

Football Unites, Racism Divides

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

FOOTBALL BLACK LIST 2023 HONOUR FOR FURD'S CO-CEO SIMON HYACINTH.

UPDATES

We at Football Unites, Racism Divides (FURD) are delighted by the news that our Co-CEO Simon Hyacinth has been awarded the annual Football Black List - a list of the most influential black people in British football - in the community and grassroots category. He collected the award on March 22 at THE FOOTBALL Black List (FBL) made at the Battersea Arts Centre.

On receiving the award, Simon shared:

"In truth, I feel like a bit of an imposter. I'm very grateful to be receiving this award but for me, this is further recognition of the great work FURD has done for over 25 years. I'm very fortunate to have worked alongside many fantastic and hugely committed staff, volunteers and partner organisations".



IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT THE U-MIX CENTRE

Over the past 10 years, since opening, we have worked hard to ensure that U-Mix offers high quality facilities at affordable prices to the communities we aim to serve. We are proud of the fact that, throughout this time, we have been able to keep our hire prices at the same levels. However, in light of recent and seemingly relentless cost of living increases, we are now in the unfortunate position of having to raise our hire charges.

Please see our revised [price chart](#), which comes into effect from 1st April 2023. We understand that cost of living increases have affected us all, and so have done our very best to ensure that our price increases are as reasonable as possible given the current climate.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. We thank you for your much valued and continued support.

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VOLUNTEER STORY

Volunteers are the heart of FURD's work, in the last 6 months we were fortunate to have Rachel Marshall with us leading the conversation club. We managed to get an interview with Rachel before she set off to South Africa.



Tell us how you got involved in FURD's work and what was your first impression of FURD.

I was working at the Foodbank Hub in Firth Park library and I saw a leaflet about U-Mix and that they did conversation classes. As I'm an ESOL teacher I rang them to see if they needed any ESOL and they said to come for a chat. I was impressed with the building – it seemed modern and trendy! I met Sijo who was friendly and explained what U-Mix did. To be honest I didn't know what FURD was but kept seeing it on literature so I googled it. Then U-Mix made more sense to me. I really like the ethos and supporting vulnerable young adults seeking asylum by doing football which unites and many are passionate about.

What do you do when you aren't (working, volunteering)? A bit about you, your family and your passion.

I am married to Andy and we have 2 grown-up sons – one in London and the other in Liverpool. We love walking in the Peak District with friends and having people around for meals. I'm also in a book club and love reading fiction and non-fiction. But one of my favorite hobbies is going out for a coffee with a friend and chatting!

I'm passionate about learning new things. During the lockdown, I started using an app to learn French which I failed abysmally at school! I feel I can encourage students more in their language learning. Teaching English has certainly helped me learn a new language.

Finally, Andy and I are active in our local church and I help with Foodbank and support people going through debt with Christians Against Poverty.

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What do you do with FURD?

I teach ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). I call it ESOL Bites because it is during the lunch break and it is just small bits of English that are bite-sized.

What surprised you most about working with FURD?

I noticed that people are treated with respect and the staff are inclusive and care for the young men. They encourage them and create a fun, accepting atmosphere.

Tell us about some of the people you support through this volunteering.

I have about 3 – 6 learners every week. Some return but the lure of football can be preferable to learning English which is understandable! Some speak good English, others less but they try. The men come from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran and I think Egypt. They are polite, appreciative and engage well. We have fun and use games, worksheets and drama to learn because people's learning styles are different. Most of the men come from cultures where learning is often done orally rather than pen and paper, so I try to teach orally and occasionally use writing. I can't think of any specific stories.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?

Go for it!

What is your idea of integration?

To me, integration means that all are included regardless of age, race, sex, culture, faith, or beliefs.

If you are interested in volunteering with FURD, please contact: sijo@furd.org

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OUR FOUNDER HOWARD RECALLS THE DAY HE MET PELE

The sad death of Pele on 29th December 2022 led FURD's founder, chair of Trustees and former Project Co-ordinator Howard Holmes, to reminisce about the day he met Pele:



TRIBUTE

"In November 2007, as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the formation of the world's oldest football club, Sheffield FC, Pele came to Bramall Lane.

A couple of days before his visit, I took a phone call from Andy Pack, Head of Comms at Sheffield United and a FURD trustee, inviting key workers from FURD to a welcoming event for Pele in the club's 'Legends of the Lane' museum, where the original Sheffield FC rules establishing Association Football would be on display.

Andy also asked me to say a few words about FURD and our research into the history of Black football pioneers, so the following night I wrote my speech and looked forward to impressing Pele with my carefully constructed words of wisdom.

Next day we gathered in a packed Legends of the Lane room when suddenly there was a commotion as the emergency exit was flung open by stewards and in strode the greatest footballer of all time. He shook my hand warmly and stood alongside me expectantly. The next five minutes is still a blur, 15 years later.

I fumbled in my jacket pockets for my speech....nothing! Trousers....nowhere!. Pele must have sensed my mounting panic as he reached out again and shook my hand reassuringly.

I had no choice but to make it off the cuff and remember stumbling about how he was the first black player I had seen when he scored twice in the 1958 World Cup final against Sweden (I'm pretty sure the BBC only showed the final live). He was 17 - just 5 years older than me - and at school on the Monday following the final we all wanted to be Pele at the lunchtime kickabout. He had an incredibly profound effect upon many kids in my generation. Pele responded to my babbling to say that he kept asking his Brazilian team mates where were the other Black players at the World Cup?... but no one could give him an answer.

I had with me the biography of Arthur Wharton, the world's first black professional footballer way back in the 1890s and presented it to the great man. Then suddenly FURD's head coach, Luis Silva, dashed up to Pele and they warmly embraced. Luis, a former Chilean international. had played against Pele in Brazil.

Moments later Pele was whisked away and the dream was over. I could stop pinching myself...it really did happen, the Day I met Pele".

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AT THE U-MIX CENTRE 2023

YOUTH AND SOCIAL CLUB SESSIONS

FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Refugees & Asylum-Seekers Centre for Development: conversation, digital inclusion, football coaching.	Monday 10am-3pm	16+	FREE must pre-register
Sheffield Youth Service Youth Club	Tuesday 6:30-9pm	13-19	FREE
Sheffield Youth Service Youth Club	Thursday 5:45-8:15pm	13-19	FREE

FURD Football Coaching (2 age groups)	Monday 4:30-6pm	9-12 / 13-18	FREE
FURD + VAS Belonging Together Women's Football	Tuesday 11am-1pm	Adults	FREE
FURD + Shipshape Walking Football	Tuesday 1pm-2pm	Adults	£1
FURD Junior Football Coaching	Tuesday 4-5pm	6-11	£2
FURD Women's Football	Tuesday 6pm-7pm	16-60+	FREE
Sheffield Youth Service	Tuesday 7-8pm	11-19	FREE
Sheffield United Community Foundation	Tuesday 8-9pm	11-19	FREE
FURD Belonging Group Football	Wednesday 11am-12.30pm	Adults	FREE
FURD Football Coaching (2 age groups)	Wednesday 4:30-6pm	9-12 / 13-18	FREE
FURD Minds Over Football	Thursday 11am-1pm	Adults	£1
FURD Junior Football Coaching	Thursday 4-5pm	6-11	£2
Sheffield United Community Foundation	Thursdays 6-7pm	11-19	FREE
Sheffield Youth Service	Thursday 7-8pm	11-19	FREE
FURD Women's Walking Football	Friday 6-7pm	16+	£1
FURD Belonging Group Football	Friday 7-8pm	Adult	FREE
Junior Football Coaching	Saturday 12pm-1pm	6-10	£4.50
FURD Girls' Football	Saturday 1-2pm	6-15	FREE
FURD Coaching (2 age groups)	Saturday 2-4pm	6-12 / 12-19	£1
FURD Coaching (2 age groups)	Sunday 2-4pm	6-12 / 12-19	£1

You will be required to complete a registration form to be part of these activities.

Important note to parents and carers: please be aware that inclement weather and/or low numbers may mean that FURD sessions finish earlier than the times mentioned above.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF AT RECEPTION,
CALL 0114 2589601 or EMAIL enquiries@furd.org
U-Mix Centre, Asline Road, Sheffield S2 4UJ (Lowfield Park)