

## **Kiwi Kath knows the score**

Kiwi Kath Molloy is a big hit with the tenants of a housing association – but she has also been bowling people over with her skill in the world of international cricket.

Before coming to live in Wales, Kath, was an international grade scorer in her native New Zealand and officiated at a series of high-profile Test matches. She is now the communications co-ordinator for Cartrefi Conwy but she still keeps her hand in as a scorer with Bangor Cricket Club.

Originally from the city of Auckland, Kath first became involved in cricket when she was 15 – but only reluctantly in the beginning.

Kath was press ganged by cricketing friends into scoring at her local cricket club, Papatoetoe. She then moved to Cornwall Cricket Club where the former Glamorgan star, Adrian Dale, was a player.

She recalled: “They asked me to come along and put a pen in my hand – the rest, as they say, is history.”

From there, she rose through the ranks of cricket scorers until she was given the opportunity to do the scoring at a Test match between New Zealand and Zimbabwe at the iconic ground, Eden Park, in 1995.

She said: “When the opportunity came I grabbed it with both hands, it was very exciting because officiating at a Test match is the pinnacle for any scorer.

From then on, Kath was a regular Test match scorer and had the opportunity to meet some of the game’s big names – including Andy Flower, Graeme Hick, Stephen Fleming and Jonty Rhodes.

“Among the most memorable experiences was a record breaking innings by the South African batsman Daryl Cullinan who got the highest ever score at Eden Park when he scored 275.

“At the other end of the scale, I was scoring when the New Zealand fast bowler Geoff Allott with the longest nought in test history at the time.

“He was at the crease for just under two and a half hours and faced 77 balls without scoring a run in New Zealand’s first innings which effectively saved the Test Match.

“All he was bothered about was staying out there and making sure that New Zealand batted for as long as they could before they had to follow on. It was quite a feat.”

Part of Kath's duties included drawing the Wagon Wheels, graphics representing the top view of a cricket field, with lines drawn from the striker's wicket into the field to indicate the path of balls hit by a batsman.

She said: I've got Wagon Wheels which are all autographed by players like Jacques Kallis and Nathan Astle.

“My wagon wheels went on the front page of the New Zealand Herald so to have that reputation and to see my name in lights as it were it was brilliant. During her time as an international scorer, Kath officiated at a total of six Test matches, 12 one day internationals, some ladies' internationals and a countless number of first class matches.

The only regret that she has is that she never had the opportunity to score all the major nations, missing out on matches against the West Indies and Pakistan.

Kath originally came to North Wales to visit friends 10 years ago – and while they left, she has stayed.

She got a job working for Conwy County Borough Council's as a Service Development Officer.

Along with other members of staff from the housing department, she transferred to Cartrefi Conwy last year when the new housing association took responsibility for the local authority's 3,800 homes.

“My job at Cartrefi Conwy as the communications co-ordinator has some of the same elements of the role I had at the council but on a much bigger scale.

“I organise the publication and distribution of tenant newsletters, leaflets and other publications.

“I also manage other internal communications as well as dealing with public relations, marketing and other issues associated with corporate branding. In her spare time, Kath is still very much involved in cricket and every weekend during the summer is taken up by her scoring duties for Bangor. But there's also a constant reminder of the glory days on the international cricket scene.

Pride of place in her office goes to a picture of Kath with South African cricketing legend Jonty Rhodes.



**Pictured:** Kath Molloy in the score box at Bangor Cricket Club.