



Honorary Life Members Newsletter

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

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Redpath's Roundup

I can't believe we're nearly at the end of another year with this newsletter being the last one of 2014. September and October have flown by with the HLM lunch, AGM, Goalden Globes and Make the Game Live conference all happening at the same weekend in September.

As usual it was lovely to see so many people at our annual lunch and later that evening at the annual Goalden Globes to welcome Anita Navin as our newest HLM.



Anita Navin with Maggie Jackson

The weekend was a huge success with record numbers attending both the Goalden Globes and Make the Game Live conference. With 14 HLM's attending our annual lunch, it was a fine turn out all round. If anyone would like a copy of the photo of our lunch, please let me know and I'll either post or email a copy to you.

Since then we have received some sad news in the death of Kath Worrall MBE, wife of Brian Worrall HLM. Many of you knew Kath, who was a Life Member of Hertfordshire County Netball Association; her MBE was awarded to her because of her outstanding contribution to netball in the county. **The funeral service will take place at North Chapel, West Herts Crematorium on Monday 10th November, 2014 at 2.40pm. Family flowers only. Donations made payable to St. Francis Hospice, c/o Hearnden & Daughters Funeral Directors, 5 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, AL1 1EU.** I

have included further information following this round up as I know many of you would like to remember her many netball achievements.

This month has seen my job change to that of Officiating Coordinator. I've reached that time in my career when I want to be involved with officiating on a more practical level and was successful in being appointed to what was Jan Burke's old job which I started my new duties on 1 October. With so many changes at England Netball and my new job, I am now editing this newsletter as a volunteer. Janet Wrighton in her role of Patron is chairing the new Heritage and Honours Committee and will be working closely with Yvonne and me on the HLM club and preparing our HLF project bid. We are delighted that Janet will be working closely with us as there is so much work to be done on the archives and I know her input will be invaluable.

Best regards

Sheelagh

Editor



HLM's and Board of Directors

60 years of Netball by Jean Robinson

When I saw Sheelagh and Yvonne at this year's Honorary Life Members lunch following the AGM in Sheffield and they asked if I would write a piece for the next HLM newsletter and send a few photos, I didn't realise then just how many netballing memories it would bring back. As I began to look through my mementos and photographs, my 60 years of being involved in the game came flooding back to me starting when I first played netball whilst a pupil at Thistley Hough Grammar School in Stoke on Trent back in the 1950's.

In those days the game was played without a centre circle and instead there was a line; additionally the positions had different names for Goal Shooter and Goal Attack. At the centre there was the Defence Centre, two centre players, which changed to Centre Defence and Centre Attack. In those days, the Goal Shooter and Goal Keeper were allowed in the centre third, and there were no interceptions then! Rough play and obstruction saw free shots being taken from the edge of the circle and no one else was allowed nearer than 9 feet or within the circle. The landing foot had to remain on the ground until the player let go of the ball. If the bounce went out, or if two players got the ball simultaneously, the referee did the bounce whilst the players waited 3 feet apart and whoever got to the ball first won. When did it all change?



Jean wearing her EN blazer 1959



Interception rule introduced and Jean practising

In 1953/54, I played goal keeper or goal defence for the Staffordshire County team whilst I was at college before moving on to play for England in 1959, when I was made captain. I played in the first ever netball match at Wembley Empire Pool against Jamaica that same year. Those were the same days that North Staffordshire played an Australian touring team in a school yard in Hanley with hardly any spectators watching! In the 1950's, netball was a game played in a school yard but there was a media push at the time to make people aware of it being an adult game and having attended the recent tournament in Worcester to see so many people there. What a positive change from 50 years ago.

Throughout the 1960's I played for the rest of England and still have an old programme which cost 6d, a receipt for hotel accommodation in Blackpool for 10 shillings, and 6 shillings for an evening meal. Our uniform was a red skirt with a tunic top, a little like a battledress, with a white blouse, shoes and socks. There were no tracksuits in those days. I don't remember ever warming up or cooling down sessions, just a few little exercises before a game, with matches lasting 20 minutes each way.



Playing at Bisham Abbey in 1956



Tour of the West Indies 1962

In 1961, I was selected as England captain and in 1962, selected to tour the West Indies as part of the first team to go on tour and the second organised by England Netball; the first tour had been to South Africa. The selection process included an interview in London and checks into my racial attitude. As I had a Nigerian friend from college, I passed that check. In those days we had to pay our own travelling costs, but Marks and Spencer's provided us with white nylon dresses as our travelling uniform and Dunlop provided us with 'pumps'. We were also provided with white hats by an English hat maker that was well known in those days, but I can't remember who it was now.

Once we arrived in the West Indies, we were expected to be on court for coaching sessions with the locals. Nancy Barnett was our umpire, but the local umpires weren't too au fait with the rules, so Nancy kept pulling them up. The result of that was us having a police escort on some occasions as the locals didn't take too kindly to Nancy's 'advice'. Netball in the West Indies was very popular even in those days with lots of male as well as female spectators

Another first was the world tournament held in Eastbourne, but although I was captain at that time I couldn't play on that occasion because of a back injury, which led to one of my biggest career disappointments. As a result of that injury, I began to play more for my county and club as a shooter because it placed less pressure on my back.



Staffs v Surrey – talking tactics

In the following years, I became Vice President of England Netball between 1974 and 1976, and President between 1976 and 1980. During that time, I instigated that Presidents and Officers be elected every 12 months with the President serving no more than 4 terms. As President in my day, many club members didn't know the officers, so I set about bridging the gap between officials and players. Part of bridging this gap was to ensure that officials and players at the dinner following international test matches taking an opponent into dinner with them. There was no high table but circular

tables to ensure people mixed. I took this approach further by becoming more accessible to counties, schools and clubs and in my role as

President travelled all over the country. The biggest compliment I was paid at that time was to be called the 'People's President'. I finally finished playing netball at 62 years of age, but still maintain an active interest in our wonderful game.



Jean coaching at Lilleshall

Katie Baldwin, Athlete Support Manager writes about her trip to Botswana with the Under 19 Squad

August 2014 saw our U19 squad head over 5,000 miles away on a tour to Botswana. For most of the selected athletes, this was their first tour and their first opportunity to gain experience of long haul travel and the African style of play. The team stayed in Tlokweng, which lies on the outskirts of Gaborone, the capital of the African nation and faced a tough schedule of 6 games in 6 days.



A noisy crowd full of standard African flair greeted the U19s in their opening encounter against the Botswana U20s. Jan Crabtree utilised the strength in depth as every player took to the court in an encouraging 71-16 victory. Despite the result, the local support showed the visitors how to celebrate by flooding onto the court and starting the party with an array of dance moves!

The serious business continued the following day as England face the Botswana senior side. It was a much more physical clash with the more experienced opposition providing a

sterner and more competitive challenge. The additional pressure was handled excellently by the U19s as they once again impressed in front of a noisy home support to seal a 42-35 win.

Both games were played at the Otse Police Training College under the watchful eye of Superintendent Mmoloki Mogale who had welcomed the squad and made sure they had everything they require for their previous training sessions. He is also the chair of the Police College Netball Team and was with his side to watch the second game.

There was little rest for the squad as they took to the court again four more times; twice more against the both the U20 and Senior Botswana sides, but this time at the National Stadium courts. This tested the adaptability and the fitness of the squad as they played in a completely new environment and on a new surface, in high temperatures. The new conditions failed to hinder the performance and the score lines to follow were all successful.

One match in particular saw an incredibly close contest as the African nation started the game strongly, trailing by just one with the score at 19-18 at the half time interval. This game had followed an exchange of ideas between the two sets of coaches where Jan and Denise Ellis had met with the Botswana senior coach, taking him through video analysis captured from an earlier match. With World Cup qualifiers coming up for his side in September, it was clear that the head coach was putting what he had learned into practice. The highly competitive contest saw England close out a thoroughly professional 42-34 victory in this game.



The squad completed their tour of Botswana with another accomplished display, defeating the U20 side from the African nation 53-27, securing the team a 100% record on tour with six victories from the six matches played.

A victory of 70-22 vs the U20's followed on from an eventful day as the team were invited to the British High Commissioners house where they had converted their tennis court into a netball court for the day! The local deaf school played an exhibition match here after which our U19s were invited to have a go at playing. The rules are exactly the same apart from the umpires use a bright flag instead of a whistle and talking/shouting is not permitted. The only form of communication can be by gestures. The

umpires also often run onto the court to stop play if the flag is not seen and there is an interpreter on hand to sign if the reason for the stoppage is not clear. It also impacts the spectators; they cannot cheer but instead wave both hands in the air to show encouragement!

The High Commissioner Nick Pyle, his wife and children also joined the fun and made the squad feel very welcome at their home. It was even covered by Botswana TV. The athletes commented on how difficult it was to not be able to communicate by using your voice and they had to engage other senses. The day was brought to a close with a traditional Braai BBQ which was provided by the hotel and gave the chance for five athletes to be presented with their first U19 Caps, they were; Rebecca Hoult, Vicki Oyesola, Alice Travis, Francesca Williams and Lydia Walker.

The squad completed their tour of Botswana with another accomplished display, defeating the U20 side from the African nation 53-27, securing the team a 100% record. A fantastic learning experience for both nations and thanks to all of the people that made their trip so enjoyable on tour with six victories from the six matches played.



Kath Worrall MBE

Kathleen (Kath) Worrell MBE has passed away. Kath was a Life Member of Hertfordshire County Netball Association; her MBE awarded to her because of her outstanding contribution to netball in the county.

Kath received the MBE on 26th October 2004 from the Queen for her Services to Netball with disbelief and regarded it as recognition for the hard work and dedication put in by other volunteers in Netball.

Kath, from Hemel Hempstead, had been contributing to the world of netball for over 50 years. Her commitment and dedication to Netball ranged from School to Club to National level and she always saw the best in people, no matter what level of skill or circumstances. She was involved in all aspects of netball, from playing, to umpiring, coaching and administration. Kath founded Shelley Netball Club in 1972 and was the Treasurer for the Watford Netball League after initially establishing the league in 1974. Her primary netball role had always been in umpiring, even though she was an experienced and successful coach. She gained the National Panel Umpire Award in 1972, was Herts County Umpiring Secretary since 1973 and East Region Umpiring Secretary for over 35 years. She served on the England Netball Umpiring Committee for many years contributing on behalf of the East Region. One of her pilot schemes involved the implementation of High Five Netball for primary school children, boys and girls, across Hertfordshire. She worked closely with the ten local authorities of Hertfordshire managed to establish High Five in five of them.

Kath still managed to find time and energy to be a wife to Brian England Netball Honorary Life member, a mother, grandmother and animal minder, with her other passions of horses and dogs. She will be sadly missed by many of members within Hertfordshire, the East and all of England Netball. Our thoughts are with Brian and family at this very sad time.



And Finally

Yvonne and I attended a conference at the British Library last month on Sports Heritage. The theme was oral history and it was absolutely inspiring. We made some excellent contacts including Anita Broad the project officer from Stoolball who is keen to work with us to celebrate women in sport. Anita's field of expertise is oral history so we're meeting with her shortly to tap into her skills. We have also been asked by Bedfordshire University in Luton for their students to become involved in our archive project. Our final update on the HLF bid is our impending visit by the curator of Hertfordshire Library and Archive Services who is meeting with us and Janet Wrighton at the beginning of December to discuss the long term sustainability of the archives once the project is finished and the archives rationalised and catalogued. Watch this space for more updates in the January newsletter.



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