



Sporting Pioneers for Change

Slide 1: Title slide

Slide 2: The Importance of Pioneers

On slide: *below quote*

Commentary:

- ❖ *"If you're trying to achieve, there will be roadblocks. I've had them; everybody has had them. But obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."*
Michael Jordan
- ❖ A pioneer is a person who is amongst the first to do something extraordinary and make a difference.
- ❖ Without pioneers who are willing to be brave, push through adversity, break boundaries, beat the odds and challenge perceptions, there would be no human progress.
- ❖ Sport is ripe for pioneers, not just in terms of excelling through sport itself but also because of its nature to engage and unite, it is capable of being a powerful social force for good.
- ❖ Here we look at just a handful of sporting pioneers who both excelled in the arena of sport AND have helped to challenge discrimination and expectation in both sport and society itself.

Slide 3: Tom Molineaux (3)

On slide: old illustration

Commentary:

Tom Molineaux - 1784-1818

The first: Black Champion

Sport: Boxing

Sporting claim to fame: Born into slavery he became American champion but was cheated out of the World Title

Nationality: American

Sex: Male



Arthur Wharton: 1865 to 1930

The World's First Black Professional Footballer

www.arthurwharton.info

How he pioneered:

- ❖ People of all ethnicities have lived in Britain since Roman times. The first black champion was almost certainly a fighter of some description. Tom Molineaux is the first we can put a name too. He represents all the long forgotten champions.
- ❖ Born in 1784 to parents enslaved by a wealthy Virginian plantation owner
- ❖ He became a bare prize-fighting, because of his size and strength
- ❖ He was selected to engage in prize-fighting matches with other enslaved men from neighbouring estates, (a practice common during that era).
- ❖ Molineaux fought for and became American Champion in 1908.
- ❖ He was cheated out of his win of the British and World titles by being accused of carrying lead bullets in his fists. It went down as one of the most unfairly contested championship bouts in England's history.
- ❖ Molineaux earned his freedom from slavery through his courage in the ring. He ultimately participated in a match involving a wager of \$100,000. When he won his grateful owner granted him his freedom and a present of \$500.

Slide 4: Tom Molineaux - (4)

On slide: Lennox Lewis / Frank Bruno and Errol Christie /Princess Naseem Hamed

Commentary:

Paving the way...

- ❖ In recent years there have been many British boxers of different ethnic backgrounds who have fought for, and won, world titles. Lennox Lewis, John Conteh, Frank Bruno, Nigel Benn, Amir Kahn and David Haye have all become established and respected figures on the British Sporting scene. In 2012, Nicola Adams became the first female British Olympic Boxing Champion.

Discrimination in boxing:

- ❖ From 1909-1947 black and mixed-race boxers were unable to fight for the British Title. This was because of the Colour Bar.
- ❖ The rationale was complex but the overriding reasons were Imperial - success for non-white boxers was perceived as a threat to the British Empire. The defeat of a white boxer might encourage Britain's subjects to question the legitimacy of white rule in the colonies.



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- ❖ Boxing was a predominantly working class sport and for many fighters it provided an opportunity to escape the desperate poverty of life in the ghettos of Industrial Britain-this was an opportunity denied by racist legislation.

Slide 5: Arthur Wharton (5)

On slide: Arthur at Darlington FC

Commentary:

Arthur Wharton 1865 to 1930

The first: Black professional footballer / man to run 100 yards in 10 seconds

Sport: Football and athletics

Sporting claim to fame: Huge impact on British sports and everyday life.

Nationality: Ghanaian

Sex: Male

How he pioneered:

- ❖ Arthur was an immigrant from Ghana who came to study in Victorian Britain as a teenager.
- ❖ He became an exceptionally gifted footballer and athlete and broke down barriers and acted, unconsciously for the most part, as a role model.
- ❖ He became a well-known and loved all-round sportsman and was the first man to run 100 yards in 10 seconds and later became the first black professional footballer
- ❖ In 1888 when Arthur first became involved in professional sport there were no non-white professional footballers.
- ❖ Arthur played football for some of the most prestigious teams of his day and was known for his amazing goal keeping skills.
- ❖ He was known for being a bold, intelligent and fair man of integrity through his sporting accomplishments and that both won the hearts of the local working-class communities he lived within and quashed the Victorian belief in the notion of scientism racism which deemed Africans people stupid, child-like and inferior.



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- ❖ Arthur was a man who refused to let people judge him by the colour of his skin, a man with the courage and confidence to demand recognition and respect for his talents.
- ❖ Arthur's story reminds us that there has been the presence of black people in the early days of football.
- ❖ He is part of a continuum of positive immigration into Britain – he became a Northern, working-class lad, contributing both culturally to sport and economically (Arthur became a Yorkshire Miner for many years in his later life).

Slide 6: Arthur Wharton (6)

On slide: Arthur's Granddaughter, Sheila Leeson. Ceremony honouring Arthur at Wembley 2011

Commentary:

Paving the way...

- ❖ At the start of the 2013 football season all top teams feature non-white players. Many of the top players in the world are of African descent. 16 players from the birth-place of Britain's first black footballer, Arthur Wharton have appeared in the premier league.
- ❖ Arthur's story highlights the beginning of multiculturalism in British everyday life. Without people like him, willing to put up with racist slurs in the paper and judgements about his ethnicity, we would not now be living in one of the most tolerant and multicultural nations in the world.
- ❖ Imagine what it would have been like for a black child, watching him play football for Sheffield United or Preston North End, two of the most famous football clubs in the world at the time? They would have felt inspired and empowered. A door that had been firmly closed would suddenly have been open to them.

Slide 7: Lucy Diggs Slowe (7)

On slide: Lucy Diggs Slowe / Jessica Ennis

Commentary:

Lucy Diggs Slowe -1885-1937

Sport: Tennis

Sporting claim to fame: The first African-American woman to become a national



tennis champion

Nationality: American

Sex: Female

How she pioneered:

- ❖ Lucy was the first African-American woman to become a national tennis champion in 1917
- ❖ As a female sports person in the early part of the 20th century she faced significant prejudice and endured both racist and sexist discrimination
- ❖ She insisted on her right to respect as a female athlete and academic
- ❖ Lucy fought for the right of every woman, to have the opportunity to succeed in a world dominated by white males both in sports and education.
- ❖ She was the first female from her segregated or 'coloured school' to enter Howard University in Washington. Slowe returned to her university, becoming the first Dean of Women.
- ❖ Here she established a women's campus, stressing the need for a separated area for female students "*for their physical and social development as well as for the training of their minds.*"
- ❖ Before Lucy Diggs Slowe, black Americans were not allowed to compete on equal terms with white sportsmen.
- ❖ Her work on behalf of females was so respected at the time that she was invited to address the predominately white National Association of Women Deans in 1931, the first African-American to do so.

Commentary:

Paving the way...

- ❖ Women's sport still faces many challenges but without the pioneering work of sportswomen such as Lucy Diggs Slowe, female athletes such as Jessica Ennis-Hill would not be the iconic stars that they are today.
- ❖ There are still battles to be fought. Women's sport is still hugely underfunded in comparison to men's and underrepresented on the media. Some women, female referees, linesmen and commentators have endured open prejudice in recent years.



Slide 8: Ludwig Guttman (8)

On slide: statue of Guttman

Commentary:

Ludwig Guttman 1899 - 1980

Sport: Disabled Athletics

Claim to fame The inventor of the modern Paralympics movement

Nationality: German

How he pioneered:

- ❖ Ludwig Guttman pioneered the concept of people with disabilities participating in sport.
- ❖ He was the first person to have the idea of using sport to help re-habilitate disabled people physically developing strength whilst also using sport to alleviate depression and develop a positive attitude.
- ❖ Guttman had been an internationally renowned neurologist in Germany in the thirties, who fled Nazi Germany rather than accepting laws that forbid him working with Jews.
- ❖ Arriving in England speaking little or no English he quickly established a career, rising to become a physician at Stoke Mandeville hospital.
- ❖ Guttman to establish the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. He believed that sport was a major method of therapy for injured military personnel helping them build up physical strength and self-respect.
- ❖ A charismatic figure he forced patients to move using controversial but effective methods. Trainers through balls at patients until they caught them and patients were encouraged to lift weights. He wanted his patients to tackle their disability head on-and it worked.
- ❖ Dr. Guttman used the term paraplegic games for National Games held in order to encourage his patients to take part. This came to be known as the Paralympics which only later became the parallel games and included other disabilities.
- ❖ By 1952, more than 130 competitors from across the world had entered the Stoke Mandeville Games. The growth of the event got the attention of the Olympic Games.



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- ❖ At the 1956 Stoke Mandeville Games, Guttman was awarded the Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his meritorious achievement in service to the Olympic movement through the social and human value derived from wheelchair sports.
- ❖ His vision of an international games the equivalent of the Olympic Games themselves was realized in 1960 when the International Stoke Mandeville Games were held alongside the official 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome.

Slide 9: Ludwig Guttman (9)

On slide: David Weir, Annette Roozen and Paralympics logo

Commentary:

Paving the way...

- ❖ The 2012 Olympics enabled disabled sportswomen and men to become household names-before 2012 I doubt if anyone would have been able to name a disabled athlete, now athletes such as Ellie Simmons and David Weir are widely recognised and continue to inspire and challenge perceptions about the capabilities of disabled people.

Slide 10: Hope Powell (10)

On slide: Hope Powell

Commentary:

Hope Powell – born 1966

Sport: Football

Claim to fame: The first non-white manager of the England women's football team

Nationality: English

Sex: Female

- ❖ How she pioneered
- ❖ Powell made a huge contribution to women's football with 66 caps and 35 goals and became the youngest ever and the first non-white manager of the England Women's football team.
- ❖ Powell had a tough working-class upbringing and had the talent and determination to beat the odds. She made news headlines at 11 for challenging her school who didn't allow mixed teams after that age.



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- ❖ As a child she recalls (Guardian June 2011) *“Everybody would congregate, and you’d get two teams, with the top dogs picking players. And I was not picked, and not picked. And then one day I was picked! That’s the annoying thing. And you end up playing, and they go, ‘Actually you’re not that bad.’ And I was like, ‘I know I’m not that bad. It’s just you lot.’”*
- ❖ Powell also had to change the perception of her mother to succeed. (Guardian June 2011) *“It just wasn’t what West Indian girls were supposed to do. My mother hates it now if she reads that she was against me playing. But she absolutely was. I came home late from training one time, and I had a game on the Sunday, and she was like, that’s it: you’re not going. But I did. I just sneaked out again. I was that Bend it Like Beckham girl! I really was. But my mum is my biggest fan now.”*
- ❖ In 2002, Hope was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list and was again recognised for her work with the award of a CBE in 2010.
- ❖ As coach she led England’s Women’s team at the 2009 European Championships, achieving what no male manager has done since 1966: her team got to the final.
- ❖ Hope works to promote the women’s game and is patron of the ‘Kick It Out’ campaign and the Women’s Sports Foundation.
- ❖ She remains an elder stateswoman of the female game in is in high demand as an expert commentator on female football.

Slide 11: Hope Powell (11)

On slide: Guardian Bend it like Beckham quote above

Commentary:

Paving the way...

- ❖ Progress is being made with women involved in traditional ‘male’ sports, and the most popular sport in terms of mass female representation, football, is beginning to receive the same coverage as women’s tennis on mainstream television.
- ❖ Partly as a result of her contribution, Women’s football has a presence on national television and is one of the fastest growing mass participation sports in the UK. Most of the major male professional teams now have a ‘sister’ side of professional or semi-professional players. Other team sports such as cricket have also been able to attain a stronger media presence. The women’s ‘ashes’ highlights were shown in mainstream sports bulletins.



Slide 12: Gareth Thomas (12)

On slide: Rugby tackle / Gareth Thomas

Commentary:

Gareth Thomas - born 1974

Sport: Rugby

Claim to fame: The first professional rugby player to openly reveal his homosexuality; bravely challenging the homophobia that is still prevalent in professional sport.

Nationality: Welsh

How he pioneered...

- ❖ A legend in Welsh rugby, Gareth Thomas surpassed Gareth Llewellyn as the most-capped Wales player with his 100th appearance in the 2007 world cup.
- ❖ Thomas created history when becoming the first Welshman to win 100 caps in Rugby Union, scoring a try as Wales lost to Fiji.
- ❖ A prolific try scorer at international level, Thomas is listed ninth in the world on the all-time Test try scoring list.
- ❖ Thomas' public confirmation of his sexuality made him the first openly gay professional Rugby Union player.
- ❖ Since coming out as gay in 2009, Gareth Thomas has become a role model for other gay men who have struggled to come to terms with their sexuality, or have faced prejudice in a male sporting world.
- ❖ In an interview with the BBC, Thomas talked about how he hoped that his coming out would mean that in the future, young gay rugby players would be able to come out and be accepted as a "talented gay rugby player".
- ❖ Since coming out, Thomas has become a vocal supporter of the British charity ChildLine
- ❖ In an interview, Thomas commented, *"I don't know if my life is going to be easier because I'm out, but if it helps someone else, if it makes one young lad pick up the phone to ChildLine, then it will have been worth it"*.
- ❖ After starring on Dancing on Ice, he revealed the lengths he would go to cover up his sexuality and his fear of exposure, which often led him to contemplate suicide.



Slide 13: Sporting pioneers

On slide: All pioneers in presentation

Commentary:

- ❖ These stories remind us that the fight for social justice needs articulate and stubborn fighters like Arthur Wharton and the other pioneers we have chosen here.
- ❖ Despite these great victories, professional sportsmen and women the world over are still subject to prejudice and discrimination that mean sport is not fairly open to all.
- ❖ A recent study of participation in sport across the UK (House of Commons Select Committee Report 2012) shows that there are still many battles to be fought before racism and other forms of prejudice are erased forever from the world of sport.
- ❖ In a joint statement, the FA, the Premier League and the Football League said “substantial progress had been made”, but acknowledged that “challenges remained” and said they would consider the committee’s recommendations.

Slide 14: Racism in Football today (14)

On slide: Terry/Suarez headline / Arthur Wharton at Darlington FC

Commentary:

- ❖ Arthur Wharton paved the way in football but it is still a sport with a lot of discrimination surrounding it
- ❖ Despite pioneers like Arthur, black football players in 2013 can still suffer racism from the terraces and sometimes even from their friends and colleagues.
- ❖ Even in the multi-racial premier league race is still an issue-check out the recent race related rows involving John Terry and Luiz Suarez.
- ❖ Steve Rotheram MP, a member of the Culture, Media and Sport committee, said a lack of ethnic diversity in management and boardroom positions at many English clubs was holding back the fight against racism.
- ❖ He said: *“Some boards are all-male and all-white with no diversity there, and managers in the top tier of the Premier League and the Championship are almost all white, so there are some glass ceilings that need to be broken down.”*



Slide 15: Racism in Football today (15)

On slide: FURD images and Arthur Wharton

Commentary:

- ❖ Initiatives like Football Units Racism Divides is working hard to tackle racism and discrimination through the positive enjoyment of football on a community level.

Slide 16: Homophobia in Football today (16)

On slide: Fashanu headline

Commentary:

- ❖ Football in particular is a sport where there is a lot of homophobic discrimination.
- ❖ In May 2013 the Guardian announced that at least eight professional footballers in Britain have revealed to colleagues that they are gay, but have refused to go public because they fear a backlash from fans.
- ❖ In Britain, no professional footballer has come out and continued his career since Justin Fashanu in 1990. He stopped playing in 1994, but hanged himself four years later, aged 37. Fashanu had said that he had not been prepared for the backlash that followed his disclosure, and that his football career suffered “heavy damage” as a consequence.
- ❖ In January, Robbie Rogers, a Leeds United player left the club by mutual consent, then revealed that he was gay. He claimed that it would have been impossible to continue his career as an openly gay footballer.
- ❖ In Sweden Anton Hyson, a top Swedish player is a pioneer as the world's only openly gay professional footballer. He announced in May 2013 that his life had changed dramatically for the better, following his decision to come out eighteen months ago.
- ❖ In Holland, on the third of August, 2013, 44 professional footballers took part in a gay pride march.



Slide 17: Homophobia in Football today (17)

On slide: Video clip of Football V homophobia: 1.5 minutes (INTERNET ACCESS NEEDED) Discussion on issue.

Commentary:

- ❖ The organisation Football v Homophobia is working hard to tackle homophobia and ensure that football can remove the discrimination and prejudice, based on gender orientation that stops people enjoying their participation in football.

Slide 18: Sports fights back (18)

On slide: Canadian bobsleigh advert to support LGB 0.32secs (INTERNET ACCESS NEEDED)

Commentary:

- ❖ Sports stars and sport and non-sport bodies are also using their media power to challenge discrimination creatively through sport.
- ❖ Russian president Putin introduced new laws in 2013 to make the promotion of homo-sexual relationships illegal and linking them to paedophilia.
- ❖ Attacks on homosexual and trans -gender citizens in Russia in on the increase in 2013/14
- ❖ The 2014 winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia have highlighted homophobia in the country.
- ❖ Many athletes at the games have made some kind of protest.

Slide 19: Sports fights back (19)

On slide: Google support of LGBT rights

Commentary:

- ❖ In February 2014, Google updated its iconic search logo to depict a range of athletes against a rainbow coloured backdrop which has come to symbolise LGBT pride for many years. Underneath they quoted the fairness to all policy of the Olympic Charter.
- ❖ This quote from the Olympic charter underneath is where we need to be in all sport...



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- ❖ *“The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.”* – Olympic Charter
- ❖ Next year the Tour de France begins in Yorkshire, a county with a varied ethnic population. Perhaps one of the spectators watching the race will one day become the first non-white winner of the Tour de France.
- ❖ Perhaps one of you will one day become the first British woman of non-white descent to win Wimbledon-or- the first non white Prime Minister?
- ❖ We can all pioneer on a small or grand scale.
- ❖ How will you pioneer?