



Image credit: The Bowling Green at Eastville Park, undated (Ref. 43207/37/2/2)

Bristol Archives

Sources for research: Sports and leisure



Online catalogue archives.bristol.gov.uk
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Introduction

Bristol Archives holds archive sources related to many local sports clubs and venues. Selected collections and papers are described here, although this is not a comprehensive list.

Further sporting material is listed on our [online catalogue](#), often amongst the papers of organisations, businesses, schools and churches. To search thoroughly, try different search terms. Using a wildcard asterisk will find more results – for example, 'cycl*' will show results for cycling, cyclist etc.

Image collections

The following collections include photographs of sports and sporting venues in Bristol:

Vaughan postcards collection, 1890s – 1960s

Refs. [43207/9](#), [43207/37](#), [43207/41/6](#)

Various images including Somerset and Gloucestershire cricket clubs (including WG Grace), boxing, cycling, greyhound racing (including Eastville and Knowle stadiums), rowing, swimming, and tennis. Also includes satirical mourning cards for football defeats.

Bristol City Council Public Relations department photographs, 1940s – 1970s

Refs. [40826/BAT](#) & [40826/LEI](#)

Various photographs including swimming pools, Whitchurch Sports Stadium and Henbury golf course.

Football: general

Scrapbooks relating to Bristol football, 1895 – 1896 & 1926 – 1928

Ref. [46806](#)

Press cuttings relating to the Bristol & District Football League and to Bristol City and Bristol Rovers players

St George Amateur Football Club collection, 1914 – 1996

Ref. [42263](#)

Includes minutes, correspondence, programmes, match posters and scrapbooks.

Gloucestershire Football Association collection, 1919 – 2013

Ref. [40210](#)

Includes handbooks, programmes, historical booklets and Avon / Bristol Soccer World magazines.

Bristol Racial Equality Council library, 1990s – 2000s

Ref. [43129/Lib/FS](#)

Records and publications relating to racism and anti-racism work in football.

World Cup 2018 host city bid, 2010

Ref. [44581](#)

Papers from Bristol's bid to be a host city as part of England's wider bid to hold the World Cup in 2018.

Research by David Woods, 2020s

Ref. [41487](#)

PDFs of research relating to early Bristol football 1882-1920, including comprehensive match results, as well details of Southville and Bedminster matches 1887-1900 and Bristol City matches 1894-2020.

Football: Bristol City Football Club

Records of Harry Dolman, 1897-1980

Ref. [46134](#)

Includes personal papers, business papers and papers relating to Bristol City Football Club, of which he was Chairman 1949-1974 and then President until his death in 1977.

Film of the FA Cup semi-final between Huddersfield Town and Bristol City held at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea, 1920

Ref. [BROFA/0027](#)

Photographs of bomb damage to Ashton Gate stadium after the Blitz, 1940s

Refs. [43784/8](#), [43784/242](#)

Programmes for football matches against twin cities teams, 1958 – 1970

Refs. [45930/3-5](#)

Namely Hanover 96 and Bordeaux FC

Various Bristol City programmes

1955 - 1960 (Ref. [46496](#))

1970 - 2010 (Ref. [41634/SP](#))

1977 - 1981 (Ref. [45241/1](#))

Selected Cup finals, 1986 – 2015 (Ref. [46527](#))

Football: Bristol Rovers Football Club

Various Bristol Rovers programmes

1955 - 1960 (Ref. [46496](#))

1966 - 2003 (Ref. [41634/SP](#))

1977 - 1981 (Ref. [45241/1](#))

Selected Cup finals, 1986 – 2015 (Ref. [46527](#))

Rugby: general

St Barnabas Rugby Football Club and Mina Road Rugby Football Club, 1920s – 1930s

Ref. [45011](#)

Photographs

Bristol & District Rugby Football Combination, 1920s – 2000s

Ref. [46723](#)

Minutes and handbooks

100 years with the Clifton Rugby Football Club, 1972

Ref. [Bk/800](#)

John Player sponsored rugby yearbooks and cup posters, 1970s - 1980s

Refs. [38169/PB/15/6](#) & [38169/Ad/P](#)

Rugby: Bristol (Rugby) Football Club

Bristol Rugby Football Club, 1880s – 2000s

Ref. [41582](#)

Includes minutes, correspondence, annual reports, volumes of appearances and scorers, team photographs and match programmes.

Various Bristol Rugby Football Club programmes, 1969 – 2008

Ref. [41634/SP](#)

130 Years of Bristol Rugby 1888-2018, a Definitive History with Statistics

Ref. [Bk/2675](#)

Cricket

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, 1950s – 1980s

Ref. [42263/IM/PM/5](#)

Programmes and membership cards

Bristol West Indian Cricket Club, 1970s

Ref. [43845/Ph/3/10-14](#)

Photographs relating to the cricket club and its association with the Bamboo Club

Bristol West Indian Cricket Club, 1990 – 2005

Refs. [43688](#), [43745/5](#), [43745/2](#)

Including minutes, correspondence, reports, newsletters, handbooks and photographs

Action for Southern Africa, 1980s

Refs. [41242/IM/PM/6/1](#) & [41242/IM/Ph/7](#)

Photographs of anti-apartheid protests at international cricket matches

Boxing

Empire Sports Club, 1960s – 1990

Refs. [44459/Ph/1](#) & [43816](#)

Photographs

Muhammad Ali, 1970s – 1980s

Ref. [42840/CD](#)

Photographs within the Paul Stephenson collection

Horse racing

Bristol Racecourse, Knowle, 1872

Ref. [4312/17](#)

Plan of the racecourse, which operated between 1873 and 1890

Stafford & Co, Turf Accountants, 1928 – 1964

Ref. [41173](#)

Includes accounts and correspondence.

Tennis

Records relating to Edith Hannam, undated

Refs. [Infobox/30/18](#) & [PicBox/6/Port/35b](#)

Documents and photographs relating to the winner of two Olympic medals in 1912

Knowle Lawn Tennis Club, 1927 – 2009

Ref. [44299](#)

Includes minutes, accounts and photographs

Swimming and municipal baths

Records relating to Bristol swimming baths, 1810s – 1930s

Ref. [12782](#)

Includes competition programmes and swimming baths brochures

Plans of various municipal swimming baths, 1870s – 1970s

Refs. [40148](#), [43836](#), [Yellow Label Plans](#)

Programmes for the opening of municipal swimming baths, 1930s & 1960s

Ref. [35510/Com/34/3](#)

Motorsport

Parker's playground: the story of dirt track racing in Bristol 1928-30

Ref. [Pamphlet/1750](#)

Speedway annuals, 1946 – 1948

Ref. [46505/3](#)

Records relating to Bristol Speedway, 1951 – 1960

Ref. [42915](#)

Including photographs and programmes

Published histories titled 'The Birth of the Bristol Bulldogs', 'The Rise of the Bristol Bulldogs' and 'The End of an Era'

Refs. [Pamphlet/1797](#), [Pamphlet/1798](#), [Pamphlet/1827](#)

Powerboat racing

Souvenir programmes from the Embassy Grand Prix, Bristol Docks, 1978 – 1984

Refs. [42969/1](#) & [42408/1](#)

Photographic slides of Bristol Docks powerboat racing, 1990

Ref. [46520/1](#)

Cycling

Bristol South Cycling Club, 1893 – 2001

Ref. [44390](#)

Includes minutes, accounts, membership, photographs and press cuttings.

Bristol District Association of the Cyclists' Touring Club, 1912 – 2015

Ref. [31415](#)

Includes minutes, run records, photographs, published material including handbooks, programmes, and magazines.

Bowling

Eastville Bowls Club, 1910s – 1960s

Ref. [40784](#)

Photographs and certificates, including St Anne's Bowling Club and Beaufort Bowling Club

Eastville Park Bowling Club, 1932 – 1968

Ref. [40836/EP/84-89](#)

Minutes and accounts.

Bristol Arrow Bowling Club, 1930s – 1990s

Refs. [40782](#), [40783](#)

Includes history and general association handbooks.

Greville Smyth Bowling Club, 1941 – 2008

Ref. [44573](#)

Includes certificates and photographs.

Newbridge Bowling Club, 1982 – 2010

Ref. [45159](#)

Includes minutes, correspondence, circulars, constitutions, and a small number of fixtures and results information.

Hockey

Clifton Hockey Club, 1911 – 1930

Ref. [41426](#)

Minute book and selection card

Bristol YMCA Hockey Club, 1946 – 1999

Ref. [42293](#)

Includes financial papers, minutes, membership lists, correspondence, results and fixture lists.

Rowing

Bristol Ariel Rowing Club, 1886 – 1932

Ref. [40889](#)

Includes reports, correspondence, financial records, membership records, material related to club events.

Sailing

Old Chequers and Bath Marina Boat Club, 1948 – 2004

Ref. [42829](#)

Includes minutes, accounts, correspondence, membership information, newsletters.

School sports

Bristol Schools' Rugby Union, 1927 – 1997

Ref. [41081](#)

Includes minute books and historical booklets

Bristol Education Committee physical training demonstrations, 1926 – 1933

Refs. [21131/EC/IM/PM/2](#) & [43207/22/7](#)

Programmes and photographs

School collections

Many school collections (including the main collection of state school records at ref. [21131/SC](#)) include material related to sporting teams and events. Examples include:

- Clifton High School: sports team photographs, 1870s – 1900s (Ref. [40170/PH](#))
- St Brandon's School: sports team photographs, 1920s – 1980s (Ref. [40398/Ph/7](#))
- Bristol Grammar School: cricket team scoring books, 1970s – 2000s (Ref. [40715/Soc/1](#))
- Cotham Grammar School: sports team photographs, 1920s – 1960s (Ref. [44911/IM/PH](#))
- St George's School: sports club photographs, 1920s (Ref. [21131/SC/StGCC/Ph/4](#))

Staff sports

Various collections include material related to staff sporting teams and events, including:

Police staff sports, 1890s – 1970s

Refs. [Pol/St/19](#) and [Pol/Ph/8](#)

Includes minute books, programmes and photographs

E S & A Robinson bowling club, 1970s – 1990s

Ref. [41255](#)

Includes minutes, record books, photographs and artefacts

Sports and leisure centres

Plans of various Bristol City Council venues, c 1940s – 1960s

Ref. [Yellow Label Plans](#)

Plans of Whitchurch Sports Centre / Stadium, c 1970s

Refs. [42054/1](#) & [42054/3](#)

Bristol City Council committee minutes

Baths Committee, 1847 – 1968

Ref. [M/BCC/BAT](#)

Cultural Arts and Leisure Committee, 1972-1973

Ref. [M/BCC/CAL](#)

Arts and Leisure Committee, 1973-1986

Ref. [M/BCC/ALE](#)

Leisure Services Committee, 1986-1999

Ref. [M/BCC/LEI](#)

Environment, Transport & Leisure Committee, 2000-2005

Ref. [M/BCC/ETL](#)

Sport Liaison Group, 1968-1988

Ref. [M/BCC/SPO](#)

Bristol Sports Consultative Panel, 1988-1996

Ref. [M/BCC/BSPO](#)