



Cricket and England: A cultural and social history of the inter-war years

Jack Williams, John Moores University

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In this book Jack Williams takes a look at cricket as a symbol of England in the 1920s and 1930s. Cricket had a vital role in how the English imagined themselves and their social world. Assumptions attached to the high level of sportsmanship within cricket and the associations of cricket with the Church, respect for tradition, the empire, the public schools and reverence for pastoralism meant that cricket was represented as expressing a distinctively English form of moral worth.

The structures of authority in cricket indicate much about attitudes underlying the exercise of power. For the wealthier classes, the defence of amateur authority in cricket was intertwined with convictions of their moral fitness for political and social leadership. As few institutions made social and economic inequalities so obvious as cricket, responses to social hierarchies and social distinctions in the sport do much to explain the intensity and forms of political cohesion and conflict in inter-war England.

The growth of cricket playing among women and women's support for men's cricket offer insights into gender roles between the wars, and the respect accorded to amateurism in cricket and resistance to the greater commercialization of the game help to assess how far English culture discouraged materialist values. Beliefs that the sportsmanship of cricket expressed Christian teachings and the strength of the Church's presence in recreational cricket did much to establish the role of organised Christianity in English social life and ethical values. These images of cricket and how far the world of cricket conformed to such images are useful for understanding English culture and society between the wars.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Images of cricket; the structure and control of cricket; interest in cricket cricket and sportsmanship; cricket and gender; cricket, hierarchy and class cricket and Christianity; cricket and commercialisation.



Sport in the City: The Role of Sport in Economic and Social Regeneration

Chris Gratton & Ian P. Henry (Eds)

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Sport has become a major industry as well as a major cultural preoccupation in the contemporary world. Cities are increasingly using major sporting events and activities to re-image themselves, promote urban development and fund economic growth and regeneration. Including case-studies from the Sydney Olympics to urban school sports, *Sport in the City* looks closely at how sport has been used in contemporary cities across the world, and evaluates policies, strategies and management.

Five key areas are examined:

- sport and urban economic regeneration
- sports events: bidding
- planning and organization
- Urban Sports tourism
- Sport and urban community development
- Urban politics and sports policy.

Sport in the City therefore represents an essential resource for urban policy makers and the sports policy community. It will be invaluable reading for sports studies students and urban geographers.