Centre appoints new director

In January 2011 Professor Tony Collins took over as the new Director of the International Centre for Sports History and Culture (ICSCHC). He replaces Professor Richard Holt who had held the directorship position since 2008. Professor Collins’ prize-winning trilogy on the history of rugby – two on rugby league and the most recent on rugby union – are widely regarded as models of historical scholarship and have gained him an international reputation. He has also published a history of sport and alcohol, *Mud, Sweat and Beers* (with Wray Vamplew) and was the editor of *Sport in History* for seven years.

Tony previously worked in the centre as a research fellow until 2006 before moving to Leeds Metropolitan University as a research professor to establish the Institute for Northern Studies. “This is a tremendous honour,” said Tony. “The Centre is world-renowned and the university is embarking on a very exciting stage of development, so the future looks very bright indeed.”

Professor Holt will retire in April 2011 in order to concentrate on writing. However, he will keep a close connection to the centre, specifically with his continuing role as co-scientific director of the FIFA Master for a further three years. Professor Holt said: “It has been a privilege to work with staff who are personal friends as well as outstanding colleagues. It’s been exhausting at times but never boring. I was exceptionally fortunate to have outstanding administrative support from James Panter, to whom I am especially grateful. I have every confidence that Tony Collins will inject fresh energy and imagination to the task of taking the centre to new levels of national and international recognition.”
Sport and the Transformation of Europe – AHRC sport in Europe project

At the end of 2010, academics from across Europe travelled through snow and ice to Pembroke College, Cambridge, for the final AHRC network workshop on ‘Sport in Europe’ co-organised by Dr Chris Young for Cambridge University, Professor Alan Tomlinson for Brighton University and Professor Richard Holt from the centre.

The final of the three symposia looked at Europe since 1945, concentrating on the impact of the Cold War, the clash of ideologies on the shape of European sport from the 1950s to the 1980s, swiftly followed by the satellite revolution in televised sport and the role of European regulation. These contributions have been revised and edited to make up a special volume, *Sport and the Transformation of Europe*, to be published by Routledge in 2011.

The overall success of the network was acknowledged by the Arts and Humanities Research Council with a showcase article in the Spring 2010 edition of their house journal, *Podium*, in addition to the special issues of the *Journal of Sport History* and the *Journal of Historical Sociology* devoted to the outputs of the network.

The website – www.sport-in-europe.group.cam.ac.uk – now has a complete set of summaries and responses to all papers presented at the three symposia which we hope will act as a stimulus to produce new comparative research into European sport. A special note of thanks here has to go to Chris Young for his exceptional efforts and to Pembroke College for their generous hospitality as well as to Alan Tomlinson for his work in ensuring the fruits of the discussions were published. The organisers are also grateful to the AHRC for their support for the project.

BBC Radio 4 project update

2010 saw the further development of the BBC Radio 4 series on the history of British sport. During the year the academic team have been working with Lucy Lunt, Sara Conkey and Garth Brammeld from Radio 4 to develop 30 programmes covering the development of British sport over the last 200 years.

The ICSHC has written notes for each episode with timelines and historical context. They then prepare a programme outline which is then sent to Clare Balding, the series presenter. Clare works on the scripts which are then sent back to the ICSHC for further editing and checking. How many Radio 4 listeners will realise the amount of work that goes into making a single 15 minute programme?

This is not including all the outside broadcast work, the finding of locations and recordings, the reading of extracts plus the recording of interviews.

Professor Richard Holt, who is co-ordinating the ICSHC’s academic role in the series, said: “We put in long days together, redrafting scripts interspersed with moments of hilarity. It has been very enjoyable to work with the warm-hearted BBC team and to join up with Tony Collins, who began the project at Leeds Met and re-joined the centre as director as we worked through the scripts. These start with the old world of aristocratic sport, move through the Victorian era and the ‘golden age’ of professional football and cricket to the brave new world of media-driven spectacle weaving class, gender and ethnicity – and lots of lively anecdotes – into the story as we go along.”

The first episode is expected to be broadcast on 30 May 2011.
Boxing symposium

Volcanic dust clouds and the disruption this caused to guest speaker travel plans resulted in the ICSHC moving its planned April boxing symposium to a new date in June. The symposium, ‘Boxing, History and Culture: New Themes and Perspectives’, was arranged by Professor Matt Taylor from the ICSHC. He said: “Boxing has always been one of the most spectacular, controversial and popular of sports. In Britain, it was one of the few leisure activities able to draw support from the aristocratic elite, the respectable middle classes and the industrial working class.

“Despite opposition from the medical establishment and moral and legal campaigners, it established itself as a central facet of urban culture, second only perhaps to association football in working class sporting affections. Yet despite its popularity, boxing has until recently received relatively little attention from social and cultural historians. The conference brought together some of the leading researchers on boxing from a range of disciplines and provided a forum to stimulate interdisciplinary discussion and generate new research.”


The day-long event was a great success, with nearly 40 guests.

“Boxing has always been one of the most spectacular, controversial and popular of sports.”

Professor Matt Taylor

International partnership made with Cyprus

In January 2011 Dr Christos Kassimeris joined the ICSHC as an honorary visiting research fellow. Christos, who is an associate professor in political science, heads the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences at European University Cyprus in Nicosia. Before moving to Cyprus, he taught European politics and international relations at the University of Reading. He is the author of European Football in Black and White: Tackling Racism in Football and Football Comes Home: Symbolic Identities in European Football, editor of Anti-Racism in European Football: Fair Play for All and has published in journals such as Soccer and Society and Sport in Society.

His research focuses on the political, sociological and cultural aspects of football. He has been a guest lecturer on the FIFA Master Internationalisation of Sport sub-module for the past few years and we are delighted that we can extend the partnership and international links further. We welcome Christos to the centre.

Dr Kassimeris can be contacted via his Cyprus work address: c.kassimeris@euc.ac.cy
Conference paper delivered in Egypt

The ICSHC values its links with historians and other academics working outside the field of sports history. Dil Porter was delighted to accept an invitation from Dr Terry Gourvish of the Business History Unit, LSE, to form part of the British delegation to the Seventh Annual Forum on the Business History of Egypt and the Middle East at the American University, Cairo, in May 2010.

It was a fairly punishing schedule but they were allowed a morning off to see the pyramids. This was a good opportunity to renew contact with old friends and former colleagues and it is hoped that it will lead to further co-operation, especially with Dr Peter Lyth of Nottingham Business School, who specialises in the business history of tourism.

Dil’s paper, ‘A game of consequences: the London financial press and the Suez Crisis, 1956’, explored tensions between the political coverage of the Suez crisis and the financial pages which tended to be rather less ‘gung-ho’.

Sport and Leisure Research Seminar, Institute of Historical Research

Connections between the ICSHC and the Sport and Leisure History Seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, have continued to strengthen with Dr Dil Porter continuing as co-convenor. Dil Porter said: “The Sport and Leisure History Seminar provides opportunities for DMU students to present their work to a wider audience and two ICSHC PhD students contributed papers to the Postgraduate Student Conference held at the institute on 29 May 2010.”

Catherine Budd spoke on ‘The Growth and Development of Sport in Middlesbrough, c.1885–1900’ and Seamus Murphy on ‘The Royal Commission on Betting, Lotteries and Gaming, 1949–51’. Both papers were well received.

“...The ICSHC values its links with historians and other academics working outside the field of sports history...”

Dr Dil Porter

Picture: Chris Wrigley (University of Nottingham), Tina Staples (HSBC), Terry Gourvish (LSE), Peter Lyth (Nottingham Business School), Dil Porter (DMU – wearing Worcs CCC sunhat), Don Babai (Harvard University).
The 2010 FIFA Master Humanities of Sport module concluded on Friday 3 December 2010. The course continues to go from strength-to-strength and is now in its 11th edition. This year, 28 students represented countries such as India, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Malaysia, Ecuador, Kenya, Poland, Ireland, the USA, Japan, Brazil, Canada, Spain, Italy, Australia, Egypt, France, Germany, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Latvia and Mali.

The course started with a special welcome event in September at DMU’s Trinity Chapel. Centre International d’Etude du Sport (CIES) President Mr Bertrand Reeb, FIFA Master Director Professor Denis Oswald, CIES General Secretary Mr Vincent Schatzmann, De Montfort University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard, and the full course scientific committee all welcomed the new class as they started their studies.

The students are based in the ICSHC and study sub-modules in Traditions and Ethics, the Birth of Modern Sport, Professional Sport in Context, the Internationalisation of Sport and a special sub-module in communications skills in conjunction with the Institute of Marketing and Communication Management at the University of Lugano (Switzerland). In addition to the classroom-based academic programme; the FIFA Master students also have the opportunity to meet an extensive range of specially invited guest speakers and to visit a range of sporting clubs and organisations across the United Kingdom.

James Panter, the FIFA Master Module Officer who co-ordinates the Humanities of Sport module, said: “I am extremely grateful to all of the sporting organisations who supported the 2010 FIFA Master module. We had a tremendous range of guest speakers and field visits in 2010 which all played a very important part in the learning and development of the students as they completed their studies and research at De Montfort University. All of our speakers offer a wide range of sporting case studies and expertise for the international students to examine.”

The 2010 Humanities of Sport module included contributions from organisations such as the All England Lawn Tennis Club (Wimbledon), UK Anti-Doping, Rugby School, Byrom Plc, Leicester City FC, Manchester United FC, The London Marathon, Leicester Tigers Rugby Club, The Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA), Traffic de Futebol, Bolton Wanderers FC, Manchester City FC, Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI), Liverpool FC, MOC – Lord’s, RFU Twickenham, Sky Sports, Adidas and CAA Sports. On behalf of the 2010 FIFA Master students and the International Centre for Sports History and Culture, we thank all of the above organisations for their continued support.

For more information on the FIFA Master course please visit fifamaster.org
FIFA Master 10th anniversary report

As part of the FIFA Master 10th anniversary celebrations a special report was produced in July 2010. The report, which records the evolution and development of the course since its creation in 2000, was launched at a special ceremony in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, by the Centre International d’Etude du Sport (CIES) Director and International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Committee member, Professor Denis Oswald. All 10 of the former course patrons, including Lord Coe and Sir Bobby Charlton, have made contributions to the special report.

James Panter, who was one of the report co-authors, said: “The report celebrates the achievements of the graduates and acknowledges the important partnership that has been established between the FIFA academic partners in the past ten years”. James worked with Marcelo Orchis, Elizabeth Pepio-Jamison and Vincent Schatzmann from the CIES in the production of the report.

The celebration events in Neuchâtel included a special evening dinner with graduates from the 10th edition and alumni from the previous nine editions.

FIFA Master students meet chief exec of the PFA

Gordon Taylor OBE, chief executive of the Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA), met with the FIFA Master students during a special visit to the PFA headquarters in Manchester in October 2010. Mr Taylor spoke about the history and development of the PFA into the modern organisation it is today. The students had the opportunity to ask Mr Taylor about the support the PFA provides to players and also to watch documentaries on some of the special projects the organisation and its members contribute to.

Sport and legacy

The project on sport and legacy, co-run by the centre and SDA Bocconi Business School in Milan, took a step forward in 2010 with the signing of a contract to produce a Routledge Companion to Sport and Legacy in 2012. Professor Richard Holt and Professor Dino Ruta, from SDA Bocconi, will edit a collection of around 30 essays commissioned from a global team of experts running to a total of c175,000 words which will cover all the key aspects of what is becoming one of the most important issues in sports today. This research has been supported by our Swiss partners, the Centre International d’Etude du Sport (CIES).
Tenth anniversary for Historians on Sport conference and 21 years for Sport and the British

In October 2010 the centre hosted its tenth Historians on Sport conference. Over 60 guests had the opportunity to hear papers from a specially selected international group of sports historians. The 2010 speaker list included academics from institutions across the world, and theme was Professor Richard Holt’s Sport and the British – 21 Years On.

As Professor Holt explains: “The tenth Historians on Sport conference was different from the previous nine. When I began to put it together my colleagues, Matt Taylor and Mike Cronin, told me I wasn’t needed this time. They would take care of it. I suppose this should have rung alarm bells but it didn’t and I was surprised, apprehensive but naturally flattered, when it emerged the theme of the conference was going to be Sport and the British, which is now 21 years old. The book, which was made possible by the critical mass of work done by others in the 1970s and 1980s, is certainly in need of reassessment and revision. In 2011 I will attempt this so the reappraisal was especially timely. It was an extraordinary day for me – more than a little unreal as I sat taking notes on my own book and reflecting on my reasons for writing it.

“My critics were kind but also appropriately critical. Some errors are in sore need of correction and the footnotes are frankly bizarre. Still, it was an honour to be dissected by Rob Colls, David Kynaston and Ross McKibbin from the world of mainstream history whilst my fellow sports historians included Martin Johnes, Martin Polley and Matt Taylor whilst John Hughson and Malcolm Maclean gave a view from cultural studies and social science. My friends at the centre were frankly far too nice and I would have been harder on the book myself. But this event was valedictory as well as academic as I had let it be known I was planning to step down from the directorship of the ICSHC and then retire in 2011.

“Breaking with the tradition of not publishing proceedings, Neil Carter will pull these contributions together with my own lecture for a forthcoming issue of Sport in History. What, however, was doubly gratifying was the chance given by a tenth birthday to set out the remarkable range of speakers over the previous nine years running to 58 from many of the leading universities in Britain and abroad.”

During the day Professor Holt was presented with a special picture of Newcastle Football Club’s St James’ Park to thank him for his work in organising the conference over the past 10 years and also to mark his retirement as centre director.

Matt Taylor to give Professorial Lecture on 9 June 2011

On 9 June 2011, the centre’s Professor Matt Taylor will give a university-wide public lecture with the title, The Professional Footballer – from Ross to Rooney.

As Professor Taylor explains: “Professional footballers have always had a contradictory public image. Criticised by some as overpaid and badly behaved ‘prima donnas’, yet idolised by others as role models and community heroes, they have embodied the values and beliefs, aspirations and anxieties of those who watched and read about them. Drawing on wider historical research on the working conditions and lifestyles of sports professionals, this lecture examines how the occupation, and attitudes towards it, changed from the 1880s to the emergence of the Premier League in the 1990s.”

Professor Taylor is currently editor-in-chief of the journal, Sport in History, and co-editor of a new book series on sports history with Peter Lang. He is the author of more than 30 academic articles and chapters, and a number of books, on the history of sport and recreation in Britain and Europe. His most recent book was The Association Game: A History of British Football (2008). His current projects include a social history of boxing in 20th Century Britain and a global history of sport.

The lecture is part of a wider programme of lectures offered by De Montfort University throughout the year. If you would like to register to attend the lecture please visit dmu.ac.uk/events
Research symposium puts a far east perspective on sport history

On Wednesday 8 September 2010 the centre hosted an international research symposium on Japanese Reflections on the History of Sport. Dr Keiko Ikeda (Yamaguchi University) and Professor Masayuki Ishii (Waseda University), who were both visiting researchers within the ICSHC, were joined from Japan by Dr Hiroo Sasaki (Ryukoku University), Dr Miho Koishihara (Kokushikan University) and PhD student Daishi Funaba (Yamaguchi University) for the one-day event.

In outlining the aims of the symposium, Dr Neil Carter, senior research fellow within the centre and the co-organiser of the day with Dr Ikeda, said: "The history of sport has its origins in the UK and North America. Sports history has subsequently been dominated by particular themes in each region: class in the UK, ethnicity in North America. This symposium highlights original research by Japanese scholars that shed new perspectives on the history of sport. Rather than offer comparisons between the UK and Japan, it brings a distinctly Japanese viewpoint."

The day included the presentation of new research that challenged pre-conceived perceptions of Japan and Asia. These had been shaped by the west’s distinctly romantic and exotic view of the Asian continent, which had provided a justification for European colonialism since the 18th Century. The symposium highlighted the process of adaptation and acculturation of western sports since the late 19th Century within a Japanese context. It explored issues such as the body in Japanese society, the role of the military, the media, amateurism and gender as well as the importance of language, geography and imperialism.

Over 25 delegates attended on the day including academics from Japan, South Korea and Germany.

The symposium line-up was:

Dr Keiko Ikeda, ‘The Body: A Historical Perspective’
Dr Hiroo Sasaki, ‘Changes in Body and Health Values along with Modernization of Japan’
Dr Miho Koishihara, ‘The Emergence of the “Sporting Girl”: Narrative of Athletic Bodies in Japanese Girls’ Magazines of the 1920s and 1930s’
Daishi Funaba, ‘From Sporting Amateurism to Fascism under the Period of Japanese Imperialism’
Professor Masayuki Ishii, ‘Sportsmanship in the Press in the late 19th and early 20th Century’

DMU signs new partnership with Leicester City FC

In November DMU signed a new partnership agreement with Leicester City Football Club. The agreement, which was formally signed by De Montfort University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard and Leicester City FC Commercial Director Paul Hunt, kicked off with the university’s Centre for English Language Learning providing English language support for the club’s newly signed Japanese player, Yuki Abe. Yuki, who was part of Japan’s South Africa World Cup team, is a sporting celebrity in Japan.

During the partnership signing Yuki Abe was introduced to the ICSHC’s visiting Japanese Professor Masa Ishii and Shin Achiwa. Shin is a postgraduate student on the 2010/11 FIFA Master course and, coincidentally, is the same age and from the same home town as Yuki. Shin said: “It was really great to meet and chat with Yuki Abe and it felt like I had known him for a long time.”

As part of the new partnership agreement Shin was able to undertake a short internship with Leicester City FC at the end of the FIFA Humanities of Sport module.

Leicester City FC Commercial Director, Paul Hunt, said: “Looking into the future, I can see the partnership between Leicester City and De Montfort University developing further as both organisations continue to broaden their international horizons, reach extended audiences and improve links locally.”

The ICSHC is also working closely with Club Historian John Hutchinson in the hope of making its rich heritage more fully available to fans and the wider public.
ICSHC supports national *Our Sporting Life* exhibition

Members of the ICSHC academic team and several postgraduate students have been working with the national *Our Sporting Life* exhibition in planning the Leicester stage of the national exhibition tour.

The *Our Sporting Life* exhibition will be based at Curve Theatre, Leicester from 8 February–10 March 2011 and has the support of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG), the British Olympic Foundation and the Sports Heritage Network.

The Leicester exhibition is part of a national series, with highlights from each city exhibition becoming part of the largest ever exhibition of British sporting life and heritage which is being held in London for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A selection of objects and stories from the nations and regions will be joined by icons and treasures of our national sports, such as the Ashes Urn, Calcutta Cup, and the football from the 1966 World Cup final.

Neil Skinner, who is a PhD student in the ICSHC researching the history of boxing, said: “I have really enjoyed the opportunity to contribute local boxing history to the exhibition.”

Gareth Hughes, the exhibition project manager and consultant with ArtReach Ltd, said: “Our Sporting Life has been developed by the Sports Heritage Network and offers a unique celebration of British Sport. It is the first project of its kind to salute sport from its grass roots to Olympic podiums. The exhibition at Curve will celebrate Leicester's diverse sporting heritage and memories, encouraging people to explore their memories of sport and sporting achievement. The development of the Leicester exhibition has also enabled a strong working partnership between ICSHC, Leicester University, Leicester City Council and the MLA, which I hope will continue in the future.”

“Parliamentary inquiry into football governance

In January 2011 Professor Richard Holt from the centre was invited to contribute to the briefing of the coalition government parliamentary inquiry into football governance. The briefing session, which was held at Portcullis House, Westminster, is part of a wider coalition government investigation into the state of English football governance. The Football Inquiry Committee Chair and Chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, Mr John Whittingdale MP, said: “The Government has said that it will encourage the reform of football governance rules to support the co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters. There is widespread concern that the current governance arrangements are not fit-for-purpose”.

The inquiry will look at the scope for enhancing supporter involvement in decision-making processes and consider whether current regulatory processes are adequate.

For more information visit parliament.uk

The De Montfort University Cultural Exchanges festival in March 2011 will also include a special session as part of the exhibition programme about the recording of sporting heritage in the city. The session will include John Williams (University of Leicester) who is also part of the *Our Sporting Life* exhibition planning team.

For more information on the *Our Sporting Life* exhibition please visit oursportinglife.co.uk

I am very pleased that the ICSHC has been able to help and support this excellent exhibition. Leicester has a tremendous sporting heritage and I am sure this exhibition will help to highlight the many stories and achievements we have to offer as a city.”

James Panter, co-ordinator of the academic contribution

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For more information visit parliament.uk
The Royal Society and the ICSHC

In June 2010, Dr Neil Carter and Professor Matt Taylor became the first historians of sport to give a public lecture at the prestigious Royal Society in London. The talk was the highlight of a special event organised by the Royal Society to coincide with the opening match of last summer’s World Cup in South Africa. Neil and Matt spoke to, and took questions from, an enthusiastic audience of football fans, academics and friends and fellows of the Royal Society, after which the match between South Africa and Mexico was screened live.

The title of the lecture was ‘An Amateur in a Professional Game: Sir Harold Thompson FRS, the FA and English Football’. Thompson was a distinguished physical chemist and foreign secretary of the Royal Society, but he was also an important figure in the history of English football. He is perhaps best remembered today for his association with the England national team and its managers in the 1970s, particularly in relation to his role in the sacking of Alf Ramsey in 1974 and the vetoing of the appointment of Brian Clough in 1977.

But, as the lecture pointed out, Thompson’s influence on English football and the Football Association was far greater than this. Professor Matt Taylor said: “Based on the personal papers Thompson left to the Royal Society, the lecture discussed Thompson’s involvement with university and amateur football, coaching initiatives, UEFA and FIFA, and the fortunes of the England team through the 1960s to the early 1980s. It showed how Thompson’s life encapsulated the changing traditions and priorities of English football in the post-war years.”

An audio podcast of the lecture can be downloaded from royalsociety.org/Podcasts-of-Library-events

Leicester Special Olympics GB research update

2010 saw the culmination of the research project carried out by the ICSHC and John Williams of Leicester University on the impact and legacy of holding the Special Olympics National Summer Games in Leicester in 2009. This remarkable event was the largest sporting gathering – as opposed to a one-off event – held in Britain in that year. It attracted 6000 athletes, coaches and family members to the city.

Sport for the learning disabled has been a neglected area, attracting little serious research. This has now been rectified. In December 2010 the four researchers: Susan Barton, Neil Carter, Richard Holt and John Williams completed a 90,000 word study of the entire process from inception to legacy based on extensive interviews with the organisers, athletes and volunteers as well as three on-street surveys of the Leicester public both before, during and after the event.

The research carried out has documented in detail for the first time the ways in which sport can transform the lives of those with learning disabilities and their families. The academic team has analysed the problems of mounting such an event, looking at funding problems at a time of sudden economic crisis and the failure to raise private sponsorship, which led to the city of Leicester subsidising the games to the tune of around one million pounds. The exceptional organisational pressures of such a complex event, the media coverage of the event and the financial impact of the games on Leicester have all been investigated. In addition, a full survey of the thousand volunteers (‘the orange army’) whose participation was critical to the overall success of the event has been completed.

Professor Holt, explaining the project, said: “We asked if this event raised awareness of the wider issues of learning disability, concluding that it had a positive impact but that it would be very difficult to sustain as a long-term legacy. We suggested that Special Olympics GB would have to re-structure and broaden its appeal as well as its influence and staffing to sustain the present programme of events. We presented these conclusions to the city and to Special Olympics GB in a special meeting of the Special Olympics Leicester Board in December 2010 and will take it forward to MPs, other disability organisations nationally and internationally and to Sport England.”
Professor Chuck Korr reviews the 2010 South Africa World Cup

Anyone who was lucky enough to attend the World Cup knew that the South Africans had confounded their critics. The stadiums were wonderful, the transportation system worked (Europeans should remember that South Africa is a very large country), and crime was a non-issue.

There is no question in my mind that the story of the tournament was the crowd, in the stadiums and wandering around South Africa. So many special moments – English supporters in mock armor stood with Algerian supporters in burnooses gave an impression of a friendly version the medieval crusades, masses of people dressed in yellow to show their support of Brazil or Bafana Bafana, ‘two little Dutch girls’ in 17th Century costumes being followed around Port Elizabeth’s stadium by Brazilian admirers, and the Brilliant Cape Town stadium illuminated at night casting its shadow towards Robben Island.

The day before England v Algeria, a group of 90 England supporters organised a tour of Robben Island prison where they were joined by Sedick Isaacs and Lionel Davis, each of whom spent more than a decade on the island as political prisoners.

Brooke Adriance and her colleagues organised a FIFA MA reunion for Durban. It included a couple of days of sessions, tickets for Brazil v Portugal, and lots of good times. More than fifty alumni attended. The level of exuberance certainly owed something to the fact that the largest contingent of alumni were Brazilians.

Pierre Lanfranchi and Vincent Monnier hosted the second seminar of the FIFA/CIES International University Network in Port Elizabeth. I gave a talk about football on Robben Island and was joined by Lizo Sitoto, who had been a prisoner on the island for 16-and-a-half years. It was marvellous to see how the audience responded to him.

There’s no way to accurately measure the impact that the World Cup had on South Africa. My personal experience was that South Africans of all races and economic status shared a sense of pride in their country. When I was flying home, I thought about a late night in London more than thirty years ago when I encountered a very happy Scottish supporter weaving down the street singing “Willie Johnstone is magic!” That probably was true, but there no doubt that South Africa 2010 was MAGIC.

“...South Africans of all races and economic status shared a sense of pride in their country...

Professor Chuck Korr

Obituaries

We were sad to learn of the death in 2010 of Dr Tim Shakesheff and MA Sports History and Culture graduate John Ford.

Dr Tim Shakesheff
Dr Tim Shakesheff died suddenly at home in Herefordshire on 1 December 2010. Tim worked mainly at the University of Worcester but covered for Jean Williams for a term on the MA (Sports History and Culture) course in 2008/09 and proved a very safe pair of hands. Tim’s expertise was in the social history of rural England and he was working until a few weeks before he passed away on a social and cultural history of angling for Manchester University Press. This will now be completed by his co-author, Dr Richard Coopey, of Aberystwyth University.

John Ford MSCP, MSc, MA
John Ford passed away on 28 November 2010 after a long battle with cancer. John, who was aged 80, had led a very active retirement. He graduated from the MA in Sports History and Culture in 2010, his second ‘sports’ MA after previously attending the University of Leicester. John was a great supporter of centre events and will be missed by all of the centre staff. John served for over 55 years in the NHS as a superintendent of physiotherapy. He was also voluntary physio for Leicester Tigers Rugby Club for 20 years from the 1970s to the 1990s. In addition, he also served as voluntary physio to the England hockey team, as well as the England schoolboys and England under-21 rugby teams. John’s MA dissertation focused on these physiotherapy contacts and on oral histories of refereeing rugby in the Midlands.
Sport and the Military book launched at National Army Museum

Sport and the Military: The British Armed Forces 1880 to 1960, by professor emeritus Tony Mason, of the International Centre for Sports History and Culture (ICSHC), and imperial historian Dr Eliza Riedi, of the University of Leicester, has been published by Cambridge University Press and is based on an exceptional range of new material gathered over almost 10 years.

The publication, which was funded by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), was launched at a special reception event held at the National Army Museum in Chelsea, London, on 9 December.

Sport and the Military traces how sport came to be recognised by the armed forces as making a vital contribution to fitness, morale and esprit de corps. The book examines how organised sport, developed in the Victorian army and navy, became the focus of criticism for Edwardian army reformers and was officially adopted during the Great War. It also shows how the services adapted to the influx of professional sportsmen, especially footballers, during the Second World War and the National Service years, and how sport helped bridge the gap between civilians and the armed forces.

Professor Mason said: “Sport and the military are two important social institutions of Britain and this is the first time that anyone has attempted to look at their relationship over a long period of time.

“The book shows how organised sport became more and more important to society and how it was not surprising that the armed forces took it up. The services increasingly realised the advantages of sport in relieving boredom and increasing physical fitness. Playing or watching sport was also something that took servicemen away from the horrors of war and became a link with society back home where sport was so popular.

“Dr Riedi and I found a letter from someone in the trenches in the First World War who was being sent copies of the Athletic News. He describes how everyone wanted to read it as it was a reminder of life at home and boosted morale.

“Sport in the military did not come about in some sort of Road to Damascus moment with someone saying, ‘right, sport is the thing we need to introduce to help our troops’ it was a gradual thing and that is what this book traces.”

Dr Riedi said: “We always knew it was a worthwhile project but we had no idea how much material we would find.

“As well as using the diaries, letters and regimental records held by archives like the National Army Museum and the Imperial War Museum we were also allowed to read the documents held by a wide range of service sports organisations like the Army Football Association and Royal Navy School of Physical Training.

“From the late 19th Century the civilian media showed great interest in service sport, and we have been able to include some fascinating illustrations ranging from the Victorian period to the 1950s.”

“This is a work of meticulous scholarship, lightly worn and engagingly written, throwing new light on a neglected aspect of British military history and opening up a new area of our sporting life for the first time.”

Professor Richard Holt
UEFA funds research into women’s football

In the summer of 2010 Dr Jean Williams was awarded €17,000 by European football governing body UEFA to investigate and produce a report into the modern history and professionalisation of women’s football.

Here, Dr Williams explains the background to the project.

“At the time of writing this €17,000 UEFA-funded project, football is breaking into new markets. It has not just held its men’s World Cup in South Africa, a first for a sporting mega-event on the continent, but is building towards a women’s World Cup in Germany in 2011. This will be sixth women’s world cup since the first was held in PR China in 1991, and it now also has two youth versions; with the U-20 and U-17 tournaments held in Germany, and Trinidad and Tobago respectively in 2010. With an estimated 26 million female players globally, the change over the last 60 years has been dramatic. Of this total, six million active players are estimated to be based in Europe.

“However, there are reasons to be cautious in the optimism that surrounds the growth of the women’s game. The same survey claims only a total of 21 million registered European players, of whom four million are female, and the reported gender balance of the confederation reflects a wider picture globally: even today, women make up ten per cent of the total football players at best. When we look at elite players earning a living from the game, the disparity is amplified: if there are 60,000 professionals in Europe, for example, very few are women. How many women are involved in what kinds of professionalisation of European football? We recognise that most of the growth of female participation developed in the last 40 years, however, we know very little about attendant professionalisation. While this is not the first research to look at cross-national issues of elite women football players, it is among the first to look at Europe-wide patterns of professional female migration.

Dr Jean Williams

With the new UEFA-sponsored women’s Champion’s League in its second season, the migration of female players into Europe, for top-level competition is also part of the ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors examined by the research.

PhD student Paul Campbell will be part of a special event as part of the 2011 De Montfort University Cultural Exchanges festival. The session on Friday 4 March 2011 is called ‘Our Sporting Life – Recording Voices’ and will explore the recording and presentation of sporting heritage in Leicester, with specific reference to ongoing research at the African-Caribbean Highfield Rangers Football Club as part of Paul’s PhD research. More information is available at dmu.ac.uk/culturalexchanges

We welcomed Italian postgraduate researcher Nicola Sbetti during the autumn term of 2010. Nicola, who is a Master’s student at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Bologna, spent two-and-a-half months with us as part of research into ‘Sport, Identity and Foreign Policy – A comparative analysis between England and France on the symbolic role of sport’ Nicola was awarded a special research scholarship by Bologna University to make the research trip possible. Nicola said: “The ICSHC was from the beginning my first option for study abroad. It’s the only big and stable Centre in Europe for cultural studies in sport.” We wish Nicola all the best as he continues his studies in Italy.

We were delighted to learn that PhD graduate Fabio Chisari was awarded the prestigious Gazetta della Sport award in Italy for the best sport PhD thesis. Fabio’s thesis was entitled ‘The Match: Football and the BBC 1937–1982’. Congratulations to Fabio.

Congratulations to Seamus Murphy who was awarded his PhD in November 2010 for his thesis on ‘Establishment and Regulation of Casino Gambling in Great Britain: 1939–2007.

Finally, congratulations to all of our MA students who successfully graduated in 2010.

Postgraduate student news

Dr Jean Williams organised a series of extremely well attended research seminars for our MA and PhD students throughout 2010. The structure of these sessions allows for external and internal speakers to present their existing research. The morning sessions are then followed by tutorials. The programme of seminars will continue in 2011 as a student-led initiative.

MA Sport History and Culture graduate and PhD, student Dave Dee, won the British Society of Sports History (BSSH) Richard Cox Prize for the best postgraduate paper at the 2010 annual conference. We would like to congratulate Dave on this achievement, especially given the considerable postgraduate attendance at the 2010 conference and the high standard of papers.

Congratulations also to Dave, for attaining his PhD, which was awarded in January 2011. His thesis, which was supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), was entitled, ‘Jews and British Sport: Integration, Ethnicity and Anti-Semitism, c.1890–1960.’

Our postgraduates continued to see their research published in mainstream outlets. Steve Crewe and Matthew Reading both had articles published in Soccer History.
Professor Richard Holt (rholt@dmu.ac.uk)

Richard Holt spent 2010 mainly finishing off existing projects. The final AHRC seminar on ‘Sport in Europe’, which he co-ran with University of Cambridge and Brighton University, was held in January 2010. He has also co-edited the proceedings to be published by Routledge under the title Sport and the Transformation of Europe (in press). The Historiography of Sport in Britain and France: Sporting Heroes of the North (Northumbria UP 2010) and a revised version will also appear in French in 2011. In terms of new work, Richard Holt signed a contract to edit the The Routledge Companion to Sport and Legacy as part of the centre’s collaboration with Professor Dino Ruta of the SDA Bocconi Business School (Milan). In addition, Richard has co-ordinated the centre’s major role in the new BBC Radio 4 series on the history of British sport. The series starts on 30 May 2011 and has 30 episodes.

Dr Neil Carter (necarter@dmu.ac.uk)

Neil has presented widely this year. In April, he gave a paper at the Université de Lausanne, titled ‘Sports Medicine as a Profession? The Early Years of the British Association of Sport and Medicine’. Together with colleague, Professor Matt Taylor, they gave a prestigious lecture – An Amateur in a Professional Game: Sir Harold Thompson FRSM, the Football Association and English Football – at the Royal Society about one of its former fellows, Harold Thompson, who was also a chairman of the Football Association. Over the summer he twice presented a paper – ‘The Punch Drunk Boxer: Popular Perceptions in Inter-War Britain’; first at a Boxing Symposium held at DMU – ‘Boxing, History and Culture: New Themes and Perspectives’ – and then at the bi-annual Social History of Medicine conference in Durham. In December, he gave a paper on the former football manager, Frank Buckley, at a Sporting Lives Symposium held at Manchester Metropolitan University in Crewe.

Professor Mike Cronin (Visiting Professor) (cronirmr@bc.edu)

Mike’s work on the oral history of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) continues, and more material emerging from the project is available at gaahistory.com. In 2011, the next book from the project will be published, exploring the relationship between the GAA, its members and county identities. His other major project, Ireland’s Sporting Heritage, is entering its final year of funding, and will result in a book in 2011 that will be published by Collins Press. This will explore how and why the built environment for sport came to be constructed, and will assess how the social history of Ireland shaped the places where we play.

Next year sees the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Aer Lingus as Ireland’s national airline, and Mike has been commissioned by the airline to produce a history. This will be published to coincide with the anniversary of the date of the first ever flight in May 2011.

During the past year Mike has presented a range of papers, including in Boston on the history of the GAA; in San Diego, at the annual meeting of the North American Society of Sport Sociologists, on the relationship between sport history and sport sociology; in Sligo at an EU-funded peace and reconciliation symposium on sectarianism and identity in Ireland today; and a paper on the Irish language and cricket at the Irish Studies Research Seminar at Queen’s University Belfast.


Dr Jean Williams (william@dmu.ac.uk)

Jean’s main projects for 2010–11 include a research monograph called A Contemporary History of Women’s Sport (Routledge Research, 2011) and a €17,000 UEFA-funded project: Women’s Football, Europe and Professionalization 1971–2011.

Jean’s motor sport research has led to a chapter ‘The Indianapolis 500: Making the Pilgrimage’ in Sport, History and Heritage: An Investigation into the Public Representation of Sport (Boydell and Brewer, 2012) edited by Jeffrey Hill, Kevin Moore and Jason Wood.
The chapter examines an event of great significance in US sport, but which has rarely attracted the attention of British scholars and applies the literature of pilgrimage as seen in work on tourism to understand the appeal of the Indianapolis 500 for its adherents. The second body of work is for the Oxford DNB which is planning a released biographies on motoring figures, including a number of racing drivers (some of whom are women), in 2013. Peter Bartrop is the adviser on the project and Jean has begun to prepare work for some of the most well-known figures after researching at the British Racing Drivers’ Club (BRDC) archive at Silverstone and at Brooklands, where many of the inter-war women raced. This ongoing research was presented at the 6th Meeting of the Transnational Working Group for the Study of Gender and Sport University of Bath 26–27 November 2010. The paper, ‘Speed: towards a collective biography of Brooklands’ women’ looked in particular at the lives and careers of Kay Petre and the Hon Mrs Victor Bruce.

Work on British women at the Olympic Games has also been continuing with publication of ‘Frisky and Bitchy: Unlikely British Olympic Heroes?’ in Fiona Skollen and Carol Osbourne (eds) Women and Sport: a Special Edition of Sport in History; June 2010 and ‘Send Her Victorious: A Historiography of British Women Olympians 1896-2012’ Sport & Society The Summer Olympics and Paralympics through the lens of social science. The British Library September 2010. A biographical paper on Smythe’s career as a horsewoman, writer and conservationist was given at the Sport2011 Exibition to be held at Curve from February–March 2011.

In addition to these larger projects Jean contributed short pieces to John Nauright’s forthcoming Encyclopedia of World Sport. These included Sport and Gender in the British Isles; the Indianapolis 500; Danica Patrick; Sonja Henie and the Women’s Olympics will appear in John Nauright (ed.) Sports Around the World: History, Culture, and Practice (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2011). Jean also prepared articles for the forthcoming Leicester’s Our Sporting Life exhibition to be held at Curve from February–March 2011.

Dr Dilwyn Porter (dilwynporter@dmu.ac.uk)

Dil Porter’s work remains focused around his teaching commitments on both of the centre’s MA courses and to PhD supervisions. At the same time, he continues to build his research profile in sports history. During 2009/10, he continued in his role as co-chair of the Sport and Leisure History research seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, which he helped to establish in 2008. This seminar helps to provide opportunities for researchers based at the centre to reach a wider audience. It was especially pleasing that two of Dil’s PhD students, Catherine Budd and Seamus Murphy, presented papers at the Postgraduate Student Conference held at the IHR in May 2010.

Published research on sports history in 2009/10 included a chapter on ‘Entrepreneurship’ in S.W. Pope and John Nauright (eds), The Routledge Companion to Sports History (Routledge, 2010), also a chapter on ‘Cornwall and Rugby Union: Sport and Identity in a Place Apart’, in Phil Dine and Sean Crosson (eds) Sport, Representation and Evolving Identities in Europe (Peter Lang, 2010). Two further pieces of work were completed and will be published in 2011. The first of these, a chapter entitled ‘Peacefully at Wembley Stadium on 20 April 1974: the quiet death of amateur football in England’, will be published in Stephen Wagg (ed), Key Moments in Sport (Palgrave). He has also published reviews in Sport in History and Soccer History.

Dil also retains interests in business history and, in particular, the history of financial journalism. He was delighted to join the British delegation invited to participate in the Annual Forum on the Economic and Business History of Egypt and the Middle East, held at the American University, Cairo, in May 2010, when he presented ‘A Game of Consequences: the London financial press and the Suez Crisis’. He has recently been invited to present a paper on financial journalism in the 1890s to the annual conference of the International Communications Association in Boston in May 2011.

Professor Emeritus Jeff Hill (jhill@dmu.ac.uk)

Since the beginning of the year Jeff has published essays on the comic book sport hero Alf Tupper in books edited by Dave Russell and Steve Wagg, Sporting Heroes of the North (Northumbria Press, 2010) and Philip Dine and Sean Crosson, Sport, Representation and Evolving Identities in Europe (Peter Lang, 2010), an article on Joseph O’Neill’s Netherland in Journal of Sport History, the third time that Tony has won the award. The book was also selected as one of the sports books of 2009 by the New Statesman, The Guardian and The Independent on Sunday.

In February he gave a paper on the 1969 South African rugby union tour to the UK at the Political Studies Association conference on sport and society. He gave a public seminar on the globalisation of football to the University of Rostock, Germany, in January 2011. The Cambridge Companion to Cricket (CUP), edited by Jeff and Anthony Bateman, is due to be published in March 2011, and Sport, History and Heritage: An Investigation into the Public Representation of Sport, edited by Jeff, Kevin Moore and Jason Wood and based on the AHRC-funded project at De Montfort (2006-08) is due to be published in early 2012. He also has an article on cricket novels coming out in Sport in Society in 2011, and is contributing a chapter on leisure in a book, ‘Contested Conveniences: Leisure and Cultural Conflict in Twentieth-Century Britain’, edited by Brett Bebbner.

Professor Tony Collins (tcollins@dmu.ac.uk)

Tony Collins’ A Social History of English Rugby Union won the BSSH Aberdare Prize for sports history book of the year – the third time that Tony has won the award. The book was also selected as one of the sports books of 2009 by the New Statesman, The Guardian and The Independent on Sunday.

In October he submitted a grant application under the AHRC’s Collaborative Doctoral Awards’ scheme for a three-year project to study the history of women in rugby league, a joint project with the Rugby Football League. Tony was also the editor of the book Sport as History, a festschrift for Professor Wray Vamplew – the founding director of the ICSHC – which was published by Routledge in July.
Professor Matt Taylor

(mtaylor@dmu.ac.uk)

Matt Taylor had a busy 2010, working on a number of established and new projects and taking up a series of new responsibilities. As editor-in-chief, Matt has continued the work of establishing Sport in History at the forefront of new research and methodological innovations in the field of sports history. 2010 was the 30th anniversary of the journal and Matt worked closely with the publishers Taylor & Francis and his co-editors to make 30 of the journal’s most important articles available free to access. Future plans include special issues on boxing and Britain and the Olympic Games.

Matt has also been heavily involved with Richard Holt in establishing a new book series with international publishers Peter Lang. The series, entitled ‘Sport, History and Culture’, aims to publish monographs, edited collections, translations and reprints of classic texts and will be jointly edited by Matt and Richard. It will be launched in 2011 with new studies of cricket in mid-19th Century Yorkshire and women’s sport in interwar Britain.

During 2010, Matt took up a number of important posts inside and outside DMU. In September he became temporary chair of the Departmental Research Committee, which has the main task of coordinating the history submission for the forthcoming REF. He continues to be a member of the British Society of Sports History Executive Committee and, in addition to being an academic supporter of the National Football Museum and consultant for its hall of fame, he has been asked to join its new Academic Advisory Panel.

Publications in 2010 included an article on ‘Mass-Observation, Sport and the Second World War’ in Rob Snape and Helen Pussard’s Recording Leisure Lives, and ‘Football’s Engineers? British Soccer Coaches, Migration and Intercultural Transfer’, for Neil Carter’s edited, Sport, History and Culture, aims to publish monographs, edited collections, translations and reprints of classic texts and will be jointly edited by Matt and Richard. It will be launched in 2011 with new studies of cricket in mid-19th Century Yorkshire and women’s sport in interwar Britain.

Professor Emeritus Jeff Hill and Dr Tony Bateman’s edited, The Cambridge Companion to Cricket (Cambridge University Press), will be published in March 2011. Further details for a special launch event and seminar for the book will be announced soon.

Dr Anthony Bateman (Visiting Professor)

(anthonybateman@btinternet.com)

Honorary Visiting Research Fellow Anthony Bateman had a busy 2010. With Professor Jeff Hill he has edited, for Cambridge University Press, The Cambridge Companion to Cricket, a volume due to be published in March 2011. The collection includes his own essay ‘Cricket Pastoral and Englishness’. In addition, his monograph, Cricket, Literature and Culture: Symbolising the Nation, Destabilising Empire was shortlisted for the 2009 Lord Aberdare Literary Prize for Sport History. His essay on cricket, empire and masculinity appeared in Rainer Emig and Antony Rowland's collection, Performing Masculinity. He has also conducted an interview with the composer Benedict Mason on the writing and reception of the football opera Playing Away. The interview will appear in Perspectives on Sport and Music, Dr Bateman’s second edited collection of essays on sport and music, a book due to be published by Routledge in 2013. He has also written entries on sport and literature, sport and music and cricket in Holland for the forthcoming reference book Sport Around the World. Activities at the centre have included a lecture on the history of Indian cricket for the FIFA MA students and a presentation on sport and music to Master’s and PhD research students. He has given lectures on CLR James at the Universities of Huddersfield and Keele and in November 2010 delivered a paper on cricket literature and Englishness at the ‘Literature of an Independent England’ conference at the University of Warwick.

Professor Pierre Lanfranchi

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During 2010 Pierre continued his work with the CIES/FIFA international University network. He also gave a special paper as part of the 10th anniversary ‘Historians on Sport’ conference in October 2010.

Pierre continues to be co-scientific director on the FIFA International MA in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport course and is the leader for the Internationalisation of Sport sub-module at De Montfort University.

Professor Emeritus Tony Mason

Tony Mason and Eliza Reid’s Sport and the Military: The British Armed Forces 1880-1960 was published by Cambridge University Press in November 2010, and is available in both hardback and paperback. Tony continues to contribute to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and is part of the group at the centre producing scripts for BBC radio 4’s series on the history of sport.

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