

ALL ENGLAND NETBALL ASSOCIATION: HISTORY

Early Beginnings

- 1891 Game invented in USA by a YMCA Secretary, where it was then, and is now, called Basketball. First match recorded in America 1900 (Boston)
- 1895 Visit of Dr Toles, an American, to Madam Osterberg's PT College (then at Hampstead). Students were taught Basket Ball - indoors - no printed rules - no lines, circles or boundaries. The goals were two waste paper baskets hung on walls at each end of the hall.
- 1897 Game played out of doors on grass. An American lady paid a visit to the College (moved to Dartford), and taught the game as then played by women in America. The students at Dartford introduced rings instead of baskets, the large ball and the division of the ground into three courts.
- 1900-1 The newly formed Ling Association (now the Physical Education Association) set up a sub-committee to revise and publish the first set of rules, 250 copies were published and many changes were adopted.
- 1902 Steady development of the game with modification of rules made as shown to onwards - be necessary by the experience of clubs and schools. English rules introduced into USA, Canada, France, South Africa, as well as Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Copies of England Rule Books sold in India, Canada, Burma, France, Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, Cape Colony, Jamaica and United States.
- 1923 Register taken of all leagues with eight or more clubs.
- 1924 London and Home Counties Net Ball Federation formed with Miss Winefride O'Reilly as Hon. Secretary. The aim of the Federation was to organise clubs within London and its environs and ultimately to establish a national association.
- 1925 Joint Committee of Federation and Ling Association. 10,800 Rule Books sold.

Birth of the Association

- 1926 12th February - 230 delegates in the drawing room of the YMCA, Tottenham Court Road, London, under the chairmanship of Miss Edith Thompson, CBE, formed the All England Women's Net Ball Association with a provisional committee consisting of five representatives from the Ling Association (Misses Bache, Hankinson, Newbold, Read and Wilkie) and five representatives from the London and Home Counties Net Ball Federation (Mrs Goold, Mrs Lavender, Misses Milman, O'Reilly and Shipperbottom).
In the first season 12 leagues and 21 clubs affiliated.
- 1928 Hints to Umpires booklet 1,650 copies sold in first season.

Miss E R Clarke in her Presidential address at the Annual General Meeting noted with satisfaction the steady increase in membership of the Association, but called for territorial or district organisations with representation on the National Council.

1929-30 24 Leagues (over 300 clubs) and 74 clubs affiliated. South East the first territorial association; the first seven county associations Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Durham and Northumberland. An Umpires' Sub-Committee (Miss D M Wilkie, Hon. Secretary) set up Panel of Umpires with Test Parts 1a & b and 2.

1932 9th July: First All England Inter County Tournament at Eltham Hill Secondary School. 11 Teams competed with Essex first county champions.
746 clubs affiliated.

"We want expansion not restriction of interest. Quality of play is important but enthusiasm for the game and the quantity of players is an even more vital matter." (Miss Clarke, President).

1933 First edition of *Net Ball* published by Marjorie Pollard, price 3d.
Quote from editorial "*Net Ball is a splendid health-giving happy game.*"

1935 8th February : Name changed to : "All England Women's Association for Netball and other Hand Ball Games". This enabled the Association to qualify for recognition by the International Federation which controlled all Hand Ball Games and would lead to international games. Rules Boards for Net Ball, Field Hand Ball, Hazena and Basket Ball were set up.

1936 Tenth Birthday Appeal for funds and anything from 10 farthings to 10 pounds invited! Two Basket Ball Clubs affiliated.
A suggestion by Head Mistresses that the Saturday afternoon use of school courts for Net Ball should be discouraged, was met with consternation.

1937 Formation of the United Women's Team Games Board with Miss O'Reilly its first Hon. Secretary. *Net Ball* magazine discontinued because of lack of funds. 3rd July : Two teams from the Midlands and two from the South East represented the Association at a Wembley Festival of Youth held in the presence of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

1938 Grant of £100 given by the National Fitness Council enabled an office to be set up for the Women's Games Board and a National Organiser (Miss Marjorie Pollard) was employed whose work was to promote Team Games for women and girls in England and Wales.

1939 Miss O'Reilly National Organiser for the Women's Games Board. Middlesex, County Champions, represented England against a Scottish team at the Glasgow Exhibition.

Invitation from New Zealand to send a national team to take part in centenary celebrations in 1940 and to attend a conference.

The War Years

- 1940 Emergency committee : Misses Sanders, Bulloch, Jackson, Mrs Aitken-Brown and Mrs McNally.
- 1943 Appointments of national officers confirmed, including the election of Miss E L Sanders as Hon. Secretary and Miss R B Stratford as Hon. Organiser.
- Consideration given to the appointment of a Netball Organiser who could travel the country and co-ordinate activities.
- 1944 The Association now known as the All England Netball Association. *Netball* magazine re-introduced, edited by Mrs Joan Shaw.

Rebuilding

- 1945 All England Inter-County Tournaments resumed and held annually ever since.
 First conference of county secretaries.
- 1946 First Inter-Territorial Tournament, Bristol, won by the North West.
- 1947 21st Birthday celebrations at Bournville. First eye-witness account of netball broadcast on radio.
 Mrs Joyce Crow, Editor of *Netball*.
 A group of players and officials demonstrated netball at the World Youth Festival in Prague, where players first wore England uniform; matches umpired in Germany by Miss Rose Harris.
- Mrs Margaret Cassidy (nee Cullen) with a party from Northumberland toured Denmark.
 Reference in House of Commons debate to the tax on Netball equipment led to its exemption.
 Discussions on the possibility of employing a "paid coach" subject to availability of a Ministry of Education grant.
- 1948 2nd Territorial tournament, Nottingham, won by the South East.
 Meeting with National Union of Teachers decided against the formation of a National Schools Netball Association.
- 1949 7th May : First international matches against Scotland and Wales at the GEC ground with both scores 25-3 in England's favour.
- 1950 3rd Territorial tournament, Leeds, again won by the South East.
 Second county secretaries' conference held in London.
- 1951 Silver Jubilee celebrations. A *Silver Jubilee* book was published, edited by Mrs Joyce Crow, and "*Know the Game - Netball*" by Miss Rena Stratford.

England's second national side. England beat Wales at Cardiff 26-7 and then at Bournville beat Scotland 32-3 and Wales 31-7. England Reserve team won against an Australian team and a New Zealand team whose players were playing the English code of rules for the first time.

Over 600 players representing schools, clubs and counties successfully demonstrated netball at the Festival of Britain Exhibition on London's South Bank, where the Festival Hall now stands.

At Whitsun four counties took part in the CCPR's Festival of Sport at Wembley and four teams from the West Midlands demonstrated netball at the opening of the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall by HRH Princess Elizabeth.

Hints to Coaches first published.

Women's Team Games Board abolished.

Mr Head (Middlesex) becomes the first male member of the AENA Panel of Umpires.

1952 Miss Mary Bulloch appointed Editor of *Netball*.

1953 Inter-County Tournament in Jersey with over 200 players and officials "airlifted".

Miss Rena Stratford spoke at the Annual General Meeting of the need to widen horizons and suggested that it was time England linked up with other netball playing areas in the world.

1954 First international match against Northern Ireland; from this year, an England team has been selected annually.

"in the form of international matches, touring teams, publicity, news space in the daily papers, television reports, promoters, gate money at stadium, full time paid officials, better play, more enjoyment... these visions could become realities if we look for the opportunities and seize them when they come." (Miss Stratford, AGM)

Horizons Widened

1955 For the first time, international matches were played indoors at Harringay Arena before several thousands of spectators who saw England become United Kingdom champions by winning against Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, a title retained throughout the years.

Decision taken to invite an Australian team to tour England the following year, as well as to send an England team to tour South Africa.

1956 Inter County Tournament held under cover for the first time (RAF Stanmore, Middlesex).

England entertained first overseas side and at Harringay lost first match against Australia (11-14).

England's first touring team, whose members had to find their own air fares, took four days to fly in a two engined Viking aircraft to Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. Miss Rena Stratford led the party as Manager/Coach, Miss Rose Harris was the umpire and Mary Bushell (Surrey) - now Mrs French - captained a successful team of ten players which won all matches including three Tests against South Africa.

“To me the main path is directed right across the world.... I think we must think now in terms of an international federation.” (Miss Stratford, AGM)

- 1957 First matches at the Empire Pool, Wembley. This has now become an annual event. The main match, England v The Rest was televised for a fee of ten guineas.
First international rules conference held in London at which an international code of rules was drawn up by delegates from the four UK countries, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, Trinidad and South Africa. Australia and New Zealand later adopted the code for domestic use, with New Zealand making the radical change of reducing their game from 9 a side to 7 a side. The AENA amended a number of rules, including the introduction of intercepting shots at goal, less restrictive footwork and lengthening matches from 30 to 40 minutes each, but the complete transition to the international code was too big to achieve in one step.
- 1958 English clubs and schools coped with major changes in the rules and a record 53,500 copies of the new Rules Book were sold in one year. England Captain Jo Higgins personally handled the sale and dispatch of 35,000 copies in five months before arrangements were made for the printer to take over distribution.
Hints to Coaches revised. Schools sub-committee set up.
The Coaching Sub-Committee started to draw up a coaching plan with the concept of a club coach.
Miss Hazel Chapman becomes Editor of *Netball* during the absence abroad of Miss Bulloch.
First official AENA netball film was made by Town & Country Productions sponsored by “Aertex” and “Ovaltine”.
- 1959 For the first time England trials divorced from the Inter County Tournament and held indoors on a separate weekend (at RAF Stanmore). South Africa toured this country for the first time playing 25 matches and winning 18 of them, although losing the three Test matches against England.
- 1960 HM The Queen on behalf of HRH Princess Anne, accepted a Netball presented by the Association.
Miss Stratford coached, lectured and tested umpires in Jamaica.
International Federation of Women’s Basketball and Netball Associations inaugurated at a conference in Ceylon. England’s two delegates were Miss Rose Harris, who chaired the conference, and Miss Rena Stratford, who acted as the secretary. In addition to England and Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies all sent delegates. In agreeing an international code of rules and in order to fulfil its aims of promoting international understanding and friendship, all delegates had to be prepared to give and take and the conference was successfully carried through with an understanding of other’s problems. The conference paid a tribute to the AENA for initiating and developing the work of integration between netball playing countries; the AENA was invited to elect the first Officers of the Federation and also to organise and hold the first World Tournament in England in 1963.

- 1961 England adopted the international code of play for domestic use. Jamaica visited England and played at Wembley where England won 24-22. Coaching scheme launched with a national conference attended by 25 coaches all of whom undertook to conduct coaching courses throughout the country.
- 1962 Grant aid received from the Ministry of Education for the first time towards the expenses of a national coaching scheme. Preparatory Coaching Award introduced.
“Junior Netball” rejected by AENA Council.
 Pamphlet *“History of Netball”* published (Mrs D I King).
 Players wear the initials of playing positions.
 Concern expressed at the Annual General Meeting about “wrong attitude” of players, considered to be attributable to lack of skills in intercepting the ball; umpires had complained of unsparing reception at some events.
Second netball film by Town & Country Productions.
 England Touring Team selected to tour the West Indies, all members responsible for their own travel expenses (Miss Rose Harris, Manager/Coach and Miss Nancy Barnett, Umpire). Ten players won all matches including. Tests against Jamaica, Trinidad and the West Indies.
- 1963 Death of the President, Miss Doris Wilkie, after a long illness, and also of another founder member of the Association, Miss O’Reilly. At the Annual General Meeting, it was said of Miss Wilkie that she had been a source of inspiration - always ready to stimulate and encourage any new project. The Association would miss her wit and wisdom, her patience and understanding and her generous outlook.
 Ministry of Education gave £700 towards administration and coaching.
- First World Tournament** at Chelsea College of Physical Education, Eastbourne, Sussex. The International Federation’s Officers (all from England) were :
- President : Miss Margaret Cullen (now Mrs Cassidy)
 Hon. Secretary : Miss Rena Stratford
 Hon. Treasurer : Miss Laurel Newson
- The Association’s first Press Conference was held prior to the World Tournament. The organisation of the Tournament was carried out by an organising committee, but the brunt of the responsibility lay with Miss Joyce Baggallay and Miss Stratford. Miss Stratford introduced the opening candle lighting and closing flag ceremonies retained in their original simplicity and dignity at all subsequent World Tournaments. Eleven countries competed and England, captained by Jo Higgins (Surrey), finished third behind New Zealand second and the world champions Australia.
- Following the World Tournament, Miss Harris at a Council meeting :
“England could learn from the mistakes in the past from the empty stand at Eastbourne. To get the right publicity and the right status desired, the game must emerge from the school playground. Netball should be part of a sports centre where social events could also be held.”
- 1964 *“Develop or die”* AENA Council agreed to Miss Stratford’s proposal for a full-time Organising Secretary, an office in the new CCPR headquarters

at Park Crescent, London, and an expansion plan which would help to enlarge membership, increase annual income, improve services to members and to make the Association more widely known, as well as to obtain better playing facilities. These plans enabled the Association to qualify for substantial grants from the Ministry of Education. Miss Annette Cairncross was appointed in November as the Association's first Organising Secretary.

Miss Elsie L Sanders who had been the Association's Hon. Secretary since 1940, was made a Member of the British Empire for her services to Netball.

First Junior Inter County Tournament held and won by Essex.

Years of Growth

1965 First England Training squad chosen and for the first time a Young England (under 23 years) team was selected whose captain was Gabrielle Duggan of Warwickshire. England narrowly beat a Commonwealth VII at Wembley (37-35) and the Inter County Tournament was held for the first time in the newly opened Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

Ad hoc Constitution Committee to draft a new constitution.

Introduction of individual club registration resulted in membership fees rising from £271 to £1045 in one year, but the number of member clubs dropped to 716.

1966 First National Clubs Tournament sponsored by "Woman" magazine. Harborne Club of Birmingham first club champions. South African Schoolgirls' team toured England and remained unbeaten in 61 matches. Twelve player/coaches led by Miss Mary Thomas toured South Africa.

A five year plan prepared by the Development Committee (Chairman Miss Harris), was adopted which aimed to encourage more people to play, coach and umpire netball at all levels and to promote the game in the other home countries and overseas, particularly in Europe. Miss Stratford toured the West Indies and Guyana advising on development plans.

1967 Kent first holders of the Mitre Sports Trophy presented to winners of the Inter County Tournament. Introduction of National Colleges' Tournament won by Dartford College of Physical Education.

Greater London team toured Jamaica with Miss Mary Preston as Manager/Coach, Mrs Winifred Watling as Umpire and Jean Heath as Captain, winning all matches.

Second World Tournament in Perth, Australia. For the first time expenses of the officials and players met by the Association. "Woman" magazine designed and obtained travelling uniform. England lost to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand (World Champions) to finish fourth in the Tournament and successfully toured Australia and New Zealand following the Tournament. Miss Stratford led the England party and, with Miss Adelaide Brayford, formed the Association delegation at

the International Conference meeting. Miss Harris was Team Manager, Mrs Mary French, Coach, Miss Joyce Haynes, Umpire and Marion Lofthouse (Lancashire) was the England Captain.

Netball rules revised by the International Federation and later an interpretation given which led to a controversy over blocking tactics.

Motion that the AENA should become a Company Limited by Guarantee defeated at the Annual General Meeting.

- 1968 Anonymous donors presented the Weldun Cup to winners of the Junior Inter County Tournament and individual plaques to members of the winning Senior Team.
A North of England Team toured Jamaica led by Miss Joyce Haynes as Manager/Umpire, Miss Olwyn Pritchard as Coach/Umpire and Brenda Ansell (Birmingham) captain.
Middlesex is the first county to win both Senior and Junior County Championships in the same season.
Revised International Rules adopted for domestic play and nearly 25000 *Rules Books* were sold during the season.

- 1969 Introduction of National Schools' Tournament, when Miss Sanders, Chairman of the Schools' and Colleges Committee, presented trophies to the winning schools. Cardinal Wiseman School (Warwickshire) first Senior School Champions; St. Wilfrids School (Lancashire) won the Junior section.
The First Torch Trophy Award for voluntary service to a netball club went to Miss Susan Winterbottom (Staffordshire).
AENA Council regretfully withdrew an invitation to the South African Women's Netball Association to send a touring team to England because a team could not be selected on a multi-racial basis. Annoyance and ill feeling grew regarding the International rule, which allowed a player to defend with arms raised to waist level.
After two drafts and considerable discussion, new Constitution of the Association adopted. Motion for a new name "The England Netball Association" defeated. The new Constitution aimed to give clubs more opportunities to share in the running of the Association by defining membership and the rights of Members, and it introduced a new administrative structure with an enlarged Council on which every county was represented and a small Executive Committee with regional representation.
Mrs French led a successful England tour of the West Indies and Guyana with Miss Margaret Thompson as Umpire and Anne Miles as Captain. Test matches were won against Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana, but lost for the first time against Trinidad.
Miss Mary Thomas coached in Zambia.
First National School Leavers Course and a new proficiency-shooting award scheme.

- 1970 Fury over blocking tactics continued. *Netball's* postbag overflowed with complaints, although skilful players were beginning to evolve new tactics to break a block. A team of British Students toured Bahamas and Jamaica with Mrs Sheila Walton (Keele University) Manager, Miss Joyce

Wheeler Coach/Umpire. Susan Campbell (Bedford College of Physical Education) captained the team.

Miss Ellen Marsh and Miss Marion Wall (both from Lancashire) became the first holders of the Long Service Award, given for outstanding service of 25 years or more at county or regional levels. School girls eligible for county teams. The age of the Young England team reduced to under 21 years and a team to represent England Schools selected from competitors in the final round of the National Schools Tournament.

For the first time, copies of the Association's Handbook and Annual Report were sent to all member clubs and schools.

Counties and Regions participated in a survey on existing netball facilities which enabled recommendations to be made to the Sports Council on the provision required within the next ten years. Development plans drawn up by the Coaching and Umpiring Sub-Committees and 13 umpires added to a special register for umpiring international events.

Formation of English Schools' Netball Association, independent of AENA. Jamaica and New Zealand teams toured England prior to the Third World Tournament to be held in Jamaica in January 1971.

1971 England competed in the **Third World Tournament** in Kingston, Jamaica.

A plane chartered by the Association took the four UK teams plus 55 supporters to Jamaica. England's party was led by Wing Commander Margaret Green who, with Mrs Winifred Watling, were the Association's delegates to the International Federation's Council meeting. Mrs Mary French was Team Manager and Coach, Miss Margaret Thompson, Umpire and Anne Miles, Captain. Miss Mary Bulloch was invited by the Jamaica Netball Association to act as Press Officer during the World Tournament and the Organising Secretary, Miss Annette Cairncross, was loaned to Jamaica to take responsibility for the office administration at the World Tournament and Conference.

First England Schoolgirls' team selected at open trials.

Netball Skills published. In June, Elsie Sanders died. As Hon. Secretary from 1940 until 1964, Miss Sanders had given all her time and energy to promoting netball affairs; her complete devotion had enabled the Association to grow and develop. For services to netball she had been awarded the MBE

1972 England Under 21 team toured Jamaica (Mrs Mary French, Team Manager and Coach; Miss Mary Thomas, Umpire). Matches against the Jamaica Under 21 team were won.

Joint meetings with the English Schools Netball Association to resolve problems which had arisen since its independent formation in 1970. As a result, ESNA became an Associate Member of AENA and the National Schools' Tournament was organised for schools in membership of both AENA and ESNA.

Scotland, United Kingdom Under 21 Champions, beating England for the first time.

Tentative foothold in Europe effected when Miss Cairncross and Miss Anne Miles attended a conference in Germany where representatives from the German Korfball and Korbball Associations, Royal Dutch and Belgian Korfball Associations were present to compare the three games in which there are basic similarities. This led to an invitation to send demonstration teams to the German Festival of Sport the following year.

1973

Development plans to increase membership began to show effect with member clubs increasing from 887 to 1037 in one season and a special publicity month held in conjunction with the "Sport for All" campaign.

English Schools Netball Association and the newly formed British Colleges Sports Association took over the organisation of the National Schools and Colleges Tournaments.

International Schools Tournament held for the first time in which England Schools defeated other United Kingdom countries as well as the Republic of Ireland competing for the first time.

The National Clubs' final in which Sudbury (Middlesex) beat Linden (Birmingham) by 62 goals to 27 televised by ATV.

Seventeen England players demonstrated netball at the German Festival of Sport, Stuttgart. The party was led by the President, Mrs Margaret Cassidy and included Mrs French as Coach/Umpire, Miss Joyce Haynes, Umpire and Miss Carol Norton who acted as interpreter and commentator.

The President, Mrs Margaret Cassidy, awarded the OBE in the Birthday Honours list for services to netball.

Despite pressure from some West Indies Countries, the decision to tour South Africa was taken after much discussion and heart-searching and only after assurances had been given that South Africa would accept an England team selected regardless of race or colour and that opportunities would be made for England to play, as well as to coach, non-European teams. England's party was led by Mrs French as Manager/Coach; Miss Wheeler, Umpire. The team won all its 25 matches, including three Tests against SAWNA (South African Women's Netball Association) and a match against the South African Coloured Board by 95 goals to 6.

55 Coaching sessions were held.

A new promotional film "Aiming for Wembley" was given an enthusiastic first showing. Miss Joyce Wheeler was appointed Assistant Team Coach and was subsequently engaged as the Association's first full-time Development Officer.

Miss Frances Tomkins undertook a coaching assignment in the Seychelles.

1974

Local Government reorganisation resulted in changes in the boundaries of some counties and the setting up of new counties.

First visit of an England team to Dublin, where the Under 21 team beat the Republic of Ireland by 70 goals to 6.

England's Captain, Anne Miles, first player to have represented England in 50 international matches.

'Sport for All' tournament organised for clubs able to field three teams, representing new members, over 35s and an open team, at Bishop Lonsdale College, Derby, on the same day as the Annual General Meeting; winner Kent County Netball Club.

New Zealand team entertained in England and won three Test matches, albeit by narrow margins. England lost for the first time at Wembley (44-47)

1975 Further meetings with the English Schools Netball Association and agreement reached that the School's Association should become an autonomous body with the AENA to which all schools would affiliate.

Eligibility to wear England red blazers extended. Different badges would denote the different categories; players who had represented England at level, Panel Coaches, Panel Umpires, and all Officers of the Association.

Eleven countries competed in the **Fourth World Tournament** which was held in Auckland, New Zealand. England's party was led by Mrs Pat Taylor who with Miss Mary Thomas attended the International Council Meetings. Mrs Mary French was Team Manager/Coach, Miss Joyce Haynes, Umpire.

England beat New Zealand 39-38. England came third.

Mrs Mary French elected Vice-President of the International Federation.

By the death of Marion Wall, Vice President until she retired in 1974, the Association lost a loyal and devoted supporter.

1976 Minor amendments to the International rules, made by the Federation, adopted for domestic use from January. 22,000 Rules books sold during the season.

England and England Schools' teams received a standing ovation at matches in Belfast against Northern Ireland, the first visit there since 1970 because of terrorist activity.

Miss Anne Stephenson in Kenya to train umpires.

Golden Jubilee. Special demonstration matches were played in different parts of the country and in February, the day after the Association's official birthday, a packed audience at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre watched a team of England stars representing the Roos International Club narrowly defeat the England team 46 goals to 44.

1977 Regional Tournament was re-introduced into the Events Programme - the Trinidad & Tobago Trophy was won by the East Region.

- 1978 Australia Tour of England winning all their matches. TV coverage at Wembley.
- England toured in the Caribbean winning all 3 matches against Barbados and Grenada but only managing 1 draw v 2 losses against Trinidad & Tobago.
- AENA agreed that ESNA should select and manage our England U16 Team.
- Over 21168 club members affiliated.
- 1979 Re-organisation of Head Office resulted in the appointment for the first time of a Director of Netball. The Nat West Coaching Scheme was launched.
- England took part in the 5th World Tournament in Trinidad with 19 countries competing. England came 4th later in the year. New Zealand Toured England winning all their matches.
- England U21's won the British Isles Tournament. England Seniors won all matches in the Home Internationals.
- The Muriel McNally Award for services at grass root level, was introduced with Miss M Heath of Tiffins Old Girls the first recipient.
- An England U16 team was selected for the first time and had victories over Scotland and the Republic of Ireland. Great leap forward in affiliated club members now reaching 26774.
- East Region founded the Centre of Excellence for young players.
- 1980 AENA Head Office moved to Francis House, Victoria, London. AENA now a member of the British Olympic Association.
- England hosted the Senior British Isles Tournament when they won the Marion Wall Trophy by beating Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Republic of Ireland.
- At the Inter County Tournament, a new format resulted in a merit table, allowing all participating counties to be given a ranking.
- 1981 Netball selected as one of the sports to receive extra financial help by the Sports Council's concentration of resources programme.
- Mrs Pat Taylor, AENA Chairman, awarded the MBE
- A special presentation was made to Mary Bulloch in recognition of 29 years as Editor of the Netball Magazine. It was agreed to set up a Charitable Youth Trust to assist promotion of the game at youth level. Barbados visited England and Toured in the Regions. England beat Barbados in two Test Matches.

In the U18 British Isles Tournament, the Marion Wall Trophy was shared between England, Scotland & Wales.

England U23 Team Toured Jamaica.

The first National Publicity Conference was held for County and Regional Publicity Officers.

England Toured New Zealand, Australia and Singapore.

1982 New Zealand Toured England winning all matches. Mrs Pat Taylor, AENA Chairman was appointed as Senior Vice President to IFNA.

Mary Thomas was appointed as Convenor of the International Rules Board.

1983 **Sixth World Championship** in Singapore, England maintained their 4th position. Femininity Tests and Drug Tests were introduced for the first time at the World Tournament.

The Australian Institute of Sport Toured in England winning all their matches.

Major rule changes governing the use of 3 tactical substitutions was introduced.

The British Sugar Bureau became a sponsor for the AENA.

All England Netball Association became a Limited Company on May 31st 1983.

British Isles Tournament was re-named the United Kingdom and Ireland Tournament. Panel Coaching Award was re-named the Advanced Coaching Award.

1984 Three major sponsors emerged for Netball - Barclays Bank sponsored the new National Youth Tournament. Fosters Draught the Inter County Championship and the Butter Information Council sponsored the National Clubs Tournament.

Netball Coaching Manual was published as the definitive training book for coaches.

A Youth Leadership Training Scheme was introduced as well as the introduction of the Sports Care National Netball League for Counties. Birmingham were the first winners.

The Netball Youth Trust was set up to assist in the provision of facilities and financial aid for students and colleges and schools, so that they could pursue their netball careers.

Jamaica Toured England with each country winning one Test Match each.

1985 First Netball World Games held in England for the top 6 Countries in the World. England came 4th, New Zealand were the winners. Pat Taylor

MBE, AENA Chairman of Executive Committee was awarded the Oscar State Trophy for outstanding services to World Netball.

Trinidad & Tobago U21's and the Australian Institute of Sport Toured in England, winning all their games.

The first training film was completed for umpires.

The Netball into Europe Committee was set up to foster links with European Countries to persuade them to play netball. A tournament to run alongside the Annual General Meeting was introduced but did not attract many entries. Sugarability Netball Skills Awards were introduced.

Individually affiliated members now reached 41294 and the number of clubs 2918.

1986 was the Diamond Jubilee Year for AENA (60 years).

1986 AENA employed a Sports Public Relations Company to help improve netball's image and promote the sport nationally.

TV coverage took off in 1986, with LWT, Channel 4 and the filming of the Wembley International by BBC Grandstand.

A scheme was introduced to encourage the Regions to run Centres of Excellence.

The Nat West Coaching Scheme concludes after 7 years of sponsorship.

The Advanced Umpiring Video was completed and the Basic Coaching Training Video. Training publications continue to be produced.

A netball coach Bery Evans of Henly College won the B.A.N.C. Dextrosol Coach of the Year Award.

A new sponsor EVIAN (Aquarius) Ltd was attracted.

An England Supporters Club was founded .

AENA identified 5 Regions to establish motivators to deal with specific development needs.

Australia Tour England - winning all matches.

1987 England Tour New Zealand, Fiji and the Cook Islands with wins in Fiji and Cook Islands. They draw one match with New Zealand and loose 2 by narrow margins for the first time.

A National U14, Championship was held in 3 groups, U12's U13's U14's.

A training video was produced for U12's. Heather Crouch, England Coach won the British Association of National Coaches Award.

The Seventh World Tournament was held in Glasgow, Scotland with England coming 4th behind New Zealand, Australia and Trinidad. - Jillean Hipsey England Captain achieved her 100th cap and a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

The West Indies Toured in England, with England drawing 1 game and losing the remaining two Tests. England won the Marion Wall Trophy at the Home Internationals with England U21's winning the UK and Ireland Tournaments.

1988 Tutor Award Scheme introduced for Umpires and a comprehensive Training Manual produced for the Training of Umpires.

The **First World Youth Cup** took place in Australia - England were losing finalists against Australia.

England Coach Betty Galsworthy won the B.A.N.C. Dextrasol Coach of the Year Award.

New Zealand Toured in England winning the 3 Test Matches by wide margins.

English Counties League now running with 2 Divisions and three area divisions.

A National Youth Development Programme sponsored by Nat West Bank was launched.

Six Centres of Excellence sponsored by Evian now in operation around the Country.

1989 The Daily Telegraph and Channel 4 TV offered a challenge cup in front of the cameras for the top 4 county teams, Birmingham came out on top over Essex Met, Hertfordshire and Surrey.

Rena Stratford, former AENA President, died on October 14th. She will long be remembered as a visionary for the game world-wide. Junior Leagues are on the increase encouraged by the sponsorship of Nat West Bank.

Insurance benefits were introduced for affiliated Leagues.

Nat West Bank sponsored Playdays targeting 9-16 year olds. A part-time National Youth Development officer was appointed.

The English Counties League was sponsored by P.E.S.

The Second World Games was held in Germany. England came 3rd behind Australia and New Zealand.

England holds two positions on the International Federation of Netball Associations - Pat Taylor MBE Senior Vice President and Mary Thomas , member of the Rules Board.

AENA Umpiring Awards renamed FENA Umpiring Awards.

The National Youth Championship for U21's U18's and U16's was introduced to replace the Barclays Bank Youth Championship.

A booklet aimed at children outlining the history of the game of netball was produced.

England U16's continue to win their UK matches. The squad toured in Brisbane, Australia, chalking up 4 wins and 4 loses.

Individual affiliated members now almost topping 44000.

Editor of Netball Magazine now a paid post.

1990 Netball accepted into the Commonwealth Games for 1998.

Federation of European Netball Associations was formed. The UK and Ireland Tournament was renamed the FENA Championship.

The England U18 team won the Marion Wall Trophy in convincing style.

Qualification for playing in Regions/Counties was changed to allow 1st Claim Club as one of the criteria.

England to be the hosts for the 1995 World Championship.

AENA Newsletter was introduced for all Leagues in the Country.

England tour in Australia to play in the Tri-Series against New Zealand and Australia, England lost all matches. England U21's tour in Barbados, losing 3 Test Matches against the Senior Barbados squad, but winning against Barbados U23's.

Australia tour in England, with a clean sweep of victories.

Canada make a 'flying visit' to England, playing in the Regions.

The AENA/Nat West Netball Summer School for girls between 11 & 14 years was launched.

Colette Thomson - ex England player won the British Institute of Sports Coaches, Coach of the Year Award.

1991 England Tour New Zealand as a build up for the 8th World Championship in Australia, losing the 3 Test Matches but notching up wins in the 3 lead up matches.

At the World Championship, England maintained the 4th position behind Australia, New Zealand and Jamaica.

An U11 section was added to the National Junior Championships.

The first FENA Tournament was held for U16 squads with England taking the Marion Wall Trophy in convincing style.

West Indies Tour in England and narrowly win the Test Series with England drawing one Test and losing the final Test by 1 goal.

The English Counties League was extended to 6 divisions with most counties now included.

Head Office was relocated from Victoria, London to Hitchin in Hertfordshire.

Substantial grant was obtained from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts to continue work with the Youth Development Programme.

Netball Leaders Award was launched.

1992 A new AENA structure commences on September 1st. Technical Committees become autonomous. Regions no longer represented on the Management Committee.

Match & Tournament Committee now includes representatives for each Region.

The position of Director of Development and Coaching came into operation on September 1st.

1992 saw the breakthrough for the Netball into Europe Committee, when a promotional tour took place to the Basque region of Spain.

Discussions took place with the Netherlands to look at the possibility of combining aspects of Korfbal and Netball - this however ended when both countries decided to stay with their own game.

At the 2nd World Youth Cup held in Fiji, England U21's take 4th place.

AENA Rose Award was introduced, awarded for a notable contribution to Netball in any capacity.

Affiliated membership has now passed the 50000 mark, two years before the target time set for 1994.

1993 England Tour in Jamaica, winning the Test Series. England U18/U21 squad participate in a promotional tour to Sweden.

The 3rd World Games took place in Holland, with England coming 4th.

Trinidad and Tobago tour England. England win the Test Series outright. Kendra Slawinski, England Captain, wins her 100th cap, and goes on to beat former England Captain Jillean Hipsey's place in the Guinness Book of Records. (128 caps)

Neutral umpires from the IFNA pool were used for the first time.

England won the first year of the FENA League.

A National Clubs League came into operation for the first time with two divisions of eight teams. Linden Club was the first winner. Inclusion of Netball for the 1998 Commonwealth Games was confirmed as well as recognition from the International Olympic Committee.

First Step Netball, a mini-game for Primary School children was launched.

A Press and Publicity Representative was appointed.

A new breed of rose "Rising Star" was selected from Harkness Roses, to be used for presentations/celebrations etc and for the World Championships.

The East Region win the Regional Championships for the 5th time.

4 Yearly re-assessments of Panel Umpires introduced this year.

1994 AENA merge with the English Schools Netball Association. The National Director of Development and Coaching post was split and replaced with the post of Director of Coaching and a proposed Development Officer post.

The new FENA 'A' written paper was used for the first time with work ongoing for the FENA 'A' practical Award.

The National Clubs League was extended to 3 divisions, Regional Championship was held for the first time, over a weekend, East Region were the winners.

South Africa tour in England for the first time in 21 years. Retaining a clean slate over the 5 Test Matches - PPP Sponsored the Test Series.

A new procedure was introduced for the selection of International Umpires.

The FENA 'A' Award became operational this year.

An International Affairs Committee was set up to discuss international matters and make recommendations to Management Committee.

A record 138 teams participated in the National Junior Championship. Individual affiliations now reached 55,745.

1995

Development Officers now employed in most regions. Level 1 of the new Coaching Award Structure came into operation, producing over 1000 Certificate holders in the first year.

Series of 'Road Shows' took place around the Country allowing the England Squad to have match practice in the build up to the World Championship.

England Tour New Zealand for the Milo Series, losing all 3 Tests.

England won the FENA League for the 3rd year running.

England hosted the 9th World Championship in Birmingham with a record number of 27 Countries participating. Over 450 volunteers provided the work force over the 2-week period. England finished 4th.

England U21's Tour the West Indies playing 9 matches at four different islands - all matches were won.

Liz Broomhead, England Senior Coach, awarded the UK Coach of the Year Award.

A Skills Award for Primary School Children was launched in September along with updated Shooting Award. The National World Championship Playday Scheme took place around the Country, with over 9000 participants.

National Development Officer employed.

1996 First structured Disability Development Plan published.

BT Top Sport Netball launched

New Mini Game - 'High Five Netball' launched.

First Step Netball revised

Kendra Slawinski awarded MBE

Jamaica tour England.

1997 England tour South Africa and Namibia.

Revisions to skills and Shooting Star Award scheme to make them accessible to people with disabilities.

AENA Delegates attend IFNA Council Meeting in Barbados to consider proposed rule changes.

Wheelchair netball piloted.

New Plans launched for 1997 - 2001.

100 schools and clubs benefited from resources through the English Sports Council's Challenge Funding Scheme.

Australian Institute of Sport tour England for a Test Series.

New Zealand tour England.

Pat Taylor MBE, past President of AENA and IFNA and Life Member of AENA sadly dies.

- 1998
- Netball is included in the Commonwealth Games for the first time. England win the Bronze medal, beating Barbados 51-29, Jamaica 52-50, Canada 62-32, and Malaysia 63-19, but losing to Australia 29-66 in their section. They then lost the semi-final to New Zealand 30-70 but went on to beat South Africa 56-54 to secure the Bronze medal.
- High Five Netball Awareness pack launched.
- West Indies tour England winning the series 2-1.
- England U19 undertake a 7-match Caribbean tour, losing only one match.
- England U17 tour New Zealand winning 14 of 17 matches played.
- AENA continue to receive Lottery funding for elite performance.
- New Zealander, Waimarama Taumaunu, is appointed National Performance Director
- England Young Supporters Club launched.
- Introduction of 'Talent Scouts' for young players.
- Home Training scheme launched.
- Free telephone advice line for facility queries launched.
- Lily McGurk awarded MBE.
- 1999
- England beat South Africa in a one-off Test match in Manchester.
- Jamaica tour England and win the 3 test series.
- 10th World Championship held in Christchurch, New Zealand – 25 countries participated. England took 3rd place behind Australia and New Zealand.
- Australia, AIS and New Zealand U21 tour England. Australia win the tri-series, with AIS second, England third and New Zealand fourth.
- 2000
- Jamaica U21 Squad tour England, and are beaten by England 2000 (U21) in each of the three test matches.
- South Africa Open and U21 Squads tour England. Both England Open and 2000 (U21) Squads win their 3 test series, with only one game conceded by England Open.
- World Youth Netball Championship 2000 to be held in Cardiff.
- Fiona Murtagh is awarded MBE.

2001

The AENA celebrate it's 75th Anniversary Association with a number of events.

The AENA Hall of Fame is also launched in September

Australia visits England to play a three match Test Series. England lose all three Test Matches.

Fisher and Paykel Super Cup is launched with six teams involved. Petchey London Tornadoes take the first title by one goal over Birmingham University Blaze.

England Squad tour Australia playing State teams and the Australian Long Squad.

England play a three match Test Series against New Zealand in New Zealand, losing all three matches.

The Racial Equality Charter for Sport is signed at the AENA Annual General Meeting.