



## Leicestershire Women's Football 1960s Match Reports & News Stories

### CZECHS THRASH EMGALS SOCCER TEAM 8-0

ALMOST inevitably, on a wet heavy pitch, the fitter Czechoslovakian footballing girls thrashed the Emgals 8-0 in their last match in Leicester last night.

So Slavia Pramen Kaplice finish their tour of England undefeated and go on to France, having scored over 50 goals in half a dozen games.

Last night a crowd of over 500 — the biggest seen at the East Midland Gas Board's new Aylestone Road pitch — saw the Czech girls crack in a goal in the first minute.

#### Fought Hard

The Emgals, led by Joy Ashby fought hard — at one stage a crushing tackle, in the best "cup" football tradition brought cheerful cries of "Off, off," from the touchline.

The local side kept the score down to 2-0 at half time, but in the second half, they were overrun by the fitter Czechs. By the end of the game, the star Czech inside forward, Irana Pichova, had scored five times.

Among the spectators was the Lord Mayor, Alderman Edward Marston, who said: "They play good and hard. Some of them are like men."

Leicester Daily Mercury - 12 August 1969

## CZECH WOMEN WIN AGAIN

FOR the second night running the visiting Czechoslovakian women's football team, Slavia Pramen Kaplice have beaten a team of Leicester women.

The Ladies section of the British Railways' Social Club were beaten 2-0 at Willow Park, Wigston Magna, last night. On Monday they beat the Leicester City Supporters Ladies Football Club, and won 14-0.

"We had a very good game last night", Miss Mary Taylor, secretary of the British Rail Ladies said today.

Tomorrow the Emgals will play the Southern Bohemia team at the Gas Board ground, Aylestone Road, at 7 p.m. If they win they will be the first team to beat the visitors this season.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - Wednesday 20 August 1969*

The first Midland women's football league has been formed with eight teams from Birmingham, Bedworth, Coventry, Nuneaton and Warwick.

*Sports Argus - 2 September 1967*

# The Emgas gals pack quite a kick!



It's a goal! Grounded goalkeeper June Fellows and centre-half Joy Ashby look on as an 'Over 40's' veteran scores with a crafty back-kick.



Caught in the midst of straightening her hair, Sheila Hogg prepares to take Lorraine Ramsey's pass in her stride.

THE evening was set fair for the Grand Challenge Football Match at Birstall's Longslade School. And the comments were coming thick and fast from the team in maroon and blue.

"Go on, fruit, you're through!" "I'm fair puffed." "You shirred veterans of the 'Gentlemen's' Over-40 XI." "I haven't got a bottle of nut brown, but I'll have you love!"

The EMGALS (as the team was ingeniously dubbed by fellow East Midlands Gas Board employees) were born of the ambition of 13 lively girls to emulate their Leicester City heroes. Together — for the most part — at school, and at work (in the Gas Boards De Montfort Street offices) they contrived to carry vocal Filbert Street support to positive, physical action — and badgered Frank Renshaw into coaching them.

**'Nothing complex'**

Respectable, 26-year-old Frank takes his honorary post seriously. On the night of the game he paced the touchline in crimson track-suit verbally lashing any lax-playing member of his squad within earshot.

The Renshaw training plan ignored complex 4-3-3 systems ("we leave that to the pros") and hinged instead on the basics of kicking, trapping and tackling. It soon meant that each girl naturally fitted a notch in the team line-up. They not only looked the part (originally in a blue strip loaned by their Filbert Street benefactors and now, deliciously, in their own kit) but began to play recognisable, cohesive football.

June Fellows was swiftly converted from attacker to goalkeeper — not merely because the fleecy yellow jersey best fitted her proportions. Pam Thomas proved a bustling attack leader. Sheila Hogg tackled with almost the crunch of Graham Cross. And, at centre-half, Joy Ashby was the stout anchor of a defence described by Frank, with fearful undertones, as "uncompromising."

"You know how girls are in any game," said coach Renshaw. "They rush in a pack for the ball wherever it may be." At one time he had ten centre-forwards on his hands. Now the EMGALS "use the open spaces and search for openings."

**Raw, but tough**

Matt Gillies might still think their actions raw. But at least these girls (aged between 16 and 30) are tough.

While spectators winced, wing-half Angie Boulton took a hefty cross-shot in the centre of her stomach and nonchalantly booted the ball upfield. Pam Thomas went sprawling over an outstretched leg, scrambled to her feet and began another fervent gallop for possession. And the

indestructible June dived at the feet of an 'Over-40s' attacker — trusting a little to male gallantry — and emerged yet again with ball clutched to bosom.

They play, and train, in all but ladies nimble and athletic, but they are not to be taken for granted. They were born of the ambition of 13 lively girls to emulate their Leicester City heroes. Together — for the most part — at school, and at work (in the Gas Boards De Montfort Street offices) they contrived to carry vocal Filbert Street support to positive, physical action — and badgered Frank Renshaw into coaching them.

This was no soccer XI drummed up for charity, determined for disbanding when the "silly season" subsides. "We aim to train right through the winter," said Frank Renshaw, "though we face trouble in finding covered facilities during the long nights to come."

**Ladies' league?**

He talks of a Leicester League with other ladies' teams — such as the South Leicester Co-op, Farmco, City Supporters' Club and the gloriously named Earl Sifton Ruckers — joining the EMGALS in the fixture list. "And why not extend it to Nottingham and Northampton?" said Frank.

Fellow coach, trainer, medic and factious Neville Spies, and the "two Daves" (Hall and Ball) assist with training (helmed some by a few energetic mites at the Palais) and injuries — with bruises most common and rump a major crippler. All are behind the EMGALS development, with Gas Board management casting a cautious, but not disapproving eye on the whole venture.

"These girls (in the 1967 team) can get married and drop from the game," commented Frank. "But, as far as we are concerned, EMGALS will go on for a long, long time."

On the night of the Grand Challenge Match, I have to report, they went on for nearly 90 minutes each way, besting the "Over-40s" 7-6 — then retired for an after-match jubilee in an adjoining pub. After all, even professionals break training sometimes! — M.M.



The EMGALS XI (plus substitute): Back row (left to right): Lorraine Ramsey, Sue Davies, Sue Knapp, June Fellows, Joy Ashby, Pam Thomas, Sheila Hogg. Front row kneeling: Sue Brewster, Chris Thornton, Angela Boulton (captain), Chris Ford and Sandra Granger.



A pre-match tactics talk to the team by one-half of the EMGALS coaching team, Frank Renshaw. Fellow-trainer Neville Spies (left) listens equally intently.



Strapping for an injured knee, Neville Spies gives teaching attention to team captain Angela Boulton.

This year the Warwickshire Ladies Football League with six teams, started with the help of several men from Dunlop's One of them, 27 year old Reg Berry, has taken on the immense task of secretary to the league and already has the names of 140 Warwickshire girls who are keen to earn football.  
*Coventry Standard - 14 December 1967*

## Emgals set pace in ladies' soccer

THERE was no disgrace for the Bantams, Coventry's representatives in the Midland Ladies' Football League, in being beaten 3-1 by British Rail at Wigston on Sunday.

The Bantams, showing encouraging signs of improvement, went down to a side which is one of the early pace-setters in the League. The others, Emgals, recorded their second victory in as many matches in beating Birmingham City 3-1.

Bedworth Rangers, newcomers this season, won their first victory over Leicester City Supporters in fine style on the latter's ground 6-1.

In the other match, Bedworth Ladies had a narrow 2-1 win over Nuneaton Rangers. The League positions after two matches—Wanderers have yet to begin their programme—are:

|                           | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Emgals                    | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4  |
| British Rail              | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 4  |
| Bedworth Rangers          | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2  |
| Bantams                   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2  |
| Birmingham City Ladies    | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2  |
| Bedworth Ladies           | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2  |
| Nuneaton Rangers          | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 0  |
| Leicester City Supporters | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 0  |
| Wanderers                 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |

### PINK FOR SPORT

a mother of four can still find time to be one of the nation's leading markswomen.

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*Coventry Evening Telegraph - Saturday 20 September 1969*

**TONIGHT at the  
TOP RANK**

EMGALS (Ladies' Football Team)

**★ Summer Dance ★**

**ADMISSION 7/6**

8 p.m.—1 a.m. Late Bar

*Leicester Daily Mercury - 20 June 1969*

# Now girls may play on League grounds

THE decision of the F.A. Council to relax a 48-year ban on ladies' soccer teams membership of local F.A. bodies may have far-reaching effects in the Midlands.

It is hoped ladies' teams may soon play on league club grounds and have matches refereed by qualified officials. The games would be held before the main fixtures.

On the continent, ladies' teams take part in a European Cup competition, the final of which attracted a crowd of 45,000 in Berlin. Such is the importance of the game that an English player was recently offered £40 a week to play abroad.

## Winning return

The Nuneaton ladies team the Wanderers v. Bantams; Birmingham Reims in Calais, but returned home in the early hours of Sunday morning and beat Rainbow Dazzler 2-1 at Burton-on-Trent.

Other results were:

Bantams 0, Nuneaton Rangers 3; Leicester City Supporters 0, Engals 3.

The second-round matches in the Midland Cup will be played this Sunday. The draw is:

Redworth Rangers v. J. Allen Rubber Co. (Lydney), Leicester City Supporters v. British Rail; Wanderers v. Bantams; Birmingham City Ladies v. Engals.

# 24-goal stampede didn't put off these Leicester lasses!

**MANCHESTER UNITED'S** recent 8-2 spanking of Northampton brought back the memories for at least one Leicester side. They're the members of the Leicester City Supporters' Club ladies' soccer team.

Back in 1968 they had the temerity to take on Manchester Corinthians, the Spurs and Celtic of the lasses' Leagues. The result? A 24-0 goal stampede that threatened to knock the psychological stuffing out of the local ladies. But, a couple of years later, these game gals are playing as well as ever in the Midlands Ladies' League.

They're one of three Leicester sides in the League. Compared with the colourfully-dubbed clubs of Coalville (Rainbow Dazzlers) or Bedworth (Rye Pieces), the local trio sound positively prosaic. On field, however, their football's as attractive as their figures. The Supporters' Club ladies join Emgals and a British Rail team in a talented cluster. Said Jane

Poynton, a past secretary: "We're still inclined to rush all over the pitch after the ball. We have to learn self-discipline."

The side, which has an eldest player of 27 and a youngest of 15, plays hard and fast. One of their biggest wins was the 16-0 defeat of Rye Pieces with 10-goal Elaine Boden on target. Chris Hewish, a brilliant goalkeeper, also comes out to join in the occasional rally. She's scored five goals this season. Jane, a keen hockey player on Saturday and soccer star on Sunday, runs the right wing. The team includes three schoolteachers, a couple of schoolgirls, a hosier worker and a technical assistant.

"There's only one married girl and one fiancée among the 11 of us," said Jane. "The rest of us are unattached. But I don't think boy friends are too keen at first on their girls playing soccer. They hear tales of broken ankles and collarbones. But I don't think we're quite as tough as all that."

The girls play 35 minutes each way, pile into cars for away games but normally play on Western Park. Last year they took a trip to Deal, in Kent, for an international competition that included sides from Czechoslovakia and Scotland. "We camped in Deal over the weekend," said Jane, "but didn't last long in the competition. We lost to a local Education College side."

The team coach is Robin Glover, supremely youthful despite the sufferings of five seasons — the length of the team's life. "He watches us in all weathers," said Jane. "shouting if we don't do things right. Oh yes, we play in all weathers. Fog, snow, and torrential rain — they're all the same to us. None of us have perms anyway, so there's nothing for the rain to ruin!"



Professional-looking interceptions by Leicester girls in a recent match against a Nuneaton girls' team.

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**Goal-happy**

**Wanderers**

**steam into**

**ladies final**

WANDERERS, who are almost certain to take the Midland Ladies' Football League title, hammered British Rail to one of their heaviest defeats.

British Rail went down 7-0 in the Cystic Fibrosis Cup semi-final and, in the final, Wanderers will meet holders Swindon Spitfires, who disposed of Kays (Worcester) 11-0 in the other semi-final.

Rainbow Dazzlers have earned themselves a place in the Rose Cup Final with a 3-1 win over Leicester City Supporters, and they will meet Nuneaton Rangers, who beat Rye Pieces 11-0. The final will be at Donnithorpe on April 18.

### **Improve**

The Stan Haines Cup is reaching its climax with Engals through to the final following a 5-1 win over Bedworth Ladies.

Cup interest is maintained with a first-round game in the Vice-President's Cup this Sunday when Bedworth take on Nuneaton Rangers. In League matches, Engals meet Rye Pieces and British Rail will hope to improve in their game with Rainbow Dazzlers.

The draw for the Pat Gwynne Invitation Cup involves teams from five counties in first round games. The draw is: St. Andrew's Y.C. (Worcester) v. Bedworth Ladies; Notts United v. Lodge Park (Bedditch); Leicester City Supporters v. Rainbow Dazzlers; Coulters Chicks (Evesham) v. G.E.C./A.E.I. (Rugby).

# Wanderers win title —and tour

WANDERERS have taken the Midland Ladies' Football League title for the third year running with British Rail's 2-0 defeat by Rainbow Dazzlers.

British Rail had hopes of catching Wanderers, but this defeat now ends their chances and they must fight it out with Emgals for the runner-up spot. Wanderers beat British Rail in the semi-finals of the Crystic Fibrosis Cup and in the final they meet Swindon Spitfires who beat Kays 1-0.

The semi-finals of the Midland Cup are the star attraction on Sunday, with British Rail out to avenge their defeat by Wanderers, and J. Allen Rubber (Lydney) meet Emgals at Cheltenham.

## Rewarded

Wanderers have been rewarded for their success with a tour of France and Belgium during Easter Week as guests of Fernim de Reims. Two Bedworth players, Sue Whitehead and Mary Deeming, will join the party for their four-match programme.

Keresley Ladies and Conners Ladies (Nuneaton) will play their first matches on Sunday in preparation for entry into the league, and Kays of Worcester will probably join next season.



## **EMGALS INTO CUP FINAL**

A **SHEILA COBLEY** hat-trick was the highlight of Emgals' 7-2 defeat of J. Allen Rubber (Lydney) in their Midland Cup semi-final match at Cheltenham which brings the Midland Ladies League team into the final for the first time.

Another hat-trick, this time by Wendy Hughes, inspired Bedworth Ladies to a 6-1 win over St. Andrew's Y.C., and this takes them to the semi-finals of the Pat Gwynne Invitation Cup, along with Rainbow Dazzlers who beat Leicester City Supporters 3-0. The other team so far through to the semi-finals is Notts United who had a hard tussle in defeating Codge Park 1-0.

The Midland Ladies' League looks like being split into two divisions next season, and new teams are able to apply for admission up to the end of May. Those interested should write to: Mr. R. A. Berry, 27, Nunts Lane, Holbrooks, Coventry.

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# **DEADLOCK IN LADIES CUP FINAL**

**THE Midland Ladies League Cystic Fibrosis Cup Final is still deadlock after 180 minutes of play.**

**Wanderers and Swindon Spitfires drew 1-1 at Southam and they now have to wait for the second replay to decide who will take the trophy.**

**Keresley Ladies boosted their confidence for their trip to Wales at the weekend with a 3-2 win over Conners at Nuneaton, this being their first victory in the League.**

**Wanderers retained the Midland Cup by beating Engals 5-0 in the final, and these teams meet again on Saturday in the final of Stan Haines Cup. Wanderers are in Cup action once more when they meet Bedworth Ladies in the semi-finals of the Vice-President's Cup, while Bedworth meet Rainbow Dazzlers in a Pat Gwynne Invitation Cup semi-final replay.**

**On Sunday the League XI travel to play the Northampton League and the following week they are away to the Southampton League team.**

# ***Emgals carry off Cup***

**EMGALS** scored a fine 2-1 win over Wanderers at Manor Park to win the Midland Ladies' Football League's Vice - President's Cup.

Joan Briggs hit two goals on Nuneaton Borough's ground to give Emgals the verdict over the league champions, and she hopes to be in the same form on Sunday when Emgals play Swindon Spitfires in the Children's Research Fund Cup semi-final.

The Spitfires and Wanderers have decided to share the Cystic Fibrosis Cup after a series of draws had failed to produce a result and each team will hold the trophy for six months. The league team had an unlucky trip to Southampton, losing 3-0.

Bedworth completed a fine hat-trick when they won the Pat Gwynne Invitation Cup for the third year running by beating Notts United 4-1 at Long Eaton.