

= Cynna Kydd =

Cynna Kydd (née Neele ; born 18 September 1981 in Kyabram , Victoria) is a former Australian professional netball player . Kydd achieved some success in netball and swimming in her early life , and played in the Dairy Farmers State League at the age of 16 . She was also selected for the national under @-@ 21 team in 1999 and was accepted by the Australian Institute of Sport , before launching her professional career .

Kydd was a goal shooter for the Melbourne Kestrels in the Commonwealth Bank Trophy from 2000 to 2006 , serving as club captain for the last two years . An accurate and high @-@ scoring shooter , she was one of the league 's top players of that era , winning the competition 's Most Valuable Player award for 2004 . She was also a frequent member of the Australian national netball team from 2003 to 2005 . Her career was hampered by injury and poor form in later years , and she struggled after being dropped from the national side in early 2005 and missing out on a return in time for the 2006 Commonwealth Games after sustaining a serious concussion late in the year .

Kydd made the surprise decision at the beginning of the 2006 season to transfer from the Kestrels , where she had been captain , to the club 's more successful rival , the Melbourne Phoenix , but she lasted only one season before walking away from the club to travel overseas . She subsequently signed with New Zealand club Canterbury Flames for the 2007 National Bank Cup season , but withdrew her services before playing a game due to injury . She subsequently moved to England , where she currently plays mixed minor grade netball .

= = Early life = =

Kydd was born in the Victorian regional town of Kyabram , and began playing competitive netball at age nine . Though also a talented swimmer , she was forced to make a choice between the two sports , and ultimately chose netball . She played for local and Goulburn Valley representative teams as a teenager and , in 1998 at the age of 16 , was selected to play for the dominant Eastside Netball Club in the state Dairy Farmers State League competition , alongside three national league players . Despite a regular three @-@ hour commute and having to juggle sporting commitments with studies at Kyabram Secondary College , she played an integral role in Eastside 's premiership that year . She was subsequently named in the state under @-@ 21 squad for the annual Australian National Netball Championships and in the Melbourne Kestrels squad for the 1999 season .

Despite never having played a national league game , Kydd was selected in the national under @-@ 21 (U @-@ 21) team in 1999 , which , as a result of reforms made that year , automatically saw her admitted to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) . She spent the 1999 season playing for the AIS team in the Victorian state league , before switching to their South Australian counterparts for the 2000 season . Kydd , at 188 cm (6 ft 2 in) tall , established a reputation as an effective shooter , and despite often missing matches as a result of her national U @-@ 21 team was a key part of the team .

= = Commonwealth Bank Trophy debut = =

Kydd made her debut for the Melbourne Kestrels in April 2000 but , because of her relative inexperience , was asked to play only two games for them over the season . She earned selection in the U @-@ 21 national squad to tour Jamaica in May , followed by a successful stint with the team as part of the squad for the Youth World Cup in Wales . At season 's end Kydd was named in the state open team for the national championships and , while remaining in the U @-@ 21 squad , was also named in the initial national open squad , despite having only played two national league games . However , the national squad was at the time enjoying an unusual glut of shooters , and she was cut amidst fierce competition from six other prominent players , all aiming at just three positions in the final team . Her disappointment was , however , partly offset when she won the Commonwealth Bank Trophy 's Best New Talent award , worth A \$ 5 @, @ 000 , in February 2001 .

Kydd graduated from high school at the end of 2000 , and moved to Kensington , an inner suburb of

Melbourne , in February 2001 to study tourism and hospitality at Victoria University . At the beginning of the 2001 season , two of the Kestrels ' main stars , Shelley O 'Donnell and Janine Ilitch , both announced that they would be sidelined for most or all of the season because of pregnancy , and Kydd was called upon to fill the vacancy . She became a core player instantly , and although the Kestrels struggled , Kydd formed an effective combination with goal shooter Amanda Burton (who she had previously played with in the interstate competition) . Kydd was among the team 's standout performers and was frequently praised in the media for both her accuracy and consistency , coming away at season 's end with 390 goals and the fifth highest scoring average in the competition . She continued to represent Australia in under @-@ 21 competition , being selected for several home matches against England and a tour of New Zealand , and was again selected in the national open squad in the lead @-@ up to the 2002 Commonwealth Games , but was once again cut from the final team .

= = Furthering her career = =

Though she had missed out on Commonwealth Games selection , Kydd had established a reputation as a particularly difficult opponent by the beginning of the 2002 Commonwealth Bank Trophy season . She was consistently among the league 's top goalers , particularly after she was again paired with Burton , due to the axing of struggling new recruit Kristy Doyle . She scored her 500th goal with the Kestrels in the middle of the season , and excelled against some particularly difficult opponents , including then @-@ Australian captain Kathryn Harby @-@ Williams . She was integral in helping the Kestrels make the semifinals for the first time since 1999 , and was the third @-@ highest scorer in the league . Kydd was again named in the extended national squad at the end of the season , and finally survived the cut , being named in the squad to tour Jamaica in early 2003 , beating rival shooters Jane Altschwager and Megan Dehn (née Anderson) for the vacancy caused by the retirement of veteran player Jacqui Delaney .

= = = International selection = = =

At only 21 Kydd was the youngest player on the tour of Jamaica and , while she toured with the remainder of the team , was overlooked for a Test position . She finally made her full début against South Africa not long afterwards , and managed to cement her position with a superb performance , managing an accuracy rate of 94 % in the third Test . This performance , along with similar form in the national league , led to her selection in the starting squad for the 2003 Netball World Championships . She played every game in the world championships in July at the expense of ageing veteran Eloise Southby , a decision which was the cause of some controversy . She subsequently helped the Kestrels to the elimination final and , at the end of the season , was named as the team 's new vice @-@ captain , with predecessor Janine Ilitch assuming the captaincy . She also won the coveted Commonwealth Bank Trophy Player 's Player Award , and tied for third in the Most Valuable Player count .

= = = Career peak = = =

With the experience gained from several seasons in the national league , Kydd reached her peak in 2004 . She was rarely troubled in the national league all year , scoring 436 goals at an average accuracy of 79 % ; statistics among the best in the league . Although Burton had retired , creating a supporting void that the Kestrels struggled to fill , she again played a vital role in the team reaching the finals series . She also established her place as a regular member of the national team , playing in Test series against South Africa and New Zealand and a practice match against England . Though she struggled initially against the Silver Ferns , Kydd improved over the space of the series and was awarded player of the match in the third Test . At the end of the tour , she was given some praise for being among Australia 's best in what had been an otherwise disastrous series . She was rewarded for her form when she was a surprise choice for the 2004 Commonwealth Bank Trophy

Most Valuable Player Award , being selected over favourite veteran internationals Catherine Cox and Sharelle McMahon . When captain Ilitch was ruled out for 2005 because of pregnancy , Kydd was the natural choice to replace her , and she was soon announced as the Kestrels ' new leader .

= = Form slump and injuries = =

Kydd graduated from university at the end of 2004 , but had significant difficulty finding employment as her netball commitments scared off prospective employers . She also became engaged to Garth Kydd , a member of the Australian men 's netball team , whom she married in April 2006 . Kydd was widely expected to again feature among the league 's best , however , she was disappointing against South Africa in February . She also struggled in the opening games of the national league season , a result largely attributed to nerves associated with the captaincy . She began to recover her form , but in May broke her finger . She continued to play but the injury severely inhibited her performance for four weeks . In June she was dropped from the national team for the first time in two years as a result of poor form and injury , with national coach Norma Plummer stating that she was " very disappointed that [Kydd had] let it drop " and that she " never thought she would have to [cut her from the team] " . The ageing Southby @-@ Halbish was brought in to replace her and Kydd admitted that her accuracy had been well below ideal levels . She improved markedly over the following two rounds , but on 23 July suffered major concussion after being hit hard in the head during a match against the Adelaide Thunderbirds , which required her to be taken to hospital . A brilliant performance against the Perth Orioles the following week seemed to suggest a quick recovery , however she was dogged with complications for the remainder of the season .

In an attempt to regain her position in the national squad , Kydd attended the extended squad 's first training camp in September 2005 , but was one of several players forced out after succumbing to a virus . She was subsequently left out of the team for a practice tour of Jamaica and New Zealand in the lead @-@ up to the 2006 Commonwealth Games , but continued her efforts to make the team for the Games . Finally , on 10 December 2005 , she voluntarily withdrew her name from selection , noting ongoing complications from the earlier concussion (team doctors stated that she had probably attempted to return too quickly) and low motivation .

= = Defection to the Melbourne Phoenix = =

After withdrawing from the Commonwealth Games squad , Kydd took a four @-@ month hiatus from the sport in order to recover from injury and regain motivation . She married fiancée Garth in April 2006 , and though widely known by her maiden name , decided to take on her husband 's surname . Kydd began the process of re @-@ signing with the Kestrels for the 2006 season , and returned to training with the club with March 2006 , but stunned the team when she defected to more successful rival Melbourne Phoenix only three weeks before the start of the season . The defection caused notable antagonism between the traditional rivals with Kydd 's former coach , Jane Searle and several team @-@ mates expressing shock at the suddenness of the switch .

After six years at the Kestrels , the defection saw Kydd forced to adapt to a new shooting combination with veteran international Sharelle McMahon . As she had had little opportunity to train with the new team before the opening of the season , the pair initially had some difficulty adjusting to each other 's style . After a tenuous start , however , the pair found form , and were able to form a relatively successful combination . Kydd scored 360 goals in the season , and assisted the Phoenix in becoming the top scoring side for the season , although occasionally patchy form from the team as a whole saw the Phoenix slip outside the top two at season 's end . Kydd was overlooked for a return to international selection during the 2006 ? 07 season .

In October 2006 , Kydd announced that she was leaving the Phoenix after just one season , a move that stunned coach Julie Hoornweg . Kydd said that she was travelling overseas with her husband , leading to speculation she would play in New Zealand . Hoornweg said that if she had known that Kydd would not keep her long term commitment , then she would have rather invested in young talent , referring to Kydd as a " player at risk " . In November , New Zealand 's Canterbury Flames

announced Kydd in their squad for the 2007 National Bank Cup . Her contract was to start in February 2007 , so that she could fulfil work commitments with Youth Hostels Association , Victoria . However , Kydd withdrew her services to the Flames without playing a match , citing medical advice , due to a concussion incident . In late 2007 , Kydd was playing mixed netball in the United Kingdom in the PIM Mixed A competition .