

Editorial Preface

Welcome to the sixth issue of *Football Studies*. Although we have covered all of the world's main football codes in over the first five issues, this issue's articles concentrate on the most global team sport of association football or soccer. In particular, the papers concentrate on aspects of the English game from international supporters' groups to heroes, history and the making of identity at perhaps the most global sporting club in terms of support, Manchester United. Subsequent papers analyse the impact of the Bosman ruling on European soccer, the media and coverage of player distress, and finally to discussion of English Premier League referees, the latter subject too often ignored in sports studies.

While all of the papers in this issue deal with English association football, we want to reiterate that this journal is for social scientific and humanities research on all codes of football: Australian, American, Canadian, Gaelic, rugby league, rugby union and others as well as soccer. While there are issues specific to each sport and within particular geographical spaces, there are themes that resonate across codes and locales.

I would like to thank all of those scholars who have supported *Football Studies* in its initial stages from authors and book reviewers, to members of the editorial team, editorial board and other reviewers to members of the Football Studies Group. Your support has been greatly appreciated. We can now look forward to a period of consolidated growth and hope that the Group and the journal will continue to expand and improve. Thank you to Group members for your patience in awaiting this issue. We expect that the next issue will arrive on schedule, however, we need to continue to be proactive in seeking quality submissions to the journal so that we do not fall behind due to a shortage of good material. Please submit your work on football to the journal and encourage your colleagues to do likewise. Remember that we have space for viewpoint articles, research notes and review articles, which are refereed as per regular journal articles. We are also planning to expand our reviews section in volume four. To suggest a book for review or to offer to review a book, contact one of the reviews editors. Finally, remember that updates on Football Studies Group activities, *Football Studies*, conference information etc can be found at the FSG website at footballstudiesgroup@iwarp.com. Thanks to Tara Magdalinski for setting up and maintaining the website.

John Nauright
Editor