

by Lt Col D G PROCTOR SO1 G6 Ops/HQ Sports Activities Coordinator

## INTRODUCTION AND FACILITIES

In an earlier edition of this magazine, the Secretary of the HQ Sports Board, Maj Marco Stoccutto, produced an excellent article explaining the role of the Sports Board as a focus for activity coordination and a catalyst for facilities and event development. That has continued to be our main thrust and was certainly what we hoped to achieve in 2003. Unfortunately for Maj Stoccutto much of his time in 2003 was spent in Iraq and so, in my capacity as the Activities Coordinator, the task falls to me to pen a few words.

Firstly, it is fair to say that we probably achieved our main outputs of developing activities and facilities. In the case of the latter, the internal structure of the gymnasium now provides an excellent cross section of what one would expect in a first class complex. Individuals can use running and cycling equipment,

weight rooms and a large, well appointed main hall for indoor volleyball, football, basketball or tennis. If you slide back the large, exterior doors to the building you can do all of this in the shadow of Monte Rosa! Outside the work was completed on putting down 2 astroturf surfaces in the old tennis courts and refurbishing their perimeters. Both tennis and 5 a side football are now possible when the weather is good, which it is most of the time, and we still retain the undersized grass pitch which is used very regularly by the football squad. Their full sized pitch is due for laying in 2004.

In terms of activities, we have concentrated on jointly supporting individual competitions within the Ugo Mara Cup and the weekly events that have gone from strength to strength; Golf, Running, Cycling, Football and Basketball.

## Individual Activities



### **Golf** by LTC *Ouerwerling OIC Golf*

On Wednesday 22 Oct 2003 at Le Robinie Golf Course, adjacent to Ugo Mara Caserma, we held the 3rd Ugo Mara Barracks Golf Tournament. 17 Golf players (including one Lady) of 5 nations played in a 18 hole competition for the Ugo Mara Golf Trophy.

Again the weather was beautiful and the first flight started at 12:15 hour. The weather and the wonderful condition of the course challenged the players and remarkable scores were made. At 16:45 hour all flights were again back in the clubhouse and the final scores calculated. 2 players finished with the same score but after a count back LTC Ouwerling (NL) was announced as the winner. The prizes were presented by the COM NRDC-IT, General Castagnetti, who also participated and played a very good round. After a drink everybody returned home with a satisfied feeling of having had a wonderful afternoon at the Golf course.

The 4th tournament in 2004 is currently planned for the 5 May, and we hope to have even more participants.

### **Football** OIC – SSgt Coles PA to DComd

Football continues to go from strength to strength, with training and practice games run on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly. A nucleus of over 20 personnel regularly attend this training, and due to the generosity of the fund manager, they now have a suitable strip and equipment. To provide a focus for 2003, the team was invited to travel to Rheindahlen to play our opposite numbers in the HQ ARRC. The trip took place at the end of November and, surrounded by a busy



*A scene from the soccer game between NRDC-IT vs. ARRC.*



# Activities

programme of activities and social training games, the NRDC(IT) HQ team won 3-2 in a close fought game. For 2004, on the departure of the current OIC, SSgt Coles UK A, who has done an outstanding job in his 2 years to provide the platform for this activity, the responsibility will fall to Sgt Parry UK A to continue the momentum.

## **Basketball** Coordinator – SSgt Krappas GR

Each week the basketballers go quietly and regularly about their business. In just a short time they have created a thriving group of players who can use the excellent facilities in the gymnasium. In 2003 they were undoubtedly enhanced by the arrival of the majority of the USA contingent to the headquarters, a country that really knows how to play the game. More recently, through the efforts of Captain Giovanni Boggeri, they also now have new strips. The plan for the forthcoming year is to compete externally.



NRDC-IT Volley-ball team practicing in the HQ Gym.

## **UGO MARA COMPETITION**

The backbone of our sporting activities has undoubtedly been the Ugo Mara Competition. This involves 7 teams; Ops Div 1 and 2, Engr Branch, Sp Div, RSC, Central Staffs, and G6/HQ 1 Sig Bde, competing in a variety of events including Swimming/Water Polo, Football (Indoor and Outdoor), Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Triathlon, and Cross Country. In 2003 our work programme placed a burden on what we could achieve and as a consequence only Football, Volleyball and Basketball were competed for, and the swimming result of late 2002 was taken into consideration for the final result. In the end the league table looked something like this:

Position	Team	Points	Events Won
1	Support Div	23	Volleyball
2	Operations Div Team 1	22	Basketball
3	Central Staffs	19	Football Outdoor
4	Operations Div Team 2	18	Swimming
5	Engr Branch	14	Football Indoor
6	G6/HQ 1 Sig Bde	13	
7	RSC	7	

Unfortunately the first event of 2004, Football 5 a side, had to be postponed as it came at the start of the move to our new headquarters building. This is re-planned for the 27/28 April. The remainder have been spread across the calendar and published widely through a poster campaign. The intent, as for last year, is to present the Ugo Mara Trophy at the Commander's Christmas presentation in December.

In conclusion, the facilities exist and the structure is there for excellent sport. The will to compete and enjoy the activities is also undoubtedly there. Most importantly, we have the nucleus of volunteers to provide the planning, administration and coordination of all those events and opportunities. To them we are very grateful.

**UGO MARA CUP  
COMPETITION 2004**

**Indoor Football - 5-a-side**  
16/17 Feb 04

**Basketball**  
03/10 Mar 04

**Cross-Country Run**  
07 Apr 04

**Volleyball**  
11/12 May 04

**Triathlon**  
16 Jun 04

**Tennis**  
07 Jul 04

**Swimming / Water Polo**  
21/22 Sep 04

**Outdoor 5-a-side Football**  
28/27 Oct 04

**Note:**

1. Aim: To provide HQ Divisions with a platform for competitive, healthy competition.
2. Teams: Opert, Opert, Engr, RSC, Sp, Central Staff, G6 and 1 Sig Bde.
3. Coordination: Individual, volunteer DCA.
4. Result: Team Trophy and Winners/Runners Up trophies.
5. Prizes: Competing in and winning the Ugo Mara Cup.

