

Jenny Franks

(5 Jan 1950 - 29 Nov 2020)

Life Membership of Kent Netball awarded 1993



Kent Netball

The Jenny Franks Era

Jenny coached netball at Hilltop County Primary School where she was a teacher. Her Hilltop Netball Team won the Kent Championship in 1976. As a result of her success within Medway Netball, she was asked to become a Kent County Netball Coach in 1981. Subsequently, she coached the U16s from 1981-1982 and again in the following season (1982 – 1983).

Jenny then coached the U18 Kent Netball Squads for the three following seasons (1983 – 1984, 1984 – 1985 and 1985 – 1986).

It was in the years of 1985 and 1986 that Jenny coached the U18 Netball Squad to winning the Intercounties Netball Tournament. Not only did Jenny's squads win the tournament two years running, but they also received the Defensive Trophy for the best defensive play in the tournament both those years. In 1986 (the second of the tournaments), Jenny Franks was heavily pregnant with twins (Sarah and David), but was determined to attend and lead her team regardless. A St John Ambulance was standing by, but fortunately, its services were not required that day!

In the season of 1986 – 1987, Jenny went on to coach the U16 Squad, after which she supposedly retired. However, in the season of 1988 – 1989, Jenny was asked to return to coach the U18s again – to take over from the previous coach, who had stepped down. Then Jenny “retired” again ... but

was not away for long. In the years that followed she and her husband Ian continued to be involved in organising Kent Netball Tours and Training Camps.

In the seasons of 1992 – 1993, 1993 – 1994, 1994 – 1995 Jenny's eldest daughter joined the U16 Kent Netball Squads – and so Jenny was there on the side-lines, to offer her support to her daughter, to the game and to the Kent Netball Family she loved.

In 1996 – 1997 Jenny was asked to return once again to coach the new U14 Kent Netball Squad. This was a brand-new venture for the Kent Netball Association. She and Ian then continued to coach the U14s for the following three seasons (1997 – 1998, 1998 – 1999, 1999 - 2000).

In the years they spent with Kent Netball, Jenny and her husband Ian, organised a number of Netball Tours around the U.K. The Kent teams played matches against opposing counties such as Cumbria, Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Derbyshire, Somerset, Devon and Norfolk . The first of these tours was in 1985 and the Kent Netball U16 and U19 squads toured 9 counties in 9 days. They won 33 out of 36 matches!

In 1987, Jenny and Ian organised a tour, where the Kent Squads spent a weekend in Guernsey playing their U16, U18 and Senior teams, before then touring mainland U.K. In 1990 the Kent Squads ventured for a week to Jersey. Jenny and Ian organised for Sheila Redpath – International Umpire and Liz Broomhead – England Coach to give a week's coaching camp to the U16 and U18 Kent Squads, as well as coaching expertise to the Kent Coaches. The Kent Squads also played against the Jersey Netball Teams, after which they went on a day trip to the neighbouring island to play the Guernsey teams, before returning to Main-land U.K. for a short tour. There was also another Netball Tour in 1992, which included a three and a half day Training Camp with the England Coach. These Tours were reignited years later in 1997, 1998 and 1999. The 1999 Tour included another Training Camp with Liz Broomhead.

The tours were not all about Netball. At the end of every tour was an End of Tour Show, where each squad and their coaches would present a themed play, musical performance or even game show! Some of the most memorable include Netball Pantos such as Snow White and the Seven Netballers and Jack and The Netball-stalk. The laughter and happy memories created by these events will never be forgotten by those who shared them.

Netball was a profound part of Jenny's life, with her own three daughters playing for the Kent Squads over the years. Jenny's husband, Ian Franks also became part of the Kent Netball family – organising tours, recruiting sponsors' mass fundraising and eventually coaching netball alongside his wife.

Jenny's accomplishments in Kent Netball were profound, not only winning the Intercounties Tournament and the Defensive Trophy two consecutive years, but helping girls to believe in themselves, building their confidence and bringing together people, whose bond created in their netball squads, would build friendships that would last a lifetime. All this is evidence enough, but when you add that Jenny was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis in 1986 – a disease that severely hampered her physical capabilities – her achievements become extra-ordinary. Without complaint or excuse, Jenny continued to coach Kent Netball Teams to the highest of standards and the respect she had from all those she worked with and coached can and will never be forgotten.

Some photos from Jenny's album:



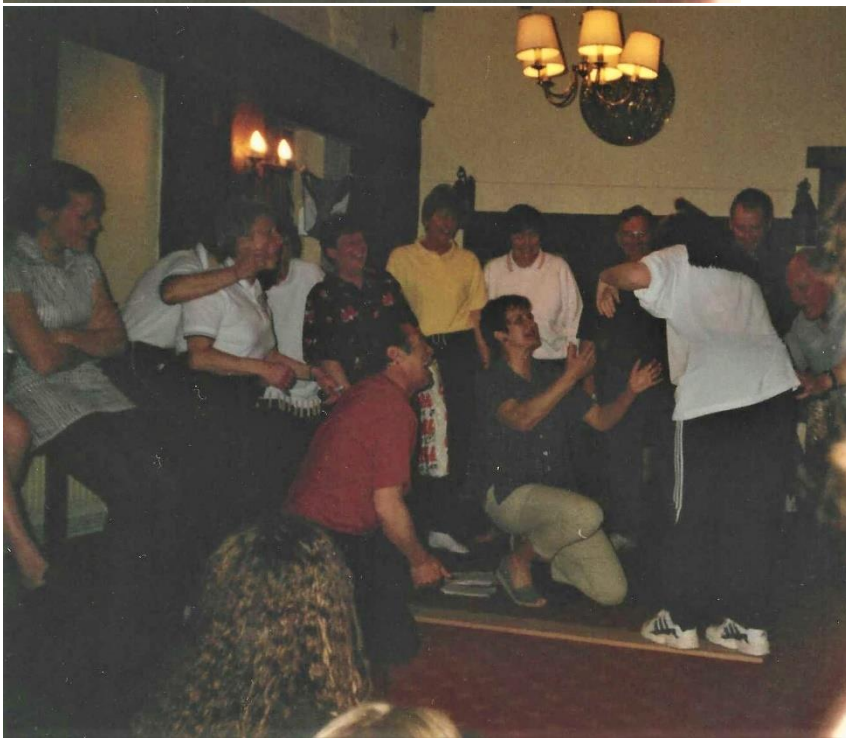




















































KENT SCHOOLS U18 SQUAD 1986/87



KENT SCHOOLS U16 SQUAD 1986/87

NATIONAL KENT NETBALL TOUR Sponsored by:- INTER (UK)











Obituary

It is with broken hearts that the family of Jenny Franks announces her passing on the evening of 29th November 2020.

At the age of 70 she had achieved a great many things in her life. Most people will remember Jenny Franks from their days at Hilltop Primary School, where she taught for over 40 years. Jenny taught many children and years later those children's children, leaving a phenomenal legacy in all the lives she changed and touched.

She was also a formidable and dedicated Kent Netball Coach. Alongside her husband Ian Franks, she trained some of Kent's best netball teams, winning the Intercounty Netball Tournament two years running.

Jenny will be greatly missed by her husband Ian, five children Jo, Steve, Kay, David and Sarah and her 8 grandchildren along with many others who knew her. Due to Covid restrictions the family are unable to extend an open invite to the funeral in January, but they fully intend to hold a memorial service as soon as restrictions allow, to celebrate Jenny's wonderful life.





FRANKS Jenny

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