

**Ron Blake,  
21.09.1921 – 28.03.2012**



Ron – pictured here on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, September 2011.

Ron's netball origins were in the Maidstone League and started when he worked for Royal Insurance in the town as an Insurance Inspector. A group of girls there decided that they wanted to start up a netball team to enter the local league playing at the YMCA in Loose. However they could only enter a team if they had their own Umpire. As there weren't enough girls to enter a team and provide an Umpire, Ron dutifully stepped in. This was typical of a man who was always willing to support, although he didn't realise what had let himself in for! Having watched a few games - and realised what he had committed to - he ordered a rule book and set about learning how to officiate. Always one to do things properly he was duly appointed the Royal's umpire - and it just grew from then.....

Ron became involved in Kent Netball when he passed the then Intermediate Umpiring Award. He was regularly involved in county match umpiring before moving into administration as the Treasurer for Kent Netball in 1988 – 1993 and 1997- 2000.

His efforts were recognised with the Joyce Crust Award for services to Kent Netball in 1992 and when he retired in 1993 he was awarded Life Membership.

He was described by two netballers who knew him as, “a true gentleman” and “always did the best for us girls”.