

Lancashire Central Hockey League was formed in 1930 by Thomas Arnold Hart, as the Leyland and District Hockey League. However, to let more teams in in the season 1931-32 it changed its name to Lancashire Central Women's Hockey League. It is still in existence today.

Although not the oldest League in the country it is still an important League in the history of women's league hockey which is only just beginning to come to light. It had many successful teams with Leyland Motors being one of the most important as they won the English Cup, a cup played for by teams in the leagues who were members of the English Ladies Hockey Leagues Association (E.L.H.L.A.), on a number of occasions. The League also won the Caley Trophy, an inter League Tournament played for by League teams in the E.L.H.L.A., at least 4 times.

## Research by Mark Evans

### May Helme and the Lancashire Central Hockey League

May Helme played for Preston and District who played in the Lancashire Central League. However in September 1939 an article in the Lancashire Daily Post says she had been recruited for Dick, Kerrs. However, due to the war it may be she did not play for them and joined Preston after the war.

She played on a number of occasions for the League team but never played an international match for the English Ladies Hockey Leagues Association (E.L.H.L.A.) representative team. Her career seems to have stretch over a long period from the 1930s into the 1950s. Like so many of the sports people at the time maybe she lost her best years to the war.

### May Helme – Newspaper cuttings

**THE LANCASHIRE DAILY POST, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1934**

**Prospects**

**Palace Shield**

**THREE TEAMS SEEKING REVENGE**

**Second Division Rivals**

**DIVISION I.**  
 Fleetwood v. Blackpool II.  
 Leyland II. v. Thornton I.C.L.  
 Lancaster II. v. Great Eccleston  
 Poultonham v. Blackpool E. and T.  
 Fulwood and Broughton v. Kirkham  
 Dick, Kerr's v. Pylle.

**DIVISION II.**  
 Whittingham v. St. Anne's  
 Morecambe II. v. Penwortham II.  
 Kirkham II. v. South Shore  
 British Goodrich v. Fleetwood II.  
 Lydham's and Bradshaw's v. Pylle II.  
 Nica Green v. Fulwood and Broughton II.

**THREE** of to-morrow's Palace Shield First Division games are return fixtures, and the Fulwood and Broughton, and Electric Transport will be out to avenge for earlier loss. Pylle do not appear likely to give Dick, Kerr's, the leaders, much trouble, and the latter and Broughton cannot look with much optimism to the visit of Kirkham. Also again Whittingham and St. Anne's II. capture most of the interest in the Second Division, St. Anne's will be hoping to dismiss

**GIRLS' CRICKET MATCH AT PRESTON**



A team of Preston's cricketing girls last night played a draw with East Lancashire. Front row (left to right): Miss M. Jones, Miss M. Helme, Miss B. Collier, Miss H. Boyce (captain), Mrs. E. Preston, Miss A. Nickeas. Back row: The Misses L. Kirby, E. Douglas, B. Coulton, M. Nolan, E. Helm, and P. Le Marechall.

Photo: "The Lancashire Daily Post."

The Lancashire Daily Post, Wednesday, February 2, 1938 p9

## Central League Trial Match—Team to Play Wigan League— Winckley's Spirit in Defeat—Two Players Score Eight Goals Each

**T**HE Lancashire Central League girls had their trial match, as arranged at Leyland Motors' ground, but with a half a gale blowing, the conditions were not conducive to the players being seen at their best. However, there was no lack of keenness and perseverance, and in the circumstances the hockey was good. The teams were:

"A" team (orange).—D. Male (Leyland Motors); M. Wignall (Dick, Kerr's); D. Iddon (Leyland Motors); M. Ashcroft (Dick, Kerr's); D. Bamber (Balshaw's G.S.O.G.); B. Cox (Darwen); E. Sharples (Balshaw's G.S.O.G.); A. Roberts (Leyland Motors); P. Bate (Dick, Kerr's); A. Lynch (Whittingham C.M.H.); D. Edwards (Dick, Kerr's).

"B" team (green).—M. E. Helme (Preston and District); E. Clayton (Whittingham C.M.H.); J. Taylor (Leyland Motors); H. Boyce (Leyland Motors); F. Martin (Dick, Kerr's); C. Marshall (Dick, Kerr's); J. Riding (British Tyres); A. Pickup (Darwen); M. Booth (Leyland Motors)—second half B. R. Withnell (Old Chorleians)—R. O.

Barber (Darwen), C. Eastham (Leyland Motors).

credit. She has played for Yorkshire and Cheshire.

### LEYLAND MOTORS TAKE THE LEAD

Owing to the trial match only four of the First Division teams were engaged, and two of them played two matches under the new rule concerning postponed games. Leyland Motors took the lead from Dick, Kerr's, who were not engaged, beating Balshaw's "B" by a comfortable margin.

Winckley Square lost twice, but their spirit in cheerfully fulfilling their fixtures is to be admired. With 66 goals against them in nine games, all of them lost, some teams would be tempted to back out, but Winckley are doing their best in spite of the handicap of having few players to call upon. Their rather than ability, is the cause of their decline, but it may be only a temporary difficulty.

Whittingham, still unbeaten, continue to

carry all before them, and Margaret Thornborough added another eight goals to her already large total. With only one point sacrificed in 11 games Whittingham are easily favourites for the Second Division championship.

In the Third Division, Longridge, too, go on from success to success. Their latest victory was their ninth in succession but they have strong rivals for the championship in Siemen's whose 15-0 win (I. Bassett scored eight more goals), was their 10th in succession—this is the best record in the competition.

Another player to get eight goals was M. Kenyon, Blackburn Technical College.

Following is the draw for the third round of the English Association Cup:—

Liverpool Olympic v. Leyland Motors.

Whittingham C.M.H. v. Horwich L.M.S.

Cheadle Heath v. Dick, Kerr's.

Old Ashtonians v. Balshaw's G.S.O.G.

Results and Tables:—

DIVISION I.

Leyland Motors 7 (A. Roberts 3, H. Boyce, M. Booth, M. Roberts, C. Eastham), Balshaw G.S.O.G. 1 (K. Berry).

Winckley-square O.G. 1 (M. Robinson), Preston and District 5 (E. Helm 3, D. Rigby, G. Stansfield).

Preston and District 2 (C. Whittle, M. Rigby), Winckley-square O.G. 0.

DIVISION II.

Horwich L.M.S. 11 5 (I. Green 4, E. Burke), Brook Mill 11 2 (E. Lawson, V. Tyrer).

Whittingham C.M.H. 9 (M. Thornborough 8, M. Grimms), Glovers' Court School 0.

Leyland Wesley 5 (N. Dawber 3, E. Wilson, H. Appleby), Emmanuel 1 (M. Ingham).

County Offices 10 (N. Raw 4, K. Mann 2).

M. E. Helme, an all-round sportswoman, plays hockey, football, cricket.

M. Wignall, formerly with Hesketh Bank and Longton, in League side since 1932; played for English Leagues, 1934-35-36.

J. Taylor, played in League tournament side, 1937.

M. Ashcroft, formerly with Longton; League team, 1937.

F. Martin, good, constructive hockey player, skilful at tennis and winner of several local tournaments.

B. Cox, one of last season's finds; League XI, 1937.

E. Sharples, played last season for

B. Cox, one of last season's finds; League XI, 1937.

E. Sharples, played last season for Truro College.

A. Roberts, formerly with Dick Kerr's; in League XI, 1932-33-34-35-37; played for English Leagues 1934-35-37; very fast and accurate shot.

P. Bate, a versatile player who has been very prominent with her club this season as a goal-scorer. Has 38 goals to her

## PROGRAMME

Lac D'Anney, 7 (Hennecart) Anthony 10 0  
 Duncansby, 9 (Mr Robins) Private 10 0  
 Larron, 6 (Mr Grotian) F Brown 10 0  
 Happy Res., 6 Col Stewart Stewart 10 0  
 Archangel, 5 (Lady Douglas) J Beary 10 0  
 False Bay, 5 (Wingfield) R Bennett 10 0

**3.30—The POVEY CROSS MODERATE STEEPCHASE** of £150 four four-year-olds and upwards. Two miles.  
 Soliped, 10 (Mr Gillett) Private 11 12  
 What Have You, 10 (Gould) R Hobbs 11 12  
 Davy Jones, 9 (L Mildmay of Flete) H Whiteman 11 12

Saffron Hill, 6 Miss Paget Nightingall 11 12  
 Old Tom, 8 (Mr J Rank) Evans 11 12  
 Delapax, 9 (Mr J Snow) Beeby 11 12  
 Tresca, 7 (Mrs Villar) Powell 11 12  
 Anchor Bar, 7 Miss Lamb Thompson 11 7  
 Arun Lad, 11 (Mr Pitts) Private 11 7  
 Titterstone, 10 (Mr Whiteman) Private 11 7  
 Bachelor's Gown, 5 Sir D Llewellyn W Smyth 11 5  
 Greek Life, 5 (Mr P Clark) I Anthony 11 0  
 Skystor, 5 (Mr F Clark) I Anthony 11 0  
 ... (Mr C Lister) Thrush 11 0

... (Mr Grimes), Grovers Court School 0.  
 Leyland Wesley 5 (N. Dawber 3, E. Wilson, H. Appleby, Emmanuel 1, M. Ingham).  
 County Offices 10 (N. Raw 4, K. Mapp 2, E. Raw 2, D. Eit, D. Wilding, Leyland M. II, Brit. Tyre and Rubber 10 (E. Shaw 5, M. Hocking 4, M. Norris), Darwen II. 0.

**DIVISION III.**  
 Preston and District II. 1 (M. Dickinson), P.S.L. 1 (E. Holt),  
 Ensign Lamps 0, Longridge 4 (U. Taylor, A. Procter).

Siemens Lamps 15 (I. Bassnett 8, C. Greenhaigh 3, A. Clark 2, A. Hind 2), St. Cuthbert's II. 0.  
 Brook Mill II. 1 (M. Parkinson), Blackburn Tech. Coll. 11 (K. Kenyon 8, K. Skermer 2, J. Davies).

**POSTPONED GAMES**  
 Division I.—St. Cuthbert's v. Horwich L.M.S., Darwen v. Dick, Kerr's, Balshaw's "A" v. Old Chorleians.

**DIVISION I.**

	P. W. D.			Goals		
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pts
Leyland Motors..	13	11	1	1	82	18 22
Dick Kerr's .....	12	10	1	1	55	10 21
Balshaw's "A" .....	12	10	0	2	54	19 20
Horwich L.M.S. ..	12	7	2	4	36	20 16
Darwen .....	9	5	0	4	31	28 10
Old Chorleians..	11	4	0	6	17	37 8
Balshaw's "B" .....	13	3	2	8	19	44 8
Preston and Dis.	12	3	0	9	18	40 5
Preston St. Cuth.	9	1	0	8	8	47 2
Winckley S.O.G.	9	0	0	9	9	66 0

**DIVISION II.**

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pts
Whittingham ..	11	10	1	0	75	12 21
Brook Mill .....	12	9	1	2	68	23 19
County Offices ..	12	9	0	3	71	23 18
Brit. T. & Rubber	13	9	0	4	77	34 18
Leyland Wesley..	13	5	1	7	26	42 11
Darwen II. ....	11	4	0	7	26	65 8
Grovers Court ..	9	3	1	5	36	42 7
Horwich L.M.S. II.	11	3	0	8	13	44 6
Leyland M. ....	11	13	2	1	20	90 3
Prest. Emmanuel	11	1	1	9	17	54 3

The Lancashire Daily Post, Wednesday, February 9, 1938 p9



Members of the Lancashire Central League team leaving Preston for the Inter-League hockey match at Wigan. Left to right: D. Male (manager), D. Iddon (reserve), C. Eastham (reserve), J. Taylor, F. Bell, F. Martin, E. Sharples, Mr. A. Mace (League representative), M. Wignall, P. Bate, A. Roberts, M. Ashcroft, N. E. Helm, D. Edwards.

Photo: "The Lancashire Daily Post"

# Hockey Notes

## Lancashire Central League Team in Great Form—Wigan Side Outclassed—Five Goals for Preston Player

**L**ANCASHIRE Central Hockey League players had reason to be pleased with themselves last week end, their team defeated the Wigan League at Wigan by 8-1. Miss Bate, of Dick, Kerr's, showing splendid form and getting five goals. The same side will represent the Central League against the Liverpool League at Aintree, Liverpool, on Saturday.

In the match at Wigan the Central League pressed from the bully. When E. Sharples passed to the opposite wing D. Edwards, who broke away, shot wide. Wigan forced a corner and M. E. Helme saved a hot shot from the centre forward. Wigan were forceful and after pressing hard they opened the score, following a melee in goal.

M. Asheroft, F. Bell and P. Bate were prominent in a recovery by the visitors and a brilliant run by D. Edwards brought another corner.

accepted an opportunity to score—her fifth goal.

### ONE PLAYER SCORES 13 GOALS

Leyland Motors and Balshaw's "A" lead the First Division table with equal points. Dick, Kerr's, one point behind, have a match in hand. Darwen and Balshaw's "B" improve their positions.

Whittingham gained a crushing victory over Darwen II. M. Thornborough scoring 13 goals! Longridge won their 10th consecutive game and are two points behind the unbeaten Siemens, who again improved their goal average.

Leyland Wesley, though losing by the odd goal in three, played a good game.

G. Hodson, who has been absent owing to sickness, from the Balshaw's "B" attack, justified her promotion to centre forward by doing the "hat-trick."

### SCORES BY DIVISION

Wigan 8-1 District (D. Edwards 5)  
Lancashire Central League 8-1 (P. Bate 5)  
Where an Ball 2, D. Edwards.

M. Wignall broke up a strong raid and P. Bate had a good shot saved. Further counter-attacks were broken up by F. Martin, who played a strong game. Lancashire Central equalised through P. Bate.

### SECOND HALF GOALS

On the resumption A. Roberts was checked by the left back, but after nine minutes' play P. Bate put the visitors ahead, and straight from the bully E. Sharples, after a good run, gave to D. Edwards, who netted.

Wigan scored, but the point was ruled offside, and from the free hit D. Edwards again broke away, but was checked by Wigan's left back. Wigan rallied and M. E. Helme made two good saves.

Wigan combined well in a series of attacks, but met a sound defence. A good run by D. Edwards ended in F. Bell scoring, and Lancashire Central now took charge of the game. A nice combined run and an unselfish pass by A. Roberts gave P. Bate her third goal. From a short corner F. Bell netted again and a splendid run and centre by D. Edwards gave a "gift goal" to P. Bate.

Wigan, although playing well, could not penetrate the defence, and again P. Bate

### LANCASHIRE CENTRAL LADIES' HOCKEY LEAGUE

#### Division I

Horwich L.M.S. 2 (M. Clarke, D. Church), Balshaw's G.S.O.G. "A" 3 (E. Haydock 2, N. Lomax).

Balshaw's G.S.O.G. "B" 5 (G. Hodson 3, E. Barrow 1, Ratchiffe), St. Cuthbert's 1 (P. Proctor).

Darwen 3 (B. Lees 2, R. D. Barber), Old Chorleians 1 (G. Sellers).

Old Chorleians 1 (A. Parkinson), Darwen 1 (R. Fish).

Dick, Kerr's v. Winckley-square O.G., and Preston and District v. Leyland Motors postponed.

#### Division II

Glover's Court School 1 (R. Litt), Horwich L.M.S. II 1 (C. Williams).

Emmanuel 0, British Tyre and Rubber Co. 10 (M. Hocking 7, J. Riding 3).

Leyland Motors II 2 (B. Walmsley, M. Roberts), Leyland Wesley 1 (E. Whalley).

Brook Mill 5 (E. Lawson 2, J. Glover, V. Tyler, E. Clark), County Offices 4 (K. Mapp 2, B. Robinson, N. Raw).

Darwen II 0, Whittingham C.M.H. 17 (M. Thornborough 13, S. Briggs 3, A. Culshaw).

#### Division III

Lancashire Insurance 0, Siemens Lamps 5 (C. Greenhalgh 4, I. Bassnett).

St. Cuthbert's II 1, Ensign Lamps 15 (J. Marland 6, H. Shepherd 4, E. Hott 4, R. Donnelly).

Preston Steam Laundry 1 (E. Peacock), Brook Mill II 2 (M. Parkinson, E. Kenyon).

Longridge 3 (Una Taylor 3), Preston and District II 1 (M. Dickinson).

UNBEATEN IN INTER-LEAGUE GAMES



Lancashire Central League Hockey Team have won all their three inter-League matches this season. Team:—Front row, left to right: P. Bate, B. Cox, M. Wignall, F. E. Bell, E. Sharples. Back row: J. Taylor, F. Martin, M. E. Helme, A. Roberts, D. Edwards, M. Ashcroft. Photo: "The Lancashire Daily Post."

Ho

Dick, Kerr's C  
Game—Close

(HEADLE HEATH. English cup competition won their 3rd round. Kerr's champions of the League. A large crowd of two well-balanced teams matches played in the... Dick, Kerr's quickly after the score after five minutes. Cropper. The home team efforts to draw level but M. Wignall, with A. Ma were sound. The game excellent form and a strong shot from A. Bell of a corner. Dick, is increasing their lead by the margin. Half-time—Cheadle Kerr's 1. Resuming the home offensive, playing a 1-0. After 20 minutes A. C. Boulton, who equalised. Dick, Kerr's passed Goodwin, at right back, ran and set her forward partner clearances. At astartin broke up some... With 10 minutes to go up the wing and passed gave to A. Oldham. The with a well-directed shot. Dick, Kerr's might minutes from the end, missed with the goalies. The semi-final will be 2nd, competing teams G.S.O.G., Cheadle Heath and Whittingham Coun

The Lancashire Daily Post, Wednesday, January 4, 1939 p2

# Hockey Notes

## Lancashire Central Women's Hockey League—Season in Review—Affairs in Excellent Order—Umpires' List Has Lengthened

**B**ALSHAW'S "A" appeared to have a commanding lead in Division I at the beginning of 1938, but defeats against Kerr's and Leyland Motors robbed them of advantage and they finished the season runners-up to Kerr's, who were one point better. Whittingham C.M.H. and Brook Mill were leading Division II, each having made 17 points, but whereas Whittingham won all their remaining engagements their rivals conceded five points and were eventually placed third in the table, County Offices having equal points, but having a better goal average. Siemens Lamps created a record in the first half of 1938, being unbeaten when the year began and having scored 64 goals to six. They remained invincible and became champions of Division III with 100 per cent. record and 120 goals to their credit in 16 games. Longridge, a newly-formed team, made history by a long succession of victories.

minute intervals. M. Thornborough completed her "hat-trick," leaving the score 3-1 with eight minutes to go. Balshaw's won the game in the last minute. Meeting Cheadle Heath in the final at Aintree, Balshaw's were justly defeated by 4-0, although the last three goals were registered within the closing 10 minutes. Lancashire Central sent two teams to the Association Tournament held at Atherton, and the "A" team were one point behind the leaders at the close of play. Considerable effort was made during the season to form a Fourth Division, but owing to the disbanding of several teams this had to be abandoned. An equal number of teams were formed to enter the competition, however. These were Blackburn Technical College II, English Electric Co., Harris Institute O.G., Leyland Motors II, and Leyland. Competition has been remarkably keen since the 1938-39 season opened. Balshaw's again lead the field in Division I, but whereas they have lost two games Kerr's

Having lost their three opening games without scoring, Longridge went on to win the next 11 matches and to score 74 goals. The leading goal-getters in the 1937-38 season were: E. Lawson (Brook Mill) 74, I. Bassnett (Siemens Lamps) 70, M. Thornborough (Whittingham C.M.H.) 60, P. Bate (Kerr's) 50, K. Mapp (County Offices) 44, M. Hocking (British Tyre and Rubber) 41.

#### A SUCCESSFUL COMBINATION

Following a trial game played on the Leyland Motors ground at the end of January, the following players were chosen to represent Lancashire Central in their Inter-League engagements: M. E. Helme (Preston and District); M. Whiteside (Kerr's), J. Taylor (Leyland Motors), M. Ashcroft (Kerr's), F. Martin (Kerr's), B. M. Cox (Darwen); E. Sharples (Balshaw's "A"), A. Roberts (Leyland Motors), P. Bate (Kerr's), F. Bell (Balshaw's "A"), D. Edwards (Kerr's). Reserves: D. Iddon (Leyland Motors), C. Eastham (Leyland Motors). This combination was completely successful, winning every game as follows:

- v Wigan and Dis. League .. (away) 8-0
- v Liverpool League ..... (away) 2-0
- v Bury and Dis. League .. (home) 9-1
- v Stockport and Dis. League (home) 3-2

When the English League XI's came to be selected five Lancashire Central players: M. Whiteside, A. Roberts, P. Bate, F. Bell and D. Edwards were chosen to play against the Scottish League and F. Martin and C. Eastham were included in the Association 2nd XI against Northern Ireland Women's Hockey Union. In the

Martin and C. Eastham were included in the Association 2nd XI against Northern Ireland Women's Hockey Union. In the English Hockey Cup semi-final, Lancashire Central were represented by Balshaw's "A" and Whittingham C.M.H. The two teams were drawn together and an exciting game resulted. Balshaw's opened after 19 minutes, and it was not until 56 minutes had gone that M. Thornborough equalised for the Hospital. Goals then came at three-

have remained unbeaten, and Leyland Motors have lost once only. Three points separate the four leading teams in Division II, and Leyland, in Division III, have lost one game in 10 matches played.

#### A SURPRISE

A reverse—the first since 1935, attended Lancashire Central's opening Inter-League game against Wigan League. Lancashire Central were leading 2-0 17 minutes from time. Then followed four exciting minutes in which Wigan scored three goals and won the match. A representative second XI was also beaten a few weeks ago by the Manchester League II. It was the first time this combination had played together, however, and the team was additionally handicapped as M. Thornborough and A. Lynch, originally chosen, were absent playing in a Cup-tie against Liverpool Olympic. Thus Whittingham lost but had already achieved no little fame by forcing the Liverpool champions to play three times before passing into the next round. On Saturday Kerr's and Horwich will represent Lancashire Central in the last eight remaining in the competition.

So far no mention has been made of the Umpires' Association. This very essential branch of the League activities was re-organised last season and in presenting his report at the League annual general meeting in July, the umpires' hon. secretary said "The umpires' list now contains the names of 20 umpires. It was found possible during the 1937-38 season to supply umpires for nearly all matches played.

"As the list is being gradually extended, it is anticipated that umpires will be available for all matches during the coming season.

"As the list is being gradually extended, it is anticipated that umpires will be available for all matches during the coming season.

Mr. Philip F. Park, who became hon. secretary of the Umpires' Association this season, and is carrying on the tradition set by his predecessors, reported that the accident fund was in a very healthy state, with a substantial balance in hand with which to begin the New Year.

## GIRLS' HOCKEY

### Changes in Lancashire League

The Lancashire Central Women's Hockey League will resume activities to-morrow when 24 teams will be engaged. The programme has been modified, but several additional competitions will compensate. An extra division has been formed, comprising Accrington G.S.O.G., Blackburn Technical College, Clitheroe R.G.S.O.G., Darwen, Haslingden O.S. and Nelson S.S.O.G.

Two knock-out competitions will be inaugurated. The senior, for Mrs. A. R. Grant's shield, will have as competitors the clubs in both sections of Division I., and Divisions II. and III. will compete for the Umpire's Shield.

So many players are occupied on work of National Defence that changes are inevitable. Blackburn Technical College, Darwen, and Preston St. Cuthbert's will run only one team, and Leyland Motors will have only two.

Lancashire Insurance Committee and Lancashire County Offices have merged. Kerr's, the champions, have lost their secretary and right full back, M. Pember-ton, who has joined the W.T.A. P. Bale and M. C. Popper ~~may~~ miss many games owing to the travelling difficulties. Kerr's, however, have recruited M. E. Helm, E. Raw, and D. Jones.

Leyland Motors will be without D. Iddon, A. Roberts, and D. Male. D. Smith returns to goal for Balshaw's G.S.O.G. "A" after two seasons' absence. J. Iddon will replace N. Iddon, who has left the district.

# Soccer Match at Headingley

## Women Stars of the Dribbling Code

"In visiting centres where crowds have been used to the best type of football, our great difficulty has invariably been to break down the prejudice which exists against women exponents of the Soccer game. More often than not, the spectators came to scoff; but they have gone away from our matches marvelling at the skill of the players."

So says Mr. A. Frankland, founder and manager-secretary of Dick Kerr's Ladies F.C. (nowadays known as the Preston Ladies' team), who are to play Bolton Athletic Ladies, on the Leeds Rugby League Club ground, Headingley, on Saturday, November 25 (kick-off 2.30 p.m.).

Mr. Frankland also says that when they last played in Scotland, two men who had worn their country's jersey also paid tribute to the excellent display of the Preston women.

women.

The teams for the match at Headingley are:—

Preston Ladies.—B. Cunliffe; M. Thornborough, M. Helme; E. Cox, I. Phillips, S. Briggs; J. Whalley, E. Hindley, N. Thompson, H. Parkinson, L. Parr.

Bolton Ladies.—N. Wood; I. Robey, J. Stott; E. Porter, L. Davies, E. Jones; K. Finnerty, M. Shipperbottom, N. Halstead, M. Wilkinson, M. Tatlock.

### Versatile Performers

There are several notable personalities in these teams. Irene Phillips is well known in Northern women's athletics as a champion discus thrower and runner; while Nellie Halstead is the 800 metres A.A.A. champion, and has set up various British records on the track. May Helme has gained county honours at hockey. Margaret Thornborough is a sister of Eli Thornborough, formerly associated with Bolton Wanderers and Preston North End.

It is a point of interest, in view of the fact that the match is in aid of Leeds General Infirmary, that four members of the Preston team are nurses by profession—Lilly Parr, Nancy Thompson, Margaret Thornborough and Joan Whalley.

Match arrangements are in the hands of a committee of men well known in Leeds sports and business circles, and tickets are on sale in various parts of the city. Prices of admission are: Admission to ground, 1s.; to ground and enclosure, 1s. 6d.; including north stand, 2s.; schoolboy tickets to ground, 6d.

\* Note – In the Bolton team is **Nellie Halstead** an Olympic medallist, holder of a number of British records over the sprint distances and twice National Cross Country Champion. She was a bit more distinguished than the report suggests in her athletics and ran for Bury and Radcliffe and **Mary Tatlock**, from Little Lever in Bolton, who played in the Bolton Ladies Hockey League, Manchester Ladies Hockey League and was an international, playing for both the England Hockey teams, E.L.H.L.A. and the A.E.W.H.A. perhaps the only women hockey player to play for both international teams. She played in goal at hockey but outfield in football.

Also Margaret Thornborough is also mentioned. She also played for Lancashire Central League.

Lancashire Evening Post, Wednesday April 21, 1954 p2

**LANCASHIRE WOMEN'S HOCKEY**

## ALL TROPHIES CAPTURED IN SEASON WITHOUT DEFEAT

THE Lancashire Central Women's Hockey League, which is undefeated this season, won the Carey trophy at Bolton on Easter Monday, and has now captured all the Women's Hockey Association trophies this season.

All the women's hockey leagues affiliated to the English Women's Hockey Association entered "A" and "B" teams for the Carey trophy. Lancashire Central "A" and "B" headed their respective sections, drew 0-0 in the final, and will hold the trophy jointly for 12 months.

The players who took part in these matches were:

Lancashire Central "A": M. Holmes, J. Taylor, Z. Norris, E. Blackledge, P. Seed, M. Hosker, H. Boyce (captain), M. Beesley, E. Higham, A. Hunter, C. Bamber.

Lancashire Central "B": L. Fromel, P. Crook, A. Newsham, M. Reece, P. Mavor, A. Kilshaw, M. Watson, B. Jones, M. Maxwell, J. Arden, K. Skermer (captain).

### RESULTS

Section "A": Lancashire Central 1, North Cheshire 0; Lancashire Central 1, Oldham 0; Lancashire Central 2, Rochdale 1; Lancashire Central 2, Stockport 1; Lancashire Central 2, Liverpool 0; Lancashire Central 1, Bolton 0.

Section "B": Lancashire Central 1, Bolton 0.

Scorers: E. Higham (4), C. Bamber (3), J. Taylor (2), A. Hunter (1), M. Beesley (1), M. Holmes (1), Z. Norris (1), P. Seed (1), M. Hosker (1), H. Boyce (1), M. Watson (1), B. Jones (1), M. Maxwell (1), J. Arden (1), K. Skermer (1).

### Thrilling rally by Barrow

Barrow gained a thrilling 4-3 home win over Accrington last evening. It looked bad for Barrow (writes Centre Half), when with the game 10 minutes old Accrington were leading by two goals, both by Cocker, but within seven minutes they had equalised through Collins and Gordon.

Gordon put Barrow in front in the 29th minute, but five minutes later Bryden replied for Accrington to level the score.

Five minutes after the resumption Gordon scored what proved to be the winner for Barrow, but it owed much to McLaren, the cleverest forward on the field.

Barrow's attack was particularly good, with the new inside formation of McLaren-Armstrong-Gordon shaping effectively.

Accrington had a bright attack but their defence was suspect.

(Continued from previous column).  
Parkinson, a stylish bat and

Gordon scored what proved to be the winner for Barrow, but it was owed much to McLaren, the cleverest forward on the field. Barrow's attack was particularly good, with the new inside formation of McLaren-Armstrong-Gordon shaping effectively. Accrington had a bright attack but their defence was suspect.

(Continued from previous column). Parkinson, a stylish bat and possibly E. Quigley, the Rovers footballer.

Two Burnley footballers, T. Cummings and R. Stephenson, may turn out with Padham, who have most of last year's players available.

Barnoldswick have with regret parted with W. Brown, a sound opening batsman, who has transferred to Earby, and H. Robinson, opening left-arm bowler, who returns to Settle.

In their places, Barnoldswick will have K. Parrington, a leading Colne batsman, and R. Parkinson and L. Cook, fast-medium bowlers, to help professional G. Warren.

Neighbouring Earby expect to be stronger than last season, despite the departure for Skipton of C. Reid, and of J. Taylor, now in the Bradford area. A policeman, G. Havel, will lead the attack, and the batting is improved by the presence of W. Brown and C. Parker, a schoolmaster.

Skipton are out for honours, strengthened by half a dozen experienced men from other leagues.

Lancashire Central "B": L. Fromel, P. Crook, A. Newsham, M. Reece, P. Mavor, A. Kilshaw, M. Watson, B. Jones, M. Maxwell, J. Arden, K. Skermer (captain).

**RESULTS**

Section "A": Lancashire Central  
 1. North Cheshire 0: Lancashire Central 1. Oldham 0: Lancashire Central 2. Rochdale 1: Lancashire Central 2. Stockport 1: Lancashire Central 2. Liverpool 0: Lancashire Central 1. Bolton 0.  
 Scorers: E. Higham (4), C. Bamber (2), H. Boyce (2), A. Hunter (1).  
 Section "B": Lancashire Central  
 1. North Cheshire 1: Lancashire Central 3. Oldham 0: Lancashire Central 2. Rochdale 0: Lancashire Central 1. Bolton 1: Lancashire Central 2. Stockport 1: Lancashire Central 0. Liverpool 0.  
 Scorers: B. Jones (4), M. Maxwell (2), J. Arden (3).

**FINAL TABLES**

**SECTION "A"**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lancs. Cent...	6	6	0	0	9	2	12
Stockport ...	6	2	3	1	6	3	7
Bolton ...	6	2	3	1	7	4	7
Liverpool ...	6	2	3	1	3	3	7
Rochdale ...	6	2	2	2	11	4	6
N. Cheshire	6	0	2	4	0	13	2
Oldham	6	0	1	5	0	7	1

**SECTION "B"**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lancs. Cent.	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Liverpool ..	6	3	3	0	7	1	9
Stockport ..	6	2	2	2	5	3	7
Rochdale ...	6	2	1	3	10	5	5
N. Cheshire ..	6	1	2	3	5	6	4
Oldham ..	6	0	1	5	0	20	1

Leyland Motors beat Liverpool Olympic at Bolton last Saturday by 5-1.



February 1951  
 Lancashire Central League XI who were beaten by Stockport at Leyland  
 Front row; (l to r); B. Topping, M. Grime, E. Blackledge (cap), E. Higham, M. Boyes,  
 Back row; A. Hunter, W. Bretherton, J. Taylor, M. Helme, D. Southworth, M. Beesley

Lancashire Central League XI 1951 including M. Helme.

(From Lancashire Central Women's Hockey Association 1930 – 2010 booklet)



Preston  
March 1952  
Lost to Darwen in English Cup at Leyland Motors

Preston team March 1952 – (with I think May Helme back row fourth from the left)  
(From Lancashire Central Women's Hockey Association 1930 – 2010 booklet)

### Garstang Ladies Hockey Club - History

Garstang Ladies Hockey Club was formed in 1958 and is believed to be one of the longest running clubs in Central Lancashire. The original playing kit was white shirts, navy blue skirts and white stockings. Annual subscriptions were £ 1 and 5 shillings for over 21s; 15 shillings for over 18's and 10 shillings for U18s. The team played on grass at Garstang Cricket Club, which cost £10/season to rent and were responsible for marking out and maintaining the pitches.

1969 was a very successful season for the club, with the 1st XI winning the Glaxo Tournament at Ulverston, the Bury Tournament, Caley Trophy, Lancashire Club Tournament, Lishman Cup, Grant Shield and the Division 1 Championship. 106 goals were scored with only 15 against. A 2<sup>nd</sup> XI was also entered into the league.

There were many organised fundraising activities, including the annual jumble sale / raffle / sports day and sponsored cricket match / sale of newspaper.

In 1972 the club changed to an all red kit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were asked to dye their white shirts red and 20lbs of Bri-nylon wool was bought from the market for one of the players to knit red sweaters and everyone would sew their own up!

Unfortunately in 1994 the club had to leave its roots in search of an Astroturf pitch; despite extensive discussions to this day one still hasn't materialised in Garstang! The Club played at Stanley Park then Penwortham Leisure Centre, before settling at Preston Sports Arena, which has been its base since 2000.

In 1999 the 1st XI finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Premier league and the 2XI were successful in promotion to Division 2. This was followed by Lishman Cup glory in 2000 - an honour which the Club had not achieved for over 30 years.

In 2007 the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI secured promotion to Division 1; and in 2008, the 1st XI secured promotion to the Premier Division. The Club has gone from strength to strength, attracting new players all the time. As a result of this, a 3<sup>rd</sup> XI was entered in the league for the first time in the Club's history. This coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club, which was celebrated in June 2008 with a celebratory match on grass at Garstang Cricket Club between current and former players followed by a BBQ.

Lyndsey Cookson

Club Secretary

### A History of Garstang Hockey Club

(From Lancashire Central Women's Hockey Association 1930 – 2010 booklet)

However, this may have been after May had finished playing says the club was formed in 1958