

Ladies Football in Plumstead in 1892, Woolwich Gazette correspondence

FOOTBALL FOR WOMEN.

SIR.—Seeing football has found a home in the south and it being considered a man's pastime, I wish to say a word for the ladies. Football is looked upon as too rough a game for women, but I think if it is played as it should be it is as good a sport as can be found and is not rough at all. I am not the only young lass that takes an interest in the game, and I know a great many young lasses in Plumstead who will join with me in starting a Ladies' Football Club as there is not much sport for women. I daresay my proposal on behalf of the ladies to play football will be received with scorn, but I am sure it ought not to be, as I think women want recreation as well as the men. Hoping I will receive a satisfactory answer to my proposal, I remain, yours etc.,

ANTICIPATION.

March 1st, 1892.

4 March 1892

FOOTBALL FOR LADIES.

SIR.—In reply to writer, "Anticipation," I fully endorse every word. If it is healthy and good exercise for men, the same should apply to women, and if they have a neat and becoming dress for footballing, called a meeting amongst themselves, and formed a club under rules, they would get support. Hoping "Anticipation" will take my hints and act, and wishing success.—Yours truly,

G. CROWDER.

SIR.—I was very pleased to see a letter signed "Anticipation" in your last week's issue, advocating football for ladies, and if I may be allowed I would suggest that every facility should be afforded by those who are in the position to assist. Football is certainly quite as suitable for ladies as lawn tennis or cricket, and there is not the least doubt that it will be equally as popular if it is encouraged in the proper spirit. Here is a grand chance for our local belles to assist the sacred cause of charity. I am sure those in authority would be only too glad to make arrangements for a match to take place on the Invieta Ground early in May. No doubt "Anticipation" and her friends will bear this in mind, and adopt the most popular of the two codes, which is Association and not Rugby.—Yours truly,

JOSS.

11 March 1892

NB C Crowder of 7 Arthur Street, Plumstead, was a regular correspondent to the Woolwich Gazette. He worked in the Ordnance Department of the Royal Arsenal.

I am certainly not an advocate of football for women. I love to see their pretty faces in shoals gracing the meetings, and often wish it was me on whom those "Oh, doesn't he play splendidly" were bestowed and soft glances flashed, but I draw the line at women playing football. The exercise is far too violent for young lasses, the, the, the— Well, to put it plainly, I have faith enough to believe if the lasses forget what they owe to their own dignity, the public won't.

11 March 1892 comment by 'Redshirt', the Woolwich Gazette sports columnist

FOOTBALL FOR WOMEN.

SIR,—Hoping I am not trespassing too much on your valuable space, please to insert the following. I return unlimited gratitude to Messrs. C. G. Crowder and Joss for their liberal support of my proposition. I am pleased to see it has been received with favour. "Redshirt" objects to such unladylike behaviour, but I think we will be able to manage without his aid. I daresay we could make as good a show of football as many in these parts; if not, it is best to drop the subject altogether. I am grieved to say we cannot comply with our two supporters' request to play a match on the Invicta Ground in May, as there is a great deal to be considered. First, we shall want a competent person to fill the capacity of trainer. Second, we shall want to form a Committee who thoroughly understands the game of football. Third, we shall have to get opponents. I have no doubt success will crown our proposal of "Lady Footballers," and with your support and others I have every impression of a brilliant future. I consider total abstinence the main point for a footballer to study. Hoping Redshirt will keep his nose too valuable thoughts to himself, we remain yours,

ANTICIPATION.

March 15th, 1892.

18 March 1892

The new fad, football for women, which someone is busy Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-aying, found a obnoxious in last week's Gazette in the person of a Miss Ann-Ticipation (queer "moniker" that eh)? Annie seems to be a mixture of conceit and unfairness. She, dear gal, hopes "I will keep my nose too valuable opinions to myself." As my opinions and her's on this subject are opposed, you will gather from th's that her opinions are very valuable indeed. Ann can do without my support. She could I expect do without my opposition equally as well, but I claim the same right to express my views as Annie to express her's, and though I like to oblige a lady, I shall continue to oppose Miss Sanguine Ann-Ticipation.

25 March 1892 (Redshirt)

FOOTBALL FOR WOMEN.

Sir,—In your last week's issue I came across "Redshirt's" insulting remarks to "Anticipation." As for being a mixture of conceit and unfairness, after him I should like to be first. His "valuable opinions" do more harm than good very often, especially to the players of the R.A.F.C. I can fully understand children ta-ra-ra-boom-de-aying, but when it comes to such a just and sensible man as "Redshirt," here's out of it. In last Friday's notes, he said he was told to his teeth he knew nothing of football, which I fully believe, and if he should any time like a tip or two, "Anticipation" is at his disposal.

Caring nought whether he opposes or otherwise, I am still,

ANTICIPATION.

March 29th, 1892.

1 April 1892

I see my esteemed relation "Aunticipation" has another go for me last week. My remarks were *insulting*? The mind capable of conceiving football for women is scarcely likely to distinguish between insult and banter. I don't blame the poor old lady for this. I pity her—or him—whichever it is, but isn't it rather rich to find a correspondent who has not the dignity of manhood sufficiently strong in him to transcribe his name to his views and personal attacks of another, chow chowing about being insulted?

His opinions of my poor abilities, I take from whence they came, anonymous correspondents, whose identity is hidden beneath noms-de-plume, which I think can scarcely be said of Redshirt's, are very much like wasps with their stings extracted, and I make him a gift of his opinions and tips. But I have a word to say with him on the subject of the harm I have done the players of the R.A.F.C. This is a big order from an outsider with no better reference than "Anticipation," and that reference I call in question. I challenge this gentlemen to prove his assertion, by using these columns for publishing letters from any prominent players of the club, or any members of the executive who are prepared to corroborate his tale. It is a fair challenge isn't it? If he cannot make good his assertion in next issue he shall hear something from me about an apology.

8 April 1892 (Redshirt)

SIR,—I hope you will let me air my grievances by means of your valuable paper. I think that the R.A.F.U. would not lose much if they let ladies into the Invicta ground free of charge. I do not pretend to be one of those who can afford to go in the grand stand, but I am only a "slavey," and I have not got a Johnny, Tommy or Billy to pay my expenses. I think the committee ought to make a little difference at holiday times. I propose that they let us poor girls in free of charge to ground, 3d. to terraces, and 6d. to grand stand. Of course, those who would not like to be thought poor could go on terraces and in grand stand; but really girls who are servants get very little money to what men do, therefore they have to look before they spend, and I thoroughly enjoy a game of football, and only wish I had more time, also more money to spare, or that I had some friends in Conway-road like the Arsenal foremen. Hoping the committee will take time to consider, I remain,
A LADY FOOTBALL ENTHUSIAST.

8 April 1892

FOOTBALL FOR WOMEN.

SIR,—In looking over the notes in your last weeks issue, I noticed dear Uncle Redshirt as much as requires an apology from his Aunt Ann-Ticipation. As for not having the dignity of womanhood sufficiently strong in me as to subscribe my name, if he should like to know it it is at his disposal. But why talk about me when he is sailing under a *nom de plume*? As for him pleading innocent, i.e., not guilty about the players of the R.A.F.C., I should like some of the afflicted ones to comply with his request. As I will not forward him an apology, I should like to know whether dear Uncle Redshirt has the essence of wisdom in his embodiment? It is still a matter of small indifference to me whether he again opposes or not, as I am and likely to remain his dear "old" Aunt

ANN-TICIPATION.

April 12th, 1892.

22 April 1892

FOOTBALL FOR WOMEN.

SIR,—The person who assumes the *nom de plume* of "Anticipation," in your valuable and useful journal is, I presume, a young lady who is particularly desirous of manifesting her great ignorance and unladylike propensities. I can confidently say, Sir, that the general opinion is that she has been very successful in exposing her ignorance, and showing the whole neighbourhood her romantic tendencies.

Trusting the young lady will soon regain her lost dignity, and many thanks for inserting this,—
Yours obediently,

GIDEON HOBAIN.

Plumstead.
April 26th, 1892.

29 April 1892

There is then a gap in correspondence over the summer months.

I have been scanning the papers anticipating some news concerning football matches by ladies, of which something was mooted last season. I remember the craze was powerful hot, ditto the language used at me. Surely it has not cooled down below zero so quickly. In these days of cholera, and other depressing influences something exciting is wanted. Please trot out the promised lady footballers.

2 September 1892 (Redshirt)

THE LADY FOOTBALLERS.

SIR.—In "Redshirt's" notes of last week he says he does not see any fixtures for the lady footballers, though we have played a number of matches during the close season. He is quite right in thinking it has not cooled down, as we are always fond of a good thing. He says that something exciting is wanting. By his saying that I should think he requires a little excitement, which he can be accommodated with if he steps over to our ground, as we play on the afternoon of Sept. 15th at Abbey Wood—Yours truly,

ANTICIPATION.

9 September 1892

NB Abbey Wood, just to the east of Plumstead, was a public ground used by several local clubs.
15 September was a Thursday.

Fools walk where angels fear to tread. I fear to tread all the way to Abbey Wood to see "Anticipation's" kicking sisters, but I do not mean to infer that I am an angel or somebody else the other thing, but though I can always do with a bit of excitement, I don't care for it or toast. Bring the darlings nearer aunty, say to Plumstead. Then you may put three seats well forward. The centre one for me, the two wing chairs for the two prettiest samples of excitement in your team, then I'll be content to be considered either a "J" or anything else. I used to lead blind horses to the knackers myself when I was a nipper, aunty dear. Good luck to your team though, all the same.

16 September 1892 (Redshirt)

What has become of all the fixture cards this season, Messrs. the Secs.? In looking over the South London Football League handbook (kindly sent me by Mr. J. Steer, of the E.L.S., etc., etc.), I notice among the advertisements that a well-known firm of wholesale outfitters of footballs and football appliances, claim to be outfitters to *H.R.H.* the Queen, *H.R.H.* the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Evidently, then, the Queen plays football, as she goes in for an outfit. This may account for the august lady being lowered from Her Majesty to Her Royal Highness, unless she has reduced the Duke of Edinburgh, and purloined the three letters which should be his. Since, however, her most gracious Majesty goes in for the game, we may as well trot the lady footballers out at once. Now, then, ladies, if you please.

30 September 1892 (Redshirt)

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