

The book

Football for Peace is a joint University of Brighton and British Council initiative that uses football to build bridges between neighbouring Jewish and Arab towns and villages in Northern Israel, and in doing so make a modest contribution to the faltering peace process in this most troubled of regions. This book focuses mainly on the experiences of a group of volunteers who led projects in different towns and villages in the Galilee region of Israel in the summer of 2005. Written in their own words, each chapter provides a critically reflexive account of what it is like to attempt to use sport as a vehicle to promote mutual understanding and co-existence in a deeply divided society.

The book throws up numerous practical, ethical, and moral challenges and raises important questions concerned with things such as national identity, equity and inclusion, gender relations, voluntarism, and post-colonialism. It does not always answer these questions, but, taken as a whole, the book offers convincing evidence that, even the face of the most challenging socio-cultural and political circumstances, if projects such of this are well thought through, carefully structured and well managed, they do have the capacity to make positive contributions to community relations. Thus, while this book is specifically about sport-based 'peace work' in Israel, it should be a valuable resource for those concerned with similar projects and initiatives taking place in other parts of the world.

The editors

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ISBN: 978-1-84126-181-2



\$ 17.95 US/£ 14.95/\$ 25.95 CDN

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Volume 10

Football for Peace?

CSRC Edition

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CSRC Edition

John Sugden/James Wallis (eds.)

University of Brighton

Football for Peace?

The Challenges of Using Sport for
Co-Existence in Israel



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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

John Sugden/James Wallis (Eds.)
Football for Peace – The Challenge of Using Sport for Co-Existence In Israel
Oxford: Meyer & Meyer Sport (UK) Ltd., 2007
ISBN: 978-1-84126-181-2

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Aachen, Adelaide, Auckland, Budapest, Graz, Johannesburg,
New York, Olten (CH), Oxford, Singapore, Toronto
Member of the World
Sports Publishers' Association (WSPA)
www.w-s-p-a.org

Printed and bound by: FINIDR, s. r. o., Český Těšín
ISBN: 978-1-84126-181-2
E-Mail: verlag@m-m-sports.com
www.m-m-sports.com



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