

## **Annie Jones (nee Desport)**

Annie played for Pressed Steel Fisher Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> Team (now Rover Oxford Ladies) starting there over 30 years ago, Pressed Steel Ladies were the top Oxfordshire ladies team for many years. Annie was a very talented hockey player – her favourite position being Centre Forward – a natural goal scorer, very quick and lively in front of goal. (Her nickname from the ladies was “Swanny”, as she gained many a penalty flick from umpires when playing. Annie also played for Adastral Mixed Hockey Club.

Over the years I played with her she scored numerous goals. Annie joined Pressed Steel whilst working at Pressed Steel (now BMW). The Ladies played on the level beautiful grass pitch, outside the club house, which was as good as the astro’s today! She won County Tournaments with the Ladies team and also many with Adastral mixed teams.

We used to play Saturday afternoons and then meet all the other Pressed Steel teams in the Club afterwards with our oppositions enjoying a game of pool and socialising.

Every year the Ladies team travelled to Southampton for a hockey tour, where we all partied, played hockey and had fun! She travelled to Holland and Germany with mixed teams for hockey tours. Hockey was a very big part of Annie’s life.

Annie represented Oxfordshire County Ladies and Oxfordshire County Mixed Team over the years, travelling to play in tournaments, where we used to play and win, travelling to many counties for weekends away, enjoying the hockey, socialising and friendships that were made – Annie was always at the front in all of these.

I will always remember Annie for her laughter, cheekiness, kindness and such fun to be with, a good friend. She loved her hockey and gave so much to it and the people around her.

Annie was a very popular, fun loving, kind person to be with, she will be sadly missed by all of us. Our thoughts are with all her family, including John and son, Will.

Suzie Williams