



WINTER 2024



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL NEWSLETTER

HAWKS NETBALL

Hawks Netball Club kicks off its '20 Community events for 20th Anniversary' pledge with a vibrant mini Schools Tournament, where 10 promising young girls will embark on a year-long funded netball journey through the Community Sponsorship Programme.

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TRAVEL DIARY TO SINGAPORE

England Men Under 25s athlete, Sol Wright from Leicestershire gives us a sneak peak into the recent Under 25s Trailblazers England Mens Tour to Singapore!

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BEE NETBALLERS GO INTERNATIONAL FROM PAGE 5 **REGIONAL** FROM PAGE 6 **AROUND THE COUNTIES** FROM PAGE 12



WELCOME TO OUR NEW LEICESTERSHIRE NETBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MEGAN SAYERS!



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HAWKS NETBALL COMMUNITY OUTREACH



In an exciting development for the local netball scene, Hawks Netball Club has launched its Community Schools Programme with a bang, hosting a captivating mini Schools Tournament. The club, known for its commitment to breaking down barriers and making netball accessible to all, especially within the local community, is setting out to empower 10 promising young girls through a year-long funded netball journey as part of their ambitious '20 Community events for 20th Anniversary' pledge.

The event was held on 22nd November, with help from two special guests-England Netball stars Vicki Oyesola and Emma Thacker. Attendees were treated to fun warm-ups, spirited match play, and exciting competitions. The highlight of the evening, undoubtedly, was the chance for the young athletes to rub shoulders with the England Netball stars.

The core of the initiative, the Community Sponsorship Programme, promises to cover the costs for 10 deserving girls to immerse themselves in a year-long netball journey with Hawks Netball Club. From specialized coaching to league matches, tournaments and more, this comprehensive programme is designed to provide a platform for these girls to shine and grow within the sport.

Recently, the club has also taken part in local Tree Planting with the Leicester Environmental Volunteers Group.

We look forward to seeing Hawks continue their Anniversary Pledge activities!



ENGLAND MEN U25S TAKE ON SINGAPORE

Solomon Wright of MollBuzzers and TFC Leicester Netball Clubs was recently selected for the England Men's & Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) U25 Trailblazers squad going to Singapore!

We can now share the inside scoop of their recent tour in Singapore... from the initial buzz at Heathrow to the heat of the courts in Singapore, and the highs and lows experienced during the international competition.



Day 1: Arrived at Heathrow, checked in my belongings, and bid farewell to my parents. We were greeted at the Singapore airport by the coach of the Singapore men's team and two staff members. We then enjoyed a team meal at a Chinese restaurant and had our first glimpse of the tournament venue.

Day 2: Endured our first and only training session in a scorching hot sports gym. Transportation was convenient due to numerous train lines across Singapore, but the heat while walking between them necessitated constant hydration!



Day 3: Faced our first game against host nation Singapore. Despite a close loss (52-57), it was a good game.

Day 4: England played against Hong Kong, and although I didn't participate, I provided positive match stats for our team from the stands. Explored Marina Bay Sands, featuring a massive hotel and a sprawling shopping centre with numerous designer brands.



ENGLAND MENS U25 TAKE ON SINGAPORE



Day 5: We played a close game against Malaysia and was honoured with the Man of the Match award. Endured somewhat unpleasant ice baths by the pool upon returning to the hotel...

Day 6: We engaged in a solid performance against New Zealand. Later, we enjoyed Universal Studios in Singapore, indulging in rides and a visit to the water park.

Day 7: Battled against Australia, facing the challenge of an exceptionally tall shooter. Explored a local Hawker centre, where the abundance of affordable, delicious cuisine and friendly people left a lasting impression!



Day 8: Competed against Malaysia in the 5th-6th playoff, losing by a single point in extra time! Watched other playoff games and the final. Afterwards, we indulged in a delightful Vietnamese pho and attended a tournament gathering with all teams at a bar, featuring a buffet, quiz, and team dances, including our Barbie-inspired routine.

Day 9: We explored Singapore's sights and visited places like the gardens and Chinatown. Enjoyed burning incense at a temple in Chinatown to make a wish. Finally, we departed later that day back home.



LOCAL CLUBS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

STAMFORD RUTLAND AT THE VITALITY NETBALL NATIONS CUP

Our mascots had the best day supporting their national team, representing our club and meeting their heroes! We're so proud of them!



WASHINGBOROUGH IMPS AT THE SOUTH AFRICA SERIES



Imagine being able to escort your sporting idols onto court in front of thousands of fans. Well that's exactly what our youngest members got to do on Saturday 9th December 2023. Our Bees, aged from 5 years to 9 years, were asked to be mascots at Nottingham Motorpoint Arena, for the England Vitality Roses International Series against South Africa.

It was an incredibly exciting day for our Bees, and the club. They started off by meeting officials from England Netball who gave them a tour of the arena and introduced them to an up and coming Rose, George Fisher. They got to ask her questions about her netball career and have pictures taken with her. This was very exciting for our Bees, they were particularly impressed with how tall George was!

After meeting with George they were taken to a room where they got to meet the South African players and the Roses. They were all given a player from each team who they got to speak with, and practise their walk. One Bee said 'We had to walk like we were on a catwalk, it was so much fun'. When it was time, they stood in the tunnel and as each player was introduced, our Bees escorted the players onto court.

On court, they stood proudly in a line, in front of the players and were present for both national anthems, one of our youngest Bees was chosen to take the match ball to centre court for the first centre pass. If you were watching on Sky then you may have been lucky enough to catch a glimpse of them on the TV. It was a very emotional and proud day for both the club and the parents of those involved. The Bees were fabulous and they even got to enjoy the thrilling match afterwards. It will be a day in theirs and the club's netball careers that will never be forgotten.



NETBALL
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REGIONAL

BBC SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

The BBC Sports Personality of the year, does not only recognise all the achievements of our international stars, but also our local heroes. One of our own was nominated for the Unsung Hero award. Chloe Gibson from Cliftonettes Netball Club was nominated for all her devotion to netball and over 25 years of volunteering and coaching in Nottinghamshire. Chloe recently passed away at the age of 40 in June 2023 from Pancreatic Cancer. Her legacy of going above and beyond, and spreading happiness through her passion for netball goes on. Ursula Hammond and Cliftonettes Netball Club spoke to the BBC about Chloe and there is a beautiful video on the BBC's page [here](#).

Chloe was not only nominated but won the BBC Sports Personality Unsung Hero 2023 regional award winner for the East Midlands. Chloe's Dad, Graham, said "I just hope that her example will live in the lives of everybody."



Cliftonettes Black U17s team also recently went on to be on the ball patrol team at the South Africa Series in recognition of their fundraising for both Defibrillators and Cancer research in memory of Chloe. Hucknall Town juniors also joined them for all their work in growing netball opportunities locally but also had numerous coaches and volunteers nominated for various East Midlands awards.

REGIONAL LEAGUE

As we step into the initial chapters of the 2024 Netball League, it's time to take stock of the scoreboards that have shaped the competition so far. Teams across the league have been in action, battling it out on the courts to secure their positions and make an early mark in the standings.

Division 1:

Charnwood Rutland
Bridgford
TFC Leicester

Division 3:

Ashby Giants
Northants Storm
Charnwood Rutland

Under 14:

Lincoln City
Nottingham City
Stamford & Rutland

Division 2:

Nottinghamshire Sirens
Cliftonettes Scarlet
Nottingham City

Under 16:

Charnwood Rutland
Lincoln City
Louth

In **Premier League 1**, Charnwood sit on 6 wins and 6 losses putting them at 6th place.

In **Premier League 3**, Northants Storm have 7 wins and 4 losses putting them at 4th place!

REGIONAL SCHOOLS

Congratulations to all the schools that took part in the Regional Schools Tournament on Saturday 3rd February! Best of luck to the winners and runners up that will be going through to the National Schools Finals on 16-17 March at Oundle School.

U14:

1st - Trent College
2nd - St Martins School

U16:

1st - Stamford Endowed Schools
2nd - Oakham School

U19:

1st - Oakham School
2nd - Repton School

Position	U14	U16	U19
1 st place Cup	Trent College	Stamford	Oakham
2 nd place Cup	St Martins	Oakham	Repton
3 rd place Cup	Stamford	Kesteven & Grantham	Ratcliffe
4 th place Cup	Rushcliffe Spencer	St Martins	Stamford
1 st place Plate	Uppingham	Repton	West Bridgford
2 nd place Plate	Kesteven & Grantham	Oundle	Spoone
3 rd place Plate	Oundle Nottingham Girls High	Ecclesbourne	Oundle
4 th place Plate		Nottingham Girls High	Lincoln Priory
= 5 th place Plate	Wellingborough	Toot Hill	Ecclesbourne
= 5 th place Plate	Repton	Northants High School	Rushcliffe Spencer

More information on National Schools [here!](#)





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COMPETITIONS

LEAGUES ORGANISERS WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We recognise the vital role that league organisers play in creating experiences that netballers thrive in. Because of this, we want to grow our understanding so that we can tailor our support to you.

We are asking any league organisers (eg. the League Chair) to complete a survey about their league, only one submission needed per league.

Please note, this survey is aimed at all leagues across the country, whether you are registered with England Netball or not - we would love you to participate!

We appreciate that league organisers are some of the busiest people in the game - so we really do value your support.




Survey can be found [here](#)!


UPCOMING COURSES

[NetballHer Learning Offer](#) covers the following modules:

The Female Body, Puberty, Pre and Post-Natal and Menopause. Start your learning [here](#)!

[Walking Netball Host Training](#)

 11 May 2024

 10am-4pm

 University of Lincoln

Bookings close 27th April, spaces limited so don't miss out!

Learn more about being a host [here](#)!

Book onto the course [here](#)

[Level 2 Coaching Course at Moulton College](#)

Session 1 - virtual: 11 April (18:30 - 21:00)

Session 2 - virtual: 18 April (18:30 - 21:00)

Moulton College - Day 1: 18 May (09:00 - 17:00)

Moulton College - Day 2: 19 May (09:00 - 17:00)

Session 3 - virtual: 06 June (19:00 - 21:00)

Virtual Assessment : 31 August (09:00 - 13:00)

Book on now [here](#)!



Find more courses [here](#) or complete our expression of interest form to keep updated on future course releases [here](#).

EAST MIDLANDS WALKING NETBALL FESTIVAL

East Midlands Walking Netball Festival did not go without a jingle or a jangle... With many teams enjoying the festive spirit in their Christmas fancy dress outfits. From festive t-shirts and sparkly headbands, to elf outfits and festive tutus all with bells on! The day was certainly full of festive cheers. 10 Teams took to the courts at Wreake Valley Academy, in Syston, Leicester. Teams competed in a round robin in the morning split between a 'Wiggles', 'Giggles' and 'In it to win it' categories for the afternoon placings.

The day was also supported by our amazing volunteers Sue, Rebecca, Jenny, Fatima and Jane who helped officiate and manage the results table. A huge thank you goes to all these wonderful volunteers who helped make it such an amazing day for all and all those that took part.

Congratulations to Derby Vets, Towcester and Queens Park Bees on winning their competitions

Photos for the day can be found on our Facebook [here](#).





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OFFICIATING

NEW B AWARD OFFICIALS!

Congratulations to Celine Li (Leicestershire) and Alison Davies (Northamptonshire) for recently achieving their B Award!



RECENT OFFICIATING APPOINTMENTS! VITALITY NETBALL NATIONS CUP

Umpire

Day 4

First Direct Arena 28th January 2024



Kate Mann

Technical Officials

Christina Barrow	Felicity O'Leary (BM)
Jayne Bell	Katherine Fairclough
Linda Hall	Lianne Dooley
Nic Grant	Robyn Rogers
Sara Bostock	Pat Percy (BC)

HONG KONG FOUR NATIONS NETBALL TOURNAMENT AND
NORTHERN IRELAND VS REPUBLIC OF IRELAND TEST SREIES

Umpire



Lizzie Saywell



NETBALL
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COACHING

CALL TO LEICESTERSHIRE COACHES

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Please see below new email address for
Andy Scigliano - Coaching Secretary for
Leicestershire Netball.

Andy welcomes any questions or
enquiries regarding interest in coaching
and is keen to find out the coaching needs
of our local clubs and leagues.

lcnacochingsec@gmail.com

EAST MIDLANDS ARE LOOKING FOR A REGIONAL COACHING LEAD!



- Could you support new and developing coaches in the region?
- Could you lead a group of county coaching leads?
- Do you have knowledge of the Performance Pathway and England Netball's coaching structure?

We are looking for someone who is forward thinking with good communication skills to help grow, develop and retain the coaching workforce in the region.

If you are interested, please contact Sue Connor, our current Regional Coaching Lead at eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk

BASSETLAW BELLES CELEBRATE

By Lindsey Ball

Seven years ago Bassetlaw Back To Netball came into being. 23 netballers of all ages and netball experience just mixing together and playing netball...after a warm up naturally, celebrated the occasion together.

We've had hundreds of women turn up and try this sport. Out of our B2N sessions we have formed numerous netball teams and developed leagues in Bassetlaw so competitive matches could be played locally on a regular basis.

A big shout out to everyone that has supported and continues to support this weekly session. Thank you! It's fair to say that netball is very much enjoyed by those taking part regardless of their motivations and aspirations. So, long may this B2N session continue.



DAVENTRY DIAMONDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Daventry Diamonds Walking Netball group walked their way to volunteer at their local foodbank, and served Christmas Lunch for pensioners. Jeanie and her band of merry Walking Netballers did a collection for their local food bank with donations from members of their sessions. The donations to the food bank totalled £85! This is being added to other donations received, allowing the food bank to give families a totally free Christmas food parcel and give their children a small Christmas gift. The food parcel consisted of turkey, fresh vegetables, frozen vegetables, yorkshire puddings and fresh fruit. As well as helping families, 24 of the Walking Netball ladies served a Christmas lunch. This was all free for 120 pensioners in the community, with a Christmas dinner, bingo and singing carols. The festive spirit was in full flow! There is no end to the kindness and support from the Daventry Walking Netballers, it extends beyond their Friday session, bringing people together through netball and beyond the court.



CAROLE HOWARD TURNS EIGHTY!

On the Thursday before Christmas a group of Walking Netballers from Market Rasen Leisure Centre, went for afternoon tea to celebrate one of the group's 80th birthdays.

Carole Howard is the oldest member of our group & has not missed a session since the summer! Happy Birthday Carole!



WELCOME TO MEGAN SAYERS

We are delighted to welcome Megan Sayers, our new Leicestershire Netball Development Officer to the Team!

Megan is already a member of our netball family actively supporting and volunteering for Stamford and Rutland Junior Netball Club.

Make sure you give her a follow on social media which can be found on the last page, along with her contact details.





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LIGHTNING

NETBALL SUPER LEAGUE SEASON OPENER 2024!



COACHING OPPORTUNITY

LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING

COACHING OPPORTUNITY

LIGHTNING EXPERIENCE HUB
SUTTON ACADEMY, SUTTON IN ASHFIELD
MUST BE NETBALL LEVEL 2 COACH

EMAIL: LIGHTNING.NETBALL@MAILBOX.LBORO.AC.UK FOR MORE DETAILS

Would you like to coach for Lightning?

They are looking for a Level 2 coach to join the Lightning team at the Sutton-in-Ashfield U14 Hub!

If you are interested, they want to hear from you! Please email: lightning.netball@mailbox.lboro.ac.uk



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LIGHTNING

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH LIGHTNING



LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING

HALF TERM CAMPS

- 12TH FEBRUARY 2024
- 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
- 20TH FEBRUARY 2024
- 23RD FEBRUARY 2024

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK

Meet the Team...!!!



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