



## **SALLY HANDS (Nee Dewhurst)**

### **Presented with Life Membership of Kent Netball in September 1972.**

Started playing at school on The Wirral. Went on to train as a P E Teacher. Started teaching in an all girls private school in Seaford, so joined Sussex County team playing as a goal attack.

As A PE teacher, I began my career in Sussex, and played for their County Team.

I think it was 1963 that I moved to Kent and joined the county squad.

Taking a head of department job at Kings Warren School Plumstead, so changed counties and joined Kent. Took on the captaincy and before Long we were County champions. ( I should mention that Kathy Hickey was one of my Kings Warren pupils). By this time I had changed positions to centre as there were far better shooters than me in the team.

Possibly by default, I was immediately appointed Captain, a position I held until retiring.

During my reign, whilst coaching and playing, we rose from “also rans” to county champions.

Our players were arguably not the best in the land, but we were disciplined and tactically better than any other team.

Whilst still participating, I was appointed to a position at Dartford College of Physical Education, where, along with other responsibilities, I took over the netball faculty from Mary Thomas. I must add that Mary Thomas should be remembered for the very fine teacher that she was.

I joined Dartford P E College, and as a senior lecturer, panel coach and umpire, was responsible for netball, and several other activities. Interestingly, two of my students went on to coach England teams.

The college teams were enormously successful, winning the inter collegiate tournament every year of my tenure, and winning every college fixture throughout the playing season.

It gives me great pleasure to report that whilst teaching, my schoolgirls were Kent champions and on joining Dartford, my students were unbeatable. I had the luxury of working with talented young ladies, many of whom later went on to play netball at a very high standard, eg Heather Crouch, Mary Braidwood and Cathy Hickey, to name but a few.

I was privileged to play for England, a great honour. I was fortunate enough to play, coach and select for England, and played in the World Tournament in Jamaica.

I was also Selector and a Coach along with Mary French.

Much of my spare time was taken with organising and coaching around the country.

My greatest attribute was undoubtedly my hand eye coordination. I represented the County at tennis, netball, lacrosse and squash, and had opportunities to represent other sports, but there were not enough hours in a day to take on anything else.

I ran many coaching courses around the country and introduced the netball Summer School at Loughborough. I even took time to write a book on tactics which is now sadly out of date I fear!!

Although I played most sports to at least County level, netball was probably the most rewarding as I could see my Input in the achievements of those I taught.

November 2019

Following a coaching course of Yorkshire school girls , a Sheffield news paper described me as The George Best of Netball! I'm still not sure as to whether this is a compliment or a criticism!!!!!!

## 1971 3rd World Tournament, Jamaica



**England contingent for the 3rd World Tournament in Jamaica. On our way to Jamaica: Eunice Charles Smith Margaret Thompson Pat Watson Carol Percy Cathy Hickey Judy Heath Sally Hands Annie Miles Judy Day Linda Alison (Taylor) Liz Kelly Pat Taylor Mary French Rita Reece Winnie Watling**

### Sally Dewhurst Hands

*Sally lectured at Dartford College of Physical Education from 1965 to 1972, following positions as Head of Department in schools in Sussex and London. She became a Senior Lecturer responsible for Netball, Tennis and Athletics and also taught Gymnastics and Swimming. The College Netball teams were permanently established as National College Champions during her tenure. A gifted performer, she gained a Distinction in every sport she presented in her final examinations at Lady Mabel College of Physical Education, a feat never achieved before or repeated. As a player, Sally selected Netball as the sport she would take to the highest level. She Captained and coached Kent, leading them to Inter-County Champions. She played, coached and selected for England and was a Panel Coach and Umpire. Sally was also part of the team that represented England in the World Tournament in the West Indies in 1970. As well as Netball, Sally represented her County in Tennis and Lacrosse. She was dubbed “the George Best of Netball” by a Sheffield newspaper. Sally was Nationally and Internationally known as an educator in PE and Sport. She devised and fronted Gymnastics courses in England and Canada. As a Senior WAAA Coach, she started the course at Loughborough Summer School and also ran Athletics courses at Crystal Palace and Lilleshall. Sally was also a very successful Tennis and Swimming coach.*

Publications: Netball: A tactical Approach 1974. Regular magazine articles on Netball.

