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# REPUBLICATION

News, views, and the occasional bruise from the world of  
*Republica Internationale FC* (Edition: May 2020)

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**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. Welcome to the May edition of Republication. Another month without football and with more serious concerns, such as how far will we have to travel for our next eye test. Hopefully you're all well despite the mess at the top. This month featuring:

- Support in tough times
- Republica next season
- Mayday: what could have been
- Spot the ball (no eye test required)
- From the archives: match report
- Request: next month(s).

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## Republica 2020/21

In normal times, it would be about now when we start thinking about the coming season, who wants to be involved in helping run things on and off the pitch, and sitting down somewhere for our AGM to elect you helpful people to club roles for 2020/21. But times they are strange and we're not really sure what 2020/21 will bring. Returning to organised football seems like a world away at the moment, but the leagues are still planning for a September start... unlikely perhaps, but we'd better be ready just in case.

So, have a look at the following link for more info on club roles for next season: <https://tinyurl.com/yabqv9lk>

All of these roles are open to everyone, no matter how long you have been with the club. If you want to get involved, whether in a role or not, get chatting to your teammates and let the committee and/or your captains/coordinators know. Most likely we won't be able to have the AGM in person for the foreseeable so we're currently thinking about the best way to do this given the current situation... keep an eye out for further info soon!

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### Re-pub-lication quiz

**#2:** whose penalty was last seen flying over Fratton Park? **Answer:** Apologies, Liam!

### Re-pub-lication quiz

**#3:** which Republican has a son whose middle name is Armando, in homage to Diego Armando Maradona? **Right: the son.**



## A message of support from the club to the club

As a club we always want to make sure we're looking out for each other – and now that's more important than ever as we're not seeing each other at training, matches, in the pub etc.

We know some may be particularly struggling with things at the moment. That may be financially, through being out of work, difficulties with bills, rent and putting food on the table, or around mental wellbeing: many are struggling with high levels of stress and anxiety at the moment, and some are isolated and not able to access the support networks we all usually rely on. As a club we are exploring ways in which we might be able to help in whatever way. We have a load of tools, resources and knowledge within the club and, most importantly, friendship and solidarity in looking out for each other.

If you're struggling in any way please get in touch: speak to your section coordinators (Georgia and Molly for the women's section, Josh Booth and Liam for the men's section) or email [republicanews@hotmail.com](mailto:republicanews@hotmail.com) – only the committee has access to this email address. If you don't feel comfortable sending an email or messaging one of the coordinators, let a friend within the club know and they can speak to the coordinators/committee on your behalf. We'd also like to point people in the direction of places they can get support...

Leeds City Council has an information page covering **help for people and communities**, including support if you're isolating and help around food, money and work.

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus#support>

For **refugees & asylum seekers**, importantly including those who have no recourse to public funds, PAFRAS are distributing food parcels as well as continuing other support services

<https://pafra.org.uk/>

For help around **private renting, evictions, disputes with landlords, or homelessness**, Shelter have a helpline which is open every day and can direct you to local support services

[https://england.shelter.org.uk/get\\_help](https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help)

For **debt advice, support around budgeting and managing finances**, there is MoneyBuddies

<https://moneybuddies.org.uk/>

If you are worried about your **working conditions** and what rights you have, see the TUC info page at

**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: @RepublicaFC  
Web: <https://republica.international/>

For this and any other issues related to **employment**, we'd really urge people to [join a union](#). Many unions have staggered membership costs depending on your income, but if money is a barrier to you signing up to a union, please let us know.

Finally, Citizens Advice Bureau can provide advice around all the above issues and others:  
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

But aside from the support services that can help with specific difficulties you may be experiencing, we're here as a club to support each other – so, as your teammates (on and off the pitch) – please let us know if you're finding things tough.

Take care all, and hope to see you on a footy pitch soon!

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**Spot the ball #1**



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**From the archives: match report**

Republica 1 - 0 Athletic Bramley  
*Potternewton Playing Fields, Leeds Combination  
League Division 3, 25th Nov 2018*

Words: Joe Bishop

*The background:* Runaway league leaders Athletic Bramley travelled to Potternewton with a 100% record, winning their first 9 league games of the season including a 3-2 home win over the Reds. Republica had had an inconsistent season with some decent results over their nearest rivals but had in general struggled to heavy defeats against the top teams in the division.

*The game:* Republica produced their best performance of the 2018/19 season with a narrow win over their guests in a match that was noteworthy for some heroic Republica defending and some bizarre refereeing...

The Reds arguably had the better of the chances in the first half with some good movement in attack, but failed to make it count in the final third. At the other end, Bramley put the ball into the net after the ref had blown for offside as clear-cut chances proved few and far between. The deadlock was broken at the half-hour mark though. After a goal mouth scramble the ball fell to Dan Hickson, on his first appearance in a Republica shirt, who managed to make space between two defenders and find the top corner with a blistering shot from a tight angle.

Half time came and went, and both teams fancied themselves for the victory. With their unbeaten season under threat Bramley piled on the pressure, switching to 4-3-3 while the Reds started the second half unchanged. Not long after the whistle, manager Greg de Boer found himself cautioned by the referee on the sidelines for a reason that's still unclear, and setting the tone for 45 minutes of similar confusion. At 55 minutes, veteran winger Stephen Graham made way for another debutant, Tyrone Leach, as de Boer sought to inject some pace into the Republica side. But the youngster soon found his way into the referees book himself. With an opposing player down on the ground, Jack Smith put the ball out of play so he could receive treatment from the Bramley bench and Leach was penalised for fetching a drink of water from the sidelines.

With half an hour remaining, Nathan Crawley was replaced by Rio Goldhammer at right back as the Reds switched to 5-4-1; Josh Booth dropping into the heart of the defence with Mourad Shoushan taking his place in midfield. The back five wouldn't last too long though. 10 minutes later, Smith, who had picked up a soft yellow for a tackle earlier in the game, was fouled just inside the Republica half. Then, allegedly for gesturing a card to the referee, Smith himself saw a second yellow and Republica were down to 10 players. Before play resumed, with a Republica free-kick from the original foul, there was a further delay as the referee attempted to book a spectator for commenting on this decision.

It was Republica, though, who looked like they might snatch another goal next. Nick Hood came close with a well-struck free kick from 25 yards and Hickson looked as though he'd been awarded a penalty as the end of normal time approached. A ball straight through the middle from Goldhammer sent Hickson through on goal, only to have his legs swept away by the keeper's hands after putting the ball round him. No penalty was given though, and Hickson was given a yellow card for his troubles for a supposed dive.

Bramley came close to an equaliser just before the final whistle but put their last chance past the wrong side of the post. Doggedly, Republica held on through

6 minutes of injury time to bring to close their finest performance of the season. Goalkeeper Matt Joyce was named man-of-the-match for his clean sheet and excellent distribution throughout the game, but every Republica player was able to walk away with pride at a job well done.

*What happened next:* Republica would go onto struggle in the next few games but improved as the season went on and reached a respectable mid-table finish. The result derailed Bramley's title dreams and they eventually finished third. The two sides met again in the cup in 2020 with Republica comfortably winning 1-0 at Bramley Fall Park.

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### Spot the ball #2



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### Next month(s)... call for tournament write-ups

Everyone loves running around Scott Hall, John Charles, and various parks with more dog sh\*tte than blades of healthy grass, but the highlight of many a Republican's year is tournament season. We've missed Mayday; we would've been heading off to Hamburg in June; then onto the Network tournament in UK, Gemrnay, Belgium, ...; sometimes it's been Mondiali Antirazzisti in Bologna, it's always been spectacular. **If you have had the pleasure of being on tour with Republica and can recall what went on, then please send in your words and photos from a past tournament.** Those that were there will no doubt enjoy a refresher of how much fun they had, those that weren't there will wish they were, and those that have no idea what this tournament nonsense is about will look forward to next summer even more once they've read about it.

Also in demand: old match reports from previous seasons. So, if you can recollect (not necessarily faithfully!) old matches or have something down in your archive, please write it up and send it in for us all to have a trip down memory lane. It can be from last season or 1983 or anywhere in between, and if there's a picture to go alongside even better!

### Spot the ball #3

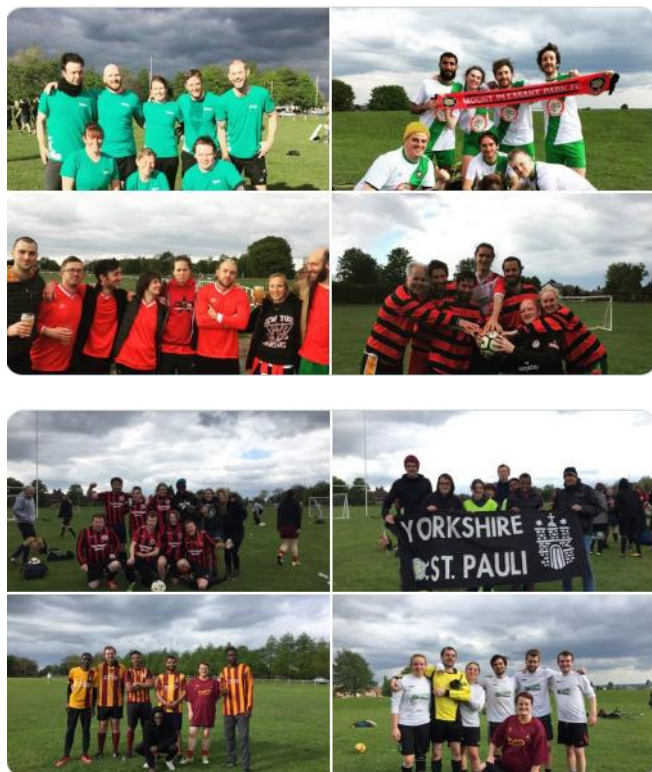


*[Insert old match/tournament report here]*

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### Mayday Tournament 2019

A day of football, food and beer at the CCC with teams from Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Bristol... in memory of Bod and fundraising for local mental health charities. See you in 2021 hopefully!



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### Spotted balls:

#1: 4. #2: 3. #3: 3.