

Heather Alice Crouch MBE (Newbigging) 1 Feb 1949 - 24 Nov 2010

Heather was a student at Dartford from 1967-1970. After qualifying, her first teaching post was at Caterham School, followed 2 years later by a move to Mayfield Girls' School in Chadwell Heath. Whilst there, she took a sabbatical year to gain her BEd degree at Brentwood College. Later she joined the staff at Brentwood College and during the 1980s she followed a part-time MEd course. During all this time Heather was becoming more involved with Netball, firstly as a player and then as a coach. Her final teaching post was as Head of the School of Education at Nene University College, Northampton, from where she took early retirement and moved to Devon in 1989. After retirement, Heather became an Ofsted Inspector and later, an External Examiner for the University of Wales. While she was teaching, Heather's involvement in Netball continued and grew. Having started as a club player, she went on to represent her County (Essex) and had an England trial. She started coaching for the County in 1975 and by 1980 was England Schools' coach, progressing up the ladder to become England Senior Coach and England selector. She even found time to write a book: "The Netball Coaching Manual" and the royalties were donated to England Netball.

In 1987 Heather was awarded 'Coach of the Year' by the British Association of Coaches and she was inducted into the Sport Coach UK Hall of Fame in 2001 by The Princess Royal. In 2004 she was appointed a Life Member of England Netball and was entered into England Netball's Hall of Fame. As recognition for her volunteer services to sport, Heather was awarded the MBE, which was presented to her by the Queen in March 2010

Further details of Heather's positions and achievements can be found here:

https://bergmanosterbergunion.org.uk/?page_id=3706