



 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
Sport

Sports Conference 2025, RAF Cranwell, 20 & 21 May 2025

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Welcome to the RAF Sports Conference 2025

On behalf of Head RAF Sport, Air Vice-Marshal 'Cab' Townsend, and the Chair of the RAF Central Fund Board, Dr Eamonn Molloy, welcome to all attending this year's RAF Sport Conference, either here or online, from associations or units or wherever.

And thank you to RAF Cranwell for hosting us for the third year, despite the demands they face - using my command states of OPCAN and OPCAN'T – thank you for being the former!

Before I talk about the programme for the Conference, I also want to take a moment to thank all of you for what you have done over the last year in the safe delivery of RAF Sport, to the benefit of the Service and our people, in the Whole Force and beyond. Last year we saw over 2000 fixtures and events delivered, and 69 Overseas Visits, and engaged with literally thousands of people at the Cosford Airshow and RIAT, and were represented at a range of national level competitions and at the Olympics, and had, as but one example, 350 people watch the Lord Wakefield Boxing Novice Champs in the JRM at RAF Leeming, and won more Inter-Service competitions than I can mention, and supported our people going to the Invictus Games, and all else – and delivered Air and Space Power in myriad ways in our primary roles. So thank you for all of that – just beyond great!

I also want to thank the Line Management who have allowed so many of our people 'Time for Sport', again despite the demands they can face, and our many other supporters in Media and Comms, in Corporate Governance, our Financial Business Partners, and, of course, our Homes for Sport. All are very much on side to help, often frustrated as I know they are in not being able to do more.

We have another great programme to look forward to, with a bit more interaction this year, knowing there is plenty to discuss with both my Directorate and the RAF Central Fund, and both Ross and I are looking forward to the 'hot seat' session toward the end of Day One, before the Fireside Chat. For this, I am delighted to welcome some of our the Invictus Games participants, who I'm sure will be humbling and inspiring in equal measure. Day Two will focus on Safety in the morning, quite rightly given our mandate and in the light of the tragic loss in January of one of our own, and then delivery, as we strive to reduce the burden on you all. Then, before we wrap up the Coaching Alliance will ask 'what can they do for you?'

I think we are at an exciting point in the development of RAF Sport – the genuine inflexion point where we start to leverage all that we do to help make us all 'Fit for Service' and 'Fit for Life', breaking records safely, at every level. Ross and I and both our teams genuinely look forward to being engaged and challenged. If you have something to say, don't be shy – we can all benefit. Thank you.



Air Cdre Rich Fogden MDA MA RAF

Programme of Events

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Theme	Session	Speaker	Time
ALL DELEGATES TO BE SEATED NLT 0945			
	Intro & Admin	<i>DDRS</i>	0950
Demonstrate	Address by Head of RAF Sport	<i>AOC 22 Gp</i>	1000
Demonstrate	The State of Sport	<i>Dir DRS</i>	1020
Demonstrate	RAF Central Fund Update	<i>RP</i>	1050
Deliver	You Said, We Delivered	<i>DDRS</i>	1120
Underpin	Media	<i>Kerry Janes & Alex Sexton</i>	1135
Deliver	Sport Policy	<i>DRS SO2 Sport Policy</i>	1205
LUNCH			1230
Secure Resources	Sponsorship Update	<i>Pete Goldsmith</i>	1315
Secure Resources	Loughborough Univ. Update	<i>DDRS</i>	1315
Secure Resources	Homes for Sport - Breakout Gp.	<i>SO2 Sport Policy</i>	1350
Secure Resources	Funding	<i>Hannah Booth & DDRS</i>	1445
Underpin	In the Hot Seat - Q&A	<i>RF & RP</i>	1515
CONCLUSION OF DAY 1 ONLINE			1600
Demonstrate	Power of Sport	<i>Invictus Games 25 Team UK</i>	1700

Key Speakers:

AVM Ian Townsend, AOC 22 Group

Air Cdre Rich Fogden, Director RAF Sport (RF)

Mr Ross Perriam, CEO RAF Central Fund (RP)

Ms Claire Bunten, Dep. Dir, Directorate of RAF Sport (DDRS)

Programme of Events

Wednesday 21 May 2025

Theme	Session	Speaker	Time
	Guided Stretch		0900
Advocate	Sports Showcase	<i>Gp Capt Brian Watson - Motorsports Ch Tech Simon Fassler - Drone Racing SqN Ldr Joel Sweeney - Boxing</i>	0910
Deliver	Delivering Sport Safely	<i>SO3 Sports Assurance</i>	1020
Deliver	Sports Delivery	<i>Sports Delivery Mgr</i>	1040
COFFEE BREAK			1100
Advocate	Being a HPA		1115
Underpin	Coaching Alliance	<i>WO David Wood</i>	1135
Deliver	Any Questions	<i>Dir DRS & RP</i>	1155
	Closing Remarks	<i>Dir DRS</i>	1220

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AOC 22 GP - Head of RAF Sport

Air Vice-Marshall Ian “Cab” Townsend CBE MA RAF

Air Vice-Marshall Ian Townsend (known as Cab) was commissioned into the Royal Air Force in March 1992. Following flying training, he was posted to IV(AC) Sqn at RAF Laarbruch to fly the Harrier GR7. He spent the next 9 years on the front-line becoming a Qualified Weapons Instructor in 2000. Townsend deployed on operations on each of his Harrier Force tours beginning in the Balkans in 1998, Iraq in 2003 (where he received a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service) and Afghanistan. He was also one of 4 pilots to conduct operational missions into Afghanistan from HMS ILLUSTRIOUS in early 2005.

Promoted to wing commander in 2007, he was posted to the Directorate of Joint Capability (MOD, London) where, as SO1 Joint Target Effects, he was the subject matter expert for all Combat Air matters and responsible for the future planning and day-to-day management of the air weapons stockpile. Townsend attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course at JSCSC Shrivenham in 2009 completing a Master's degree in Defence Studies and was posted back to the Harrier GR9 to take command of 1(F) Sqn. However, the cancellation of Harrier in 2010 forced another career path! Seeking further 'operational challenge', he volunteered for the post of Chief of Staff Operations at 83 Expeditionary Air Group, Al Udeid Air Base where he spent 6 months as the UK 'Red Card Holder'.

Townsend took command of Number 3(Fighter) Squadron flying Typhoon in April 12. During his two years in Command, he led the Squadron's deployment to Lithuania conducting Baltic Air Policing and conducted a number of high-profile Defence Engagement activities in the Middle East. He also championed the increasing use of synthetics in the delivery of front-line operational capability. Townsend joined the Lightning Force HQ in 2014, filling the roles of Chief of Staff, Deputy Force Cdr and Force Cdr before commanding RAF Marham between July 2017 and July 2019. During this period, the Station sustained Tornado GR4 operational output, enabled Tornado's successful retirement and simultaneously generated F35B Lightning Initial Operating Capability including its first operational deployment. Townsend was appointed CBE in 2020 for his work at RAF Marham. Townsend took command of 903 Expeditionary Air Wing at RAF Akrotiri in September 2019 and was responsible for the delivery of mission-ready air capabilities across the Middle East. He was promoted to Air Commodore in March 2020 taking up post as the Assistant Chief of Staff (ACOS) Capability Strategy at Air Command and transitioned to the role of ACOS Combat Air in December 2021 responsible for F35B Lightning, Typhoon, weapons, and operational training including synthetics. Townsend was promoted to Air Vice-Marshall in May 2023 taking command of No 22 Group.

Townsend is married to Jo and has 2 adult children. Townsend is a Level 6 rugby union referee officiating for both the RAF and Buckinghamshire Referees Society. He is also President of the 3(F) Sqn Association and Chair of United Kingdom Armed Forces Rugby Union.



Your RAF Sport Team

Directorate of RAF Sport



Air Cdre Rich Fogden
Director RAF Sport



Claire Buntun (C1)
Deputy Director RAF Sport



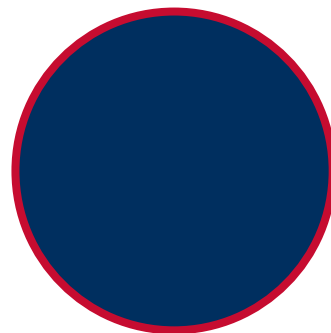
Sqn Ldr Heather Ratnage-Black
SO2 Sport Policy



Aimee Elliot (C2)
Sport Delivery Mgr



Flt Lt Chris Williams
SO3 Sport Assurance



GAPPED (D)
Sports Delivery Officer

Directorate of RAF Sport

Team Profiles

Air Cdre Richard Fogden	C1 Claire Bunten		Sqn Ldr Heather Ratnage-Black	C2 Aimée Elliot	Flt Lt Chris Williams
Director RAF Sport	Deputy Director RAF Sport		SO2 Sport Policy	Sport Delivery Manager	SO3 Sport Safety & Assurance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy and Operations - Leadership - RAF Inspector Safety - UKAF Sport Board - Public income and expenditure - Policy oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy - Joint Planning Process (JPP) - Reporting - UKAF Sport Board (Deputies) - Homes For Sport/Facilities Partnerships - Coaching/ Workforce Development 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AP3415 - JSP 660 - AIRCOM committee and fixtures - RAF HWB committee - 22Gp COS Pillar rep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sport Governance - Communications and Engagement - BAE Grant Applications - Elite, High Performing & Recognised Athletes - Budget Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RAF Sport Safety - RAF Sport Assurance - Unit Sport Safety Advisor - Unit Sport Assurance Advisor - SME to RAF Safety Centre - SME to Human Performance - UKAF RAF RPs Safety Advisor
Model Aircraft	Hockey	American Football	Athletics	Motorsport	Canoeing
Rugby Union	Fencing	Angling	Boxing	Polo	Cricket
Small Arms	Surfing	Archery	Equitation	Power Kiting	Football
Sports Aircraft	Sub-Aqua	Basketball	E-Sports	Powerlifting	Gliding
Sport Parachuting	Sailing	Ice Hockey	Hang & Paragliding	Table Tennis	Golf
Tennis	Badminton	Netball	Mountaineering	Triathlon	Rowing
Winter Sport (Alpine)	Cycling	Rugby League	Orienteering	Volleyball	Waterski & Wakeboard
Gliding (Deputy)	Weightlifting	Tenpin Bowling	Squash	Bobsleigh Luge & Skeleton	Lacrosse
	Judo	Martial Arts	Walking & Road Marching	Cresta	Microlight
	Swimming	Darts	Rugby (Deputy)	Nordic	

Your RAF Sport Team

RAF Central Fund



ROSS PERRIAM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



NIKI GRASKE
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



HANNAH BOOTH
GRANTS & PROGRAMMES
MANAGER



KATIE MARNANE
GRANTS ASSISTANT



CHARLIE COOPER
ENRICHMENT GRANTS
COORDINATOR



ALEX SEXTON
HEAD OF MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS



LOUISE BARGUS
MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



EMMA HARPER
COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



ANGELIQUE LYON
HEAD OF FINANCE



RAZ SEKHON
FINANCE MANAGER



ASHLEIGH COOPER
FINANCE ASSISTANT



MARIETTE MARSHALL
FINANCE ASSISTANT



NICKY HOWE
ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT



KATY SCHOFIELD
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
ADMINISTRATOR



KAREN HANSFORD
HEAD OF OPERATIONS



LISA HAPGOOD
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR



JENELL SPARKS
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



DIANE BROWN
FESHIEBRIDGE COORDINATOR

ALWAYS check for **ALL** risks:



Slips, trips and falls



Lighting/visibility



Collision with others



Equipment failure



Environment
facility/terrain/weather



Athlete overload



Nutrition and hydration



Pre-existing medical condition



Manual handling



Safeguarding



Group and individual safety



Play **SMART**

Play **SAFE**