

CONGRESS MINUTES

10TH JULY 2021

ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE PLATFORM

MINUTES OF MEETING CONGRESS 2021

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

Following a brief welcome by World Netball Vice President, Sue Taylor AM, an introductory video was played.

World Netball Vice-President extended a warm welcome to delegates and observers from Member nations, the World Netball Board and honoured guests, and particularly to those who were attending for the first time. A special mention was made in relation to the Service Awards holders who had been invited to attend by the Board this year as observers.

2. ROLL CALL – INCLUDING PROXIES AND APOLOGIES

2.1 MEMBERS PRESENT

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Total
Full Members	9	12	12	11	6	50
Associate Members	1	0	1	0	0	2

2.11 FULL MEMBER ROLL CALL

Name	Country
Shirley George-Benjamin	Voting Delegate Antigua & Barbuda
Graciela Dondi	2nd Delegate Argentina
Mabel Roca	Voting Delegate Argentina
Silvina Valoppi	Observer Argentina
Marina Go	Voting Delegate Australia
Kelly Ryan	2nd Delegate Australia
Wendy Archer	Observer Australia
Nisha Craigwell	Voting Delegate Barbados
Alicia Jemmott	2nd Delegate Barbados
Annette Beckett	Observer Barbados
Kimale Evans	Voting Delegate Bermuda
Malebogo Raditladi Nkgakile	Voting Delegate Botswana
Mmaneke Kelebogile Maplanka	2nd Delegate Botswana
Oteng Benjamin Masole	Observer Botswana
Wan Shahlimar	Voting Delegate Brunei
Rose Diana	2nd Delegate Brunei
Sabariah	Observer Brunei
Mary Webb	Voting Delegate Canada
Lucille Seymour, BEM, JP	Voting Delegate Cayman Islands
Norma Ferryman	2nd Delegate Cayman Islands
Lyneth Monteith	Observer Cayman Islands

Tina Wei-Ting Chen	Voting Delegate Chinese Taipei
Mii Maui	Voting Delegate Cook Islands
Fran Connolly	Voting Delegate England
Naomi Defroand	Observer England
RubyAnn Sorovaki	Voting Delegate Fiji
Lusi Rokoura	2nd Delegate Fiji
Myrtle Smith	Observer Fiji
Moira Gomez	Voting Delegate Gibraltar
Allison Miller	Voting Delegate Grenada
Jacqueline Belfon	2nd Delegate Grenada
Kenisher Nelson	Observer Grenada
Krystle Edwards	Voting Delegate Hong Kong
Vagish Pathak	Voting Delegate India
Hariom Kaushik	2nd Delegate India
Dr Deepa Sharma	Observer India
Judy Aknin	Voting Delegate Israel
Dr Kouso Sylvie Clémence Mosis	Voting Delegate Ivory Coast
Tricia Robinson	Voting Delegate Jamaica
Janet Johnson Haughton	2nd Delegate Jamaica
Jennifer Headlam	Observer Jamaica
Immaculate Wambui Kabutha	Voting Delegate Kenya
Millicent Busolo	2nd Delegate Kenya
Arne Jepkoech Bett	Observer Kenya
Khungekile Matiya	Voting Delegate Malawi
Carol Bapu	2nd Delegate Malawi
Jane Kachali	Observer Malawi
Alwiyah Talib	Voting Delegate Malaysia
Suriyati Omar	2nd Delegate Malaysia
Zainon Md Noh	Observer Malaysia
Fazna Jaleel	Voting Delegate Maldives
Joyce Vella Dean	Voting Delegate Malta
Nicole Borg	2nd Delegate Malta
Diane Cachia Difesa	Observer Malta
Claire Battye	Voting Delegate Manx (IOM)
Louise Skelly	2nd Delegate Manx (IOM)
Lydia Mutena	Voting Delegate Namibia
Imelda Nerongo	2nd Delegate Namibia
Rebekka Goagoses	Observer Namibia
Allison Ferguson	Voting Delegate New Zealand
Jennie Wyllie	2nd Delegate New Zealand
Kate Agnew	Observer New Zealand
Karen Rollo	Voting Delegate Northern Ireland
Geoff Wilson	2nd Delegate Northern Ireland
Helen Stirling	Observer Northern Ireland
Mudassar Razak Arain	Voting Delegate Pakistan
Syed Gohar Raza	Observer Pakistan
Ulato Avei	Voting Delegate Papua New Guinea
Kori Toua-Navuru	Observer Papua New Guinea
Lynette Wall	Voting Delegate Rep of Ireland
Peseta Noumea Simi	Voting Delegate Samoa
Rosemarie Lome	2nd Delegate Samoa
Claire Nelson	Voting Delegate Scotland
Edward Crozier	2nd Delegate Scotland
Cyrus K Medora	2nd Delegate Singapore
TAN Zing Yuen	Voting Delegate Singapore
Lye Puat Fong	Observer Singapore
Blanche de la Guerre	Voting Delegate South Africa

Christine du Preez	2nd Delegate South Africa
Mami Diale	Observer South Africa
Victoria Lakshmi	Voting Delegate Sri Lanka
Javon Edwards	Voting Delegate St Maarten
Mellica Boothe Timothy	Observer St Maarten
Doris McIntosh	Voting Delegate St Vincent and The Grenadines
Semone Richardson	2nd Delegate St Vincent and The Grenadines
Sharlene Wyllie	Observer St Vincent and The Grenadines
Rufina Paul	Voting Delegate St. Lucia
Matheline Walter	2nd Delegate St. Lucia
Roxanne Synder	Observer St. Lucia
Emma Connolly	Voting Delegate Switzerland
Claudia Almer	2nd Delegate Switzerland
Salote Waquanivalu	Observer, Switzerland
Devota John Marwa	Voting Delegate Tanzania
Narumon Siritwat	Voting Delegate Thailand
Lili Chung	2nd Delegate Thailand
Salote Sisifa	Voting Delegate Tonga
Sherry-Ann Blackburn	Voting Delegate Trinidad and Tobago
Coreen David	2nd Delegate Trinidad and Tobago
Joel Young-Strong	Observer Trinidad and Tobago
Abdul Raheem Al Hashemi	Voting Delegate UAE
Susanne Skelding	2nd Delegate UAE
Deborah Jones	Observer UAE
Susan Anek	Voting Delegate Uganda
Annet Kisomose	2nd Delegate Uganda
Jocelyn Ucanda	Observer Uganda
Patrick Heron	Voting Delegate USA
Keithan Superville	2nd Delegate USA
Janay Whittaker	Observer USA
Sarah Jones	Voting Delegate Wales
Catherine Lewis	2nd Delegate Wales
Vicki Sutton	Observer Wales
Martha Lungu-Sichone	Voting Delegate Zambia
Pritchard Ngoma	2nd Delegate Zambia

2.12 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ROLL CALL

Name	Country
Weah Wallace	Observer Liberia
Dr. Charlie Ho	Observer Philippines

2.13 WORLD NETBALL DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board Members	Name
Vice President	Sue Taylor AM
Finance Director	Ann Tod
Further Director	Shirley Hooper
Africa Director	Cecelia Molokwane
Americas Director	Marva Barnard OD
Asia Director	Gaby Hochbaum

Europe Director	Lyn Carpenter
Oceania Director	Wainikiti Bogidrau

2.14 WORLD NETBALL SERVICE AWARD HOLDERS

Name	Country
Brenda Prince	Trinidad and Tobago
Jill McIntosh	Australia
Cheryl Danson OBE	England
Liz Broomhead MBE	England
Janet Wrighton MBE	England

2.15 WORLD NETBALL SERVICE AWARD 2021 RECIPIENTS

Name	Country
Hon. Molly Rhone OJ, CD, LLD (HON)	Jamaica
Ruth Aitken ONZM	New Zealand
Yvonne Willering CNZM, ONZM	New Zealand
Muditambi Ravele	South Africa
Maggie De Plessis	South Africa

2.16 COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND WORLD NETBALL SECRETARIAT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Name	Country
Leanne O'Leary	Independent Member of the Governance Committee
Octavia Gibson	Independent Member of the Governance Committee
Clare Briegal	World Netball CEO
Angela Sanderson	Accountant
Lindsay Impett	World Netball Head of Events
Grace Watson	Digital Marketing Manager
Christina Barrow	International Officiating Manager
Louise Ferguson	EA to CEO and Board
Joan Smit	Regional Development Manager for Africa
Sophie Reynolds	Administration Intern

2.17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following countries:

Anguilla (A)	Denmark (A)	Japan (A)	Nigeria (A)
Bahrain (A)	Democratic Republic of Congo (A)	Korea (A)	Norfolk Island (A)
Bangladesh (A)	Dominica (F)	Lesotho (S)	Seychelles (A)
Burundi (A)	Central African Republic (A)	Morocco (A)	St Kitts and Nevis (S)
Cameroon (A)	Guinea (A)	Nepal (A)	Zimbabwe (F)

Full Member (F) Associate Member (A) Suspended Member (S)

Apologies were also received from World Netball President, Elizabeth Nicholl CBE, as she was recovering in hospital following a scheduled operation.

2.2 QUORUM

A quorum was present and confirmed. The total number of Full Members in attendance was 50. Voting strength would be determined at the time of each resolution by the number of voting delegates logged in to the voting platform.

There were no proxy votes.

3. HONOURING THE DEPARTED

Congress honoured the departed with a moment's silence. The honoured departed are noted in Appendix 1.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE & ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT SCRUTINEER

Lumi, who were contracted by World Netball to provide the voting platform, acted as the independent scrutineer. Garrick Pallant, a representative from Lumi explained the voting procedure and invited voting delegates of the Full Member Countries to undertake a short practice of the on-line voting system.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF CONGRESS LIVERPOOL 10TH & 11TH JULY 2019

The following changes were noted for the minutes from Congress 2019:

- The date of the previous Congress (2017) was shown in the heading of the minutes from page 2 onwards, which should have read 2019.
- The position of the Chair of Netball New Zealand was recorded incorrectly as President.
- The Past President's absence in 2019 due to illness is to be noted.
- The Vice-President gave thanks to the Past President for her immense service to the federation which had been omitted from the 2019 minutes.

Subject to these changes above, the minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record of Congress 2019.

Proposer: Wales

Secunder: South Africa

Members noted that approval of the minutes would require approval by an Ordinary Resolution requiring approval from more than 50% of the available vote.

Available vote - 46 Members logged in and of these 46 voted in favour of the resolution, therefore **this resolution was approved by 100% of the available vote.**

6. MATTERS ARISING (which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

None

7. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

A short video address to Congress was played in the President's absence. The President's address is shown in full in Appendix 2.

8. BOARD REPORT (INCLUDING REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND PANELS)

The CEO presented the Board report which explained the new strategic plan for World Netball; to grow, to play, to inspire and progress towards the key performance indicators (“KPIs”) and goals therein. World Netball is the trading name for the International Netball Federation Limited. A full copy of the Report is attached in appendix 3.

The CEO described the federations response to Covid-19 and directed Members towards the Annual Reports for 2019 and 2020 for more detail on progress made in those two years.

Members were informed of the work being undertaken by World Netball during 2021.

9. FINANCIAL (AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE) REPORT

9.1 The Finance Director presented this Item. Members were given a short presentation highlighting the major features of the Financial Statements for 2019 and 2020.

The Finance Director explained the reliance on income from World Netball Events especially, the Netball World Cup within each 4-year cycle.

Members were given a breakdown of WN expenditure for 2019 and 2020 which outlined the split of expenditure across WNs three strategic pillars.

9.2 The Finance Director informed Members that the WN Board had approved the financial statements for 2019 and 2020 and requested that WN Congress receive and note the Financial Statements and Annual Report for 2019 and 2020.

9.3 Members were informed that during 2019 & 2020, the Audit and Risk Committee had assessed the external audit quality and recommended that Beever and Struthers continue as World Netball’s auditor. The World Netball Board had accepted the recommendation and had appointed Beever and Struthers as auditor for 2021.

10. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

10.1 The Finance Director, who is Chair of the Governance Committee, presented the proposed Changes to World Netball Article of Association 6.11. The Director highlighted that the proposed changed would facilitate new ideas and provide an opportunity to refresh the skills base of the World Netball Board. It would also enable others to become actively involved in the administration of the sport.

Current Article 6.11

The following is the current wording for Article 6.11, with the words to be deleted underlined:

No Director may serve more than three consecutive terms provided however that when a Board member is elected or appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board and:

6.11.1 the unexpired term of their predecessor in office is for two or more years, such term shall constitute a full term and the Board member may serve two additional consecutive four-year terms following the completion of the filled vacancy term; or

6.11.2 the unexpired term of their predecessor in office is for less than two years, the term shall not constitute a full term and the Board member may serve three additional consecutive four-year terms following completion of the filled vacancy.

Proposed Article

The following is the proposed new wording for Article 6.11 showing the deletion of the word consecutive and the addition of the text in italics:

No Director may serve more than three terms, provided however that when a Board member is elected or appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board and:

6.11.1 the unexpired term of their predecessor in office is for two or more years, such term shall constitute a full term and the Board member may serve two additional four-year terms following the completion of the filled vacancy term; or

6.11.2 the unexpired term of their predecessor in office is for less than two years, the term shall not constitute a full term and the Board member may serve three additional four-year terms following completion of the filled vacancy.

This article applies to any Director who is commencing a new term from 10th July 2021. Any terms already served count towards the maximum permitted under this article.

For the avoidance of doubt the word term includes consecutive and non-consecutive terms.

The Director explained that the removal of the word “consecutive” prevents directors returning after their term limits and this will apply to any Director who will be commencing a new term from date of resolution. Any terms already served count towards the maximum permitted under this article.

Members noted that this change to the Articles of Association would require approval under a Special Resolution and would require approval by at least 75% of the available vote.

Proposer: Australia

Secunder: Malawi

Available vote - 44 Members logged in and of these 43 voted in favour of the resolution, therefore **this motion was approved with 97% of those voting in favour.**

11. OTHER BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE WAS GIVEN

Members had submitted items for consideration at Congress and these were included in the papers issued. Each item was introduced by the Vice President and then the relevant Member invited to explain their item further, if they so wished. A WN Board member provided a response on each item and some ‘heat polls’ were conducted to gather initial feedback from Members in relation to these items.

Item 1 Cayman Islands – Freezing World Rankings

Lucille Seymour President of Cayman Islands Netball Association made a request for Congress to discuss the possibility of freezing world rankings in view of Covid-19 environment and other recent natural disasters. Members noted that due to a

combination of Covid-19 and natural disasters Cayman Islands has been unable to play.

Shirley Cooper, Further Director responded on behalf of the Board, referring to a survey of all Members regarding the impact of Covid-19 carried out in the first half of 2020 which highlighted the importance of this matter to several of our Members. Advice had been sought from David Kendix, the statistician who devised the World Rankings system with World Netball and he had provided a strong rationale for maintaining the live status of the World Rankings at that time.

Several questions were raised and Shirley Hooper recommended Members view the footage of the World Rankings webinar presented by David Kendix in 2020. She encouraged Members to refresh themselves on the workings of the Rankings System and how calculations are performed.

Members were advised that at the September 2021 World Netball Board meeting the Board will be considering when the next annual update should take place.

Directors also noted a proposal for a committee to be established to look at this matter in further detail.

Several questions were recorded in the on-line Q&A from Members on this matter and these will also be considered by the Board.

Item 2 India – Inclusion of Netball in Multisport Games

Members were informed that a request had been made by India for Congress to discuss the inclusion of netball in prestigious multisport events, including the men's and mixed game. Dr Deepa Sharma, President presented this item to Congress.

Gaby Hochbaum, World Netball Board Member & Director for Asia responded on behalf of the Board and explained that World Netball is keen to support Members and Regions in their pursuit of inclusion of netball in multisport games. This is an important development for netball, and it supports our GROW strategy.

A heat poll was used to gather some initial feedback from Members on the Fast5 format of netball; this version, with shorter games and smaller teams, has been considered especially suited to the multi-sports games' environment.

Heat Poll 1- Is your nation playing Fast5 netball at the elite/international level?

42 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

7 Member Countries confirmed they play Fast5 netball at the elite level (16.67%)

35 said no (83.33%).

Heat Poll 2 - Is your nation playing Fast5 netball at the club / participation level?

42 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

16 Member Countries confirmed they play Fast5 netball at the club/participation level (38%)

26 said no (62%).

Item 3 Jamaica - Rating of players after major championships

Tricia Robinson, President Jamaica Netball presented this item to Congress.

Lyn Carpenter, World Netball Board Member and Director for Europe responded on this item on behalf of the World Netball Board. Director for Europe explained that

this matter is of current interest to the Board. Player rankings are being considered by the Commercial Committee and it is within the remit of the Voice of the Athlete Working Group to ensure athletes are able to provide a view on this topic.

Heat Poll 3 - Do Members believe that World Netball should direct resources toward the development of a system for rating players after major championships?

38 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

28 Member Countries confirmed that they thought WN should direct resources towards the creation of player ratings (74%) and 10 said no (26%).

Item 4 Jamaica - International Player Movement, Contracts and Policy

Tricia Robinson, President Jamaica Netball Jamaica asked the Board for an update on its work on international player movement, contracts and policy – a matter that had been raised at Congress in 2017 and 2019.

Lyn Carpenter, World Netball Board Member and Director for Europe responded on this item and confirmed that this matter had been highlighted previously. Initial work, including an assessment of the policies of other team sports, suggested that a greater alignment of the international and domestic calendars would be an important first step in reducing conflict for players. This is something that the Commercial Committee is working towards and is relevant to the Voice of the Athlete work.

Heat Poll 4 - Do Members believe that World Netball should create distinct periods for international and domestic matches?

36 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

30 Member Countries agreed that WN should create distinct periods for international and domestic matches (83%) and 6 said no (17%).

Heat Poll 5 - Do Members believe that World Netball should direct resources toward the development a policy and contracts for international player movements.

37 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

33 Member Countries agreed that WN should direct resources toward the development a policy and contracts (89%) 4 said no (11%).

Questions and Answers were garnered from Members on this matter and the importance of international collaboration was emphasised.

Item 5 Jamaica - Dual membership across different National Associations

It was explained that the item Jamaica is raising is around dual membership and whether there should be a clear policy on individuals having dual membership across different National Associations. The Member is concerned that individuals may be recorded as being members of different associations. Tricia Robinson, President Jamaica Netball presented this item to Congress.

Ann Tod, World Netball Finance Director & Chair of the Governance Committee responded on behalf of the Board on this matter. Finance Director confirmed first that this question did not relate to player eligibility and representation in international events which is covered in the General Regulations. She explained that there is no specific policy to prevent this and individuals may have membership of more than one country. Finance Director highlighted that individuals do move around the world

for example as officials and administrators and they may retain their Membership of their initial country as they do so.

Finance Director confirmed that this Item will be considered further by the Governance Committee and a response will be presented back to Members in due course.

Item 5 - Tanzania

Tanzania had raised a question in relation to subsidies (and other items) to support Member countries – the item had been included in the Congress papers issued to members 45 days before Congress for information only since at that time their membership fees were outstanding. However, Tanzania paid their fees in full before Congress, they were reinstated as a Full Member in good standing and attended Congress.

Devota John Marwa, President Tanzania spoke to the item.

Ann Tod, World Netball Finance Director & Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee responded on behalf of the Board on this matter. Finance Director explained the assistance already given to Member Countries including the support of the Regional Development Manager for Africa, netEffect funding and the Covid-19 Relief Fund.

Questions were noted from Members in the on-line Q&A on netball development.

Item 5 - Pakistan

Mudassar Arain, President Pakistan Netball Association raised an item in relation to officially recognising men's netball, including inclusion in Olympic Games. Sue Taylor, Vice President responded on behalf of the Board on this matter. World Netball's ambition and commitment to be a sport that is 'open to all' was emphasised. Further Director Shirley Hooper confirmed that the decision of the IOC to award the hosting of the Olympic Games 2032 to Brisbane, Australia provided a unique opportunity for netball.

Heat Poll 6 – Does your national association have men participating in netball at the international/elite level

- as coaches?
- as umpires/officials?
- as players?

Q1 - 45 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

36 Member Countries confirmed yes men participate as coaches (80%) and 9 said no (20%).

Q2 - 45 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

36 Member Countries confirmed yes men participate as umpires/officials (80%) and 9 said no (20%).

Q3 – 44 Member Countries participated in this heat poll.

28 Member Countries confirmed yes men participate as players (64%) and 16 said no (36%).

Questions were noted from Members in the on-line Q&A on men's participation in netball.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

13. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

A late application had been received for Full membership from the associate member from the Philippines. Dr Charlie Ho, President Philippines Netball Association was invited by the chair to speak on behalf of the Philippines application.

The application meets all the criteria for Full Membership as outlined in the Articles of Association and is supported by the Asia Region and the World Netball Board.

Members will be asked to approve this item by email by a special resolution. For the resolution to pass 75% or more of those eligible to vote will need to approve the motion.

14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice President presented the Election of the Vice-President's role. One nomination had been received from the Membership for the Vice-President's role by the closing date and this was for Shirley Hooper (currently the Further Director).

The Nominations Committee had reviewed the nomination and agreed that the experience and skills of the candidate met the criteria for the role.

The World Netball Board was pleased to wholly endorse the nomination.

Shirley Hooper, Further Director provided a short address to Congress to outline her credentials and ambitions for the role.

It was confirmed that an ordinary resolution of the Members would be required to pass this resolution of more than 50% of the available vote.

Proposer: New Zealand

Secunder: Jamaica

There were 47 Member Countries logged in to vote in the election, of which 42 valid votes were cast - and of these 42 Member Countries 100% voted in favour of Shirley Hooper being elected as Vice-President of World Netball. Shirley Hooper was elected as Vice-President of World Netball with effect from the end of Congress 2021.

Shirley Hooper, Further Director thanked Sue Taylor for her long service to Netball and the World Netball Board, which was endorsed by all Members.

15. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS

Sue Taylor, Vice-President introduced this item.

A full copy of all citations is included in Appendix 4.

Gaby Hochbaum, Director for Asia read the citation for the award for Ruth Aitken ONZM, New Zealand.

Lyn Carpenter, Director for Europe read the citation for the award for Yvonne Willering CNZM, ONZM, New Zealand.

Ann Tod, Finance Director read the citation for Maggie Du Plessis, South Africa.

Marva Bernard, Director for Americas read the citation for Muditambi Ravele, South Africa.

Shirley Hooper, Further Director read the citation to Former INF President Hon. Molly Rhone OJ, CD, LLD (HON).

Hon. Molly Rhone OJ, CD, LLD (HON) provided the response on behalf of all the service award recipients.

A full copy of the response is included in Appendix 5.

16. PROPOSED DATE AND LOCATION OF CONGRESS 2023

Congress 2023 – 26-27th July 2023 Cape Town South Africa

The dates of the Netball World Cup 2023 are due to be announced at the end of July.

HONOURING THE DEPARTED LIST 2019 - 2021

AFRICA

Gary Grant, External Consultant to Netball South Africa

Annie Faith Kibira, Tanzania

Anna Bayi, Tanzania

Rose Chinunda, Malawi

Florence Chakha, Malawi

Griffin Saenda, Malawi

Malie Snyman, Ex Treasurer of Namibia Netball – May 2021

AMERICAS

Everton Carter, Barbados

Cheryl Austin-Wilbourne, Barbados

Anthony Roachford, Barbados

Gene Phillips, Barbados

Valmay Patrick, Barbados

Owen Williams, Barbados

Larry Dennis, Bermuda

Pauline Bodden, Cayman Islands

Margaret Dowe, Grenada

Avril Crawford, Jamaica & INFA board

member Pearline Wan, Jamaica

Dorrain Bruce, Jamaica

Denise Joyce Auguste, Caribbean Netball Association & St Lucia

Errol Montoute, St. Lucia

Barbara Chandleur, Trinidad and Tobago

Angela 'Pinkie' Drayton-Thomas, Trinidad and Tobago

Marjorie Andrews, Trinidad and Tobago

Grace Bailey, USA

Kevin Peart, USA

ASIA

Dianne McDonald – Australia

Gloria Haycroft – Australia

Karen Schneider - Australia

Nonie Oppy – Australia

Ivy-Rose Hughes – Australia

Grace Chew- Singapore

OCEANIA

Moape Ravudolo, Fiji

Josese Vuiyale, Fiji

Marian Law, New Zealand

Margaret Forsyth, New Zealand

Tilly Hirst (nee Vercoe), New Zealand

Kalala Folaumoeloa Unu, Tonga

Mele Latu, Tonga

Fangatua Fakavā, Tonga

Polikalepo Kefu, Tonga

EUROPE

Moya McVeigh, Northern Ireland

Shelia Callaghan, Northern Ireland

Deirdre Robinson, Northern Ireland

Judi Clark-Wilson, Isle of Man

Jennifer Sealey, Wales

Norma Stephen, Wales

WORLD NETBALL CONGRESS 2021 - PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It is two years since you elected me as your new President in 2019...and I still I feel proud and privileged to be entrusted with the responsibility to lead you into what I am sure is a positive an exciting future for our sport.

But what an extraordinary two years it has been for communities and nations around the world.

None of us could have predicted that 6 months after the successful Vitality NWC 2019 hosted by England Netball in Liverpool we would be facing the global challenge of a pandemic which has had, and is still having, a profound impact on our communities and our netball family. Many of you may have lost cherished family members, friends or colleagues to the virus. And we have also seen a rise in the number of natural disasters such as the recent volcanic eruptions in St Vincent.

Each one of these tests the courage, compassion, adaptability and resilience of our communitiesand our Netball family.

And we are all having to be agile in adapting to new ways of working in our changed world.

I am very proud of the way in which our Netball family, with its huge dependence on volunteers, has managed this unique challenge in a socially responsible way.

There are countless examples of how you have shown strong leadership and a willingness to adapt where it has been possible to enable safe play. Many of you have also provided online initiatives for training, for learning and for wellbeing and

have been willing to share your experience to help others. Collaboration and sharing, is at the heart of our new strategy.

With adversity comes opportunity and probably the most significant adaptation made this year was how we learned to connect relatively easily and more frequently on line. Video conferencing platforms have enabled us to communicate and consult, more than in any previous year, on all the significant Board decisions that impact on our MembersAND on the development of our new strategy.

Virtual Board, Committee, Panel meetings have been more frequent and more cost effective. Virtual roadshows and webinars, with those who lead our Member nations and Regional Federations, are here to stay.

While we must acknowledge the current challenges, we have much to look forward to with;

- The Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July 2022;
- The Netball World Cup 2023 qualifying events in our Regions later in next year;
- Netball South Africa hosting the NWC2023 in Cape town;
- Netball World Youth Cup in 2025 host soon to be revealed;
- Netball World Cup 2027 to be hosted by Netball Australia in Sydney in their centenary year;
- The possibility of the Olympic Games being held in Brisbane, Australia in 2032 – creating an opportunity for World Netball to explore the inclusion of netball with the organising committee and the IOC;
- And we have a new strategic plan and brand which sets out our commitment to grow, to play and to inspire.

Setbacks, such as the forced cancellation of the Netball World Youth Cup, due to be held in Fiji this year, because of Covid-19, will be overcome over time and with your support we can be sure that 'World Netball; will continue to grow, to play and to inspire'.

With your help we have developed an ambitious and progressive plan that builds on Netball 2020, reflects your feedback, gives athletes a voice in our ongoing decision making and will ensure that netball continues to thrive ...

We will explore with you how we can develop our sport so that is open to all and welcomes netballers around the world irrespective their gender, race, age or ability.

We will invest resources in helping netball grow and we will support the establishment of a programme that will help develop our leaders for the future – we look forward to sharing more about these initiatives later in 2021.

Thank-you to all of Member nations and our Regionsand the huge number of your members, staff and volunteers who support our sport On and off the court.

Let's look forward with determination and optimism.

Let's demonstrate what we can achieve when we work together.

Let's GROW, PLAY and INSPIRE

Before closing I must acknowledge that today we will be saying farewell and thankyou to Sue Taylor AM for her huge contribution to our sport over many, many years, rising from the umpiring ranks to contribute 14 years on our Board and 10 as Vice President.

It's rare in our history that any Vice President has ever been asked to Chair a Congress and uniquely this will be Sue's second consecutive meeting in that role and I know it is very safe hands .

Sue, we will miss you and thank you for your unique contribution to our leadership team which has now been captured by the CGF through your appointment to their new Ethics Commission and congratulations too on recently being awarded life membership of Commonwealth Games Australia.

Finally, you will be electing our new Vice President today. Shirley Hooper, a current Board member, is the sole nominee and has my full support.

It's fitting that I close with a very big thankyou to all my colleagues on the World Netball Board and to all those who serve on our netball committees, working groups and panels around the world.

Together we are helping us to create a better world through netball.

Liz Nicholl CBE

World Netball President

WORLD NETBALL CONGRESS 2021 – CEO BOARD REPORT

I have the pleasure of reporting on the activities of World Netball since the last Congress on behalf of the Board. And what a period it has been!

The activity report for the year is framed according to our new strategic plan World Netball; to grow, to play, to inspire. You will have received a copy of this report by email and this is now available to download from our website.

However with the huge impact of Covid on our Member nations it feels appropriate to begin with a report on how World Netball listened and acted in response.

Covid-19 and World Netball's Response

Due to the global pandemic international netball matches were suspended completely from February 2019 until the end of October. The return to play is still tentative, with the return of domestic leagues and recreational netball taking precedent where this is possible under local government guidelines.

A task force was established in April to drive the response to Covid and a website hub was created to enable sharing of learning, celebrate and promote lockdown activities and to provide resources for Member countries for the return to play. The Secretariat office in Manchester was closed and all staff worked safely from home during 2020.

As face-to-face meetings were impossible, Board meetings were held on-line and the Board agreed to hold monthly interim meetings to enable swift and responsive

decision making. Members and Regional Federations were consulted regularly through zoom roadshows and webinars and on-line surveys.

A number of key decisions were made by World Netball in 2020 in response to the Covid pandemic including the cancellation the remaining regional qualifiers for NWYC2021 and use of World Rankings to determine the qualifying teams for Oceania, Europe, the Americas and Africa.

Following an iterative consultation process, the Netball World Youth Cup Fiji 2021 was initially postponed to December 2021 and then subsequently (in March 2021) cancelled altogether.

A revised budget was drawn up to reflect the impact of Covid and operations were adjusted to ensure ongoing sustainability of World Netball.

We established short-term policies for officiating and World Rankings that enabled and encouraged the return to international play.

We agreed a 50% reduction in Membership fees for 2021 for those Members who had paid their fees in 2020 and established a Covid-response fund which was paid in equal amounts to the Regional Federations to be used to support Member nations.

Grow - Increase global participation, reach, revenue and capacity

Our new strategic plan sets out World Netball's purpose to create a better world through netball, and growth in participation, reach, revenue and capacity sits at the heart of the strategy.

The Commercial Committee has been developing a commercial strategy for World Netball with support from the global sports marketing agency CSM and SPORTFIVE our media rights agency. The commercial strategy aligns with World Netball's

ambitious strategic plan and includes an emerging event strategy with associated sponsorship, broadcast and digital elements. This work continues through 2021 with particular emphasis on attracting strategic partners to play a part in the commercial programme for the Netball World Cup Cape Town 2023 and the broader work of World Netball.

A vibrant visual identity was created for World Netball which reflects the core game and our desire to be more inclusive as we grow. I am delighted with the response to our new branding.

A working group was established as a priority in 2020 whose remit was to develop a Netball Federation Development Programme. The working group, led by the Board Director for the Americas and including representatives from each region, set out early in 2020 to map out a development model. There is no doubt that the impact of Covid on our membership and the decision to prioritise other areas affected the progress of this important project. Further resource is being made available to support and accelerate this programme in 2021.

In 2020 an independent review of the World Class Officiating Programme took place. Our thanks go to Stuart Cummings MBE, Independent Chair, and the working group established to deliver this project. The outcomes of the review were shared with Members in February 2021. A total of 20 recommendations were made from the review to further enhance international officiating. New representative groups have been formed and full details of progress made may be found on our website.

During lockdown World Netball continued to develop its social media presence with enhanced activity on Instagram, including athlete takeovers, our 24 hr netball marathon in conjunction with netfit and the creation of relevant messaging for all

communication channels; including a greater emphasis on communicating with individual netballers and fans of the game.

Play – Drive game development and world-wide delivery of a portfolio of thrilling world class events

Our priority throughout 2020 was centred on the wellbeing of our netballers and their families and communities around the world; ensuring we listened to our Members, understood the impact of the pandemic on their lives and livelihoods and supported them where they needed it most. Once countries began to emerge from lockdown and our countries began to consider the possibility of the return to international play we began work on ensuring the integrity of the game during the return to play.

Sharing the learning from those countries, predominantly in the Southern hemisphere, who led the world in the return to court was an important role played by World Netball and we thank sincerely both Netball New Zealand and Netball Australia who made their Covid-safe guidance and resources for community netball readily available.

The Commercial Committee, with CSM, explored the International Event Calendar and identified the potential for additional international events to excite fans, provide more broadcast content and grow awareness of the sport. The Covid environment when no netball could take place provided 'transitional space' to explore some options in more detail and early consultation with some of our more commercial Member nations took place. Recognising the hugely challenging impact of Covid on Members' finances and operations this work is yet to conclude. World Netball is excited by the possibilities.

Our Rules Advisory Panel delivered our 'Rules of International Netball' mobile phone application which is available free to download for Apple and Android devices. This essential resource brings the rules of netball to netballers around the globe and with over 6000 downloads in the first three months of the launch we are delighted with progress to date.

The bidding process for both the Netball World Cup 2027 (NWC2027) and Netball World Youth Cup 2025 (NWYC2025) ran through year. A Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) was appointed by the Board to assess the bids received and make a recommendation on hosting. We thank Chair Steve Elworthy, OBE for his leadership and indeed the whole Committee for sharing their valuable insight and expertise. Special thanks to the BEC, as well as the bidding countries, for ensuring the process reached a successful conclusion despite the pandemic and the inability to meet face to face. Congratulations to Netball Australia and specifically the city of Sydney, New South Wales, confirmed as host for the NWC2027; the host of NWYC2025 will be announced soon. These events and their remarkable legacy programmes will deliver significant growth for netball and support the ambitions outlined in World Netball's new strategic plan.

Inspire – Harness the power of netball to change lives

Netball's impact on the lives of the individuals, teams and communities has been well documented. The powerful messaging of World Netball's 'Creating Choices' campaign resonated with Members who attended the campaign launch at Congress in 2019 as well as with the thousands of fans who visited our booth at the NWC2019 fan park. The wholly positive response to this campaign provided the Board with the

confidence to move to the next stage into the establishment of a charitable foundation.

In 2020 World Netball established a Foundation Working Group. We appointed Tarnside to develop a Foundation Business Plan and fundraising strategy and we sought legal advice on the Foundation's statutory instrument.

The Board agreed a geographic focus on the African continent for initial phases of the Foundation's work to align with the hosting and legacy programmes of NWC2023.

The Foundation Business plan developed with Tarnside, was approved in principle, with the timing of implementation to be determined.

Govern – Evolve the Governance structure of World Netball to ensure we remain a leader in best practice whilst adjusting to changes in the environment in which we operate

In the previous strategic period from 2016-2020 World Netball had made huge strides to develop the governance structure. This work now underpins everything we do at World Netball.

A key commitment in the new strategic plan is to ensure the voice of the athlete is at the heart of decision making in all things we do. Early steps to achieving this include the appointment of a current athlete to the Bid Evaluation Committee for NWC2027 and NWYC2025. And now Voice of the Athlete Working Group has been established.

Louise Ferguson Executive PA to the CEO and Board, appointed in January 2020, has assisted in delivering a step change in administration with the creation of an

annual workplan for the Board and all Committees under the heading of Grow, Play and Inspire to support the delivery of the strategic plan.

At the end of 2019 we said goodbye to Gordon Padley MBE, longstanding member of the Audit and Risk Committee and in 2020 welcomed the appointment of Lindsay Sartori.

A Nominations Committee has now been established and Kate Palmer and Catherine Lewis appointed as Members, in addition to Liz Nicholl and Lyn Carpenter from the Board. This committee is leading on the appointment of an Independent Director.

The Medical Committee helped us revise our Anti-Doping Rules, to implement the changes to the WADA Code, which came into force from January 2021. I am pleased to report zero anti-doping rules violations for both 2019 and 2020 in international netball.

The annual report that you will have received in the last day provides a full report from our dedicated Committees, technical panels CAP, RAP and Working Groups.

Secretariat Team Update

I am so lucky to have around me the most wonderful team at the World Netball Secretariat. They have kept me going during the past 15 months when the outlook was bleak. We met every day for a zoom update, shared stories of our lockdown lives. We have become closer than ever to our dear colleague Joan Smit based in Namibia.

This lovely image on the left was from January 2020 – the launch of the Vitality netball Superleague in England. We had a team building workshop and attended the

sell-out event in Birmingham. Louise had just joined us and Zoe was half way through her internship.

18 month's later Zoe is now graduating from Loughborough University. and has accepted a new position as a marketing executive at a major sports event. Thank you Zoe for all your hard work. Our new intern Sophie – pictured on the right has just finished a degree in journalism and will be with us for the next 12 months. -

Welcome Lindsay Impett , who many of you will know as the Event Director for the NWC2019 has joined in February as Head of Events.

You may have noticed we have moved our offices to provide a more covid-safe working environment and we are now neighbours to the BBC Sport Studios and digital businesses in Media City, Salford. We hope to return to the office in the next few weeks.

Looking ahead.

Despite the challenges of 2020 we have so much to look forward to:

2022 brings the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham where our top 12 teams will compete for the title of Commonwealth Champion. Then the qualifiers for the NWC2023 will take place in our five regions.

Our commercial committee will be working hard to deliver additional income to drive the growth of our sport. As part of this work a number of strategic projects have been agreed for 2021 including the exploration of developing a first party data capture strategy and the concept of having World Rankings for netball players in addition to teams.

Our Audit and Finance and Governance committees will keep us on track and ensure we maintain compliance with the relevant legislation and a leader in sports governance as we grow.

We look forward to developing our officiating structures as we strive for world class officiating.

The Board has recognised that further development of World Netball's workforce – the secretariat staff and volunteers - must take place in order to deliver the strategic plan. The creation of a World Netball workforce strategy in 2021 will include an audit of diversity and inclusion.

Our new strategic plan and vision sets out a roadmap to a more inclusive future with a sport that is open to all that inspires netballers to achieve their potential.

In closing I would like to thank sincerely the Board, staff, consultants and dedicated volunteers who have shared their considerable expertise and applied their many skills with enthusiasm in order to help us develop and deliver the strategic plan.

Your contributions are impactful and will ensure the success of not only World Netball, but also our Regional Federations and Member nations.

Together we have achieved so much. It's been a hugely challenging period but I am confident that we have grown through this period, developed new ways of working and innovations that will enable us to achieve our ambitions.

Thank you for your time today.

Clare Briegal

10 June 2021



World Netball Service Award 2021

Citation for Hon. Molly Rhone OJ, CD, LLD (HON) Jamaica Netball

The Hon. Molly RHONE OJ, CD, LLD (HON) was President of the International Netball Federation (INF) from 2003 until 2019. When she was elected, Molly made sporting history that year as she became the first and only Jamaican female to head an international sporting body and she is the longest serving President to date. She had already served as INF Vice President from 1999 to 2003.

In 2003 she was responsible for the bidding, planning, organisation and successful hosting of the eleventh World Netball Championships held in Jamaica.

A former international player, Molly represented Jamaica at Under 21 and Under 23 levels, and was vice captain of the national team at the World Netball Championships in 1975.

Molly was a former president of the Jamaica Netball Association (JNA) for ten years, leading them during the hosting of the 2003 World Netball Championships. Molly also served as President of the Americas Association of Netball Associations (AFNA).

In addition to receiving the National Honours – Order of Distinction (OD) in 1999, Commander of the Order of Distinction (CD) in 2007 and Order of Jamaica (OJ) in 2011– Molly has received numerous other awards as a sports administrator and for

her work in netball. They include the Gleaner Honour Award for the success of the 2003 World Netball Championships. In Canada, she obtained certificates from the Ontario government for her contribution to sport in 1971, 1972 and 1973. In 2019 Molly was awarded an Honorary Degree by the University of Technology, Jamaica.

Molly is highly respected across international sport and is a sitting Director of the Sports Development Foundation in Jamaica. In May 2013, Molly was elected to the Board of ARISF, the Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations, a post she held until her Presidency of the INF ended in 2019. Molly also served as a member of the IOC Sport and Active Society Commission and the FIFA Governance Committee.

Our heartfelt thanks go to you Molly, on behalf of Members, netballers, officials and fans around the world to extend our gratitude for what you have done for netball. You have always had time for the athletes in netball – especially the young girls you met as you travelled the world with netball. With a lifetime of dedication and your passion you are a guiding light for our sport and for all of the people who follow in your trailblazing footsteps. Your leadership, courage, integrity and vision have shaped our netball world.

10 June 2021



World Netball Service Award 2021

Citation for Maggie De Plessis Netball South Africa

Maggie has been involved in international netball for more than forty-five years, as a player, umpire and administrator.

As International umpire Maggie has umpired at two World Championships during 1999 and 2003 as well as two U/21 World Championships in 2000 and 2005. She has also umpired the final match between Australia and New Zealand at the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002. She has umpired more than eight test series between 2001 and 2008. Maggie was appointed a member of Match Officials Advisory Panel (MAP) in 2008 and served on the panel until 2015. In 2017 she was selected as ITP for the Africa region and chaired the Umpires Appointment Panel for the U/21 World Championships in Botswana.

Maggie was actively involved in Umpire development in Africa from 2006 till 2019. During 2012 she was part of the ITP panel that compiled guidelines for the development of umpires in Africa. She has also assisted in developing the Netball

Namibia Umpires' structure. Up to the end of 2019 she worked closely with the ACOF system to uplift umpiring in Africa.

Maggie started playing netball at the age of nine and was involved in umpiring from that age. As Secondary School player her performance led to her selection in the provincial school side for five successive years. She was selected as Wing Attack in a South African School's side in 1973 and 1974. As student she represented her province for eight years as a player and was awarded the State President's Award for best player at the National Senior Championships in 1976 and 1978. She received National Colours in 1981 as Wing Attack. It was during this time that her love for umpiring was renewed, and she received her national "A" badge in 1995. She served on the South African Umpiring Board from 1995 up to 2015. During this time talent identification became a passion and she acted as coach for cadet IUA umpires as well as NSA umpires.

During the World Netball Championships in 1999 in Christchurch, New Zealand she was accredited as the first International Umpire in Africa and South Africa. Maggie became a role model and succeeded to inspire umpires all over the African continent. She shared her knowledge and expertise with everybody. As ITP Maggie achieved enormous success. As the leading umpire in Africa, she contributed tremendously to the uplifting of umpires in Africa by conducting various umpire courses. The Code of Conduct she abides by has given umpires in Africa and South Africa the respect they deserve.

Maggie has also received a Service Award by the South African School's Association as well as an Administrative Award by the Educational Department of Gauteng.

Maggie du Plessis has given outstanding and exceptional service to Netball for over forty-five years including a significant contribution at International level and we thank her for her outstanding contribution to our sport over many years.

10 July 2021



World Netball Service Award 2021

Citation for Muditambi (Ntambi) Ravele Netball South Africa

“Passion leads to greatness”. Muditambi has been involved in netball as a player, coach, umpire, and administrator prior to the coming of democracy in South Africa. Unfortunately, during apartheid, black South Africans were not allowed to represent the country.

In 1994, after democracy was established and Netball South Africa (NSA) formed, she became a member of the organization’s first executive committee. Muditambi was involved in Schools, Club and University Netball. She was the team manager of the national under 21 netball team that represented South Africa at the Confederation of Southern Africa Netball Association (COSANA) Games in Botswana in 1996, and a national coach of the Universities netball team to the Confederation of University as well as Colleges Sports Association Games (CUCSA) in Zambia 1999.

In 1995, after an all-white team’s participation at the World Championship as it was called then, she was entrusted to ensure that the national team that represented South

Africa later in the year at the All Africa games in Harare, Zimbabwe reflected the demographics of the country. She diligently executed this assignment but unfortunately, the whole team refuted this and as a result, a completely new transformed team was selected. This team represented the country and returned with a gold medal. Since then, every national netball team has had a number of black players named to it.

In 1999, she was appointed to lead NSA as the first black Netball President after a Commission of Enquiry into netball was held. Muditambi was tasked to turnaround netball, transform and position it to a business entity. She was then elected to World Netball as one of the Directors.

Muditambi used these positions to change the face of netball in South Africa, Southern Africa, and the continent of Africa. She strengthened the COSANA Games and hosted the first World Netball Board meeting on African soil during these Games in Durban. She initiated the formation of a Netball Association in Africa and started sending South African coaches to the rest of Africa to develop netball in the continent. That gave birth to the Confederation of African Netball Association (CANA) which today is called Africa Netball. And today the family of netball prides itself with the legacy which is a platform to help and nurture the skills and performance of the continent to the world of netball.

During her leadership, she invited world netball to conduct courses in Africa during the COSANA Games. These courses included Administration, Umpiring and Grading. Muditambi positioned NSA to be recognized by the top countries in the world of netball and hosted the first Tri-Nation series with South Africa, Australia and New Zealand in Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg and Pretoria. This was the first time Australia and New Zealand were playing together in a third country outside the World Cup event.

Muditambi served three terms as Netball South Africa's President and as a World Netball Board Member. She made netball a sport of choice, increased netball participation to 1.2 million active members, and brought sponsors into netball including the broadcast of netball championships and the national netball league. She purchased wooden sprung floors to host international events with teams such as England, Australia, and New Zealand. Muditambi served on the World Netball Marketing Committee which initiated a lot of training programmes with the University of Manchester. She attended all netball World Cups since 1999 to 2019 as well as the Fast Five Netball World Series in England and the Netball World Youth Cup in Botswana (2017) even at her own expense. Muditambi is still today a die-hard fan of netball, loyal supporter, and a passionate netballer.

Muditambi Ravele gave her outstanding and exceptional service to netball locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally. We thank her for her remarkable contribution to netball including mentoring future leaders in Netball.

10 July 2021



World Netball Service Award 2021

Citation for Ruth Aitken ONZM Netball New Zealand

Ruth Aitken has won the Netball World Cup for New Zealand both on the court and off it, but her impact on netball – particularly in coaching – has radiated throughout the world.

A Silver Fern in the team who won the 1979 world tournament, Ruth then became one of New Zealand's most successful sporting coaches. She guided the Ferns for nine years, during which they won the 2003 Netball World Cup, back-to-back Commonwealth Games gold medals, and the 2009 World Netball Series.

Moving into her role as Netball New Zealand's coaching director, Ruth helped set a new direction for coaching at every level of the game, markedly increasing the number of coaches in New Zealand. She was also a national selector for three years.

But the reach of her influence goes way beyond Aotearoa. Ruth spent three years coaching in Singapore, shaping the success and development of their national team.

She's been a member of the INF Coaching Advisory Panel and she continues to help Netball New Zealand with the Pacific Sporting Partnership, delivering netball training to Fiji, the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga.

Ruth's professionalism, integrity and meticulous approach has also been in demand with other sports. She is a member of the NZ Sports Tribunal, that rules on a range of sporting disputes.

But her heart is never far from netball. Ruth was a coach mentor for the successful New Zealand U21s at the 2017 Netball World Youth Cup, and has previously been the performance manager in the Waikato Bay of Plenty Zone.

This latest accolade sits alongside being made a life member of Netball New Zealand and an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for her services to netball.

10 July 2021



World Netball Service Award 2021

Citation for Yvonne Willering, CNZM, ONZM Netball New Zealand

Yvonne Willering is one of the genuine greats of the game - with her influence felt all around the globe.

From a world champion player, to Silver Ferns coach, umpire to international commentator and advisor to aspiring netball nations across the globe, Yvonne's relationship with the game spans beyond 50 years.

First spotted at school for her height, reach and leap, the girl born in the Netherlands quickly became a dynamic defender. She would go on to play for Auckland, and then New Zealand for a decade – playing at three World Cups, and winning the world title in 1979.

Taking all she learned on and off the court, Yvonne has poured that into an outstanding coaching career, including winning six national titles with Auckland.

At the helm of the Silver Ferns, first as caretaker coach then head coach, Yvonne led the Ferns in 51 tests, with 39 wins and one draw.

Her almost unrivalled knowledge is still sought after by teams throughout New Zealand and the world, called on to guide players, coaches and administrators.

She's been head coach of the Fiji Pearls, and has advised the national sides of South Africa, Australia and Vanuatu. She also worked with the Silver Ferns in their build-up to their 2019 World Cup victory.

She continues to develop coaches worldwide as a member of the INF coaching advisory panel.

No matter who she's helped over the years, Yvonne's motivation has always been to make the game greater.

Her latest well-deserved accolade is being made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit and a life member of Netball New Zealand.

10 July 2021

RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF SERVICE AWARD

HOLDERS HON. MOLLY RHONE OJ, CD, LLD (HON)

Vice President - Sue, World Netball Board Members, Presidents, Delegates and Observers of the World Netball Member Associations, World Netball CEO and staff, and the whole Netball family.

I should like, on behalf of the Service Award Holders so generously honoured at this Congress today, to thank you all for honouring us with these awards.

I am sure that I speak for all the Award Holders when I say that it has been our privilege to serve netball over the years. We have gained so much and it has been an honour to help grow this wonderful sport of ours into the global force it is today.

I started as President of IFNA, the International a Federation of National Associations, which became the INF, the International Netball Federation, and now we are World Netball.

Thank you for these awards. It has been our privilege to help and we look forward to supporting the continued growth of netball going forward.

With our best wishes to you all and especially to Liz Nicholl CBE, our President, who can't be with us today.

Thank you.