

THE CORNOCK CUP 2016 – 01 SEPT 16 – the Artillery fall short... again!



The Annual Sapper vs Gunner Tennis Competition

After a crushing victory over the Royal Artillery at Larkhill last year to retain the Cornock Cup, the annual tennis competition between ourselves and the Artillery, it was our turn to host the event this year.

As 2016 is the joint 300th birthdays of both the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery, it was planned to source a venue a little special to mark the occasion. Lt Col Roger Fawcus took up this challenge and using his extensive contacts, managed to secure use of the grass courts at The Priory Tennis Club, Edgbaston. The Priory Club hosts the AEGON Classic, one of the main events on the Women's Tennis Association annual calendar.

The Cornock Cup pits three pairs from each Corps against each other in a round robin format. The Artillery fielded the Army Men's No1, added to this, we were without 2 regular faces - Maj Andy Brett and Cpl Khum, so we knew that it would be closer than the previous year. On the 1 September 2016, the sun was high in the clear blue sky so the Cornock Cup was to be played on the superb grass courts.

The Engineer Team was selected as follow:

- No1 Pair – Lt Col Roger Fawcus and Capt Kam Kamble.
- No 2 Pair – Lt Col Mike Thornley and Spr Matt Gregory.
- No 3 Pair – Cpl Krishna and Spr Dudley.
- Substitute – Cpl John Zanku.

After the first 3 matches it became apparent that the Artillery had been economical with the truth of their seeding, in the vain hope of taking a lead in the competition. This selection back fired as the Corps won the first round 2-1. This was followed by another 2-1 win in the second round.

So leading in to the final round of matches the Corps were leading 4-2 and required only one single win from the final 3 games to retain the cup. After some very close tennis the final round finished 1 ½ v 1 ½ which gave the Corps a victory margin of 5 ½ v 3 ½ . So once again the Sappers retained the trophy and after the match Corps Tennis Colours were awarded to Capt Kamble and Spr Gregory.

The Corps tennis team play throughout the year. We are the current holders of the Inter-Corps Winter League and will be looking to improve on 3rd place for the next Summer League. Anybody (male or female) that is interested in playing tennis should contact either the:

Corps Secretary: Capt Mark Lawrenson, Sp Offr 63 Wks Gp: 94451 x2232

OR

Corps Chairman: Lt Col Mike Thornley, SO1 Doc 7, DCDC: 96161 4257 / 01793 314257

Next stop for the Corps Tennis Team – Cape Town, South Africa in Oct 16!