

## FFWPU UK: What We Can Take Away From England's Euro 2020 Run

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Strong leaders led the England National Football team to the Euro 2020 final and while it did not come home this time around, there is a great deal to take away from England's football journey over the past few weeks.



England's Euro 2020 run ended in heartbreak as we lost to Italy on penalties. However, there are still many positives that can be taken from England's journey to the finals.

First of all, there is the England manager: Gareth Southgate. Since taking over as England manager in 2016, Southgate has demonstrated a fatherly heart towards his players and has often gone out of his way to protect the England players.

He never criticises his players openly and is always the first to take responsibility when things have gone wrong.

Southgate has also stood by his players in difficult situations, like when Harry Maguire was involved in an altercation in Greece last year. Southgate's trust has been paid off greatly as Maguire was named as one of the standout players of Euro 2020 by UEFA.

More recently, Southgate has shown his fatherly qualities as he guides and advises his players on the dangers of social media. Southgate wrote in an open letter *The Players' Tribute*: "There are times when my parental instincts kick in. I can't help it. After all, I'm old enough to be a father to most of my players!"

"I see players scrolling through their phones straight after the final whistle and I think ... Hmmm, is that a particularly good idea?"

"Reading abusive comments on Twitter or Instagram is never going to help performance."

"There are genuine risks for our players online and I will always want to protect them, but I would never put rules on how or when they use their accounts while on England duty."

"I trust them and know they are mature enough to make their own decisions, to do what's right for their

mental health and to keep being a force for good as we strive for a better society."

In the same open letter, Southgate also wrote about how his own values and identity are closely linked with his family. He wrote: "For me, personally, my sense of identity and values is closely tied to my family and particularly my granddad. He was a fierce patriot and a proud military man, who served during World War II.

"The idea of representing 'Queen and country' has always been important to me. We do pageantry so well in Britain, and, growing up, things like the Queen's silver jubilee and royal weddings had an impact on me.

"Because of my granddad, I've always had an affinity for the military and service in the name of your country - though the consequence of my failure in representing England will never be as high as his. My granddad's values were instilled in me from a young age and I couldn't help but think of him when I lined up to sing the national anthem before my first international caps."

Alongside Gareth Southgate, the England Captain Harry Kane is another exceptional leader, both on and off the football pitch.

Kane is known for his professionalism and work-ethic; while primarily appreciated for his ability to score amazing goals, he defends when necessary and often provides assists for his teammates.

Kane's ability was questioned during the group stage of the Euro 2020 tournament as he failed to score a goal in all three of the opening matches. However, he quickly bounced back to produce two Man of the Match performances against both Ukraine and Denmark which demonstrated his determination and drive.

Outside of football, Harry Kane is a family man who is never involved in the scandals commonly associated with modern footballers.

The final point to highlight is the unity within the current England squad. A togetherness is clear, that which was missing in the England squads of yesteryear.

It is evident that there are no egos in this England squad and that team rivalries are left at the door once national duty commences.

This unity is what propelled the team forward; substitutes played a vital role in giving the team an extra boost when needed and the players who were not playing any matches played an essential role in training and overall team moral.

England footballer Reece James recently tweeted: "Football is a team sport. No I in team." in response to criticism that he was not playing any games.

It is these qualities of fatherly love, the ability to lead by example and coming together for a common goal that we aspire towards as a movement.

We want to thank Gareth Southgate and his England squad for embodying these qualities of leadership and unity, and for thoroughly entertaining us over these past few weeks. Bring on the World Cup!

Read about Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his passion for football here: [familyfedcommunity.co.uk/the-beautiful-game-rev-sun-myung-moon-football/](https://familyfedcommunity.co.uk/the-beautiful-game-rev-sun-myung-moon-football/)



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# The Beautiful Game: Rev. Sun Myung Moon & Football

**As we draw closer and closer to England's semi-final clash with Denmark, we look back on Rev. Sun Myung Moon's passion for the beautiful game of football.**

Rev. Sun Myung Moon was always an avid sports fan. While he enjoyed fishing for salmon in Alaska, he was most passionate about football, a sport he had played since he was a young man.

Over the course of his life, Rev. Moon invested substantial resources into football, the most well-known investment being the Peace Cup he created with Brazilian footballing star Pele, which featured some of the world's most prestigious football clubs.

In 1989, Rev. Moon founded the Ilhwa Chunma FC soccer team in Seoul which is now known as Seongnam FC. The South Korean club plays in the top division in South Korean football and have gone on to win seven national league titles. The team is regarded as the second most successful

Korean football team, after Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors.

Rev. Moon also established two football teams in Brazil: Atletico Sorocaba and CENE.

In 2003, Rev. Moon met with legendary footballer Pele in New York and founded the Peace Cup. The Peace Cup was an invitational pre-season friendly football tournament for club teams which was held every two years. Football clubs such as Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, Juventus, FC Porto and Real Madrid have all participated in the tournament.

“When you mention the word ‘peace’, when you are trying to bring peace in the world, I will always be there,” Pele said on why he worked together with Rev. Moon.

When talking about football, Rev. Moon said: “Through football, you can unite all peoples.”

Rev. Moon also founded the Peace Queen Cup which was an invitational women’s football tournament for national teams. This was at a time when women’s football was not as popular as it is now.

Following the passing of Rev. Moon, Pele sent the following condolences: “I am deeply sorry to hear about the passion of Rev. Moon.

“After meeting three former popes and former presidents of various nations including President Nelson Mandela, I had an opportunity to meet with Rev. Sun Myung Moon and the peace movement in Korea.

“He said to me that, since football is the largest organisation in the world and a very important means of propagating the message of peace, I hold a great responsibility.

“I hope that, just as Rev. Moon had endeavoured to bring about peace, his co-operators and his followers will continue to work for peace.”

Rev. Moon has often spoken about football and sports. The following are extracts taken from the Cheon Seong Gyeong:

“6. To usher in the age of peace, we cannot exclude the roles of the arts and sports. With this in mind, it is amazing that we have achieved world-class standards in those fields. First it was the soccer world. Next it was in the world of art and culture, where our ballet company is almost as well-known as the Bolshoi Ballet. In the future, when we enter a world of freedom and peace that is free from war, sports and the arts will be absolutely necessary. (412-036, 2003.07.14)”

“11. People may wonder why Rev. Moon, a religious leader, takes an interest in sports, soccer in particular. Sports will be absolutely necessary in the future, for the purpose of enhancing the vigor of young people in cultural festivals or a cultural Olympics. The flourishing or perishing of a nation depends on the vigor of its young people. No matter how knowledgeable, brilliant or handsome a person may be, it is all for naught if he or she lacks vigor. A nation that has young people of high spirit and increasing vigor will flourish. Therefore, this philosophy is crucial. (237-317, 1992.11.18)”



“15. Why did I make a soccer team, and why am I taking an interest in sports? Sports are instrumental in promoting harmony and peace. When a famous soccer team plays, the entire world watches. Boxing requires only one player, but soccer requires eleven players. A soccer team need to play in harmony. The players first need to unite and harmonize with one another. When a soccer team attains peace and harmony, free from conflict, the crowd can find even more enjoyment setting aside their mundane existence and watching them play. Right there, unity is created between the players and the crowd. The soccer team itself symbolizes harmony and unity, namely, total oneness. That is what we need in our families, societies, nations, and in heaven and earth. Peace is needed everywhere. In order to bring about peace, we need unity. Without unity, we never will attain peace.

(276-112, 1996.02.11)."

**We wish the England National Football Team all the best as they face Denmark at Wembley Stadium! Let's bring the Euros home!**

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