



# Honorary Life Members Newsletter

England Netball, 1—12 Old Park Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 2JR

Tel: 01462 442344

Volume 4 Issue 1

January, 2014

## Redpath's Roundup

It hardly seems possible that 2014 heralds the start of the fourth year of the HLM club and of course, the newsletter. We start this year with congratulations to Margaret Cassidy OBE who celebrated her 100th birthday on 27 January. Full details with photo's to be included in our April newsletter.

Looking forward to 2014, excitement is beginning to build for the Commonwealth Games which are now only six months away. If you have tickets for the Games, please let us know as it'll be good to know who'll be there on which dates. Joan Mills has been working hard ensuring the EN supporters club have the best deals available, so we should have a good turn out of supporters at the games.

Yvonne and I are working on EN's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money that will allow us to employ someone to undertake the huge job of cataloguing the archives held centrally here at Netball House. We anticipate that the project will last up to three years as we are planning a couple of exhibitions and oral history element to our bid. In December, I went to Dartford in Kent to see what Joan Mills, Cathy Hickey and their team had done with Kent's archives, are now housed within the Bergman-Osterberg museum. The day was most informative and it was good to speak to the museum curator about the storage and display of the archives. We will of course still appreciate help from our HLM's and other volunteers as we can't do it without you, so will keep you posted through the newsletter on developments.



**Janet, me, Ben Robinson** it didn't quite happen, due to the excessive heat, which was a shame?

Many of you know that I recently turned 65. I had the best birthday ever, as the day's festivities just seemed to go on for about a week. Our President Janet Wrighton, came with the staff to the pub at lunchtime, followed by a surprise party on the following Saturday that included Kendra, Jan Burke and Brian Worrell amongst the guests. The present to myself was the trip to Australia over the Christmas and New Year period when I was away for four weeks. How the time flew, but the highlights were being in Sydney on Christmas day (despite the rain) and ending my trip in Melbourne at the Australian Open tennis tournament. Although I hoped to meet up with Marg Caldow and Mary Beardwood,

Finally, I have to end this newsletter with an apology to Jean Bourne as we reported in our last newsletter that she and husband Laurie had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in August, when it was in fact their diamond anniversary. I've included a tribute to Jean in this newsletter as many of you know that sadly Laurie died in December. He was such a lovely man who will be missed by the many of us that knew him.

Best regards

Sheelagh

Editor



Janet Wrighton and I

## President's Reflection – "On the court – 2013" writes Janet Wrighton

I have bitter sweet memories of 2013. For netball the year started off fantastically well, but in my personal life, I lost the man who had made my netball experience possible. I need to dedicate MY 2013, and the most successful netball year, to my dad.

January saw England make an historic record. A three test series win over Australia. What could be better than that? The World Champions beaten not just once, but on three consecutive occasions by England. Bad weather prevented me from attending the first test in Bath, but I was at Wembley and Birmingham to witness the victories.

England went on to continue their winning form when they toured Jamaica and in front of fanatical Jamaican crowds managed again to win all of their matches.

The National Super League got underway and England netball used the facilities of the new arena at Worcestershire University for the Grand Final where we were all on the edge of our seats with a very close game between Team Bath and Celtic Dragons. Team Bath had to play with exceptional skill to win. Worcester University staff made us very welcome and they were grateful to have netball in their facility.

I have been privileged to hold the position of President during 2013 and have witnessed so much success on the court. I have attended many National Finals. Even on a rain soaked Saturday in March it was fantastic to see so many schools in action at the National Schools Finals and such excellent standards. I have to admit to preferring "indoor" events (except when the sun is shining), but if the players can endure it then so can I!

Seeing players with disabilities playing for the sheer joy of just taking part in the Marion Smith tournament is an occasion which I always look forward to and am never disappointed.

In September, England hosted South Africa for a three Test Series and on all three occasions I witnessed England's success.

I was asked to represent England Netball at the Annual General Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Alliance at St James's Palace. I not only spoke with Prince Edward, but he told me that he remembered the final of the Commonwealth Games between Australia and New Zealand and remarked how tall the players were when he presented their medals. I was able to see one of our very own Honorary Life Members, Baroness Sue Campbell receive the Arthur Bell Trophy, an award given to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of community sport, for her services to school sport.

I attended the beginning of the World Youth Championship in Glasgow, but could not stay for the whole event due to a planned family holiday. I am sure that the England U21 players who represented us enjoyed the experience of playing in such a fantastic arena and sampling the atmosphere of a major tournament. I hope that many of these athletes will be playing in World Cups in the future.

In my role as a Board Director of the International Federation, I attended Fast 5's in New Zealand. The rules had been tweaked and even more exciting netball was expected. Prior to the Fast 5's England's unbeaten run came to an end in South Africa and although they played their best at Fast5's, they were unable to bring a medal home, a position I am sure that they will want to improve on in 2014.

Finally, you may remember seeing me behind a certain desk in Washington in a previous newsletter. In 2013, I was dared to take a bungee jump from Sky Towers in Auckland but vertigo is a symptom best addressed at ground level.



## Chairman's Reflection – "Off the court – 2013" by Cheryl Danson OBE



Janet has covered the 'On the Court events' and I am reflecting on what we achieved 'Off the Court' during our successful and exciting 2013.

Several of our inspiring volunteers received National Awards during the year. A warm welcome to our new HLM's; Lyn Carpenter, Amanda Newton and June Snellin all received their award at the Fiat International test series in October.

Maggie Jackson looked great in her hat when she received her MBE from Prince Charles at Buckingham palace in February. Then we had the wonderful news at end of the year that Karen Atkinson had been awarded an MBE in the Queens New Year's honours list.

The Youth Advisory Group was recognised by the British Youth Council with the 'youth led award' for its leadership of young people within England Netball and for making a positive impact at a national level.

Head Coach Anna Mayes was chosen to be a part of the inaugural intake of UK Sport's World Class coaches and she was also shortlisted for the Sports Coach UK coach of year. This is a well-deserved recognition both for Anna and netball.

Pip Cross, an official from the Isle of Man, won the Coach/Mentor of the Year Award at the Sports Officials UK Awards; Sheelagh Redpath (Lifetime achievement), Alice Johnson (Young Official of the Year) and Carole Williams (Grassroots Official of the Year) were also shortlisted.

England was crowned Team of the Year at the Sunday Times Sportswomen of the Year Awards, hosted by Sky Sports in conjunction with the Sunday Times. Lynne Booth from the North-East was recognised with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the UK Coaching Awards.

EN appointed Sasha Corbin as our official ambassador and she has done a splendid job throughout the year promoting Netball.

Our sponsorship has gone from strength to strength. ZEO, a soft drinks company have become title sponsors of the Netball Superleague, England's home International Series' and Back to Netball. Mrs Crimble's become the official free-from sponsor supporting the England team, B2N programme and involvement with EN University programmes; and Sky sports renewed their TV contract to broadcast test matches and NSL.

A national Net 10 for life EN initiative was launched to raise funds for our charity partner Cancer research UK and we also were involved in the All4One project in South Africa with fund raising and provision of coaches. Thank you to those HLMs who contributed so generously to All4One and to Liz Broomhead for all her hard work in making this initiative a success.

In September we held our national 'Make the Game Live' conference followed a week later by the AGM and Golden Globes at the National Motorcycle Museum, West Midlands.

Our umpires had a very good year with Ian Fuller achieving his International Umpiring Award and being named as the Netball Superleague umpire of the year.

Five Netball Superleague umpires were appointed to officiate at the World Youth Netball Championships in Glasgow Ian Fuller, Lisa McPhail, Tracy Smith, Janice Treasure and Sarah Watts. Sarah achieved her IUA at the competition and Ian Fuller and Sarah Watts officiated at the final.

In November, Fast5 was held in Auckland and umpires appointed from England were Ian Fuller, Janice Treasure and Lisa McPhail with Ian selected to umpire the final. As an organisation we continue to grow; our membership increased and England Netball confirmed the addition of 'Indoor Netball' to the portfolio of recognised and authorised Netball activities. So, overall we enjoyed a very successful year 'Off the Court. Thank you to all of you for the part that you played and I look forward to seeing you in 2014 and I hope 2014 is as enjoyable as 2013.

## Karen Atkinson MBE – by Maggie Jackson MBE

I am delighted to have the opportunity to prepare this article for the HLM newsletter in celebration of Karen Atkinson's MBE. With Karen's baby, Freddie, born a couple of weeks ago, even with her extraordinary planning skills, Karen might find it a bit difficult to squeeze an article for the HLM newsletter in alongside everything else going on in her life!

Like many of you who know Karen, you will be as delighted as I am to see that she has been honoured nationally through being awarded the MBE in this year's New Year honours list. Since her retirement from the England Team in 2011, Karen has hardly let the grass grow under her netball feet. She is the athlete representative to the Commonwealth Games board, a post she has held since 2011. The job involves Karen voicing the needs of the athlete in order that they can fulfil their sporting promise at the forthcoming games in Glasgow. She not only represents netball but all sports, and there is no better person to be that representative as she fully appreciates the delicate balance professional athletes need at major competitions in respect of sleep, nutrition, family support, recovery and training.



Since I ceased being the Head Coach to Mavericks in 2011, Karen has stepped into the role, bringing her unique qualities to the team and moving them forward and developing a stronger squad with improving depth so they remain one of the top NSL teams in the country whilst at the same time keeping the philosophy of Mavericks is paramount.

When I was asked earlier what makes Karen the success she undoubtedly is, I had to say her grit, determination, ability to work through difficulties and see the whole picture, but most of all she epitomises what a team player should be. Whoever I talk to about Karen as a role model, they all say that she has had the biggest impact on others albeit as a player, captain or coach because she has the ability to model how she wants others to be. There is no secret as to how she achieves this; it is purely by setting an example by her own behaviour. Karen is intuitive about people and recognises the importance of an individual contribution of players, officials and volunteers – she has the ability to see the individual and gain the best from them to the benefit of the whole team.



I coached Karen from 2004, both as an England and Mavericks player. I recall that during the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010, she did not get as much court time as she would have liked, but remained professional as the captain and a squad member and kept her feelings to herself until afterwards when she asked what she needed to do to get back on court. She listened to the coaches and strength and conditioning coaches, worked and trained hard and left no stone unturned consequently had a strong performance in the 2011 World Championships. Karen's solution based attitude combined with her team vision and her ambition to be part of the broader picture in relation to sport is what has led her to be the success she is today.

Being a 'northern lass', Karen is a grounded person with a strong family background and highly developed network of contacts, but one of her biggest strengths is her husband, Acko who is her ultimate check and challenger; together they make a formidable and immensely strong team. This has allowed Karen to grow into someone who is brave and unafraid to take unpopular decisions and challenge when necessary. She believes in herself and will stand up and defend those beliefs when needed whilst at the same time retaining her humility and sense of humour.

Karen, you have been a pleasure to coach and to work alongside you; as a peer and fellow HLM, Congratulations and good luck in the future both as a mum and your role in sport.

## Lyn Carpenter one of our newest HLM's writes



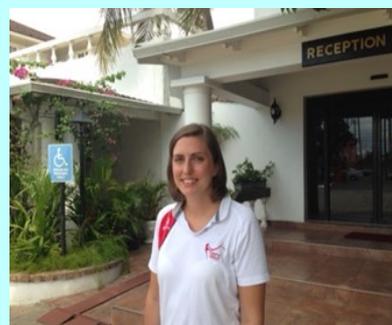
Well to say I was shocked but overwhelmingly delighted when I was awarded HLM at Wembley Arena on 25 September 2013 is such an understatement! There are so many amazing colleagues who already hold HLM that to be considered in the same company is both an honour and a huge privilege for which I thank England Netball very much.

I first played netball for England as a 17 year old back in 1983 and here I am 30 years later as an HLM. So much of what I have achieved in our great sport is down to the support, love and encouragement of my parents and this award is definitely recognition of their huge contribution to enable me to do what I have done and hope to continue to do for many more years.

Sadly, my Dad passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 5 September this year, so I didn't get to share this news with him, but I know he would have been equally as proud as me. I hope to do you all justice as a fellow HLM and I look forward to meeting many of you at events in the near future.

## Introducing Sarah Gandon, England Netball's Performance Operations

Hi, my name is Sarah and I started at England Netball on the 8th July as Performance Operations Manager. Since then I have been living and working in a whirlwind of competitions, camps, tours and planning, whilst also introducing myself to the wider staff and stakeholders. My role is split down the middle, but hopefully both sides will link to benefit each other. One half of my job is Team Manager for the senior squad and the development/ u21 squad, while the other half is operational management of the Super League.



As team manager, I attend all camps, tours and competitions and am the main point of contact for event managers, media, federations and officials into our squad. I act as Team Leader for Commonwealth Games England, which means that I am deep in planning for next year's XXth Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. An event I am not only excited about working within, but also very proud of as I live in and grew up in Glasgow and look forward to showing it off to the world!

Since I started work at England Netball, I have been to Jamaica with the under 21s, Glasgow for World Youth Champs, South Africa with seniors and in November I was off to New Zealand with the England Fives for Fast5. I am getting very good at sleeping on aeroplanes and bartering with laundrettes! I am enjoying getting to know all of the players and staff. Everyone in High Performance works so hard, it is a great team to be a part of.

As Operations Manager for Super League, I will attend the majority of the Sky Sports covered matches and provide event management support to the franchises, whilst also ensuring that each event is run to the standards set by

England Netball. I am a huge Super League fan, so am looking forward to the 2014 season.



My background is that I have played netball since I was 9 and always loved it, although never did make it into a national dress! I still play competitively when I get a chance to be at home, and I have volunteered in Netball since 1997 when I was ball girl at UK Select vs New Zealand at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. I was university club secretary and captain, Team Manager for British and Scottish Universities and all of these, along with a degree in Sport and Recreation Management at Edinburgh, resulted in me working in sport.

## 1952 – 2013 A 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute to Jean Bourne



What better time to pay tribute to Jean, as 2013 was the year of her and husband Laurie's diamond wedding anniversary . In 1953 Jean became a Panel Umpire and also flying to Jersey for the inter county championships to play for Kent.

On marriage Jean moved from her native Kent to Sussex where county honours were gained and later to Hull where the East Yorkshire side benefitted from her talents.

From Hull, Jean moved to Nottinghamshire where she still resides today, and began her career in coaching, umpiring and administration in netball. Jean coached the Nottinghamshire Schools teams before moving onto the County Seniors for some seven years. In addition to coaching Jean, has not only umpired at all levels, including international matches, but also found time to act as an English Schools selector.

Jean previously held posts with the East Midlands, and Nationally has been chair of the National Council/ Executive committees of AENA, acted as secretary to Coaching subcommittee and was President for the Association during 1995-2000

Jean is still actively involved in supporting England Netball and attends as many events as she is able in her capacity as an HLM. Jean it is an honour to know you and pay tribute to your 60+ years in Netball through this newsletter.

England Netball 80th birthday  
celebration



### Contact us:

Editor: Sheelagh Redpath

Telephone: 01462 442344

Email: [sheelaghR@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:sheelaghR@englandnetball.co.uk)

Assistant Editor: Yvonne Bacon

Telephone: 01462 442344

Email: [yvonneb@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:yvonneb@englandnetball.co.uk)