

## **A “Peace Pitch” in Folkestone is named after WW1 Officer, Walter Tull.**

A charity football match between Shepway Sports Trust and Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN) was held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August to commemorate the opening of Folkestone’s ‘Peace Pitch’. The pitch, at Three Hills Sports Park on Cheriton Road, will be named after Folkestone-born Walter Tull, the first black professional footballer and WW1 British Officer.

After a successful campaign from the National Children’s Football Alliance (NCFA), the pitch will be twinned with Flanders Peace Field in Mesen, Belgium, the site of the 1914 Christmas Truces, where British and German troops ceased fire during World War 1 and played football in peace.

Ennie Brennan, CEO of NCFA, said: *“The importance of a peace pitch in Folkestone under the name of Walter Tull is highly symbolic. The world of football needs to recognise this great man and Folkestone needs to cherish this unique peace pitch for generations to come”*

Laurence Hickmott, Chief Executive of Shepway Sports Trust, commented: *“For Shepway Sports Trust to be involved with such an important and historic project is an honour and privilege. We are delighted to have worked closely with the NCFA and Three Hills Sports Park to ensure that the 3G pitch is now officially a ‘Peace Pitch’ in memory of the great Walter Tull. We look forward to seeing many people from all ages and backgrounds enjoy this community Peace Pitch for years to come”*

The opening ceremony on Saturday involved the official handover of the memorial plaque and a Peace Poppy Ball. The match between Shepway Sports Trust and Kent Refugee Action Network ended 5-4, with KRAN securing the win.



Image: Shepway Sports Trust and Kent Refugee Action Network before the charity football match with the memorial plaque and Peace Poppy Ball.

