



CHRISTINE

MAKES
THE
GAME

CHRISTINE LAUDY

Coach, umpire, mentor, selector,
president!

Tell us about your work as a volunteer...

I'm the Performance lead on the Regional Management Board for Netball East and I am also the Regional Head Selector. I've been head scout for years before that too.

The regional academy and the performance academy are overseen by me, I look after the welfare for the girls and the coach – both monetary and health.

I work with the performance coach in the East and also help select for Regional Academy and Regional Performance Academy and also for franchise development and junior NPL Squad.

At county level I was the vice chair until five years ago and held the role for ten years.

I now oversee the two satellite and county academies and I appoint the coaches with a team of helpers.

I mentor new coaches that come in to the academy system and I'm the chief selector at Satellite and county academy trials.

For girls that don't quite make the grade I developed a programme whereby we do some master classes for them.

Along with this I also developed a programme called step into coaching for people to understand what is involved in coaching.

Locally, I'm the president of Basildon and District Netball Association and I was chair of the league for 25 years. I give a speech at the AGM – I also attended the cup matches.

Something else I do is mentor coaches at the leagues and work with junior clubs to see if there are any youngsters that need promoting into the elite programme.

How long have you been volunteering?

I've been volunteering for nearly 50 years now!

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

I started when I was at college – there were so many girls wasting their time waiting outside the youth club for boys!

It was a deprived area and I wanted to get girls doing things.

We won the local league for 17 years running we were very successful – from that club we have three England captains!

Ten years after I had my son I then started to coach - a youngster took my role on the court, and I didn't want to push her out so took up coaching.

From an umpiring perspective I'm a panel umpire - equivalent to A Award now – intercounty, national schools etc.

How has volunteering benefitted you?

It's increased my confidence, I was a teacher with a bullying headmaster and meeting lots of people in various roles, from Sport England to UK Sport CEO's and England Netball employees means I can talk now to anyone comfortably from any level.

I've made friends from all over the country as I tutored all over!

I used to help with England Netball coaching camps all over the country – so I have seen lots of the UK which is great.

Going to England matches I don't sit down in my seat for the best part of an hour because I see so many people I haven't for ages!

It's made me knowledgeable about the sport. I've been on the safeguarding panel for 15 years and just finished working on updating the UKCC level 1 and 2 course – I also tutor and assess for UKCC.

Luckily my husband is a sports man – he's chair of local sports council which is where we met. He was a professional footballer and then a referee for 25 years.



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

Even if you have no netball knowledge it will widen your horizons.

It's not just a school girl's game!

We need business acumen for franchises and life in general and you can use your work expertise in a sporting environment.

I would say to netballers - what do you do when you stop playing?

Volunteering means you can stay involved in a sport you love.

The success you get makes you feel great – I absolutely love watching the youngster's progress to elite level.

How has volunteering helped you in your professional career?

I was a Home Economics teacher for 35 years

It increased my organisation and helped me have more empathy for those less fortunate than myself and also helped me to work with a variety of people.

Not only that but it taught me about different cultures and people with additional needs.

I am amazed about the amount of knowledge I have gained over the years.

Tell us about your best volunteering experience?

I was a recorder on the bench at the world netball finals in Birmingham!

The final was between Australia and New Zealand – every quarter the cameras came over my shoulder to show the score.

It really was my very best experience. There were no computers in those days, just pencils so I had to write in the best handwriting I could because of the camera!