

## **Norah Strathairn (1891-1963)**

Norah attended St Leonards School in St Andrews and, while still at college, was identified as a very good games coach. She gained the Bergman Österberg Certificate with First Class Honours in Hockey, La Crosse, Cricket, Gymnastics and Teaching in 1912. Madame invited her to join her staff.

There are many photographs in the Österberg Collection of Norah coaching hockey, cricket and lacrosse. Norah left Dartford in 1917 and taught at the Berkhamsted Boys School before returning to St Leonards in 1919 as the Senior Drill and Games Mistress.

Norah was a talented games player and played for Scotland in the first Home International lacrosse matches in 1913, alongside Rosabelle Sinclair and six other graduates from MBÖ's college. (Nineteen of MBÖ's former students or present students played for either England, Scotland or Wales in these inaugural matches.) Between 1921 and 1929 Norah captained the Scottish Ladies Lacrosse team. She also played in the team in the 1930s. Norah presented E.R. Clarke, captain of England's Lacrosse team in 1921, with a silver spoon to commemorate the start of internationals after WWI.

Norah also played hockey for Scotland from 1919 until 1925 and was captain for two seasons. She was selected as an 'A' Umpire in 1927. Norah also wrote articles about coaching hockey and lacrosse in *Hockey Field and Lacrosse* in the 1930s. Norah was linked with the Women's Cricket Association in the late 1920s and early 1930s.