

MRS MARIE POLLARD

When Marie Christie returned to Gore at the end of 1957, she was already hooked on basketball, thanks to the encouragement of an older brother.

In 1958 Marie was responsible for forming the Hi-Fi women's team, which took part in local club competition and provided the vehicle for Marie's selection in the Southland 'B' Grade teams of 1959, 1960 and 1963.

Her obvious administrative potential was quickly recognised with her election to the Eastern Southland Sub-Association committee in 1960.

Marriage in 1961 proved to be a bonus for basketball in Eastern Southland with husband Neil Pollard sharing and supporting Marie's interest in the game.

1962 and Marie Pollard was appointed Secretary of the Eastern Southland Sub-Association, beginning a period of unbroken service in that role which lasted until 1975.

Those fourteen years saw many changes and enormous growth in the sport of basketball in Eastern Southland.

1964 was the year Eastern Southland broke away from the umbrella of the Southland Association and became directly affiliated to the National body.

It was also the year in which the Hi-Fi women's team and the Dalco men's team combined to form the Diamonds Club - a club synonymous with the Pollard name to this present day.

In spite of increasing administrative responsibilities, Marie still found time to play the game and in 1965 was included in the Eastern 'B' team, which took part in the National 'B' grade tournament in Wellington.

Taking up a teaching position at Longford Intermediate School in 1973, Marie has actively promoted basketball within the school since that time and can be seen any Tuesday evening coaching and refereeing these vitally important young players of the future.

Although golf, and to a lesser extent, squash, now claim some of Marie's free time, her abiding interest in basketball clearly remains.

This is the 30th year of basketball in Eastern Southland, and it is entirely appropriate that the debt of gratitude owed to Marie Pollard for her invaluable contribution to the game should be acknowledged with a "LIFE MEMBERSHIP".