

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN'S RUGBY

Using the cuttings from newspapers and magazines about women's rugby, what can you learn about the position of women in society?

Sporting  
Heritage

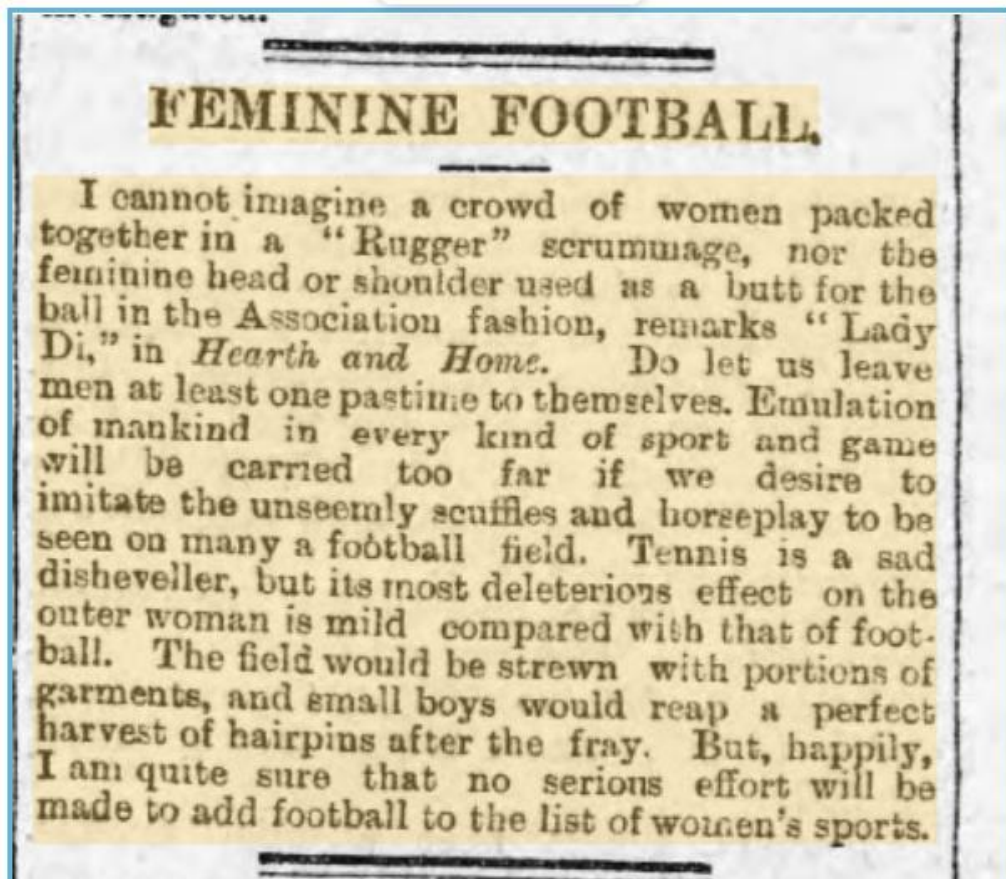
education

Primary Resources



England  
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WORLD  
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Where does the source come from? Who is the author?

What is the source telling us?

Is it reliable? Is there bias?

How useful is the source in telling us about women's position in society at the time?

What are the source's limitations?

What's the most important thing we can learn from this source?

**IN AID OF WAR CHARITIES  
MOVEMENT.**

A Ladies' Rugby Football Match took place at Jenner Park, Barry, on Saturday last, between two teams of Newport Muniton Workers.

Captain Hedley Graham, R.E., who was home on leave from the Front in France, kicked off before about 4,000 spectators.

The game, which took place under the auspices of the Barry War Charities Committee, was a very good one, and the teams showed quite a creditable knowledge of the game. The tackling was sound throughout, and there were several pretty bouts of passing. There were quite a bevy of casualties during the afternoon, but fortunately none of a serious nature. Although both teams came within an ace of scoring, when the final whistle blew nothing had been registered.

During the afternoon selections were rendered by the Barry Red Cross Band, and local Boy Scouts and Girl Guides paraded the field in support of the town endeavour to raise £100,000 for a submarine, a week's movement which consummated before the day was over in the splendid "top-hole" of £120,000 being reached.

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### RUGBY FOOTBALL.

THERE was little enough important football last Saturday, among the chief results being the Public Schools Services' win at Richmond by 26—3 over London Hospital; Newport's 22 points to nil against Cardiff, a feat emulated by Newport Ladies scoring 22 points against Cardiff Ladies; and the defeat of the Australian Headquarters team at Norbury by the New Zealanders from Hornchurch, 8—0. There is little likelihood, happily, of Ladies Rugby football ever becoming popular. Indeed, it is a most unedifying spectacle, calculated only to lower the prestige of the game. In the 'eighties there was a "Ladies" Rugby team that used to go on tour, but it was a ghastly sight, and it is a pity anyone has thought of anything like a repetition. The frailer sex has come to stay in many spheres of life, but certainly not on the Rugby football field.

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*Rugby News*, July 1990, page 21

Context: Carol Isherwood was the first captain of a Great Britain women's rugby team in 1986 and a year later became captain of England.

## **An open letter to Miss Carol Isherwood**

(promoter of Women's  
Rugby)

Please can you explain why such an attractive lady as yourself wishes to spoil her good looks in pursuing the cause of women's rugby.

Surely you do not wish to end up with a face resembling, for instance, the one belonging to the England coach, Roger Uttley.

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