



CAROL

MAKES THE GAME

CAROL WILLIAMS

A Award Umpire
County Umpire Secretary
Regional Umpire
Vice Chair
Tutor, Assessor and Mentor for
umpiring

Tell us about your work as a volunteer...

I'm an umpire first and foremost but from doing umpiring I wanted to develop my knowledge of netball in England. Due to this I got involved in local league umpiring development which I've actually now done for 30 years.

I have a variety of roles! I'm an A award umpire, county umpire secretary, regional umpire, vice chair and a tutor, assessor and umpiring mentor...

In my spare time I have a full time job!! I've never stopped doing any roles, I've just taken on more and I honestly love it.

How long have you been volunteering?

I have now been volunteering for 30 years!

Why did you start volunteering and why do you continue to?

I started by becoming an umpire then got involved with a local league committee. I've been a netball player since I was about five years old.

I want to give stuff back – I love my sport so much and players can't play without officials, so all my volunteering in this area.

Not only do I have a love for the sport but I have a real passion that officiating is the be all and end all of netball, I want netball to be high profile and seen in the sporting world as a sport everyone wants to watch!

I really want it to be part of the Olympics and I want to convert as many people as I can to it.

How has volunteering benefitted you?

It has personally helped enhance my skills in working with different people, negotiation and how to deliver messages to people.

It's also helped me realise one of my childhood ambitions to be a teacher – when I applied to University I was going to study for my teacher training.

I got better grades than I expected so did a different course, but the idea of being a teacher has always been there and netball tutoring has allowed me to do so.

It makes you a better person at work as it gives you another perspective.

If I'm ever working with staff who are struggling I can use my mentoring skills from umpiring. It just means I can now deliver messages in work a different way.



What would you say to someone thinking about volunteering for a role in netball?

If you are interested in your sport get out and do something to support it!

It's really great if you're interested in developing your skills – you just need to get out and do it.

Not only this, but it's a great way to help people and be part of a team.

Tell us about your best volunteering experience...

There are so many wonderful experiences being a volunteer!

Seeing umpires leaving courses with a desire to convert the course into practice, being able to give advice to help through your knowledge and the contribution you can make on committees and boards to name a few.

But probably the best thing is when you are working with an umpire who has maybe struggled with some aspect, seeing the lightbulb moment when it clicks for them.

When they realise that what you had been saying is right and does work and then seeing them pass their assessment at whatever level that may be.

Their joy at getting there makes the experience priceless for me.

How has volunteering affected your social life?

The balance between family social and work life is sometimes a challenge.

Because I am doing something I enjoy it makes me a happier person, so that makes my social, personal and work life happier.

It is one of my reliefs. After a stressful day at work I think thank goodness tonight I have something to do with netball!

Whether it be meetings, umpiring or tutoring it takes my mind away from work.