



# Leicestershire Women's Football News Stories 1979-80

● Sixteen top women's football teams from England and West Germany will be taking part in a national "World Cup" style tournament at the Emgas Aylestone Road sports ground on Sunday, August 26.

The tournament is hosted by Emgals, the top local women's team and matches will be played continuously from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is by programme only.

*Leicester Daily Mercury - Thursday 23 August 1979*



*The Emgals of Leicester A and B teams getting a pre-match pep talk from team coach Gary Cook before the one day women's football tournament at the Emgas sports ground, Aylestone Road, yesterday.*

# Rough, tough and skilful —the girls play soccer

THERE was no pussyfooting about when 16 women's football teams got together to play in the Emgals one-day tournament at Aylestone Road, Leicester. Tackling was hard, spirit was high and the games hard-fought and skilful.

Vice-chairman of the two local Emgals teams Mr. Bill Bowley, said: "The standard was very good. The quality of football is probably the best I have seen here, and it is as good as a lot of men's teams. Physically there is no way an 8½ stone girl can match a 12½ stone man, but we have tremendous skills here."

The tournament was the eighth organised by the Emgals, but the home teams could not find winning form.

"They were the worst results we have had since the tournament started," said Mr. Bowley. "We have played some very good football, but we have been punished for every mistake and we have not managed to punish others, which is what the game is all about."

The winners were current trophy holders St. Helen WFC who won 3-1 against Spurs LFC. Trophies were presented by the chairman of Emgals Sports and Social Club, Dr. Peter Simpson.

# Susan scores for Women's Lib!

IF ever the glorious day dawns when a woman soccer referee takes charge of a Wembley Cup Final, women will be able to celebrate a real victory for equality of opportunity.

Susan Clarke of West Knighton says it will be a



The two faces of soccer referee Susan Clarke, above, in action during an under-11 match at Evington park and inset, ready for the kick-off.



Knighton says it will be a long time — if ever — before that happens. As one of the country's very few women soccer referees, she is fully aware of the long struggle ahead.

Having taken a Football Association course in refereeing,

local woman currently taking charge of matches.

"It's a pity more women don't take up refereeing. We need more to show the FA we really are capable of controlling games. At the moment

"I find the younger lads are very good — once they get over the first few giggles about a woman ref! You have to show them you're not soft, and are in control of the match, then they're fine. Parents on the touchline are more bother than the players!"

Susan became interested in soccer through watching her boyfriend play for the Wigston Royal British Legion side. Last year, she ran the line for them, enjoyed that, and was encouraged by some of the refs to take the referees training course.

### Very fit

"My first game was an under-11 match, and my main worry was that I wouldn't be able to keep up! For the first ten minutes I dashed about like a mad thing — fortunately I swim regularly and am very fit!

"If you read the game correctly you can save yourself a lot of energy — and mercifully under-11 matches are only 30 minutes each way."

There is such a shortage of referees that Sue quite often has to take two matches on Sundays. Last time that happened the afternoon game was an under-16 match.

"It was a far more difficult game to control than the under-11's. I had to book one player for insulting behaviour, then I twisted my ankle, so I was shattered by the final whistle!"

**JOAN STEPHENS**

# ROBINS ON THE RAMPAGE

Burton Robins, womens football club. Returned to winning ways with a vengeance, hitting nine past Leicester City Reserves.

I wasn't long before Burton hit the city net when a ball down the left flank from Jane Illiff let Mandy Tomlinson in round the back of the

Leicester City Reserves 0 Burton Robins 9

defence. She hit the ball with tremendous force with the outside of her left, bending it round the diving keeper.

City hit back to in a penalty but their number eight hit the ball directly at keeper Janet Morley.

A beautiful link-up between Yvonne Johnson and Jackie Yeomans gave Robins a two-goal lead when Jackie chipped the ball over the keeper.

After 30 minutes City went further behind when a corner from the right came to the far post where Yvonne Johnson hit the ball on the turn and into the roof of the net for her goal for the club.

And shortly before halftime a ball from captain Maureen Cross enabled Julie Alsopp to score.

At the interval Robins made plans to switch keepers, Julie Alsopp

swopping shirts with Janet Morley. And what a player Janet turned out to be.

The second half was only seconds old when she showed the forward line just how it was done. A ball played through the middle by Teresa Glendon found Janet in acres of space and she hit the ball with accurate seas into the back of the net.

Racheal Baret went on for Yvonne Johnson, and her superb skill and tight control added yet another dimension to the Robins attack.

The sixth Burton goal came from another corner. The ball bobbed around inteeh area where Mandy Tomlinson rose above the keeper to head home from 6 yards.

Robins struck again when Heather Dewey hit a first-time ball into the path of Jackie Yeomans who chipped the ball into the net.

Moments later Janet Morley scored her second goal. Another corner was played short to Janet who from the edge of the 18 yard box volleyed in a dipping shot.

Heather Dewey finished the scoring when Rachel Barrett, after a fine display of dribbling, laid the ball into the box for Heather to left foot the ball home.

Burton Daily Mail - Wednesday 28 November 1979

● Women footballers play a different game from the men, but Syston Swifts' brand of soccer is fast, exciting and highly competitive, as JOAN STEPHENS found when she talked to members of this successful local team ...

A SOCCER side which first got together for a bit of a giggle five years ago, have taken to the game so seriously that they are now climbing the Midland League table, and proving that football glamour is by no means confined to men.

Syston Swifts are a women's side, who have just completed their fourth season. This year, they have played 34 matches, are ranked fifth in the Midlands Women's Soccer League, have won a local charity cup, and are spending Whitsun in Germany playing a couple of fixtures in Saarbrücken.

Team manager Rob Betts is the first to agree that among the players who make up his squad are some very attractive girls.

## Tremendous

"Of course that makes my job as their coach more pleasant. But no jokes about managing a team of women, please. After four years I reckon I've heard them all!"

Rob, a former Belgrave Casuals player, who gained experience of running a side with that club, points out that his girls have to be keener than most men players.

"We frequently have to travel 40 miles for a game, and the girls give up their Sundays and at least one evening a week to football.

"The team spirit is tremendous. This season we gave Emgals, one of the top local sides, a couple of good games on their home ground, and beat another leading team, Leicester Ladies. With that, and an end-of-season run of five wins, morale is very high."

A victory over the formidable Emgals, and the League

# Belles of the ball... no kick and giggle

cup are among the swifts' objectives for next season.

It was soon after his wife Jenny began to play for the side that Rob took over as team manager in 1976.

"I had to teach them how to kick the ball. At first it was as basic as that" he recalls.

"Now we have a weekly fitness and training session at Hamilton High School gym, and I coach the girls in team work, tactics, formation play, just as I would a men's side."

Jenny Betts says, "He really puts us through some hefty training, but no-one's keeled over yet!"

With male soccer stars famed for displays of temperament, I wondered if Rob

has feminine tantrums to cope with.

"No worse than with men. Some of the girls go quiet for a while if I upset them, or if they get dropped from the side. But they all know they have to earn their place, and work at keeping it."

Many a male spectator has watched the girls play, anticipating a good laugh — and been amazed at the high standard of their game.

As they prepared to set off on their first foreign tour, the Swifts were delighted to have the help of Denise Oulton, a youth exchange organiser from County Hall, who has helped them to arrange the trip and will be travelling with them as an interpreter-cum-guide.

"We couldn't have managed without her."





In Syston, as elsewhere all over Britain, women's football has found its feet, and the Frauleins in Saarbrücken will find the Swifts a tough team to tackle.

**Syston Swifts line up with the charity cup they won by beating Burton Robins. Back row, left to right: Kate Tapley, Anita Lyons, Nicky Page, Rob Betts (team manager), Ruth Wallbank, Elaine Cook, Jenny Betts. Front row (left to right) Shirley Foggin, Jackie Scattergood, Sue Godfrey, Kim Hughes, Les Edwards.**

Leicester Daily Mercury - 23 May 1980

## UNLUCKY EUROPEAN BREAK

TWO local football players on trips to Europe recently saw their holidays end in disaster.

Syston Swifts Ladies Football Club were on a tour of Germany last week when 19-year-old Jackie Scattergood tore a tendon in her right knee during a game in Saarland against St. Ingbert Ladies.

She was treated at St. Ingbert Hospital and after travelling over 500 miles by coach back to Leicester, was taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary for further treatment.

In spite of this injury the Swifts

and their supporters thoroughly enjoyed the trip. They were made very welcome by their hosts.

The Swifts played two games in Germany, beating the Hamburg ladies 2-0 thanks to goals by Diane Lowe and Nicky Page.

The match at St. Ingbert ended in a 5-3 defeat, goals coming from Gay Warnock, Nicky Page and Diane Lowe.

The second injury-hit game was in France, where Queniborough were playing Corbeilles en Gatinais.

In the opening seconds 21-year-old Paul Newbold, of Dorothy

Avenue, Thurmaston, broke his knee-cap.

He was taken to a French hospital where the injury was treated and he was detained for twenty-four hours for observation.

A French insurance company chartered an aircraft to fly Paul from the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris to London's Heathrow Airport. He was then transferred to the Leicester Royal Infirmary by a London ambulance.

Queniborough were playing a Corbeilles en Gatinais team for the Twinning Cup, and lost 2-1, Kevin Warwick scoring Queniborough's goal.

Melton Mowbray Times and Vale of Belvoir Gazette - Friday 06 June 1980