

Irene Pearson
By Mrs Joan Mills

Irene was an ardent follower of netball; she knew every player in every international team around the world and followed their progress through World U21 to Seniors. In addition, she travelled to many World Youth, World Championships and Commonwealth Games events and could relate every match and practically every pass to you.

She was an amazing coach – players had a love hate relationship with her – which is just what it should be! They hated her for the drills she made them do until they got it absolutely right! And the number of training sessions they had to attend each week – during the season and outside! But they loved and respected her for the knowledge she had about every aspect of the game, and the way she drew out the best in every player.

My daughter used to play for Kent Club and as the taxi service I was allowed to join in training – we both used to sit in the car on the way home in tears because we had continually been told off for doing something wrong – but we still went back every week for more – and that was what was good about Irene.

Irene was taken seriously ill in 2015 and had to cancel her trip to Sydney for the World Champs last August. She had major heart surgery for two aneurysms, suffered an irregular heart beat, had just recovered from another major operation last month and was back walking with our netball walking group only two weeks ago.

As far as we know she suffered a fatal aneurysm attack. She was a fighter to the very end, and will be sadly missed by her family, friends and the netball family.

Joyce Crust Award winner 1998
Life Member 2003
County Coach 1995 to 1998 and 2000 to 2002
Selection Committee 2003 to 2004

Born 29th August 1949
Died 5th September 2016



Irene receiving the Kent County Senior Netball League Division 1 winners' trophy in September 2015.
Trophy presented to Irene as coach of league winners KCNC by David Roche.

Kent County Netball Club's website news release: <http://www.kcnc.org.uk/>

Club news:



We are devastated to announce that our Head Coach & leader of the Club, Irene Pearson, died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on Monday evening.

We are devastated to announce that our Head Coach & leader of the Club, Irene Pearson, died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on Monday evening.

The Club's thoughts are with Andrew, Pauline & Jenny (and the rest of her family) at this extraordinarily difficult and shocking time.

Irene was the most passionate, devoted, loyal coach and person and was hugely respected, not just within Club, but also throughout Kent and beyond.

She touched the netballing lives of so many people and will be missed incredibly. We can only strive to live up to the standards she set for us.

Red forever.