



In association with the  
**Irish Independent** 

**County:** Cavan

**Nominee:** Marie Smith

Marie has been involved in the Community Games family for the past 44 years. Marie as far back as 1970 along with a few colleagues worked to promote Community Games initially in the Kingscourt area and later in the neighbouring Kilann, Knockbride parishes - then commonly known as the 3 K's. Initially local competitions were held and Marie and her team worked with the local National schools and Youth clubs to foster the spirit of Community Games.

After a number of years it was decided that the 3 K's would operate separately and each area created their own identity and progressed positively. In 1973 Kingscourt decided to officially register with the Community Games organisation and so began the history of the Kingscourt Community Games group.

Marie was the local area Secretary and chief organiser from that time until as recent as 2009, she also held the position of Area Treasurer and was the official Kingscourt Area delegate for 30 years. Every year Marie organised the area competitions and made sure they were run efficiently as well as a host of other tasks.

Marie first became involved at County level in 1978 and in her years of service at County level she has held many positions – Team Manager, County Security Manager, County Manager, County Athletic Secretary, and has been Cavan County Treasurer for the past 20 years. Marie as a sponsor of a Community Employment Project facilitated administration along with the safe storage and maintenance of the equipment, track-suits etc

At Provincial level Marie has been the County delegate to Ulster for many years and is the current County NEAC delegate.

Nationally Marie has served on the National Security & Finance Committees.

Throughout her years of service Marie never missed the annual double weekend competitions and Skills weekends in Mosney and more recently Athlone, She could be found greeting and assisting participants and their mentors at the Reception desk, coordinating National Security along with a host of other administrative functions.

Marie's contribution to the Community Games organisation at all levels is extremely unique – she was selfless in her efforts to ensure that all participants would enjoy the experience of competing at National level and she always had a sympathetic ear for unsuccessful participants.

She has that unique skill of making all and sundry feel welcome and her hospitality was legendary, her no nonsense approach meant that everyone who had the pleasure of meeting her were treated fairly and with respect.