



#defyhatenow

**#237footBERLIN**

**Cameroon/Cameroun  
Football Berlin**

## CAMEROUN fou de foot

Football was introduced in Cameroon in 1923 by the Sierra Leone photographer George Goethe and the French Charles Lalanne. George, together with his cousin Roman, began playing football in the evenings on a small field on Castelnau Street in Douala, in the Littoral region of Cameroon. Many locals would come and watch with curiosity, interested in what was happening. These onlookers later got involved and began training together. Interest in the game gradually spread across the city and led to the creation of the first indigenous team of Cameroon referred to as "Mbenguemen" in Douala. The team was made up of Senegalese, Gabonese, Nigerians, Togolese, Dahomians, Aboriginals, and people from other regions. The team would later be known as the Athletic Club of Cameroon.

Cameroon gained affiliation with FIFA and CAF in 1962 and 1963 respectively. From the 1960s to the early 1980s, the national championship was dominated by Douala- and Yaoundé-based clubs that had a history of football prior to the country's independence. At the international level, Cameroon went on to the semifinals at the AFCON 1970 tournament in Yaoundé.

Cameroonian football has experienced growth in recent years. This is in large part due to the success of the national team, who qualified for the World cup seven times and won five AFCON titles. Additionally, Cameroonian footballers Roger Milla, Thomas Nkono, and Samuel Eto'o Fils have become well-recognized names in international football.

## FOOTBALL, NATIONAL IDENTITY, AND POLITICS IN CAMEROON

Football has evolved to be Cameroon's most popular sport. Football also serves as a catalyst for increasing a sense of nationhood and pride amongst Cameroonians. After Cameroon's stellar performance at the World Cup in 1990, in which they reached the quarter-finals, soccer became a sport that fostered a common identity among its supporters, who chose to support the national team and thereby identify with a national identity. To this day, football creates a sense of belonging to the nation. Through a presidential decree in 1972, the national football team was given the name Indomitable Lions. Because of this name, the lion has unofficially become a national symbol, often displayed in addition to the flag and the national anthem.

While football has thus become a way also been used by politicians as example visible with summer competitions) organized with and other elites. They political agendas and gain huge quantities of tickets reward for their loyalty and

for Cameroonian to unite, it has however a tool to win supporters. This was for holiday tournaments (inter-quarter financial assistance from politicians used these events to push their supporters, especially by buying and distributing them as a support.

## THE HISTORY OF FOOTBALL IN CAMEROON

## L'HISTOIRE DU FOOTBALL AU CAMEROUN

Le football a été introduit le photographe sierra-Français Charles Lalanne. Roman, jouaient au football rue Castelnau à Douala, dans De nombreux habitants du curiosité, intéressés par ce qui sont impliqués et ont commencé à s'est progressivement répandu dans la équipe autochtone du Cameroun, appelée de Sénégalais, de Gabonais, de Nigérians, de Togolais, de Dahomains, d'autochtones et de personnes originaires d'autres régions. L'équipe sera plus tard connue sous le nom d'Atleti Club of Cameroon.

Le Cameroun s'est affilié à la FIFA et à la CAF en 1962 et 1963 respectivement. Des années 1960 au début des années 1980, le championnat national a été dominé par les clubs basés à Douala et Yaoundé, qui avaient une histoire de football avant l'indépendance du pays. Au niveau international, le Cameroun a atteint les demi-finales de l'AFCON 1970 à Yaoundé.

Le football camerounais a connu une croissance ces dernières années. Cela est dû en grande partie au succès de l'équipe nationale, qui s'est qualifiée sept fois pour la coupe du monde et a remporté cinq titres AFCON. En outre, les footballeurs camerounais Roger Milla, Thomas Nkono et Samuel Eto'o Fils sont devenus des noms bien connus du football international.

au Cameroun en 1923 par léonais George Goethe et le George, avec son cousin le soir sur un petit terrain de la la région du Littoral du Cameroun. quartier venaient les regarder avec se passait. Plus tard, ces badauds se s'entraîner ensemble. L'intérêt pour le jeu ville et a conduit à la création de la première "Mbenguemen", à Douala. L'équipe était composée

"Mbenguemen", à Douala. L'équipe était composée

## FOOTBALL, IDENTITÉ NATIONALE ET POLITIQUE AU CAMEROUN

Le football a évolué pour devenir le sport le plus populaire du Cameroun. Le football sert également de catalyseur pour accroître le sentiment d'appartenance à la nation et la fierté des Camerounais. Après l'excellente performance du Cameroun à la Coupe du monde de 1990, où il a atteint les quarts de final, le football est devenu un sport qui a favorisé une identité commune parmi ses supporters, qui ont choisi de soutenir l'équipe nationale et de s'identifier ainsi à une identité nationale. Par un décret présidentiel de 1972, l'équipe nationale de football a reçu le nom les Lions indomptables. Grâce à ce nom, le lion est devenu officiellement un symbole national, souvent affiché en plus du drapeau et de l'hymne national.

Si le football est ainsi devenu un moyen pour les Camerounais de s'unir, il est également aussi utilisé par les hommes politiques comme un outil pour gagner des adhérents. Cela est par exemple visible avec les tournois des vacances d'été (compétitions inter-quartiers) organisés avec l'aide financière des politiciens et autres élites. Ces derniers utilisent ces événements pour faire avancer leurs programmes politiques et gagner des partisans, notamment en achetant d'énormes quantités de billets et en les distribuant comme récompense pour leur loyauté et leur soutien.



# JANUARY JANVIER

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# UNION VETERAN BERLIN E.V.



**Founded**  
in 2015, Union Veteran Berlin e.V currently has over 30 members who regularly meet to practice at the Schillerpark. The group was formed by older adults (the so-called veterans) who had a desire to have a place to play football, despite their age. Union has grown beyond its original mission and now includes people as young as 18, who all share a desire to play (and some who dream of becoming professional footballers).

According to Dr. Elad, one of the founding members, the name Union was inspired by the desire to unite everyone, regardless of ethnicity, tribe, age, or (to a certain extent) nationality. "Given that other clubs that preceded Union were mostly linked to tribes in Cameroon and ethnic regions, we sought to have an association that wouldn't limit anyone who wanted to join."

"Union is specifically known for its discipline and consistent participation in tournaments," the president of the club, John Ekembeng Abang, says. In the last seven years, the team has had a remarkable presence at tournaments both within Berlin diaspora football circles and in other countries, like Belgium and France. The club continues to maintain good relations with other football associations.

The association also serves a social function, most notably in helping other members in times of distress. Dr. Elad recounts with emotion the memorial match played in honor of his mother, after she passed away. "Everyone showed up, all bringing their friends and relatives. It gave me a sense of solidarity and comfort during that difficult time." The club is planning to offer a youth immersion program aimed at recruiting and training more young people, to ensure the club's future survival.



**UNION VETERAN BERLIN E.V.**

**FEBRUARY FÉVRIER**

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# FRIENDS OF BERLIN (FOB E.V.)



**F O B F C e . V .**

Clad in blue and white stripes, matching their official logo, the Friends of Berlin e.V football team is fierce, formidable, and puts effort into playing football. According to Julius Awah Awah, the current president of the club, despite being a relatively new club, FOB has made its presence known by performing well in public matches such as the Tournoire de l'intégration in Berlin, where they have participated twice, once emerging as finalists and once making it to the quarter finals.

FOB is a club known for their lively meetings and spirit of celebrating together. President Julius Awah says, "in this city, where people go through a lot of stress, our meeting days and practice sessions are the best moments. We don't just come together at FOB to play football, but also to celebrate and keep solidarity and brotherhood/sisterhood with everyone." He describes the club as an apolitical association of friends who help each other out, both in Berlin and back home in Cameroon.

The club currently has 43 members. In order to become a member, one needs a recommendation from a current member or someone connected with the association. This is done to ensure group cohesion and team spirit. President Julius highlights the need for Cameroonians within the diaspora to be united. "We need to be more united, act as one people, and avoid in-house divisions within the diaspora football community and also as Cameroonians living abroad at large."

Among the clubs future plans, they want to organize more encounters with other clubs in Germany and beyond and support inter-quarter competitions back in Cameroon.



## MARCH MARS

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# LICHTENBERG KAMER



Kamer Lichtenberg was formed in 2020 by a community of students living in the Lichtenberg district. With membership of about 36 regular players, Kamer Lichtenberg is mostly made of young students hence having no veteran selection. According to Charlie the president, it is a transitional club for people who are neither young aspiring professionals nor veterans. Its unique identity is that its founders sought to create a team which was void of tribal, ethnic or racial divides. Kamer Lichtenberg takes part in regular tournaments with other clubs in Berlin and looks forward to being a force to reckon with in the diaspora football scene in Berlin and across Europe.



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# FE'EFE'E E.V. BERLIN



Le groupe FE'EFE'E e.V. est une association des ressortissants du Haut-Nkam (Ouest Cameroun) et sympathisants (les sympathisants peuvent être de tous les horizons). Il a vu le jour en l'an 2000 et a été légalisé en 2003; son groupe "FE'EFE'E Sport" a été créé la même année et rassemble les camerounais du Nord au Sud et de l'Ouest à l'Est. Les sportifs s'entraînent chaque dimanche à partir de 8 heures au Poststadium. Ayant plus de 150 membres, FE'EFE'E e.V. organise des tournois qui rassemblent parfois plus de 20 équipes de la diaspora africaine et d'ailleurs. Les tournois de football de l'association FE'EFE'E e.V. sont assez célèbres au sein de la diaspora africaine de Berlin. C'est aussi un cadre pour de nombreuses expositions culturelles, des campagnes contre la discrimination, le racisme et d'autres injustices sociales, ainsi qu'un cadre d'échanges des cultures africaines. FE'EFE'E Sport est constitué de deux catégories d'équipe: une équipe des jeunes et une équipe des vétérans.

FE' EFE'E E.V. BERLIN



MAY MAI

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# SUPERSTARS BERLIN (SSB)



Before you meet the tactical squad of Superstars Berlin, the name and logo already give you an idea of what to expect. SSB is a club that takes the fitness and football skills of its members seriously.

Superstars Berlin has been around for four years and in that time was able to be added to the football hall of fame of the international federation of veteran clubs through consistent participation in international veteran tournaments. Gervais Enguene, president of SSB, describes the club by saying that many of their members had been serious players before joining the veterans team. This perhaps accounts for the intensity witnessed during trainings.

In 2021 SSB came in second in the FIF veteran tournament in Paris, which raised the club's profile. "We have become quite known in the last few years. Being finalists of the FIF in Paris was quite a big deal for us, especially given that FIF is an organization mentioned frequently by football big guns, such as Samuel Eto'o Fils and Choupo-Moting," says Gervais. The club basked in trophy glory this year as they emerged champions of the FIFVE (International Federation of Veteran Football Associations) Berlin tournament. Club president Gervais says this is truly an outcome of many months of hard work, determination and building together.

"The motto of the club - SSB Ensemble (SSB together)- reminds players that it goes beyond football," says Frank John Epole, current coach of SSB. The club is known for its inclusion and openness to membership across nations. While the majority of members are Cameroonian, there are also players from Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Turkey, and other countries. SSB is interested in creating an inclusive society, void of racism and other vices.

In the future, the club wants to develop its own tournament, where the focus will not just be football, but also on promoting integration and rallying action against racism.

## SUPERSTARS BERLIN (SSB)



# JUNE JUIN

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# VETERAN FLAMBEAU CLUB BERLIN E.V. (FLAMBEAU)



Flambeau Veteran Football Club is one of the most successful football clubs that brings together Cameroonian in Berlin. At the Poststadion tournament, Flambeau FC proved to be a pace-setter and force to be reckoned with within the diaspora football community.

The club has been around for many years, has won several trophies, and has taken part in many veteran tournaments around Europe. Flambeau is also famous for organising one of the most successful and crowd pulling football jamborees in Berlin.



## VETERAN FLAMBEAU CLUB BERLIN E.V. (FLAMBEAU)



# JULY JULIET

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# FC KONE

From their all - black uniform, FCK one could easily go by the nickname the Black Mambas FC or another such tough-sounding name - and this is intentional. The club was founded by a collection of Bamoun people living in Berlin. Even though FC Kone is a new club, they already have about 40 members and are working on establishing themselves within the Cameroonian diaspora football community in Berlin.

# FC KONE



# AUGUST AOÛT

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## KAMER BIESDORF

Le voyage jusqu'à Biesdorf est long, mais dès que vous y êtes vous êtes soudain submergé par l'énergie et les rugissements des footballeurs dynamiques qui jouent autour de la résidence étudiante de Biesdorf. Ce n'est autre que le célèbre club de football Biesdorf Kamer.

Il s'agit d'une association d'étudiants d'origine camerounaise qui vivent dans le quartier de Biesdorf et étudient principalement à la HTW et dans d'autres universités des environs. Avec une quarantaine de membres, le club joue à la fois un rôle de mise en forme et constitue le cercle de soutien immédiat de ces étudiants qui vivent loin de chez eux.

La plupart d'entre eux confirment que ce club leur a donné un premier sentiment d'orientation et d'appartenance à Berlin et surtout, lors des renforcements de la fermeture dus à Covid, la plupart d'entre eux ne se sont appuyés que sur les réseaux formés par le club pour toute forme de contacts sociaux. En somme, même s'ils sont très jeunes, le président du club prévoit qu'ils deviendront l'une des associations de football les plus puissantes de Berlin d'ici quelques années.



KAMER BIESDORF



# SEPTEMBER SEPTÈMBRE

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# SANTE OSTBAHNHOF

Sante Ostbahnhof membership is made up mostly of energetic, lively students and former students from Cameroon who all found themselves living in the same part of the city close to the Ostbahnhof railway station. Their love of the beautiful game brought them together to found the football club in 2010, the same year Africa hosted the FIFA World Cup for the first time.

Alain, one of the clubs oldest members, describes the club as Africa in miniature, which is a phrase that has been used for a long time to describe Cameroon. It means that even though the members are largely Cameroonian, you can also find Nigerians, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Ivorians, and many others with an interest in football playing alongside them. The current membership stands at about 60, with 40 members attending regular practice.

Zidano Momo, another member, describes the club as being about more than football, because the club also helped him find his way in Berlin as a new student. It offered him orientation for his studies, integration in Berlin, and relationships within the Cameroonian community in Berlin. Despite Covid-19 related challenges that caused the club to move its regularly playing location from the Ostbahnhof to the Tierpark, the motivation of the players was not dimmed.

The core values of the club are good humor, sportsmanship, and discipline. The club also plays a role in guiding new students through life in Berlin and offering them a safe space to deal with the stress and challenges of living abroad and creating a home away from home.

Sante Ostbahnhof takes part in a couple of tournaments yearly and given the recent growth and vibrancy of the club, they are setting their hopes on winning a tournament in the next few years.



**SANTE OSTBAHNHOF**

**OCTOBER OCTOBRE**

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# CERCLE DES AMIS SOLIDAIRES (CAS E.V)

## Le Cercle des Amis

Solidaires des Berlin a débuté en tant qu'association de football il y a environ dix-huit mois. Avec 30 membres dont deux femmes, le club est fier d'avoir remporté le tournoi de football Fefe 2022 qui s'est tenu cet été.

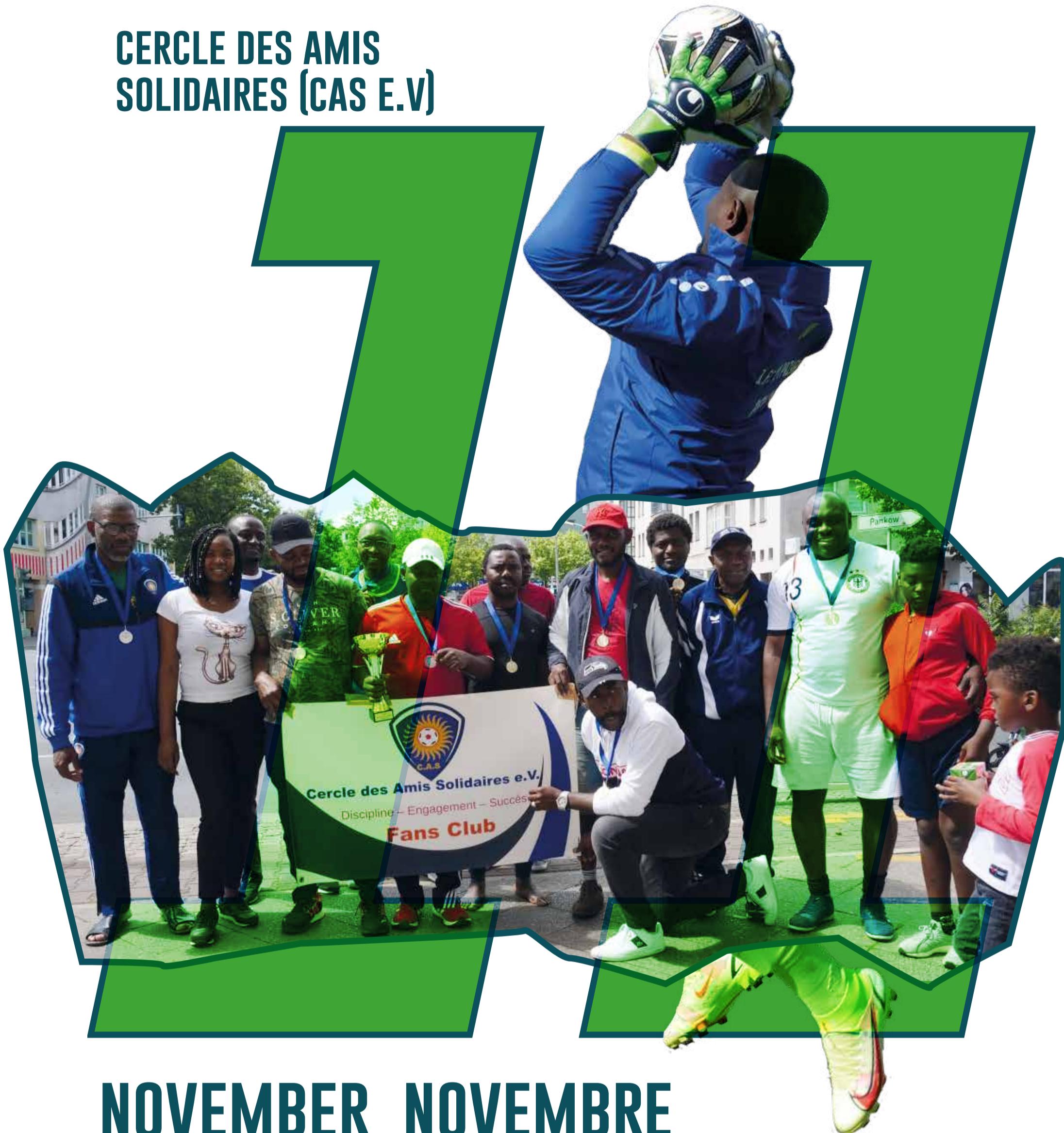
Selon le président Yonke Romault, ce qui fait du CAS un club spécial, ce sont ses valeurs fondamentales de discipline, de rigueur et de solidarité. Ils sont tous très enthousiastes à l'idée d'être les ambassadeurs du CAS et de donner le meilleur d'eux-mêmes pour faire du club le meilleur de Berlin, ajoute-t-il. Le CAS e.v. est très ouvert à l'adhésion de tous.

Outre le football, le club s'engage également dans des événements de solidarité et de soutien social entre les membres. C'est pourquoi les samedis après-midi après l'entraînement sont consacrés à manger et à faire la fête ensemble. Le président mentionne également que le club est confronté aux défis habituels que rencontrent la plupart des associations de cette nature, tels que trouver un terrain pour tout le monde en raison d'emplois du temps chargés, ainsi que des défis de sponsoring.

Son souhait est que le CAS continue à travailler avec d'autres clubs de vétérans du football africain et camerounais à Berlin pour promouvoir la cohésion sociale et la paix dans la communauté, car le sport est un pilier pour instiller la paix dans nos communautés.



# CERCLE DES AMIS SOLIDAIRES (CAS E.V.)



## NOVEMBER NOVEMBRE

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# DECEMBER DECEMBRE

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# Choses à faire pour consolider la Paix

## #defyhatenow Cameroon projects

### FOOTBALL, COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND PEACE IN CAMEROON

It is important to acknowledge that any activity can be used to unite people or to divide them. Football in Cameroon is no exception. The intensity of the sport often leads to heightened emotional states that can easily trigger joy or outrage. There are some people, for example, who look down on the Cameroonian players who have decided to play for another country and voice this in a hateful way that challenges everyone's identity. There are also moments in football where, when the team loses, fans turn to hate speech by criticizing individual players based on tribal lines. But football is also a sport that allows people to build community, bring different groups together, and - if the football clubs support it - helps build peace and acceptance of others. Especially in towns and villages, the power of sport to unite the youth in a playful and friendly way holds great promise.

Cameroon is a country crazy about football. It is not just the most famous sport, but is also something that is tied to Cameroonian identity and gives people a feeling of pride. It is not by accident that most meet-ups amongst Cameroonians in the diaspora are anchored around this beautiful game. At #defyhatenow, we believe in the ability of using all tools at our disposal to counter hate speech and support peacebuilding. These tools range from our #defyhatenow Field Guides, that have been translated into French, English, and Pidgin English, to games, #tech4peace, #art4peace and many other initiatives. Supporting the role football can play in promoting a culture of unity, tolerance, reconciliation, and dialogue should not be underestimated.

### LE FOOTBALL, LE RENFORCEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ ET LA PAIX AU CAMEROUN

Il est important de reconnaître que toute activité peut être utilisée pour unir les gens ou pour les diviser. Le football au Cameroun ne fait pas exception. L'intensité du sport conduit souvent à des états émotionnels exacerbés qui peuvent aussi bien déclencher la joie que l'indignation. Il y a par exemple des gens qui méprisent les joueurs camerounais qui ont décidé de jouer pour un autre pays et qui l'expriment d'une manière haineuse qui remet en cause l'identité de chacun. Il y a aussi des moments dans le football où, lorsque l'équipe perd, les fans usent des discours de haine en critiquant des joueurs individuels sur la base de appartenances tribales.

Mais le football est aussi un sport qui permet aux gens de construire une communauté, de rassembler différents groupes et - si les clubs de football le soutiennent - de contribuer à la paix et à l'acceptation des autres.

Dans les villes et les villages en particulier, le pouvoir du sport d'unir les jeunes d'une manière ludique et amicale est très prometteur.

Le Cameroun est un pays fou de football. Ce n'est pas seulement le sport le plus célèbre, mais c'est aussi quelque chose qui est lié à l'identité camerounaise et qui donne aux gens un sentiment de fierté. Ce n'est pas un hasard si la plupart des rencontres entre Camerounais de la diaspora se déroulent autour de ce sport.

A #defyhatenow, nous croyons en la capacité d'utiliser tous les outils à notre disposition pour contrer les discours de haine et contribuer à la consolidation de la paix. Ces outils sont des guides de terrain #defyhatenow, qui ont été traduits en français, en anglais et en pidgin, à des jeux, #tech4peace, #art4peace et bien d'autres initiatives. Il ne faut pas sous-estimer le rôle que le football peut jouer dans la promotion d'une culture d'unité, de tolérance, de réconciliation et de dialogue.

#DEFYHATENOW



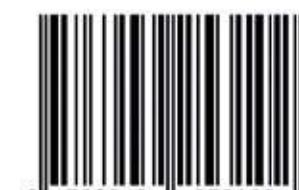
agency for open culture  
& critical transformation



Association Civic Watch



Federal Foreign Office



Concept: Valerie Viban & Fogha Cornilius Refem Text/Interviews: Valerie Viban Content Management: Susanne Bellinghausen  
Editing: Sara Budarz Graphic Design: Heike Bluthardt Video/Photographer: Blaise Baneh

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