

# SHEFFIELD

THE HOME OF FOOTBALL



An early photograph of Sheffield FC - Founded in 1857

## Sheffield: The Home of Football

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Football, or soccer, is the most popular spectator sport in the world and the 2012 World Cup final in South Africa between Spain and the Netherlands had 3.2 billion viewers, more than 40% of the global population. The spiritual home of football is in Sheffield and this programme provides some details of its remarkable heritage which are summarised in the **centre pages (12-13)**.

## Early Games of Football

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For many people there is an instinctive reaction to kick a small stone or tin can when they are encountered along a pathway, and this instinct is evident in the numerous early games of football found in many countries across the globe. The Ancient Greeks were known to play a game called episkyros which was described by Antiphanes (388-311 BC) and the Romans also played a ball game called harpastum.

In China, Zhan Guo Ce compiled a military manual between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC, in which *cuju* (literally 'kick ball') involved kicking a ball through a hole in a silk cloth attached to bamboo canes. Around 600 AD in Japan, kemari was played at the Imperial Court where people stood in a circle and kicked the ball to one another trying to keep it off the ground—it was an early form of 'keepie-uppie'.

In 1586 seamen commanded by John Davis played the Inuit in Greenland and in 1610 William Strachey from Jamestown, Virginia, described a game called *Pahsaheman* which was played by Native Americans. Down under in Australia there is an account from 1878 of indigenous people also playing with a ball.

## Mob Football

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During the Middle Ages, Shrovetide games of football were common across Western Europe and around 1174-1183 William FitzStephen wrote about games in London, "After lunch all the youth of the city go out into the fields to take part in a ball game. The students of each school have their own ball; the workers from each city craft are also carrying their balls. Older citizens, fathers, and wealthy citizens come on horseback to watch their juniors competing, and to relive their own youth." These Shrovetide games can still be experienced at Ashbourne in Derbyshire, with two sides—the Up'Ards and the Down'Ards (upwards and downwards) numbering hundreds on each side. The game lasts from 2.00pm until 10.00pm with each team attempting to carry, throw or kick the ball to their own goal. The goals are stone pillars which lie some three miles apart. Other games of mob football can be found elsewhere in Britain including the Ba' Game at Kirkwall in the Orkneys and there is even a 14th century carving of football players in Gloucester Cathedral. (See image on right)

## The Perambulations of Barney the Irishman

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In Sheffield, an account of a mob football game at Bents Green was described by Bernard Bird in 1793: "There were selected six young men of Norton, dressed in green; and six young men of Sheffield, dressed in red. The play continued for three consecutive days. At the arch which was erected at each end of the place selected, there was a hole in the goal, and those of the Sheffield side would prevent the ball from passing through the hole. Then those on the Norton side (not being so numerous as those of Sheffield) sent messengers to the Peak and other places in the county of Derby; in consequence thereof, a great number of men appeared on the ground from Derbyshire.

Then those from Sheffield sent fife and drum through the streets of the town, to collect recruits and sufficient force against Derbyshire men. The fashion then was for all responsible gentlemen, tradesmen and artisans of Sheffield to wear long tails. Hence, at the conclusion of the third day, a general row or struggle took place between the contending parties, insomuch that the men of Derbyshire cut and pulled nearly all the tails from the heads of the gentlemen of Sheffield.

I understand there were many slightly wounded, but none were killed; thus ended the celebrated football match which aroused the bad passions of humanity for many years afterwards, insomuch so that the inhabitants of Norton felt a dread in coming to Sheffield, even about their necessary business."



**14th century carving of football players in Gloucester Cathedral**



## Sheffield FC (1857)

Games of football have been played across Britain for many hundreds of years and the rules were mainly locally determined.

In May 1857, William Prest, a wine merchant and captain of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, and Nathaniel Creswick, a solicitor, discussed the success of cricket at Bramall Lane and the need for organised sport during the winter months. They concluded that a football club should be founded and some months later, on 24 October, Sheffield Foot Ball Club was officially founded. They are the oldest association football club in the world.

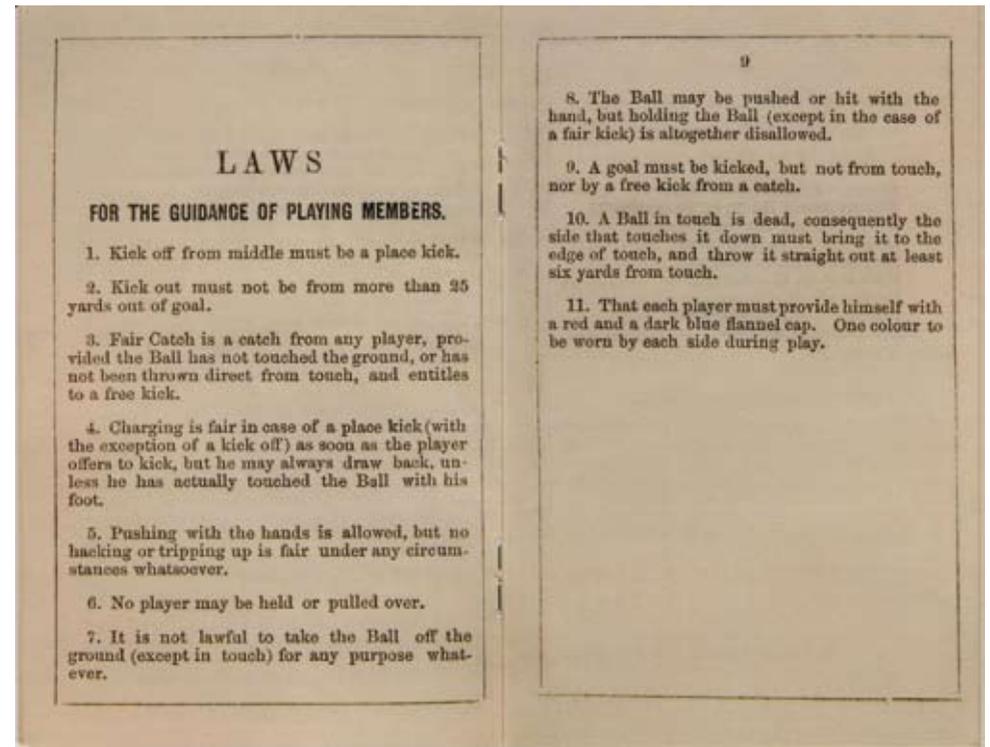
Creswick and Prest produced their own practical version of eleven football playing rules. Although they wrote to various public schools requesting their rules it would appear that these were too varied and so the rules the two men constructed were largely of a local origin.



Since there were no other teams to compete with, the players took part in internal games e.g. Singles v Marrieds, family names A-M would play N–Z. etc. Players were required to provide themselves with two flannel caps, one red and the other dark blue, so that each team could be distinguished by wearing one colour.

The world's oldest surviving original football rules are the Sheffield Rules. (Right) 'The Club' took a relatively relaxed attitude to the rules and these changed over the years. One illustration of this was the giving of 'odds' in which the weaker team were allowed to have more players. In one game Sheffield had 12 players and Norton eighteen. Generally, the number of players on each side was even; however, in one game of twenty-a-side at Sheffield Barracks, Creswick the captain of Sheffield, became so concerned about the number of opposition players that he complained to the military officer who had his men parade and this revealed that they numbered thirty-eight.

In those early days there was little distinction between what we now know as football and rugby. When teams played each other they would normally play by the home side's rules or sometimes play one half to one set of rules and the second half by the other set of rules. In 1872, during a game between London



and Sheffield the half-time break was extended to allow the height of the crossbar to be adjusted because Sheffield played with a bar at nine feet high and London with one at eight feet high. It was originally Sheffield which proposed the use of an eight-foot crossbar.

As a result of the confusion and disputes which arose because of the different sets of rules, a meeting of several football clubs was called in 1863 at the Freemason's Tavern, London with the intention of unifying the rules among its members. This inaugural meeting of the Football Association was followed by others to which public schools were invited and there were also contributions from Sheffield FC. Most importantly, Sheffield proposed to the FA that the ball should not be carried by hand and there should be no hacking (kicking an opponent below the knee). Reaching agreement was not easy and eventually Blackheath lost their argument supporting hacking and running with the ball. As a consequence, Blackheath withdrew and this junction marks the divergence of rugby and football.

Sheffield FC made many other contributions which shaped the origins of the beautiful game and which continue to this day. In addition, they suggested the use of free kicks for rule infringements; a throw in by the opposite team to the one which kicked it out; eleven-a-side; 90-minute games; changing ends at

half-time and the introduction of the crossbar. Furthermore, Sheffield FC were involved with the first inter-city game against Nottingham in 1862. Sheffield Club was also quite emancipated for its time. A female was admitted as a member in 1859, the first in the history of football, and nine of the 252 members were women by 1864.

Brendan Murphy's book *From Sheffield With Love* describes the history of Sheffield Football Club and proposes a connection with Melbourne, Australia and the origins of Australian Rules football. A possible relative of Nathaniel Creswick, one Henry Creswick and his brother, emigrated from Sheffield to Australia and the gold rush town of Creswick was named after him. He settled in east Melbourne in a house called The Hawthorns and the area later became known as Hawthorn. It is possible that Hawthorne FC, an Australian Rules team, was named after the house owned by Creswick.



A more significant connection may also be present. Sheffield FC formalised its rules in 1858 and in 1859 Melbourne FC were formed and shortly afterwards the first set of rules were formulated for what was to become Australian Rules football. (see left) Significantly, the Sheffield Rules and the Melbourne Rules both allowed pushing and outlawed hacking but more remarkably

they were the only two codes which did not include an offside rule.

In 1885 professional football was allowed, however Sheffield remained amateur and could not compete with the richer professional clubs. Sheffield proposed to the FA that a cup be created especially for amateur teams and in 1903-04 won the FA Amateur Cup. They also reached the final of the FA Vase in 1976-77.

In 2004, FIFA awarded Sheffield FC the Centennial Order of Merit for its contributions to football, an honour only shared with Real Madrid. The Club celebrated their 150 anniversary in 2007 and celebrations included a match at Bramall Lane against Inter Milan with Brazilian legend Pele being guest of honour.

After many years playing at different venues the Club now have their own ground at the Coach and Horses. The Club continue to represent the Victorian values of integrity, respect and community with projects, such as *Boots for Africa*, and look forward to contributing further to the wellbeing of the game.

[www.sheffieldfc.com](http://www.sheffieldfc.com)

## Match Report from Sheffield Daily Telegraph 30th December 1861

### FOOTBALL MATCH AT HYDE PARK

A spiritedly and well-contested, although all who witnessed the match must acknowledge a rough, game at football was played at Hyde Park, on Saturday, between the Sheffield and Hallam clubs. The proceeds were to be appropriated to the laudable object of benefiting that admirable institution, the public hospital and dispensary. The weather was unquestionably suitable for the players, but the spectators, who mustered between 600 and 700 appeared to suffer from the severity of the cold. The receipts amounted to about £15. Although almost every game of skill is played according to fixed and definite rules, football is so far an exception that its rules are as various as the number of places where it is played. At Eton a player is not allowed to touch a ball with his hands, and the goal must be kicked. These conditions are varied at Harrow, where a player catching a ball before it reaches the ground is entitled to a free kick, and, under certain circumstances, the goal may be thrown. At Westminster, the ball may be caught under any circumstances, but the catcher takes his chance of a kick. At Rugby, the game is an indescribable medley, approximating closely to fives, wrestling, racing, and football, but not fairly entitled to lay claim to any game in particular. In some places the ball must be kicked over the goal, and in others under. In most instances football clubs adopt certain rules of their own, and the consequences of all this diversity is, that when two clubs play a match the first thing to be determined is, what rules shall be observed, and the discussion usually ends in each side giving up some peculiar characteristic of its own. Thus the game — as was the case on Saturday — is played with an amalgamated code of rules of the two clubs. Each side inadvertently made mistakes through playing with unusual rules, and the result was that occasionally a little ill feeling and rough play was created. Football is essentially a game for the feet; hands, therefore, ought not to be used any more than is strictly necessary; and had that rule been strictly carried out, some of the competitors on Saturday would not have received the severe injuries to their faces and other parts of their bodies which they did. Indeed one or two of the players appeared as though they had been taking an active part in a recent "mill," whilst the rent clothing of others reminded one of a "worsing" in a Lancashire wrestling match — the principle feature of which is catch where catch can. The game is of itself dangerous enough, and all such practices as tripping up, pushing with the hands, "hocking," and wild and indiscriminate kicking, ought to be studiously avoided. The game of Saturday was remarkably well played, but if the players dispense with the tripping up, "hocking," and wantonly pushing one another to the ground the highly exhilarating game would be stripped of its dangers, and that would not in the least lessen the gratification of the spectators. The match was between fourteen of the Hallam

club against a similar number of players belonging to the Sheffield club. The sides were composed of the following gentlemen. Hallam: Messrs. J. C. Shaw, (the captain of the field), J. Snape, F. Vickers, G. H. Waterfall, F. Warburton, William Waterfall, B. Elliott, Alfred Waterfall, George Elliott, A. Hobson, A. W. Pearson, J. W. Pye-Smith, H. Moore, and Captain Vickers (Hallamshire Rifles). Sheffield: Captain N. Creswick (Artillery Volunteers), captain of the field, Captain W. Prest, Hallamshire Rifles; Messrs. W. Baker, J. Appleton, H. Chambers, James Dixon, Rupert Favell, T. Gould, M. Hall, T. Moore, A. Wightman, J. Wild, W. Turton, and David Sellars. Space will not admit of a detailed account of all the noble exploits, all the skilful dodges, all the long drops, and all the beautiful runs which were made during the game. Play commenced at 1.45 in the afternoon, the "kick off" being performed by Shaw, the captain of the Hallam team. After an hour and a quarter's remarkably fine play the Sheffield gentlemen through the instrumentality of T. Moore obtained a goal. The Hallam party were now put to their mettle and right arduously did they contend every inch of the ground for the succeeding half hour, at the expiration of which Captain Vickers kicked the ball through the goal to the infinite delight of his colleagues, and the vociferous cheering of the spectators. The time arranged for concluding the game having been fixed at four o'clock there was only half-an-hour left for the final advantage to be achieved. Consequently the individual players exerted themselves and owing to the over anxiety of the "taller" players many were frequently put hors de combat. Finally at three minutes to four o'clock F. Warburton, whose runs and manoeuvres throughout had been carried on with astonishing rapidity and quickness, succeeded in obtaining a second goal for the Hallam Club. This decided the match, although some further play ensued for the amusement of the spectators. The exertions of T. Moore, David Sellars (the Sheffield Huntsman), Wightman, Chambers, and Baker on the Sheffield side contributed greatly in preventing the game at any single period from "flagging." T. Gould, W. Prest, and Appleton frequently distinguished themselves by their superior long — and the manner in which Creswick "trundled" the ball before him in front of the whole of his opponents immensely excited and pleased the spectators. It was patent to the merest novice at the game that the Hallam members were the superior players. The play of Messrs. Shaw, T. Vickers, Warburton, the Elliotts, Waterfalls, and F. Vickers — the latter of whom made some excellent kicks — drew forth loud and frequent cheering from the company. In spite of all the little discrepancies the match was undoubtedly a success, and is, we hope, only the precursor of many more friendly encounters. The players were distinguishable from their respective blue (Hallam) and red (Sheffield) clothing, the former of whom wore a black band in memory of H.R.H. Prince Albert.



## Hallam FC (1860)

Hallam Cricket Club was founded in 1804 by the landlord of the Plough Inn and it successfully grew to more than 300 members by the 1850s. In 1860, John Shaw and Captain T. Vickers (later head of Vickers Steelworks), who were both members of Sheffield FC, decided to form a less exclusive football club.



On 26th December 1860, the very first inter-club match or 'derby' was held against Sheffield Club who were victors. These derby matches still survive today with the teams meeting for regular fixtures.

The return game in 1861 was played between the fifteen of Sheffield and the 18 of Hallam at East Bank with the game lasting three hours and Hallam winning

**FOOT BALL.—A MATCH will take place on SANDYGATE CRICKET GROUND, on WEDNESDAY, December 26th, between Sixteen of the Sheffield Club and Sixteen of the Hallam and Stumperslowe Club. Play to commence at 3.00. J. SHAW, Secretary.**

by three goals to nil. A newspaper report nicknamed them 'The Countrymen' because at the time Hallam's ground lay a considerable distance from the city and this name remains. A match report for the third derby describes in fascinating detail the complexity of the various rules which existed at the time. (page 7)

John Shaw co-founder and captain of Hallam FC represented the Sheffield Football Association at meetings of the Football Association and together with Charles Alcock of the FA were instrumental in formulating many of the early rules of football. In 1871, these two gentlemen captained their respective teams in the first Sheffield v London match in which they experimented with different rules.

By the 1862/63 season there were 22 football clubs in Sheffield and individual matches were played on a challenge basis. Gradually, these challenge matches became routine and clubs sought greater excitement. Thomas Youdan, a local theatre owner, sponsored a competition and provided a silver cup. Twelve teams



took part: Broomhall, Fir Vale, Garrick, Hallam, Heeley, Mackenzie, United Mechanics, Milton, Norfolk, Norton, Pitsmoor and Wellington. The first two rounds were played on a knock out basis and the final was played at Bramall Lane in front of 3000 spectators who each paid 3 pence (1p). It was contested by three teams: Hallam, Norfolk and Mackenzie who played one another with Hallam eventually becoming the winners of the first ever football competition.

Although the Youdan Cup was lost for a number of years it turned up at an auction and was later bought from a Scottish antiques dealer in 1997 once again making Hallam the owners of the world's oldest football trophy.

With the rise of the professional game Hallam, who remained amateurs, found it more difficult to compete although they still achieved some success. In 1925, more than 2000 spectators filled the Sandygate ground when they beat Bishop Auckland in an FA Amateur Cup game. In another game held at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough Stadium, 13,000 spectators watched Hallam play Dulwich Hamlet. Hallam also won the Sheffield Senior Cup on four occasions during the 1950s and 1960s.

In the 2000/2001 season the Guinness Book of Records awarded Hallam FC with two certificates: one recognising Sandygate as The Oldest Football Ground in the World still in use, and the second acknowledging that Hallam FC possess the world's oldest knock-out football cup—the Youdan Cup.

The prestige of being the oldest football ground in the world continues to attract the interest of many footballers including those at the highest levels. The Thai national team have played there and more recently the Argentinian national team made a visit.

The club is held in the affections of many and a legacy by Roger Bell enabled the club house to be rebuilt and the '1860 Suite' was opened in 2012. In the entrance to the 1860 Suite can be found the two Guinness Book of Records certificates which endorse two of the contributions which Hallam have given to the game of football.

[www.hallamfc.co.uk](http://www.hallamfc.co.uk)



## Sheffield & Hallamshire County Football Association

The first area Association for football, was formed in 1867. The London FA or as it is called today The FA, had been formed in 1863, but this was run by clubs from all England rather than just London.



In February and March of 1867, 12 prominent teams from the Sheffield area took part in the Youdan Cup, the first ever football cup competition in the world. The final was between Hallam FC, the winners, and Norfolk and was played on 5 March 1867 at Bramall Lane with the second/third play off between Norfolk and Mackenzie on the 9 March 1867, at the same ground.

It is believed that the Sheffield Football Association was formed by the 12 clubs who took part in The Youdan Cup competition. The idea of the Sheffield Football Association was to properly organise local football and place cheaper block adverts in the press on a

Saturday morning in respect of that day's local football matches, something that had successfully been done during the Youdan Cup. Previously each club had placed their own adverts which had become costly.

The Association also set up a players accident society, the first for footballers, to which players paid one shilling (5p) so that they would receive 12 shillings (60p) per week if a football accident prevented them from working. This was a very practical innovation given the rough nature of the game in those days.

The first Annual General meeting of the SFA took place on Wednesday 9 October 1867 at the Adelphi Hotel when various alterations to the 1867/68 rules previously published were discussed. H W Chambers was re-elected President which was noteworthy since he was also the Secretary of Sheffield FC which did not join the SFA until 1871, however he was the Sheffield FC representative to the London FA, so perhaps he was selected for his experience of how they ran things.

The second AGM in October 1868 still showed 13 clubs in membership. The rules were again reviewed and the main alteration was to do away with the rouges system of scoring and revert to goal posts 8 yards apart. The



Sheffield & Hallamshire Senior Cup 1876

Youdan Cup competition had used the Eton rouge system which instead of having the goal posts 8 yards apart, the goal posts were only 4 yards apart. Another 2 posts were erected a further 4 yards either side of these post, these being called rouge posts. Those familiar with Australian Rules football today will see that a similar arrangement is still being used. The idea of the game was to score goals between the middle 2 posts to win the game. However with only 4 yards to aim at, most games tended to finish without a goal being scored and so no winner.

A rouge post was placed outside each goalpost and if the ball was kicked between the goalpost and the rouge post and was then touched onto the ground by an attacking player then a rouge was scored. If the game then finished without any goals being scored or an even number of goals then the number of rouges scored decided who had won the match.

In 1877, the Hallamshire Football Association or New Association as it was first called, was formed in opposition to the Sheffield Football Association. Its main purpose was to look after newly formed clubs who were not allowed to join the SFA because of a rule requiring that clubs must have been playing for two years before they could join.



The Sheffield Football Association was joined by the Hallamshire Football Association in 1887 to become known as the Sheffield & Hallamshire Football Association. The word County was incorporated into the title many years later.

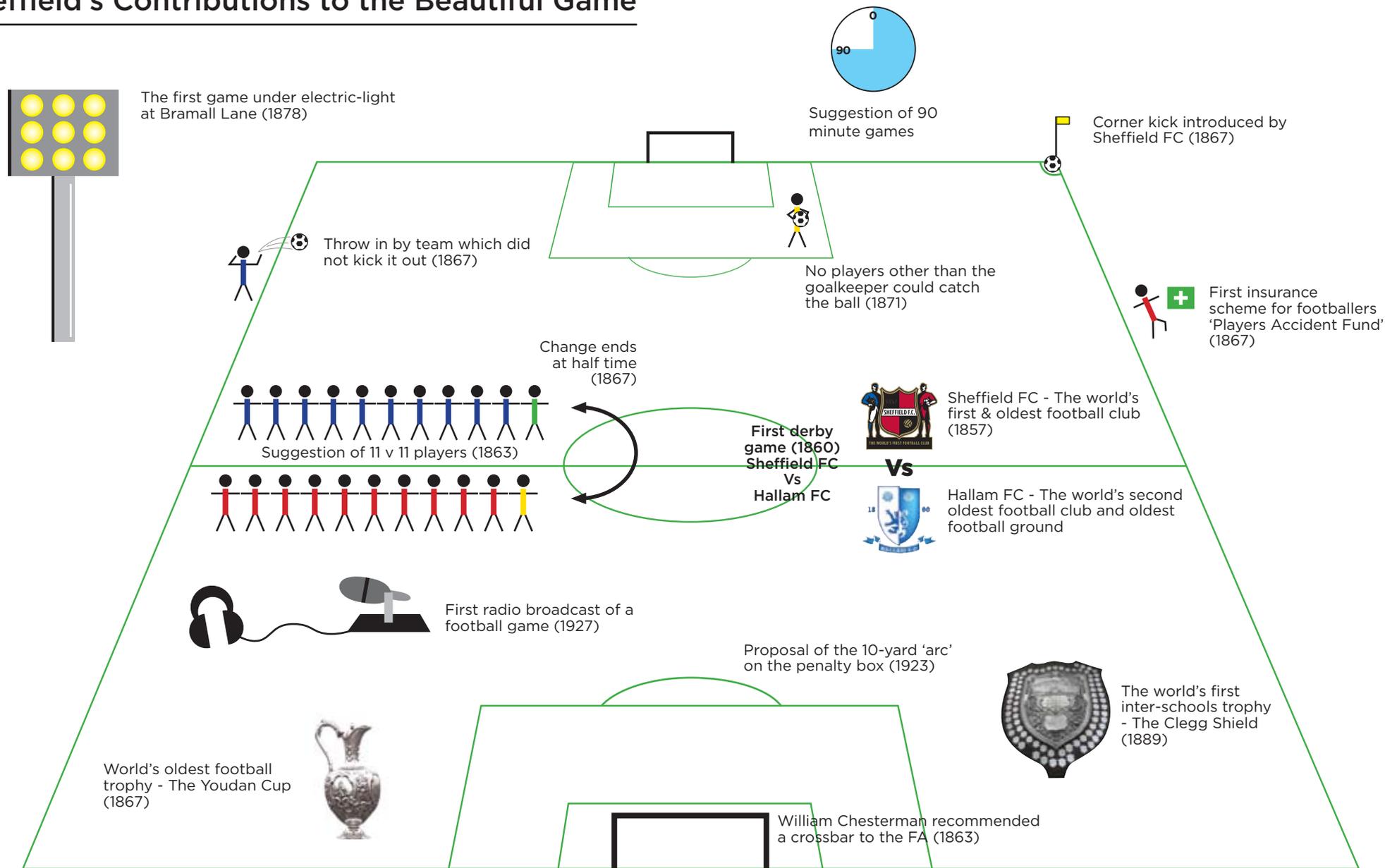
The first President of the Sheffield & Hallamshire FA was Sir Charles Clegg (pictured) who had played for Sheffield FC, The Wednesday FC and England in the first ever international game against Scotland in 1872. He also refereed the 1882 and 1892 FA Cup Finals at the Oval and was President of SHFA for 50 years until his death in 1937.

He was the first Chairman of The FA, holding that office from 1890 until becoming their President in 1923, a post he held until his death. He was a board member at both Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United, who he help form in 1889. In 1927 he became the first person ever to be knighted for services to football.

Today SHCFA continue to run and control football within 20 mile radius of the Sheffield Cathedral, and they look forward to celebrating our 150th anniversary in 2017.

[www.sheffieldfa.com](http://www.sheffieldfa.com)

# Sheffield's Contributions to the Beautiful Game



The Sheffield Rules (1858) had a major influence on the modern game of football and led to the divergence of football and rugby.

Bramall Lane is the oldest major football ground with the first game played in 1862.

The first representational match was London v Sheffield in 1866.

The first international club match was Glasgow v Sheffield in 1874.

The Youdan Cup Rules allowed a referee to award a free kick for fouling which predated the FA rules.



## Sheffield Wednesday FC (1867)

Sheffield Wednesday FC was formed by members of The Wednesday Cricket Club which was so called because they played on Wednesday afternoons. The Cricket Club was established in 1820, and to keep the members fit and together during the winter months, when cricket was not played, it was decided to create a football team.



A meeting held at the Adelphi Hotel in 1867 established The Wednesday Football Club and the same hotel was also the location of two other remarkable pieces of history. In 1854 a meeting decided to establish Bramall Lane cricket and sports ground and in 1863 Yorkshire County Cricket Club were

also established there. Nowadays, the location of the Adelphi is the site of the Crucible Theatre home to the World Snooker Championships.

The Wednesday's first match was played against The Mechanics which The Wednesday won by three goals and four rouges to nil—a rouge being a touch down beyond the touch line and outside the goal posts. In 1868, they entered their first football competition for the Cromwell Cup which was sponsored by Oliver Cromwell the manager of the Theatre Royal. They were winners and are still the proud owners of the world's second oldest football trophy.

The Wednesday were founder members of the Football Alliance, a football league which ran for three seasons from 1889 with Wednesday, Stoke and Nottingham Forest being the respective champions. In 1892, The Football Alliance merged with the Football League, founded in 1888, creating a second division. Wednesday joined the top division and newcomers Sheffield United joined the second division.

In their early years The Wednesday played at a number of locations including Sheaf House and Bramall Lane. To avoid paying a percentage of the gate money to the owners of these grounds The Wednesday leased land from the Duke of Norfolk at



Olive Grove and developed their own ground. When plans were made to expand the railway track close to the ground the lease was not renewed and this forced the club to look for a new home.

Raising money from a share issue in 1899 Wednesday bought land in the village of Owlerton a few miles from the city centre and constructed a new ground hence the nickname *The Owls*. The stadium became known as Hillsborough Stadium after nearby Hillsborough Hall.

The club officially changed its name from The Wednesday Football Club to Sheffield Wednesday Football Club in 1929; however, the name Sheffield Wednesday goes back to 1883 when Sheffield Wednesday was painted on a stand at Olive Grove.



The highest recorded attendance at Hillsborough Stadium was in 1934 when a crowd of 72, 841 witnessed a 2 – 2 draw with Manchester City. The stadium has also held international matches and was the venue for 1966 World Cup games including the quarter final between West Germany and Uruguay which ended 4–0. In 1996 three games were hosted for Euro 96.

In 1989, 96 Liverpool fans died during an FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest. As a consequence of this tragedy a number of safety measures were introduced at football grounds including the removal of perimeter fencing to contain supporters and the introduction of all-seater stadiums.

Wednesday have a distinguished record and won the League Championship in 1902-03, 1903-04, 1928-29, 1929-30; FA Cup in 1896, 1907, 1935; and League Cup 1991. In 1992, Wednesday were also a founder member of the Premier League.

[www.swfc.co.uk](http://www.swfc.co.uk)



## Sheffield United FC (1889)

Sheffield United FC was formed in 1889 when the committee of Sheffield United Cricket Club (the first English sports club to use the name United) met with officials from the Sheffield and Hallamshire Football Association and decided to form a football club which would play at Bramall Lane.



United's first match was against Notts Rangers, from the Midland League, at Meadow Lane, Nottingham on 7 September 1889 which they lost 4–1.

A week later, their first game in Sheffield

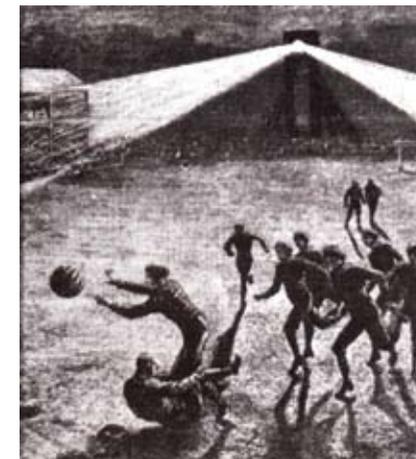
was at Sheaf House when they beat Heeley 2–1. Their first game at Bramall Lane was against Birmingham St George's which they lost 4–0.

The first game against rivals Sheffield Wednesday was held at the Olive Grove ground in December 1890 and the close game ended with a victory for Wednesday, 2–1. The return game at Bramall Lane in January 1891 was watched by 14,000 spectators who saw United get their revenge with a 3–2 victory. From these times onwards both teams have contested very passionate and highly competitive games.

Sheffield United adopted the nickname of the 'Blades', in recognition of Sheffield's world-wide reputation for steel production. They won the League Championship in 1898 and FA Cup in 1899, 1902, 1915 and 1925.

Bramall Lane is the oldest professional football stadium in the world and shares the honour, with the Oval, of being the only two stadiums to host an FA Cup Final and a cricket test match. Its origins began in the winter of 1854 when Sheffield Cricket Club held a meeting at the Adelphi Hotel to discuss a new ground leased from the Duke of Norfolk "with the advantage of being free from smoke." The ground opened in 1855 with a cricket match and in 1862 Sheffield FC and Hallam FC played the first football game at the ground for charity. Bramall Lane is famous for a number of firsts including the world's first two football competition finals — the Youdan Cup and the Cromwell Cup which were won by Hallam FC and Sheffield Wednesday respectively.

The first ever floodlit match (right) was held on 14 October 1878 and was watched by 20,000 spectators. The Sheffield Independent newspaper described how, "The Sheffield public were last night introduced to a decided novelty in football—a match with the assistance of the electric light. The contest which took place at the Bramall Lane Ground between two teams selected by the Sheffield Football Association, was the first in this country—or elsewhere we believe—with the aid of artificial illumination, especially of that which is derived from the powerful currents of electricity."



Bramall Lane hosted many games by Yorkshire Cricket Club and even held a test match between England and Australia in 1902. Cricket matches continued to be played at the ground until the final Roses match between Yorkshire and Lancashire in 1973.

Bramall Lane was known for being a three-sided football ground when it shared the playing area with cricket. In 1973, the last cricket game played was a Roses match between Yorkshire and Lancashire and the cricket pavilion was demolished to make way for a football stand. The pavilion clock now presides over the entrance to Legends of the Lane a museum containing an extensive collection which describes the history of Bramall Lane since the foundation of the Blades in 1889.

[www.sufc.co.uk](http://www.sufc.co.uk)





## Sheffield Schools Football Association (1889)

Sheffield Schools Football Association is the second oldest schools football association after the South London Schools Football Association (1885). It was founded in 1889 the same year that

Alderman W. S. Clegg presented the Clegg Shield for a football competition for the Elementary Schools of the City. Thurstone were the first winners in 1890 and when they brought home the Shield the villagers and a brass band went to the station to meet the “conquering heroes.” (pictured below)



The Clegg Shield is the oldest inter-school football trophy in the world. It is said that the engraving depicting a football match is also in recognition of Sheffield’s introduction of the crossbar. It can be seen that the posts and bar really are ‘crossed’. As the years have progressed the board supporting the shield has had to be enlarged to

accommodate the growing number of winners who continue to compete for this famous trophy.

One of the first inter-association schools football matches played in 1890 between South London Schools and Sheffield Schools at the Olive Grove ground Sheffield. The match attracted a crowd of around 10,000 spectators and the final score was 1-0 to South London.



In 1904 Sheffield Schools FA together with South London Schools’ FA (the two oldest school associations) proposed the formation of a national body to control school football and this body became known as the English Schools’ Football Association. At the meeting were two Sheffield teachers CH Green and B. Creswick, the latter became the first chairman of the ESFA and held the

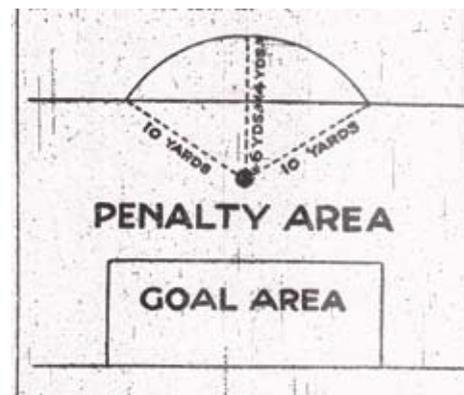
post for seventeen years. A subsequent meeting saw the formation of a national competition to be played between school associations. Nineteen associations contested the first final which was won by the ‘big boys’ of London who narrowly beat Sheffield 3-2. Since then, Sheffield have won the Trophy nine times and have been runners up 3 times.

[www.sfss.co.uk](http://www.sfss.co.uk)

## Sheffield and District Referees Association (1907)

In the early years, football games were played without officials but as matches became more competitive it became common for two umpires to be appointed. Generally, the umpires were chosen from non-playing members of the two competing teams and each was responsible for the half of the field containing the goal which their team was defending. At the time, these umpires only made a decision when the players made an appeal which still happens in cricket i.e. a player need not be dismissed ‘out’ unless the opposing players appeal to the umpire. These umpires often reported more serious disputes to a referee who was positioned on the touchline and was the final arbiter. Finally, in 1891, the Football Association decided that the referee would be the sole judge on the pitch and the umpires moved to the touchlines as linesmen or lineswomen. In 1996, the linesmen and lineswomen became known as assistant referees.

Nowadays we expect the referee to be entirely neutral and in the early years of football these ‘gentlemen’ umpires would uphold fair decisions; however, as matches increased in importance there was greater temptation to give impartial decisions. To avoid controversy and ill-feeling the rules established in 1867 for the Youdan Cup competition stipulated that the referee must be neutral and this regulation anticipated by many years the subsequent status of the referee.



In 1923 Burnley were playing Sheffield United at Turf Moor and the home team were awarded a penalty. In response, Billy Gillespie, United’s captain insisted on the privilege of United players forming a line along the edge of the penalty box. At the time there was no arc on the penalty box. Bob Kelly the Burnley penalty-taker argued that this positioning impeded him from taking a full run-up to the ball and also that the United players were not ten yards away from the penalty

spot. There was quite a commotion but Gillespie would not give way and so Kelly took the penalty and scored. The game ended 2–0 to Burnley.



The incident created considerable discussion across the country and, not surprisingly, in Sheffield the captains of junior teams quickly followed Gillespie's strategy which resulted in many arguments and much pushing and shoving between teams. A solution was proposed by Alex Leitch a referee on the Sheffield and Hallamshire CFA list for the introduction of an arc outside the penalty box. The details were described in the local sporting paper the 'Green Un' which originated as 'The Football and Sports Special' in 1907 and is now one of the world's oldest local sporting newspapers. The article describes an arc with a radius of four yards thus keeping the players ten yards distance from the penalty spot. Leitch then submitted the proposal to Sir Charles Clegg, the FA president, who said that it would be presented to the proper authorities. Some fourteen years later it was adopted by the International Football Association Board which oversees the Laws of the Game.

[www.sheffieldra.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldra.co.uk)



## Football Unites Racism Divides (1995)

Football Unites, Racism Divides (FURD) is a youth and social inclusion project and charity based in Sheffield, which works locally, nationally and internationally to combat racism and increase understanding between different communities.



Football Unites, Racism Divides believes that football, as the world's most popular game, can help to bring together people from different backgrounds to play, watch and enjoy the game, and to break down barriers created by ignorance or prejudice.

The project was started in 1995 by a group of Sheffield United fans who were concerned about a number of incidents of racist abuse both in and around the stadium, which is situated in a very racially diverse community. Since then, the project has gone from strength to strength, adapting over the years to face new challenges in race relations both in football and in wider society.

FURD offers a range of local, national and international services including: free or subsidized football coaching and tournaments; uses Streetkick, FURD's mobile inflatable football pitch, to spread the anti-racist message at community events and festivals; anti-racist education in schools and more informal settings; develops volunteering opportunities for young people to improve their skills and confidence; youth work, including using sport to encourage people into positive lifestyle choices; works with refugees and asylum-seekers to help them integrate into their new communities; works with professional football clubs and football authorities to ensure their policies promote equality and inclusion; runs a Resources and Information Centre



including library, website, enquiry service exhibitions and campaign materials, all specialising in sport and equality; and works with other anti-racist organisations such as the national Kick It Out campaign against racism in football. FURD was also a founder members of the FARE network (Football Against Racism in Europe).

In 2012, FURD moved into the U-Mix Centre, a new, purpose-built youth and community centre for Sheffield which contains a wide range of facilities including: a Digital Media Centre, dance studio, fitness suite, recording studio, resources library and outdoor floodlit 3G football pitches with changing rooms.



One of the first catalysts for FURD was its work to uncover and publicise the story of Arthur Wharton, thought to be the world's first black professional footballer. Wharton was born in Ghana in 1865 but moved to England in 1882 to study Divinity and discovered he had sporting talent. In 1886, he won the Amateur Athletics Association 100 yards Sprint Championship in 10 seconds at Stamford Bridge, London - a world record that stood for over 30 years. He retained his title in 1887.

Between 1886 and 1888 he played football as an amateur goalkeeper for several teams including Darlington and Preston North End. At that time, Preston were one of the country's top teams, known as the 'Invincibles', and Wharton played for them in the 1887 FA Cup semi-final. Wharton moved to Sheffield in 1888

as it was seen as the capital of 'pedestrianism' (professional competitive running and walking). He became the first black professional footballer when he played for Rotherham Town in 1889, just a year after the Football League began.

In 1894, Wharton moved from Rotherham Town to Sheffield United and in 1895 he became the first black footballer to play in the First Division when he made his debut for United in their 2-0 defeat away to Sunderland. However, he only made 3 first team appearances for Sheffield United, being kept out of the team by the legendary, larger than life goalkeeper William 'Fatty' Foulkes. Wharton also managed a number of pubs in Sheffield and Rotherham to supplement his wages as a footballer.

Between 1896 and 1902, Wharton lived in Lancashire, playing for Stalybridge Rovers, Ashton North End and Stockport County as well as working as a tobacconist and playing professional cricket. However, he returned to South

Yorkshire after retiring from professional football in 1902, and again managed a pub.

For the last twenty or so years of his life, he worked as a coal miner. From about 1915 until his death in 1930, he worked at Yorkshire Main Colliery at Edlington, Doncaster. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Edlington Cemetery. In 1996, FURD launched an appeal to raise money to pay for a headstone for his grave and a year later a headstone was unveiled at a special ceremony attended by members of his family as well as representatives of FURD and the wider football family. Wharton's life is described in Phil Vasili's book, *The First Black Footballer: Arthur Wharton 1865-1930*. Since then, Wharton's story has steadily become more widely known, and in 2003 he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the National Football Museum.

[www.furd.org](http://www.furd.org)





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It was undertaken by school pupils from All Saints Catholic High School, Forge Valley Community School, Handsworth Grange Community Sports College and Westfield Sports College with support from Football Unites Racism Divides, Hallam FC, Sheffield FC, Sheffield and Hallamshire County Football Association, Sheffield Schools FA, Sheffield United FC and Sheffield Wednesday FC.



[www.homeoffootball.net](http://www.homeoffootball.net)

