



## **Cancellation of November Remembrance Day Match**

Given the recent announcements from the Government of on-going restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19, we have decided to cancel this year's Poppy Day match.

We are very disappointed to have to make this decision, given the overwhelming level of support and fundraising in recent years, but it is the only realistic option open to us.

The main reasons for this cancellation are: -

- Our ground capacity restrictions are below crowd levels we have at this event, and we anticipated an even larger crowd this year with the planned focus on the achievements of Army Medics and local NHS services during the pandemic.
- Current guidelines restrict our clubhouse to only 50 people, and this would barely accommodate the teams and officials, leaving no possibility for entertaining and fundraising activities.
- Pre-match wreath laying and flag-bearing cannot take place as we would be endangering the health of wreath layers and flag bearers, many of whom are elderly and at risk.
- The Royal British Legion would not be able to provide poppy sellers at the game, again not wanting to risk the health of their volunteers. We understand their main focus will be directly through supermarkets and other large outlets.

Our ambition, looking into 2021, is to hold a separate end of season match against a representative team of Army Medics and local NHS workers, and we will work with them to organise this and to set another date. Also, of course, we want to bounce back with a tremendous poppy appeal match in November 2021!

John Elliott BEM  
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