



THE DRAGON

ON MY SHIRT

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MEDIA

INTRODUCTION

The Dragon on My Shirt is a five-part documentary series telling the stories of Black and Asian footballers who have represented Wales and features Cymru players Eddie Parris, George Berry, Wendy Reilly, Safia Middleton Patel, Robert Earnshaw, Nathan Blake and Neil Taylor. The Dragon on My Shirt is presented by writer, lecturer and researcher Darren Chetty who co-edited Welsh (Plural) published in 2022 by Repeater Books, directed by Vicky Morton, and features music by Welsh artists Sage Todz, Lemfreck, Juice Menace, Don Leisure and Carwyn Ellis & Rio 18.

EPISODE ONE: WE TRAVEL BACK TO THE 1930S TO LEARN ABOUT WALES' FIRST EVER BLACK PLAYER, EDDIE PARRIS.

EPISODE TWO: DARREN TRAVELS TO MOUNTAIN ASH TO MEET WALES' FIRST POST-WAR BLACK PLAYER, LEGENDARY GEORGE BERRY.

EPISODE THREE: THIS EPISODE TAKES A LOOK INTO THE OFTEN OVERLOOKED WORLD OF WELSH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL AND ONE OF ITS TRAILBLAZERS, WENDY REILLY.

EPISODE FOUR: DARREN MEETS ROBERT EARNSHAW, AND DISCOVERS THAT IDENTITY IS BETTER WHEN ITS CHOSEN, NOT COERCED.

EPISODE FIVE: IN THIS FINAL EPISODE, WE REFLECT ON THE OUTSTANDING WORK BEING DONE BY GRASSROOTS CLUBS ACROSS WALES.

PARTNERS



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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DARREN CHETTY

“As a life-long Wales fan with a diverse family background spanning three continents, working on *The Dragon on My Shirt* was a dream come true. In *Welsh (Plural)* I wrote about how football can be both unifying and divisive. It was a fantastic experience to explore this further with people in *The Dragon on My Shirt*- including players that I’ve watched and cheered on from the terraces. This series is another step in acknowledging Wales’ diverse histories, in championing changemakers , and in reflecting on the challenges that remain.” - Darren Chetty



Darren Chetty was born in Swansea and currently lives in London. A life-long Wales fan, he is a writer and lecturer at University College London. He taught in primary schools for over twenty years and has taught in Higher Education for the past eight years on a range of topics relating to education and racism. He is a contributor to the best-selling anthology *The Good Immigrant*.

As a writer, Darren co-edited *Welsh (Plural) Essays on the Future of Wales* and *Critical Philosophy of Race and Education* and co-authored *How To Disagree: Negotiate Difference in a Divided World* and *What Is Masculinity? Why Does it Matter? And Other Big Questions*. He has also written for *The Guardian*, *The Metro*, *Planet*, and *Wales Arts Review*.

WHY DID WE PRODUCE THIS?

At EatSleep Media we are always looking for powerful stories from new or unheard voices, and we are huge fans of Welsh football! When Darren proposed the idea of telling these stories we knew it was an important project that we'd love to collaborate on. With funding from the Anti Racist Wales Fund at the Welsh Govt, we found the right support for this project, and working with the FA Wales to deliver this project on the Red Wall+ platform we knew we would be able to reach audiences across Wales and beyond.

Through this series highlighting players with differing backgrounds and levels of success, we use football as a vehicle for important conversations around race, identity and belonging, which will hopefully help to tackle racism in society, not just football. And further go on to inspire a whole new generation of ethnically diverse players to represent Wales.

"AT THE FAW WE WANT TO CELEBRATE THE HISTORY OF WELSH FOOTBALL AND THE AMAZING STORIES OF PLAYERS WHO BLAZED A TRAIL. THIS SERIES ALLOWS US TO EXPLORE THE STORIES OF SOME OF OUR BLACK AND ASIAN PLAYERS WHO HAVE PROUDLY WORN THE DRAGON ON THEIR SHIRT AND REPRESENTED THEIR COUNTRY. THROUGH THE TELLING OF THESE STORIES WE HOPE TO HELP TACKLE RACISM IN FOOTBALL AND INSPIRE MORE PEOPLE FROM ETHNICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS TO ENGAGE IN WELSH FOOTBALL AND GO ON TO REPRESENT WALES."

JASON WEBBER, SENIOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & INTEGRITY MANAGER

FUNDING

The Dragon On My Shirt was funded through The Anti-Racist Wales Culture, Heritage and Sport Fund from the Welsh Govt to support the goals and aims of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan. This funding specifically focuses on addressing racial inequality, eliminating unlawful discrimination, and promoting equality of opportunity throughout culture, heritage and sport.

In TDOMS, we specifically focus on the following three goals and aims of The Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan:

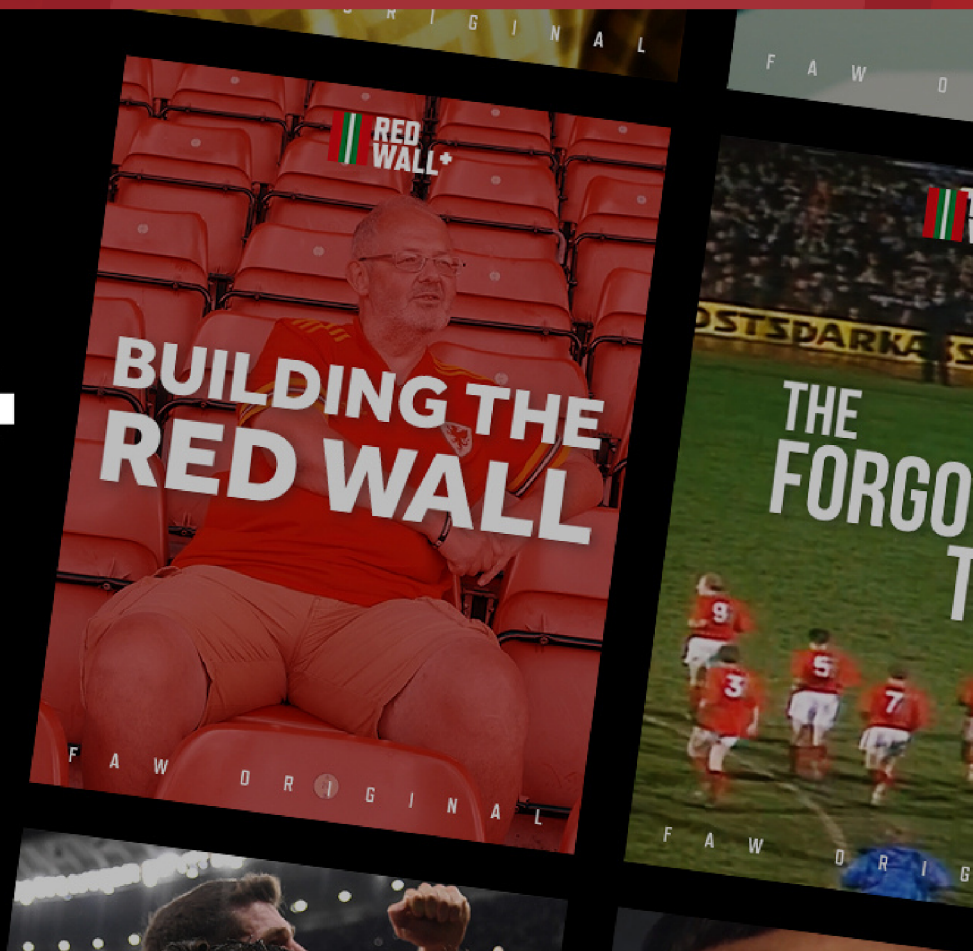
- **Celebrating Diversity:** Supporting Welsh society in celebrating cultural heritage and freedom of expression while promoting unity.
- **The Historical Narrative:** Collaborating with public bodies to establish a balanced, authentic, and decolonized historical account that acknowledges both injustices and contributions of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities.
- **Learning about our Cultural Diversity:** Achieving anti-racist educational goals, fostering engagement and appreciation of the diverse cultural makeup of society to promote anti-racist principles.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!
FREE FAW STREAMING SERVICE



The Dragon On My Shirt aims to drive change by tackling racism and amplifying the stories of Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse Wales players. Alongside the five thought-provoking episodes, Darren Chetty provides questions to spark conversations in clubs, organisations, and schools across the country. By engaging with these topics, we hope to foster dialogue, understanding, and awareness, ultimately combating racism and promoting inclusivity.

HOW TO WATCH THE DRAGON ON MY SHIRT

This series is available for free on RedWall+, the new streaming platform for the FAW and the home of Welsh Football.



You can download the RedWall+ app and stream this series (and more!) today via the iOS App Store or Google Play Store. The app is free, all you need to do is sign up to Red Wall+ and you can access this content and everything else available.

If you want to watch Red Wall+ with a group, simply find the cast logo in the corner of your screen and share it onto your nearest compatible device!



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DISCUSSION RESOURCE

The following few slides provide context for each episode, and a list of some suggested discussion questions for each episode. We also recommend asking participants for their own discussion questions, listing these and selecting (by negotiating or voting) which of these the group would like to address. It is helpful if you and the group also reflect on the demographics of the group and how that might impact the discussion.

To read is a short piece about discussing racism in classrooms, written by Darren Chetty with Dr Adam Ferner based on their book *How to Disagree: Negotiate Difference in a Divided World*, (click the link below). It is written with teachers in mind, but much of it is relevant for discussion in other settings too. We recommend that you read this first and reflect on what you need to do to prepare yourself and the group to discuss *The Dragon on My Shirt*. [FIND DISCUSSION RESOURCE HERE.](#)



EPISODE ONE

The Dragon On My Shirt begins with Eddie Parris, who in 1931 became the first Black player to play football for Wales. Darren speaks to the people who have been working to research and memorialise Eddie, including historian Professor Martin Johnes and Professor Uzo Iwobi CBE, Chief Executive of Race Council Cymru.



In the introduction Darren mentions that football has been a site of unity *and* a site of division and hostility. Can you think of examples of both?

"Throughout the interwar period Britain and Wales was undoubtedly a racist society" – what examples does Professor Martin Johnes offer for this? What other examples are you aware of?

Professor Johnes suggests that the option for Black people in this period was to live in rural areas away from other Black people or to live in a diverse, but stigmatised community. How does this compare to present day Wales?

Eddie was described in one newspaper article as a 'foreign player'. We don't know how Eddie would have described his ethnicity, and terms such as, for example, Welsh Black, African-Caribbean, and mixed-race were less commonly used in his time. Does this make it harder to imagine the reaction to him being selected for Wales?

Eddie Parris is the first Black player to play for Wales. How important is it to celebrate players who are the first? Professor Uzo Iwobi suggests he has been written out of history. Do you agree?

Armand would like a statue of Eddie. Liz would like a mural. What do you think would be the most appropriate way of memorialising Eddie Parris?

EPISODE TWO

This episode highlights the remarkable achievements of George Berry and seeks to spark meaningful discussions on racial inclusion and equality. George Berry was the first Black player to represent Wales after World War II, with his legacy honoured on the iconic Spirit of 58 t-shirts. Explore his inspiring journey, challenge racial barriers, and engage in conversations using Darren's thought-provoking questions.



Darren mentions how as a child he had a special affinity with George Berry. Why was this? Does this make sense to you?

George says, "I never felt colour mattered, when I was living in Wales". What caused George to change his view?

Darren says that seeing the racism George Berry was subjected to at The Vetch Field in 1981 made him think about "racism, safety, and Welshness". What do you think he means by this?

George was frequently subjected to racist abuse. He mentions 'the nod' and how Black players were 'like a little family'. How does it feel to hear this?

In your view, whose responsibility is it to address racism in football and in society?

George suggests that there is less overt racism today as there are more players who will call people out. But he suggests that there is still covert racism in the game. What are your thoughts on this?

EPISODE THREE

In this episode, we highlight the remarkable journey of Wendy Reilly, who made her debut for Wales at 16 and later became the captain and coach of the women's team. Through her inspiring story, we tackle issues of gender inequality in sports and the importance of representation. Darren's thought-provoking questions accompanying the episode encourage clubs, organisations, and schools to initiate conversations that promote inclusivity and empower young athletes.



How did the FAW and FA bans on women's football affect the game and players?

Wendy says she doesn't resent that she missed out on the TV era of women's football. How important is it for changemakers to see the bigger picture as well as their immediate goals?

Wendy mentions that families were moved out of Pill, and Nathan notices that there is less green space in Ringland now. What do you think are the impact of these actions?

Do you agree with Nathan when he says that Wendy's success as a footballer is largely down to upbringing? What other factors can help someone to succeed?

Wendy's opinion is that there isn't enough about the history of Wales women's teams prior to 1993. How would telling the story of women's football, including the ban, impact school students?

Wendy points out that pay is only one of the issues for women's football – grassroots facilities, medical care, qualified coaches are all part of it too. How far do we still have to go before women's football has recovered from the damage that the ban did to the game?

EPISODE FOUR

In this episode, we delve into the remarkable journey of Robert Earnshaw, the highest-scoring Black player for the Welsh men's team. We explore how his identity was a personal choice, not imposed upon him. Through interviews with his Rob, his mother and a visit to his childhood school, we gain insights into his upbringing and the factors that shaped his successful career.



Darren suggests that we can think of identity as 'the places, people and things with which we identify'. Is this a helpful way to think about identity? Is anything important missing?

Darren mentions 'The Tebbit Test', named after Conservative minister Norman Tebbit who suggested that South Asian and Caribbean heritage people in England are not sufficiently integrated if they don't support the England cricket team. Can you tell people which team they should support? Should you?

Robert and Darren talk about experiencing racism at school and not feeling that there were any members of staff to support them. How does this compare to George's experience as a footballer? Are these situations a thing of the past in your opinion?

Rita talks about wanting her children to feel connected to Zambia and to learn about Welsh and British culture. Is this the role of schools, parents, both – or neither?

Robert says that his identity is 'never one thing'. Is this true for everyone?

Darren says, 'football's us and them narrative doesn't fit neatly for life beyond the game'. Do you agree?

EPISODE FIVE

In the final episode, we explore grassroots football and activism. We interview Neil Taylor, the first Wales player of South Asian descent and current Under 21 assistant coach, discussing his support for Asian heritage players through AIMS. We also speak with Yusuf Ismail and Shawqi Hasson from the acclaimed Unify collective, who share their inspiring visual campaign, "My Cymru, My Shirt," and how George Berry served as their inspiration.



Unify's Yusuf and Shawqi talk about trying to redefine what it means to be Welsh. Has the diversity of Wales, and Cardiff in particular, been reflected in the popular media over the decades?

Sean says 'you cannot be what you cannot see'. Neil says he didn't believe in the phrase 'if you can't see it, you can't be it' when he was young, but he does now that he is older. What is your view of it? If we take it seriously, how do we account for pioneers?

Sean identifies the A-licence as a potential barrier to more Black managers being appointed in the league. He says 'the league needs to represent the community it serves'. How might it do that more effectively?

Eleeza mentions the work of Amar Cymru in encouraging South Asian fans to watch Wales games. What does an inclusive fan culture look like, in your view?

Ahmed mentions how by playing for Cardiff Bay Warriors they are representing the Somali community, Butetown, Cardiff, and Wales. Yacub mentions how, after winning the British Somali Champions League they were 'acknowledged'. How important is it for us all to be acknowledged by those around us?

Eleeza sees 2016 as a turning point in viewing herself as Welsh. Yusuf recalls a photo of two of his friends from Grangetown holding the Welsh flag in France. Does inclusivity in football require success on the pitch?

THE TEAM

SERIES DIRECTOR:

VICKY MORTON



Vicky joined ESM in 2021 and has delivered a wide range of different projects from online content for Wales National Opera's production of 'Migrations', editing 'Building the Red Wall', a documentary for BBC Radio Wales about the growing support for Welsh football, and produced and edited the 'My Clubs' series of short stories for Red Wall+. This is Vicky's first project as director across a long-form series, and ESM is incredibly proud of the stories she has told and the warmth she has brought to this important series.

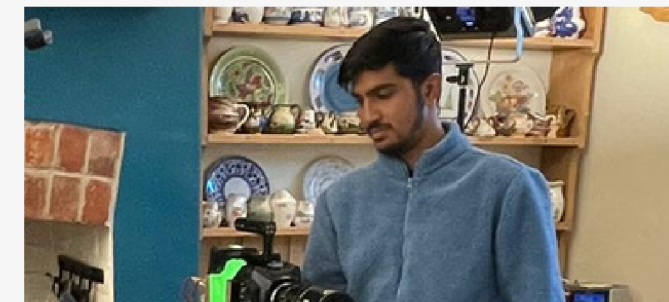
SUPPORTED BY:

ZAID DJERDI



Butetown filmmaker Zaid has been filming with Cardiff Bay Warriors for the last few years, telling the story of how the team have grown, won the UK Somali Champions League and are now competing in the world finals. Zaid joined ESM for this project and operated a second camera on most shoots, as well as providing vital research, insight and contacts across the series.

PRAD PATIL



Cardiff Met graduate Prad joined ESM for this project after completing his MA in Sports Journalism. As part of the team Prad has been shooting, editing and supporting the production in a number of ways, as well as supporting ESM across a number of other projects.

SAAD MOHAMED



Saad joined ESM with only a little bit of experience in the media industry as a runner, and across this project he was able to develop an understanding of and skills in shooting, editing, and production coordinating.

If you or your club, organisation or school would like further resources to accompany this series, you can find them throughout the following links.

Press Release: [Link](#)

Photos: [Link](#)

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