

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF FOOTBALL

There is no clear evidence stating where and when football was actually invented, but most historians agree that some type of ball game had been played centuries before the modern game developed in England. Football has a long and interesting history and origins of the game are present in sports played thousands of years ago in China, Egypt, Japan and Greece. Aspects of the game can be traced as early as the second and third centuries BC in China. Their game, originally named 'Tsu Chu', involved kicking a leather ball into a small hole.

The first football games played in Britain were in the 700s and the English equivalent of a football was made using an animal bladder. Games were violent and injury and death were common. Despite the violence, however, they were still very popular. The game had become so popular that in the 1300s Edward II banned the sport because people were playing football rather than practising archery. This was especially important to this king, as he was preparing to go to war with Scotland. This was to be the first of many bans imposed by the kings and queens of England.

## **In 1605 football became legal and once again the sport grew in popularity.**

In the 1800s it became particularly common in private schools such as Eton, and it was only then that a set of rules was established. Until then, the game had continued to be violent, as it had had limited rules and no referees. Before the 1800s, for example, it was considered normal to hit players on the opposite team and to damage their possessions. In 1848, on Parker's Piece in Cambridge, these rules were developed further and a new version called the 'Cambridge Rules' was used by all schools, colleges and universities.

## **Though football could be considered a male sport, women also play it.**

An increase in women playing the sport began during the First World War, when women did jobs traditionally done by men. Those working in places like factories regularly met to play. Unfortunately, a ban was imposed when the war ended, but it was eventually lifted in the UK in 1971. In 1991 China hosted the first Women's World Cup and in 1996 the first ever women's football event was held at the Olympics.

## 1. Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. Where do historians believe football originated?
2. What was the name of the Chinese game similar to football?
3. When did football become legal again?
4. When were women officially allowed to play football again in the UK?
5. What major events helped increase women's participation in football?

## 2. True or False

Decide if the following statements are true or false. If false, correct the sentence:

1. Football was first played in modern England.
2. The first footballs in Britain were made of rubber.
3. Edward II encouraged people to play football.
4. The Cambridge Rules were first introduced in 1605.
5. Women started playing football more during World War I.

6. The first Women's World Cup was held in 1971.

### 3. Vocabulary Matching

Match the words from the text with their meanings:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. <b>Bladder</b>     | a) Something owned by a person                             |
| 2. <b>Violence</b>    | b) A person who enforces the rules of a game               |
| 3. <b>Banned</b>      | c) To officially stop something from happening             |
| 4. <b>Referee</b>     | d) Aggressive or harmful actions                           |
| 5. <b>Possessions</b> | e) To force something to be followed                       |
| 6. <b>Imposed</b>     | f) An organ used to store liquid (used in early footballs) |

## II. Listening

### Fill in the blanks.

Hi. This is Jeff here. I'm calling you all about the inter-college sports competition at the South Hinton Sports Centre next week. I'm really sorry but there's been a change of plan. We can't have the competition at the centre because of the flooding last week after all the rain. It damaged a lot of our equipment and also the floors in some of the rooms. Luckily, I contacted the North Hinton Sports Centre and they've kindly agreed to let us use their centre and their equipment for the competition, so I'm phoning to give you directions on how to get there and instructions about what to do there to prepare. You'll need to meet the others there next Tuesday at about nine o'clock to get the centre ready.

OK, as I'm not sure if you know how to get to North Hinton, I'll give you directions avoiding the town centre, \_\_\_\_\_ . First, come out of our sports centre into Lily Road. Turn left and go about two hundred metres and \_\_\_\_\_. You see a sign to Hinton saying turn left, but that takes you into the centre of town, so don't take that one. \_\_\_\_\_. The left turn here also takes you into the centre, so don't take that one either. Carry on for about a kilometre. The road goes up onto \_\_\_\_\_ over the motorway to Longchester. After the flyover, you come to \_\_\_\_\_ with Bramley Road. This is where you go left, because that takes you round the town to the sports centre. Carry on for about five hundred metres. Then you go left round a bend and just after the bend \_\_\_\_\_. The turning for Hinton is just after that \_\_\_\_\_, so make sure you look out for it. \_\_\_\_\_ and carry on. The sports centre is on Green

Lane, which is just past the Woodland Hotel on the right. You can't miss it. There's a car park there so you shouldn't have a problem parking. Please don't be late as we have a lot to do.