

# FELLOW BIOGRAPHY

Chris Salvary

FMSA



Chris graduated from the LSSM in 1992 and worked in various club and clinical environments as well as developing her own private practice. She has taught sports massage at private schools and on university degree programmes. Chris has been directly involved in 5 Paralympic Games since Atlanta in 1996, working with disability athletics and more recently cerebral palsy football. She completed her Masters Degree in Complementary Therapy: Bodywork at the University of Westminster in 2003, for which her dissertation looked at how athletes with disabilities use sports massage for training and competition, and was eventually published by the ICSSPE in 2007.

Chris has been involved with the SMA since 1999 working with the Sports Massage Advisory Group and the now defunct National Sports Medicine Institute. She describes those early meetings as 'interesting'. Chris has always been the master of the understated comment!

In 2002 the SMA was set up and Chris's first official role was as a member of the Registration Panel, assessing applications for membership, which she carried out for a number of years until the panel ceased. She finally joined the Board of Directors, with some persuading as I recall, in 2010. Her tenure has been unbroken since this time and her calm demeanor, humour and patience has been invaluable

during trying times.

Chris has been a trail blazer in the profession being the first sports massage therapist to be taken out to work with a Paralympic team (the 1st IPC World Athletics Championships in Berlin in 1994) and was then asked to work at the Paralympic Games in Atlanta 2 years later.

Chris recalls that the following Olympics and Paralympics in Sydney saw interviews held for various medical team roles, including sports massage therapists. For London 2012 Chris was involved with a number of SMA colleagues in interviewing potential therapists for the Games. This was the first time sports massage had been included under medical services and Chris recalls this as a wonderful moment of recognition for the SMA and the industry as a whole.

Chris has also patiently worked on developing the SMA CPD policy over the last few years an achievement she looks back on with particular pride.