

# HST



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## HISTORY STUDENT TIMES

100 YEARS OF UNIVERSITY SPORT



# CONTENTS

## **3 Letter from the Editor**

### **Hello from HistSoc**

Claire McArdle

## **4 It's coming home ... almost**

Kieran Fowler—HISTSOC Sports Secretary 2018/19

## **6 Sport, sexism and slander: A history of women at the Olympic Games**

Rosie Plummer

## **8 A marathon journey: Women's fight to run**

Toni Stephenson

## **10 "Find the good. It's all around you. Find it, showcase it and you'll start believing it."**

### **The legacy of Jesse Owens**

Brogan Coulson-Haggins

## **12 German football: Loyalties, division and Cold War**

Joseph Ronan

## **14 The Paralympic Games**

Brogan Coulson-Haggins

## **16 The history of cricket**

Lauren Hunter

## **19 10 sports you didn't know were at the Olympics**

# 100 YEARS OF UNIVERSITY SPORT

## Letter from the Editor

This year marks 100 years of British University Sport (BUCS). The University of Leeds was one of the 'Founding Ten', taking part in the first formal university athletics meeting in Manchester on 28 May 1919. Therefore, it seemed appropriate for this issue to cover sporting history. Articles in edition three cover sport's successes, failures, and the inspirational moments many of us have probably drawn upon.

As always I would like to thank the fantastic team of writers for their efforts for this edition and throughout the year.

It's been a pleasure to be this year's editor. Thank you for supporting the 2018/19 History Student Times.

Brogan Coulson-Haggins

## HELLO FROM HISTSOC

Hello historians!

I'm sad to say that this will be my last letter to you all. Back in March, we had our elections for your new History Society Committee.

It's been an amazing year for History Society, from our record-breaking Otley Run all the way back in October, to both of our successful Give it A Go's, the Christmas Ball and our trip to Krakow!

We hope you've all had an amazing year so far and keep working hard, the end is in sight! To our new committee, congratulations again and we know you will do a fabulous job next year.

With a big hug and thanks from History Society, and a final goodbye,

I'm pleased to announce your new committee are:

President – Rachael Clouston

Vice President – Annabel Allum

Treasurer – Holly Sedgley

Sponsorship Secretary – Tash Blackmore

Academic Secretary – Emily Wiffin

Social Secretary (Ball) – Lizzie Riddoch

Social Secretary (Trip) – Millicent Waters

Publicity – Holly Bishop

Social Media Secretary – Emily Bowden

Sports Secretary (Football) – Benjamin Knapman

Sports Secretary (Netball) – Rosaleen Parkinson

Claire McArdle (Academic Sec)



England National Team: World Cup 2018

# IT'S COMING HOME

*... Almost*

**Kieran Fowler**

---

“Last summer was about much more than football.”

---

To many, England’s fourth place at the World Cup last summer may appear a strange choice when analysing an important historical sporting victory. Gareth Southgate’s team, despite their best efforts, came up agonisingly short. However, upon further inspection it becomes apparent that the Three Lions World Cup campaign was about much more than football and symbolised a more significant

victory for the country.

Southgate’s team, spearheaded by Harry Kane, stormed through the group stage. After an opening game victory against Tunisia, a dominating display against Panama and a slight slip-up against Belgium, England progressed out of the group stage and were drawn against a strong Colombian side. This game against Colombia featured the mo-

ment that every England fan feared: the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Beer gardens fell silent, pints remained untouched, pessimism returned. Penalty shoot-outs have historically not been something we do best as a nation, a fact which our manager knows better than most having missed the crucial penalty in Euro 1996. Yet, this confident young team appeared unstoppable and was not willing to let history stand in their way. After a crucial save from Jordan Pickford and a calmly taken penalty from Eric Dier, the English defeated the Colombians and sent pints flying into the air across the nation.

Following another impressive display against Sweden, the English were eventually knocked out of the competition in extra time by Croatia, and the dreams of a nation came to an end. We had reached our first semi-final since 1990 and we had a striker that finished as the top goal scorer in the tournament. The Three Lions had made the summer of 2018 an unforgettable experience.

Yet, as stated, this tournament was about much more than football. At a time when English politics resembled previous England World Cup experience (chaotic, unorganised and hopeless) Gareth Southgate's team provided more than a happy distraction this summer. Britain's decision to leave the EU divided a nation and created an alarming sentiment within the country. Dangerous 'racial overtones', as Southgate himself put it, began to be associated with Brexit. To reunite this nation, it would have taken something special, something unexpected and something huge. Step up Harry Kane and the rest of the English football team.

In a time when football is becoming much more politicised and racism in sport has began to rear its vulgar head again, our racially diverse football team acted as ambassadors for the nation. Generational opinions formed an idea about what modern day England should look like, opinions that begun to verge on xenophobia. Yet, despite this, our nations football team, featuring 11 black and mixed-race players, acted as role models for younger generations of all races. They proved in the summer and have continued to prove since

that racism has no place, not only in sport but in the world. They united a divided nation and filled the public with joy, not despair. Pubs across the UK, instead of being filled with conversation about Brexit, experienced discussion regarding Gareth Southgate's waistcoat and Harry Kane's goal scoring record. Old and young united in analysing whether it would be better for England to top or come second in the group and all joined together to give drunken renditions of Baddeil and Skinner's 'Three Lions'.

Last summer was about much more than football. It was about a nation divided, able to enjoy moments of unity in beer gardens across the UK. Unfortunately, Gareth Southgate's team were not able to bring football home this summer, but their World Cup run brought the nation together at a time when it was needed. As a result, the tournament should be seen as a monumental victory for England.



England Football Logo

## 19th Century

In British society in the nineteenth century, ideas surrounding reproduction and modesty dictated that sport was not the place for women. After all, what use would a woman be if she damaged her reproductive organs? The female body was, at this time, seen as a perpetual invalid, unable to bear pain, exercise or manual labour. These prejudices conveniently overlooked the enormous strength involved in childbirth, as well as the physical limitations caused by female dress of the time. I'd like to see a man play lacrosse in a corset.

Even as assumptions surrounding the inherent weakness of the female body began to decline, stigma surrounding female exercise remained. For a woman to be publicly involved in physical exercise was deemed immodest, selfish and attention seeking, which were of course, not desirable qualities in a wife. Baron de Coubertin, founder of the International Olympic Committee when the games were revived in 1896, summarised his own views about the immodesty of women in sport very succinctly, saying "let women practice all the sports if they wish, but let them not show it off." Unsurprisingly, women were not allowed to compete in these first modern Olympic games.

## 20th Century

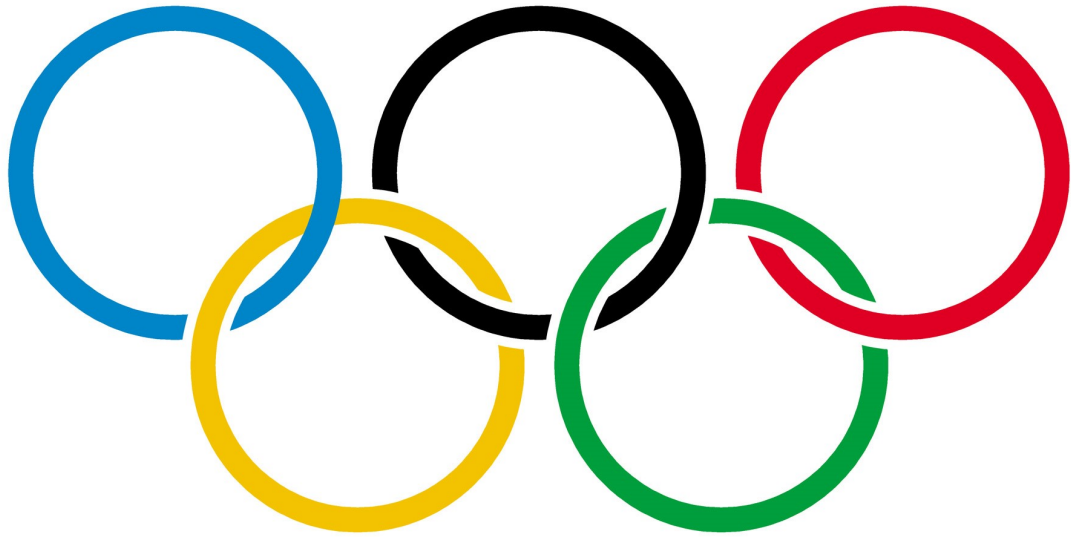
Attitudes to female exercise did begin to shift with the dawn of the 20th century, with women participating in the Olympic Games for the first time in 1900, competing in tennis and golf. These limited sports deemed suitable for women were clearly targeted at the upper classes, encouraging a celebration of wealthy white women's elite hobbies. Sports deemed less sophisticated, such as football or tug of war, were only available to men, creating a lack of role models in these more accessible games, excluding lower class women from participation in sport. Even as sport became accessible to some women, it was still not an option for all.

The beginning of the 20th century marked female struggles to be accepted into the political area. Parallel to this British women were also forcing their way into the unwelcoming world of sport. By 1920, there were still only five sports available to women in the Olympics, as opposed to the 22 available to men. In protest against this reluctance to include women, Alice Milliat organised a Women's Olympiad in 1921, after the Olympic Committee refused to include women's track and field events in the 1920 Games.

*Today the Olympic Games actively seek to promote gender equality, and yet we are still fighting to tackle the notion that it's not 'ladylike' to be strong, to grunt, to sweat. That it's not 'ladylike' to succeed.*

The Women's Olympiad, which continued until 1923 before merging with the Women's World Games, was a great success in demonstrating that women weren't too weak to compete. Partially due to this demonstration and pressure created by Milliat herself, the 800 metre sprint was opened to women for the first time in the 1928 Olympics. Sadly, male prejudice against women's capability in sport remained. The media distorted the races results, with one reporter claiming "Below us on the cinder path were 11 wretched women, 5 of whom dropped out before the finish, while 5 collapsed after reaching the tape." The result of such hostility and falsehood from male journalists was that women were prohibited from competing in the 800 metres until 1960, although photographs and film from the 1928 race proved that all the competitors had completed the run. This led to a lost generation of sportswomen, who were banned from running distances over 200 meters.

As in wider society, World War Two served as a catalyst for change in the world of sport. The conscription of female labour led to a celebration of women's strength, with propaganda such as 'Rosie the Riveter' exemplifying women's ability to be strong and



# Sport, Sexism and Slander

## *A History of Women in the Olympic Games*

**Rosie Plummer**

patriotic, without sacrificing femininity. As women began to break down the barriers in sport, the female marathon was finally introduced in 1984, nearly 90 years later than the men's counterpart event. Despite this progress, it's only very recently that the Olympics have begun to accept female participation in traditionally 'masculine' sports, such as boxing, and it wasn't until 1992 that the number of events available to women in the Olympics reached even half the number of available to men.

### 21st Century

Even today, there remains a clear stigma against female athletes. The modern media remains prejudiced against women, harking back to the fallacious reporting of the 200 metres in 1928. While focus on physicality is, to some extent, legitimate in sport reporting, the attention given to women's sports kit, their make-up, their hair, their marital status, is intended to distract from their actual performance. Women are still not receiving equal treatment to men. This prejudice

against female athletes is reflected in the lack of women in authority positions within the sporting world. Only 11% of the coaches present at the 2016 Rio games being women. Nonetheless, there has been progress, with the 2012 games being the first time that all competing countries sent female athletes, showing how far we have come since the first modern Olympic Games.

Today, all Olympic sports are available to both men and women. Despite this inclusion, there is still a long way to go in tackling the stereotypes surrounding female athletes, which the media have long contributed to and sustained. We are making our way towards a day where women will be celebrated solely for their performance, rather than for their reproductive capabilities or their looks, but we are not yet there.



Kathrine Switzer being attacked while running the Boston Marathon, 1967

# A MARATHON JOURNEY: WOMEN'S FIGHT TO RUN

**Toni Stephenson**

There have been countless moments in history that have changed the course of particular sports. When looking at the history of women's sport one particular journey stands out; the journey of women to become officially recognised competitors in marathons. This movement can be traced back to the launching of the modern Olympics in 1896, although the height of women's struggle for recognition in this sport conveniently coincided with the peak of the women's liberation movement in the 1960s and 1970s.

Female exclusion from sport had been institutionalised through the revival of the Olympic Games since organiser, Pierre de Coubertin, felt that their inclusion would be 'impractical, uninteresting, anaesthetic

and incorrect' as the ancient Olympics had been a male only tournament. However, one woman sought to challenge this. A Greek woman, Stamata Revithi, joined the 26 mile and 385 yard run alongside the men. Although she was never officially recognised as a participant, Revithi completed the marathon in an impressive 5 hours and 30 minutes. However, this did not spark any change towards inclusivity.

It wasn't for another 70 years that attitudes towards female competitors were seriously challenged. Two young students set to disprove popular conceptions of women's fragility in sport through running America's most famous marathon in Boston.



The more famed of the two is Kathrine Switzer, at the time a 20-year-old student in 1967 and the first woman to run the Boston Marathon as a numbered entrant. The Boston Athletic Association rules stated that women were not allowed to run. Kathrine, however, gained her number through signing up using her initials K. V. Switzer, how she commonly referred to herself in her articles for the college newspaper. She also asked her coach to submit her medical forms to avoid officials of the race realise her gender. Around two miles into the marathon organisers realised she was a woman and race official Jock Semple attempted to ambush her on the course and confiscate her number. This scene was captured on camera and the now famous photo attracted considerable media attention.

The same year, finishing almost an hour ahead of Switzer, the lesser known Roberta 'Bobbi' Gibb ran unregistered alongside the men. A keen long distance runner, she had also run the marathon the previous year after receiving a rejection of her application with an attached letter claiming women were not physically capable of running such long distance. Donning her brother's sportswear and hoodie, Gibb hid behind a bush near the start line and joined the race anyway, eventually being encouraged to remove the sweatshirt by supportive fellow runners.

The years following 1967 saw a growing number of women running unofficially at Boston including Carol Ann Pancko, Elaine Pederson, and Marjorie Fish. Despite the successful completion of the marathons by these women, it wasn't until 1974 that women were officially allowed to run at Boston. The journey didn't end here. There was women still could not run the Olympic marathon as organisers claimed there would be too few competitors. The longest women's race in the Olympics was only 1,500m.

The cosmetics company Avon approached Kathrine Switzer concerning the sponsoring of a women's marathon event. The first was held in Atlanta, Georgia in March 1978, attracting over 250 worldwide entrants. The success and growing popularity of the Avon-

sponsored women's marathon thwarted the idea that there would be too few competitors for an Olympic event. Under increased pressure from the general public and the press including the Times, the Olympics finally allowed women to compete in 1984.

Some of these women's actions were not consciously part of the women's liberation movement, Gibb said, "I hadn't intended to make a feminist statement. I was running against the distance [not the men] and I was measuring myself with my own potential." However, the restrictions and obstacles they faced by the amateur authorities and the men organising the races were characteristic of the institutionalised sexism of the 1970s. Whether it was their intention or not, the women running these marathons were doing something much wider than running 26.2 miles, they were smashing through the limiting conceptions of women's abilities and opening the doors for the participation of women in all sports.



Paula Radcliffe at the 2015 London Marathon. She holds the world record for the fastest female marathon with a time of 2:15:25 set in 2003.



Jesse Owens, 1936

**“Find the good. It's all around you.  
Find it, showcase it and you'll start  
believing it.”**

*The legacy of Jesse Owens*

**Brogan Coulson-Haggins**

Jesse Owens is known for having been one of the greatest and possibly most famous athletes of all time. The four-time gold medallist broke through racial barriers, humiliated Hitler and created a lasting legacy.

Born in 1913, Jesse Owens was the grandson of a slave and the son of a sharecropper. He showed athletic promise from a young age, setting the high school world record in his senior year in the 100 and 220 yard dash. He then attended Ohio State Universi-

ty, working a number of jobs to support himself and his wife, including a night elevator operator and waiter, all while continuing to train to be a world-class athlete. In the run up to the 1936 Olympics, he set three world records and tied a fourth in the Big Ten Championships in 1935 – all in a span of 45 minutes.

Having set an incredible precedent, Owens and athletes from around the world descended on Berlin to compete in the 1936 Olympic Games. The games were a stage for Adolf Hitler, leader of Germany, to

show the world that the Aryan people, Europeans with blonde hair and blue eyes, were the superior race. Jesse Owens, an African American from Alabama, thwarted Hitler's vision. Owens was the most successful athlete of the Games, winning four track and field gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and long jump. He was the first American to win four golds and held the record for 48 years.

Despite his impressive achievements, Owens still faced racial discrimination as a black man in America. While in Germany he stayed at the same hotel as other athletes, whereas in the US his life was shaped by segregation, only being allowed to stay in hotels for black people. President Franklin D. Roosevelt didn't invite Owens to the White House following his incredible success in Germany. He also didn't receive the same commercial opportunities as his white counterparts, instead being forced to work often demeaning jobs, for example, racing against horses. He eventually filed for bankruptcy and was found guilty of tax evasion in 1966.

Here lies the strange juxtaposition. Owens was a pioneering athlete. Not only did he break world records, and an incredible number at that, he also broke through racial hierarchies, humiliating the Nazi regime in its own country. At the same time his own country treated him as a second class citizen. However, he did set a legacy. In 1990 he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George H. W. Bush. In the same year he featured on the US postage stamp.

The following quote from his official website sums his lasting influence on the sporting world: "Jesse Owens proved in Berlin and thereafter that he was a dreamer who could make the dreams of others come true, a speaker who could make the world listen and a man who held out hope to millions of young people."



Jesse Owens at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

# German Football: Loyalties, Divisions and the Cold War

Joseph Ronan

In 1954, West Germany defeated communist Hungary in the World Cup final. It was to be the first of three World Cup trophies they would lift in the period between the Second World War and German reunification in 1990, victories that were to become emblematic of the astounding cultural and economic revival taking place in the post-war democratic West. In contrast, East Germany (the German Democratic Republic or GDR) did not even enter. A year after the death of Stalin, and a series of uprisings crushed only by Soviet tanks, the new communist state was struggling.

However, despite its comparative inferiority, East German football provides a fascinating lens through which the rest of society, and the German Cold War experience, can be viewed. Football under communism, like the rest of society, was subject to the dictates of the state. The state, therefore, could direct resources as it saw fit: “Why are there no tall players in East German football?” fans would joke, “because they’re all rowers!” However, what this meant, was that relationships between fans, players, clubs and those in power carried unique political immediacy. In 1954 for instance, East Germans celebrating the footballing victories of their neighbours were watched, noted and reported by the Stasi, the state secret police.

As such, it was the existence of divided loyalties, and contested identities, that defined East German football. The dominant team in East

Germany, winning ten consecutive league titles from 1979 to 1988, was FC Dynamo Berlin, a side backed by the Stasi. Yet throughout this period fans flocked to city rivals FC Union Berlin, a poorer and less successful side who enjoyed a friendship with a club from West Berlin, FC Hertha Berlin. In displaying banners at matches declaring solidarity for one another, Union and Hertha fans made a profound statement rejecting the divided state of their city, and their nation. This friendship, however, has, since national reunification in 1990, degenerated into bitter rivalry, illustrating the complex, and often contradictory, nature of the relationship between East and West. Furthermore, whilst East Germans cheered their 1-0 victory over West Germany at the 1974 World Cup, they also celebrated the West’s eventual victory, and greatly admired their inspirational captain Franz Beckenbauer. Evidently, fans were quite capable of holding both an East German, and a German, identity.

For players too the game became weighted with the pressures of Cold War politics. The case of Frank Lippman, the star player of FC Dynamo Dresden, is one such example. In 1986 Dresden were winning 5 – 1 on aggregate against the West German side Bayer Uerdingen, in the quarter final of the European Cup Winners Cup. Lippman, who was playing only because the Stasi had ordered his manager, who had planned not to select him, to do so, had scored twice. However, in just forty-five minutes Dresden contrived to concede six



West German World Cup Team, 1974

times, eventually losing to Bayer 7 – 5. Later that night footage emerged of Lippman celebrating the opposition’s second goal. That night he fled, escaped the Stasi and settled in the West.

Whilst the German national team reunified in December 1990, two months after the nation itself, it was not until the 1991 – 1992 season that East German clubs were finally integrated into the Bundesliga, the top division of German football. However, by the time a united Germany won their fourth FIFA World Cup, in Brazil, in 2014, a victory that should have been a celebration of the successes of reunification, there was only one player born in the former GDR in the squad. Even that player, Toni Kroos, played for Bayern Munich at the time, by far the wealthiest and most successful German club. Likewise, not one club of the eighteen that made up the Bundesliga in 2014 was from the old GDR. Today, RB Leipzig are the sole East German representative, a club, ironically enough, whose controversial and meteoric rise has been fuelled by the financial might of the capitalist giant Red Bull.

However, this disparity only mirrors that in wider society. Even Dresden, heralded as the economic miracle of the old East, has a GDP per capita still significantly lower than the average of the fifty largest West German cit-

ies. Politics too remains shaped by old Cold War divisions. The populist right wing party AfD (Alternative for Germany) enjoys around double the vote share in the old GDR. In 2018 there were racist riots in Chemnitz, and twenty-thousand members of the far-right group Pegida marched through Dresden chanting Islamophobic songs. Even now, three decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Cold War divisions remain, and German football, rather like German society, continues to grapple with the legacy of separation.

---

“For players too the game became weighted with the pressures of Cold War politics.”

---

# THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

“Life need not have limits”

Richard Whitehead, double gold-winning Paralympian and three-time world record holder, Team GB.

Brogan Coulson-Haggins



Team GB at 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony

The word 'Paralympic' derives from the preposition 'para' and word 'Olympic', meaning alongside the Olympics, or parallel Olympics. The term serves to demonstrate how the Olympics and Paralympics coexist side-by-side. Although the first games were held in 1960 in Rome, the showcase of incredible talent and ability began two decades earlier.

World War Two was the deadliest conflict in history, with an estimated 3% of the world's population losing their lives. Millions were wounded, leaving many with permanent, life-changing injuries. To rehabilitate wounded servicemen, Stoke Mandeville Hospital opened a spinal injuries centre in Buckinghamshire in 1944, under the lead of Dr. Ludwig Guttman. He believed that sport had a positive effect on his patients' wellbeing. On 29 July 1948, Guttman organised the first Stoke Mandeville Games, a competition for wheelchair athletes. At this first games, 16 injured servicemen and women competed in archery. In 1952, it became known as the International Stoke Mandeville Games, after Dutch servicemen joined. By 1954, this had grown to 14 nations.

400 athletes with disabilities, representing 23 countries, arrived in Rome in 1960 ready to compete in the first Paralympic Games. Events included archery, swimming, basketball and javelin. In 1976, Sweden held the first Winter Games for Paralympians, with events such as alpine and Nordic skiing and ice sledge racing. The

first modern Summer Paralympics took place in Seoul, South Korea in 1988 and the first modern Winter Paralympics was held in Tignes and Albertville, France, in 1992.

The last Paralympic Games, in Rio de Janeiro, saw incredible figures. 2.15 million tickets were sold, a record only beaten by the 2.7 million spectators at the London 2012 games. 220 world records were set and a further 432 Paralympic Games records were broken making it the most successful Games in terms of athletic performance ever. 83 countries won at least one medal, the most ever at a Paralympic Games, and 154 countries covered the Games on media outlets. From Rome to Rio, the Games have grown ten-fold, with 4,350 athletes competing in 2016. The 2018 Winter Games in South Korea was also record-breaking, featuring 567 athletes from 49 countries, the games were viewed on television by an incredible 2.02 billion people worldwide.

Stephen Hawking, the famous physicist, said at the Opening Ceremonies of the Barcelona Games in 1992: "Each one has within us the spark of fire, a creative touch." This quote feels fitting when describing the Paralympic Games. Overcoming injuries, the 16 original ex-servicemen and women who first competed in 1948 embodied this "spark of fire" and those competing today continue to do so.

**"Don't tell me you can't"**

Juan Jose Mendez Fernandez , medal-winning Paralympic cyclist, Spain.

Cricket is stereotypically viewed as a quintessentially English, gentlemanly and polite sport. It carries connotations of upper-class participation and is redolent of bright summer days, long balmy evenings and cucumber sandwiches. However, this has not always been so. Invented in the Middle Ages as a pastime for peasants, 'club-ball' was banned during the reign of Edward III (1327-77) because he viewed such distractions as detrimental to the ongoing effort to defeat France during the Hundred Years' War.

The origin of the term 'cricket' is unclear: historian Derek Birley, in his *Social History of English Cricket*, explains that 'criquet' was the Anglo-Norman word for an elusive game played with a ball and stick. The Anglo-Saxon word for 'a shepherd's staff' was 'cricc', and it is believed that young shepherds used these as the first cricket bats to alleviate the boredom of long hours watching over their flocks.

Aside from the aforementioned reference to 'club-ball', no records of cricket survive from the period from the fourteenth century to the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603). The sport resurfaces in the sixteenth century, known to have been played by farmers and schoolboys alike. By the eighteenth century, people began to bet on the results of matches, and bringing in the need for laws and regulations. The oldest set of cricket laws date from 1744 and are preserved in the museum at Lords, London. These laws were formalised in 1797 by the Marylebone Cricket Club, based at Lords, and which assumed authority for the writing and interpretation of cricket laws, a responsibility it still holds today. Many aspects of the game were regulated, such as the size of the pitch, the weight of the ball, and the area of the wicket. During this time, overarm bowling was also developed; previously, most players had bowled underarm. This change to the bowling method necessitated a redesign for cricket bats: a ball bowled overarm is better struck with a straight bat, whereas most bats previous to this time had been curved.

# The History of Cricket

Lauren Hunter

“A cricket ground is a flat piece of earth with some buildings around it.”

Richie Benaud





Monmouth Cricket Club, mid-1950s

Regular fixtures soon became popular. For example, the annual match between Eton and Harrow has been played since 1805, and according to Birley, the poet Lord Byron played for Harrow in its first year (they lost). Cricket grew quickly in popularity in response to its new relation to gambling, and consequently it shifted from a rural pastime into one increasingly urban in nature. Aristocrats put together their own cricket clubs in towns and cities and competed to employ the best players, who were often from the lower economic orders. Therefore, it may be argued that integration between those of different social positions was important to the formation of local cricket clubs.

Cricket was spread across the world by British imperialism during the 1800s, to such places as India, South Africa, Australia and the West Indies. Cricket continues to be a popular sport in these places, and their teams form the core of international competitions today. The Ashes, an international test-series between England and Australia, began in 1882 after England lost to Australia and a mock obituary for English cricket was published in *The Sporting Times*. A bail

was burnt as representative of the physical remains of the game, and its ashes were contained in a small urn which was preserved by a group of Melbourne women. An urn continues to be presented to the winners of the match today, though the original is preserved in the Lords museum. The 1800s and 1900s have been labelled by many as the 'golden age' of cricket, and stars such as W. G. Grace, and later Wally Hammond and Don Bradman, were household names. In 1876, Grace set the record for the highest individual score in an innings (344) and held this record for the next 19 years. He was described at his death in 1915 as a sportsman who 'carried a certain atmosphere of romance about him', and the author of his *Guardian* obituary expresses sorrow that 'no cricketer, living or dead [...] ever will' match the 'amazing' achievements of Grace's career.

Today, cricket remains popular for both audiences and participants. In the 2000s, a new format of the game was introduced: the 'Twenty20', or T20 match, in which each side plays just 20 overs. The resulting shorter game proved to be popular

Continued on next page.



W. G. Grace, 1891

with spectators, and the Indian Premier League, a competition conducted in this format which began in 2008, has been described as ‘the most lucrative and popular form of cricket’ by the online encyclopaedia Britannica. In the IPL, eight teams represent eight Indian cities, and teams may recruit players from overseas. The financial rewards offered to professional players by these teams has created new opportunities for players to accumulate wealth and celebrity status. In addition, there is also a T20 World Cup played every two years. The T20 format has been credited with the revitalisation of cricket for the twenty-first century, and also for renewing interest in cricket from young players.

However, a 2014 Telegraph article reported concern that participation in ‘grassroots’ cricket at local clubs in England is declining. The article blames this upon the ‘pressures of modern life’ such as shift work and the cost of cricket equip-

ment felt by participants. A survey commissioned by the England and Wales Cricket Board shows that participation in local cricket declined by over 50,000 participants from 2013 to 2014. This led to the Board promising increased funding for local clubs, but despite this, the effects of declining participation are still felt. For example, Darton Cricket Club, a local South Yorkshire club, receives funding from the ECB to hold ‘All Stars’ training sessions for children aged from 5 years as part of an attempt to increase participation. The club has suffered from lack of junior participation over the last decade. However, new teams of under-9s and under-13s have recently formed, and this is attributed to the increased interest in cricket sparked by televised global T20 competitions.

Cricket is a long standing and popular sport which permeates social classes and provides opportunities for community engagement. Its ever-changing form has seen it begin as a popular, lower-class pastime and subsequently become appropriated by aristocrats wishing to harness the potential returns from gambling. This helped to produce local and county clubs and celebrity players. More recently, further innovations such as T20, which critics attacked as detrimental to more traditional forms of cricket, have raised awareness and participation. Measures to improve access and participation are beginning to prove effective, despite challenges such as funding and the demanding modern lifestyles of participants.

# 10 events you didn't know were at the Olympics

## Swimming Obstacle Race

Debuted at the 1900 games in Paris, the 200m course involved crawling over boats, swimming under them and climbing a pole.

## Ski ballet

An event similar to figure skating, ski ballet was part of the Winter Olympics until 2000. Participants would perform a choreographed routine of flips, jumps and spins, all while descending a small slope.

## Long jump for horses

Another event taking place for the first and only time at the 1900 Paris games, organisers combined two Olympic sports to create long jump for horses. Belgian Constant van Langendonck and his horse, Extra Dry, took the gold medal with a distance of 6.1 metres. For comparison the current men's world record is 8.95 metres.

## Croquet

The Paris 1900 games features yet again! The quintessentially British pastime was an Olympic sport for the first and last time in 1900. Strangely, all of the competitors were French. However, it wasn't a hit, only selling one ticket.

## Plunge for distance

The 1904 games in St Louis featured this strange water sport. Competitors jumped into the pool and glided underwater without further propulsion. The person who travelled the longest distance in 60 seconds, or by the time they surfaced, won. William Dickey, of Team USA, won in 1904, travelling 62 feet 6 inches.

## Tug of War

The Tug of War appeared at five games from 1900 to 1920. In a team of eight, competitors had five minutes to pull their opponents six feet over the line. In 1908, the London Police Club took gold representing Team GB.

## Water motorsport

London held the Olympic Games in 1908 and debuted water motorsport. Competitors raced along an eight nautical mile course in the English Channel. The event was hit by bad weather with gale force winds pushing the British boat, *Wolsely-Siddely*, onto a mud bank.

## Singlestick

Only appearing at the 1904 games, singlestick was an event similar to fencing. Competitors aimed to hit each other with a wooden stick. American Albertson Van Zo Post won gold.

## Pistol duelling

Thankfully this isn't exactly what it sounds like. Pistol duelling was an event at only two Olympics Games, in 1906 and 1912. Competitors fired at mannequins with targets painted on their chests.

## Roller hockey

Think ice hockey on skates. The 1992 Barcelona games was the only Olympics to feature roller hockey in which Argentina took the gold.



# HISTORY STUDENT TIMES