

Tina Head
24/03/2022



Tina Head, rear row - third from left.

The Eulogy read at Tina's funeral by Ann West.

TINA

No one who has met Tina could easily forget her, which was apparent from responses from the netball world when I said I will be giving this eulogy and I'm not sure I can get everything in that people wanted me to say, in the time.

So here's a snapshot -

Always elegant, modish, especially hair styles - her hairdresser that she recruited to netball is still playing, bubbly, friendly, welcoming, kind, always positive, helpful, hard-working, a larger than life character, the list goes on.

Netball achievements - my husband described her as "SCOOP" because the publicity that netball received in Medway, Sittingbourne and the county and to a lesser extent national level was down to Tina.

Less well known was her ability to raise sponsorship for the game for which she was a pioneer locally and an article on how to obtain sponsorship appeared in "The Netball" magazine in 1988.

There are photos of Tina playing for Malling House at Reeds Paper Group tournament against Rochester in the early 1960s.

She played for many teams in various leagues including Gravesend and Northfleet, Medway, Maidstone and Sittingbourne using some interesting netball courts and the comments from former playing colleagues are that she was respected as a player in both the teams she played for and by all opponents.

The way that Tina created a new team "Hollywood Bowl" (named after a Bistro in Gillingham) was amazing, obtaining balls and playing kit via sponsorship and helping the team to enjoy a social life with the Bistro.

Another sponsored event that she secured was an annual tournament for Social Education Centres. The centres were for people with learning difficulties, unfortunately after a while the centres closed. Lloyds Bank at Chatham were happy to help, and M&S provided goodies. Tina and I organised these tournaments at Cobham Hall and the joy and happiness we saw on the faces of the participants was just reward.

At coaching level, young players saw her as a "mum" figure and subsequently she was and was seen to be a very good umpire and you ladies know how fussy we can be.

Tina was the netball reporter for the Kent Messenger Group in "Kent Today", sending in league results and match reports and also producing an article for "Tina Head's Netball Column" every Wednesday. She also reported on Kent matches.

Tina served many years on league committees including Medway and Sittingbourne and on the Kent County committee.

In 1972 she retired from the Medway committee after serving 15 years as secretary, during this time she was very involved in organising the annual Medway Inter Towns tournament - an event enjoyed by us all.

She served as Kent Media and Publicity Secretary from 1990 to 1992 and as Kent County Promotions Manager from 2003 to 2004.

What you see now as the introduction for superleagues - the music and profiles, Tina did these at Kent home games at the Kent University ground. She gave so much time to help raise the profile and led a positive motivation for our county players to prepare for each fixture and offered a welcoming atmosphere for our opponents and guests.

Tina loved attending County Championships, the World Games (in Karlsruhe where I was England Manager) and the World Tournament in 1995 where she acted as hostess to the Sri Lankan and Papua New Guinea national teams (I think her friend from the Papua New Guinea team is watching this service).

At the Northamptonshire League's Ruby Tournament in 1987 Tina organised us all to do a cabaret which was hilarious, she rewrote the words to "Busy Doing Nothing" to " Busy Playing Netball"

In 1997 she organised "Challenge England" at Kent University, a full England squad played Kent, Suffolk, Surrey and Aquila, a very memorable day.

She also organised a supporters' trip to Jersey in 1970 for the Inter County Tournament.

Accolades - Tina was the 1989 winner of the Joyce Crust Award for Services to Kent Netball.

She was also awarded Life Presidency and Life Membership of Kent and of Medway and Sittingbourne leagues of which she said she was very honoured and proud.

These may be less well known but speak volumes for the regard in which Tina was held.

Some people spoke of hilarious trips with Tina but unfortunately, they were less forthcoming about the details.

The netball world locally and farther afield grieves with Roy and is sad at the loss of a true fellow player and a very dear friend.