchors the midfield area and links play effectively. Calmness personified. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Paul McCracken: Midfield (Craigshill Thistle AFC)

A commanding midfield presence. Strong tackler and dominant in the air. Seeks every opportunity to support the attack. A real threat at set pieces. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

David Kneale: Forward (Giffnock North AAC AFC)

David broke into the international side last season and made an immediate impact. A great finisher and elusive player, who likes to drift into deep positions to link midfield and attack. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad. Hat trick hero in game versus Estonia and scorer of crucial goal versus Sweden in decisive final match. Tournament's top scorer.

Kevin McLean: Midfield (East Kilbride AFC)

An elegant, left-sided midfielder, who broke into the Scotland side last season. Skilful on the ball and a great passer who also carries a goal threat with late runs into the box. Works tirelessly across the midfield. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Niall McClure: Midfield (Doune Castle AFC)

An experienced internationalist. Midfield powerhouse and real box-to-box player. Links defence and attack effectively with surging runs and astute passing. Strong in the air and offers a real threat at set pieces. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

SCOTLAND SQUAD



SCOTLAND SQUAD



David Matthews (Haldane United AFC)

Central midfielder with an assured left foot. Great passer of the ball and tenacious in the tackle. Great energy and constantly harries opposition with strong work ethic. Joined the international squad last season. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Allan MacPherson: Forward (Haldane United AFC)

An established and now vastly experienced as a member of the Select having. Highly skilful and pacy. A constant danger who always poses a goal threat. He has an excellent scoring record. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Sean Heaver: Forward (Doune Castle AFC)

Lightning quick and comfortable on either flank. Loves to attack at pace. Skilful dribbler with a powerful shot. A constant threat to defences and prolific scorer with his club. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Dylan Robb: Forward (Linlithgow Thistle AFC)

Broke into the international squad last season and impressed immediately. A pacy, strong-running forward with a real goal threat. Enjoys nothing better than to make surging runs to the flank. A quality finisher. A member of the Lithuania UEFA Regions Cup squad.

Scott Methven: Defender (Leven United)

Scott broke into the international side last season and impressed in the left back position. Cultured left foot. Calm under pressure. Strong in the tackle and surges forward at every opportunity.

David Donaldson: Midfield (Bannockburn AFC)

A skilful and creative midfielder who is always calm and composed in possession. Experienced internationalist, making a welcome return to the Select squad this season. Offers great energy in midfield and constantly prompts attacks with incisive passing.

Mark McCormack: Central Defence (Bowhill Rovers AFC)

Another highly experienced internationalist with UEFA Regions Cup experience. Commanding in the air and strong in the tackle, a commanding presence in central defence. Poses a real aerial threat at set pieces.

Andrew Duffy: Central Defence (Hamilton FP AFC)

Earning his first call-up to the international squad on the back of assured displays for his club. Composed on the ball and strong in the air. Likes to build from the back. Pacy and times tackles well. Offers an aerial threat at set pieces.



SCOTLAND SQUAD



Clark Campbell: Midfield (Craigshill Thistle AFC)

New to the international squad this season. An experienced and powerful midfielder. Great energy levels and has greatly impressed with creative displays for his club side.

Ryan Kane: Midfield (Pennies AFC)

A player receiving his first call-up to the international scene. Strong running midfielder who has caught the eye with impressive displays on the right hand side of the pitch. Another who offers a goal threat.

Gary Carroll: Midfield (Giffnock North AAC AFC)

A highly experienced midfielder who has recently returned to the amateur ranks. Has impressed with his confident displays in central midfield for his club side. Assured and confident on the ball who seamlessly links defence with attack.

Kallum Macaulay: Striker (Craigshill Thistle AFC)

Another joining the international scene for the first time. A powerful and pacy striker, a clinical finisher.

Sean Smith: Forward (Linlithgow Thistle AFC)

New to the international scene this season, a reward impressive club displays. A strong-running striker who offers a constant goal threat.

Nicky Moore: Forward (Larkhall Thistle AFC)

A player who recently returned to the amateur ranks and earning his first call-up to the international squad. A deadly finisher who offers a constant goal threat. Has made an impressive start to the season with his club side.

Paul Ferrier: Midfield (Bowhill Rovers AFC)

A player earning his first call-up to the international scene, just reward for impressive club displays. Last season's Kingdom Caledonian League Player of the Year, he is a creative presence in the centre of the park. A constant threat to any defence.

Damon Gray: Midfield (Goldenhill AFC)

New to the international scene this season, a reward impressive club displays. A powerful runner, strong in the tackle and offers a goal threat with late runs into the area.

Jamie Gay: Forward (Bowhill Rovers AFC)

Another earning his first call-up to the international scene. Has proved himself a threat to any defence and a clinical finisher. A constant threat for any defence with his strong running and persistence.

SCOTLAND IN ACTION



SCOTLAND IN ACTION

SCOTLAND

Stuart Wilson (Gartcosh United AFC)
David Tait (Bannockburn AFC)
Owen McCallum (Colville Park AFC)
Harry Bruce (Bannockburn AFC)
Kenny Feaks (Doune Castle AFC)
Ross Gallacher (Southside AFC)
Graham Butler (Craigshill Thistle AFC)
Andrew McGown (Bannockburn AFC)
Tony Jaconelli (Craigshill Thistle AFC)
Scott Maitland (Oban Saints AFC)
Gary Currie (Bannockburn AFC)
Kenny McLellan (Bannockburn AFC)
Paul McCracken (Craigshill Thistle AFC)
David Kneale (Giffnock North AAC AFC)
Kevin McLean (East Kilbride AFC)
Niall McClure (Doune Castle AFC)
David Matthews (Haldane United AFC)
Allan MacPherson (Haldane United AFC)
Sean Heaver (Doune Castle AFC)
Dylan Robb (Linlithgow Thistle AFC)
Scott Methven (Leven United)
David Donaldson (Bannockburn AFC)
Mark McCormack (Bowhill Rovers AFC)
Andrew Duffy (Hamilton FP AFC)
Clark Campbell (Craigshill Thistle AFC)
Ryan Kane (Pennies AFC)
Gary Carroll (Giffnock North AAC AFC)
Kallum Macaulay (Craigshill Thistle AFC)
Sean Smith (Linlithgow Thistle AFC)
Nicky Moore (Larkhall Thistle AFC)
Paul Ferrier (Bowhill Rovers AFC)
Damon Gray (Goldenhill AFC)
Jamie Gay (Bowhill Rovers AFC)



SCOTLAND

ENGLAND



Steve Kerr (Beeston St Anthony's FC)
Jonathan Gardiner (Carlton Athletic FC)
Adam Dutson (Leeds City FC)
Tom Greaves (Carlton Athletic FC)
Darryll Leach (Field FC)
Craig Maynard (Carlton Athletic FC)
Danny Nolan (Field FC)
Daniel Daly (Beeston St Anthony's FC)
Sam Graham (Carlton Athletic FC)
Reece Fennell (Carlton Athletic FC)
Matthew Moon (Beeston St Anthony's FC)
Aidan Day (Field FC)
Steven Crawford (Beeston St Anthony's FC)
Matthew Jackson (Carlton Athletic FC)
Sean Jeavons (Beeston St Anthony's FC)
Barrie Franklan (Leeds City FC)
Danny Cunningham (Field FC)
Andy Payne (Carlton Athletic FC)
Scott Burns (Carlton Athletic FC)
Joe Kenny (Carlton Athletic FC)
Joe Dixon (Leeds City FC)
Joe O'Neill (Carlton Athletic FC)



ENGLAND

ENGLAND SQUAD

Steve Kerr: Goalkeeper (Beeston St Anthony's FC)

Steve joined BSA in 2013. Very highly rated in the West Yorkshire League. Commanding Keeper with great distribution skills, suffers from Tourette's now and again!

Jonathan Gardiner: Goalkeeper (Carlton Athletic FC)

Very agile, athletic keeper who communicates well with his back four. Has not been called on to play for the team yet but provides excellent cover and a safe pair of hands. Excellent squad member and good lad to have around.

Adam Dutson: Defender (Leeds City FC)

Equally at home at full-back or centre-back. Good footballer who is comfortable on the ball and likes to bring it out from the back.

Craig Maynard: Defender (Carlton Athletic FC)

Can play anywhere across the back four. Strong and pacy, just loves to defend and is surprisingly good in the air for his size.

Darryll Leach: Defender (Field FC)

Captain of the side. Natural leader and very good organiser. Strong in the air and has good distribution. Provides a calm, authoritative presence.

Dan Daly: Defender (Beeston St Anthony's FC)

A true one-club man, Beeston through and through. Has developed into a very good left back with real pace and good distribution, an excellent asset to the squad.

Tom Greaves: Defender (Carlton Athletic FC)

Old head on young shoulders, very competitive. Captain's his club side, not the tallest centre-back but very good in the air. Has been plagued by injuries this season but is now back to his best.

Danny Nolan: Left Back (Field FC)

Mr Consistency, always reliable, good reader of the game, very comfortable on the ball, waspish in the tackle. Good crosser of the ball when he gets forward.

Steve Crawford: Left/Right Midfield/Forward. (Beeston St Anthony's FC)

Been at BSA since 2012, he's a local lad and loves the club. Quick, elusive, every defenders nightmare. Great provider and chips in with the odd goal himself.

Andy Payne: Midfielder (Carlton Athletic FC)

Comfortable anywhere on the left or central. Cultured left foot and loves a tackle, real hard worker, always very committed. Great crosser of the ball and delivers well from dead ball situations.

ENGLAND SQUAD

ENGLAND SQUAD

Matthew Moon: Central Midfielder (Beeston St Anthony's FC)

"Moony" joined BSA in 2011-12 from Gildersome, after great success there. He guided BSA to their first title in 18yrs, this athletic midfielder has great energy and a real will to win. He also played for the Yorkshire Amateur League in the Inter-League semi-final, losing 2-1 to the Isle of Man in 2011.

Aidan Day: Central Midfielder (Field FC)

A very talented footballer who has a real engine on him, never stops for 90mins. Can create goals and score them, formed a very good midfield understanding with "Moony" for the Rep Team.

Sam Graham: Defender (Carlton Athletic FC)

Quality defender who talks and reads the game very well. Not the tallest of defenders but strong in the air and quick. Can play centre-back or sweeper.

Reece Fennell: Midfielder/Striker (Carlton Athletic FC)

The baby of the side, a real live-wire, very quick and deceptive. Can play out wide, central midfield or upfront, always a danger with his pace and eye for goal. Another lad who guarantees you a full 90mins every game.

Matthew Jackson: Striker (Carlton Athletic FC)

Another player who has suffered from injuries this year. Matty has played in this competition many times with both us and the Yorkshire Amateur League. It's going to be touch and go whether he makes the squad for the final, which will really disappoint him. On his day he's a real "fox in the box" and has always scored goals at whatever level he has played at.

Sean Jeavons: Striker (Beeston St Anthony's FC)

"Jevs" has been at BSA since he was 19yrs, and that's a long time! He's become a club legend and a feared striker throughout the West Yorkshire League, regularly breaking the 30 goal mark every season. Top club man and a very well respected member of the Inter-League team.

Barrie Frankland: Striker (Leeds City FC)

Consistently prolific goalscorer over many seasons, at whatever level he's played at.

Leads the line well, good in the air and always a danger on free-kicks. Played in fourth round and unfortunately got injured. he's now fully recovered and raring to get another chance.

Danny Cunningham: Striker (Field FC)

Quick, deceptive forward, scored 53 goals in 33 games for his club Field and helped them to the Title. Can be a real matchwinner on his day. Bit of a character off the field as he's very keen on naturism and wine-tasting, in that order.

ENGLAND SQUAD

A BRIEF HISTORY

The West Yorkshire League qualified to represent England in the UEFA Regions Cup by winning the FA Inter League Cup in a thrilling Final in May when they defeated the Teesside League with a last minute goal at York City FC. The Inter League Cup was established to find an English representative for the UEFA competition. The competition is confined to leagues operating at Step 7 of the England National League System together with other invited leagues. If you consider that the Premier League is at Tier One this is in effect the 11th tier of English football.

The West Yorkshire League was founded in 1928 and formerly known as “The Leeds League”, the intention was to bring all open age teams under one management within the Leeds District and surrounding areas. These were to be derived from the Leeds Amateur (Founded 1908), Leeds Alliance (Founded as Leeds Invinsa during the 1914/18 war) and the Leeds Western (Founded 1923/24). The league was accepted and affiliated by the West Riding County F.A. As the league grew, it’s members agreed to the name of the Leeds League being changed to the West Yorkshire League. In the early years, the majority of clubs were part of the Leeds & District F.A. but within a few years an influx of clubs from other District FA’s covered all the areas of West Yorkshire.

Prominent clubs over these formative years were Beeston Hill P.C., Leeds United, East End Park WMC, Leeds Athletics, Farsley Celtic, Leeds Malvern, Guiseley, Rothwell Athletic, Yorkshire Amateur, Robin Hood and Burtons. The best known grounds were East End Park, Burtons, Guiseley, Fryston, Swillington, and Yorkshire Amateurs. With approximately 50 clubs, the league set up its own office in Leeds City Centre and it was staffed every night, by the league’s officials. The league has moved it’s headquarters over the years using several of the City’s pubs, clubs and Hotels but in recent years the meetings have been based at the premises of the West Riding County Football Association at Woodlesford,.

The league currently has five divisions catering for 80 teams. There are three divisions of 16 ‘first’ teams with the two Alliance divisions formed from their reserve teams. In addition to each divisional championship, clubs are promoted or relegated between the three main divisions. The teams also play in two cup competitions; the League Cup and the League Trophy. The strength and quality of the league can be seen from the large numbers of applications to join the league, fourteen in 2015-16 and another 10 for 2016-17

In June 2012, the league was formally accredited as Step 7 within the National League System which reflects a gradual and continuous improvement in grounds, facilities and playing standards. It is part of the Yorkshire Pool working with the York Minster and Humber-side Leagues. The league also has FA Charter Standard accreditation and in 2014 was awarded the FA’s Respect “Commended” and “Bronze” status Through these initiatives it continues its efforts to support and work closely with its clubs in their activities to promote further improvement and success.

The Football Association are pleased to be able to support both the Inter League Cup competition and participation in the UEFA Regions Cup by providing additional coaching, medical and administrative support and are grateful to the Scottish Amateur FA in agreeing to host this fixture as it will provide additional preparation for both teams as they approach forthcoming UEFA Regions Cup qualifiers, England going to Romania later this month and Scotland going to Malta in October.

A BRIEF HISTORY



Preliminary Round - Group A
21st May 2016

East West Central Scotland 1

(Feaks 85)

FK Nevėžis 1

(Gėgžna 87)

National Football Academy Stadium, Kaunas

Preparations for the trip to Lithuania finished with a late flurry of hectic activity for Bruce McNaught.

Douglas Ryan (East Kilbride) and Tony Jaconelli (Craigshill Thistle) were late call offs. Bruce was delighted to recruit the services of Tony's team mate, Graham Butler and Scott Maitland (Oban Saints). The travelling party flew from Edinburgh to Vilnius via Helsinki.

A 1 hour 20 minute bus journey took them to their base at the Kaunas Hotel. The Scots received the warmest of welcomes from our UEFA Liaison Officer, Valdas Knyzelis, and the hotel staff.

The lads have settled in well with the hotel staff so keen to cater for their every need. The kit room and the treatment rooms have seen lots of activity. The Kaunas Hotel has been the perfect location. Our training and match venue, the National Football Academy, is a 10 minute bus journey away.

Ritchie Wilson, our SFA coach, assisted by Colin Macleod and Jocky Brown led the players through their paces in preparation for the first match on Saturday versus the host nation.

Scotland kicked off their Regions' Cup campaign with a highly creditable draw against the host nation. The game had a dramatic and frustrating end for Scotland.

Scotland edged ahead with 5 minutes remaining only for Lithuania to grab the equaliser on 87 minutes.

As always in mini-tournaments, the Scots appreciated the importance of avoiding defeat in the opening match of the arduous three schedule of 3 games in 5 days.

By Ian Sommerville

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

The opening exchanges were even. The sides were evenly matched. The Lithuanians were impressive down either flank. Scotland full backs Harry Bruce and Ross Gallagher were tested with the lightning quick counter attacks from the home side. Scotland were forced into an early re-shuffled. Gary Currie felt a hamstring tweak and was replaced by Dylan Robb.

There were few clear cut chances in the first half, although Stuart Wilson was the busier of the two keepers. Wilson made a couple of fine saves when the Lithuanians did force through on goal.

The Scots looked particularly dangerous at set plays. Niall McClure's long throws and Paul McCracken's effective flick one posed repeated problems for Lithuania. Allan Macpherson's tireless work kept the home side's back line fully occupied.

The second half followed the same pattern as the first. The two evenly match sides defended stoutly and took every opportunity to probe for the opening. Stuart Wilson made three more fine stops as Lithuania enjoyed the first spell of sustained pressure in the match. But it was Scotland who made the breakthrough on 85 minutes.

Niall McClure launched a massive through ball into the box. Paul McCracken jumped high with the keeper in an effort to flick the ball on. The keeper gathered but allowed the ball to squirm from his grasp under McCracken's challenge. The ball dropped invitingly to Kenny Feaks who had charged forward in support. Feaks allowed the ball to bounce and then smashed the ball home from 4 yards to make it 1-0. The Scots celebrated wildly but were soon to have their spirits temporarily dampened by a frustrating late equaliser.

On 87 minutes, Lithuania gathered wide on the left. Their winger cut inside and curled a shot towards the far post. The ball eluded Kenny Feaks by inches and looked netbound. Stuart Wilson dived full length. His finger-tip touch wasn't enough to prevent the ball hitting off the inside the far post.

Worse was to follow as the ball spun agonisingly along the line. Kenny Feaks made a last ditch attempt to clear but the ball squirmed over the line to make it 1-1.

Despite the loss of the late goal, this was a terrific Scotland performance. To a man, the squad gave everything for the cause and produced some fine football against a top, experienced side.

Scotland: Stuart Wilson, Harry Bruce, Ross Gallagher (Scott Maitland), Kenny Feaks, Andy McGown, Gary Currie (Dylan Robb), Kenny McClellan, Paul McCracken, Niall McClure, Allan Macpherson (Kevin McLean), Sean Heaver Substitutes: David Tait, David Kneale, Graham Butler, David Matthews.

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

Preliminary Round - Group A 23rd May 2016

East West Central Scotland 9

(MacPherson 14, 32, Kneale 16, 19, 46, Mclean 44, Matthews 77, 78, Bruce 84)

Tartu 0

National Football Academy Stadium, Kaunas



Scotland produced a scintillating performance in sweltering conditions in Kaunas to completely overwhelm Estonia.

Bruce McNaught and Ritchie Wilson demonstrated complete trust in the quality of this 18-man squad by making 7 changes from the starting eleven against Lithuania in the opening fixture of the tournament.

From the kick off, Scotland harried and chased with an intensity that clearly unsettled the Estonians.

Dylan Robb forced the keeper to palm the ball away desperately with a dangerous cross after only 6 minutes.

The Scots took the lead after 13 minutes with a clinical finish from Allan Macpherson. David Keale demonstrated total composure when he grabbed two goals in quick succession, netting after 15 minutes and then again on 18 minutes.

That early 3-0 lead in no way flattered the Scots who were winning every aerial challenge and moving the ball slickly around the big Kaunas pitch.

The Scots continued to press and the only surprise was that it took until the 32nd minute before Allan Macpherson grabbed his own second of the afternoon to make it 4-0.

With half time looming, Kevin McLean slotted home No 5 with an assured finish to give the Scots a 5-0 half time lead. At half time, Scots took refuge from the blistering sun in the cooler environment of the dressing room. Refreshed, the Scots could not have wished for a better start to the second half.

25 seconds in, a sweet passing move ended with David Kneale sweeping the ball home to complete an impressive hat trick to extend Scotland's lead to 6-0.

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

It was hardly surprising the tempo of the game dropped slightly in the oppressive conditions. However, the quality of their outfield play remained outstanding as Scotland retained possession and probed for more goals.

David Matthews deservedly made it 7-0 after 77 minutes and within one minute, the same player made it 8-0 with another clinical finish.

Harry Bruce took advantage of the gaps opening up in the beleaguered Estonian defence, slotting home the final goal after 83 minutes to ensure the game ended 9-0 in Scotland's favour.

This was a majestic performance from Bruce McNaught's men. Superior in every department, the Scots produced some thrilling football and destroyed their Estonian opponents with a terrific squad display.

Scotland: David Tait, Graham Butler, Kenny Feaks, Andy McGown, Scott Maitland, David Matthews, Kenny McLellan, Kevin McLean, David Kneale, Allan Macpherson Dylan Robb

Substitutes: Niall McClure, Paul McCracken, Harry Bruce and Stuart Wilson, Garry Currie, Ross Gallacher, Sean Heaver



UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

Preliminary Round - Group A 25th May 2016

Region of Gothenburg 0 East West Central Scotland 1

(Kneale 59)

National Football Academy Stadium, Kaunas

Scotland produced yet another stunning performance to end this demanding week as the winners of the UEFA Regions' Cup Preliminary Round Group A.

Stuart Wilson was cruelly ruled out of contention after sustaining a knee injury in the final training session. On the plus side, both Garry Currie and Sean Heaver passed fitness tests.

After two great performances, team selection for this crucial game was always going to be difficult for Bruce McNaught. What was certain from this close-knit group, however, was that those missing out on a starting berth would continue to give their all for the cause and be ready to enter the fray if called upon.

The Scots started the match knowing only a win would guarantee them the chance of winning the group. Equal on points with host nation, Lithuania, and with them favourites to beat Estonia, a Scottish victory would be likely to see the group settled on goal difference.

The Swedes also believed they could win the group. A point behind both Scotland and Lithuania, a Swedish victory would see them with 6 points. They would then rely on Estonia taking something from their derby match versus Lithuania.

The first half was a momentous encounter. The Swedes continually launched high balls deep into the Scottish defence. Kenny Feaks and Andy McGown led the Scottish defence superbly, time after time winning the aerial battles. David Tait in goal was always on hand to deal with anything that managed to break the Scots back line.

Scotland moved the ball well, seeking to utilise the pace of Dylan Robb and Allan Macpherson up top. The Swedes were giving nothing away. Solid and compact, they restricted the Scots to half chances.

David Kneale cracked the post with the Scots' best effort of the opening period. A tense first half ended 0-0.

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

Mixed news was filtering through from the National Stadium. Lithuania had opened the scoring but Estonia had scored an unlikely equaliser. The home side then pulled away to hold a 3-1 advantage at the break.

Scotland replaced Garry Currie with Sean Heaver at half time. 10 minutes in, David Matthews took over from Niall McClure.

The crucial breakthrough came after 58 minutes. Harry Bruce gathered wide on the right. He directed a brilliant diagonal ball into the heart of the Swedish penalty area. David Kneale timed his run perfectly. On the run, Kneale swept a superb first time shot high into the net from 16 yards to give Scotland a 1-0 lead with a brilliant goal.

The Swedes responded with a snap shot that flew inches wide of target as they battled to regain a foothold at the top of the table.

Further news from the National Stadium offered encouragement for Scotland. Estonia had pulled it back to 3-2, although the home side soon regained their two-goal lead and led 4-2 with some twenty minutes remaining.

Their chances of catching Scotland in a goal chase were diminishing by the second, but Scotland needed to hold their nerve and maintain their slender, but crucial advantage. Paul McCracken replaced Kenny McLellan as Bruce McNaught made his final switch of the match.

With 13 minutes left, a cynical challenge saw Dylan Robb carried off, leaving the Scots with 10 men. Sweden tried to take immediate advantage, launching high balls into the box. David Tait was in no mood to be beaten, however, time after time leaping high to ease the pressure.

At the other end, the pace of Allan Macpherson and Sean Heaver posed real problems for the Swedish defence. Dylan Robb rejoined the battle after five minutes' worth of treatment from Scots physio, Ronan Murray. Robb was clearly hampered by his knock but valiantly occupied the Swedish defence as best he could.

As the clock ticked down, the 5-2 score line from the the National Stadium meant the Scots knew if they could see the game out, they would qualify for the next stage as Group Winners. The 4 minutes of added time added to the tension of the occasion, but this Scottish team would not be defeated.

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

The final whistle sparked wonderful scenes of celebration. The entire travelling party, led by Head of Delegation, David Ramage, celebrated wildly. The Stadium announcer even added to the occasion as '500 Miles' by the Proclaimers and 'We Are the Champions' bellowed out the sound system. Scotland recorded a fantastic 1-0 victory.

This squad did Scotland proud throughout this demanding tournament. Their 1-1 draw in the opening match versus Lithuania gave them a solid foundation. Their record-breaking 9-0 demolition of Estonia was as good a performance as any ever produced by a Scottish Amateur Select side.

The quality and character and discipline of their 1-0 win in the final match against Sweden typified their attitude throughout - and in all the build-up games prior to the tournament.

Bruce McNaught, Ritchie Wilson, Colin Macleod and Jocky Brown and Ronan Murray proved themselves a formidable Management & Backroom Team.

The togetherness of the squad and the professionalism of these 3 great displays can clearly be attributed to their work.

However, it is this 18 man squad of players who deserve the highest adulation and praise. The Scotland UEFA Regions' Cup squad of 2016 delivered on all fronts and proved themselves outstanding ambassadors for Scotland on every level.

Scotland qualify for the next stage of the tournament. These players will enter the close season break proud of their achievements this week and with their eye on retaining their place in the squad for the trip to Malta in October!

David Tait, Harry Bruce, Kenny Feaks, Andy McGown, Scott Maitland, Garry Currie (Sean Heaver), Niall McClure (David Matthews), Kenny McClellan (Paul McCracken), David Kneale, Dylan Robb, Allan Macpherson, Stuart Wilson, Kevin McLean, Ross Gallacher, Graham Butler.



The Scotland Squad Celebrate

UEFA REGIONS CUP - THE STORY SO FAR.....

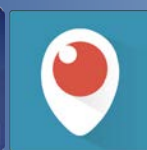
TODAY'S VENUE - LESSER HAMPDEN



SPECIAL THANKS TO QUEENS PARK FC



FOLLOW THE SCOTTISH AMATEUR FA ON SOCIAL MEDIA



#OFFICIALAMATEURFAMILY