

## **Long Service Award**

In 2005 12 people received a Long Service Award.

### **Susan Bailey (Suffolk County Netball Association)**

As well as being a Level 2 Coach and Intermediate Umpire, Susan has been a committed County volunteer for over 30 years. During this time she has been the U21 County Coach, a County selector, Regional selector and also worked in the office at the 1995 World Netball Championships.

### **Di Covell (North East Region Netball Association)**

Di served as Match secretary for Durham County from 1968-1974 before stepping up to the role of South Durham & Cleveland County Secretary, a position she has served in since 1974. A match reporter and scorer for all ECL Home games, Di has also helped organise High 5 festivals and the Youth Games for Cleveland and Tees Valley Council. A member of the National Umpiring Committee, Di also serves at Regional Board level.

### **Carol Fletcher (South Yorkshire County Netball Association)**

Carol began serving Netball as a volunteer on the Sheffield and District Works committee, whilst simultaneously progressing to be a Panel Award Umpire. She has served on the County committee in a variety of roles for the past 20 years, serving as Chair for the past 3 years. As Chair Carol has been at the forefront of Netball Development in South Yorkshire, utilising the excellent potential of the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. As well as sitting on National Umpiring Committees, Carol is also the Regional Chair for Yorkshire and Humberside.

### **Gwen Foster (Suffolk County Netball Association)**

Gwen has been involved as a volunteer for over 30 years, fulfilling a variety of roles at club, county and regional level. Over the past 18 months Gwen has continued in post as the Suffolk County Chair, has coached the Suffolk U18 squad, sat on the East Regional Steering Group for Netball and still found time to be an accredited Talent Scout. Gwen has sat on the Committee of the Ipswich Ladies Netball club in a variety of roles since the age of 16. Her passion for the game has resulted in her recruiting many others to support Netball as volunteers.

### **Chris Gould (South Bucks County Netball Association)**

Chris began coaching at the tender age of 19 developing Netball in disadvantaged communities in Bristol. After moving to Buckinghamshire, Chris started an after school Netball club at her children's junior school and progressed to running competitive junior teams. Chris then moved into the County set up and helped develop the structure, and expectations, of the County squads. During her three years running the Senior County side, Chris oversaw their move from Division 5 to Division 3 of the ECL.

### **Anona Hickin (South Staffordshire County Netball Association)**

Anona was a founder member of the County Netball Association and played a significant part in facilitating the North/South split of Staffordshire in the 70's. Anona

has served in a wide range of roles within the County Netball Association as well as on the West Midlands Netball Committee, West Midlands Regional Schools Committee and the Wolverhampton & District Netball League. She has been an integral cog in Netball in her region over the past 35 years.

**Maureen Hooper (South Staffordshire County Netball Association)**

Maureen recently stood down as the South Staffordshire County Chair having served in that capacity for the past 23 years. Her regional volunteering career began in 1972 when she joined the West Midlands Netball Association Umpiring committee and she has not looked back. She coached the County Netball squads for 12 years between 1972 and 1984 and also coached the regional P.A.C.E squads. She has served as a selector for the junior England sides and remains a driving force behind the County's development plan.

**Joan Horton (East Hampshire County Netball Association)**

Joan has been a volunteer for over 40 years. She was a key figure in the formation of East Hampshire County Netball Association and is currently the County's President. She has been treasurer of the South region since 1970. Joan has been a tournament referee and has helped organise scorers and timekeepers for the World Championships (1995), Commonwealth Games (2002) and World Youth Championships (2005).

**Pam Orton (Suffolk County Netball Association)**

It is startling to think that Pam will receive her Long Service Award in the same year that she is inducted into the Hall of Fame. Her nomination contained a truly impressive volunteering resume covering the past 38 years.

**Iris Ritson (Northumberland County Netball Association)**

Iris began coaching at Ashington Netball Club, where she served for 8 years before moving to support Concordia Netball Club for a further 12. During this time she led the clubs to victories in several tournaments and progressed to coach the County U18's and U21's. As well as coaching Iris has also been a very active Umpire, supporting a range of National events. She has been a driving force in Concordia recently achieving their CAPs Award.

**Gill Roddam (North East Region Netball Association)**

Over the past 30 years, Gill has made a significant contribution to Netball development, most notably in schools. Currently the Chair of the Region, Gill continues to serve Netball in her area as a Tournament Secretary, Schools representative and a Tournament referee. She has played a key role at a local level in organising High 5 festivals, selecting talented players at satellite academies and organising the Regional round of the National School's Tournament. From national policy making to hands on grass roots development, Gill continues to be involved in all elements of Netball.

**Almena Theobald (Suffolk County Netball Association)**

Almena has been involved as a volunteer for the past 40 years and within that time she has written the County Newsletter, acted as a timekeeper for County matches, as well as serving as County Secretary and now County President. She has co-

ordinated the Netball Competition within the Suffolk Youth Games on a number of occasions and she also served as a volunteer at the 1995 World Championships.