

Karen Tappin
25th April 1947 – 28th July 1997

Karen was one of Kent Netball's most popular figures. Karen played for successful Medway team, Wanderers, for over 30 years and was Captain, Coach and Umpire at various times. She also played for Kent Club and Sittingbourne-based Heptagon, with whom she attended two World Games. Furthermore, Karen played defence for Kent and Surrey counties.

Karen umpired at club, county, regional and national levels as a Panel Umpire, achieving her dream of umpiring at Wembley. She went on to umpire New Zealand, Barbados, Young Australia and Young Trinidad. Karen organised the umpires for Kent County fixtures over several years.

A founder member of the Kent Schools and Senior Committees between 1972 and 1995, she became a Life Member following roles as President, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Tour Organiser and Liason Officer between seniors and schools. Karen was also a county and regional Selector at senior and schools level for over 10 years. She had a great passion for further development of young players.

When Karen umpired on the Kent Schools tours she was accompanied by her family. Her son Ian is now in the Essex Police, with football and Manchester United as his main sporting interests. Her daughter, Claire, teaches PE in New Zealand following her Captaincies of British Universities, Middlesex U21 and Kent Schools U19 and U16, by captaining club, representative and provincial teams. Claire represented England Schools U19 and is now a regional level coach and umpire. Karen's husband, Graham, played semi-professional football and cricket in the Kent League club, Dartford. He trained as a PE teacher at Avery Hill college with Karen. Karen was games captain at The Willows School after graduating from tertiary education taught at Dartford West, latterly as Head of Department. She was the academic technician at Fort Pitt Grammar, where Claire had attended, when she died in a road traffic accident at fifty, along with her mother Dorine Marsden.

Respected and loved, Karen was dedicated to her family and to netball, loyal and supportive, yet with a wonderful sense of humour and a great smile.



Karen and Claire Tappin