

Editorial Preface

I welcome you to the second issue of *OPFS* with the exciting news that from the next issue we will go to a regular twice yearly publishing schedule with the new name of *Football Studies*. The response to both the *OPFS* and the Football Studies Group has greatly exceeded initial expectations and we thank all those football studies scholars and other interested in social analyses of football who have joined the Group and subscribed to the journal. The editorial procedures for *Football Studies* will remain the same as for *OPFS*.

In this issue we have a range of articles dealing with constructions of football hooliganism in Britain, constructions of nationalism in histories of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Ireland, debates over ground relocation in English soccer, women's soccer in Austria and women's Australian football in Melbourne. globalisation and the Rugby Union World Cup and a response to the initial Viewpoint article that concentrates on conceptual issues of community. Finally, we launch our book review section edited by Murray Phillips. We plan a greatly expanded reviews section in 1999. In this first volume we have covered the codes of Australian football, Gaelic football, rugby league, rugby union and soccer, women and men and the geographic spaces of Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, Austria, England, Ireland, Norway, Scotland, South Africa and the global television airwaves. A range of well-established and new scholars have appeared in the journal which bodes well for the future development of football studies. A special issue on football in North America (to be co-edited by editorial board member Kimberly Schimmel) is planned for 1999. I would also like to welcome Alan Bairner and Richard Giulianotti to the editorial review board.

Earlier versions of three articles in this issue were presented at the inaugural football studies conference at The University of Queensland in 1997. A version of the article authored by Brett Hutchins was recently presented as the C. Lynn Vendien Scholarship Award paper at the biennial conference of the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sport in Leuven, Belgium. The recently held second conference of the Football Studies Group at Victoria University in Melbourne was a success (despite the overwhelming code affections of the locals!) and we invite you to attend the Group's third conference 'Teams and Fans' on the Sunshine Coast in Australia 15-18 July 1999. For more information see the ad located in later in this issue.

John Nauright
Editor