

## Editorial Preface

Welcome to the first issue of *Football Studies*, which is a continuation of the *Occasional Papers in Football Studies* that was launched in 1998. The time seemed right for an academic journal focused on the study of football in society, but we decided to test the waters with the *Occasional Papers*. The response was so overwhelming that we have decided to move forward to a fully-fledged academic journal that initially will appear twice a year in April and October.

Although the Football Studies Group began in Australia and New Zealand, it has expanded to include members from all continents and, as such, we are moving to focus our efforts not only in Australasia but globally. As a result of these moves, a number of changes have been implemented including greater internationalisation of the new editorial review board. I wish to thank those members of the board of *OPFS* for their service and welcome the new editorial board of *Football Studies*, particularly Mike Cronin as Associate Editor and Gary Armstrong as Reviews Editor. Reviews and offers of reviews on Association Football should go to Gary, other codes to Murray Phillips.

The Football Studies Group continues to grow, but I urge all members to actively encourage their colleagues to join. Information on becoming a member of the FSG appears later in the journal. The third conference of the FSG will be held on the Sunshine Coast 15-18 July 1999 as the Teams and Fans Conference. In line with our internationalisation, I am pleased to announce that the Fourth conference of the FSG will be held in England in 2001 hosted by Mike Cronin. The fifth conference is in planning to be held near the time of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, either in Hawaii or Asia. The FSG will also hold sessions in conjunction with the Biennial Conference of the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sport again on the Sunshine Coast in Australia in late August/early September 2000 and members of the FSG will be presenting at the 2000 Pre-Olympic Scientific Congress in Brisbane in September 2000. Information on these conferences appears at the end of this issue or in enclosed leaflets.

With the fourth Rugby World Cup being held later this year, it is appropriate that this issue contains several papers dealing with rugby union and its role in the British Isles, South Africa, Australia and Japan. In addition, papers in this issue focus on soccer and Australian football.

The next issue of the journal will have a special focus on football in North America, co-edited by Kim Schimmel of Kent State University in Ohio. Submissions must be received by the editors no later than **15 June 1999** for consideration for the special issue.

John Nauright, April 1999