The emergence, development and establishment of association football in Manchester

James, Gary (2015) *The emergence, development and establishment of association football in Manchester*. Doctoral thesis (PhD), Manchester Metropolitan University.

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**Abstract**

This thesis provides a commentary on my publications and considers how my research has developed through each phase of my adult life. This is a thesis in support of a PhD by Publication, where the tone and approach aims to appraise my output and consider its contribution and significance, resulting in a more personal account than a traditional PhD allows. It provides an explanation and justification for the publications, positioning them and the period of research within a contemporary context. Within this thesis, I outline the origins of my research and provide a commentary on my writing and research career alongside my personal development. I set my output within the context of the different stages of my career, both in terms of my previous business life and my formal academic engagement, where it should be stressed that each stage has built on the experience I gained during the previous one. My work focuses on the development of football within Manchester and is directly linked to the current state of knowledge and debates within sports history on the origins of football. It adds regional context that informs the wider debate on the game's origins. The historical publications which this synthesis presents illustrate changing scholarly emphases since my first publication in 1989 while also demonstrating a raising in the quality of football writing and research. My work considers football's growth, dependencies, successes and failures, providing evidence supporting considerations on every aspect of the sport. The submitted publications demonstrate my increasing focus on academic development through each phase of my working life. If my works in their entirety could be published as one volume, within its pages would be a coherent, all-encompassing tome documenting research that has challenged perceptions of Mancunian football and highlighting a factual account of how the game was established in the region, how it grew, who was influential on its propagation and development, who attended, who played and how rivalries became established.
Football (or soccer as the game is called in some parts of the world) has a long history. Football in its current form arose in England in the middle of the 19th century. But alternative versions of the game existed much earlier and are a part of the football history. Early history and the precursors of football. The first known examples of a team game involving a ball, which was made out of a rock, occurred in old Mesoamerican cultures for over 3,000 years ago. The Football Association's wiki: The Football Association, also known simply as the FA, is the governing body of association football in England, and the Crown dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man. Formed in 1863, it is the oldest football association... By 1921 women's football had become increasingly popular through the charitable games played by women's teams during and after the First World War. In a move that was widely seen as caused by jealousy of the crowds' interest in women's games which frequently exceeded that of the top men's teams, the Football Association banned all women's teams from playing on grounds affiliated to the FA because football damaged women's bodies. These developments have certainly enlivened the cultural politics of football. The new middle classes have contributed particularly to the UK game's fashionability throughout the 1990s. It is to an analysis of this new class and its material culture that I now turn. This relates specifically to the emergence of a new category of football spectator, which I have previously termed the 'post-fans' (Giulianotti 1993). The concept of the ‘post-fan’ is derived from my re-application of John Urry’s (1990) notion of the ‘post-tourist’ to a football context. According to Urry, ‘post-tourists’ are distinguished from mere ‘tourists’ by their reflexivity, experience and irony. Following the establishment of association football, women were gradually squeezed out of attending British matches.