
REPUBLICATION

News, views, and the occasional bruise from the world of
Republica Internazionale FC (Edition: August 2020)



WHAT'S THIS? After several years in the wilderness (facebook?!), Republica's very own newsletter has been resurrected so you never miss our goings-on again. After a long hazy summer holiday for Republication, it's August and football is on the way back. Thanks to everyone contributing their words and wisdom for this issue, and a repeated call to you the reader for more contributions in the future... This month featuring:

- FOOTBALL! Remember that?!
- Republica supports Chapeltown Youth Development Centre's 'Let's Eat' project and the Racial Justice Network.
- The anti-racist world cup: Mondiali Antirazzisti, Bologna
- From the archives: Clapton Ultras 2017.
- New feature: Ultras corner with Rio G.

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL FOOTBALL FOOTBALL

Mid-July brought the news we've been waiting for with the FA sanctioning a staged return to kicking a football. The captains and committee have put together the necessary training guidelines (riveting stuff) which went out on FB/email. If you are coming along to training, make sure you have read these first and show the situation the respect it deserves. Big shout to our very first (and hopefully last!) Covid-19 Welfare officers Rachel and Rob which we needed to have in place to re-start training and matches. Unsurprisingly, training has been less chaotic than usual. Surprisingly, it's nearly been as fun, but missing the usual mixed casual summer training this year is a shame. We did though have the pleasure of a socially-distanced social in the park which was much fun. We think the league season will start on 6/13 Sept. for men/women; in the meantime, some pre-season matches have been arranged (subject to change of course!):

Date	Men	Women
Sun 9/8	Sporting Pudsey (A)	
Sun 16/8	Yorkshire Terriers (H)	
Sun 23/8	Headingley Rovers (H)	Phoenix (A)
Thu 27/8	Oulton 1sts (TBC)	
6 Sept.		Leeds City (A)

In other good news, the women+non-binary casual football sessions are restarting **on Saturday 15th August from 1-2pm at Powerleague Central**. Initially, they'll run **every other week** and you must book a place in advance. Speak to Molly and/or Georgia for more info. These were really taking off before lockdown and gaining a lot of positive attention across the city – let's hope it continues!

Re-pub-lication quiz #4: We've not always been Internationale; what followed Republica in the club's early years?



Answer: back in 2000, **Republica Highland FC** transformed to become Republica Internazionale FC. Previous names from the 80/90s include: Woodhouse Wanderers, Rising Sun, and Moscow Central!

Re-pub-lication quiz #5: no quiz this month boooooo.

Ethical fund: Republica supports Chapeltown Youth Development Centre's 'Let's Eat' project and the Racial Justice Network

Given its healthy balance, we decided to make two substantial donations from the club's ethical fund to some local initiatives doing great (and unfortunately necessary) work in Leeds. For those that don't know, the ethical fund is a club account which we raise money for to support various bobs and bits as and when we can. This can be helping out club members financially, e.g., to subsidise equipment/travel/football, supporting worthy projects locally and internationally (see Mondiali Antirazzisti below), and anything in between...

During the AGM we decided to donate £500 to support the Let's Eat project, recently established by the [Chapeltown Youth Development Centre](#) on Scott Hall Avenue (just behind the CCC). This is a community food bank, prompted primarily due to the Covid-19 situation pushing even more families into food poverty in the local area and kids missing out on weekend meals at the centre due to lockdown. They are now providing food packages for 150 people in and around LS7. They invited a few of us down a couple of weeks ago to see what they are up to and discuss how we could continue to help out going forward. As an example of what the donation has gone towards, they have recently bought a big fridge-freezer which has enabled a lot more food stuffs to be kept and distributed. They hope to run a community café on site too, and to use some vacant space to grow vegetables, led by the young people who use the centre. We are looking into setting up a food drop-off box at the CCC and hope to continue to support throughout the season. Keep an eye out for some activity on the social meds soon.

Want to contribute to the Republication? The plan is to have a new issue each month, which relies on you reading this, telling us it's worthwhile, and chipping in with some content... Please send all items, be they stories, match reports, photos (old and new), upcoming events, etc., to: republicanews@hotmail.com

Republica on the interweb:

Twitter: @Republica_FC
 Facebook: @RepublicaIFC
 Web: <https://republica.international/>

We are also making a donation of £500 to the [Racial Justice Network](#) (RJN). The RJN brings together over 30 organisations and individuals across West Yorkshire to proactively promote racial justice. Their main aim is to raise awareness about race and inequality, specifically working with racially-minoritised and disempowered communities.

As a club we strive to be proactively anti-racist, on and off the pitch, but we thought our local involvement was lacking a little bit. Although we are regular attendees of our international anti-racist tournament and have made strong connections with like-minded teams across the world, we thought it was important to start contributing to the fantastic organisations in Leeds/Bradford that are working hard to actively promote racial justice, as well as other social justice initiatives. By donating to RJN we don't want it to stop there. As a club we are now planning to become a member of the RJN whereby we can attend workshops or training, which should give us the tools to become a more active anti-racist club, with the aim to become more involved with our local communities.

Finally, two organisations we have supported in the last few years are [Andy's Man Club](#) and [Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service](#), who we have fundraised for at the annual Mayday tour in memory of former Republican Bod. Given that we missed it this year and there are still some monies in the coffers, it was suggested that we should make a donation anyway... watch this space and all other channels for more news on this and other donations!



Words: Cathy B

Mondiali Antirazzisti, Italy

Mondiali is by far the biggest and most diverse tournament in Republica's calendar - it has over 7000 participants coming from all over the world not just to play football but also cricket, basketball, volleyball and rugby. It can be quite overwhelming at times, particularly if you are at the catering area past dark when it turns from canteen to chanting tent!



The tournament takes place in July in Reggio Emilia, a province of Italy that is not only famous as a foodie heaven (think parmesan cheese, balsamic vinegar, bolognese sauce) but also as a bastion of antifascism. One of my favourite memories of my first time at the tournament was the Saturday evening march through the then host town of Montecchio -- the streets were

CHAPELTOWN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Lets Eat

Every Thursday and Friday
10am - 12pm

Helping Each Other To Feed Our Families
Free Food Bank Collection - in response to COVID-19 Crisis
EVERY Thursday and Friday from:
Prince Philip Centre, Scott Hall Avenue, LS7 2HJ

COLLECTION OR DELIVERY

If you are self isolating or can't collect for any reason but need a local delivery we still want to help!

To discuss this support or for further information contact
The Office: 0113 262 3233
Annie: 07540110835
or
Email: letseatproject@yahoo.com

Want To Donate? Find Our Campaign on 'GoFundMe'
Search: Raising Funds for CYDC Lets Eat Community Foodbank

DONATIONS WELCOME

lined with (often elderly) residents cheering, waving us on and setting off flares. It transpires that most of the families had been involved in the resistance to fascism and the area is still known as one of the reddest in Italy; they were proud to be hosting the tournament.

Mondiali started in 1997 by the Progetto Ultra- USIP. The Ultra project was an initiative to involve football fans (particularly the Ultra groups) in organising against racism and the far right and to provide support for fans to combat racism on the terraces. The rationale for the tournament was to bring together communities through a festival of football and music.



From the start the tournament has tried to create links between migrant communities and the ultra fans. This aim has always been central to the ethos of the tournament with the football supposedly taking a backstage.

The winner of the main trophy each year is not the team who wins the tournament, but the team who has demonstrated a commitment to anti-racist work throughout the year. Each team is asked to bring a presentation or poster that details their work over the year and those that do are given an additional 3 points in the group stages of the competition.

Taking the overly competitive attitude out of the football has not always been easy – following fights during a semi-final match one year the football tournament was halted for that year and the final replaced with discussion about the future of the tournament. Since then, all matches in the final stages of the tournament are decided by penalties.

Republica has won the Mondiali Antirazzisti trophy – in 2006 we were (to our) surprise recipients -- most of the team had already left the award ceremony and sloped off to the bar when the winner was announced! It was a huge honour but one that we felt like we didn't deserve -- as a club we had been out leafletting that year against the BNP who were standing in elections in Morley and we had organised a mini tournament for FARE week but that seemed like small fry in comparison to the work other groups had been involved in. We had made a club donation to the tournament that year from our ethical fund and we did worry that we had 'bought' the trophy.

We were though particularly proud of our result in the football tournament – we made it to the quarter finals that year playing with the only truly mixed team in the main tournament. Most of the 204 teams were all male, a few teams had one or perhaps two women that were used as substitutes. We played at all times with equality on the pitch (well as equal as you can be with 7-a-side teams!). We lost narrowly to a very good team of Bordeaux Ultras.



Despite our reservations about the merits of our win, we partied hard that night and it was a slog waiting in the airport lounge at Bologna for our flight home. We thought that paranoia had kicked in from the lack of sleep and over consumption of half-litre servings of cheap Italian wine as there was a distinct feeling of being pointed at and talked about. It turned out that it wasn't paranoia – we had made it onto the back page of the local newspaper with a picture of us picking up the trophy -- we were briefly celebrities!



If you like (very) hot weather, the occasional tropical storm, football chanting that goes on forever and meeting people from all over the world then Mondiali is definitely a tournament to experience. Hopefully the region will recover from COVID-19 and the tournament will be back up and running in 2021!





From the archives*: Clapton Ultras 2017

Words: Joe Bish

Republica's busy 2017 summer season took in tours to glamorous locations such as Bologna, Dorset, Sheffield and Leeds Powerleague but one of the moments of the summer came in London when Republica took a team down to Hoxton for the Clapton Ultras 'Proudly East London' tournament in July.

After an early morning meeting at Leeds railway station and a trip on the underground, a Republica team featuring Joe Bishop, Stu, Jo, Ruth, and Pete Conny arrived at the venue well ahead of time but minus team organiser Blue who had slept in and missed the train. As well as losing one of our best players, that meant there was no Republica banner to take down as it was sat in Blue's living room, rather than hanging up next to those of Clapton Ultras and Easton Cowfolk.

A further blow was suffered once Republica discovered that due to an administrative error, they had been placed in the higher tier competition and would be playing six-a-side against teams including the Clapton FC first team who are actually paid to play football. Our more traditional rivals were playing in the intermediate and lower tiers which in hindsight may have been better suited to our abilities. On the other hand, numbers were boosted with the arrival of Lee and Louis Kent (Tom's dad and younger brother) to provide both experience (*Editor: ha!*) and energy to the team.



Predictably, the Reds struggled in their first match against Clapton FC and ended up losing 6-1 despite plenty of endeavour and hard work from the underdogs. There was no faulting Republica's

commitment despite playing against quality opposition and we lost the next two matches by decreasing margins with Louis on the scoresheet a couple of times. Republica did not leave empty-handed though, as they pulled through to beat the world team 2-0 in their final group game which was enough to stay off the bottom of the group table above the world. The tournament was over for the majority of the Reds after our final group game but not for one member of the team: Ruth had been filling in for the Easton Cowgirls in the lower tier competition since the start of the day and her Republica team mates had cheered on the Bristolians as they came through the group stage and then the semi-final.

Ruth and the Cowgirls were into the final and Republica roared them on from the sidelines during a tight, tense match that was short on chances for either team. Ruth had struggled to get into the game but, with just seconds to go, she produced a moment of magic. Picking up a bouncing ball in midfield, she shaped to play a short pass to the right but dropped the shoulder and shimmied past one defender. Another touch took her past a second opponent and time stood still as the chance opened up for her. She made no mistake, burying a low finish into the corner of net to win it for Easton, sparking jubilation on the sidelines.

After watching Ruth lift the trophy and a few drinks, the most of the team headed home with fond memories of a fun day and Ruth's brilliant goal. Pete, however, spent too long in the pub, missed the last train and ended up sleeping rough outside King's Cross before eventually making it back to Yorkshire in the morning.

Ultras' corner with Rio Goldhammer

"Alice, Alice Hoole, Alice, Alice Hooooole..."

(To the tune of Boney M's Daddy Cool)

"Moosy, a message to you, Moosy, ooooh a message to you Mooooosy!"

(To the tune of The Specials' A Message to you Rudy)
