

Tough Female Football Experiences

1) Read this article about the beginnings of the female football in the UK.

The secret history of women's football¹

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From the topic [Sport](#)

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Women's football matches once pulled bigger crowds than most men's games - sometimes more than 50,000.

In the 1920s the sport flourished with around 150 women's teams in England. Lily Parr was a winger and one of the first female professional players. She played for the Dick Kerr's Ladies team which got its name from the munitions factory in Preston where most of the team worked during World War One. They were the first women's team to play wearing shorts and the first to go on an overseas tour.

There was a huge growth in women's football during the war when women were called upon to do factory jobs left by the men who had gone to fight.

On Christmas Day in 1917, 10,000 spectators watched two women's teams playing at Preston. And when Dick Kerr's Ladies played St Helen's Ladies on Boxing Day 1920 they pulled in a crowd of 53,000 at Everton's Goodison Park ground, with thousands more fans locked outside.

But then the women's game was effectively banned

On 5 December 1921, the Football Association banned women from playing on FA-affiliated pitches which meant stars like Lily Parr could no longer play at grounds with spectator facilities.

The FA at the time said "the game of football is quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged".

In 1971 the ban was finally lifted following the formation of the Women's Football Association (WFA) a couple of years earlier.

It was another half century until women's football got back on its feet and a key reason it lags behind the men's game today.

2) Listen and choose the right answers

The Lost Lionesses represented England at the 1971 Women's World Cup in Mexico, captained by Carol Wilson from Wincanton team in Watton. She was interviewed and surprised by the BBC ²

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSElvAhEc2w>



The women banned from playing football on the world stage, but did it anyway - BBC News

Vocabulary

Trailblazer: a person who is the first to do something, an innovator.

Footage: part of a cinema or television film recording a particular event.

Attendance: the number of people present at a particular place or event.

Overwhelm: to cause someone to feel sudden strong emotion

the world is your oyster: you mean that they can do anything

- 1) Carol Wilson used to play in front of **her village / 6 people and a dog / 95,000 people**
- 2) She was the captain of **the official Welsh Squad / the official English Squad/ unofficial English Squad** to play in the World Cup in 1971.
- 3) Carol **keeps watching the footage of the event/ had never seen the footage before / has lost the footage of the event.**
- 4) When Chris got off the plane there was a big cheering crowd, she thought **someone famous was on the plane / they were enthusiastically waiting for their arrival / it was a national celebration.**
- 5) Why couldn't they play when they came back? Because **they had lost / they had stolen the cup / they had been banned for three months.**

3) **Speaking activity: (complete this in the padlet)**

Do you like football? In your opinión, who plays better? Why? Have you ever been discouraged or prevented from doing something simply because you're a girl or boy? Why do you think people used to do that?

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/33064421/the-secret-history-of-womens-football>

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSElvAhEc2w>