



Honorary Life Members Newsletter

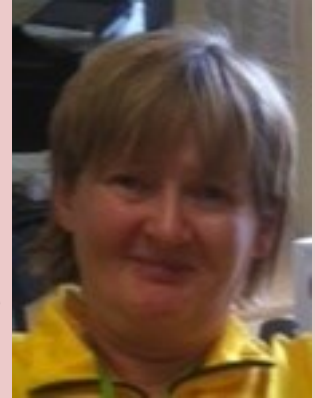
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Redpath's Roundup

I'll start this newsletter by saying a big thank you to those who attended our second annual HLM lunch on 22 September. It was good to see so many of you, catch up on your news and reminisce about the old days. Thank you too for the memorabilia that many of you brought along to ensure that England Netball's history is all together and also to help you clear some space in either your spare room or your garage.



We had a bit more luck with the group photo this year as the lighting at the ICC was much better than at last year's venue. I think it's a good photo of everyone and will be happy to send copies if anyone would like one.

Jean Bourne and Jean Robinson would have liked to have joined us, but were unable to attend; however, they've asked me to send their best regards to everyone.



I am delighted to welcome three new HLM's to our club. Olivia Murphy became an HLM following the test match with Jamaica in Birmingham on 21 September, whilst Lindsay Sartori and Bill Alexander joined our ranks at the annual Golden Globes awards on 22 September. Little did Lindsay realise that she would become one of our newest members when the attached photo was taken at the HLM lunch earlier in the day!

I'm planning on arranging another archive day in the New Year in Hitchin and will let you have the full details in the next newsletter.

The archives are at the moment residing in a large number of boxes whilst we still settle into our new offices. It still seems a bit strange to be working in our brand new and somewhat luxurious offices having worked in numbers 3 and 9 Payne's Park for donkeys' years.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheelagh".

Sheelagh



EN's President writes



I frequently have the opportunity to meet some of our HLM's at Test Matches, but I rarely get the opportunity to sit down and talk with you on these occasions. The HLM lunches have provided us all with time to talk and to reflect on the past and share some of our amazing stories. It also gives us time to think about "how different it might have been" had we been given the same opportunities that are available today.

I never tire of listening to Mary, Nora etc. and their tours abroad and I know that there are "no regrets" on anyone's part. We are all so very proud of being part of England Netball.

I look forward to many more HLM lunches!

Jo Adams, Head of Marketing and Commercial writes

I was fortunate to be invited to join the HLM lunch following the AGM on Saturday 22 September, where I spent a wonderful hour and a half chatting with Nora Ashworth about her pioneering England Tour to South Africa in 1956. What struck me was how different the methods used for travelling more than 50 years ago when everyone funded themselves. However, in other ways things are much the same now as then as the girls get up to the same mischief as they did all those years ago!

Nora didn't come home from South Africa for 6 or 7 years – can you imagine that



happening today? She is such an entertaining lady with a vivid memory of every rail, boat and airplane journey taken. Her memories are simply wonderful and I'm keen to capture them for the Netball magazine so that everyone will benefit from her stories and to see how netball compares to 50 years ago. I'm hoping to visit Nora at her home in Sussex shortly to look at her photos and memorabilia.

As Head of England Netball's Marketing and Commercial section, I am delighted that Nora loves the new Tudor rose emblem, which she pointed out is also used for the HLM badge.

Thank you Nora

This years group photo of the HLM annual lunch at the ICC Birmingham, which was also attended by England Netball's Board of Directors and Corporate Management Team



Betty Galsworthy's MEMORIES

What a good idea it was to set up the Honorary Life Member's lunches. The latest lunch in Birmingham was such a good occasion; more HLMs plus members of the Board present – more people to meet and talk with; reading the e-mails, it appears that MEMORIES were high on the agenda! Just having held the torch and talking about the Olympics took me back to my schooldays and competing in the High Jump against Mary Bignell (Rand) in the National Schools Championship. My ambition then was the 1960 Rome Olympics! I didn't make it but she did, winning gold in the Long Jump in 1964.



Why is it that I can clearly remember that and yet sometimes I can't remember who I played golf with yesterday!! With that in mind I thought I might share with others some of my memories over the last 50 years involvement with England Netball much of it brought back to me by talking with the likes of Mary French and many others.

1960 Joined Greyfriars Netball Club as a young player - lucky to have a Panel Coach in Mildred Whitehead and an England player in Jo Wigman, who later went on to be heavily involved with Jamaica. I was to stay with the club for more than 50 years as player, coach, umpire, chairman etc.

1963 Attended England Trials at Lilleshall. 'Wear something that will make you stand out' said Jo Wigman. I wore a bright red white and blue sweater. It worked and I was selected. Most of the older Internationals seemed to be cleared out that year so I was lucky to have the chance.

1964 First International v N Ireland in Belfast. I had not flown before but was afraid to tell the then President Adelaide Brayford when we met at Birmingham Airport. I was so pleased to get up in the air and back down again only to find out that we had only landed in Manchester and I had to repeat the procedure again to continue the flight to Belfast! Adelaide laughed at the time.

That year also saw my first England training session, outside on Clapham Common. How times have changed! A certain lady turned up to watch us and I had great joy in reminding Mary of the occasion, as she finished off joining us on the court to make up the numbers. I was very impressed!

I also met Jo Higgins, another International stalwart, during that year when she led a coaching session on defending skills, with little or no preparation. What I learnt from that session fired me with enthusiasm and turned me on and I picked up some of her passion and used many of her skills for many of my coaching sessions later in my career.

I also met Rena Stratford who introduced the squad to Circuit Training for the first time. The Shooters in the squad found the new training quite hard. The slogan 'Get those Shooters moving' became synonymous with my later coaching when I wrote several articles using that phrase when I became England Coach.

In 1966 Mary French became England Coach and I missed out on taking part as I became pregnant

had to pull out of the squad just before the 1967 World Championships in Sydney 1967.

1988 saw my first overseas tour to Jamaica with the North of England team. I had a great time and met up with Jo Wigman again and Leila Robinson one of the great pioneers of Jamaican Netball. Jo couldn't remember the last time she had been on the beach! We were all so desperate to get in the water; it was so hot!

In 1973 I slipped into coaching with my own club and later, Warwickshire County, where I took over from Mildred Whitehead who had coached for many years and taught me all I knew. I remember having the England Wing Defence and the Welsh Wing Defence in my County 1st Team. Gill Davies had to drop back to Goal Defence to allow Cath Thomas to play WD.

I became a member of the England Coaching Committee at that time and became more and more involved with England Netball. I worked for many years with Mary Thomas as she began to get involved with producing written material for Coaches, Umpires, Tutors and Assessors. This led to my involvement with coaching material and videos to help aspiring young coaches etc. She also watched a session I took at Crystal Palace and quietly suggested that I should apply for the England Coaching job. She was the one that gave me the push – I would never have done it on my own! At my interview I was asked what my greatest achievement was as a coach? My reply was keeping Warwickshire in the top division of County Teams.

In 1987, I was appointed England Coach. Didn't realise how much work was involved as I committed totally for the next four years ending at the World Championships in Sydney in 1991 when we again, after so much hard work, still finished in fourth place.

Between 1987-91 I worked heavily on introducing a Sports Science backup team to support the squad. The late Roger Mace (Sports Psychologist) and Andy Borrie (Sports Physiologist) were regular participants at our training sessions, giving a new dimension to each session. I was learning all the time also. I had a very good involved squad led ably by Kendra Lowe (Slawinski). They all participated in all that was asked of them resulting in Roger's book 'With Netball in Mind', still a good read to this day. Roger attended the World Championships, but spent his time sitting in the first row of the stand – men weren't allowed on the bench at that time – neither were they allowed to umpire International matches.

My one big memory during this time was leading the Under 21's to second place in the Bi-Centennial Youth Tournament in Canberra in 1989. We weren't expected to defeat New Zealand in the semi-final but we did and we spoilt the show as everyone was looking forward to an Australia/New Zealand finale. Mary French and other loyal supporters watched that match and I still have a photograph of the final score on the score board - a truly great moment. Mary deserves some thanks for that victory as we watched and talked long and hard on how we might defeat their zone defence – and we did. Pam Orton, our Umpire joined our practices as we needed numbers on court. Told just to stand and be a body was too much for her and she finished off injuring herself and being unable to umpire again in the tournament. Captain Fiona Murtagh enjoyed our success so much that she didn't appear for our sightseeing trip at the end of our trip!!! Well done the team. Incidentally, we did lose the final but who cared! It's not all about winning! Les Jones reminded me of my philosophy when I spoke to her at the lunch! Many of those young players grew at that event and quickly came through to the Senior Squad soon afterwards. I became the English Coach of the Year for that achievement, but the team deserved recognition also.

The England team ably led by Kendra Slawinski, had some great matches during my term of office, but one stands out. We played the West Indies at the De Montford Hall in Leicester. We played outstanding Netball and were leading by nine goals at three quarter time. The final quarter was a nightmare as, time and again, we were penalised as we got near our shooting circle. Never have I seen so many footwork infringements and holding over 3 seconds. We had very few shots and managed to hang on for a draw!

At the next Management Meeting, I pleaded for the use of neutral Umpires – 'too costly', 'our own Umpires will miss out! After a while it did happen and look at the wonderful experiences our Umpires are having now! I like to think that I set that in motion.

1991 heralded the World Championship in Australia. So close in the 3rd/4th playoff, but still four years to remember. Lovely support from our travelling supporters including Mary French!

In 1993, I became National Technical Officer and found myself constantly on the train to London and later Hitchin. I spent four years involved in testing surfaces, balls and other kit as well as dealing with rule changes, developing aids for umpiring and coaching and many other things. I loved writing articles for the magazine until several people started calling it 'the Galsworthy Gazette!' I reduced my input after that!

In 1995, I did the commentary for the World Championship in Birmingham. It was a lovely experience working with the ultimate professional Hazel Irvine. I found it hard to explain why a Jamaican player walked off the court in the middle of the match and went into a sulk on the chair next to her Coach who totally ignored her! The rules were changed after that incident to cover what to do if it happened again. My thanks to Sue Campbell for that job!

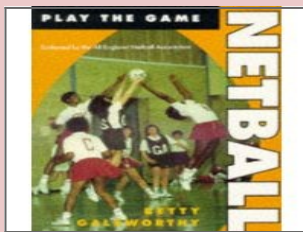
In 1999 I was the England Delegate in Christchurch New Zealand, a wonderful experience watching from the outside. I was asked to head a team of three to choose the player of the Tournament. That meant lots of watching – I only managed one game of golf!

2001 saw my final trip for AENA, an International Conference in Barbados. Joan Mills was with me and we had a great time. I always remember walking down to the Conference in fierce heat when it suddenly poured and the steam rose from the ground and it was like we were in a sauna. It stopped suddenly and we dried out before we reached our destination! We also had fruit thrown at us by the monkeys – I was sure that I caught this on camera, but I couldn't find them on the photograph! I also remember talking to Lystra Lewis who tried to convince me that the West Indian players only made contact because 'they had naturally big bottoms.' I took that with a smile and a pinch of salt!

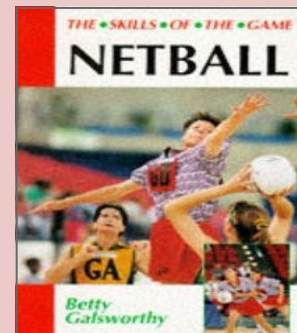
I have been lucky in my years as not only being made an Honorary Life Member, but also entered into the Hall of Fame at England and also at the National Coaching Foundation.

What a wonderful time I have had and as I sat and watched the last International in Birmingham, I had great difficulty in convincing my friend, that we were watching a 'non contact' sport. How times have changed!

I have a little musical piano on my dressing table. It was given to me by Roger and Andy when I retired. I often open it and listen to the tune whilst I am dusting.



It's called 'MEMORIES'



Finally

As Cheryl and Janet are due to leave for the WNS Championships in Auckland, New Zealand on Friday 2nd November, we are hoping that if any of you are also attending, you will write a short article for the next edition of the HLM newsletter. It doesn't have to be a literary masterpiece, just your experiences and photo's too.

Yvonne and I look forward to receiving your articles and photo's, so please keep them coming.



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