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[Images](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pnpp2498vvmvelh/AAA5Sv5iDwmHAoUnHHVbFO2Za?dl=0)

**‘MAGNA CARTA’ OF FOOTBALL TO GO ON DISPLAY**

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM DUE TO OPEN LATE MAY 2021**

An ancient manuscript which details the very birth of football will go on display at the National Football Museum, with a planned reopening of 27 May 2021.

The handwritten Laws of The Game from 1863 contain the very first laws of football – the origins of the global sport played and watched by millions of fans today. It is the most significant book related to football. In a sense, the *‘Magna Carta’* of the beautiful game.

As the museum marks 20 years since it first opened, a bumper summer is planned with new exhibitions and marquee signings unveiled to the world in the opening weeks.

The museum will have been shut for 11 months during three national lockdowns by the time it reopens in time for the May half-term break. A star-studded line-up of new objects and exhibitions includes:

**The Laws of the Game**

(object on display from 27 May 2021)

Without this book, the world would be without its most popular sport.

The 1863 Minute Book features the 13 original Laws of association football, which were written by Ebenezer Morley, the first secretary of The Football Association. The FA formed in October 1863 with the aim of creating a single set of laws. The Laws of the Game going on display signals the start of a new partnership between the museum and The Football Association.

**English Football Hall of Fame**

(new exhibition opens 27 May 2021)

For almost two decades the National Football Museum’s English Football Hall of Fame has celebrated the great and the good of the game. This is the first time the museum has put on a full-scale exhibition showcasing some of those who’ve made an outstanding contribution to football, both on and off the pitch. Hall of Fame inductees include Lily Parr, Bobby Charlton, Faye White, Patrick Viera, Rachel Yankey, Ian Wright, Kenny Dalglish and Hope Powell. Latest inductees include Justin Fashanu, Alex Scott and Cyrille Regis. The exhibition is set to include new inductees for 2021.

**The oldest surviving FA Cup**

(on display from 27 May 2021)

The oldest surviving FA Cup will be returning to the museum, having been acquired at auction by new custodians Manchester City. The trophy was awarded to victorious clubs between 1896 and 1910. The trophy had previously been on display at the museum since 2005 and will now return on loan courtesy of its new owner, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed.

**The Euros**

(new exhibition opens 11 June 2021)

This new photographic exhibition coincides with the rescheduled UEFA EURO 2020 which is being held across the continent for the first time in the competition's 60-year history. This exhibition will focus on Euro 96 which took place in England and saw the host country have a fantastic run only to lose in the semi-final to Germany on penalties. The exhibition will look at popular culture of the period when the *Three Lions* song reverberatedaroundstadiums as *football came home*.

**New Lily Parr gallery**

(new gallery open from summer 2021)

The museum celebrates Lily Parr – England’s first international women’s footballer - by creating a gallery to the player inside the museum. The new gallery will feature new objects and previously unseen photographs of Lily and her teammates. Born in St Helens in 1905, Parr was one of the most astonishing and important figures in English football. It’s believed she scored more than 980 goals in a 32-year career. The new gallery has been made possible thanks to a £55,440.00 grant from the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) Biffa Award History Makers.

A key object which will take on new significance is Maradona’s *Hand of God* shirt. It was worn by the icon at the 1986 Mexico World Cup when Argentina knocked out England. This jersey takes on extra poignancy with the death of the legend last year.

The museum has a new and improved access offer with both a [BSL video guide and visual story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb3IzsYevtM) helping visitors familiarise themselves before their visit.

As long as government restrictions allow, the museum hopes to reopen on 27 May 2021, with tickets on sale early April.

For updates on planned opening hours, tickets and safety measures please visit [www.nationalfootballmuseum.com](http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com). To receive prior notification of ticket sales, sign-up to the museum’s newsletter.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

For more details contact dickie.felton@nationalfootballmuseum.com

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM:**

Unearth the game's origins, relive FA Cup fairy tales and explore how football is such an integral part of our culture. See the country's footballing crown jewels: the ball from the 1966 World Cup Final, Geoff Hurst's iconic shirt and the replica Jules Rimet Trophy.

Get in the game with a host of fun interactive challenges, from penalty-taking and shot-stopping to match commentary and check out the latest changing exhibitions on the ground floor and in our Score Gallery.

The National Football Museum is a registered charity. It was established and its collection acquired thanks to £9.3m investment by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Its vision is to become a leading national museum by 2022, exploring why football is the game of our lives. The museum’s social purpose is to provide equal opportunity for all to enjoy football culture.

The venue is fully accessible for wheelchair access. Cathedral Gardens, Manchester M4 3BG: [www.nationalfootballmuseum.com](http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com)