

FIRST WORLD WAR AND SPORT



Sport Unites Project

Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Summary	1-3
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Sport before World War One	4
Opportunities through sport	5-6
3.0 Sport during World War One	7-9
Casualties amongst sportsmen	10-11
Role that sport played	11-14
Sport amongst women	15-17
Christmas Day Truce	17-18
4.0 One hundred years later	19-21
Questions & Answers	22-23
Learning Sessions	23
Questionnaire	24-26
References	26

Acknowledgements

Red Rose Sports Club wishes to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund and participants who took part in the 'Sport Unites' project.

Summary

The 11th of November 2014 marked the one hundred year commemoration of the ending of World War One.

Much has been written about World War One, however less has been written about the role that sport played prior to, during and after the War.

Red Rose Sports Club wanted to involve people in the communities that it works in to commemorate World War One and applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake the 'Sport Unites' project, which would look at the role sport played during the War, in particular the Christmas Day Truce and also the knowledge and awareness that people have currently about World War One and the role sport played.

The 'Sport Unites' project set out to explore the impact the First World War had on sport and sporting events, particularly cricket and football"

The outputs of the project were:

- *Twenty five people complete a questionnaire assessing their knowledge of the War and the role of sport.*
- *Learning sessions delivered to increase awareness of the sport during the War.*
- *Analysis and re-enactment of the Christmas Day Truce football match.*
- *Production of publicity materials of the project.*

The result of the project were that 55 people completed the questionnaires and learning sessions were delivered to over 63 people. These learning sessions covered topics of the participants finding out more about the First World War and what role sport played. In particular a focus was made towards football and the Christmas Day Truce, which involved a football match between soldiers from different sides of the conflict.

The project also undertook research amongst participants to measure their knowledge and awareness of the First World War and the role of sport. The results of this showed that whilst most participants had a reasonable level of knowledge of the First World War, the amount of knowledge was less than what most people would assume. It is likely that by participating in this project, the results were better than they would have been.

The project did enable participants to learn about a subject that they had only heard of on television and by having a sport angle to the project meant that more people were engaged who might not have been interested had it only focused on causes and outcomes of the War.

The project also attempted to look at the positives of the role that sport played and the fact that a sporting event brought about a moment during the war that is still talked about today. The Christmas Day Truce football match was a moment that brought people together. Back at home, sport was seen as a good recruiting ground and many sportsmen volunteered and sadly some very famous sportsmen never returned home.

Women also had an opportunity to come out of the shadows during the First World War and as well as contributing to the War effort by working in jobs that men traditionally undertook, women's sport also flourished, in particular football. Dick, Kerr's Ladies Football team from Preston rose to become the most successful team in the country and even after the war finished they continued to be ground breakers. However, their success and women's football took a blow when shortly after the War, the FA restricted the opportunities for women's football to develop and it would be almost 100 years before women's football would surpass the heights that it reached during the First World War.

During the learning sessions, information emerged about individuals who were largely unknown but their stories had great significance today. Footballers, Walter Tull and Arthur Wharton achieved significant firsts, as both broke barriers to be the first from a minority ethnic community to play professional football and also to lead a unit in the British Army.

The 'Sport Unites' project has enabled people to learn more about their local history and the First World War and the role sport played. By connecting events during the First World War to local venues and people means that people in Preston today have a connection to the past. Preston North End football club still exists in the same location as it did when the Dick, Kerr's Ladies team played their first competitive match in December 2017. Next year marks 100 years to this date and members of Red Rose Sports Club involved in the project have expressed an interest to organise a women's football match to mark this event. There is also interest to have a greater tribute to Arthur Wharton and a small working group has been established to develop this further and this will ensure that the legacy of World War One will continue for many years to come.

1.0 Introduction

There are few events in history that are commemorated one hundred years after the event and the ending of World War One on 11th November 1914 is one such event. In a few more years, there will be no one alive who lived during the World War One years 1914-18 and even those that are alive today were probably too young to remember anything of the War.

Much has been written about the First World War and the sacrifices that were made by many people. However, less has been written about the way people continued with their lives during the war years, in particular their leisure pursuits, such as sport.

Red Rose Sports Club was established in 2001 and works predominantly with people from deprived areas and attempts to empower people to achieve their potential through their involvement in sport.

November 2014 marked one hundred years since the end of World War One and members of Red Rose Sports Club discussed what the role of sport was during the War. The football match during the Christmas Day Truce was the incident that most members recalled and everyone thought that sport had contributed to bringing people together, albeit for a short period during the War. Red Rose Sports Club members asked whether any other similar incidents had occurred and the role of sport during the War.

This led to a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the 'Sport Unites' project, which would look at the role sport played during the war, both within the UK and on the frontline. This report presents the findings of this project.

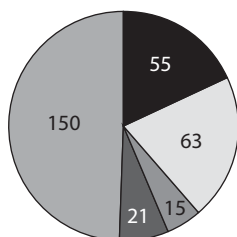
Heritage focus of the project

"To explore the impact the First World War had on sport and sporting events, particularly cricket and football."

The outputs of the project were:

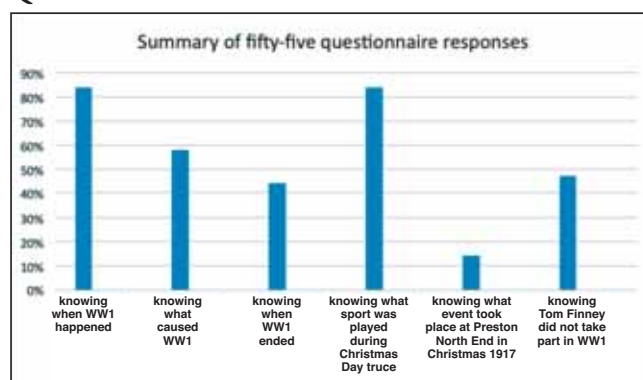
- *Twenty five people complete a questionnaire assessing their knowledge of the War and the role of sport.*
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Over 100 people were involved in various aspects of the project, including 55 people who completed the 'Sport Unites' questionnaire. The results of which provided an insight into what people living one years after the end of World War One know about the War.



55 participants completed questionnaire
63 participants took part in learning sessions
15 participants took part in learning through football sessions
21 participants took part in the 'picture board' learning
150 Reports, 4 display boards and 500 leaflets produced

Questionnaire results



2.0 Sport before World War One

Prior to World War One, football was Europe's most popular game with a majority of countries having international teams along with club teams based inside their respected countries. An example of major change due to the war was in England. Before the war, The Football League First Division consisted of 20 competitive teams competing for the league championship each year and not until December 12th 1914 did this really start to change when the football battalion was created.

Before the war the general views on sports and football were very good and positive. Football throughout the different countries, especially England, brought great positivity to a city and helped the economy in different ways too.

Leading up to the war in 1914, both sides were looking for soldiers to fight for their respected countries. Sports performers who joined the Army had a distinct advantage over normal citizens because of the fact they were already in good shape from playing sports professionally.

Leading up to the start of the war in 1914, Britain was doing everything in its power to gain and attract soldiers to fight for their army. One interesting method that the British used was recruiting all different types of athletes, but mostly soccer players. The recruitment of soccer players came mostly down to one man, the writer Arthur Conan Doyle, who made a direct appeal for football players to volunteer for service; he also came up with the idea of recruiting men and women at sporting events and pursuing them to join in the war at halftimes of certain soccer games.

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, it was expected that the Football Association (FA) would follow the example soon set by cricket and cancel all matches. But, despite opposition, matches were played in the Football League throughout the 1914-1915 season and the FA Cup held as normal. For the remainder of the war, the Football League suspended its programme but allowed clubs to organise regional competitions.

Much of the opposition to the continuance of professional football stemmed from the concern that many men preferred to play and watch football rather than join up. However, football was also seen as a useful recruiting tool.

On the outbreak of the First World War some of Britain's leading sportsmen joined the British Army. This included Ronnie Poulton-Palmer, the captain of England's rugby team. Capped 17 times in a match against France in 1914 he scored four tries. He was also chairman of the Huntley and Palmer biscuit business in Reading.

Also to join was Tony Wilding, the Wimbledon's singles champion four years running (1910, 1911, 1912, 1913). He also won the doubles final four times. In June, 1914, Wilding lost the men's singles final to Norman Brookes. On the outbreak of the war Wilding joined the Royal Naval Air Service.

Another to join was Frederick S. Kelly who won the Diamond Sculls at Henley in 1902, 1903 and 1905. He was also a member of the gold winning team at the London Olympics in 1908. (2)

Opportunities through sport

Prior to the start of World War One, there were very few from a minority ethnic community in the UK. However, through the influence of sport, one Anglo-Caribbean person managed to rise through the ranks of society.

Walter Tull, the son of Daniel Tull, was born on 28th April 1888. Walter's father, the son of a slave, had arrived from Barbados in 1876 and had found work as a carpenter. Walter grew up to play football and at the end of the 1908-1909 season he was invited to join Tottenham Hotspur, one of the most important clubs in the country. He was invited to go on tour of South America with the club. In May 1909 he played games in Argentina and Uruguay.

On his return he was offered a contract to play for Tottenham Hotspur. On 20th July, 1909, he was paid a £10 signing-on fee (the maximum allowed). Tull was also paid the maximum wage of £4 per week. This had been imposed by the Football Association in May 1900.



Walter Tull playing for Tottenham Hotspur

Walter Tull was only the second Black person to play professional football in Britain. The first was Arthur Wharton, who signed for Preston North End in 1886. At the time Wharton held the world record for the 100 yards and was the first black athlete to win an AAA championship.



Arthur Wharton

Tottenham Hotspur had just been promoted to the First Division of the Football League. Tull made his debut against Sunderland. Spurs lost 3-1 and they suffered a second defeat against Everton the following week. They got their first point with a 2-2 draw against Manchester United. In this game Tull caused the opposition defence serious problems and was brought down for a penalty.



Tottenham Hotspur: 1910-1911

Other clubs wanted to sign Walter Tull and in 1914 Glasgow Rangers began negotiations with Northampton Town. However, before he could play for them the First World War was declared. Tull immediately abandoned his career and offered his services to the British Army. On 21st December, 1914, Tull became the first Northampton Town player to join the Football Battalion (17th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment). (1)

3.0 Sport during World War One

The Call to Sportsmen



"How very different is your action to that of the men who can still go on with their cricket and football, as if the very existence of the country were not at stake! This is not the time to play games, wholesome as they are in times of piping peace. We are engaged in a life and death struggle."

When Field Marshal Lord Roberts spoke these words on 29 August 1914, his message could not have been clearer: it was time for Britain's sportsmen to stand up and be counted. Britain had declared war on Germany earlier that month and Lord Kitchener's recruitment drive – "Your Country Needs YOU!" – was on its way to enrolling 500,000 men in its first four weeks.

Lord Roberts was speaking at the formation of a new 1,600-strong battalion of Royal Fusiliers by businessman from the City of London. This so-called "Stockbrokers' Battalion" was the first of the "Pals' Battalions" promoted by General Sir Henry Rawlinson as a way to encourage groups of friends and work-mates to serve together.

The campaign to enlist sportsmen – notably the footballers and cricketers who appeared to be the most reluctant to enroll – intensified in early September with the public intervention of a leading writer and commentator, Arthur Conan Doyle.

The Sherlock Holmes author, an amateur footballer and MCC cricketer in his younger days, declared: *"If the cricketer had a straight eye let him look along the barrel of a rifle. If a footballer had strength of limb let them serve and march in the field of battle."*

Posters used in the British recruitment campaign informed would-be soldiers that a German newspaper, *Frankfurter Zeitung*, was telling its readers: *"Young Britons prefer to exercise their long limbs on the football ground, rather than expose them to any sort of risk in the service of their country."*

By the end of September, more than 50 towns and cities had established one or more Pals' Battalions, among them sportsmen's battalions, and three of those comprised mostly football players, club officials and supporters.

Heart of Midlothian and Leyton Orient signed up en masse, respectively to the 16th Royal Scots (known as McCrae's Battalion) and the 17th Middlesex Regiment (the Footballers' Battalion). The 15th West Yorkshire Regiment (known as "The Leeds Pals") included Yorkshire cricketers, athletes and footballers.

It was football that provided the most soldiers during the war. At the beginning of the 1914 football season, Hearts was Scotland's most successful team, winning eight games in succession. On 26th November, 1914, every member of the team joined the British Army. This event had a major impact on the public and inspired footballers and their fans to enlist. Many professional players, joined the Football Battalion.



Members of the Hearts football team in France in 1916.

Donald Bell, a defender with Bradford City, became the first professional footballer to join the British Army. He enlisted as a private but by June, 1915 he had a commission in the Yorkshire Regiment. Two days after his marriage in November, 1915, he was sent to France.

Jimmy Speirs played for Glasgow Rangers and Clyde before signing for Bradford City. He became captain and scored the only goal when the team won the FA Cup final against Newcastle United in 1911. The following year he joined Leeds United. On the outbreak of the First World War Speirs enlisted in the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders. He was posted to France in March 1916. After winning the Military Medal for bravery in the field he was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Walter Tull, was another outstanding footballer who abandoned his career and offered his services to the British Army. Tull, who had played for and Northampton Town, joined the Football Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. The Army soon recognised Tull's leadership qualities and he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In July 1916, Tull took part in the major Somme offensive. Tull survived this experience but in December 1916 he developed trench fever and was sent home to England to recover.

Tull had impressed his senior officers and recommended that he should be considered for further promotion. When he recovered from his illness, instead of being sent back to France, he went to the officer training school at Gales in Scotland. Despite military regulations forbidding any Black person being an officer, Tull received his commission in May, 1917.

Lieutenant Tull was sent to the Italian front. This was an historic occasion because Tull was the first ever black officer in the British Army. He led his men at the Battle of Piave and was mentioned in dispatches for his "gallantry and coolness" under fire.

Walter Tull stayed in Italy until 1918 when he was transferred to France to take part in the attempt to break through the German lines on the Western Front. On 25th March, 1918, 2nd Lieutenant Tull was ordered to lead his men on an attack on the German trenches at Favreuil. Soon after entering No Man's Land Tull was hit by a German bullet. Tull was such a popular officer that several of his men made valiant efforts under heavy fire from German machine-guns to



Walter Tull with other officers in 1917.

bring him back to the British trenches. These efforts were in vain as Tull had died soon after being hit. Tull's body was never found. Eleven former members of Tottenham Hotspur were killed during the First World War. On 17th April 1918, Lieutenant Pickard wrote to Walter's brother Edward and said he had been recommended for the Military Cross. (1)

Casualties amongst sportsmen



It is impossible to quantify the precise number of British sportsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war. Of almost nine million British Empire soldiers mobilised, around one in eight – or 1.1m individuals – were killed in battle or went missing, presumed dead. Another two million were wounded. On the front line, one in five perished.

Of 5,000 professional footballers at the time, more than 2,000 signed up. Using average mortality statistics, several hundred probably fell in the fields of Europe, with more dying later from their injuries.

Tottenham Hotspur staff enrolled and fought together from 1915, and the deaths of 11 of them were recorded in the club's handbook after the war. Newcastle United lost seven men, the same number as Hearts, three of whose players – Harry Wattie, Duncan Currie and Ernie Ellis – died on 1 July 1916 alone, on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. A team-mate, Paddy Crossan, was so badly injured that his right leg was tagged for amputation. He begged the surgeon: *"I need my legs, I'm a footballer."* The leg was saved but Crossan, 22, died later of damage to his lungs from poison gas.

West Ham lost five players, and Orient three, all in the Somme, with others injured so badly their careers were over. At Bradford and Celtic, Preston and Hibernian, Bristol City, Arsenal, Manchester United and all points in between, star players were lost.

Cricket suffered a disproportionate number of deaths (almost one in six who went to war). At least 34 first-class players were killed among 210 county players who served. Kent and England's Colin Blythe, a left-arm spinner regarded as one of the best of his era, took 100 wickets in 19 Tests. He was killed by random shell-fire on a railway line during the Battle of Passchendaele on 8 November 1917.

Rugby union prided itself as a sport that played its part. By the end of November 1914, every England international from the past year had signed up, while a 1915 war recruitment poster declared: *"Rugby union footballers are doing their duty. Over 90 per cent have enlisted. British athletes! Will you follow this glorious example?"*

There was an inevitable price to be paid. The England captain, Ronnie Poulton-Palmer, was killed by a sniper's bullet in 1915 and was among 27 England internationals who died. Thirty Scottish international players lost their lives, and 11 Wales players.

Tony Wilding, Wimbledon's singles champion four years running (1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913) was killed during an attack on enemy sniper posts at Neuve Chapelle on 9th May, 1915.

Frederick S. Kelly who won the Diamond Sculls at Henley in 1902, 1903 and 1905 fought at Gallipoli and won the Distinguished Service Cross for conspicuous gallantry. Kelly was killed at Beaucourt-sur-Ancre on 13th November, 1916.

Gerard Anderson who broke the world record at the 440-yards hurdles went to France with the Cheshire Regiment and was killed in action at Hooge, near Ypres, on 9th November, 1914.

During the First World War 210 county cricketers served in the armed forces. Of these, 34 were killed. This included Percy Jeeves, an outstanding all-rounder with Warwickshire, was killed at the Somme in July, 1916. He was immortalized when the author, P. G. Woodhouse, who had been a great fan of the cricketer, named Bertie Wooster's manservant Jeeves.

Professional Footballer Second Lieutenant Donald Bell took part in the Somme offensive. On 5th July he stuffed his pockets with grenades and attacked an enemy machine-gun post. When he attempted to repeat this feat five days later he was killed. He was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his action of 5th July. It is the only one ever awarded to a professional footballer.

Just as no sector of society was left unscathed, so no sport was left unmarked by the carnage that claimed so many young and vibrant lives from so many nations in a war that ceased with an armistice 90 autumns ago. (4)

Role that sport played

Throughout time sports have had a great impact on the world in many different ways, and even during the darker times of war, sports in general still manage to have a positive effect on everyone around. During the war many soldiers would use sports in the trenches to pass time and give them some enjoyment.

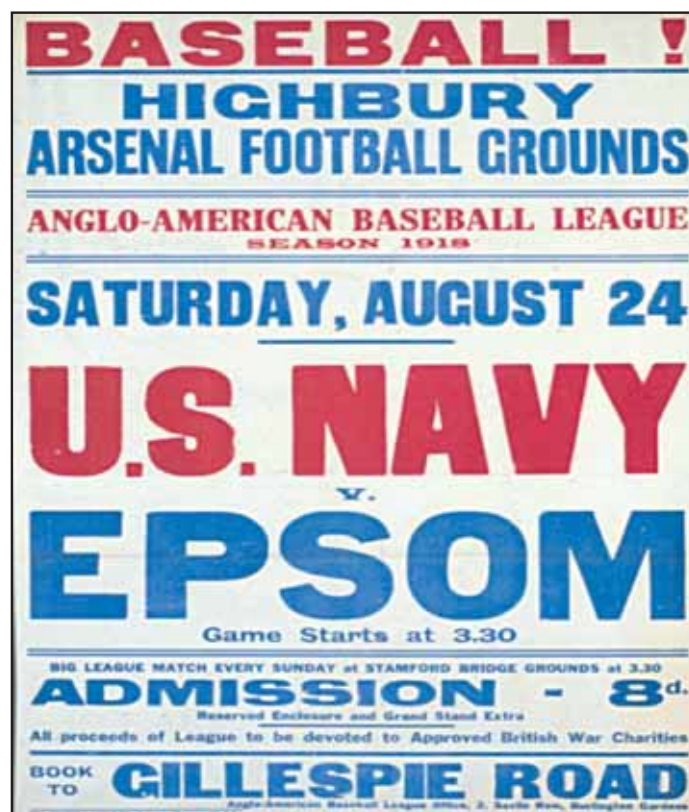
Football was also a popular form of recreation for troops on both sides and could boost morale. On 1 July 1916, men of the East Surrey Regiment, encouraged by Captain 'Billie' Nevill even went over the top kicking footballs. This was probably intended as a distraction for nervous young soldiers but was widely reported as a demonstration of British pluck.

Troops on the Western Front would spend considerable periods of time behind the lines. To keep men fit and active and to maintain morale, sport was encouraged and in many cases officially sanctioned. Football was widely used as a tool for recruiting men for the forces.



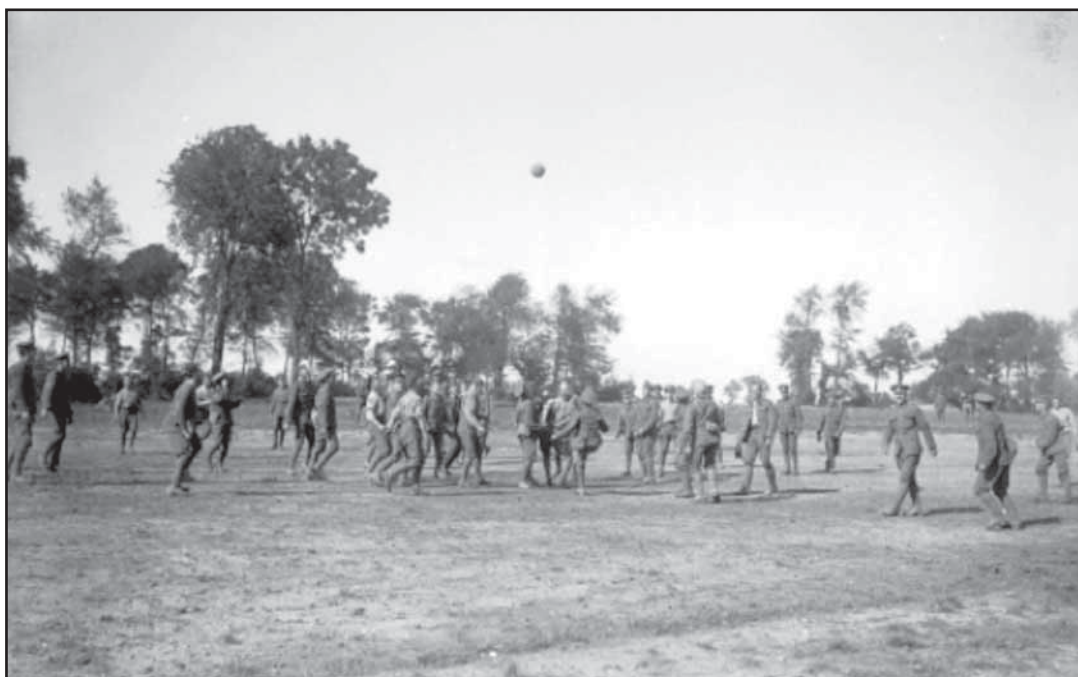
A photograph of an officers versus other ranks football match being played by members of the 26th Divisional Ammunition Train on Christmas Day 1915.

The arrival in Britain of American and other troops brought new sports such as Baseball and Australian Rules Football to the attention of the British public.



This poster is advertising an Anglo-American Baseball League match held at Arsenal's football ground at Highbury, North London.

Pillow fights, wheelbarrow races, and wrestling on mules were among other entertainments arranged by officers to maintain morale among British troops in the trenches during the First World War. Other “company sports” designed to take minds off the battles included blindfold squad drill, blindfold driving, tug of war, a boat race, and a high jump. Daily training programmes regularly included sports and football after routine exercises which included gas drill, gun drill, squad drill, and pack saddlery.



Football helped keep men fit and morale high. Ref 2

During war, most service personnel had to endure long periods of boredom when they were not in action. Britain was deeply impacted as many citizens thought they had to leave their passion for sports behind to join the army.

Another impact sports had during war was that Britain was using sports as an attraction for citizens to join the army but mostly people that had a passion for football. Keen to prevent boredom, sports was used as an advantage Britain held a meeting to come up with new ideas to promote interest in war. Posters were made quoting “*the army isn’t all work*”. Football was used widely to recruit men for the forces as during training football was carried out as a training activity to keep soldiers fit and to develop leadership skills and maintain communication.



Many sports men joined the army, however, it was known that football provided the most soldiers during war. This event had a major impact on the public and inspired footballers and their fans to enlist themselves for the army. Daily training programmes were running regularly which included gas drill, gun drill and squad drill. As there was a mixture of sportsmen from different sport backgrounds, this introduced new games that were deigned to take minds off the battels such as blindfold squad drill, tug of war, boat races and high jump and the most popular football.

In addition to the examples an idea is given that the world of sports was deeply impacted on many different levels. Sports players leaving to join the army reflects the importance of war more than passion for playing sports at the time of war. Moreover, this also emphasises the impact sports had, promoting recruitment, especially sports players and their fans to join the army reassuring that their passion for sports would still carry on whilst fighting for their country.

Soldiers appreciated the games in military as it brought a lot of benefits in improving fitness, relieving boredom, providing distraction from horrors of war and building morale. The men filled much of their time with football and boxing, also staged games of rugby and cricket, and held horse races.



Cricket was also exercised for enjoyment for those who had a passion for this sport in.

Through all the bad times at war, even when times were tough, sports were able to make the soldiers forget about all the horrific scenes witnessed on the battlefield. Sports proved to be a sign of peace and friendship. Sports and the thought of their respected families were the things that many soldiers relied on to get them through their time at war and back home safely. The idea that sports and total war truly do have a deep connection even though games were held on and off they still could find respect and peace together. (3)



Sport amongst women

During the First World War, more than 900,000 women worked in munitions factories. Most factories employed a welfare officer to monitor the health, wellbeing and behaviour of their new female work force. Sport, especially football, was encouraged and many munitions factories developed their own ladies football teams.

The most famous of these were Dick, Kerr's Ladies FC in Preston. Founded in 1917, their matches drew large crowds. They continued to enjoy success until women were banned from playing in Football League grounds in 1921. Matches were played between teams from different factories and in north-east England, a cup competition was established. This photograph shows a women's football team from the Associated Equipment Company (AEC) Munitions Factory at Beckton, London.

According to A. Mason, the First World War brought many changes in the lives of British women. It is often represented as having had a wholly positive impact, opening up new opportunities in the world of work and strengthening their case for the right to vote. The reality is more complex. Not all of the opportunities the war provided to women were entirely positive or long lasting.



Dick, Kerr Ladies Football Team Photo: courtesy of www.bing.com

Alfred Frankland worked in the offices of the Dick, Kerr factory in Preston. During the First World War the company produced locomotives, cable drums, pontoon bridges, cartridge boxes and munitions. By 1917 it was producing 30,000 shells per week.

Frankland arranged for the women to play a game on Christmas Day 1917, in aid of the local hospital for wounded soldiers at Moor Park. Frankland persuaded Preston North End to allow the women to play the game at their ground at Deepdale. It was the first football game to be played on the ground since the Football League programme was cancelled after the outbreak of the First World War. Over 10,000 people turned up to watch the game. After paying out the considerable costs of putting on the game, Frankland was able to donate £200 to the hospital (£41,000 in today's money).



Blyth Spartans Munition Girls - Munitionette Cup Winners 1918

Working together in large numbers opened up new leisure and recreation opportunities for women. Sport was encouraged amongst female workers as it was thought to be good for their health and general moral wellbeing. Many munitions factories developed their own ladies' football teams such as the one shown in this photograph. The most famous of these teams were Dick, Kerr's Ladies FC in Preston. Founded in 1917, their matches drew large crowds. They continued to enjoy success until women were banned from playing in Football League grounds in 1921.

The women working in factories began to play football during lunch-breaks. Teams were formed and on Christmas Day in 1916, a game took place between Ulverston Munitions Girls and another group of local women. The munitionettes won 11-5. Soon afterwards, a game between munitions factories in Swansea and

Newport. The Hackney Marshes National Projectile Factory formed a football team and played against other factories in London.

David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, encouraged these games as it helped reinforce the image of women doing the jobs normally done by men now needed to fight on the Western Front. This was especially important after the introduction of conscription in 1916. These matches also helped to raise money for wartime charities. (3)

Christmas Day Truce

The one specific event that took place during the war was the famous soccer game played during the Christmas truce of 1914 between the allies and Central powers. The game took place during the Christmas Truce of 1914 when both sides met in “no man’s land”, which was a safe zone where both sides could come together and treat everyone with respect. This soccer game shows that sports have had a great impact on everyone around and has brought people together for centuries.

According to A. Mason, late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches. The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man’s land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man’s land dwindled out.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit. After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas.



Group photograph showing men of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers with German soldiers in no man’s land on Boxing Day, 1914.



This decorative German bierstein is associated with the Christmas Truce on the Western Front

This decorative German bierstein is associated with the Christmas Truce which occurred on the Western Front on 25-26 December 1914. It was presented to Private Bill Tucker of the Army Ordnance Corps in his role as 'captain' of a winning British football team after an impromptu friendly match played against German troops. (3)

4.0 One hundred years later

Each year 11.00am on 11th November, the whole country stops what they are doing to commemorate the day when World War One officially ceased. On 11th November 2014, it was exactly one hundred years since the War ended.

One hundred years on, what has been the impact of the War on sport? The campaigning by the Tull family resulted in many years of heartache as The Ministry of Defence claimed that there was no record of the Military Cross recommendation found in Tull's service files at the National Archives. Edward Tull-Warnock continued with the campaign until his death on 3rd December 1950.

However, In 2012 Michael Morpurgo, the author of the novel *Warhorse* (2007), started an online petition urging "the Government to take up Walter's case – and finally award him his Military Cross posthumously." Morpurgo hopes that eventually there might be a statue of Walter Tull outside the Imperial War Museum in London as "a tribute to one man's fight against prejudice and evil and an inspiration to new generations.

It was announced on 3rd September, 2014 that Walter Tull would be remembered on a special set of coins released by the Royal Mint as part of commemorations of the centenary of the First World War. The coin, featuring a portrait of the officer with a backdrop of infantry soldiers going "over the top", will be one of a set of six £5 coins to remember the sacrifice made by so many during the war.

At the end of the First World War most women lost their jobs in the munitions factories. However, some retained their interest in football. For example, the Sutton Glass Works women's football team reformed as St Helens Ladies' AFC. Some teams retained the support of their employers. This included the Dick, Kerr factory in Preston.

Women's football games were extremely popular. For example, a game between Dick Kerr Ladies and Newcastle United Ladies played at St. James's Park, in September, 1919, attracted a crowd of 35,000 people and raised £1,200 (£250,000) for local war charities.

The women came under a great deal of pressure from their families not to play football. However, on 14th February, 1921, 25,000 people watched Dick Kerr Ladies beat the Best of Britain, 9-1. Representing their country, the Preston team beat the French national side 5-1 in front of 15,000 people at Longton. The Dick Kerr Ladies did not only raise money for Unemployed Ex Servicemens Distress Fund. They also helped local workers who were in financial difficulty.

The Football Association was against the women sportspeople's involvement in national politics. It now began a propaganda campaign against women's football. A new rule was introduced that stated no football club in the FA should allow their ground to be used for women's football unless it was prepared to handle all the cash transactions and do the full accounting.

Once again the issue was raised about the health risks of women's football. Dr Elizabeth Sloan Chesser said: *"There are physical reasons why the game is harmful to women. It is a rough game at any time, but it is much more harmful to women than men. They may receive injuries from which they may never recover."* Dr Mary Scharlieb, a Harley Street Physician added: *"I consider it a most unsuitable game, too much for a woman's physical frame."*

On 5th December 1921, the Football Association issued a statement that complaints have been made as to football being played by women, the Council felt impelled to express their strong opinion that the game of football is quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged. The Council requests the clubs belonging to the Association refuse the use of their grounds for such matches.

This measure removed the ability of women to raise significant sums of money for charity as they were now barred from playing at all the major venues. The Football Association also announced that members were not allowed to referee or act as linesman at any women's football match.

The first meeting of the English Ladies Football Association (ELFA) took place at Blackburn on 10th December 1921. At this time there were approximately 150 ladies' football clubs in England. The representatives of 25 clubs attended the initial meeting. This rose to 60 at the next meeting held in Grimsby.

The ELFA issued a statement that argued: *"The Association is most concerned with the management of the game, and intend to insist that all clubs in the Association are run on a perfectly straightforward manner, so that there will be no exploiting of the teams in the interest of the man or firm who manages them."*

ELFA also took measures to stop a club like Dick Kerr Ladies from developing again in the future. Alfred Frankland had obtained the best players by persuading them to play for his team. ELFA therefore decreed that no woman was to play for a club that was more than twenty miles from her home. The measure did a great deal to encourage clubs to develop local talent. This measure reduced the dominance of Dick Kerr Ladies who had recruited the best players available. This had resulted in them winning 99 out of their last 100 games. The only game they had failed to win was a draw against the French Ladies in Paris in October 1920.

The action of the Football Association reduced the popularity of women's football in Britain. As Ali Melling has pointed out in *Women and Football* (2002): "*The ban marked the start of a decline in the game, and during the 1920s and 1930s ladies' football was reduced to a minor sub-culture.*"

The Ladies Football Association ended in failure and women's football was unable to develop any formal structure. A declining number of women's teams arranged charity games throughout the season. There were never enough teams to enable the formation of any women's league.

The Football Association refused to lift its ban on women players. In 1947 the Kent County Football Association suspended a referee because he was working as a manager/trainer with Kent Ladies Football Club. It justified its decision with the comment that "women's football brings the game into disrepute".

In 1950 Alfred Frankland calculated that since 1917 Preston Ladies had played 643 games. Of these, they had only lost 9 games. He also claimed that that the team had raised £140,000 for charity.

The Football Association continued to try and suppress the playing of women's football. In 1962 they stopped a match from taking place at the British Legion ground at Newton between Preston Ladies and Oldham Ladies in aid of the Wigan Society for the Blind. Wigan Rovers rented the ground from the British Legion and the FA told them that they faced suspension if they allowed the game to go ahead.

In 1983 the WFA affiliated to the Football Association. Although the FA Women's Committee was chaired by a man, all other key posts were held by women. Women were also appointed to coach the national teams of England and Scotland.

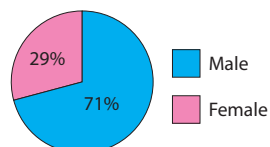
Women's football has continued to grow in popularity. In September 1991 the WFA established a national league with 24 clubs. The number of women's teams playing in Britain increased from around 500 in 1993 to about 4,500 in 2000. There are also over 6,500 women coaches in Britain. In 2002 the Football Association published figures to suggest that football has become the top sport for girls and women in Britain. More recently, the professionalisation of women's football has meant that the organisation and popularity of the game. (1)

And what of the War itself and how much people remember one hundred years later. The Sport Unites project undertook research via a questionnaire which offered participants a choice of five answers. A total of 55 people completed the questionnaire and the following results emerged:

Gender of participants

Male – 71%

Female – 29%

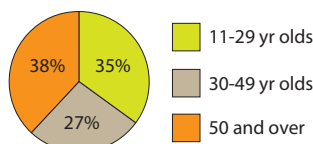


Age profile of respondents

11-29 yr olds – 35%

30-49 yr olds – 27%

50 and over – 38%



Q1. Between what years did World War One take place?

A large proportion of respondents 84% correctly stated that the war took place between 1914-1918. Although, it may be a surprise to some that the figure was not higher.

Q2. What incident led to the start of World War One?

Somewhat surprisingly, 58% stated that it was the assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand that led to the start of World War One. 22% thought that Germany invading Poland had led to the start of world war one.

Q3. Which month did Britain enter World War One?

47% were correct in stating that August was the month when world war one started.

Q4. Approximately, how many people were killed during World War One?

Probably no answer reflects the lack of awareness of the sacrifice that people made during World War One. Most respondents (48%) thought that between 10,000 to 100,000 people lost their lives. 36% thought between 10-20 million people lost their lives.

Q5. Which date and month did World War One come to an end?

Bearing in mind that the end of World War One is commemorated each year, it is a little surprising that only 44% of respondents could answer the correct date.

Q6. What sport was played during the Christmas Day truce?

A high number of respondents 84% stated the sport played was football.

Q7. What event took place at Preston North End Football club on one of the Christmas days during World War One?

Only 15% of respondents correctly stated that Dick Kerr Ladies team played their first competitive football match at the Preston North End football club.

Q8. Which major international sporting event was cancelled due to World War One?

Most respondents 42% correctly stated that the Olympic Games was cancelled followed by 33% stating it was the Football World Cup.

Q9. Which famous writer was heavily involved in recruiting sports people to join the army?

Surprisingly, the highest response 29% was for Arthur Conan Doyle. Perhaps even more surprising was that 18% of respondents thought the answer was William Shakespeare.

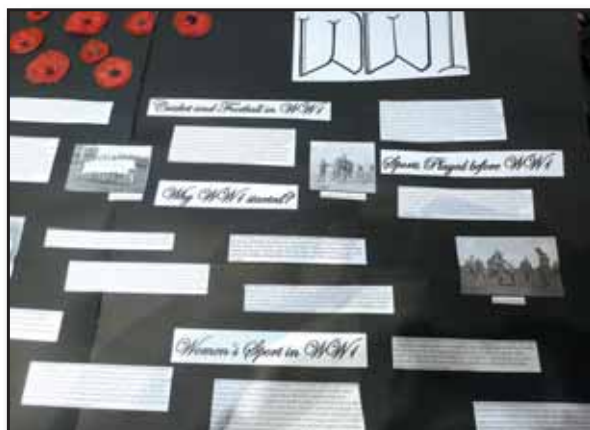
Q10. Which of the following sports performers did not take part in World War One?

The most popular and correct response 47% was for Tom Finney.

Learning Sessions

During the project, participants were able to learn about World War One through attending learning sessions and undertaking research. Some young people worked together to produce a 'picture board' of their findings, which demonstrated their increased awareness of the War and the role of sport. There was also an increase in awareness amongst other participants attending the learning sessions and one respondent commented.....

"My knowledge of World War One was very limited to knowing when it took place and that a lot of people from around the world were involved. I knew very little about the role of sport during the war and this project has made me more aware, especially about the Christmas Day football match and the number of high level sports stars who went to war."



Picture board produced by young people.



Young people learning about the First World War.



RED ROSE SPORTS CLUB



‘Sport Unites’ project

Personal details

Name: Male/Female:

- Age: 11-16 yr old ☐
17-29 yr old ☐
30-49 yr old ☐
50 or over ☐

Postcode:

Knowledge of World War One

Q1. Between what years did World War One take place? (Tick only one answer)

- a) 1875-1879 ☐
b) 1900-1905 ☐
c) 1914-1918 ☐
d) 1935-1939 ☐
e) 1967-1972 ☐

Q2. What incident led to the start of World War One? (Tick only one answer)

- a) Germany invaded Poland ☐
b) Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand ☐
c) Argentina invading the Falkland Islands ☐
d) Assassination of John F. Kennedy ☐
e) Russia invaded Ukraine ☐

Q3. Which month did Britain enter World War One? (Tick only one answer)

- a) January ☐
b) December ☐
c) August ☐
d) November ☐
e) June ☐

Q4. Approximately, how many people were killed taking part in World War One? (Tick only one answer)

- a) 100,000 ☐
- b) 2 million ☐
- c) 10,000 ☐
- d) 20 million ☐
- e) 10 million ☐

Q5. Which date and month did World War One come to an end? (Tick only one answer)

- a) 11 November ☐
- b) 25 December ☐
- c) 1 January ☐
- d) 20 April ☐
- e) 8 August ☐

Sport during World War One

Q6. What sport was played during the Christmas Day truce? (Tick only one answer)

- a) Football ☐
- b) Cricket ☐
- c) Tennis ☐
- d) Basketball ☐
- e) Badminton ☐

Q7. What event took place at Preston North End Football club on one of the Christmas days during World War One? (Tick only one answer)

- a) Preston North End Men's team played the England team ☐
- b) England played Germany in a Friendly football match ☐
- c) Dick Kerr Ladies team played their first competitive football match ☐
- d) An international hockey tournament was held ☐
- e) Arnold Jones Ladies team played against the Preston North End ☐

Junior Men's team

Q8. Which major international sporting event was cancelled due to World War One? (Tick only one answer)

- a) Football world cup ☐
- b) Paralympic Games ☐
- c) World athletics championships ☐
- d) Olympic Games ☐
- e) London Marathon ☐

Q9. Which famous writer was heavily involved in recruiting sports people to join the army? (Tick only one answer)

- a) Arthur Conan Doyle ☐
- b) J.R Tolkien ☐
- c) A.A. Milne ☐
- d) Rudyard Kipling ☐
- e) William Shakespeare ☐

Q10. Which of the following sports performers did not take part in World War One? (Tick only one answer)

- a) Ronnie Poulton-Palmer (Captain of England Rugby team) ☐
- b) Tony Wilding (Wimbledon Tennis champion) ☐
- c) Tom Finney (Preston and England footballer) ☐
- d) Frederick Kelly (Rowing champion) ☐
- e) Gerard Anderson (Athletics champion) ☐

To be completed by interviewer:

Name of interviewer:

Date questionnaire completed:

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