



MANN Leon

Freelance

Journalist

Member BCOMS, *Black Collective of Media in Sport*
United Kingdom

Interviewer, broadcaster, film maker, campaigner - Leon Mann has over 10 years' experience working in the sports industry. One of the leading journalists in his field, Leon has just been confirmed as one of BBC Sports TV reporters for the London Olympics – an incredible achievement given he only joined the corporation five years ago with no previous television experience. In that time he has worked tirelessly to secure exclusive interviews with the biggest names in sport - from Rio Ferdinand to Usain Bolt, Didier Drogba to Paula Radcliffe. An extensive contacts book has seen him rise to prominence as a regular reporter on the BBC's Football Focus, World Olympic Dreams and British Olympic Dreams programmes. In addition Leon has written, directed and produced the highly rated BBC documentary on Usain Bolt: 'The Fastest Man Who Has Ever Lived'. He is currently working on a second BBC film on the contenders for the 100m London Olympics title. A skilful broadcaster, one of his interviewees recently remarked, 'You're not like the rest of the journalists. It's like you're one of us.' He replied, 'That's because I am. You don't have to wear a suit and be the age of our parents to do this job anymore.' Leon has also written for The Guardian, The Times and the Daily Mirror. Having begun his career as international spokesperson for football's anti-racism campaigns Kick It Out and Football Against Racism in Europe – sitting at the negotiating table with the likes of FIFA head Sepp Blatter – Leon's move away from campaigning has not seen his desire for a more inclusive and diverse sports industry diminish. In 2010 Leon founded the Black Collective of Media in Sport (BCOMS), an organisation lobbying the UK's leading politicians and powerbrokers to raise the prospects and profile of black sports journalists in the UK. Leon also co-founded The Black List in 2008, a power list of football's movers and shakers, now celebrated annually as a major awards night. Leon's twitter page reads, "Welcome to the future". It is a motto he lives by as he strives to bring new ideas and dynamism to the industry through his writing, broadcasting and film making.



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MARS - Media Against Racism in Sport

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