



**Ann West MBE JP DL**

**Presented with Life Membership of Kent Netball in September 1979.**

My netball started at The City of Bath Girls School where I had been evacuated with my family during the war and then continued when I returned to Kent and attended Rochester Grammar School. In our last year we were playing hockey for the school on a Saturday morning and for the "Old Girls" in the afternoon when Medway started a summer league so we, "the hockey team" decided to play netball during the summer to keep fit for the winter season.

Gradually, netball took over from hockey and some of us from Rochester Netball Club found ourselves playing for Kent, and regional teams. We were now winning the league and numerous netball tournaments. Our first uniform was royal blue M&S shorts and yellow and white check gingham tops, homemade and looking like tablecloths.

Our rivals were always Wanderers and on occasion we would combine and play in very prestigious netball tournaments with great success. We have all kept in touch over the years and in October 2017 nine of us started to play Walking Netball at The King's Sports Centre, Rochester.

In the early 1970s I helped to set up the Kent Schools' Netball Association, working with both primary and secondary schools to develop netball and encourage interest in playing for the county. It was also time for me to pull my weight with netball administration and I worked on the Medway, Kent and South East committees, eventually being honoured by each and being given Honorary Life Membership.

I had the privilege of being England Netball Manager at two World Games and a World Tournament, on one of these I had Tracey Neville (present Senior England Netball Coach) as one of the squad. In 1995, in the netball centenary year I was Head of Protocol at the World Tournament in Birmingham. This meant that my team and I were responsible for welcoming VIP visitors and looking after them, this included Prince Edward who joined us on a couple of days and thrilled a number of disabled visitors when he spent time with them as well as our international teams.

Over the last few years I have enjoyed being involved with the Kent Schools' netball tournaments, joining other Kent Life Members with scoring, time keeping etc and now live with the success of our Walking Netball group. Netball is once again very important in my life.



Ann (immediately to left of post) with Kings Rochester Walking Netball Group 2018



Ann, World Games 1995



Ann, Medway Towns Rally, GK. With:

Back row – left to right, Margaret Maddey, Pat Huntingford, Jeanette (?), Val Gregory  
 Front row – left to right, Hazel Rider, Ann West, Frances Bilney, Wendy Williams



1989

The England contingent for the World Games in Karlsruhe.

Back row; Patsy Rochester (physio), Betty Galsworthy (coach), Kenda Slawinski, Lucia Sdao, Jesslyn Parkes, Sally Young (Fountain), Anne Fooks, Ann West (manager), Cheryl Danson (umpire). Front row: Trudy Papafio, Fiona Murtagh, Sandra Fairweather, Sheila Bryne (Edwards), Joan Bryan, Karen Fenlon, Alison Keytes (Spinks)