

# Fight for “the Right to Participate in Sport”: The Organized Sunday Football Movement in London during 1930s

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This article focuses the historical facts of how British workers organized Sunday football leagues and expanded the movement to lift the ban on organized Sunday sports at a time when the precepts of Christianity were particularly robust in Britain. It is an attempt to trace the history of the organized Sunday football movement in London during the 1930s.

This movement was a very important affair in history. However, with the exception of Stephen G. Jones' studies on working class politics and sports in inter-war Britain, the movement has not been properly evaluated. Naturally, Japanese sports historians have not explored this subject. It is for this reason that, I not only present the historical facts of the movement but also evaluate it in detail.

The demands of the organized Sunday football movement were eventually acceded at the London County Council meeting on July 10, 1934. As their demands grew stronger, sabbatarian bodies like the Lord's Day Observance Society and the Imperial Alliance for the Defence of Sunday were not able to bind the leisure life of ordinary workers—such as railway employees, grocers, and bakers who loved playing football—with the precepts of Christianity.