When Chris Park, then chair of the Rainbow Network, asked for volunteers to go to The National Archives at Kew to carry out research for the 2011 LGBT History Month magazine, I jumped at the chance. What I did not realise was that I would meet such a wonderful team of enthusiastic people at Kew, who had already been working for some time on an LGBT history archive. When Chris and I arrived at Kew, the team had already identified many of the files we needed to do the research and we were able to roll up our sleeves and get down to the job straight away.

It is difficult to describe how rewarding it feels to be working with a dedicated team of people whose shared ambition is to bring to light some of the narratives and histories that have been buried for decades and, in some cases, for centuries. It is also difficult to describe the delight one feels when accidentally stumbling across a story that completely changes perspective on a particular issue – a delight that is intensified by the knowledge that, thanks to the team at The National Archives, we now have the opportunity to bring these narratives and histories to the attention of a wider audience.

As this year’s history month theme is sport, the team turned to a range of resources. This included the Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archives (LAGNA), where we found a wealth of historical media coverage of homosexual and transgender issues and people from the past eight decades. As a result of the research, the dedication and the stumbling, you will encounter stories of prejudice and victories at Wimbledon, cowardly stories of blackmail in high places, coming out stories of gay referees and sportswomen, and – for those maybe less interested in sporting lives – a curious story of gender bureaucracy in the corridors of Whitehall. If you enjoy reading this magazine as much as we enjoyed researching the articles, then you will find rich rewards.

I would like to dedicate this magazine to all those lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified people whose lives we have documented, and to Chris Park, Beth Brook, Parveen Betab, Alejandro Alonso-Martinez, and Rosie Logiudice, who did the research and writing.

Dr Louise Chambers (The Rainbow Network)
A word from The National Archives
Acting Chief Executive

We work hard at The National Archives to make our records, information and knowledge available to all. We are proud of the unique collections, resources and services we offer, which enrich the lives of millions. The National Archives aims to be an inclusive organisation where everyone is treated with respect and dignity, and where there is equal opportunity for all. We respect and value the diversity of our staff and users. One way of doing this is to support outreach projects and promote the value of the LGBT resources within the archives.

Archus, our LGBT staff forum, has been working across the organisation voluntarily to ensure that researchers of LGBT history have as many tools and resources as possible. Archus has been busy over the last year, identifying and uncovering as much hidden LGBT history in our diverse archival resources as possible and making it available to the public. This magazine is one of the products of that work, and I am pleased to present Past2Present for LGBT History Month 2011.

My role as Chief Executive is to ensure we keep sight of the bigger picture. I am committed to keeping equality and diversity firmly in the frame, and will actively support equality and diversity across The National Archives.

Oliver Morley
Acting Chief Executive, The National Archives

What is LGBT History Month?

Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Trans History Month takes place every year in February. It celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community and it is an opportunity for all of us to learn more about the histories of LGBT people in Britain and Northern Ireland.

LGBT History Month’s origins came from School’s Out!, a campaigning organisation of LGBT people involved in education. They took their inspiration partly from the US, where LGBT History Month has been celebrated since 1994.

Over the next two years LGBT History Month is celebrating sport in all its diversity. Homophobia is still an enduring factor to many sports so with the lead up to the 2012 Olympics it is a great opportunity to beat this and make the campaign a real success.

The 2011 edition of Past2Present while focusing on sport also highlights some of the research that has taken place over the last year at The National Archives in Kew.
LGBT History Month 2011: Why sport?

LGBT History Month has, since its foundation in the UK in 2005, sought to get into the curriculum to make changes so that our schoolchildren have role models and are not alone. Over the past six years our main focus has been history, but we have focused year-on-year on a different area of the curriculum.

Over the next two years LGBT History Month’s theme is sport. With London looking forward to being the next Olympics hosts in 2012 this is an ideal opportunity to take up the cudgel and see how we can increase LGBT participation in sport to our mutual benefit. To put the situation into perspective: as a gay man I don’t think it’s an exaggeration to say that sport in schools is the last bastion of heteronormativity. There is the stereotype of the macho sexist male PE teacher and the lesbian female PE teacher. There’s the unwelcoming changing room, shower and the surrounding culture. Finally, there is the last phase in the whole process of forcing people to conform to the stereotype: team sledging.

On the other hand there are tremendous role models out there. Martina Navratilova is still a pioneer after Billie Jean King who was her predecessor. Salford’s John Amaechi came out at the end of his career as a basketball player in the US and Gareth Thomas, the Welsh rugby player, came out last year. Both, incidentally, are patrons of LGBT History Month. Matthew Mitcham is a tremendous and outspoken advocate of LGBT participation in sport, as well as being a gold medallist diver. But where are the women now? Clare Balding is well known as a lesbian following her spat with The Sunday Times, but out and proud lesbian participants are few and far between since the victory of French tennis ace, Amelie Mauresmo.

So is it safe to come out as a professional sportsperson? Thomas came out late in his career and, even in this day and age, suffered homophobic abuse from Castleford supporters (for which the club was fined). Amaechi states that if he’d been out he simply wouldn’t have been allowed to play in many US states.

Apart from the dangers of negative media coverage and the potential loss of sponsorship deals that could result from a major player telling everyone he or she is gay or lesbian, there are the added extras of being denied promotion and even being barred from certain matches. Add into the equation that if you are an international player there are 78 countries where homosexuality is illegal and you can see that being out and proud may not even be an option. As to professional football, Justin Fashanu remains the only player in the world to have come out as a gay man. He committed suicide in 1998. As the lesser quality tabloid media scours the changing rooms in the hope of outing a player and putting some sleaze into the story, Max Clifford says he has advised several players to stay in the closet. It’s
a bit like Hollywood in the fifties. But this is 2011.

There is good news in the distance. The Justin Fashanu Campaign is underway and gaining ground in its efforts to eliminate homophobia from the sport Stafford University and Stonewall have both produced research that shows that fans want homophobia stamped out of the terraces, but any football fan who attends matches will tell you that homophobic chants and insults are still all-too-common. The FA, while not homophobic, would prefer the problem to go away. The recent anti-homophobia DVD the FA produced with little consultation was much criticised by the gay sports community.

Worse than the abuse from the terraces, however, is the lack of visibility. What message does all this give a fourteen-year-old boy? That being gay is unmanly? That he won’t be a team player? That football’s not for p**fs? Again, there are efforts to bring about change. There are LGB fan clubs such as Gay Villans (Aston Villa) and gay friendly football teams like the Left-_footers in London and Brighton Bandits. They have their own league. But isn’t it a sad comment on the state of our nation’s sports that gay men who want to play football are forming alternative clubs away from the mainstream?

There are lesbian and gay rugby clubs too; like Lakenham Hewett RFC in Norwich and Newcastle Ravens. The authorities that oversee Rugby Union and Rugby league are much more supportive of LGBT issues. They are aware of the importance of promoting equal opportunities and celebrating diversity than their counterparts at the FA. But out gay rugby players are as rare as blue daffodils too. Could this be a result of the prevailing culture in schools, where homosexuals and team sports form an oxymoron?

We have been working with Pride Sports, the leading organisation for Sports Development and Equity. This organisation should be welcomed and feted by the sporting community, but it is all too often ignored and is bereft of funds. Events like the Gay Games at Cologne bring about great bonhomie and raise the profile of LGBT people in sport, but you have to finance yourself to attend or participate, and that costs a lot of money. Sport is supposed to be for all.

With the Olympics ahead of us the time is right to take on the world of sport. The London Organising Committee of the Olympics and Paralympics (LOCOG) is a new body that has new ideas and comes without baggage. It is committed to maximising the involvement of all the protected characteristics (formerly known as minorities) in the Olympics at every level; participating, working, supporting and promoting. This gives us the opportunity to use LGBT History Month to challenge the homophobia, the transphobia and the stereotyping that seems to permeate the sporting sphere.

That is why we are focusing on sport for the next two years; we feel that it will take two years to begin to change things. The first year will be raising awareness with the sports bodies at popular and elite levels as to what is needed to change the culture in sport. The second will be about making things change - and change they must.

Tony Fenwick (LGBT History Month and Schools Out!)
Making ‘our’ archive your archive

The National Archives is one of the biggest and most unique resources in the country. LGBT history emerges throughout the collections in a diverse range of records reflecting political and social movements and attitudes towards sexual orientation and gender identity. TNA holds over 10 million records and many valuable resources in the collection still need to be identified and surfaced.

Archus, the voluntary Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender staff forum at The National Archives, has been conducting a research project to uncover these hidden resources. We make sure they are recorded in cataloguing projects, with accurate terminology that does not change the meaning of the document, but that does not reiterate homophobias found within them. We aim primarily to help foster new research and enquiry into LGBT history and share the value of archival resources in this area.

Papers surrounding the banning of Radclyffe Hall’s novel *The Well of Loneliness* depict the censorship issues surrounding books deemed ‘obscene’ at the time. There is also a range of criminal records relevant to LGBT history, including information about a police raid on a ‘disorderly house’ and numerous cases of men being blackmailed because of their sexuality.

The documents reveal the diversity and vibrancy of gay and transgender life in Britain’s past as well as the discrimination and persecution LGBT people have endured throughout history. They give a fascinating insight into how people were prosecuted, how gender was defined by authorities, how people were prosecuted for wearing items perceived as not being for their gender such as men wearing dresses and powder puff. These items were added to court evidence including items

To do this, we have been putting together a list of document and file references and detailing contents online on the wiki site, Your Archives¹ (yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk). We make digital images of some key documents where we can.

The list already includes records, for example, relating to homosexuality in the civil service and in the armed forces, including lesbians in the WRAF, the Wolfenden Report 1957 and the Sexual Offences Act 1967.

The National Archives has also developed research tools for lesbian and gay history with a new research signpost and an updated in-depth research guide, giving all levels of researcher a more comprehensive set of tools.² The list of documents is being developed as more are identified. Archus and The National Archives encourage anyone who is aware of more resources in our collections to let us know, or add it to the list yourselves!

Rosie Logiudice (Archus)
Women tennis stars

Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King is a tennis legend and the first prominent professional female athlete to come out as lesbian. Her story and career success have been instrumental for women’s equality and LGB figures in sport.

As a professional, King won 12 Grand Slam singles titles, 14 Grand Slam women’s doubles titles, and 11 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles. She is the first woman to earn more than $100,000 from any sport and ranked world number one for five years. This was no mean feat for the time in which Billie Jean played tennis. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, tennis was mainly an elitist sport for the rich and, there was no pro tour for women. In wanting to make tennis accessible to all people and coming from a middle class background, Billie Jean King proved that people from all classes could succeed. King advocated that women and men earn equal amounts and was instrumental in the US Open’s paying equal amounts to men and women. In 1970, she and other female players boycotted a tournament because the men were paid ten times as much as the women.

Battle of the Sexes

Billie Jean King is best known for defeating Bobbie Riggs in the ‘Battle of the Sexes’ in 1973. Riggs was a former tennis pro who was critical of King and women playing sports. At age 55, Riggs bragged that women played so poorly that he could beat the best women’s player in the world. In front of more than 30,000 spectators and a television audience estimated at 50 million people, King beat Riggs.

The game was considered significant in making strides for women in sports.

Coming out

In 1971, while still married to her husband, Lawrence King, she began an intimate relationship with her secretary, Marilyn Barnett. It became public in May 1981 in a palimony court case filed by Barnett. However, it was not until 1998 that King came completely out of the closet. She had called the affair with Barnett a mistake originally, as she was afraid of losing her tennis endorsements. Even after claiming the gay relationship was a mistake, King lost almost all her commercial sponsors.

In 2000 she coached the US Women's tennis team and was the first open lesbian to coach an Olympic team. King also started the Women’s Sports Foundation and Womensports magazine. The Foundation has been instrumental in gaining access to sports for women and girls. The Women's Sports Foundation also is dedicated to fighting homophobia and discrimination in sports. On August 12, 2009, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama for her work advocating for the rights of women and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.
Women tennis stars

Martina Navratilova

Martina Navratilova (born October 18, 1956) is a former Czechoslovak tennis player and World No.1. Billie Jean King described her as 'the greatest singles, doubles and mixed doubles player who's ever lived'.

Navratilova won 18 Grand Slam singles, 31 Grand Slam women’s doubles (an all-time record), and 10 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles. She reached the Wimbledon singles final 12 times, including 9 consecutive years (1982-1990), and won the women's singles title at Wimbledon a record 9 times.

In 1982 Martina won a record, 15 singles tournaments and 14 doubles tournaments: a total of 29 tournaments in one year. She and King each won 20 Wimbledon titles, an all-time record.

Navratilova came out publicly about her sexual orientation in 1981, shortly after becoming a United States citizen. Over the next 10 years, she had long-term relationships with author Rita Mae Brown and then Judy Nelson. In 1993 Martina filed a lawsuit against Colorado’s anti-gay Amendment 2 and spoke at the National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights.

Martina became involved with a philanthropic organisation that gives money to gay and lesbian causes called the Rainbow Endowment and, in 2000, won the National Equality Award from the Human Rights Campaign. During her speech she explained:

‘People often ask me, ‘Now that I’ve come out, what more can I do?’ My answer to that would be, encourage others to come out and to be active, supportive members of our community, which in turn, helps contribute positive change and ultimately to fair and equal opportunities for us all.’

Amelie Mauresmo

Amelie Mauresmo is a lesbian tennis player who first attained the top ranking on 13th September 2004, holding it for five weeks on that occasion. She was the fourteenth World No. 1 in women's tennis since computer rankings began. Mauresmo won two Grand Slam singles titles at the Australian Open and at Wimbledon. Mauresmo came out at the Australian Open in January 1999 at age 19. After winning a top-ranking star at the Australian Open, Mauresmo immediately ran to the arms of her girlfriend at the time. She announced that her success had to do with finding love and coming to terms with her sexuality. She then faced prejudice from others for coming out, with fellow player, Martina Hingis, calling her ‘half a man’.
Women, tennis and the 1980s: Homophobia and transphobia

Tennis has some strong gay female sports icons, who have achieved incredible success and progress both for women and for gay sports people. Over the last 40 years, some major female players and names have paved the way for equal treatment and opportunities in an area of life still in need of reform. The two most important figures are Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova.

However, despite their talents and achievements, the sexual orientation of these sports figures was seen as scandalous, deviant and unsavoury when exposed to the public eye in the national media in the 1980s. The *People* newspaper ran an exclusive on the ‘sex scandals of the women’s tennis stars’ portraying lesbian players as sexual predators and deviants corrupting the game.

It is important to remember the attitude these figures faced at the time they came out and the influence their success, perseverance and determination has had on today’s sporting world and the equality agenda.

Public perception portrayed by the media: Sex scandals of the women tennis stars in *The People*, 22 June 1986

Both Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova were highly talented and successful tennis players and equal rights advocates. However, when they came out in public in 1981, the reception in the sports world and national media was less than favourable or enlightened.

In 1986, Major David Mills, Secretary Treasurer and Secretary-General 1963-79, All England Lawn Tennis Club and Wimbledon Championships 1948-63, authored a three page exclusive in Sunday newspaper, *The People*, to discuss what he describes as ‘the perils of the women’s locker rooms at the world’s greatest tennis tournament’. The article’s acutely homophobic and transphobic tone and content reveal both the attitude of the higher echelons of the tennis world and also the lean towards sensationalism and shock factors based on prejudiced in the national media towards homosexuals.
and transgender people in the public eye.

The opening line of the article in *The People* reads:

‘Shock waves rumbled round the world of tennis when the two greatest women players of recent years admitted they were lesbians... but the hoo-ha over Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova ‘coming out’ is just the tip of the scandalous iceberg. For it has reached the stage where no pretty young player is safe when the butch battalions are prowling the locker rooms and hotels of the international circuit. The lonely nights and lack of male company make inexperienced girls easy prey for the randy predators of the women’s game... Barricaded doors are often the only way of keeping the amorous amazons at bay.’

After witnessing a female player watch another ‘as though she were a lover’, and hearing it confirmed by a colleague Mills writes, ‘I could hardly believe my ears. It sounded more like Sodom and Gomorrah than the Wimbledon I loved.’

Mills paints lesbian tennis professionals to be sexual predators, preying on young and innocent players, accusing them of causing damage to younger female players and bringing the game into disrepute. He uses punchy and homophobic descriptions of lesbians throughout the article, such as: ‘amorous Amazon’, ‘butch battalions’, ‘the unsavoury spectre of lesbians’, ‘randy predators’, ‘scourge of the women’s locker room’ and ‘these creatures’. This language permeates the article, presenting this attitude toward lesbians as acceptable and in a way which expects readers to agree.

Transphobia in Wimbledon and the national media: Renee Richards

In the same article in *The People* newspaper published in 1986 the author, David Mills, not satisfied at making his negative views on homosexuals in tennis known, goes on to attack and ridicule Renee Richards, who Martina Navratilova had taken on as a coach and who was transgendered.

Renee Richards had undergone sex reassignment surgery in 1975 and was formerly known as Richard Raskind. Mills objects to Richards applying to play in the Wimbledon women’s championships in 1977.

‘He may have changed his sex but there was no way he could have changed his physique, size 11 shoes and hard-hitting style of play. His sex change operation had taken place only the previous year and if his entry was allowed we faced the farcical and embarrassing prospect of this oddity walking off with the Wimbledon women’s title. It was a horrifying vision....Quite frankly her application had sent a collective shudder through the Wimbledon hierarchy...’

Interestingly, the article switches pronoun at this point from referring to
Richards as ‘he’ and ‘his’ to ‘she’ and ‘her’.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club secretary then said he was relieved to fob Richards off by saying she must apply through the United States Tennis Association like other Americans. Her application was eventually shelved.

Mills admits later on that he was ‘not man enough to confront her’ when he heard her looking to speak to him in a members’ lounge at a Paris tournament later that year. He ‘scuttled out of there in double-quick time’.

This comment reveals an irony and sums up the personality of the author of such homophobic and transphobic attitudes.

Renee Richards is known for initially being denied entry into the 1976 US Open by the United States Tennis Association (the year before her Wimbledon application). The Association cited an unprecedented ‘women born policy’. After disputing the ban, the New York Supreme Court ruled in her favour in 1977. This was a landmark decision in favour of transsexual rights.

Beth Brook (Archus)

---

**Out in sports: dates in history**

1968  Tom Waddell – Olympic Athlete
Tom Waddell, a 30-year-old army physician, comes sixth in the Olympic decathlon. Waddell, who is openly gay, becomes involved in gay politics. In 1976, Waddell and his partner Charles Deaton are the first gay men to be featured in the Couples section of People magazine. Five years later, Waddell forms San Francisco Arts and Athletics to plan the first ‘Gay Olympic Games’.

---

**News clippings from history**

Britain is to have its first Gay Olympics, and the organisers are hoping the event will be funded by ratepayers...Gay Games ‘85 is to be held in September at Brixton Recreation Centre, South London. It is being organised by the newly formed Gay Business Association which helps companies run by homosexuals, and also raises money for charity.

*Homosexuals ask for ratepayers’ cash to pay for games.*

By Howard Foster, Daily Mail (20/05/1985)

**News clippings from history**

“My DEARS, I’m absolutely thrilled at the prospect of the first ever Gay Olympics in London. I’m sure there will be thousands camping it out all night for tickets. And what a simply gorgeous opportunity it will be to witness such unique events as the 100 metre mince, the 500 yard hurdles, the Hi-Sweetie jump and, of course, the watch-where-you’re-putting-that-shot. Last one past the pink finishing ribbon is a cissy.”

Letter from ‘John Smith’ in Sunday People (26/05/1985)
Some things seem never to change. For one reason or another men who have sex with men seem always to have been targeted for the profit of others. And those others were sometimes themselves clearly men who had sex with men. The 1961 film, *Victim*, starred Dirk Bogarde as a homosexual barrister who fights the blackmailers of a young man with whom he has previously had a relationship. The blackmailers were depicted as rather camp men, coded to be read as gay themselves. *Victim* was the first mainstream British film to treat homosexuality convincingly. It is considered to have influenced a contemporary change in English law which decriminalised consensual homosexual acts. It was a powerful portrayal of the impact of blackmail on gay men’s lives.

### 19th century blackmail

In 1822, William Townsend, a seasoned criminal, was convicted of highway robbery and sentenced to be hanged. In fact, his crime would now be charged as blackmail. His victim, Aaron Crossley Seymour, claimed that Townsend had menacingly extorted a large amount of money from him on several occasions. Townsend insisted he was recovering a debt. As Seymour was a gentleman, which Townsend most certainly was not, the latter was convicted.

The case was widely reported. As a consequence, William Powell, a coach maker in Cheltenham, was moved to write to the trial judge, Mr Justice Park. Powell claimed the description given of Seymour matched that of his former tenant, a man who had been accused by local stable hands of taking liberties with their persons and then offering them money for their silence. Powell suggested in his letter that Townsend should be pardoned, as getting money from ‘such a one’ as Seymour is perhaps not such a crime.

This claim and other assertions regarding Seymour’s preference for ‘unnatural acts’ prompted great debate amongst the judiciary and even involved letters to the founder of the police, Robert Peel. One school of thought stated that if the allegations about Seymour were true, Townsend must be pardoned, because men like Seymour must understand that if they were to get up to such activities and blackmailed as consequence, the law would not defend them.

Another school of thought said that whether or not the allegations were true, a thug such as Townsend should
not be allowed to get away with treating a gentleman like this. The debate dragged on for some time, the judiciary could not decide whether to defend Seymour on the grounds of his superior class or to abandon him on the grounds of his alleged sexual proclivities. In the end, the authorities allowed the blackmailer Townsend to languish in Newgate Gaol for some 12 years before deciding he could be pardoned.

From the various reports and papers, it does seem very likely that Seymour was, as claimed, a man who had sex with men. More interestingly, perhaps, it seems he was almost certainly none other than Aaron Crossley Hobart Seymour, who wrote on Christian topics and made a living from writing hymns.¹

Harry Raymond was born Arthur Clive Gould and also went by the names Leslie Wright and Leslie Cotterill. In early life he had been an actor on the West End stage. Clearly, his acting career did not go well, as in later life he developed a habit of using younger men to entrap older male victims in order to swindle them out of large sums of money.

In one case, investigated by the Metropolitan Police and the Zetland Police (in the Shetland Isles), a man known only as F Simmons had been approached by Frank Wright, a young man of about 19, when visiting London in late 1936. Wright asked Simmons for work on his farm in the Shetlands, but Simmons thought the youth would ‘not be suitable in the winter time’. Still, he gave him his address and later received ‘several letters asking [him] to take him upon the farm’.

In March 1937, Frank turned up at the farm with “another, older man”, whom he introduced as his brother, Leslie. According to Simmons, in the few days he spent at the farm, ‘Leslie’ told him that Frank had stolen £370 from a local dance hall and ‘if the money was not refunded, he could go to gaol’. He gave them a cheque for £350. ‘Leslie’, in a letter dated 1 April, gave his ‘word of honour’ that he would repay £250 by 25 May and the rest ‘not latter [sic] than the end of June’. It is not clear why the police became interested but Simmons cancelled the cheque at their suggestion. Nevertheless, he insisted that he was ‘not threatened in any way, and expected his money back’. Eventually, Simmons was shown a picture of Harry Raymond, which he identified as of ‘Leslie’. However, he ‘did not wish to take criminal proceedings against Raymond’. According to the file, once he realised

20th century extortion

Gay men were not always the victims of crimes such as blackmail and extortion. A 1937 case appearing in the archives centres round Harry Raymond, a man known to police to be a ‘sodomite’, who gained notoriety as a sophisticated con man in the earlier half of the 20th century.
that Raymond was ‘a sodomite, he did not wish his name to be linked with Raymond’s in any way’.

In December 1937 at the Central Criminal Court, Raymond was convicted of extortion and sentenced to 10 years penal servitude. Arthur Bird, a younger accomplice, was imprisoned for 20 months. Simmons was far from being Raymond’s only victim. The file at The National Archives mentions four other men, all middle aged, single and moneyed. Each was approached in a public place by a younger man, then later asked for money by an older ‘brother’ or ‘concerned friend’.

In September 2009, two men from the Darlington area were arrested for posing as police officers in order to rob a man they met through internet dating. The 49 year old victim agreed to meet a man after chatting to him on ‘a well-known gay dating website’. When he arrived, two men dressed as police officers said he was being fined and took away his bank card. The man then went to police to complain he had been conned out of £200.

In November 2009 at Portsmouth crown court, Lee Creamer, 26, admitted extorting a total of £1,560 from three men, some of whom were married and fearful their families would find out they had sex with other men. He would dress as a police officer and go to cruising areas in Southsea. He told his victims they could either go to court or pay an on-the-spot fine. He would even drive them to cashpoint machines and give them a fake receipt and details of a course they had to attend.

Sentencing, Judge Peter Henry said: "The people you were targeting undoubtedly would have been in that frame of mind where they weren’t going to think straight. You were relying on the fact they were going to panic and pay the money." He jailed Creamer for three and a half years.

In April 2010 at Birmingham crown court, Towlys Pericleous was jailed for 18 months after he threatened to out a Roman Catholic priest. Pericleous, 28, had had a relationship with the priest after they met in a gay bar in 2004 but he blackmailed the priest when he tried to end the affair.

The following month at Worcester crown court, Lee Taylor, a 20 year old with no fixed address, pleaded guilty to five counts of blackmail. In one case, he forced a businessman to give him hundreds of pounds over a seven-month period. He said he would tell the man’s customers he was a gay sex attacker if he did not. Taylor met another man on an internet dating site and went to his house for sex. Afterwards, demanding money, he told the man he knew how to hurt people and threatened to shout ‘rape’ out of a window. The victim handed over £45. Taylor was jailed for four and a half years.

...plus c’est la même chose*

(* The more things change, the more they stay the same.)

**Chris Park (Rainbow Network)**
The Kings Cross Steelers

The Kings Cross Steelers, the world’s first rugby club for gay and bisexual men was formally founded in July 1996, joining the Surrey County Union. It draws its name from the fact that its first meeting was in Central Station, a gay pub in King’s Cross, London, on 1 November 1995. The ‘Steelers’ part came about because several founder members were keen fans of American Football (the Pittsburgh Steelers were founded in 1933).

The Steelers’ claim to be the ‘world’s first gay rugby club’. This is because South Africa’s Jamieson Raiders (founded in 1985) are an annual invitation team, rather than a registered club and the Sydney-based POOFTAs (also founded in 1985) play touch rugby rather than matches under the Union Code.

The club has typically forthright aims. It works to provide the opportunity for gay and bisexual men to play and enjoy ever-improving standards of rugby. As one of the first gay teams, they show the whole rugby community their value as competitive sportsmen through their progress and results. Additionally, the club aims to be a role model to the gay community, and a successful example of friendly cohabitation between people of different sexual orientations. The club has gone from strength to strength, its teams improving and working their way through the league system. Some of the highlights of the last 15 years are:

28 Jun 1999: Became full members of the English Rugby Football Union (RFU) and at the same time joined Surrey County League Four.
29 Jun 1999: Opened the show on BBC2’s Gaytime TV.
28 Jun 2002: Visited San Francisco to take part in the Bingham Cup, getting through to the final and winning the runners up Plate.
May 2004: The Steelers host the 2004 Bingham Cup in Esher
3 Feb 2007: First ‘gay marriage’ of two Steelers members
May 2007: The 1st XV are promoted to Essex League 2
Nov 2007: Steelers win the right to host the 2009 Union Cup in London.
May 2009: Hosted the Union Cup III with the 1st XV winning the Cup.

Chris Park (Rainbow Network)
The Union Cup

The Union Cup is a biennial European, non-professional, gay rugby union tournament, held every other year. It was first held in May 2005 in Montpellier, France, then in Copenhagen, Denmark in May 2007 and the third time in London in May 2009, hosted by the Kings Cross Steelers. The 2011 Union Cup will be hosted by the Amsterdam Lowlanders, in Amsterdam.

Out in sports: dates in history

1999 Greg Louganis – Diver

The Bingham Cup

Mark Bingham was a rugby champion, PR firm owner, beloved friend and a gay man. He was a hero on board United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, 2001. The international gay rugby event, the Bingham Cup, was named posthumously in his honour.

The Bingham Cup is a biannual international, non-professional, gay rugby union tournament, first held in 2002. The Bingham Cup was first hosted by the San Francisco Fog RFC, Mark Bingham’s home team. The Bingham Cup tournament has also been hosted by King’s Cross Steelers RFC (London), Gotham Knights RFC (New York) and Emerald Warriors RFC (Dublin). www.binghamcup.com

“We have the chance to be role models for other gay folks who wanted to play sports, but never felt good enough or strong enough. This is a great opportunity to change a lot of people’s minds, and to reach a group that might never have had to know or hear about gay people. Let’s go make some new friends…and win a few games.’ - Mark Bingham

Out in sports: dates in history

1975 David Kopay – American Football Player
David Kopay, an NFL running back who played for five teams (San Francisco, Detroit, Washington, New Orleans, Green Bay) between 1964-72, becomes the first professional team-sport athlete to come out – doing so three years after retiring.
When a woman is not a woman? 
How the Ministry of Pensions constructed gender

‘Do not ask who I am and do not expect me to remain the same: leave it to our bureaucrats and our police to see that our papers are in order. At least spare us their morality when we write.’

Michel Foucault (1969: 19) The Archaeology of Knowledge

Introduction

During the middle of the 1950s, there appears to have been a sudden influx of requests to the office of the Chief Insurance Officer, by people who wanted to change the sex on their National Insurance (NI) cards from female to male, or vice versa. It is unclear why these requests began to emerge at this particular time. There may have been a number of reasons.

There had been significant advances in medicine. For example, the work of plastic surgeons like Archibald McIndoe and Sir Harold Gillies was featured in the ‘Health Pavilion’ during the 1951 Festival of Britain:

‘McIndoe had developed with great success the treatment of the congenital absence of the vagina, whilst Gillies has brought into being the reconstruction of the penis...in rare cases of congenital absence.’

In 1953, Dr. Georges Burou, who pioneered the penile inversion form of vaginoplasty, began to practice sex reassignment surgery in Casablanca. Dr Harry Benjamin, who had been treating trans people with artificial hormones since 1949, published a landmark paper in the International Journal of Sexology. In 1952, a great hue and cry broke out when fashion model Christine Jorgensen was outed as a ‘man’ by The New York Daily News. In 1954, the story of war hero Roberta Cowell’s transition was serialised in The Picture Post.

Back in dear old Blighty, the men in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance were not sure what to make of these queer requests. The files feature a fascinating series of memoranda, notes and letters, as the bureaucrats attempted to assimilate cases of ‘transvestism’ into their systems of government.

I have divided responses to this issue into three periods: the 1950s, when the Ministry seemed to adopt a more enlightened view of the affair; the 1960s, when their attitude became less sympathetic; and the 1970s, when there was a radical and, unfortunately for trans people, a very negative, shift in their thinking. I also suggest some reasons for these different outcomes.
The National Insurance Act 1946

In 1946 the Labour government passed the National Insurance Act, which became effective from 5th July 1948. The Act provided for compulsory contributions for unemployment, sickness, maternity and widows’ benefits and old age pensions from employers and employees, with the government funding the balance. People in work, except married women, were paid 4s 11d a week in National Insurance contributions.

This Act replaced the Act of 1911, whereby contributions were voluntary. They were now mandatory and the payment of the contributions was known colloquially as ‘paying the stamp’. For people who had decided to transition, their NI contributions card was not only necessary for their employment, it also enabled them to qualify for a pension, so having a card showing the person’s correct sex was absolutely essential if they wanted to get a job or keep their job, if they already had one.

The impact of these changes on trans-identified people was never considered. In those days, there was no such thing as Equality Impact Assessments.

1950s

The applications to change the sex registered on individuals’ NI cards began in 1955. The civil servants who handled these cases are in no doubt about the importance of having the ‘right’ sex on the card. As DCH Abbott pointed out in a note dated 18 April 1955:

‘The National Insurance card is in effect a passport to employment and although the medical specialists may have decided that a person should be treated as of a sex different from that recorded on their birth certificate it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for him or her to get employment unless they can have an insurance card appropriate to the sex which has been adopted.’

For the men in the Ministry, the correct arbiter of the problem in these early days was the person’s GP or ‘medical advisor’. The situation was mediated by the Ministry’s own medical officer, and Abbott notes:

‘The Deputy Chief Medical Officer] has obtained from the person’s medical advisor a very helpful opinion. On the strength of this we have agreed to the issue of cards appropriate to a sex different from that officially recorded on the person’s birth certificate. Future cases will be dealt with in a similar fashion.’

Trans people reading this account will realise that, at the time, this was a major decision – not only because it meant the person could gain employment in their ‘lived’ gender, but also because of the implications in relation to individual pension rights. This point did not escape DCH Abbott, whose view, nevertheless, remained flexible:

‘if a person had with our knowledge and consent, and on medical advice been treated for certain purposes as of a different sex, it might be proper to treat them as that sex for pension entitlement.’
However, by 1958, there had been sufficient applications for a change of sex to require a more formal policy. There were concerns about how many people would be allowed to claim a pension at 60 if the present practice continued, so the bureaucrats decided to introduce a caveat. Whilst continuing the ‘humanitarian’ approach of allowing applicants to change the sex on their NI cards, the question of a pension award, ‘is a matter for the statutory authorities who will decide the question in the light of the circumstances at the time.’

There seems to be a real tension here, between the desire to take a ‘humanitarian’ view, and the need to avoid too much strain on the public purse. A letter, dated 17 March 1959, from HE Morgan to Miss K Whalley at the Treasury, read:

‘Our immediate concern…is to deal with requests for the issue of an [NI] contribution card appropriate to the sex opposite to that noted in our records and in this connection we have to bear in mind that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for such persons to get employment unless they have an insurance card appropriate to the sex to which they feel impelled to belong.’

Morgan is also aware of the risks involved if such a change to the card was not made:

‘There will be serious dangers in not doing so in particular cases, since the individuals concerned often have suicidal tendencies and distressing histories, and the Ministry should not put itself in the position of making life still more difficult for them.’

Interestingly, at the time, there are more women than men applying to change the sex on their NI card, so funding is less of an issue. Morgan ends his letter, by noting:

‘Our experience is that rather more women ask to pay as men than vice versa, so that the application of our policy should not result in a net loss to the NI fund.’

There were two clear outcomes from the policy of the 1950s: firstly, a person’s sex on their NI card could be changed, provided there was medical evidence in support of the change, i.e. There were ‘compelling medical reasons’; secondly, the question of pension rights would be ‘a matter for the statutory authorities who will decide the question in the light of the circumstances at the time’. In other words, the tension between the need for a ‘humanitarian’ approach and the need to manage the public purse was resolved by postponing any decision about individual pension rights to a later date.

1960s: the language of gender variance

By 1964, this ‘humanitarian’ compromise was under review. Again, without more research, it is difficult to account for this shift. It might be because there were more applications coming in and some of the original applicants were now reaching pensionable age. Whatever the reason, the bureaucrats wanted to obtain clearer medical guidance on when, exactly, a person sexed as male on their birth certificate could legitimately be classed as female. The
language of gender variance now became an issue.

On 18 December 1964, HP Gerrie sent a letter to MJA Partridge Esq. (Division B.24) regarding ‘AJ’, an applicant who had a woman’s NI contribution card but was registered as male at birth:

‘It seems that we must have some cogent proof of the change of sex and it would appear that the best way of doing this is to get [AJ]’s consent to our obtaining a report from Guy’s Hospital…There is no evidence on the papers of a physical change of sex, and it seems to be a case of transvestitism (sic).’

Apparently, neither Gerrie nor Partridge wished to endure the potentially embarrassing process of actually interviewing AJ about her gender identity. Instead, the letters on file debate AJ’s ‘true’ sex from a distanced medical perspective. There is insufficient space here to reiterate the whole debate, but the tone of the letters is largely concerned with AJ’s physicality.

During the 1960s, the medical establishment in the USA was beginning to distinguish between ‘transvestism’ (a desire to cross-dress) and trans-sexualism (a desire to live permanently as a member of the opposite sex), but the Ministry – and their medical advisors – seemed unaware of this distinction and continued to treat all applicants as if they were transvestites.

Consequently, the debate focussed on the psycho-social consequences of not allowing individuals their pension rights, rather than the question of whether they were legally male or female. For example, the following note is included by Julian James (3 March 1965) a doctor based at Guys Hospital:

‘...is that exposure of an established perversion may have grave results – an acute depressive episode could lead to suicide.’

There were now over 120 applicants awaiting a decision on their pensions, so the matter was referred to a senior officer, C M Regan Esq. (Div.B.2, Ministry of P & NI), for a decision. Regan’s eventual suggestion (in a letter dated 12 May 1965) was both sensible and humane: after 10 years or more, the ‘benefits’ aspect (i.e. the pension) of this matter should be consonant with the NI contributions that have been made:

‘I suggest that we should treat a man who passes as a woman, as a woman
for the purposes of a claim to retirement pension, and that we should similarly treat a woman who passes as a man, as a man…’

However, his colleagues did not agree with this proposal and a policy meeting was arranged for 2 June 1965. The minutes record two key outcomes that would have dire consequences for trans people in the UK. Firstly, it was decided that the NI card should not be used in place of a claimant’s birth certificate, for the purposes of calculating their pensionable age. Secondly, each case would have to be decided – by the Treasury – on its own merits, via what was known as ‘extra-statutory action’. AJ did get her pension and was able to retire at 60 using this process, but she was to be one of the few to enjoy this apparent privilege.

1970s: the Corbett vs Corbett effect

The bureaucrats seemed content to continue their policy of dealing with cases via ‘extra-statutory action’ until that momentous day on 2 February 1970 when, at the High Court, Ormrod J granted a decree of nullity to Arthur Corbett for his primary claim that his wife, April Ashley (who had undergone gender reassignment surgery in 1961), was a male at the time of the marriage, and that therefore she could not consummate the marriage. There are cuttings on file from newspaper accounts of the Corbett hearing, and there is a significant change in the language used by people in the pension’s office.

They now had a legal precedent for refusing the pensions applications. The word ‘transsexual’ is now in common use, and questions are being asked about surgery that applicants may have undergone. The sympathy expressed in previous notes and memoranda on the subject is now noticeable by its absence and the correspondence is becoming increasingly intolerant.

On 3 September 1975, AJA Compton sent a short note to his colleague Mr Hobbs following a claim from ‘Miss J’ who ‘seems vociferous’; Compton goes on:

‘It follows that although the [Insurance Officer] probably decided the claim on the basis of A’s letter to Dr Purdy…we must cockle up evidence from other documents on the file to show that Corbett vs. Corbett applies.’ (My emphasis).

Whatever they ‘cockled up’ enabled them to refuse Miss J’s application. The Corbett case now provided a legal basis for all further claims to pension rights by trans women to be refused, dispensing with any pretence at ‘humanitarianism’. Compton goes on:

‘The sex of the transsexual male was considered by the High Court in Corbett vs. Corbett and it was held that he was and remained at all times a biological male…Accordingly, I submit that the claimant is, and has at all times, been a male for the purposes of the National Insurance Act 1965 (now the Social Security Act 1973) and that accordingly the claimant has not yet reached pensionable age.’

Moreover, the caveat about the ‘medical effects’ of refusing a claimant their pensions rights is now repudiated, as B Purdy, the Chief Medical Officer, makes clear on 4 August 1975:
'The majority of transsexuals...can be told that their entitlement to retirement must be determined in the usual manner without detriment to their health. There will, of course, be the occasional exception to this rule.'

This absolute turn of face in relation to all of the policies that went before, is evidenced by what I think is the one of the most intolerant comments on file. Referring to Miss R, a claimant whose NI card was changed in 1960, Compton remarks in a letter to a Mr Browning on 19 September 1975:

'I expect this man (sic) will make trouble as he (sic) has been in skirts and treated by us as a woman for 15 years. However the law (by virtue of Corbett vs. Corbett) is on IO's side.'

Even though ‘Miss R’ had been living as a woman for 15 years, Compton still insisted on referring to her as a ‘man’ throughout the correspondence. ‘Miss R’ appealed, but the appeal was unsuccessful.

The failure of her appeal, on 9 August 1976, created a precedent for all similar future claims. It was not until 2004 that the Gender Recognition Act finally allowed qualifying trans women to retire at the age of 60. By then, of course, HM Government decided that pensions were one area where gender ‘inequality’ would be challenged, so many trans people would not be enjoying the benefits of that 50-year battle after all.

Dr Louise Chambers (The Rainbow Network)

---

Out in sports: dates in history

1981 Martina Navratilova – Tennis Player
Martina Navratilova reveals she is gay during an interview with the New York Daily News.

---

News clippings from history

A soccer boss has ordered his star new player to move out of digs owned by a gay land lord.

Harry McNally, manager of fourth division Chester, said he found out about the gay landlord when he started checking on footballer Wakeley Gage’s recent loss of form. He told 26-year old Wakeley, who is in temporary accommodation while he waits for his wife to join him, to quit the digs. But landlord, David Elliott, 29, said: “Wakeley knew the score about me. He said it was my life and he had his. So long as we kept them separate, he didn’t mind.”

Soccer ban on gay digs by Gordon Hughes, Daily Mirror (02/11/1985)

---

News clippings from history

Gays in kilts are to toss cabers in the world’s first homosexual Highland Games.

Others will compete in a drag race, where contestants change into women’s clothes. The games, called Highland Fling, replace traditional sports like hammer throwing with stiletto shoe hurling.

Organisers plan to stage the contest to promote AIDS awareness during August’s Edinburgh Festival. Tory city councillor Christine Richard called the idea “disgraceful”.

It’s the Highland Gaymes!
The Sun (13/06/1994)
The Gay Mountaineers 1981

In February 1981, *The Guardian* reported that a British research scientist was organising the ‘first gay expedition to Mount Everest’, expected to set off that November. Philip Judson, chair of the Cambridge branch of the Gay Outdoors Club, was hoping for a party of 12 club members to head off for Nepal later that year. He was already in contact with the Sherpa Collective, arranging for a guide and porters.

Interestingly, Judson was quick to reassure Guardian readers that GOC was ‘a perfectly serious walking and climbing club’ and that members would not ‘go rushing around shouting “Hallo, my dears, here we all come.”’. He acknowledged that the group might ‘face some social problems’; it was something he would ‘have to take advice on’. He was clear that, ‘if any of the Sherpa group were offended by anything we did, then we would stop it’. He hoped that the club would help to dispel the idea that ‘gay men are supposed to be delicate flowers, sitting amongst potted palms, imbibing pink gins and talking about opera and ballet’.

At this point six club members had signed up and a recent article in *Gay News* had generated interest from others. All were willing to pay the £900 it was expected to cost to get to Nepal and pay for a hotel and the Sherpa guide.

The expedition was a bit of a departure for the club. Their only previous foreign trips had been holidays in France and Greece. Their most usual destination was the Lake District.

Less than two weeks later, the expedition hit the news again. This time the Cambridge Evening News reported that the expedition had set off with a reduced party of five and at an increased cost of £1,200 each. The nature of the trip appears to have changed too - they were going to a base camp in the Himalayas. Then they would ‘trek for about 180 miles to a height of around 18,000 feet above sea level to take a look at the highest mountain in the world’.

The other intrepid mountaineers were Harvey Pritchard, a university administrator, Geoff Johnson, an Oxford graduate, Martin Farrell, a hospital doctor and John Hammond, an accountant. I could find no later articles to tell us the outcome of the expedition. Did they make it? Did they face any ‘social problems’? Were the Sherpas gay-friendly? If you know, please contact me at: rainbow@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Chris Park (Rainbow Network)
Out in sports: dates in history

1982 Gay Olympic Games
The first GAY OLYMPIC GAMES takes place in San Francisco.

News clippings from history

San Francisco, Friday: Organisers of an Olympic Games for homosexual athletes, to be held in San Francisco in 1986, were ordered by a federal judge today not to use the word Olympic to describe the event.

He said the U.S. Olympics Committee had exclusive rights to the word in America. The first homosexual games, held in San Francisco in 1982 drew 1300 athletes from 12 countries.

Olympics’ not for gays, Reuters

Another Gay Expedition

In January 2005, a group of six gay men from different parts of the US set off for the highest peak in the Western hemisphere, Argentina’s Mt. Aconcagua. At 22,840 feet, it is the highest mountain in North, Central and South America; and the highest outside of the Himalayas.

The team hoped to be the first gay expedition to reach its summit and break the gay climbing altitude record of 20,320 ft. I have found no report as to whether they succeeded or not.

And back in Nepal...

In November 2008, The Hindustan Times reported that, two days earlier, Nepal's Supreme Court had ruled in favour of laws to guarantee full rights to LGBT people, and that all gender minorities must be defined as “natural persons” under the law. This included the right to marry.

Nepal is going through a transitional period, with an Interim Constitution, which provides for a Constituent Assembly, charged with writing Nepal's permanent constitution. The Assembly is now preparing its first draft. The new constitution is due to be enacted by 28 May 2011. On 17 August 2010, a foreign gay couple had a gay marriage ceremony in Nepal. Sanjay Shah, a British man from Leicester, married an Indian man who did not want to be named. The couple’s wedding was organised by gay group Blue Diamond Society, run by Nepal's best-known gay activist, MP Sunil Pant.
If ever you were looking for a man who liked to be a little controversial, Norman Redman would fit the bill. He lived in Littlehampton and ran an ice cream stall on the local seafront and was a part time gym instructor. He also was a Sussex and London Football Association referee, officiating for the local boy’s football league and at some adult matches.

In 1973 Redman wrote to Gay News explaining how his role as a professional referee was in no way affected by his homosexuality. He said he neither ‘hid’ nor ‘advertised’ his gayness: ‘It seems that the gay person is more accepted in the sports world than any other. My only complaint is that it can be so bloody frustrating in the changing rooms!’

Then in February 1976, under the clever headline ‘Pressing gaily on’, he was reported as making his 5th attempt at election to his local council, letting it be known that he was the founder of the Arun group of CHE, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Just over a week later, he is reported to have challenged the Saints (Southampton Football Club) to a match with a team of CHE members. It seems that the Saints were unable to rise to the challenge: it was refused - with no little contempt.

Things really started to get interesting when in July/August 1976 he gave an interview to Gay Times. From August into September that year he was hardly out of the news throughout the UK. In part this was because Len Mullineux, the manager of an under-14s team, the Wickbourne Lions, angrily refused to have Redman as referee and demanded that the League replace him. ‘Our boys will be called off the pitch. They just won’t play. We are prepared to forego the two points’, he declared. Mr Jim Twitcher, chairman of the Bognor Regis and Chichester Minor League, rejected this request as Redman was a ‘perfectly good referee’.

However he did say, ‘as Mr Redman has admitted that he is gay, we would not allocate him to our 12-year-old matches. We [on the committee] are all parents. We all have sons.’

The next day, he was in the headlines again. On the advice of his solicitor, Redman demanded an apology from Len Mullineux for implying that he was a danger to young boys. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Mullineux was quoted as refusing to do so. Sadly, I could find no reports as to the outcome of this part of the story.

Gaystars XI: The first gay football team?

Two years later in the summer of 1978, Redman was in the headlines again. This time he was setting up the Gaystars XI, what seems to have been
the first ever gay football team. Much was made, particularly by the Daily Express, of the fact that his first recruit was a team hairdresser. I should point out that the Kevin Keegan perm was a phenomenon in 1975. Slough’s Evening Mail was more concerned about what might happen when a goal was scored: ‘Won’t we be left wondering if all the ensuing kissing and hugging is for real?’

Redman gave his motives for setting up the team as 'to boost public relations between CHE and the general public. We also think that by coming out into the open we may encourage other gay persons to 'come out'.’ He took the whole project seriously. He applied to the London and South-east Sports Council for a grant to buy kit, which would be all blue. He registered with the Sussex County FA, so that they would play with other affiliated teams. He wrote to Alan Mullery, then manager of Brighton and Hove Albion, for advice on coaching and approached Coventry City for permission to observe the team in training.

Sadly, according to an article from 1982, ‘serious gay sportsmen disliked the gimmicky show business image of Gay Stars [sic], and the club folded after a few months.’ This article was about another club claiming to be the world’s only gay football team. Disappointingly, the club was not named - at the request of the team’s manager, Graham Smith.

Redman’s next brush with fame was also in 1982. He claimed to know of enough gay players in all four leagues to ‘field a team plus four substitutes’. He said: ‘They tend to be more skilful in manoeuvrability and make good attackers.’ Manchester City’s manager, John Bond, is quoted as saying: ‘This doesn’t surprise me.’ While Bobby Robson, then managing Ipswich town, soon to be England Manager, said: ‘I’m utterly staggered. Football isn’t conducive to them, and there is no place for them.’

The article also mentioned that it seemed Redman would be the sole representative of Britain at the first Gay Olympics, due to be held in San Francisco that summer.

Later that year, Redman was mentioned in a South African newspaper. He was working to launch a ‘national sports association exclusively for homosexuals’. He wanted it to ‘encourage homosexuals of both sexes to take part in indoor and outdoor sports against each other and against ‘straight’ sportsmen and women’. Once again, I could find nothing about the outcome of his efforts.

**Health concerns, public concerns**

In 1987, Redman found further notoriety when he came out as having AIDS. He is referred to as ‘bachelor Norman’. He was by now working as a council equal opportunities officer and had been a referee for 20 years. He had been diagnosed as HIV positive only 6 months previously, so did not in fact have AIDS at this point. He said in a later interview, ‘I've given up trying to explain the difference [between HIV and AIDS].’
The main concern for The Sun was his contact with boys. He had notified the FA of his diagnosis. They allowed him to continue, although Peter Bentley, chairman of Sussex County FA, said: ‘Mr Redman is not a bad ref. But where young boys are concerned I think you have to worry.’

West Sussex FA claimed that he had ‘brought the game into disrepute’. Redman is reported as being so angry that he sent back his trophies. In 1988, Redman branded Westloats Club from Bognor Regis “uneducated idiots’ as the players were afraid of catching AIDS. This caused further backlash against Redman from Sussex FA, who found him to have brought the game into disrepute. He tried sending the club some Terence Higgins Trust leaflets to help educate them and appealed the ruling to the National FA but got nowhere.

Redman seems to have led a quieter life after this, with no more national news headlines.

Chris Park (The Rainbow Network)

### Out in sports: dates in history

**1990 Justin Fashanu – Footballer**

Footballer Justin Fashanu reveals he is gay in the News of the World, the first athlete in a team sport to come out during his athletic career. He later retracts his claim to have had sex with two cabinet ministers. Fashanu commits suicide in 1998 at the age of 36. His body is found hanging in an abandoned garage in East London.

Europe mourns loss of one of the first openly gay referees

On 25 August 2006, John Blankenstein, a Dutch official who oversaw the 1993 UEFA Cup final and 1992 European Championship matches died aged 57 from a kidney disease. He was an active supporter of the European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation (EGLSF), and had spoken about his experience as an openly gay official at the UEFA 'Unite Against Racism' conference in Barcelona earlier that year.

The EGLSF described his loss as ‘beyond words’ and hailed his contribution to challenging homophobia in professional sport. He supported the EGLSF over many years within the Netherlands and later across Europe. A letter from the EGLSF to his family said:

"John, you were the personification of the fight against injustice, homophobia and homo discrimination in sport and outside it. You have taught us that we can stand against the resistance against homosexuality in elite sport by being open about it and honest about the person you are. You were and you will stay a role model for the fight against homophobia in the world of football which often so difficult to reach. Your clear voice and statement on this point has our greatest respect. It also has had influence in on positions of the European Football Federation, UEFA, about discrimination in football including homophobia. On behalf of European Gay Lesbian Sport Federation, the Football Against Racism Europe and the Nederlands Cultural Sport federation we thank you for everything."

Source: Marc Shoffman, www.pinknews.co.uk - 30 August 2006

Profile: Nigel Owens
Nigel Owens (born 18 June 1971 in Mynyddcerrig) is a Welsh international rugby union referee. A former school technician and youth worker, Owens was appointed as an international referee in 2005, and that year officiated his first international between Ireland and Japan in Osaka. Owens made his World Cup debut in Lyon, France on 11 September 2007. He is only one of two referees ever to be appointed to referee two consecutive Heineken Cup finals.

In May 2007, he publicly came out as gay in an interview with Wales on Sunday. Although reactions have been generally positive, it was a difficult decision to make. He had even contemplated suicide.

'It's such a big taboo to be gay in my line of work, I had to think very hard about it because I didn't want to jeopardise my career. Coming out was very difficult and I tried to live with who I really was for years. I knew I was 'different' from my late teens, but I was just living a lie.'

Shortly after the 2007 Rugby World Cup, Owens was named Stonewall's 'Gay Sports Personality of the Year'. He is also now a patron of the LGBT Centre of Excellence Wales and of the Wooden Spoon Society rugby charity. He is one of the presenters on Jonathan, a rugby-themed chat show hosted by former Welsh international Jonathan Davies, broadcast on S4C on the eve of big international matches. He also co-presents the sports-themed chat show Bwrw'r Bar. In November 2008 he released his autobiography in Welsh called "Hanner Amser" which means Half Time.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

Out in sports: dates in history

1998 – Pat Griffin – Gay Games athlete
Pat Griffin, a lesbian professor at the University of Massachusetts, won a gold medal in the hammer at the Gay Games in 1998 and then wrote a book about lesbians in sport called Strong Women, Deep Closets. Pat Griffin was also the director of It Takes A Team, an education and advocacy project addressing LGBT issues in sport.
## LGBT History Month 2011 – Events

A selection of events taking place around the UK in February 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td><strong>Roman Sexuality Images, Myths and Meanings:</strong> This exhibition brings together a wide variety of sexual images from Roman art and archaeology and investigates what they meant to those who made and used them</td>
<td>Lakeside Arts Centre University Park Nottingham</td>
<td>Mon to Sat 11 am - 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 01 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Queer Question Time:</strong> BBC Radio 4's EVAN DAVIS hosts what promises to be a &quot;convivial but edgy&quot; public debate to mark the beginning of LGBT History Month in Southwark.</td>
<td>Southwark, London</td>
<td>6.30pm – 9.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 06 Feb</td>
<td><strong>In Focus:</strong> Lau your loppers on the strollers bona: The rise and fall of Polari is a special talk to mark LGBT month by Dr Paul Baker of Lancaster University.</td>
<td>Libeskind Room Manchester</td>
<td>2.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td><strong>Miss Nightingale the Musical:</strong> A dazzling new musical celebrating gay love, scandals and show business in the 1940s. Miss Nightingale the musical combines emotionally charged songs with powerful drama and Burlesque-style performance.</td>
<td>King’s Head Theatre 115 Upper Street Islington London N1 1NQ</td>
<td>10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Outset Festival 2011:</strong> Outset Festival is Somerset's weekend of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender creativity and community arts.</td>
<td>Brewhouse Theatre Coal Orchard Taunton Somerset TA1 1JL</td>
<td>Friday 7:30pm – 10:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 17 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Queer Meanerings:</strong> Two talks: &quot;Caribbean and African-American Queer Fiction: Lesbian and Male Gay Novels&quot; given by Dr Paulina Palmer &quot;Queer Victorian London’s underground locations&quot; given by Dr Simon Avery</td>
<td>Hellmore Room 252 Anglia Ruskin University East Road Cambridge</td>
<td>6.30 - 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Freaks or Sinners:</strong> How 20th century culture saw transgender people</td>
<td>University of East Anglia Thomas Paine Lecture Theatre Norwich NR4 7TJ</td>
<td>7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 26 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Outing the Past!</strong> Lancashire Record Office will be hosting its first Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender event with talks, film and exhibitions</td>
<td>Lancashire Record Office Bow Lane Preston PR1 2RE</td>
<td>9:45-3pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more events and information, visit: [http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/events/main.htm](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/events/main.htm)
Acknowledgements and endnotes

Authors

Beth Brook, Archus Chair (LGBT Staff Forum), The National Archives
Rosie Logiudice, Archus (LGBT Staff Forum), The National Archives
Chris Park, The Rainbow Network, Ministry of Justice
Dr Louise Chambers, The Rainbow Network, Ministry of Justice
Tony Fenwick, LGBT History Month
Parveen Betab, Equality and Diversity Manager, The National Archives

Also with thanks to the team at LAGNA, the Lesbian & Gay Newsmedia Archive, for providing access to their archive of new clippings (www.lagna.org.uk).

© Crown copyright
This Past2Present magazine is licensed under the Open Government Licence. Please note that some of the images and content are subject to third party rights,

Other rights and source attributions

Front cover (and back)
- Image: The National Archives file reference COPY 1/91 (folios 131-2).

What is LGBT History Month 2011: Why sport?
- Text: © Tony Fenwick, LGBT History Month
- Image: Flickr, LGBT History Month. Reproduced under a Creative Commons Licence.

Women tennis stars
- Image on p.7 (Billie Jean King), Flickr: The Heart’s Truth. US Government work.
- Images on p.8 (Martina Navratilova), Flickr: ilJim. (Amelie Mauresmo), Flickr: apsand. Reproduced under a Creative Commons Licence.

Women, tennis and the 1980s: Homophobia and transphobia (pp.    )
- Sources: The People, 22 June 1986, pp. 23-25, lesbianlife.about.com, and http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/sport/tennis/article3021888.ece.
- Image on p.9, Clipart (MP900341336) from office.microsoft.com/en-us/images, used with permission from Microsoft.
- Image on p.9 (bottom), from The People, 22 June 1986.
- Image on p.10, Flickr: omatix. Reproduced under a Creative Commons Licence.

The Kings Cross Steelers
- Images and logos reproduced with permission of the Kings Cross Steelers president. All rights reserved.

The Union Cup
- Image on p.16, Clipart from office.microsoft.com/en-us/images, used with permission from Microsoft.

When a woman is not a woman? How the Ministry of Pensions constructed gender
- Text: © Dr Louise Chambers.

The Gay Mountaineers
- Image on p23, Panoramic view of Mount Everest or Chomolungma from the north inside Tibet. Taken by W. Mason Fuller (www.masonfuller.com) of Boise, Idaho. 2005 (released into public domain).
- Image on p.24, Clipart from office.microsoft.com/en-us/images, used with permission from Microsoft.

Norman Redman: The first out gay football referee?
- Images from Clipart from office.microsoft.com/en-us/images, used with permission from Microsoft.

Profile: Nigel Owens

‘Out in sports: dates in history’
• Extracts from Observer Sport Monthly, 04/05/2003, http://observer.guardian.co.uk/osm/story/0,,946699,00.html

Notes:
1 yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk. Your Archives is The National Archives wiki site for input from everyone.
2 nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-subject/gay-lesbian-history.htm
3 The National Archives, file reference HO 47/63, folios 205-236
4 Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004
5 From various reports at www.pinknews.com
6 The documents referred to throughout this account are taken from the Chief Insurance Officers’ files at The National Archives, File reference is: PIN 43/595 and PIN 61/27.
8 At first, there was no clear means of identifying or categorising these instances of ‘sex change’ – in fact, one of the most interesting aspects of the file is the way in which the bureaucrats tried to anchor the terminology to a workable taxonomy.
9 Quoted in a letter from WHM Clifford, Division L.1, to Dr Collins, Deputy CMO at the Ministry, on 10 October 1958
10 Unfortunately, I do not yet have any research to suggest why this disparity may have arisen, but it’s worth noting that, during this period, there appears to have been more trans men than trans women. The Ministry could afford – in a very literal sense of the word – to adopt a generous view regarding these applications.
11 This was enacted in April 1975 and changed the way in which NI contributions were paid. Contributions were deducted directly from an employee’s salary. Consequently, there was no longer a need for the NI card.
12 Evening Argus, Littlehampton, 2 September 1976; www.campaignforhomosexualequality.org.uk
13 Ibid.
14 http://www.brightonourstory.co.uk/newsletters/sussexglf.html
15 Brighton Evening Argus, 21 February 1976
16 Southern Evening Echo, Southampton, 3 March 1976; Sunday Mirror, 7 March 1976
17 Hartlepool Mail, Scarborough Evening News, Dublin Herald, Scottish Daily Express, the Daily Express, the Daily Mirror, 2 September 1976
18 Western Daily Press (Bristol), Bognor Regis Observer, East Anglia Daily Times (Ipswich), Kent Evening Post (Maidstone), The Journal (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), 3 September 1976
20 The Yorkshire Post (Leeds), 19 February 1982
21 The Daily Mirror, 5 April 1982
22 The name is unclear, it may be the Port Elizabeth Evening Post, 15 September 1982
23 The Sun, 27 February 1987
24 The Daily Mirror, 18 September 1987
25 Time Out, 15 June 1988