NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE ICSHC

In September 2014 the centre welcomed Professor Martin Polley as director...

I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the new director of the International Centre of Sports History and Culture (ICSHC)

Having previously taught at the University of Winchester and the University of Southampton, I joined DMU in this role and also as a Professor in History.

I have long had connections with the centre’s excellent staff, through sports history networks, and I have got to know the centre well over the past few years in my role as the external examiner on the Sports History and Culture MA and as a regular guest speaker on the impressive international MA in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport.

I thus come in to the post with a good knowledge of the people and the courses, and fully aware that this is simply the best place for sports history in the UK.

My new colleagues have made me very welcome, and have given me plenty of wise counsel as I have got to know the topics.

It is great to work with such a team of academics and administrators; I would particularly like to thank Professor Matthew Taylor, who ran the centre as interim director between Professor Tony Collins’ departure and my arrival in September.

I’m joining the centre at an interesting time on many fronts. We have just launched the unique BA (Hons) in Sports History and Culture, a new direction alongside our long-running postgraduate provision, and I have taken on the role of programme leader for this course to help get it established.

The International MA, run by the Centre International d’Etude du Sport (CIES) and in collaboration with SDA Bocconi School of Management in Milan, and the University of Neuchâtel, was named by SportBusiness International as the best postgraduate sports management course in the world in 2014, and as the new co-scientific director for the DMU part of this flagship course, my challenge is to help it stay at the top.

OUR MA IN SPORTS HISTORY AND CULTURE AND OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE OF PHD PROJECTS ARE HELPING US STAY AT THE FOREFRONT OF SPORTS HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP.

On the research front, we have been part of the History submission for REF 2014, and the strong scores for outputs and the excellent impact scores give us a good base to move forward. I look forward to working in all of these areas, and in helping the centre to maintain and develop its outstanding reputation.

Professor Martin Polley

PARIS CONFERENCE

The ICSHC was represented at one of the world’s largest and most prestigious history conferences in September 2014.

Organised every three years, the fourth congress of the European Network in Universal and Global took place at the College de France and the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris.

Matt Taylor organised one of only two panels among hundreds to focus on sport and leisure. ‘Sport, Cultural Encounters and the British World, 1870-1939’ featured contributions from Jared Van Duinen, of Charles Sturt University in Australia and Phashant Kidambi, from the University of Leicester.

Matt’s paper, ‘Boxing Beyond Boundaries’, examined the life and career of the world heavyweight and middleweight boxer Bob Fitzsimmons (1863-1917). It used Fitzsimmon’s life story to illuminate the complexities of identity in an age of imperialism and early globalisation.

Born in Cornwall but brought up in New Zealand, Fitzsimmons was claimed as a champion by British, Australian, New Zealand and American newspapers.

He was regarded as both a symbol of imperial unity and a representative of settler societies in the British world.

Tall, skinny and ungainly, he was also widely appropriated as a symbol of white masculinity at a time when the global colour line was being consistently drawn across the empire and beyond.

The panel is intended as the first in a number of international collaborations, with the centre acting as the hub of a projected research network on sport, transnationalism and global history before 1945.

SILVERSTONE INTERNSHIP

David Freestone – a DMU history graduate – gained an internship in 2014 with the British Racing Driver’s Club at the Silverstone archive.

David said: “As a student with an interest in motorsport history, it is very emotive.”

L’EQUIPE ARTICLE ON 1928 OLYMPIC MARATHON WINNER

Professor Pierre Lanfranchi contributed to an article in October 2014 by French daily sports newspaper L’Équipe about the 1928 Olympic Marathon winner Ahmed Boughéra El Ouaïf.

He was a French athlete at the time when Algeria was still part of France. Tracked down by reporters many years after his victory he was found to be a pauper. Later he was the victim of a shooting on the first floor of a café in Saint-Denis, Paris. The circumstances of his tragic death remain unclear but the attack is believed to have been carried out by members of the National Liberation Front after he had refused to support them.
The ICSHC launched its new undergraduate course in September 2014.

The BA (Hons) in Sports History and Culture was a first for the centre, which had previously specialised in postgraduate programmes, and is unique to the UK, as no other universities teach an integrated bachelor's degree on these themes.

The course – which builds on modules taught on DMU’s BA (Hons) History degree, but goes beyond them by creating a bespoke package – is aimed at students who have taken A-level History and want to specialise in the study of sport, and those from PE backgrounds who want to explore the social and historical aspects of sport.

Students – who look at the development of sport in various cultural settings while also developing their studying and methodological skills as historians – will graduate with a unique perspective on modern sport, and an ability to think critically and comparatively about how sport works in society.

The course also includes opportunities for work placements in media, policy and heritage agencies and uses innovative assessment methods, including blogs and presentations, as well as essays and exams.

We are enjoying working with the first cohort, who arrived last year, and are looking forward to developing this programme as part of the ICSHC’s existing work.

For more information on the courses visit dmu.ac.uk/sportshistory

BA IN SPORTS HISTORY AND CULTURE LAUNCHED

The ICSHC was part of a team, which included Human Studios from Sheffield and Professor Vanessa Toulmin from the University of Sheffield, which took inspiration from then England manager Sir Alf Ramsey’s verdict on Brazil’s legendary 1970 World Cup team.

Brazil is famous for playing ‘the beautiful game’ and the exhibition was designed to celebrate the country’s legacy to European football.

‘They Can Play’, led by the ICSHC’s Dr Neil Carter, selected 10 players plus the 1970 World Cup team to illustrate the historical links between Brazil and Europe.

Players included: Charles Miller, a pioneer of Brazilian football who had spent his formative years in England; Leônidas da Silva, an early African-Brazilian famous for his ‘bicycle kick’ at the 1938 World Cup; recent stars such as Ronaldo and Juninho, who mainly played in Europe and reflect European football’s economic power; Marta, who has played a key role in changing perceptions of women’s football; and, of course, Pelé, the most famous Brazilian in the world.

‘They Can Play’ was made up of three parts. Firstly there was an exhibition at Brazil British House, São Paulo, between 8 June and 16 July 2014. Secondly there was a short film of player biographies and statistical information on Brazilian football. Finally, there was an extensive online gallery, combining the contents of the exhibition with a trip around the DMU campus.

To celebrate the 2014 Brazil World Cup, DMU commissioned an exhibition titled ‘They Can Play’.

BRITISH CONSULATE IN BRAZIL HOSTS WORLD CUP EXHIBITION
TOP INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR ICSHC WORLD CHAMPION

In November the international rowing federation FISA named ICSHC student Emma Twigg female rower of the year. Earlier in the year Emma, on the International MA in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport, won gold in the women’s single scull at the 2014 World Rowing Championships in Amsterdam.

She represented New Zealand at both the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic Games, and has maintained her elite training regime in a bid to qualify for the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Talking about her university studies, Emma said:

“For me this is all about preparing for life after sport. I need to look for something else following a career as an Olympic athlete. For the past 10 years I have been training and going through the same regime with the same people and the same authorities, I felt I needed a different challenge.

“Taking a year out to prepare for the future will help psychologically when it comes to entering the Olympics. I still have to qualify. Provided I can train and study and still maintain a good enough standard to be selected, I will be happy.”

James Panter, from the ICSHC, added:

“Everybody connected with the International MA is thrilled that Emma has received such a prestigious award. It is really well-deserved. De Montfort University must be bringing her plenty of good luck, as since joining the course she has won every race she has competed in.”

WELCOME TO LEICESTER! 15TH EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL MA BEGINS

The ICSHC welcomed the 15th edition class of the CIES International MA in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport to Leicester in September 2014.

Each year students travel from all around the world to study on the programme, with more than 90 per cent of course graduates now working in the sports industry.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Sauber Formula 1 Team, FIFA and UEFA are all recent destinations for course graduates.

The academic team was also delighted to welcome Professor Martin Polley, who joins Professor Pierre Lanfranchi as the second co-scientific director.

A busy programme of lectures, sports industry guest speakers, alumni talks and field visits was arranged as part of the Humanities of Sport module held at the centre.

James Panter, module co-ordinator, said,

“The course has now firmly established itself as one of the most respected sports management degree courses in the world.

“We are very lucky to attract such high quality students to the course and it is always an absolute pleasure to welcome them to Leicester for the start of a very intensive year of teaching.

“We are also extremely grateful to the wide range of guest speakers and field visit organisations who all help to make the course so successful each year.”

NEWS FROM JEFF HILL

Professor Emeritus Jeff Hill is writing a book with a working title Crossing Boundaries: Learie Constantine and the Atlantic World for which he hopes to find a publisher. He gave a paper on this topic at the British Society of Sports History’s regional workshop at Manchester Metropolitan University’s Crewe Campus at the end of February 2015.
‘KIT: FASHIONING THE SPORTING BODY’ SEMINAR

The special edition of Sport in History edited by Jean Williams was celebrated in October 2014 with a seminar. The publication includes chapters on equestrian sporting dress by Professor Alison Goodrum, on pedestrian and pugilistic costume by Dr Dave Day and Dr Samantha Oldfield, on the ‘quiet’ mod style of Martin Peters by Professor John Hughson, on the changing design of football kits by Dr Chris Stride et al, and on sporting dress by Professor Alison Goodrum, on pedestrian and pugilistic costume by Dr Dave Day and Dr Samantha Oldfield.

Jean’s paper was based on research at the Adidas archive (University of the Arts) and Jean Williams. She was also a consultant and provided material for the BBC and Imperial War Museum ‘World War One at Home’ website. Jean was interviewed on munitions workers football, played at Highbury Road, Coventry, for the programme broadcast in November 2014.

HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES

Throughout 2014 and early 2015, the centre’s Professor Rob Colls organised a well-attended series of history seminars, which included papers from: Dr Prashant Kidambi (Centre for Urban History, Leicester) on ‘The 1911 Indian Cricket Tour’; Professor James Walvin (University of York) on ‘Slavery in Small Things’; Professor Gavin Kitching (University of Sydney) on ‘Wittgenstein for Historians’; and Professor Lucy Newlyn (University of Oxford) on William and Dorothy Wordsworth.

THE GREATER GAME EXHIBITION

Long-time consultant for the National Football Museum and its hall of fame Jean Williams was invited to provide an academic reference in support of a major £100,000 Heritage Lottery Funded exhibition.

‘The Greater Game’, which opened in December 2014 and runs until September 2015, celebrates the role of football during World War One, and Jean also provided a chapter for the book of the exhibition and text for the related website.

After starting their studies in the Humanities of Sport at the ICSHC, students continue the course at SDA Bocconi School of Management in Milan, learning about sports management, before studying sports law at the Université de Neuchâtel in Switzerland. Overall co-ordination is provided by the Centre International d’Etude du Sport (CIES), also based in Switzerland.

The course was praised for its strengths in the key areas of graduate employability, alumni networks, quality of teaching and international appeal.

At a special ceremony in Lausanne, Switzerland, CIES director Professor Denis Oswald received the prestigious award from SportBusiness International representatives and British Olympian Colin Jackson CBE.

The awards evening was part of the WISE Work in Sports international convention. More than 500 international sport management courses and alumni submitted applications to the 2014 competition.

Professor Pierre Larnfranchi and retiring co-scientific director Professor Richard Holt said:

“This award is the culmination of a remarkable international co-operation between three universities for more than 14 years. It is a unique course, bringing together law, management and the humanities of sport. We have excellent students who, with our help, have achieved exceptional success.”

James Panter, CIES Humanities of Sport module co-ordinator at DMU, added:

“We are delighted. To be named the best Postgraduate course in the world is fantastic news. The new rankings are wonderful recognition of the hard work the course co-ordination and teaching teams in the United Kingdom, Italy and Switzerland provide each year. We are very proud of our graduates and this is a great endorsement for them too.”

CIES President Bertrand Reeb expressed his delight at the award, adding:

“I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributes to the great success of the FIFA Master’s year after year. Without their involvement, this would never have been possible. Thank you!”

James Panter, CIES Humanities of Sport module co-ordinator at DMU, receives award from Colin Jackson CBE.

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Over the past two years, Neil Carter has been writing a column in the Leicester City Football Club match-day programme.

This builds on both a long-term collaboration between the centre and the club’s historian and archivist, John Hutchinson, and the university’s partnership agreement with Leicester City.

The column forms part of an extensive heritage section, mainly written by John, which has helped the programme win a number of awards.

In the first season, 2013-14, Neil wrote 27 articles that concentrated on the history of football up to 1914. They featured a mixture of personalities, themes and topics, which included the origins of modern football, the birth of the FA Cup, Steve Bloomer and the formation of the Amateur Football Association.

To celebrate the Foxes’ promotion to the Premier League, a special edition of the season’s final programme was commissioned. For his column, Neil wrote about the origins of football’s promotion and relegation system in the 1890s.

For the 2014-15 Premier League season, Neil’s historical notes have focussed on Leicester’s match-day opponents while also linking events and personalities to wider historical themes.

For Leicester’s first opponents of the season, Everton, there was a feature on William ‘Dixie’ Dean, who in 1927-28 set a Football League record of 60 goals in one season - partly a consequence of the 1925 change in the offside law, which led to an increase in goals scored throughout the league.

Other subjects included Arsenal’s famous manager Herbert Chapman and the scandal concerning Manchester City’s Billy Meredith in 1906.

It is intended to continue the collaboration for next season.

‘PLAYING TO BUILD EUROPE’: THE FORMATION OF A EUROPEAN FOOTBALL SPHERE (1919-1991)

ICSHC Visiting Research Fellow Grégory Quin co-organised a conference at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in February 2015, with Matt Taylor, Jean Williams and Kevin Tallec Marston who also contributed papers.

Grégory said: “Based on many cases and topics from several European countries, the ambition of the conference was to show the steps in the structuration of a genuine European football sphere, to study activities and motivations from managers and also describe the relative autonomy of football regarding state policies.”

The conference also offered space for discussion between both young and also more experienced researchers, and, in this context, our aim was to pursue contacts already established in some European networks, such as the FREE (Football Research in Enlarged Europe) project.

Grégory is also in the process of organising a second conference to be held in Barcelona in July 2015, with the title ‘Bend it like Europe (1945-1989): Sports, Politics and the Cold War.

For further information contact Grégory Quin at Gregory.quin@unil.ch or follow the link at: historiabcn2015eng.wordpress.com

LEICESTER TIGERS PLAYER SIGNS UP FOR MA IN SPORTS HISTORY AND CULTURE

The centre was delighted to welcome Leicester Tigers lock forward Graham Kitchener as a new student on the MA in Sports History and Culture in September 2014.

Graham has made more than 50 appearances for Tigers and in 2015 was called up by Stuart Lancaster as part of the senior England training squad for the Six Nations Championship.

The flexibility of the distance learning MA allows Graham to fit his studies around his playing and training commitments.

Graham said: “This is a course that I’m interested in and it links with my undergraduate degree in Sociology, so it’s nice to have something away from the rugby that I can do in my spare time.

“I’ve wanted to do a master’s for a year or two and De Montfort University has a good reputation in this field, it is local to me and the course is ideal because I can follow it part-time over two years.

“I’ve been to DMU and the guys I’ve spoken to have been very helpful. I’m just onto the second module now but it’s gone well so far.”

Senior Research Fellow Dr Neil Carter added: “We hope that the MA will attract other professional athletes who have both an interest in the history of sport and also wish to further develop their critical, analytical and research skills.”

LEICESTER CITY MATCH DAY PROGRAMME

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SPORT, RECREATION AND BRITISH LABOUR – JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE

Matt Taylor’s co-edited special issue of Labor History on ‘Sport, Recreation and British Labour’ was published in December 2014.

Together with DMU colleague Dave Dee, Matt secured the special issue in 2013 – a considerable achievement given that Labor History is the leading journal of its type in the world.

Alongside an introduction by the editors, the special featured seven articles dealing with a handful of interconnected themes. These included the link between recreation, sport, left-wing politics and working-class culture; sporting provision within the workplace; and labour relations and trade unionism in professional sport.

Daryl Leeworthy’s revisionist study of the labour movement and sport in interwar south Wales was complemented by an important piece on greyhound racing by Keith Laybourn, one of the UK’s best-known labour historians.

Dave examined the importance of outdoor recreation among left-wing Jews, while Matt built upon his existing published work on organised labour in sport through a comparison of the development of trade unions in boxing, football and speedway racing.

The special issue was completed with three innovative articles on different aspects of sport and industrial welfare.

Matt McDowell and Fiona Skillen both focused on Scotland, the former dealing with the links with industrial paternalism in west Dunbartonshire in the late 19th century, while the latter explored sport for women at work between the wars.

Finally, Nicole Robertson, a specialist on the co-operative movement, looked at sport’s role in the movement in Britain after 1945.

The special issue is intended as part of a series of ventures into the connections between labour history and the history of sport and leisure.

In July 2014, for instance, Matt had his article on ‘The Transatlantic Migration of Sporting Labour, 1920-1939’ published in Labour History Review, the journal of the British Society for the Study of Labour History.

LORD BRAGG WELCOMED TO CULTURAL EXCHANGES BY THE ICSHC

Lord Melvyn Bragg was invited by Professor Rob Colls of ICSHC to give a talk as part of the Faculty’s Cultural Exchanges Festival in February 2014.

One of the most eminent cultural commentators of our time, Lord Bragg credited UK universities with shaping our global future during his evening talk on cultural exchanges to a packed auditorium.

During the free public event, he said:

“I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE. UNIVERSITIES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN OUR CULTURE AT THE MOMENT. BRITISH UNIVERSITIES ARE PULLING MORE THAN THEIR WEIGHT AROUND THE WORLD.”

“They are the engine room of what sort of society we’re going to have in the future,” he added.

Professor Colls, who also arranged for DMU students to attend a drinks reception with Lord Bragg following the gala event, added that he “especially enjoyed the way Melvyn included the study of sport and sports history as part of the cultural life of the nation.”

LITERATURE AND PHYSICAL CULTURE CONFERENCE REVIEW

The first serious conference to bring literature experts into the realm of sport was hosted by the ICSHC in April 2014.

The first biannual international ‘Literature and Physical Culture’ conference saw a wealth of high-profile literary academics convene to give the study of sporting physical culture as it appears within textual culture the scholarly attention it has previously lacked.

Nearly 70 speakers and delegates attended the conference from 37 different worldwide institutions to re-appraise the significance of sporting physical culture beyond the traditional historical frameworks, reassessing its place within the wider cultural landscape.

Acclaimed biographer and broadcaster Andrew Lycett opened the conference with a keynote speech on authors’ changing attitudes to sport from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries.

Keynote lectures included Professor Sarah Churchwell (University of East Anglia) presenting research specially undertaken for the conference that explored the place of sport in the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald, while Professor Luke Gibbons (National University of Ireland) considered how depictions of the body in Irish literature looked to theatre and sport to throw off generations of colonial paralysis.

Six world-renowned academics gave plenary papers. The influence of Conan Doyle’s fighting bodies was the subject presented by Victorianist Dr Catherine Wynne (Hull), which was complemented by ICSHC’s Professor Tony Collins’ paper on the poetry of the First World War and rugby union’s cult of the fallen, and Dr Vybar Cregan-Reids (Kent) exploration of Thomas Hardy, landscape and the body.

Conference organiser Victoria Dawson said: “The lectures and panels stimulated exciting debate and the feedback from all those who attended was that they had been inspired by the breadth of new research presented.”

An edited collection of papers from the conference is being prepared, along with a special journal issue.

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2014 was a year of change for the MA Sports History and Culture. Neil Carter succeeded Jean Williams as the programme leader while a new external examiner was appointed as Dr Malcolm MacLean, from the University of Gloucestershire, succeeded Martin Polley, who took up the position of the centre’s director.

In 2014 12 students graduated with an MA: Jonathan Eddy; Graham Greensit; Stef Jeuris; Martin Jones; Mark Orton; David Rigney; Andrew Reddy; Colin Robertson; Damian Rock; Gary Shaw; David Swift and Paul Wheeler. David Learman was awarded a post-graduate certificate.

As ever, there was a wide-range of dissertation topics but the overall quality was exceptionally high and five dissertations were awarded distinctions: Paul Wheeler’s ‘The Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club, (1882-1914)’; Mark Orton’s ‘Més que un club? To what extent was Joan Laporta successful in his mission to make FC Barcelona an ‘Agent of Catalanism’ during his 2003-2010 presidency?'; Graham Greensit’s ‘Sport, Theatre and History: an analysis of sports-related theatre via three New Zealand/Aotearoa plays revolving around the 1981 Springbok tour’; David Swift’s ‘Arthur Conan Doyle and Rodney Stone: Literature as a source for historians of sport’; and Stef Jeuris’ ‘Calcio in Genk during the 20th century: A history of multiculturalism and football’.

There was another healthy intake for 2014-15 with 18 students recruited – nine full-time and nine part-time – who join the nine part-time students who are working towards submitting their dissertation in September.

MAKING SPORT HISTORY – ICSHC MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO NEW COLLECTION OF ESSAYS

Two members of the ICSHC have written chapters for a new international book on the discipline of sports history.

The book brings together other leading scholars in the field, including Roberta Park, Patricia Verlinsky, Douglas Booth, Thierry Terret, and Allen Guttmann.

Find out more at: routledge.com/books/details/9780415533614/

THE RISE AND FALL OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL IN MIDDLESBROUGH

Senior Research Fellow Dr Neil Carter and ICSHC PhD Graduate Dr Catherine Budd had a joint article published in October 2014 in the Journal of the North East Labour History Society on ‘The Rise and Fall of Professional Football in Middlesbrough 1889-1894.’

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH LECTURE

Professor Emeritus Tony Mason gave a public lecture at the Imperial War Museum North, Manchester, in December 2014.

On Christmas Day 1914 many British and German soldiers ceased fire and famously met in no man’s land, to play football and exchange gifts. One century on, Tony’s lecture examined sport during the First World War.

MA SPORTS HISTORY AND CULTURE UPDATE

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‘The Road to Rio: The Cultural History and Globalisation of the World Cup’ took place at the British Library in May 2014.

Organised by Dr Jean Williams with £29,965 from the DMU Higher Education Innovation Fund, the conference was one of a year-long series of events.

There were two keynote speakers, Dr David Goldblatt, author of ‘Futebol Nation: A footballing history of Brazil’ and Dr Matthew Brown (Bristol), author of ‘The First Footballers in South America’.

Academics examined different aspects of the World Cup, such as its effect on society, the economy and politics, since the inaugural event in Uruguay in 1930.

Speakers included: Dr Stacey Pope (Durham University), who analysed the significance of female fans; Professor Richard Holt (DMU), who gave a historical overview of why British fans traditionally love Brazil over Argentina; and Professor John Hughson (University of Central Lancashire), who evaluated the contested legacy of Alf Ramsey.

In addition to the British Library event, Jean published A History of the World Cup in 24 Objects in conjunction with David Goldblatt and the National Football Museum.

Andre Megale, a Road to Rio visiting research fellow from Sao Paulo, was also interviewed by the BBC for its flagship World Cup documentary programme ‘Lineker in Brazil: The Beautiful Game’ which was broadcast in June 2014.

Andre, a member of the Sao Paulo local organising committee and a DMU CIES/FIFA International MA alumni, came to DMU in February 2014 to speak on the history of football in Brazil as part of the university’s Distinguished Lecture series.

To mark the Rugby World Cup, which kicks off in September, Bloomsbury will be publishing The Oval World: A Global History of Rugby by Professor Tony Collins.

It will be the first comprehensive history of rugby around the world. As well as covering both codes of the game, it also traces the evolution of American football from its rugby roots and the spread of the game across the British Empire and beyond.

As well as explaining rugby’s evolution from a schoolboy’s sport to a global game, the book also takes a look at some of its lesser known stories, including Olympic founder Pierre de Coubertin’s refereeing career and the importance of Boris Karloff to rugby in America.


It covers female involvement in activities as diverse as archery, bowls, croquet, cricket, cycling, field sports, lawn tennis, motor racing, netball, table tennis, rackets, squash, swimming and yachting.

There are key case studies on football, the Olympic Games and hockey.

Using archival material from Britain, the United States and Europe the book – her first for the Research Exercise Framework – explores how sporting participation translated to work for increasing numbers of women, in athletic disciplines but also in related trades such as the media, fashion and sporting goods.

Connections with the creative and manufacturing industries are explored and, most notably, continuities between the fashion, transport and toy trades.

In September 2014, Professor Matt Taylor and Professor Pierre Lanfranchi were asked to contribute a chapter on the history of football migration to a new book edited by Richard Elliott and John Harris.

The book, Football and Migration: Perspectives, Places, Players (Routledge, 2015), features essays by an international team of scholars from nine different countries.

Matt and Pierre’s article – ‘Mobility, Migration and History: Football and Early Transnational Networks’ – revisits a number of the themes of their ground-breaking 2001 book, Moving with the Ball.

However it also adds new data on the mobility of early amateur and professional footballers and the development of networks that not only helped to facilitate mobility but often preceded the development of national football cultures.
NEWCASTLE LIT AND PHIL – GEORGE ORWELL

Rob Colls was invited to give the Robert Spence Watson Lecture at the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne (or the Lit and Phil, as it is popularly known) in November 2014.

His talk at the historical library focussed on George Orwell, who famously once said that all sport was only “war without the shooting”.

HANDBOOK OF SPORT AND LEGACY WITH SDA BOCCONI

This year will see the publication of the Routledge Handbook of Sport and Legacy, the culmination of a joint research project between the ICSHC and SDA Bocconi School of Management in Italy, with support from the CIES in Switzerland.

Editors Professor Richard Holt (DMU), Professor Dino Ruta (SDA Bocconi) and Assistant Editor James Panter (DMU) put the final touches to the major international publication in January.

Professor Holt said: “Increasingly mega sporting events must succeed not only in their own terms but have to bear the weight of great public expectation: to renew a city, to revive an economy, to re-brand a nation.

“The sheer scale of global sport, the gigantic expenditure of time and money involved, the huge demands of the world’s media… all these combined pressures have concentrated the minds of international sporting bodies in the 21st century.”

RUGBY AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

ICSHC PhD student Joe Hall presented a paper on the history of England rugby union international players to the Sports Heritage Network conference on sport and oral history in September 2014.

So far Joe has interviewed surviving players from the 1940s and 1950s but he will speak to players up to the 1990s, when rugby union turned professional.

“It will be a history of English rugby but, more importantly, it will also illuminate the social history of England in the second half of the 20th century,” he explained.

Hosted by the British Library, Joe outlined the initial findings of his doctoral research. His thesis is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, as part of its Collaborative Doctoral Award scheme, and is supported by the World Rugby Museum at Twickenham.

With more than 60 delegates from academia, sporting bodies and the museums and archives sector, the conference was a major success for the network – and demonstrated the potential for future collaborations between historians and heritage specialists.

PETER LANG SERIES

Richard Holt and Matthew Taylor’s ‘Sport, History and Culture’ series continued to progress in 2014.

No new titles were published, but Fiona Skillen’s ‘Women, Sport and Modernity in Interwar Britain’ was shortlisted for the British Society of Sports History Abergare Prize.

Volumes set to be published in 2015 include an edited book on boxing cultures, and a history of football in North and South Korea.

The latter, a revised version of a DMU PhD by Jong Sung Lee, will be joined on the list by another study emanating from doctoral research at the centre, Paul Campbell’s ‘Football, Ethnicity and Community’.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In March 2015, the Royal Historical Society (RHS) chose the ICSHC for one of its biannual visits to celebrate History in universities.

Members of the RHS council had a busy day in a series of very productive meetings with De Montfort University historians, postgraduates, senior officials and centre staff.

In the evening Dr John Maddicott, of Exeter College Oxford, delivered the RHS special lecture, ‘Who was Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester?’
LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB PARTNERSHIP EXTENDED

In 2015, DMU was announced as the new main sponsor of Leicestershire County Cricket Club (LCCC).

New Chief Executive Wasim Khan MBE, said, “We are delighted to have De Montfort University as our Official Club Sponsor. We are really looking forward to continuing our valued partnership. We have some great events already in the diary including the Varsity cricket match at Grace Road.

As well as receiving support from De Montfort University, we are committed to helping students too. We want to help young people with their development and careers and Leicestershire County Cricket Club will again be participating in the Graduate Champions Scheme, which has been a huge success in the past. We will also give students work experience opportunities and provide coaching and facilities for De Montfort University’s cricket team.”

The ICSHC academic team wish all the players and staff a successful 2015 County Championship season.