

## **Kathleen A. De la Mare (Mrs John J. Heinze)**

Kathy first played lacrosse at St Swithun's School, Hampshire, where her team won the All England Schools Lacrosse Championship in 1958. On leaving school in the U.K. she attended Pembroke College at Brown University, and while there, she played in the US Reserve Team. She returned to England and when at Dartford College of P.E. captained the college XII to be the 1963 winners of the All England Clubs and Colleges Championship. Leaving Dartford in 1963 Kathy went to teach at Godolphin School in Wiltshire, before she returned to the U.S. During her time back in the U.K. Kathy played for the England lacrosse team from 1961 - 64. From 1965 - 70 Kathy was the coach at Wilson College, then in 1976 started a lacrosse programme at Dickinson College and at Shippensburg University in 1977.

From 1973 - 77 Kathy was coach to the U.S. lacrosse squad during a period of change, when the U.S. rose to challenge the superiority of the England team. Kathy lead the Americans to an undefeated tour of Great Britain; this included the first ever defeat of the England team by the U.S. the British having introduced the game to the U.S.

Kathy has had various roles in the U.S. world of lacrosse including being Secretary and then President of the U.S.W.L.A. when the introduction of plastic sticks was discussed. In May 1980, she cast the deciding vote for change, as it was considered that the wooden ones were not holding up and were expensive. Ultimately this vote led to the introduction of plastic sticks into all countries and the demise of wooden sticks. She was an umpire for many years and had qualifications up to international level being selected as one of the umpires from the U.S.A. for the first World Lacrosse Tournament in 1982.

Kathy is an Honorary Member of the U.S.W.L.A. and was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1990 and in 1996 she was inducted into the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame "as a truly great coach who has contributed noteworthy service". In 2017 the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (I.W.L.C.A.) honoured 11 women as "Trailblazers", at U.S Lacrosse Headquarters. 2018, saw her 1975 team honoured as a Team of Distinction by U.S. Lacrosse "recognising their esteemed place in history".