



Leicestershire Women's' Football

Friendly Matches 1895 to 1949

Date	Home			Away	Match Details
14.10.1895	"Whites"	2	1	?	Athletic Grounds, Loughborough. Exhibition game played between members of the British Ladies FC.
9.5.1896					LADIES FOOTBALL MATCH A football match at which ladies only were the contestants took place on Belgrave-road ground this (Saturday) afternoon in the presence of a fairly large number of spectators. Sir Thomas Wright was to have kicked off, but a business engagement prevented him doing so. The football was not of a very high order, even for lady players. <i>Leicester Daily Post - Monday 11 May 1896</i>
16.2.1907	Loughborough Town Ladies	11	1	Coalville Ladies	Park-road Ground, Loughborough
18.2.1907	Loughborough Town Ladies	10	5	Attenborough Ladies	Park-road Ground, Loughborough
23.12.1912	Westcotes Bowling Club Married Ladies	4	0	Westcotes Bowling Club Single Ladies	4-a-side match
27.3.1913	Westcotes Bowling Club Miss Keite's Team	0	0	Westcotes Bowling Club Miss Jarratt's Team	
?4.1913					
10.12.1914	Ladies	5	5	Gents	Thrapston. Benefit game in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund
6.10.1917	W H Symington's Ladies Miss Stubbs (2) Miss Patchett Miss Coales	4	2	W H Symington's Men AN Others	Cricket field, Market Harborough. Admission: 4d In aid of the Town Fund for sending Christmas presents to Market Harborough' soldiers and sailors. Game organised by the social committee of Messrs R and W H Symington, in conjunction with the Town Committee. Ladies wore green and white colours of Market Harborough. The men played in skirts and were handicapped by having their right arm 'ted up'.
2.2.1918	Coalville Munition Girls Carrie Brierley (2), AN Other	4	1	Burton-on-Trent Munition Girls AN Other	Fox and Goose ground, Coalville. Benefit game in aid of Sailors and Soldiers Comforts Guild. Good gate. Gate money c.£30. Prizes for the best skills shown in the match were awarded to Miss Brearley (Coalville), Miss Moon (Whitwick) and Miss Jackson (Burton-on-Trent),
9.3.1918	Burton-on-Trent Munition Girls	0 (0)	2 (2)	Coalville Munition Girls Carrie Brierley, AN Other	Peel Croft, Burton. The Burton Munition Workers arranged a return match with the Coalville Munition Girls, Benefit of the "Burton Daily Mail" Tobacco Fund and the Burton Prisoners of War Fund.
18.5.1918	Burton-on-Trent Munition Girls	8	0	Green's Pottery [Woodville]	Gala Field, Newhall. Benefit game for South Derbyshire Soldiers' and sailors; Tobacco Fund. The Burton team was chosen from Shobnall and Wetmoor munitions teams.

?.9.1918	Whitwick Munition Girls Miss Carrie Brearley (5) AN Other	6	0	Coalville Munition Girls	Played at the Ibstock Agricultural Show Ground. 2,000 spectators. Miss Carrie Brearley scored 5 goals.
11.1.1919	Coalville Munition Girls	P	P	Fuse Factory Girls [Tipton, Staffs] AN Other	Postponed due to heavy snowfall
18.1.1919	Coalville Munition Girls Carrie Brearley (3)	3	1	Fuse Factory Girls [Tipton, Staffs]	Half-Way House, Coalville.
6.4.1920	Botcheston			Kirby Muxloe	Kirby Muxloe won by a substantial margin.
20.11.1920	Dick, Kerr Ladies International	4 (2)	0(0)	St Helen's Ladies'	Filbert Street, Leicester. 13,000-14,000 spectators. Benefit game in aid of Ald Chapin's fund for Leicester unemployed. A new football was used in each half and at the close of the game, duly autographed by all players were auctioned.
23.5.1921	Railway Hotel Miss Beeson (4) Miss Foster	5	1	Engineer's Arms AN Other	Coalville Central Ground. Benefit game for the Children's fund. Railway Hotel team wore striped shirts and short skirts; Engineer's Arms in blue jerseys and white knickers. 'Although there were a few glaring fouls, the ladies on the whole seemed to have a good understanding of the game and the event was so successful that another ladies match was arranged. Collection for the Distress Fund amounted to £5 6s.
25.5.1921	Coalville West End Working Men's Club	10	3	Margaret's Street Working Mens' Clubs	Large attendance. Collection made for the children's distress fund realised £5 3s 4d.
.9.1927	Dick, Kerr Ladies	11	2	Blackpool Ladies	Agricultural Show Ground, Aylestone Road, Leicester. c. 1,000 spectators. Miss E Snow of Blaby appeared at inside-right for Blackpool.
?.5.1937	Kibworth Beauchamp				"Ladies comic football match"
18.4.1938	Leicestershire Ladies	1	10	Northamptonshire Ladies	Brown's-lane Ground, Loughborough. Annual charity football match in aid of Loughborough's St John's Ambulance Association. Brown's-lane's largest crowd of the season. Referee, Hughie Adcock.
13.9.1938	Loughborough Blue Diamond Band Jean Sole Gladys Wykes	2 (1)	1 (1)	Loughborough Premier Band Dorothy Middleton	Brown's-lane, Loughborough. Hughie Adcock [former LCFC player] refereed. Victorious team turned out in discarded jerseys and shorts of Loughborough Brush Works FC, while their opponents were in plain black and white. "The second half, because of the strain of the first was reduced from 20 to 15 minutes duration."
10.4.1939	Earls Barton			Bozeat [Northants]	Brown's-lane, Loughborough.
26.5.1939	Loughborough Blue Diamond	1	1	Loughborough Premier	Coalville Hospital carnival.
22.6.1939	Loughborough Blue Diamond	2 (1)	1 (1)	Loughborough Premier	At the Coalville Hospital carnival on 26 May- the teams drew 1-1. Game replayed to determine the holders of the silver cup. Central Ground, Coalville. Blue Diamond were presented with a cup by Dr A Segerdal.
30.8.1940	Bosworth Wright Ltd Dorothy Partner Peggy North	2	3	G H Palmer E Wallace (2) Jean Jackson	At Anstey. Benefit game for the Anstey War Service League - c £10 was raised

14.9.1940	Messrs G H Palmer Edith Hardy (3) Peggy Toon	4	2	Messrs Polard and Wain Jean Jackson Edna Wallace	Methodists' ground, Anstey. Tom Bromilow [LCFC manager] refereed. Benefit game for Anstey soldiers' comforts fund. Johnny Duncan officiated as the referee.
?4.1944	Taylorcraf No.7 Works [Thurmaston]				Ladies football match played during the lunch hour period. c. £3 14s 6d raised for Red Cross

Match Reports

LADIES FOOTBALL MATCH

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Leicester Journal 18 October 1895

LADIES FOOTBALL MATCH

A football match in which ladies were the only contestants took place on the Belgrave-road ground this (Saturday) afternoon in the presence of a fairly large number of spectators. Sir Thomas Wright was to have kicked off, but a business engagement prevented him doing so. The football was not of a very high order, even for lady players.

Leicester Daily Post - 11 May 1896

WESTCOTES CONSTITUTIONAL BOWLING CLUB.—A social was held at the club on Thursday night, when various sports were gone through. The following were the results:—Whist drive: First ladies, Mrs. H. Broomer; second ladies, Mrs. E. Gaunt; first gents., Mr. H. Sneesby; second gents., Mr. R. Burgess. Ladies' egg and spoon race: 1 Mrs. Rees, 2 Miss Thornton. Gents' egg and spoon race: 1 Mr. Woodford, 2 Mr. Copley. Ladies' football match: Miss Keite's team drew with Miss Jarratt's team, no score. Gents' football match: W. Harrison's team drew with A. Bonfield's team, no score. Suffragist race: 1 Miss Gilder, 2 Miss Thornton, 3 Mrs. Rees, 4 Miss Tompkins. Blindfold skittles: 1 Mr. Liquorish. Dancing followed.

Leicester Daily Post - 29 March 1913

GIRLS AT FOOTBALL.—A football match between 11 local munition girl workers against a team of munition girl workers from Burton-on-Trent, in aid of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Comforts Guild, attracted a good gate on Saturday last. The Coalville girls won by 4 goals to 1. Prizes for the best skill shown in the match were awarded to Miss Brierley (Coalville), Miss Moon (Whitwick), and Miss Jackson (Burton-on-Trent). The gate money, with prior sale of tickets, is expected to realise something approaching £30.

Leicester Journal - 8 February 1918

FOOTBALL

MUNITION GIRLS AT PLAY

PATRIOTIC FOR TOBACCO AND OF WAR FUND

SPLENDID FOOTBALL BY COALVILLE MUNITION GIRLS

The Burton Muniton Workers arranged a return match with the Coalville Muniton Girls, the first game at the Leicestershire town resulting in a win for the home team by 4 goals to one. Saturday's game was played on Peel Croft, for the benefit of the "Burton Daily Mail" Tobacco Fund and the Burton Prisoners of War Fund.

TEAMS

Coalville: C. Williams (goal), Pickering and Squires (backs); Smith, Johnson, and M. A. Smith (halves); Edwards, F. Moon. Brearley, Kendrick, Saunders (forwards).

Burton: N. Baldwin (goal); J. Clarke and A. Dodgson (backs); F. Wood, L. Aram, and E. Johnson (halves); E. Booth, L. Booth, E. L. Austin, and Jackson (forwards).

Referee: Mr. W. R. Moon (Newhall).

Major C. E. Hodges kicked off and play opened in favour of Burton, for whom E Riley missed a good chance of scoring in the first minute. Eventually Coalville scored by means of a free kick taken by BREARLEY. Burton relieved with a good run, in which E. Riley was prominent. Jackson got clear away, but unfortunately her shot at goal resulted in the ball striking the upright and going outside—a lucky escape for the visitors. Midfield play followed, Jackson making a capital run for Burton. The kicking on both sides was very good indeed for girls. An overhead kick by one of the Coalville forwards was deservedly applauded, the visitors at this juncture doing most of the pressing. A long shot by JOHNSON gained a well-deserved goal for Coalville the Burton custodian being hope' totally beaten. Coalville continued to show excellent form, their play being more systematic, while their passing and shooting was splendid. Half-time:

Coalville Muniton	2
Burton Muniton Girls	0

In the concluding half the Burton girls, especially Miss E. Riley, the captain. played a very keen game, and a time the visitors were hard pressed. Miss Jackson missing a fine chance of scoring for Burton. Coalville then relieved, and it was only the clean and lengthy kicking of the Burton full hacks that kept them out. Result:—

Coalville Muniton Girls	2
Burton Muniton Girls	0

Burton Observer and Chronicle - 16 March 1918

* * *

Great interest was taken in the Muniton Girls' football match at Ibstock show, which was refereed by Mr. H. Deakin, of Coalville, and was witnessed by about 2,000 people. Whitwick girls were easily the better side, and defeated Coalville by six goals to none. Five of the goals were scored by Miss 'arrie Brearley who played a fine game.

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Leicester Evening Mail - 14 September 1918

The match between the Tipton (Staffs.) Fuse Factory Girls and local Muniton Girls, postponed from the previous Saturday owing to the heavy snowfall, was played at the Half-Way House on Saturday afternoon, before quite a large crowd. The local team won by three goals to one.

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 18 January 1919

LADIES' FOOTBALL.

Dick Kerr's v. St. Helens at Leicester.

The announcement that two ladies' football teams were to meet for the first time in history on the Filbert Street ground created an immense amount of interest in addition to a great deal of curiosity, with the result that a huge crowd of between 13,000 and 14,000 assembled to watch the game. The proceeds of the match are to be devoted to Ald. Chaplin's fund for the unemployed.

The teams were:

Dick Kerr's: Hastie; A. Kell (capt.) and L. Parr; A. Woods, J. Walmsley and S. Hulme; F. Haslam, Mills, F. Redford, Jennie Harris and D. Clayton.

St. Helen's: Bragg; M. Johnson and Wain; Cornally, Willets and Ransom; Whatley, Britch, N. Johnson, Gleeson and Hayes.

Referee: J. H. Linthwaite (Leicester).

The teams were accorded a splendid reception as they filed out on to the ground. Dick Kerr's won the toss and after a brief deliberation decided to kick towards Filbert Street. The Mayor (Coun. G. E. Hilton) kicked off for St. Helen's but they soon lost that advantage when the Preston team began to attack.

The players on the whole seem to have a very good knowledge of the game, but were naturally rather weak in kicking and had little control over the ball. In a scrimmage they would kick anywhere and more often than not a back would run up and clear easily. Mis-kicks were numerous, much to the amusement of the crowd, who however were in high good humour and appeared to treat the whole thing as a huge joke.

A NEW FORM OF HEADING.

There was little or no heading of a high ball, the players preferring to bend and catch the ball on the back. The St. Helens brought with them a sturdy goal-keeper in Bragg, who effectively dealt with many shots and won the plaudits of the crowd. Much of the game was played in the St. Helen's half and several corners by Kerr's were unproductive, possibly owing to the ball seldom reaching the goal.

During a scrimmage, however, Harris, Kerr's inside right, rushed up and scored.

SOME PROMINENT PLAYERS.

N. Johnson, the St. Helen's centre-forward who stood a good six feet high, was a prominent figure in their attacks. Once there was a huge cheer when they broke away, and Hayes took the ball up the wing, but a series of miskicks and much fumbling enabled the Preston backs to cope with the situation.

Parr, the left back, proved herself a mighty kicker, and more than once when well back cleared beyond the half way line.

Haslam, Kerr's outside right, was a very swift runner, and few of the opposing side could stop her once she had the ball at her toe. She made several shots, but failed to get her foot round the ball properly, and every one of her efforts went wide.

Redford, Kerr's centre-forward, seized her chance when she received the ball from Mills, and shot from close range, adding another to the score. Half-time:—

Dick Kerr's	2
St. Helen's	0

There was very little excitement in the opening exchanges of the second half, although Kerr's were easily the superior team. Every time the St. Helens forwards made any sign of attack they were quite easily dealt with by Kell and Parr. Harris made several nice passes from the wing, but they usually went astray. Redford sent a terrific kick over the bar, and a minute later took a free-kick in front of goal. If the kick had gone straight it would have been a certain goal, but she kicked with the side of her foot and the ball went wide. Suddenly an epidemic of heading broke out, and for some time the ball was often in the air. Several times when it came down there were some rueful rubs of the head.

Result:—	
DICK KERR'S	4
ST. HELENS	0

LADIES' FOOTBALL.

Match at Coalville for Distress Fund.

A crowd of about 1,500 people were highly amused at the Coalville Central ground on Monday night in watching a ladies' football match organised for the benefit of the Children's Fund. The teams were styled Railway Hotel and Engineers' Arms, the former wearing striped jerseys and short skirts and the latter blue jerseys and white knickers. Mr. George Swain was the referee.

At half-time the score was one each, but after crossing over, the Railway Hotel did a lot of pressing and scored four more goals, winning by five to one. Four of the goals were scored by Miss M. Benson of Whitwick, who, though on the small side, was easily the best player on the field.

Playing as centre-forward, she was often applauded for her fine runs and accurate shooting and when other players were doing their best with the ball there were frequent cries of "give to the little 'un." Although there were a few glaring fouls, the ladies on the whole seemed to have a good understanding of the game and the event was so successful that another ladies' match was arranged.

The other goal for the winners was scored by Mrs. Foster. The collection for the Distress Fund amounted to £5 6s. The Coalville Coronation Band played selections.

Leicester Evening Mail - 24 May 1921

LADIES' FOOTBALL AT WHITWICK.

Ladies representing the Coalville West End and Margaret Street Working Men's Clubs played a football match on the Whitwick Imperial F.C. ground on Wednesday, when a collection for the distress fund realised £5 3s. 4d. West End won 10-3. The Coalville Coronation Band was in attendance. Mr. W. Commons was the referee.

Leicester Evening Mail - 3 June 1921

Where Dick Kerr's Ladies Beat the Men.

LEICESTER'S MANNEQUIN PARADE.

(By "TALENT-SPOTTER.")

Dick Kerr's or no Dick Kerr's women's football, to my mind, is doomed to be dished to pieces on the rock of fashion. Try how they will the ladies cannot escape from it.



JOHN DUNCAN,
one of the linesmen.

Last night, when the famous lady footballers of Dick Kerr's (Preston) played Blackpool Ladies on the Agricultural Show ground, Aylestone Road, Leicester, some 1,000 people put in an appearance to see what would happen, and I was amongst the curious.

Football and fashion are not two words that one would imagine to be synonymous, but they are with ladies. The right back of Dick Kerr's could not resist the temptation to act the mannequin and show off the latest creation in headgear.

She wore a novel black and white tam o' shanter and was obviously the envy of all the rest of the players. They never gave her a chance to head the ball. It was either jealousy or a well thought out scheme to prevent the fashion parade being ruined.

that they are on the hunt for a class outside-left. She would draw big gates.

It was curious how seldom the ball went out of play. There must have been some reason for this, but I failed to discover it. Perhaps the dressmaker forbade it. Throwing a ball in over the head does not make a fancy football shirt look its best.

I felt the most pity for the shopwalkers—sorry, I mean the linesmen! They were Johnny Duncan and Syd. Bishop, the City footballers, idling their time loitering up and down each side of the playing pitch, wondering how long it would be before the mannequins kicked off.

Kenny Campbell was in the midst of it all. A first class salesman this. He blew his whistle to attract the attention of the customers, when the mannequins looked their best, and gave three or four penalties against Dick Kerr's so that the goalkeeper would have a chance to show off her latest line in green jerseys. The price was not marked on it, but after all that is one of the tricks of the dressmakers' trade.

The Score.

What do I hear somebody saying? When am I going to say something about the match? Sorry, but I had forgotten it was a match. The score was 11-2, I believe, and Dick Kerr's won.

Summarised one can say that Dick Kerr's are good kickers. Blackpool are

parade being ruined.

Artistic Poses!

What artistic poses the players struck! The Blackpool inside-left hardly ever kicked the ball, even though she made wild lunges at it, but who could blame her? When she raised her foot in the air to the requisite height and made a charming pose to advertise a "chic two-piece garment for negligee wear," who could grumble if she missed the ball?

The ladies in the audience were delighted. The men called her "Tishy," but then men never could understand the sense of fashion displays.

The darling of the male hearts was Lily Parr, the Dick Kerr outside-left. She had a kick like a cart-horse and scored either three—or was it four?—goals from almost impossible angles.

She could not please both sides, however. She wore a footballers' knee-caps and what gain was that to the fashion experts? No ladies ever wore knee-caps.

A Real Winner.

As a spotter of talent, however, I would recommend her to the notice of the Leicester City directors, knowing

Summarised one can say that Dick Kerr's are good kickers. Blackpool are not good kickers. But what matters they are all good mannequins.

It is whispered that many of the performers are nurses. I can quite believe it. The Blackpool goalkeeper once nursed the ball until I thought she would kill it. She hugged it tight and fell on the floor with it to cuddle it closer, until Kenny Campbell signalled that her term of duty was finished and somebody else was to have a chance.

Blaby's "Star."

A local girl, Miss E. Snow, of Blaby, appeared at inside-right for Blackpool and showed great speed if wanting better control of the ball. She and the right back were the only real players on their side.

Dick Kerr's looked as though they could be very clever with the ball when up against stronger opposition. They could kick with both feet.

The teams were:—

Dick Kerr's: J. Frankland; P. Scott and L. Ashcroft; E. Buxton, F. Redford and C. Latham; H. Parkinson, J. Harris, T. Buxton, M. Shaw and L. Parr.

Blackpool: A. Derbyshire; E. Yates and A. Yates; J. Henderson, Callinson and A. Cullen; N. Yates, E. Snow, Field, Ashworth and E. Davies.

Leicester Evening Mail - 9 September 1927

Comic Football Match was Highlight at Kibworth Beauchamp.

The high light of Kibworth Beauchamp's celebrations was a ladies' comic football match, arranged by Nurse Harris. Played in real cup-tie style, several players found the pace too hot, and had to receive attention from the trainer. Fouls were numerous, but ladies don't care for referees. The match caused much amusement, especially the stretcher incident. Coronation Day began with a united service in the church and at noon lunch was served to about 400 men. A fancy dress parade through the streets opened the afternoon programme, and children's sports followed. At 3.30 p.m. approximately 700 ladies and children sat down to tea. Through the rain the adult' sports were postponed, and will take place about the middle of June. At night there was dancing in the Village Hall. Sports results were as follows:—

Leicester Ladies Upset By Northants' Blondes

LOUGHBORO' SOCCER

"WHAT the Wolves can do to Leicester City, we can do in Leicester County," said the Northamptonshire Ladies' Football team, visiting Loughborough yesterday.

And they carried out their threat by defeating the Leicestershire Ladies by precisely 10-1.

It was the annual charity football match, in aid of the Loughborough St. John's Ambulance Association, and the Brown's-lane ground held the biggest crowd of the season.

Except for the specially deflated ball, there was nothing at all soft about the game. All the girls played seriously, and even powder puffs were taboo.

Hughie Adcock refereed, and the Northampton girls won on their merits.

Actually the undoing of the Leicestershire side was due to two blondes, the only two fair heads in the Northampton side. Each had a kick like the bombshells associated with blonde hair.

Too Feminine

Leicestershire's chief failing was in not knowing what to do with the ball when they took possession. The local girls were too apt to display the woman's touch.

Northampton, on the other hand, were the personification of female resource when the ball went their way—and it usually did go the way they wanted it.

As for the score, no one really minded what it was. The players thought it great fun, and the Leicester City fans among the spectators found consolation in the fact that even the ladies can't do better.

To add to the enjoyment, the Loughborough Blue Diamonds Carnival Band gave displays before the kick-off and in the interval.

The Leicestershire ladies' team, who comprised mainly Kegworth girls, was: O. Middleton; H. Winfield, J. Winfield; J. Lester, M. King, R. Howe; J. Murray, N. Johnson, A. Hickling, L. Wilson and M. Woolley.

The Northampton side was: R. Rivett; R. Gale, O. Underwood; O. Coleman, M. Whyman, M. Labran; R. Dunmore, E. Lovell, L. Partridge, J. Phillips and W. Coe.

Women's Football

The proceedings last night began on Brown's-lane with a football match between the girls of Loughborough Blue Diamond Band and Loughborough Premier Band, the former winning by two goals to one.

The victorious team turned out in the discarded jerseys and shorts of Loughborough Brush Football Club, while their opponents were in plain black and white.

The teams were:

Blue Diamonds: Ida Godmark; Gladys Wykes, Zilla Jeffcoat; Madge Fisher, Jean Sole, Florrie Brooks; Joyce Sheldon, Dorothy James, Hilda Edwards, Edna Brewin, and Kathleen Hughes.

Premier: Dorothy Clark; Emily Charlton, Ada Freeman; Dorothy Mitchell, Eleanor Whethall, Dorothy Beck; Eva Newby, Edith Bowles, Kitty Bowles, Unia Bowles, and Ethel Schofield.

With a sharp blow of the whistle from Mr. Hughie Adcock (former Leicester City player), who acted as referee, the game started, and there were cries of "Good old Hilda!" and "Shoot, Kitty, shoot!" as the excitement grew intense. There was a riot of applause and a blowing of trumpets when the first goal was scored by Jean Sole, for the Blue Diamonds. Before half-time, the Premier girls drew level through Dorothy Middleton.

The Winning Goal

When the whistle blew, the girls promptly stretched out on the ground to recover their breath. But they were soon ordered to their dressing-rooms to conform to convention, and were revived, not with lemons, but with oranges.

The second half, because of the strain of the first, was reduced from 30 minutes to 15 minutes, and, during that time, Gladys Wykes scored the winning goal.

A display by the Blue Diamonds Junior Band followed; and, after that, there was a comic football match between the men of the Blue Diamond and Premier, the teams being:—

Blue Diamond: E. Needham; W. James, J. Shepherd; H. Redfern, C. Poole, H.

Women's Football Teams in Deciding Game

The women's football teams which played at Coalville during the hospital carnival at Whitsun and made a draw of one goal each met again at Coalville last night to decide who should hold the silver cup.

After a pretty even game Loughborough Blue Diamond beat their neighbours and rivals, Loughborough Premier, by the odd goal in three. The score at the interval was one each.

The cup was presented by Dr. A. M. W. Segerdal.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 23 June 1939

For Anstey Comforts

It is estimated that the Anstey Soldiers' Comforts Fund will benefit by about £10 as the result of a women's football match arranged by the employees of Messrs. G. H. Palmer and Messrs. Bosworth, Wright and Co., which was won by the former side by 3 goals to 2. E. Wallace (captain) (2) and Jean Jackson (1) were the scorers for Palmers, and Dorothy Partner and Peggy North scored for Bosworth, Wright.

Leicester Daily Mercury - 9 September 1940

WOMEN PLAY FOOTBALL AT OBAN ROAD CELEBRATIONS

Once again the residents of Oban Road rose to the occasion and provided a really grand tea for the children. Before tea the children enjoyed themselves playing games with great gusto. As soon as the photographer had paid a visit the children, who were already sitting down at table, got "cracking" and steadily worked their way through the piles of eatables. After the children came the mothers and fathers, by this time ready to demolish anything that was left. And there was some! Representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force cut the magnificent Victory cake. Afterwards everybody went to a nearby field, where the children ran and jumped to their hearts content, small prizes being given. But, the high spot was the ladies' football match between Nutts Lane and Oban Road. This provided plenty of thrills and laughter but most of the ladies were quite good and all took it most seriously, for which they must get full credit. Once wound up they did not want to stop. Then came a rather sterner but very enjoyable game between the men. The ladies being on the popular side and the canal on the other, the men had to go fishing for the ball every now and again, not without minor duckings, much to everyone's amusement. Then came the bonfire in the evening, which all the children were looking forward to eagerly. The day wound up with supper, dancing and singing round the bonfire, all singing heartily Auld Lang Syne and God Save the King, at the end of a perfect day. Say the organisers: Thanks a lot everyone, for making this day of memory, so full of fun.