
REPUBLICATION

*News, views, and the occasional bruise from the world of
Republica Internationale FC (Edition: November 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. It's a bumper post-lockdown edition of Republication covering the last few months' shenanigans on and off the pitch. September feels like a lifetime ago: the new season starting against the odds in sunshine and the summer still somehow in full swing (possibly a bit too much swing, encouraged by our fearless and feckless leaders). We managed a good couple of months of kicking a ball in fun and anger, songs on the sidelines of Scott Hall Rd, and an impressive amount of positive stuff off the pitch.

Some of that good stuff continues as we come out the other end of Lockdown 2.0, and football is now on the horizon again... grassroots football reappears in December so watch all spaces for updates on training and matches. After a few weeks lost in the covid fog, it's been an absolute pleasure to put this edition together, thanks to all contributors and you readers and everyone for keeping things ticking over in these testing times. So here go a massive SEVEN pages of heartening news from your favourite football club... this month featuring:

- Black History Month / Leeds Black History Walk
- Mind fundraiser
- Winter clothes collection for St.Vincents
- Supporting Chapeltown YDC Let's Eat
- Republica and the Caribbean Cricket Club
- Studog's Republicagrams + Ultra's corner
- FOOTBALL! Finally, and lots of it – results and reports from the start of the season...

Black History Month + Leeds Black History Walk

October was Black History Month. The only wrong thing to say is nothing. If you see racism, speak up, call it out, and don't say silent. We are all responsible for challenging racial injustice. At Republica, we give racism the red card every day, whether that be on or off the pitch.



History cannot be erased, only hidden from sight.

Words: Rob Scargill

Earlier this month, as part of the club's activity celebrating Black History Month, Republica members attended Heritage Corner's Leeds Black History Walk at the University of Leeds. Founded in 2009, the educational walk takes visitors across the university's campus, bringing to light widely unknown African narratives from our city, and celebrating the vast cultural and economic impact African people have made in Britain over thousands of years.

Our hosts were learned and enthusiastic anti-racist educators Joe Williams and Ness Mudd. Joe is an actor and an alumnus of the university, where he explored African British narratives in the heritage industry. He uses his skills as a performer to bring historical figures to life and encourages his audience to ask questions and consider the wider context of each story he tells. His words are heartfelt and personal, and a lot of what he says reflects on his own life as the son of Jamaican parents born in Leeds. Ness is an Educational Consultant, sprinkling each narrative with an exceptional breadth of knowledge and insight. She talks about allyship and ensures visitors come away understanding the extent of its value as a lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency, and accountability. The two of them are an exceptional team, fuelled by ambition and integrity, and their presentation left each member of our squad eager to learn more.

Without mentioning specific stories, there were so many things to take away from the tour: the sheer scale of African people's impact on Leeds, Yorkshire, Britain and Europe; the horrifyingly successful and continuous camouflaging (I use this word intentionally as a means of covering up what will always be there) of African influence over thousands of years; and perhaps most importantly, the positive impact any one individual's actions can have on countless others.

In the group chat to help organise the day, there were so many messages afterwards saying how valuable the experience had been and I'd wholeheartedly recommend the tour to anybody that wasn't able to come this time round. Joe and Ness provided us with resources and links for further reading, which I can email to anyone interested (*ed: see below!*). They'd also like to keep a relationship with us, and invited people to get in touch and ask questions as and when they wish. We can do our bit too by recommending the walk to anybody that may be interested!

Want to contribute to the Republication? The plan is to have a new issue each month (ish!), 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/>

Thank you to everybody that attended and braved the rain (nowt worse than usual!), and to all those who adhered to COVID guidelines in these strange times, even if that meant cancelling their slot. Together, along with individual donations from squad members, we raised £62 more than our tickets cost and this money was donated to our partner charity PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) to help with their fantastic work in this year of all years. Another reason I'm really proud to be a part of this club.

Heritage Corner challenges imposed misrepresentation with historical facts and intelligent self-representation. Listen to Heritage Corner's Joe Williams talk about the Leeds Black History walk [here](#). We have since received a number of resources and links from the organisers. Read, reflect, take action.

Heritage corner on tinterweb:

- Website: heritagecornerleeds.wixsite.com
- FB: [Heritage Corner](#) and [Leeds Black History Walk](#)
- Twitter: [@heritagewalker](#)
- Insta: [leedsblackhistory](#)

Names mentioned during the walk: The Bangled Lady of York; Mansa Musa; Ma'at (philosophy/belief system); Wilson Armistead; Frederick Douglass; The Crafts; Sarah Parker Remond; ACL website - lists British slave owners.

TV:

- Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr - PBS channel.
- David Olusoga (see below)
- Afua Hirsch - African art 3 programmes
- *Small Axe – five feature length films by Steve McQueen appearing on the BBC (ed's addition!)*

Recommended Books:

- David Olusoga's book Black and British is highly recommended, as are his BBC
- Staying Power, by Peter Fryer
- When We Ruled, by Robin Walker
- Brit(ish), by Afua Hirsch
- Natives, by Akala

Suggested books to readdress the narratives in fiction:

- Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
- Confessions of Frannie Langton by Sara Collins

Independent booksellers:

- [New Beacon books](#)
- [No Ordinary bookshop](#)
- [Jacaranda books](#)
- [Fox Lane books](#)

Find out more about David Oluwale at:

- <https://rememberoluwale.org/>



Our Home – The Caribbean Cricket Club

Republica have played and been based at many places over the years, from the days of the original Woodhouse Wanderers, through to Republica Highland (based at the Highland pub in Burley), the Cardigan Arms and for the past decade the [Caribbean Cricket Club](#).

Those that know the Cardigan Arms from recent Kirkstall Brewery times will know it as a pleasant boozier, with a beautiful interior and a good selection of ale and craft beer. But it was not always thus: it started as a great pub and a home to Republica for many years, but soon got taken over by a PubCo and had a succession of landlords, and the regulars were replaced by a pretty horrible bunch. So in 2011, after harassment towards members of the women's team and physical threats to the men from the people now propping up the bar, it was decided that it was time to move on.

At that time we were playing at our current pitch on Scott Hall Road. Someone suggested we approach the Caribbean Cricket Club. After all, it made perfect sense: its opposite our pitch, had changing rooms and storage units. The CCC were more than happy with this and we were welcomed with open arms. From then on, Caribbean soup (extra hot sauce optional!) and Red Stripe post-game became part and parcel of our Sunday fixtures.

After a couple of years we grew ever closer to the CCC, and over the years have hosted football tournaments there, held socials, had joint football & cricket days with the CCC (they won the football...) and have been invited to various events such as the Windrush celebration event last year. One of our players joined the CCC on a tour out to St Kitts, and many of us have got to know the stalwarts of the CCC well.

Established in 1948, the Caribbean Cricket Club has been an important part of the Caribbean community in West Yorkshire ever since, and is a pillar of the local

community around Scott Hall. Like most community sports clubs, the CCC relies on fundraisers and donations in order to raise money to fund the club.

Many people from our club have sat on the committee for the CCC, and know from the words of various chairs of the club that the CCC view this as “our club”: we are not guests in their space but active and involved members of the club. Both the men’s and women’s sections have keys, we now run the bar whilst we are there and lock up when we’re done. Importantly our socials raise much needed money for the CCC from which we all benefit, from works to the outdoor section to longer-term aims of a new clubhouse.

We continue to support the CCC wherever possible – and you can help also. Buy a beer if you can afford it: if you are driving or can’t stay after the game, consider buying a drink unopened for when you get home (the Guinness West Indies Porter is a particularly good drink to sip in the bath post-footy... worth sipping as it’s 7.5%!). The CCC have always accommodated us arranging our own beer for those who aren’t a fan of the regular selection: many will have seen the cask of ale at socials, and we now have agreement to organise some real ales which are sold at £3 a bottle/pint.

As our clubhouse, it’s important we support the CCC as much as possible. However it’s also important that we use our resources to support the local community around where we play football. The messages from recent Black Lives Matter protests called for allies to “support Black-led businesses and community groups”. The area surrounding the CCC is also amongst the 10% most deprived areas in the country. The CCC is a vital community asset in the area, and it sits with our values as a club that we use our collective resource and platform to work with the CCC in their development and long-term survival as a community club.

We’re proud to support the CCC, and are grateful for having our home there. The soup, the atmosphere and most importantly the people have been an integral part of Republica for many years - and long may it continue.

Republica supports Chapeltown YDC Let’s Eat

As you may know we made a couple of donations with our ethical fund recently and we wanted to continue our support of the community food bank run by Chapeltown Youth Development Centre. They do all sorts of wonderful things, but providing food parcels across local communities is one of them! But to continue their amazing work they need some help...

With the lockdown, we’ve had to adapt to how we planned to collect and donate, but don’t want that to stop us. Going forward we are asking kindly for

monetary donations to do a shop. Alice and Tania will be coordinating the shopping trips, and are also happy to collect the items from your house too if you have anything spare that you can donate. (Volunteers welcome also!)

Thanks to everyone who has donated so far to help us collect for the let’s eat project. We collected an amazing £245 for our first collection and managed to get three HUGE trolleys worth of goods for Let’s eat. (And that ain’t even from half of us!) We definitely got some funny looks in Lidl, as we absolutely looked like we were bulk buying. But the staff were so lovely and cooperative!



We plan to do another shop soon, so please if you are in a position to contribute again or if you haven’t already, any amount is much appreciated...

Please make a donation to the paypal pool here:
<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8ub31M711P>

Drop us a message if you have any questions. Stay safe! Tania x

Ultras’ corner with Rio Goldhammer

To the tune of Los Lobo’s La Bamba:

*“Ma ma ma ma ma Mourad,
Ma ma ma ma ma Mourad,
He plays for Republica Internationale,
Mou-rad Sho-shan, Mou-rad Sho-shan,
Plays for Republica Internationale...”*

To the tune of Smokie’s Alice:

*“She takes it on her left, she takes it on her right,
And if you get the ball, she’ll leave you with a bite,
I’ve spent 45 minutes getting kicked by Georgia Ellis,
ELLIS, GEORGIA, GEORGIA FUCKING ELLIS!...
90 minutes getting kicked by Georgia Ellis...”*

****WINTER CLOTHES COLLECTION!****

Sick of owning 53 different scarfs but only ever using one? Well fear not we have a solution!!

Winter is slowly setting in with nights getting longer and colder thus we have decided to team up St. Vincent's (proud supporter of PAFRAS) to do a winter clothes drive for those in need. Any spare winter items you have be it, beanies, scarves, coats etc. would be greatly appreciated. If you can let me know in the comments below if you have any items, I can organise a drive by to pick it up or can collect at games/training. If you would like to help out with collection and drop off also post below. Please pass this on to friends and family so we can collect as much as possible for a worthy cause (but also remember to be covid safe!).

Peace, Rachel

Mind fundraiser – September challenge

The last few years we've hosted the annual Mayday tournament in aid of mental health, having previously lost a member of our club to suicide. This year, due to Coronavirus, we were unable to do so. Instead of the tournament we have adapted and decided to take on Mind's miles for mental health fundraiser, to support our local Mind charity. We assembled two teams in which to complete this challenge to push ourselves to get fit ready for the season! Our teams aimed to complete at least 600 miles over September through cycling, running, walking or even swimming.

With the lockdown exacerbating and increasing mental health issues, we thought it was a significant time to raise money for our local Mind so they are able to provide further support to those in need. Leeds Mind exists to help people with mental health difficulties flourish. They offer a range of services to help people in the greater Leeds area to manage their mental health difficulties and enjoy their lives. We are completing the 600 miles in September challenge to raise vital funds to support Leeds Mind to continue the work they do!

Here's how the money could be spent:

- £500 covers a volunteers expenses for one year
- £100 can cover short term 1-2-1 support through our men's mental health service 'Men'd'
- £50 could support a befriending social event
- £30 can fund an hour of 1-2-1 counselling
- £10 can fund art supplies for an artist at Inkwell
- £5 can fund a place in a group wellbeing session

Well done to everyone who took part in the September 600 miles challenge!! We are super proud to have smashed our target and raised an amazing £1172.39. Thank you to everyone who supported us and donated to a wonderful organisation in Leeds.

New feature: Studog's Republicagrams

Scrambled Republicans, courtesy of our very own (self-isolating and self-entertaining) Stuart Gibson:

1. Oh shoot BJ
2. Mail charger
3. Hi Don Sick Lane
4. Never wear
5. Nanny the crab
6. Carl's big lob
7. All my horse

(For unscrambled Republicans, read til end and no cheating!)



Once upon a time, on a pitch not so far away, the Studog was in full flow (as was his pony tail), Republica played in orange, and corona was a beer...

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL FOOTBALL FOOTBALL

Round-up of results and match reports from both men's and women's opening months of the season... thanks to Georgia, Gemma, Rob, and Josh M for these write-ups on FB, a very welcome feature of the season so far. And special mention also to Rio, whose live pitchside commentary has provided a lot of entertainment for those not at the game (and those at the game who have listened nonetheless!). Photos courtesy Tania's mate Lee from their curtain-raiser vs. Hemsworth, when the sun shone and the trees were green.



Women's section

Sept 20. Republica 1-6 Hemsworth Town 1sts



Sept 27. Republica 1-13 Farsley Celtic Juniors

Hat-trick Highwood with a goal at the end (last goal wins??).

Oct 4. Republica 9-0 Old Centralians (CUP)

The women lucked out with the weather yesterday playing a game sandwiched between two crazy rain showers! With only one drop out, a huge crowd and a momentous return from Jane Turner, we were ready to football football football!

First half saw us 4-0 up in first 15 mins and a strong lead of 5-0 at half time. Ultimate soccer mum Rachel Grima supplied us with oranges and Gemma Taylor used the word 'ace' even more than usual as well as laying down the law about fuck it up twice, don't do it again...

Second half saw the same brilliant energy and some fresh legs. We continued to battle some great players from the Old Cents and pinged a few more into the back of the net!

Overall a cracking performance from all with fantastic support on the sidelines. A hat trick (and more!) from Grace Highwood, double trouble for Ellen Edenbrow, a

first (non-accidental) goal for me and a cheeky number for the mighty Jane! Cracking tackles and strength at LB from Toya Smith, seamless defending from all and crazy cross pitch runs from Beth Kay!

The moment of the match had to go to Eve Warren's casual transition from chief photographer to scoring an absolute howler! Well played all! Final score 9-0!

11 Oct. Republica 0-4 Skipton Town

A rare sunny and pleasant afternoon for our fixture against Skipton! We started with an exciting and energy filled warm up from 'pocket sunshine' Teddy and players relished in the power to decide their own positions and subbing patterns...

The first half saw a strong and energetic Skipton gunning for goal. We managed to hold them off for quite some time, with excellent defending from the back four. A special mention for Lisa's spectacular tackling and for Nicole's argey bargey battle with a girl not transitioning very well from playing rugby! Moment of the match starred very early on when Toya was catapulted backwards by an incredible goal-denying face block! Credit to Vikki for trying to get back up straight away! A couple of nifty through balls to Grace and Jane almost saw us claim our own goal. Half time score was 1-0 and we were glad to have already done the uphill stint.

Second half saw both teams continue to battle with some risky tackles from Skipton leaving a few players pretty sore! Excellent back line management from 'no-chance' Nicole forced offside decisions in our favour. Kiera swooped in and claimed loose balls and confidently caught shots at goal. Cathy embodied her principal philosophy of 'you shall not pass' with intercepting kicks and fierce headers as well as staying calm when pressured playing out the back. Teddy, Tania and Beth bossed the attacking drive forward throughout and created a number of good chances. Leftback Laura played excellent balls forward to Teddy with Beth and Vikki overlapping seamlessly down the left. Emma's first touches were as beautiful as ever and she helped to facilitate a number of good chances. A brilliant performance from Gemma as always (despite me flooring her!) and an excellent post-match debrief and encouragement.

Overall a cracking performance with a score line that I don't think reflected how we played. Well done for fighting to the end despite how tired and injured everyone was! Final score 4-0 to Skipton.

Oct 18. Republica 0-1 Tyersal

A couple of drop outs this week for the women's game so we were sad to lose boss it Beth and clearance champ Cathy! Mighty Mattie bravely stepped up for their debut having not long been playing footy and the always jolly Jane joined the upfront crew. Large crowd

of support thanks to the men and a big shout out to Dom for reffing!

The game was very evenly matched throughout and both teams battled extremely well. An early penalty chance conceded by a player who thought she had wings almost put us ahead.

0-0 at half time so it was all to play for! Gemma's rule of three got us thinking about positioning and you soccer mum Rachel offered sideline wisdom and beloved oranges!

Second half saw Tyersal come out fighting strong and we defended strongly as a unit. Shout out to some excellent tackles from Lisa and some Lucy Bronze style runs out from LB from Laura. Kiera claimed loose balls, GT outwitted strikers and usual and Nicole put her noggin to good use. Some attempts at goal, including a long shot from Laura but we were unfortunate to concede in the closing minutes. Some great runs from Kamilla, Mattie and Eve Warren down the wings with lovely creative passing from Tania, Jane, Emma and Teddy!

Moments of the match included Jane's head tennis, Laura's general presence, Mattie's debut and midfield play between me and Tania. All was pipped to the post by Laura bronze pelting it up the wing.

Men's section

Sept 13. Churwell 2-1 Republica

After going unbeaten last season, losing 2-1 on our first outing of the season was hard to take. Nonetheless, losing teaches you more than winning. In the first 15 minutes we showed glimmers of our potential but overall we were second best. Well done to Rob who scored a cracking goal in the first half and Liam and Ally who shared MOTM. TK drop ball.

Sept 20. Republica 6-3 Western Juniors

Unfortunately, the men's solitary win of the season comes with no match report..! Goals from Jack, Dom, Mourad, Matty (2), and Mo.

Sept 26. Republica 1-1 Yorkshire Terriers (Friendly)

"Getting home after a game and then feeling tired early evening and then remembering you've still got another weekend day to come is a great feeling", Stephen's thoughts on Saturday football!

Sept 27. Harehills WMC 3 -1 Republica

On the first autumnal match of our 2020/21 season, the lads stepped out against Harehills WMC, complete

with their Dortmund kit and Josh Moos doppelgänger in the centre of midfield.

After a slow start with promising sections of play, a pressurised loose ball broke free to Jonny Rudd on the edge of the area. Jonny tucked the ball away with a clean finish Barry Scott would've been proud of. After a bit of pressure from their lads, Harehills nicked a deserved goal just before half time. Around the 65 minute mark, after an even 20 minute spell, Harehills' CM spotted his striker who had positioned himself 5 yards offside – a tactic he'd implemented throughout the first half to no avail. A good pass and finish later, the ref allowed the goal to stand because it took a deflection off of one of our lads. It might not be an official rule but it didn't stop the goal from standing.

Switching to three at the back and putting four up top couldn't help us grab a win, even when Mourad Meroo came on dressed in a plain black top to try and confuse the ref some more. Sadly it didn't work and they bagged a third on the break. Top finish from Jonny who shared MOTM with Ally Gordon and Ben Michael who had an excellent game when thrown in the deep end. Shout out to the CCC and their soup an all, excellent as always.

4 Oct. FC Scholes 5-0 Republica

A trip to Seacroft today saw the lads come unstuck against top of the league Scholes FC. Despite some good battling and an exceptional (unanimous) MOTM performance from the cat-like Matt Joyce sadly we couldn't escape a 5-0 loss.

On the upside, Jurgen Klopp and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer could only dream of a scoreline like that. And like Liverpool and Man Utd, we'll be looking for a big response in our next fixture. Soup was exceptional, the women's performance was exceptional and Rob won £20 on the football card. Get in there Bury. A good effort today despite the result. We take it on the chin and move on!



18 Oct. Republica 1-1 Pudsey Bojangles

Unbeaten at home for a season and a half(ish), the lads returned to the Potternewton fortress this week for a fixture against Pudsey Bojangles. After a nice start with good movement, short sharp passing and good

running in behind we found ourselves 1-0 up when yours truly took on their centre back on the left wing, played a ball to Jack in the middle who tapped it on to top scorer Jonny for a glorious mishit finish. We dominated the rest of the half with a few chances here and there, coming in at the whistle in full control.

In the second half Pudsey changed to 3 at the back allowing an extra man to take control just behind their centre midfield. The game started to turn in their favour and after a strong defensive showing, all our chances were only happening on the break. In the same week the west riding FA had posted a statement about making sure players don't share bottles, the governing body will sleep soundly knowing I lost mine. After gambling on a misplaced back place I was one-on-one with their GK (a massive lad with hands like skyscrapers...) and fluffed my lines forcing a half decent save. After an exceptional defensive half where without our 4 at the back we could've easily fallen behind, we did finally concede the equaliser with 10 mins to go.

Shout out to a brilliant performance from star man Joe B who came off, as always, looking like he needed an hour long shower. Lots of other players received votes too showing a well-rounded performance across the field. Soup and beer well earnt.

25 Oct. East Leeds Celtic 4-1 Republica

This week the lads travelled to East End Park for a league match against mid-table side East Leeds Celtic. After a so-so start where we had a couple of half chances here and there, their CM played a gorgeously weighted ball out of nowhere to their right winger who dipped a perfect header into the opposite corner. 1-0 down and we reacted well, changing gears with some nice sections of football played up and down the park. On two occasions in particular, Paddy ran through their defence forcing a couple of free kicks on the edge of their area.

Colm managed to catch my free kick on video so I won't mention it, but it wasn't bad. 1-1 and following that we played our best football of the game. At the end of the first and start of the second half we were well in control, forcing two or three saves from their GK. Sadly the momentum didn't stay with us and we let it slip a bit. A poor second half performance left us 4-1 down when the final whistle blew. We face the same side in the league next week. Let's show them how we can really play.

Special mention to Kirk and Josh who performed well on their debuts for the club. Thanks too for everyone in adhering to much stricter coronavirus rules this week, really appreciate it. With no MOTM or soup to praise, the final cheers has to go to Rachel's half time oranges. Handpicked in Sicily, handwashed in the car park... incredible as always.

1 Nov. Republica 2-3 East Leeds Celtic

Just hours after it was announced England would go back into a near full-scale national lockdown this week, our lads headed out onto the field against East Leeds Celtic knowing that this would probably be our last game for a while.

The game kicked off and in the first two mins their striker found himself clean through on goal against man mountain Matt Joyce, who persuaded him to fire his shot over the crossbar.

From then on we took control of the game and when the ball was played through to Matthew Booth on the edge of the area, he had no choice but to smash it emphatically into the bottom corner with a finish that leaves Jonny worried he might end up losing their personal top scorer bet.

Ten minutes later and the ball broke to Matty again a third of the way up the pitch. Having spent his last Saturday before lockdown staying inside and watching Strictly, Matty felt inspired to dance his way through three lads and slot it into the back of the net for 2-0. Even if the last lad he dribbled it past tried to kick him into row Z. We saw out the first half with a strong performance all round.

In the second half the game began to turn in their favour, as it sometimes can do and unfortunately, it wasn't to be. Some great spells of play in places couldn't see us prevent them from completing a turnaround. In spite of this, and considering we had nearly 10 out this week and a couple of last minute drop outs too, the team can be really proud of this performance. We hold our heads high and look forward to the next one (whenever that may be).

"The squad showed a lot of character", Brendan Rodgers, Liverpool FC (2012-15)

Joyce made some top saves, Tom won every header, Jack worked phenomenally hard in the middle, Mané ran them ragged on the left and everyone walked off the pitch having fought hard throughout.

Can't wait til all this is over and we can have a pint afterwards. Thanks again lads.

Upcoming fixtures

Women: not yet announced at time of press but first game expected on 13 Dec.

Men:

- 6 Dec. AWAY vs Beck and Call
- 12 Dec. FRIENDLY vs Yorkshire Terriers
- 13 Dec. HOME vs Churwell
- 20 Dec. TBC

Stugrams unscrambled: 1. Josh Booth; 2. Rachel Grima; 3. Daniel Hickson; 4. Eve Warren; 5. Cathy Brennan; 6. Rob Scargill; 7. Molly Asher.