

Greenfield, Steve, and Guy Osborn, (eds). *Law and Sport in Contemporary Society*. Sport in the Global Society No. 22. London and Portland, Ohio: Frank Cass, 2000. Pp. xvii + 296. Notes, index, select bibliography. \$18.50 pb., \$45.00 cb.

The overall thrust of this volume, which consists of fourteen essays by fifteen contributors, seems to be to provide an overview of the present state of research around sports and the law in England and Wales. As the book itself states more than once (e.g. pp. xi and 14), this is a comparatively new sub-discipline in this jurisdiction and a volume to follow Edward Grayson's *Sport and the Law* was overdue.

*Law and Sport in Contemporary Society* is organized into four parts, each of which manages to maintain an internal coherence. The first, in which Gunn and Ormrod's re-worked piece on the legal status of boxing stands out, is rather miscellaneous. However, it provides a suitable theoretical entree to a section covering practical outcomes of conflicts between sports administrators, administrations and their rulings, and the civil and criminal law. Here it is Simon Gardiner's contribution which is the most prominent among four high quality pieces. Essentially it argues for the near incompatibility of two potentially diametrically opposed supervisory codes: the law of the land and the rules of the game. It is a convincingly and powerfully argued case. This is followed by a section considering actual cases of legal interventions in sport. Weatherill's consideration of the benefits in this context of European legislation will no doubt make British Eurosceptics foam at the mouth; while Pearson's consideration of legislation aimed at controlling football related disorders, will do much the same for the law and order lobby. Finally, three contributors look at recent and future areas of possible conflict between the interests of sports and the influence of the law. They are succinctly brought together, along with other issues, in Ken Foster's final, end ultimately optimistic, essay.

While there is comparatively little new research here, the syntheses and summaries provided are useful and worthwhile. In truth though, this book will be of limited use and interest to the sport historian. The historical aspects covered are limited, and the contributors often depend on dated and overly simplistic secondary sources. The fact that there is nor a single reference to any work by Holt, Vamplew or Lowerson in the book is indicative of the limited relevance it will have for historians. Sociologists may gain rather more, by considering some of the more theoretical pieces, such as that by Redhead which calls for the study of sport to be placed more firmly within the context of theories of popular culture. It is those who are specifically studying the nature of relations between sport and the law who will find it most useful, however. Given the volume's title, this should be no surprise. Nor would it be so if the reader simply glanced at the details provided of the contributors (pp. 288-290). Overwhelmingly, the impression left by this volume is that it was produced by its authors and editors for the use of their students. If that was so, they should be complimented on a job well done. The lucid prose, neat and logical structure as well as the varied content make this volume an excellent teaching text. Yet at the same time, it does remain more than that many academics, from various disciplines, will be able

to select pieces from it that clarify the situation regarding the contractual obligations and rights of sportsmen, the roles of sporting bodies, or the possible use of the law on the field of play. By avoiding legal jargon and unnecessary technicalities, the authors have also produced a book that the general reader might dip into for information, or even amusement. Overall, all those involved deserve praise for producing a book that is, if not vitally important, then certainly useful, readable and interesting. Unfortunately, few academic texts can claim to be any of these.

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