

Helen Gertrude Armfield (1892-1957)

Helen was born in Croydon 1892. Her father was managing director of a hotel. Helen was educated at Croydon High School and she entered Madame Österberg's college in 1910. In 1913 Helen was teaching at St Winifred's School, Eastbourne.

Helen became a very well-known England hockey player. In 1921, five AEWHA coaches, including Helen and E.R. Clarke (1906), travelled to the USA to help American women improve their skills and knowledge of the game. Helen stayed for two months and E.R., for six weeks.

Helen captained the England Overseas XI when they played in Philadelphia in 1923. She also worked alongside Constance Applebee, Rosabelle Sinclair (1912) and Kirstie Stevenson (1923) at Camp Tegawitha, in the Poconos mountains, in PA. High school girls were invited to attend the camp for the first time, that year.

Helen was inducted into the USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame as an honorary member in 1926.

Helen also travelled to South Africa and was the General Sec. of the IFWHA between 1930 and 1933.

In 1938 she was the Hon Sec. of the AEWHA and then President of the AEWHA for ten years (1947-1957) during which time, in 1955, the AEWHA celebrated their Jubilee.

Helen was awarded an OBE in 1954. President of the AEWHA.