

**Ann Bisset (nee Martin)**

**22nd March 1934 - 26th August 2019**



Kent county squad 1954. Ann is in the centre of the back row.

## **On behalf of Kent Netball**

Ann was a lively and very involved member of the Kent County Netball Association for many years. She was instrumental with a group of friends in strengthening the whole organisation.

As a player Ann was loyal to her club, which was a church youth group, but she was persuaded to join Aquila in 1956 where she remained as Goal Shooter until her retirement in 1959. Before Ann married she worked as a secretary for Cunard in central London and with her colleagues there formed a netball team which played in the Lincoln's Inn Lunchtime League. Don, her future husband, remembers going to watch Ann there and matches for Aquila and Kent.

She joined Kent Netball in 1953 and played for the second team but in 1954 she was promoted to the first team where she again remained until her retirement in 1959. In those days and for many years to come, county rivalry was paramount, culminating in the Inter-Counties Tournament which was held in various counties over a weekend in March or April. Chosen players were invited to attend England trials on the Sunday. In 1958 Ann was given the honour to be selected for the England reserves.

In administration she filled a number of positions, serving as a committee member and taking roles as Match Secretary, County Secretary and Vice Chairman. She was awarded life membership by Kent in 1972.

Ann and Donald Bisset married in September 1959. Their children were Sandra and Neil, who presented them with five grandsons. Sandra's family are twins James and Peter, and Jonathan. Neil's boys are Matthew and David. Sandra excelled in gymnastics and developed her skills under coach Joyce McCauley, a former player in the Kent teams herself and Ann supported Sandra in this career. She and Don were thrilled when Sandra achieved England representation. As devoted grandparents, Ann and Don travelled regularly to Leicester and Canada to visit their families.

A group of former Kent first team players have kept in touch and have met regularly and Ann was even able to join us in the spring of this year, which was lovely. Ann died on 26 August 2019, peacefully at home, after suffering ill health for many years with great stoicism and courage. Don said that she never complained. Her thanksgiving service, held in Christ Church, Orpington, was a very impressive one, conducted in a packed church, and was so personal to Ann. Four former Kent players attended.

We send our heartfelt sympathy to Don and the family. We hope that this small tribute will be a reminder of our wonderful friend Ann in her netball days.

Record of Kent Netball roles:

- Match Secretary 1955 to 1959
- Committee Member 1959 to 1968
- County Secretary 1968 to 1970
- Vice Chairman 1970 to 1980