

Edith R. Clarke (1886-1985)

Edith was educated at Rochester Grammar School and, on completion of her college course in 1906, E.R. as she was known, was appointed a member of staff at Roedean School. In 1910, Madame invited her to return to college to join her staff. E.R. took charge of games, dancing and assisted with teaching practice. E.R. was a very well-respected hockey coach and she played hockey for England between 1909 and 1912 and again after WWI. She was on the Council of the AEWHA.

ER was a founding member of the Ladies Lacrosse Association in 1912 and influential in the founding of the Scottish Ladies Lacrosse Association in 1920/1921. E.R. was also a lacrosse internationalist and she was the Captain of the very first England Lacrosse Team in 1913 and continued in that role after WWI. E.R. was a talented games player and she played tennis at Wimbledon and also cricket for the WCA in 1929.

E.R. was a very well-known figure in the world of women's sport in the first decades of the 1900s. In 1921 she was one of five AEWHA coaches who went to America for six weeks to help develop hockey for women. E.R. regularly wrote columns for players and coaches in *Hockey Field and Lacrosse*. In 1911 she wrote a letter to the magazine supporting the Southern Ladies Lacrosse Club's decision to adopt gymnastic dress for their matches.

Madame was clearly forward-thinking as she asked E.R. to attend a Dalcroze course in Europe in 1913. Unfortunately, the outbreak of WWI meant E.R. had to return to England and she resumed her post on the staff at college. E.R. was appointed an H.M.I. just before Madame Österberg died (1915).