

**The contribution Madame's former students made to the development of netball,
in schools, colleges and factories**

Madame's Reports, during the 1890s, record that several old students introduced basket-ball to the schools where they were teaching in the mid 1890s.

In 1895, her report recorded that Meta Howie (1895) was teaching basket-ball at Hamilton House, Tunbridge Wells. The 1901 census recorded she was still teaching at the school so she may well have continued to encourage the sport.

Annie Hardy (1894) had started the game at about the same time at St Katharines School, the prep school of St Leonards, in St Andrews, Annie submitted the following to Madame, for her report in 1896-98:

MISS A. HARDY, St. Katherine's School, St. Andrews, writes :
"This is a large school of eighty children, besides the kindergarten, with which I have nothing to do. We have happily a great deal of playground ; the elder girls play lacrosse, and the younger ones basket-ball. The children have plenty of outdoor exercise. © The Österberg Collection

Elsie Impey (1897) sent this account of her work to Madame which was published in the 1896-98 Report. Elsie mentioned successfully acquiring a suitable space in order to introduce the game to factory girls to help them keep warm, enlisting the help of some local boys in the process. (Ethel Kershaw was an exact contemporary of Elsie's at Dartford.)

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This term I have begun work in the Girls' High School, Walsall, but by far the most exciting class I have, is composed of about twenty of Birmingham's very roughest factory girls. I am glad to say that gymnastics and discipline are improving. I am teaching the girls at my father's works to play basket-ball. When I went down during their dinner hour, I used to find them shivering over the fire, so it struck me that basket-ball was the very thing to improve their circulation. There is a large field just outside the works, given over to football, and with sufficient space for three games to go on together. I thought it only fair that the girls should have one space, so I asked for it and got it. While Miss Kershaw was spending her half-term holiday here, we gave them their first lesson. Our efforts were vain until we asked some of the boys, who stood round, looking on with interest and giving advice gratis in a very superior way, to join us. They at once entered into the spirit of the game, and the girls soon picked it up. Since then, we have been getting on capitally, without the aid of boys ; if we were only a little nearer we should soon be thinking of challenging the College."

Elsie Impey's father, Frederick Impey, was Managing Director of a printing works called *White and Pike*, originally in Moor Street, Birmingham. It moved to Longbridge in 1894. The firm were developing a process of printing, in colour, on tin.

Elsie's efforts to interest factory girls in basket-ball must have been one of the earliest attempts to do so.

Hanna Flyborg, from Sweden and one of Madame's own students, probably attended Ester Porter's sessions at Dartford. She sailed to Baltimore immediately after completing her training in 1897. Hannah worked as an instructress at the Women's College of Baltimore, founded in 1885. (Later known as Goucher College.) Madame included a long report from Hanna in her 1896-98 Report. A small extract is included here:

As regards games, hockey and golf were introduced and greeted with enthusiasm. Basket-ball has been played at the College for several years, and I think there is nothing they enjoy more than this game, which they play really well.

The students there had already been introduced to basketball two years before Hanna's arrival and she helped to coach and umpire the game at the college. Hanna also taught Swedish gymnastics and introduced hockey four years before Miss Constance Applebee taught the game at a summer school at Harvard.

In 1898 Hanna was invited to join Madame's staff and she may well have taught students basketball on her return to college.

Ethel Stevenson (1892) commented in Madame's 1896-98 Report that her Headmistress at Highbury School, in London, took a great interest in games and so she had been able to introduce basket-ball. (This was an early G.P.D.S.Co. school and it is possible that the Headmistress was a Miss Mary A.A. Minasi.) It is interesting to note that Ethel was one of Madame's students who had not played basket ball at college but had still chosen to teach the game in a girls' school.

Winifred Simmons (1893) was appointed to the Skinner's School for Girls in Stamford Hill, London when she left college. Madame's report indicated she had started basket-ball at the large games club founded at Skinner's School.

Florence Sophie Simpson (1896) had introduced basket-ball at The Mount School, York, before she left the school in 1898 to undertake home duties.

Elsie Feesev (1897) taught at St Margaret's, Folkestone. They had adopted an enthusiastic approach to physical activity at an early stage and it is worth noting that basketball had been introduced by old students. It was a school run by the mother of one of Madame's future students, Bertha De la Mare (1901).



Hanna Flyborg
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MISS E. J. FEESEV, 16, Clifton Crescent, Folkestone, works in a private school. It is good to hear that her head-mistress is a staunch supporter of Ling's System, and that the girls have twenty minutes' drill every day. The weekly gymnastic classes are held at a German gymnasium, close to the school. There is plenty of room for hockey, basket-ball, tennis, and cricket in the school field. Basket-ball is quite the most popular game, as in many of the schools, where it has been introduced by old students. Miss Feesev reports a case of spinal curvature pronounced quite cured by the doctor after five weeks of daily treatment.

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The Ling Association

Ida M. Webb's research for *Women's Physical Education in Great Britain 1800-1965*, her M.Ed. thesis for the University of Leicester in 1967, revealed:

By 1904, the (Ling) Association was conducting its own examination and issuing a Diploma in Physical Training. This continued until 1931. All holders became eligible for membership of the Association, widening of conditions for membership of the Association. The Association was founded by women and run by them for many years, although men trained in Sweden in the early days, could apply for membership.

Members of the Ling Association played a pivotal role in the development of netball and it is important to understand how the organisation was created.

In January 1899 Mary Hankinson (1898) and thirty of Madame's old students met to form the *Swedish Physical Educationalists*. It was intended to be an association exclusively for *trained teachers of gymnastics*, with Madame Bergman Österberg as the President and figurehead. It is important to be aware that one influential member, Ethel Adair Roberts (1898) was, by then, a member of staff at Rhoda Anstey's college.

Unfortunately, Madame was out of the country at the time of this meeting and, on her return irate at the actions of her old students, sent a letter to the Secretary expressing her disapproval, calling the proposed name *ridiculous and absurd*. Madame indicated she could only become involved if the name was changed. This difficulty was not resolved and, undeterred, this group of her old students, carried on, naming their organisation the Ling Association.

Ida M. Webb recorded the names of the first Office Bearers and Committee members of this new association in *Women's Physical Education in Great Britain 1800-1965*. With the exception of Margaret Stansfeld who had taught at Hampstead with Madame for a short time, they had all trained at Hampstead or Dartford.

The Officers were: Vice President, Emily Baker, Hon. Treasurer, Margaret Hankinson, and Hon. Secretary Margaret Lucas. The Committee members were: Rhoda Anstey, by then running her own college of physical training, Theodora Johnson, Mrs Matthews (Marion Walpole), Ethel Petty, Vida Sturge, Constance Thomas, Evelyn Spence Watson and Hannah Williamson. Emily Baker and Hannah Williamson had been members of Madame's staff just a year or so earlier.

In 1900, Madame founded her own, similar organisation known as The Bergman Österberg Union of Trained Gymnastic Teachers. She refused to co-operate with the Ling Association, in any way, for the rest of her life.

The make up of the first committee of the Ling Association could suggest a rather insular group. This was not the case. The Ling Association appears to have been supported by the more independent thinkers. For example, a number of Old Students, including Hannah Williamson, Evelyn Spence Watson, Vida Sturge and Ethel Adair Roberts, had been influenced by the Society of Friends at some stage in their lives, all supported the Ling Association. Quakers had progressive views of the role of women in society and so played an important part in early established organisations involved with women's rights.

The Ling Association moved forward quickly and embraced a much wider group of Swedish gymnastics teachers extending their membership to include those trained not just by Madame Bergman Österberg. Their members embraced new ideas by working with those trained at the new and emerging colleges such as Anstey, Bedford and Dunfermline. These old students may have been working for Local Authorities, in state schools, in Higher Education, or overseas, rather than in prestigious girls' schools. The Ling Association members were looking ahead with their progressive ideas of registration, inspections, holiday courses and meetings which embraced what would now be thought of as personal development.

Madame's former students, who taught in the well known girls' boarding schools which emphasised the benefits of games, are conspicuously absent from these lists. Maybe the Headmistresses of these schools wished to make sure Madame would continue to send them her best students to join their staff. Miss Schermanson, trained in Stockholm and appointed in 1891 to be responsible for gymnastics at St Leonards, did join the Ling Association, whereas her colleagues who had trained at Dartford did not.

The Ling Association was well supported by Madame's students who left college 1897 and 1898 and so they had experienced the birth of netball at Dartford. Their vision to develop a standard set of rules for netball, which could be used by all schools and groups wishing to play, was far reaching. Mary Hankinson and Ethel Adair Roberts were very involved in this work. The Ling Netball Association Sub-Committee was put in place to achieve this. In 1901 the rules were published and rule books circulated. It was the Ling Association members who were firmly in the driving seat in the *roll out* of netball to schools and colleges.

The influence of the Ling Association on the growth of the game of Net-Ball

The Secretary of the Ling Association of Gymnastic Teachers, Mary Hankinson (1898), became a significant figure as the game of net-ball evolved. She had presented a paper on 18th June 1909 at the Annual Meeting of the Net-Ball Association of the London Girls' Public Secondary Schools, which was held at Roan School for Girls in Greenwich. (The Headmistress, Miss Mary Spaulding Walker, one of the founding members of the London Inter-Schools Net-Ball Association.)

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Photograph from Ethel Adair Robert's album



M. Hankinson

Mary set out the way net-ball had developed since her own 1898 set had left Madame's college. The paper was published in *The Journal of Scientific Physical Training Vol II No 5 Spring 1910*, a magazine started and edited by Ethel Adair Roberts. This gave Mary's talk a much wider audience.

In 1900 Ethel Adair Roberts (1898) was a member of the Ling Association's first sub-committee to determine the rules of the new game. They were accepted and published in 1901. Mary substantiated Ethel's claim that her father, Mr Adair Roberts, had suggested attaching a net to the rings on the netball posts to help the umpires determine whether or not a goal had been scored. At this stage the name of the game changed to Net Ball.

The details from this report are included as she outlined how the game developed after the girls in the 1898 set at Madame's college explored ways to add the game to the curriculum in schools. It provided the background to the way schools embraced the game, particularly in the GPDS Co schools.

Mary Hankinson outlined how the net-ball rules became standardised:

It will easily be seen that as the students from the College finished their training, and became gymnastic and game mistresses in schools, the need for some uniform rules became more and more apparent, especially as occasional matches began to be arranged between different schools, particularly in London. But it was no easy matter to settle under what rules the matches should be played, and quite elaborate arrangements had to be made before each match could begin. Several of those graduates of 1898 who were interested in the game, and saw a future before it if it could only be organised on right lines, decided that the time had come to revise the rules and publish them, and try to get them adopted as the regulation ones in this country. The Ling Association had been founded in 1899, and it seemed fitting that it should take the responsibility, so a sub-committee was appointed to draw up a set of rules; these were accepted and published in 1901. Many changes were made, the latest American rules were sent for, but there were many things in them which were not liked, and which it was thought could be improved upon. One thing specially objected to was the method of scoring *points* instead of goals—one point if the goal was shot from the first division or if from a free throw, two points if shot from the centre

It is significant that Mary Hankinson explained:

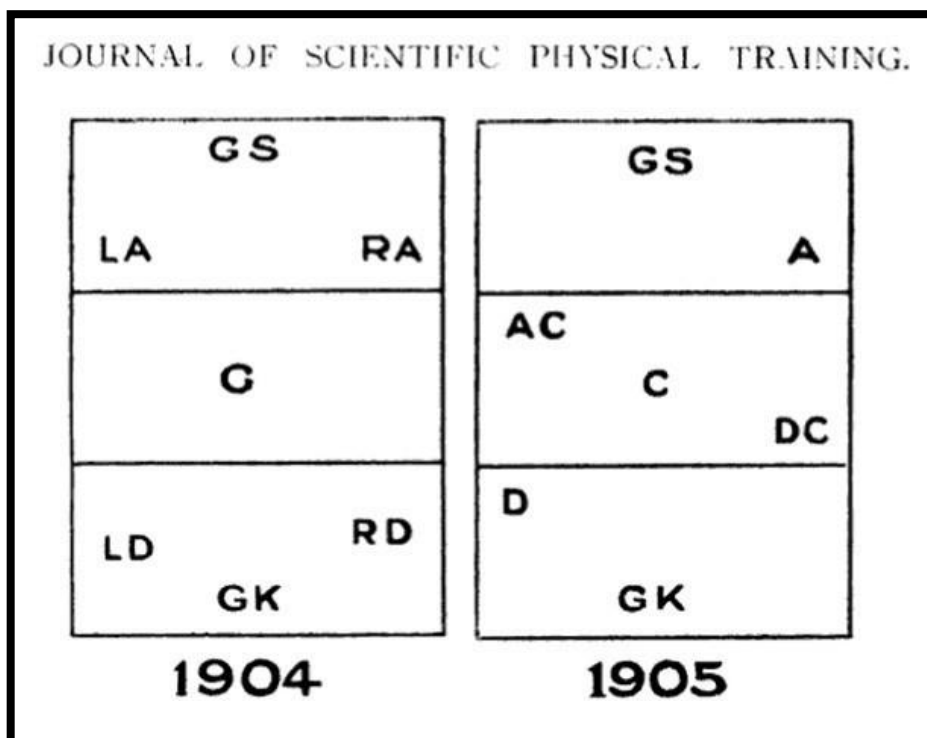
As we had made so many changes from the American rules, and as we had given up the baskets for nets and rings, we called the game Net Ball.

It is clear that the Ling Association had taken on the responsibility for standardising the rules. However, that meant the rules of the new game were being drawn up by members of an association who had all received training at one of the *accepted* colleges of physical training. They inevitably shared similar experiences, held the same views and may not have had much, if any, exposure to schools in deprived areas. This eventually changed as more people from a variety of schools and then clubs became involved in the game of netball.

Mary Hankinson's article contained considerable detail about rules and reasons for the changes made from time to time. For example, she said originally players could hold the ball for five seconds but this was changed to three seconds in 1904.

It was not universally popular as the Girls' Public Day School Trust Games Association made a special bye law to accept the Ling Association rules with the exception of the three second rule. Later they agreed to play by the more universal rules.

The chart below explained how the distribution of players was changed in 1905. The number of players, in the shooting/defending third, was reduced from three to two per side. This was to prevent overcrowding in the circle.



The game was becoming more widely played. Mary Hankinson mentioned that in 1901 the Ling Association published 250 rule books. Next came a print run of 1000, increasing until they reached 2,500. She said they were supplied to many companies making games equipment including Spalding's and Gamages. The first rule books were distributed to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and to a few schools in France and South Africa.

The Ling Association did consult with teachers about changes to the rules and they also had aspirations for the future of their game. Mary Hankinson outlined her ideas. She hoped Net Ball would become like the AEWHA, with guidance coming from what we would now call a national governing body.

Ling Net Ball Rules. We shall meet again in the autumn, and shall then decide on the rules to be adopted for the coming session. I think that slowly and surely we shall get the game played in a simplified but more scientific way." The Net Ball Committee always welcomes any suggestions for addition to, or improvement of the rules, or for the better wording of the existing rules. Some day we may have an All England Association for controlling the game, as is the case in Hockey; in the meantime the Ling Association Committee, with the delegates from the two Associations (G. P. D. S. Games Association and G. P. Secondary Schools) will do its utmost to keep the game on a sound basis, and to give careful consideration to all suggestions sent in.

The final sentence, in the text above, makes it clear that the Girls' Public Day School Games Association was a separate group from the G.P Secondary School. This latter group, who Mary Hankinson addressed at their AGM at the Roan Girls' Secondary School in Greenwich were presumably known more formally as the Net Ball Association of the London Girls' Public Secondary Schools. (In 1909 it was likely that the definition of a Public Secondary School was that it had a Governing Body, rather than being a privately run establishment.)

School Basket Ball/Net Ball

Mary Hankinson's article explained how the game progressed between 1901 and 1909.

One of the first girls' schools to show an interest in the new game of basket-ball was The North London Collegiate School. They did not have a link with Madame's college, but they began to play in 1889. A school magazine available on line, suggests a tenuous link with an Old North Londoner, Gertrude Longbotham, who was awarded a scholarship to work at Bryn Mawr College, in Pennsylvania. Gertrude wrote a letter, which was published in the April 1898 edition of the school magazine. It included a description of basket-ball as played at Bryn Mawr College:

The game here is basket-ball, played by 2 opposing teams on a ground with a goal basket at each end, mounted on a pole 8 foot high. The ball, which is about the size of a football, is thrown from one to another... I have seen it played two or three times, and do not care for it at all, as it seems very rough.

In the same edition of the magazine, the Games Club Committee invited suggestions for a new game to be played in the gymnasium. By March 1899, *The North London Collegiate School Magazine*, under the heading Games Club recorded:

The game of Basket-ball, which is very popular in some parts of America, but which has not yet found much favour in England, has been introduced this term.

By July 1901 the game had *attained popularity* and there was a hope that teams would be organised and matches played against other schools. By December that vision had been realised and matches were played against Skinners' School, Stamford Hill. The names of the positions were listed as throwers (2) centres (3) and defenders (3).

In March 1902, a reference to the Autumn Term 1901, indicated basket-ball was being played very vigorously and matches had been held against North Lodge and Stamford Hill Senior and Junior teams. Winifred Simmons (Hampstead 1893) who had taught at Skinners', Stamford Hill had left to marry by 1900.

In February 1902 The North London Collegiate School played a basket-ball game against Coburn School. There could be a possible link here with Ethel Stevenson (Hampstead 1892). In Madame's report 1898, Ethel indicated she taught gymnastics at Coburn School but they were to move to new and larger premises in the autumn, where there would be more space. However, Ethel was not so interested in games. (A letter, from Ethel's father addressed to Madame, held in The Österberg Collection explained Ethel wished to leave St Leonards after only two terms in 1892, because she wished to teach gymnastics, At St Leonards she had responsibility for games but not for gymnastics.)

Sophie Nicholls, the step niece of the Headmistress, Sara Bryant, wrote in *Reminiscences of the school in its Early Year*:

The starting of netball was thrilling, as it was nearly unknown in England. We obtained a booklet of instructions from America, and started the game in Lower Va. The goals were paper-baskets on top of the jumping poles. Our form was much chaffed and criticized over this 'fool-ball' game, but, nothing daunted, we carried on. The game became popular throughout the school, so we searched for a school to challenge. Though we had never seen the game played, we challenged the Skinners' School. After a consultation between the umpires the match was played and our team did creditably. Inter-form matches were soon in full swing.

In 1902 our school had the audacity to challenge the Gymnastic College of Madame Osterberg. The team and umpire went by train to Dartford. The match, which was watched by an interested audience, was a draw. Madame Osterberg treated us royally, the team had shower baths, and after refreshments and a tour round the grounds, we were sent off with bouquets of flowers and cheers.

© The North London Collegiate School

An account of the visit to Madame Bergman Österberg's College written by Muriel Nicholls, the basket-ball captain, was published in *The North London Collegiate Magazine* in 1902. Muriel's article recorded that the game was played out of doors and the final score was 15 all. Muriel stated that all the players received a bunch of bluebells as they departed.

Wimbledon High School was another London girls' school which started basket- ball in 1899-1900 but they did have a little assistance from college.

Their school magazine published in April 1900 recorded:

At the beginning of last summer three ladies from Mdme Bergman Österberg's Physical Training College at Dartford Heath, came to teach us Basket-Ball. It was enthusiastically taken up by all.

There is an indication that schools assisted each other. In the school magazine published in March 1902 a Basket Ball Club report indicated that Wimbledon challenged Maida Vale to a match in the summer term 1901 but:

The latter invited them to give them a demonstration instead, as they had only just begun to play and were unsure of the rules. Girls from both teams therefore accepted an invitation to a friendly game.

Miss Hastings, the Headmistress of Wimbledon High School, delivered a report about the successes of her school at the *Annual Meeting* in December 1902. It was published in the 1903 school magazine. She said:

A very spirited and numerous Club are now devoted to Basket Ball (or Net Ball); and the London Schools have begun to play this game against one another, the age of players being limited to 14.

The magazine also mentioned that during the Summer Term 1901 a match was played against Sutton and in September that year a game against Maida Vale. The publication recorded that Mr Felix Clay, a Member of Council of the GPDS Co:

has presented a Basket-Ball Cup to be competed for by teams under 14 from the various schools of the GPDS Co.

Wimbledon H.S. played Highbury High School in this competition but were defeated. (Highbury High School were the eventual winners.) The Under 16 team played Sydenham. This gives a clear indication that more schools were joining in and starting to play matches against one another. Some competitions were becoming age specific.

In 1905 the Wimbledon High School magazine recorded that netball was being played in 1904 by the following schools in the GPDS Co league: Streatham Hill, Dulwich, Kensington, Notting Hill, Sutton, Croydon, Clapham. Juniors were playing matches against Blackheath, Maida Vale, South Hampstead

Also in 1905 the name of the game played at Wimbledon High School changed to Net Ball. One fixture that year worth noting is that the Wimbledon team played Chelsea Polytechnic. By then East Putney, Blackheath, Maida Vale and Highbury, had been added to the league for the junior teams, Highbury winning the competition in 1905.

In 1906 St Paul's Girls School joined in and played netball against Wimbledon High School. In 1909 Wimbledon High School were proud winners of the London and Suburban Schools' Games Association Junior Netball Cup. The magazine that year reported:

Great was the rejoicing when the Junior Team bore home in triumph the Cup which we had striven in vain to win for seven years.

In a review of sport at the school from 1894–1904 *The Wimbledon High School Magazine* stated :

that the biggest revolution that took place in the school was the appointment of a Dartford physically trained mistress, Miss Mullings.

Caroline Gwendoline Mullings left college in 1904 and remained on the staff at Wimbledon until 1912. She then went to South Africa and spent the rest of her career working there.

Notting Hill and Ealing Magazines recorded the start of netball in their school magazine dated March 1906. This became possible by the reorganisation of some gardens.

The garden of No. 152, Holland Park Avenue has been combined with that of 52, Norland Square, to form a gravelled playground, extensive enough to permit of the practice of net ball.

We were defeated in the first round for the Net Ball Challenge Cup by Clapham. Our Junior Team were defeated by Streatham in their Cup Match.

By 1907 it was possible to record that the standard was improving.

Florence Gadesden, Headmistress of Blackheath High School, was instrumental in creating a Games Association for the London schools. Kathleen McCrone in *Playing the Game* said Florence Gadesden set up leagues for 15 schools for tennis, 15 for hockey and 12 for netball, from 1904. The netball league may have been made up of schools listed on this page.

The Central Newcastle High School began to play basket ball in about 1906. Inter-form matches featured but comments suggested that the girls did not practise sufficiently. The game did progress and in 1916 the fixture list included Bede Collegiate, Rutherford College, Newcastle High School and Sunderland High School. The season 1918-1919 was described as disappointing as the school closed during the autumn term because of the influenza outbreak and in the spring term *numbers fell off* for the same reason.

Manchester High School were playing by the mid 1900s. Phyllis Spafford, a pupil, but later Principal of Bedford PTC, and very involved with the AEWNA was quoted in the Manchester High School Magazine in December 1907:

Basket ball is the most popular game with over 100 participants who are beginning to realise that there is a great deal of science in the game; that Basket Ball is not merely a fight for the ball where might is right.

House matches began at St Felix, Southwold in 1910. Miss Lucy Silcox, formerly Headmistress of the High School, Dulwich, had recently been appointed the Headmistress. Dulwich was a member of the GPDS Co netball league. Miss Bertha Steedman, the games mistress at Dulwich, joined her in Southwold and it seems reasonable to assume she introduced netball to St Felix. It was a supplementary game rather than a major one at St Felix. This does introduce the idea that, as Headmistresses and games staff moved from school to school, they influenced the games their girls played. Miss Steedman was a member of the Ling Association but was one of a very small number of their members listed as having received Private Training. (She may have been accepted by Ling as she was a talented tennis player. Between 1889 and 1899 she had won nine doubles titles at the All England Championships.)

In 1999, Kelvin John Street in his thesis *Female culture in physical training colleges 1885-1918* stated that the schools listed below were playing netball by 1911. His source was the *Girls' Public Schools Year Book 1911*. Some schools may well have started before this date. However, it gives an indication of the growing number of schools taking up the sport. The names, and year of graduation of the former Dartford students are included:

Tunbridge High School, where Adeline Brooke Smith 1911 was teaching, Wakefield High School, where Irene M. Cooke (1906) was teaching and Wycombe Abbey School where Hilda Ness Walker (1908) was working. Other schools mentioned were the Royal School, Bath, Bedford Modern School, Bradford Girls Grammar School, Croydon High School, South Hampstead High School, Highbury High School, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and Rochester Grammar School for Girls.

Bedales School recorded in December 1914 that their girls were learning netball. Other schools began after World War I. Heathfield, one of the very early schools to play lacrosse, began to play netball matches in 1920. Clifton High School was playing by 1920 as a photograph, of their netball team in 1920-21, featured on a post card, was for sale on ebay. Another internet find was a photograph of girls attending the Barrett Street Trade School in London, (set up on the site of the redundant Henrietta Elementary School) playing netball on the roof of their building in 1928. It was safely covered over.

Works groups were also embracing the game. *The Bournville Works Magazines* 1907, 1908, 1910 reported netball games between men and girls. England Netball has a photograph of girls playing netball at Bourneville in 1910.

Some factories employed staff to teach the female workers drill and games. For example, the following Dartford old students undertook this work:

Millicent Procter (1899) at Rowntree's factory in York in 1902 and Brynhild Benson (1910) at Rowntree's in 1913. Rosalind Home (1910) was employed by Boots Cash Chemists, in Nottingham, in 1913 and Muriel Moir (1908) worked at Fry's Chocolate factory in Bristol, during World War I. Cicely M. Egles (1915) worked at Reckitt's Co. in Hull and Joyce E. Cobbald (1915) was employed by Cadbury's in Birmingham in 1918. It is not known if they introduced or encouraged netball but they may well have done so.

Rob Langham in *The North Eastern Railway in the First World War* suggested netball teams existed in the munitions factories during World War I but he provided no details or where or when.

Colman's Carrow Works Magazine Archive includes a mention of netball amongst a list of sports teams which existed between 1906 and 1912. This archive is linked to the Colman's mustard factory in Norwich.

Joyce Caley (1913) was the granddaughter of the founder of Caley's in Norwich. They sold chocolates, crackers and sparkling water, but there is no evidence that they provided recreational facilities for their workers.

Factories run by members of The Society of Friends, were particularly anxious to promote the health of their work forces and they provided excellent opportunities, facilities and encouragement for both men and women to play sports.

The Specialist Colleges of Physical Training/Education

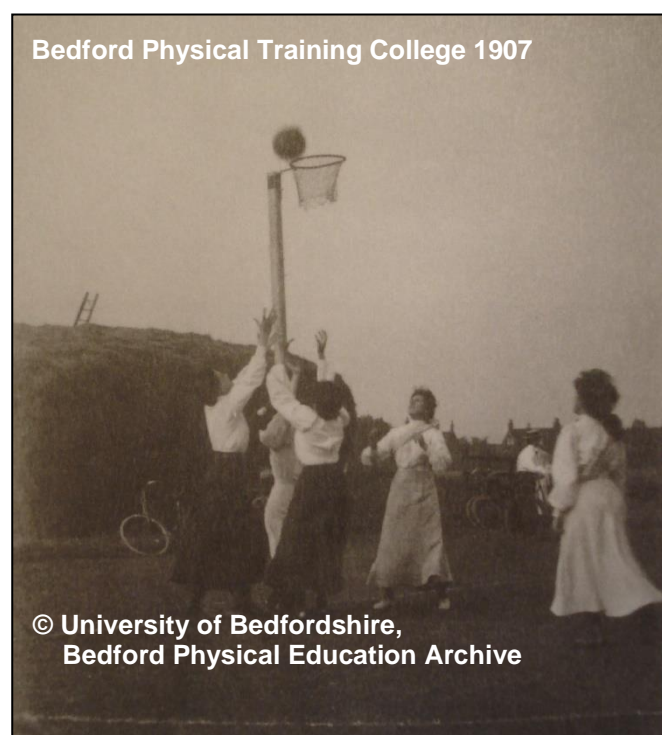
Dartford, Chelsea, Bedford and Dunfermline Colleges had all embraced netball by 1905 but Anstey, who had introduced the game in 1902, with the help of Ethel Adair Roberts, found it difficult to find fixtures. Colin Cruden in his book, *A History of Anstey College of Physical Education 1897-1972* wrote:

The netball teams, suffered from the fact that few local schools had taken up the game. For a number of years Bournville was the only outside team which the college met, but in 1909 Queen Mary's High School Walsall was added to the list and King Edward's Handsworth in 1916.

In 1908 the College Games Report recorded netball continues to be a popular college game *and* in 1910 included that a good many girls' schools are now playing netball with the prospect of more matches in the future.

A footnote, at the end of the chapter two of Colin Cruden's book, stated that the first recorded games Anstey students played against Bournville, which ran hockey, netball and cricket teams was in 1903.

Photographic evidence of basket-ball or netball being played at the colleges is scant but Bedford Physical Training College have photographs of netball matches being played in 1905 and in 1907..



An advertisement for Madame Bergman Österberg's College was inserted in *The Hockey Field* on 30th November 1905. It listed the games played as:

lawn tennis, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, basket-ball etc.

At the foot of the page the advertisement mentions *Madame Bergman Österberg's Union of Trained Gymnastics Teachers.*

The diary of Jean Milligan, written during her time at Madame's college, probably in her junior year, 1905-1906, does include a reference to basket-ball being played at that time. Informal competitions were organised between the students in A and B Studies. Jean mentioned, dancing, commanding, basket-ball and lacrosse. (The diary is held by the Scottish Country Dance Society in Edinburgh.)

Information about netball at Dartford, at this time, is difficult to find. When Cordelia Gellatly (1911) wrote to her former school, George Watson's College, Edinburgh, in her Senior year about her experience at college she made no mention of netball.

The photographs included in student's albums, such as the one kept by Katherine Rigold (1909—1911), photographs from the Helen Stewart Walker collection (1912-1914) and the Phyllis Mears' album (1911-1914) do not include any images of netball but cricket, hockey, lacrosse and gymnastics do feature strongly. The collection donated by Dorothy Davies (1909-1911) includes named team photographs but there are none of netball.

In the *Student Record Book*, Norah Strathairn (1912) by then the assistant games coach, (or perhaps someone else) wrote comments against the names of the girls who entered college in 1914 and were listed as *ready in 1916*. Their ability, or lack of, in hockey, lacrosse, cricket, tennis, dancing and swimming is noted, the school teams these girls played in were also listed but netball is not mentioned. This is surprising as the schools these students attended included: St Paul's, Blackheath High School and Newcastle High School. These schools are recorded starting the game by 1912. This was still during the era of Madame and so not linked in anyway to a change of leadership. Netball may have become a supplementary game at college. Perhaps played so students learned how to introduce and develop the game, in the schools where they went to work.

The inaugural *Bergman Österberg Union* magazine, published in 1917, made reference to a Games Club for Old Students and a netball match, played against Greycoat School, which the students lost 21-6. In 1910 Chelsea Physical Training College had not only a netball team but also a Past Students team. *The Hockey Field* recorded a match on 12th November which the Past Students won by 7 goals to 6. On 8th November Chelsea Physical Training College played the Old North Londoners' Athletic Club. Chelsea won by 11 goals to 8.

In 1901, rule books were distributed to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and to a few schools in France and South Africa

Information about the early development of netball in Scotland is limited. The Netball Scotland website states:

Netball Scotland, formerly the Scottish Netball Association, was founded in 1946. At this time most netball was played in the Glasgow and Lanarkshire area, but since this date, the game has spread throughout Scotland

Jean Milligan (1907) was enthusiastic about netball. In her autobiography, *Dance with your soul*, it was stated:

Dartford trained teachers in and around Glasgow formed a netball team which often played matches against teams of senior school pupils.

St Columba's, Kilmacolm played basket ball in 1909 and held fixtures with Beltrees School, Greenock. It is possible that Hamilton Academy may have been one of the schools who played netball in about 1912 with Jean Milligan.

Elinor Steel, in her thesis, *The historical and contemporary role of physical activity and sport for women: a study of netball in Scotland*, completed in 2000, made reference to the role Ethel Impey (sic) had in the introduction of the game at Dunfermline. She also drew her reader's attention to the publication of a, probably, long forgotten book:

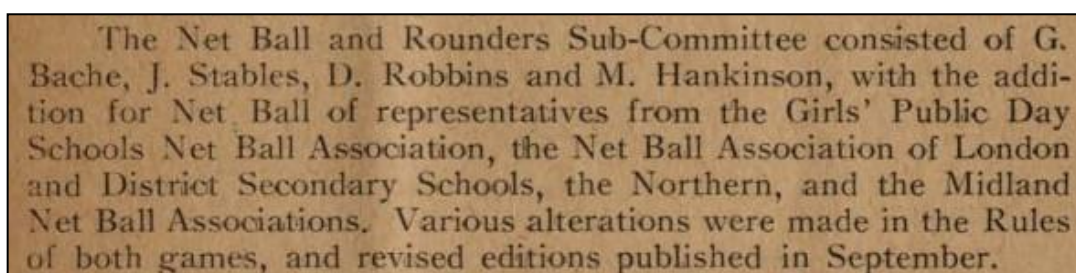
A decade after the publication of the Ling Association rules, B.H. Grieve (1911) wrote 'The Game of Netball and How to Play it'. Her book demonstrated that netball was still being played with teams of five, seven or nine players, all with varying sizes of court (AENA 1926, Jobling & Barham 1991).

However, the 1907 *Ling Association Magazine* indicated that they published *Hints on the Game of Netball in 1906* written by B.H. Grieve, which predated her more detailed book in 1911.

Miss Betha H. Grieve was the first physical training instructor employed by Bournville Works. This was documented in the Bournville Works Magazine in 1903 and mentioned in *Netball Historical Notes*. The Post Office Directories for Aberdeen show Betha Helen Greive was employed by the Aberdeen Provincial Committee for the Training of Teachers from at least 1908 to 1913. Miss B. Grieve is also mentioned as a member of the Ling Association Sub - Committee in the 1913 edition of *The Ling Association Magazine*.

The Net Ball Sub-committee consisted of Miss B. Grieve, Miss Bache, Miss Stables, and Miss Hankinson, with representatives from the Girls' Public Day Schools Net Ball Association, the Net Ball Association of the London Girls' Public Secondary Schools, and the Northern Schools Net Ball Association. The Rules were revised, and a new edition published in September.

The Ling Association Magazines throw more light on Betha Grieve's career and family. She completed her training at Anstey College in 1902. (Her name appears on the 1901 census as a student when Ethel Adair Roberts was a member of staff.) Betha's sister, Margaret Bruce Grieve, gained a Ling Association Diploma and completed her training at Dunfermline College in 1907. Branxholm Park, in Roxburghshire was their family home. Margaret Grieve was appointed to the staff of Dunfermline College and, was seconded to the Scottish Education Department in 1913. There is no indication that schools in Aberdeen or Edinburgh were playing netball at that time.



The Net Ball and Rounders Sub-Committee consisted of G. Bache, J. Stables, D. Robbins and M. Hankinson, with the addition for Net Ball of representatives from the Girls' Public Day Schools Net Ball Association, the Net Ball Association of London and District Secondary Schools, the Northern, and the Midland Net Ball Associations. Various alterations were made in the Rules of both games, and revised editions published in September.

An entry in the *Ling Association Magazine* in 1913 indicated rounders had joined the Ling Netball Sub-Committee. It is worth noting that new netball associations had been set up.

Although St Katharines in St Andrews, played their old girls in 1910 and maybe other school arranged similar games or inter forms matches, it seems that netball did not become popular in Scotland until after WWI.

A lack of equipment for hockey may have been the catalyst for one school. The *Veritas' Magazine* 2001, published by Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow quoted a pupil, Margaret Alston, who had to play netball:

Our first year (1918-19) class did not play hockey - there was not a hockey stick to be bought in the whole of the country.

Australia and New Zealand

It is generally accepted that basket-ball arrived in Australia around 1900. A photograph published in *The Town and Country Journal*, on 21st September 1904, and headed *The Basket Game*, shows girls wearing hats, playing at the Superior Public School Parramatta South School, now known as the Arthur Phillip High School, Parramatta NSW.

There is a suggestion that basket-ball reached Tasmania in 1890 and was played by girls, and some boys, during the winter. This has not been verified but the Headmistress of Tormore mentioned the game being played in Hobart in 1903. (See below.)

A photograph exists of girls playing a netball/basket-ball type game in New Zealand in 1900.

Despite a search, on behalf of an Australian author, no evidence has been found to link the start of basket-ball/netball in Australia to Madame's college. Gwynneth Morris (1906) attempted to introduce basket-ball at the Melbourne Girls' Grammar School in 1908 but the game did not become popular there. In about 1912 Gwynneth wrote an article called *Physical Training for Girls*:

As far as possible, a girl should be allowed to play the game of her choice, but if health does not permit her to take part in the more strenuous games of hockey, lacrosse, or cricket, then she should be encouraged to take part in milder forms of exercise, such as tennis, baseball, basket-ball, with just as much vigour. Every girl in the school should be expected to play one game regularly, unless a doctor's certificate is presented to testify that she is physically unfit.

In 1908 Jessie May Thomson (1906) joined Gwynneth at the Melbourne Girls Grammar School. Jessie introduced basket ball at Tintern School in Melbourne. *Sport in Victoria, A History*, recorded that girls in 5B, in April 1912, wrote in a school magazine:

Last drill day Miss Thomson gave us a lesson in basketball, instead of usual work, we enjoyed it very much...and we had a good game.

At Tormore School in Adelaide, the Headmistress, Caroline Jacobs, announced in 1903 that:

Herr Leschen had introduced basket ball and I hope we shall derive as much pleasure and benefit from it as our friends in Hobart and Melbourne.

Caroline Jacobs was the great aunt of sisters Silvia Cowles (1903) and Denise Cowles (1905). It is known that she knew the Morris sisters at the girls Grammar School, perhaps through her great niece, Denise, but it is not known who her contacts were in Hobart.

Florence Joyce Loxdale (1908) was appointed to teach at Tormore School in Adelaide when she completed her training. It has been suggested that Florence was the first of Madame's students to be appointed to a school in South Australia. (Denise Cowles was involved in the recruitment of a successor for Florence.)

In a thesis, with the title *Age of Transition. A study of South Australian Private Girls Schools 1875—1925*, written in 1996 by Helen M.J. Reid, the name *Dartmouth College* should be Dartford College. Her text included:

In 1908 Miss Toxdale, (sic) a specialist from England's Dartmouth College (sic)...was appointed to Tormore... She gave two lessons a week to each class and introduced a variety of games including hockey, cricket and basket ball.

In 1913, a Miss Mary E. Newton (Anstey 1904) replaced Florence at Tormore but returned to England in 1917.

Surprisingly, in February 1903 an interview with Madame Bergman Österberg was published in the *Timaru Herald*. The article highlighted her work at Dartford, but basket-ball/netball was not one of the games mentioned.

By 1909, Miss Mary Fraser, (Anstey 1906) was teaching at the Girls High School, Westella, Hobart, Tasmania and Evelyn Colpays Gedge, (Anstey 1906) was at the Diocesan H.S, Auckland, NZ. Netball was introduced St Hilda's School, Dundee in 1912. Zoe Sanderson (1913) taught the game there in 1917.

Dunfermline trained, Winifred D. Livingstone, was appointed to Woodford House School, North Island, New Zealand where she taught between 1912–1917. News from old students who attended Dunfermline College indicates that Winifred taught netball in 1913. Olive Daniells (1918) took over from her. Olive was expected to join the staff in 1918, when she completed her training but she could not arrange a passage until 1919. Correspondence exists between Miss Greene, by then the Principal, and Miss Mabel Hodge, the Headmistress. Miss Hodge seemed aspirational and influenced by the school curriculum in the UK as the prospectus stated netball and lacrosse were played at the school. (Lacrosse was given up in 1915 to concentrate on hockey.)

The founding of the All England Women's Net Ball Association

In 1926, the AEWNA netball archive recorded that the All England Women's Net Ball Association was formed at a meeting. attended by 230 people in the drawing room of the YMCA in Tottenham Court Road, London, under the chairmanship of Miss Edith Thompson, CBE.

A provisional committee consisted of five representatives from the Ling Association: The Misses Bache, Hankinson, Newbold, Read and Wilkie plus five representatives from the London and Home Counties Net Ball Federation: Mrs Gould, Mrs Lavender and the Misses Milman, O'Reilly and Shipperbottom. In the first season twelve leagues and twenty one clubs affiliated.

The Ling Association representatives were Florence Lydia Gertrude Bache (Anstey 1901), Mary Hankinson (MBO's 1898), Muriel O. Newbold (Anstey 1904), Cecily Reid (Bedford 1911), who was later appointed Principal of Bedford Physical Training College, and Dorette Wilkie, Principal of Chelsea College of Physical Training.

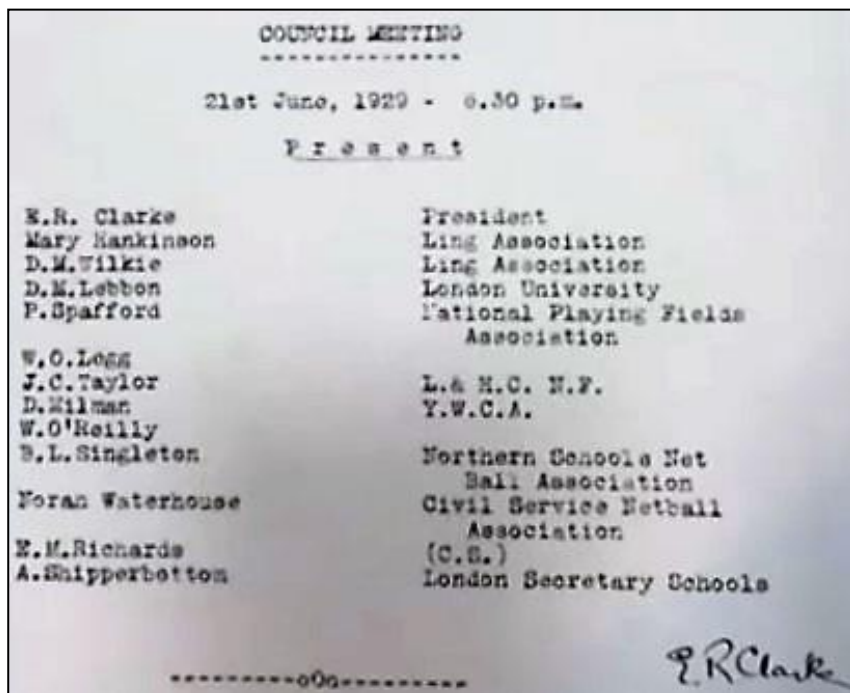
It has been possible to research more details about the representatives from London and Home Counties Net Ball Federation as a slide, shown by Dr Samantha-Jayne Oldfield during a presentation she delivered, in 2017, from Manchester Metropolitan University, provided some very useful first names.

Daphne E.D.H. Milman (Queen Alexander's House Physical Training College) came from a very aristocratic family. Her father was Clerk to the House of Commons and her grandfather, Henry Hart Milman, is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Anne Winefride O'Reilly, Honorary Organiser (Avery Hill Teacher Training College) was a student at the college in 1911, training to be an Elementary teacher. She had a distinguished career and was awarded an MBE for her work in the Borough of Southwark. A blue plaque was awarded on Walworth Academy, London SE17. (<https://remakingenglish.wordpress.com/2011/10/06/anne-oreilly-blue-plaque-at-walworth-academy/> This website mentions that she was a founding member of the AEWNA.)

Abigail Shipperbottom, Treasurer (Edge Hill Teacher Training College) may have been an assistant mistress at Stanley Higher Grade School, London, between 1903 and 1906 and then at the Municipal Secondary School West Ham from 1906. It was not possible to trace Mrs Lavender and Mrs Gould.

Contained in another slide, created by Dr Oldfield for her presentation reproduced here, is a document which lists those present at a AEWNA Council Meeting in June 1929. Dr Oldfield suggested that the Ling Association handed over their control of the rules to this group in 1929.



Representatives had been added at this time from new groups:

London University, the National Playing Fields Association, the Y.M.C.A., the Northern Schools Net Ball Association, (founded in 1913) the Civil Service Netball, and the London Secretary Schools.

The names of the 1929 Committee members of the AEWNA in the document, provide valuable information about these additional members who brought a variety of experience to the developing organisation:

Dorothy Lebbon was a student at London University. Phyllis Spafford, (Bedford

Physical Training College to represent the National Playing Fields Association. Bessie Lee Singleton came from Lancashire. Winifred Legg, (MBO's 1913) had played lacrosse for England in 1913, 1917, 1920 and 1921. She published a book, *Lacrosse for Beginners* in 1924 and in 1927 was elected as a member of the Ling Council. In 1928 she was appointed to the staff of Chelsea College of Physical Training and she remained in post until 1942. Winifred had links with a variety of different groups: The Ling Association, lacrosse and Chelsea College. There was no specific affiliation listed against her name.

Norah Waterhouse had followed her father and brother into the Civil Service. As a schoolgirl she was living in West Kensington. She is recorded on the 1939 Register as a Civil Servant. It has not been possible to find out any more about E.M. Richards but J.C. Taylor seems to have been the representative for the London and Home Counties Netball Federation which had been set up by Anne Winifriede O'Reilly in 1924.

E.R. Clarke's experience in a variety of fields was legendary. She had been a games coach at Madame's college between 1908 - 1915 when, at this point she became a temporary HMI. (During this period she had been sent to Hellerau, near Dresden by Madame, to learn something of the work of Dalcroze but returned because of the outbreak of war.) She resumed her work at Dartford and was then appointed an HMI and later a staff inspector.

E.R. was also a very talented tennis player and reached the semi finals at Wimbledon with her doubles partner. She became a council member of the National Playing Fields Association. E.R. Clarke was well known to women interested in sport in America as she contributed articles to Constance Applebee's publication *The Sportswoman*. It was published twice a month between 1924 and 1936.

E.R. Clarke may not have played netball at a high level herself but it is easy to see why the netball enthusiasts wanted to make her their President.

Her entry in The Österberg Collection Hall of Fame is also worth noting.

She played hockey for England between 1909 and 1912 and again after WWI. She was on the Council of the AEWHA. Not only was she a founding member of the Ladies Lacrosse Association in 1912 she was also influential in the founding of the Scottish Ladies Lacrosse Association in 1920/1921. E.R. was a talented games player and she played tennis at Wimbledon and also cricket for the WCA in 1929. She was a very well respected hockey coach and in 1921 she was one of five AEWHA coaches who went to America for six weeks to help develop and coach hockey.

Dr Oldfield has suggested, quite correctly, that by 1929, Net Ball was no longer in the hands of the Dartford Old Students who had been so closely involved in the birth of the game, at Kingsfield, in the mid 1890s. The AEWNA brought in people with a variety of backgrounds and experience, notably some who had not attended a specialist college of physical education

At some stage, Marjorie Pollard, (St Peter's Teacher Training College, Saltley), best known as a sports journalist became involved and she edited the first edition of the Official AEWNA Magazine in 1933.

The founding of the AEWNA came thirty years after the AEWHA created their association in 1895 after an official international game against Ireland. Christabel Lawrence (1887), by then teaching at Roedean School, was their first Hon Sec. In 1912 the Ladies Lacrosse Association was formed. At this stage the association embraced Scotland as well as England. It was a very school orientated group as few lacrosse clubs had started at that stage. The Headmistress of Roedean was the President, Margaret Stansfeld was the Vice President, Miss Edith M. Thompson and E.R. Clarke were members of the first committee. Others members were games mistresses and headmistresses of lacrosse playing schools, such as St Leonards and Wycombe Abbey. There were some women involved in the Ladies Lacrosse Association, who later helped found the AEWNA.

The 1926 AEWNA records suggests Miss Edith M. Thompson, CBE, was the first President/Inaugural Chair. Edith Thomson had been the founder, in 1901, of Hockey Field, a publication she edited until 1920. It came to embrace lacrosse, netball and, even at one stage, golf and for a short time, table tennis.

Jo Haplin drew attention, in her thesis *Will you walk in our parlour?:* to the link between the AEWHA and the AEWNA:

the president and several other members of the AEWHA – including Mary Hankinson and Marjorie Pollard – began involving themselves in the formation of the All England Netball Association (AENA). Thompson chaired its inaugural meeting in 1926, while former England hockey international Edith R. Clarke became the AENA's first president.

In October 1926, Kathleen Doman (Dartford 1917) proposed the formation of the Women's Cricket Association. The first Women's Cricket Association committee included Edith R. Clarke, Marjorie Pollard and Edith M. Thompson who, had gained useful experience on other committees.

Whether these new, emerging associations made a conscious decision to involve those who had had previous experience of setting up other associations is not known. The AEWNA managed to bring to their committee, women who collectively had wide ranging experience of different sporting bodies. Others represented the new netball groups and associations which had sprung up in different parts of the country. The balance of power now represented more accurately, the diversity of girls and women within the population who wished to play netball.

Conclusion

In 2005

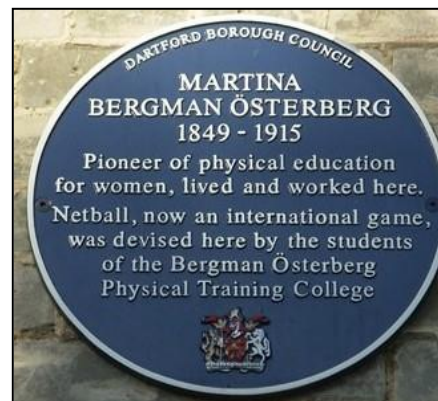
Dartford Borough Council erected their first blue plaque.

The scheme aimed to promote the area's heritage.

It acknowledges Madame Bergman Österberg's work

and records netball

was devised by the students of her college.



The words inscribed on the blue plaque, fixed to the wall of Kingsfield, Dartford, state:

Netball, now an international game, was devised here by the students of the Bergman Österberg Physical Training College.

The International Netball Federation states something very similar:

Netball was first played in England in 1895 at Madame Ostenburg's (sic) College. In the first half of the 20th century, Netball's popularity continued to grow, with the game being played in many British Commonwealth countries. There were no standard rules at that time with both nine-a-side and five-a-side versions of the game.

It became clear, while undertaking this research and uncovering new information, that members of the Ling Association, notably Madame's former students, Mary Hankinson (1898) and Ethel Adair Roberts (1898), (Later Mrs Impey) were the prime movers who made the roll out of netball to schools, colleges and factories possible.

By 1901, rules had been drawn up under the Ling Association's Netball Sub-Committee of which Ethel Adair Roberts was Chair and were distributed to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and also to a few schools in France and South Africa. The Ling Association had members who *made things happen*.

Madame recognised the importance of adding games to her curriculum. The Headmistresses, of the newly emerging girls' day and boarding schools, wished to include games in their own establishments. They were aiming to create schools for girls, which equated to the institutions attended by their brothers, so they needed staff who could teach a variety of games.

However, Madame knew little of games. When her college was in Hampstead she encouraged her students to play cricket, which was played at Neasden. Some students, for example, Ethel Stevenson(1892) had been introduced to cricket while attending Notting Hill High School. Madame employed a cricket professional to coach the girls, but Jonathan May recorded that one old student had said that during her time at college, Madame never visited Neasden to see her students playing games.

Hockey was introduced at Dartford in 1896, by four students who had played hockey at their former schools: The Mount, Polam Hall, St Leonards and one unidentified school. Lacrosse had been played by Madame's students at Wycombe Abbey, St Felix, Southwold, Heathfield, Prior's Field and Roedean, well before a Canadian coach was appointed to teach lacrosse at college in 1904. These students must have helped to establish the game at Dartford.

This same pattern of students teaching a game to their peers was used when basketball was introduced to Madame's college. Madame Bergman Österberg brought the concept of basketball to college in 1893, after her visit to Chicago. Her students tried it out in the Hampstead Gymnasium, where the walls formed the boundaries and so the ball always remained in play. The future of net-ball was now in the firm grasp of the Ling Association.

No evidence has been found to confirm that Madame Bergman Österberg founded/invented netball or taught the game of netball to her students. Available evidence shows that she probably introduced her students to the game of basket ball at her college. She provided them with the opportunity to develop the game and to consider the potential of a ball game, to be played in a confined area with approximately seven players per side. Madame's former students and other members of The Ling Association, those trained at Anstey and elsewhere, rose to the challenge and, in 1901, under the umbrella of the Ling Association, produced and distributed a set of standardised rules for netball which could be used in schools, colleges, factories and works association groups all over the world.

Post script

The Österberg Collection holds an image of girls playing netball at the William Street Girls' School in London in 1908. This school may have later been known as West Kensington School, in Gorleston Street, London W14.

An unexpected find has been similar photographs of girls playing netball on the London Metropolitan Archive site:

<https://www.magnoliabox.com/search?q=netball&type=product> These show London School children playing netball.

Other photographs showing aspects of school life at these institutions are also available.

Myrdle Street Girls' School Stepney, in London, in 1908. (Another photograph, also dated 1908, shows girls playing hockey in a playground.) The school is now Madni Secondary Girls' School,

Cable Street School in Stepney in London, 1908. Boys and girls playing netball, together inside, in a gymnasium. The umpire is male. The school was founded in 1898. After World War II it became a secondary modern school, St George-in-the-East Central School.

Chelsea Secondary School, (Hortensia Road) in Chelsea, London 1911. This school opened in 1908 for girls at the South-West London Polytechnic School.

A Miss B. Wilson, who left Bedford in 1910, is listed in the Ling Association Magazines in 1912 and in 1913 as teaching at Chelsea Secondary School.

Other photographs of early games of basket-ball/netball can be found with an internet search:

Coburn 1906 netball team <https://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk/1909/>

Tollington High School 1910 www.EnglandNetball.co.uk

County Secondary School, Fulham 1910 www.layersoflondon.org

St Katherine's, Wantage 1915 Post card for sale on e bay

West Ham Secondary School 1915-1916 www.newhamphoto.com

Clifton High School 1920-1921 Post card for sale on e bay

Barrett School Trade School 1928

<https://www.magnoliabox.com/collections/london-metropolitan-archives?page=186>

www.EnglandNetball.co.uk also features teams from the 1920s onwards.

Information re early America Basketball rules

<http://www.vintagebasketball.com/home/item/spalding-women-1901/>

<https://sports.ha.com/itm/basketball-collectibles/others/1899-spalding-s-athletic-library-basket-ball-basketball-for-women/a/7185-80130.s> This website shows a photograph of the rules dated 1899.

Doug Ackerley a sports journalist, living in Australia, provided details of a game at Parramatta in 1904.

See page 23.

He has taken a keen interest in the history of the development of basket-ball/netball at Madame Bergman Österberg's college. He had hoped to find evidence linking one of Madame's early students to the introduction of the game in Australia, but that has not been realised. He is actively undertaking research about the history of netball in Australia. Photographs taken in 1904 at Parramatta School in NSW, were included in an article in the *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), Wednesday 21 September 1904, page 35.

Netball in New Zealand

'A girls' game and a good one too' - A Critical Analysis of New Zealand Netball. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/35465868.pdf>

Geoffrey Andrew, in his dissertation submitted in 1997 for an MA in History from Canterbury University, suggests that netball developed quite independently in New Zealand. He made reference to *Miss Sanderson's college in Dunedin*. John Huggett, archivist at St Hilda's College, Dunedin was able to confirm that Zoe Sanderson (1913) was appointed to teach at St Hilda's School in 1917 where netball had begun in 1912. Zoe also taught at Nelson College for Girls.

Additional information uncovered during research for this publication:

Even thirty years after the founding of the AEWNA, Ethel Adair Impey was still considered an expert on the beginnings of the game.

The Friends Journal dated August 27th 1955 acknowledged her role in the development of a game made popular across the world and recorded:

Ethel Adair Impey, of Northfield Meeting, England, who has just celebrated her seventy-eighth birthday, broadcast in the B.B.C. Midland Home Service on the subject of the introduction of netball for women.

Netball replaced hockey in a well known school.

Much to the horror of many hockey enthusiasts, Wycombe Abbey School gave up hockey in 1911. Two articles published in *The Hockey Field* on 19th January 1911 mentioned this. This change coincided with the arrival of a new Headmistress, Miss Annie M. Whitelaw, who took over from Miss Frances Dove.

The 1911 Girls School Year Book provides the information that netball was being played instead in 1911. Hilda Ness Walker (1906) joined the staff at Wycombe Abbey in 1910 and so was well placed to introduce and teach netball at the school. Educated at St Leonards she was appointed to St Katharines, the St Leonards prep school, in 1908. Basket-ball had been introduced there by Annie Hardy (1895) by 1896 and the girls played the game with great enthusiasm.

It has not been possible to unearth the official reason for the introduction of netball at Wycombe Abbey. However, Godstowe, a significant feeder school for Wycombe Abbey, played both lacrosse and netball. In 1906 Violet Kirby (1906) was appointed to teach at Godstowe. The introduction of netball at the school in 1906, seemed to coincide with her arrival as a member of staff. Miss Whitelaw may have felt it was easier for girls transferring to Wycombe Abbey to have experienced the same games. She may have thought it would help with recruitment or that felt netball was better for the girls posture than hockey.

The Northern schools junior teams seem to play basket ball instead of net ball, as is universal in the South. Will any reader explain the difference between these two games? Net ball is, of course, controlled by the Ling Association, which issues the official rules, and basket ball appears to be under the control of an association of Northern schools, which organises a shield competition.

Games Scholarships.

Ten Scholarships of £25 each offered for Excellence in Games to suitable Candidates for September, 1911, at Mme. Bergman Österberg's Physical Training College, Dartford Heath, Kent. Apply for further information.

An article in *Hockey Field* dated 9th February 1911 requested an explanation of the difference between basket ball and net ball.

It states very clearly that net ball is, controlled by the Ling Association, which issues the official rules.

Further information available from The Österberg Collection:

Tributes to Ethel Jane Roberts (Mrs E. Adair Impey) and E.R Clarke are included in *The Kingsfield Book of Remembrance*.

The Österberg Collection Hall of Fame, includes a number of old students mentioned in this publication: Rhoda Anstey, E.R. Clarke, Silvia Cowles, Kathleen Doman, Hanna Flyborg, Winifred Legg, Jean Milligan, Elsie Impey and Ethel Jane Roberts (Mrs E. Adair Impey),

Articles, written and researched in 2015, provide more information about Dr Justin Kaye Toles and Miss Ester Porter of Baltimore.

Who was Dr Toles? BÖU Magazine 2015, page 61 Jane Claydon.

Miss Porter of Baltimore. Jane Claydon 2015. This article about Miss Ester Porter is available from *The Österberg Collection*.

The Women's College of Baltimore. BÖU Magazine 2015 Jane Claydon. This paper provides more information about Hanna Flyborg (1897) and her work at the college in 1897-1898 which included teaching basketball.

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- <https://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/620812/1/Oldfield%202017%20-%20The%20origins%20and%20formation%20of%20England%20Netball.pdf>