### Bedfordshire-Netball-Logo

### BEDFORDSHIRE

###

### County

###  Netball Association

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024– 2025**

# Chair’s Reflections – 2024-25

Reflecting on my first season as Chair of Bedfordshire County Netball after a hiatus from netball committees, I am amazed by the changes and challenges we've faced. I am grateful for the dedicated team's support, especially as we navigated operating without a full committee and dealt with several health issues throughout the season. The departure of our long-standing Chair, Gloria Keech and Secretary, Julie Wilkinson marked significant changes. With new leadership stepping in simultaneously, it has been a steep learning curve, but I am proud of our progress and excited for the future as we rebuild and strengthen our foundations.

Governance

Our commitment to enhancing tier one governance is evident through the implementation of new policies and consistently applying best practices. The successful introduction of new County policies on complaints, safeguarding, and expenses underscores our dedication to upholding high standards.

Finance

Our financial oversight continues to thrive, bolstered by external audits that safeguard both subsidy funding and development fund are secure.

Events

We celebrated key milestones such as:

* Umpires Conference with guest speaker Cheryl Danson in October 24 following the new EN rules
* Invitational Tournament in April for Under 13’s and 15’s, with 16 counties participating, over 370 players have been highlights with London Mavericks in attendance.
* At the very start of the winter season, we have started collaborating with Active Luton on safety and welfare related issues
* More recently working with Luton Council alongside our EN Development Officer Jo Brewster which promises to enrich our initiatives further within Luton & Dunstable League to work furthered netball development in the region.

Technology

The launch of our new website in April has enhanced communication channels, incorporating features like google forms and surveys, invitations, and an awards submission process. Additionally, we have developed our own tournament app, enhancing our technological capabilities and providing a seamless experience for participants. Special appreciation goes to Grace Milligan for her creative input in driving this innovation.

Membership

Membership continues to grow, we currently have 2,775 affiliated members across various categories made up from four adult leagues, youth and junior leagues. This is an increase of just over 11% on last year.

There is however a growing concern around the rise of social netball leagues and the challenges they present, which we are hoping to look at more closely and begin trying to address in the coming winter season.

Officiating & Mentoring

Furthermore, officiating passes are IO-36, C-17, B-3 (Sheran Lobley, Oliver Bumscombe & Sofie Randall), A-1 (Katie Johnson) and four new mentors this season which is a testament to the dedication and effectiveness of our mentors under the guidance of Bernadette Palmer. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their commitment to developing our officials and ensuring the smooth running of our matches.

We have recently initiated a working group focused on the continued development and consistency of our umpires across the County. While still in its infancy stages, this group will be exploring ways to strengthen support and progression opportunities for our officials as we look ahead to the future.

Heather Crouch Programme

Thanks to the generous legacy left by Heather Crouch, Bedfordshire County launched a programme in September 2021 to support young netballers aged 14-16 in developing both coaching and officiating skills. The initiative offers participants professional and personal mentoring to help them achieve recognised qualifications. Two places are offered in both coaching and umpiring with applicants selected for their enthusiasm and organisation. The programme also ensures strong coordination, regular reporting, and a focus on the well-being of all involved. We are very pleased to confirm that the programme will continue for another year, with applications opening via google forms in late July.

I want to thank Victoria Topa for overseeing the programme and to both Angie Beattie and Mandy Mistlin who helped to guide each of the candidates through the courses.

Volunteers

The achievements in Bedfordshire County Netball are a testament to the hard work and passion of our volunteers. I particularly wish to extend my gratitude to the County committee for their dedication and support in driving the success of netball in the county.

# County Awards and Recognition

We celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals and teams through various awards, recognizing their dedication and achievements. Congratulation to the Bedfordshire netball community.

The following individuals and teams were celebrated for their outstanding contributions:

* Young Volunteer Award: Caitlyn Knight
* Children & Young Person Coach: Sue Williams
* Adult Coach: Nicky Knight
* Grassroots Officials Award: Sue Davis
* Grassroots Volunteer Award: Jess Baird
* Unsung Hero Award: Katherine Gallagher
* Teacher of the Year: Daniel Day & Leigh Moreno
* Club of the Year: Maulden Netball Club
* Long Service Award: Heather Pollard
* Nancy Morris Trophy 2025: Grace Milligan
* Sylvia Eastley Trophy 2025: Jeanette Johnson

Congratulations to all the winners for their dedication and achievements, which continue to inspire and elevate the Bedfordshire netball community.

These reflections encapsulate the progress, challenges and aspirations of Bedfordshire County Netball for the 24/25 season. Our collective efforts and commitment continue to shape a vibrant and thriving

netball community in this county.

I wish to thank you each and every volunteer across Bedfordshire. Without your dedication, passion, and commitment none of what we achieve would be possible. My sincere thanks also go to all members of the County Committee, whose hard work and support are invaluable. Your efforts behind the scenes play a vital role in ensuring that netball continues to thrive and grow across the County.

Finally, A very special welcome and thank you to the new faces who have joined us this year.

**Trish Neill**

**Chair Bedfordshire County Netball Ass**

### Bedfordshire-Netball-Logo

### *BEDS PERFORMANCE ANNUAL*

### *REPORT*

### *MANDY MISTLIN – PLAYER DEVELOPMENT LEAD*

|  |
| --- |
| **Bedford PDPs (performance development programmes)*** 2024-2025 Programme overview

We pre-screened 157 club/school players down to 47 to join existing PDP players in our Sept PDP trials, where we had a total of 133 trial.  Of the 40 athletes selected for the Beds PDP programme (20 for U13 and 20 for U15) we had only 16 from within county.  Many players turned down places at the last minute due to other county offers (mainly Herts) or Mavs PDP offers with training on the same night.The County PDPs are the first step in the EN performance pathway so we should be selecting the best players we can across the counties. Evidenced in the fact that nearly all the county players this last season play in Beds or Herts Regional club teams, alongside county PDP, and many were also selected into Mavs futures, where two of our U15s were selected as most improved and player’s player. For our U15s We promoted our U15 PDP assistant coach (Sophie Randall) to lead and recruited a new assistant coach (Sarah Roche). Caroline McNally led the U13 coaching with Jaime Balfe assisting.  We also invited 3 London Mavericks players (Ellie Rattu, Emily Andrew and Chelsea Blackman) to coach sessions on defence, attack and shooting which benefited the players and was good CPD for our coaches.  In addition, we had a zoom session for all the players and coaches on Sports Psychology, giving practical tools on how to handle a 'wobble'. We plan to make this material available to all Beds coaches via a Beds County YouTube channel.The PDP players were given match play experience in the annual Mavs tournament and against other local counties (Herts, Norfolk, Cambs tournament).   In the annual county invitational tournament, which we (Beds) host, our U15s placed 7th out of 16 teams, higher than last year.We completed the season with a mini tournament and Awards to celebrate the progress of individuals through the programme. We had Hayley Mackellar (Notts Forest Nxt Gen/Scotland U21 coach) as our guest speaker giving insight into the performance pathway, and she give out awards.* June/Sept trials for 2025-2026 season

June 23/30th were the pre-trial dates for school and club players for the new season PDP.  30th cancelled due to extreme heat    We had ~120 trialling in June of which 61 selected to join ~50 existing PDP/franchise players for trials in September. |
| **Luton & District Talent Development Programme (TDP)*** 2024-2025 Programme We had 11 girls regularly attending the Luton TDP, our Talent Development programme specifically run to help develop players in the Luton and Dunstable and surrounding areas. Run by the coaching team of Rachel Lewis and Sasha Leonce and admin, Anj Patel.

The girls that are attending have made huge progress especially with regards to intensity.  For next season we will include both U13s and U14s to help raise their level of performance so that can more effectively compete for places in the U15 PDP when they leave the TDP. |
| **EN Partnership for Performance Changes*** 3-year partnership agreement with EN
* **Pathway Player Coach Development**3 CPD sessions on Knowing Self, Athletes and the Game. EN to make more widely available.Complimentary membership of UK Coaching for performance lead coaches. Open to all for a small fee.
* **County Pathway Working Group**Mandy to be one representative of two for the East region to monitor and review the effectiveness of the Player Pathway, ensuring a collaborative approach to continuous improvement.
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### *BEDS COUNTY COMPETITIONS ANNUAL*

### *REPORT*

### *JO RANDALL*

Bedfordshire County Competition Lead Annual Report 2025

**PDP Invitational Tournament**

Bedfordshire’s annual intercounty competition again went off very successfully on Saturday 26th April

at Bedford Academy with counties from all over the country taking part in the U13 and U15 age groups.

This is now an established regular event in the PDP calendar, looked forward to by all the counties.

**East Senior Regional League and East Regional Youth League**

**East Regional Adult League**

Bedfordshire continues to have three clubs playing in the East Senior Regional League, Grangers, MK

Netters and Real Bedford NC (Prev Team Beds)

At the end of the season, Grangers were relegated to Division 2, MK Netters were promoted to Division

1 and Real Bedford remained in Division 3 for the 2025/2026 season.

For the 2025/2026 season the numbers of teams in each division have been increased from 9 to 10.

In the East Regional Youth League, Grangers was the only Bedfordshire Club entered in the U14 and

U16 age groups for the 2024/2025 season.

The entry tournament for the 2025/2026 season for the ERYL is on the weekend of the 6th/7th of

September 2025 for any Bedfordshire Youth clubs interested and eligible.



### *BEDS COUNTY SCHOOLS ANNUAL*

### *REPORT*

### *RACHEL LEWIS*

## **1. Overview**

The 2024–2025 season has been a highly successful year for schools’ netball across Bedfordshire. There was a notable increase in school participation and engagement in competitions, setting a strong foundation for future growth.

## **2. England Netball Affiliation**

Affiliation to England Netball saw significant improvement, with all participating schools successfully registered in time for competitions. A new deadline of 30th September for entry into school competitions has been agreed upon and will be enforced moving forward.

## **3. Competitions and Entries**

This year saw the highest number of competition entries across nearly all age groups, with the exception of U11. The introduction of pool and tiered formats, including a new 'Bowl' competition, proved highly effective. This system will continue next year when 15 or more schools enter a single age group.

Participation also expanded geographically, with entries from 3 schools in Luton and 2 from Leighton Buzzard. This represents a positive trend in broader county engagement, which we aim to build on.

## **4. Regional Finals**

Seven squads from four Bedfordshire schools progressed to the Regional Finals:
- Bedford Girls School
- Bedford Modern School
- Redborne Upper School
- Samuel Whitbread Academy
The highest placement achieved was a commendable 4th place finish.

## **5. Schools Chair**

Unfortunately, no individual or group has come forward to take over the Schools Chair position, as the current Chair, RL, is stepping down. This leaves a critical vacancy that needs to be addressed to maintain progress.

## **6. Looking Forward**

The success of this year lays the groundwork for continued growth and innovation in schools netball. Key focus areas for next year include:
- Continuing the pool/tiered competition format
- Strengthening regional representation
- Recruiting new leadership for the Schools Chair position
- Supporting wider school participation across the county

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### *BEDS COUNTY REWARDS ANNUAL*

### *REPORT*

### *NATASHA KELLY*

The County Awards 2025 was held at the Bedford & County Golf club on Sunday 18th May. We had 3o nominations, including 3 Teacher of the Year awards which we haven't had a few years now. Each nominee was able to bring their nominator with them, on arrival they were treated to a glass of prosecco/orange juice, followed by afternoon tea. The event was well attended, and everyone really enjoyed the afternoon celebrating and thanking some of our wonderful netball volunteers

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This year the Bedfordshire County Netball Association has reported a Loss for the year ended 31 May 2025 of **£181.** This loss was as expected with all activities agreed and budgeted for and is detailed fully in our expenditure statement.

The County has invested in marketing with a new website and redrawn logo to enable future promotion of the Counties activities and new county equipment & storage facilities.

County TSG’s operated within Budgets and these were controlled by the County’s approval process on expenditure.

As agreed last year additional expenditure was agreed to be spent from Reserves for the retirement of the previous Chairwoman Gloria Keech.

As a result, the County finished the year with Reserves of **£25,021**.

**Affiliations**

Income from Affiliation Fees for the year saw an increase on last year of 2**%** with overall County receipts of **£11,479.69.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 22-23No. | IncomeReceived | 23-24No. | IncomeReceived | **24-25****No.** | **% Inc in No.** | **Income****Received** |
| Over 18 | 1153 | 7,318.40 | 1339 | 9054.40 | **1310** | **-** | **8,901.20** |
| Under 18 | 312 | 996.80 | 311 | 1054.30 | **377** | **21%** | **1,281.80** |
| Under 14 | 474 | 538.72 | 574 | 949.11 | **538** |  |  **906.10** |
| Under 11 | 378 | 257.60 | 451 | 424.30 | **538** | **19%** |  **518.00** |
| Schools Fee |  |  |  | 45.00 |  |  |  **120.00** |
| England Netball Admin Fee |  | (230.97) |  | (249.09) |  |  | **(247.41)** |
|  |  | 8,880.55 |  | 11,278.72 |  |  | **11,479.69** |

### *BEDS COUNTY TREASURERS ANNUAL*

### *REPORT – Year Ended 31 May 2025*

### *SHERAN LOBEY*

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### *BEDS COUNTY TREASURERS ANNUAL*

### *REPORT*

### *SHERAN LOBLEY*



**Development Funds**

The Development Fund was set up to assist individual members across the County by offering financial support towards the cost of Coaching, Officiating, Workshop and Special Projects.

At the AGM last year it was decided to freeze the £1 contribution from the Over/Under 18 member’s as the fund stood at **£23,790.**

During 2024/25 the County paid out **£2,917.82** relating to 3 applications**.**

As at 31.05.25 the Development Fund Account has funds of **£21,340.58**



These accounts have been audited by Rawlinson Pryde & Partners



### *BEDS COUNTY OFFICIATING ANNUAL*

### *REPORT*

### *MADDY JANSEN VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN*

Bedfordshire has experienced a busy netball season, marked by comprehensive support for umpires at various stages of their career. This initiative, orchestrated by the County Umpiring Sub Committee (CUSC), includes:

* **League Officiating Leads:**
	+ Bedford: Fran Smith
	+ Luton and Dunstable: Laura Simmons
	+ Heritage: Sandra Howlett
	+ Leighton Buzzard: Shellagh McGregor
* **Key Officers:**
	+ Mentoring Lead: Bern Palmer
	+ Course Lead: Lou Brown
	+ Assessor Lead: Katie Edwards-Sanders
	+ Chair: Maddy Harwood (vacant Feb 2025)

Their dedication has been instrumental in my role as County Officiating Lead. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances I have had to step away from the County Committee role, but I would like to personally thank Trish and her team for the support both in netball and on a personal level. I am not sure we would have made it through the past few months without the invaluable network that is our netball family.

**Umpire Conference September 2024**

The year kicked off with our first umpires conference. A huge thank you to all involved in organising this event. The sessions were well-structured, delivered by experienced and friendly experts, and provided invaluable insights into umpiring at various levels.

**Key Strengths of the Conference**

* The use of **videos** brought concepts to life, aiding in the understanding of positioning, game management, and dangerous play.
* The ability to **ask questions** and engage in discussions was highly beneficial, enhancing learning through real-time clarification.
* The inclusion of **interactive demonstrations**, particularly around Contact and Contest, helped reinforce key umpiring principles.
* The **session delivery was engaging**, with clear slides and well-structured presentations.

**Areas for Improvement**

* **Greater focus on grassroots umpiring**: While catering to experienced officials is necessary, providing more tips and guidance for newly qualified umpires would be valuable.
* **Improved event communication**: A clearer sign-up process and pre-event email reminders would likely increase participation and ensure attendees understand the structure of the day.
* **More hands-on learning opportunities**: A practical session where umpires can officiate a live game while receiving feedback on positioning, decision-making, and game management would be highly beneficial.
* **Expanded Q&A sessions**: Holding these at the end of each individual session, rather than at the end of the day, would allow for more targeted discussion and immediate clarification.

**Suggested Enhancements for Future Conferences**

* **Court Scenario Q&A**: Attendees could submit specific scenarios at registration, allowing presenters to prepare targeted discussions.
* **Syndicate Groups for Decision-Making**: Smaller groups working through game scenarios would encourage collaborative learning.
* **Involvement of Coaches**: Coaches attending the conference could take resources back to educate club players on umpiring expectations.
* **Local League Rules Review**: Comparing standard game rules with league-specific variations would be helpful.
* **Challenges Faced by Umpires**: Encouraging umpires to share difficult game situations and discuss strategies for managing them could boost confidence and understanding.
* **Tutor Credentials in Advertisements**: Highlighting the qualifications and experience of presenters in promotional material could attract more attendees.

Overall, the conference was a well-organized and highly valuable experience. Those who attended gained significant insights, and many would **strongly recommend** participation in future events. While there are areas for improvement, the event provided a fantastic opportunity for development, discussion, and learning.

**Umpires and Officials**

The CUSC also focuses on Officiating County Priorities, such as increasing the number of mentors, assessors, and tutors. We invite interested umpires to join these ranks.

**Assessments Achievements:**

* Into Officiating Award (IO) passes (numbers to be confirmed as an ongoing issue with reporting on ENgage)
* **17** C award passes
* **36** IO passes
* **3** umpires passed their B award with one paper pending results
* **1** umpire passed their A award with **2** working towards their A award.

We boast **8** assessors qualified at various levels, with additional training underway for IO assessors.

**Courses Offered:**

* Free “add-on sessions” post the online IO course, delivered by four EN tutors.
* TBC on dates for Game Management / refresher sessions to be confirmed
* Next B course starts 10th July with 6 spaces remaining at end May.

**Mentorship Expansion:**

* We are working to recruit more mentors

**Invitational Event**

In April, we were proud to host our Invitational Tournament, which was a fantastic success. With over 370 players participating alongside their coaches, families and supporters. The event created a vibrant and inspiring atmosphere. We welcomed teams from 16 different counties, offering a brilliant opportunity for performance in development and showcasing the depth of emerging talent across the regions. We were also delighted to have the London Mavericks Super League team in attendance, whose presence and support added an extra buzz to the day and inspired many of the young athletes. The tournament not only highlighted the competitive spirit of the players but also the strength of the wideer netball community. It was a true celebration of the sport and a testament to the hard work of everyone involved.



## **The Bedford & District Netball League**

**Bedford & District Netball League 2024/2025 Season**

**Awards Presented at 2024 AGM**

Gary Burgess award – Fran Wade

Blue Ribbon award – Kathy Jackson

Outstanding Achievement – Morestaff

Sportsmanship awards:

Premier division – St Neots Diamonds

1st division – Grangers Thunder

2nd division – Absolute

3rd division - Oakley Diamonds

4th division – Riverwood Blackjacks

5th division – Maulden Kittens

**Adult League**

72 teams entering the league divided into 6 divisions. We lost 1 team during the course of the season due to excessive conceded games.

Premier division winners Grangers Blaze

 runners up GNC Jets

1st division winners BCNC Opals

 runners up Westoning Diamonds

2nd division winners Maulden Kubs

 runners up St Neots Diamonds

3rd division winners Mayfair Vixens

 runners up Grangers Storm

4th division winners Wixam Wasps

 runners up Skyline Green

5th division winners Maulden Kittens

 runners up Henlow Hatters

Our cup rounds are finalising this week (w/c 19/05/25) with the semi-finals. We have 8 trophies up for grabs that are named after those that have had an impact on netball in Bedford. Each year we change the names on some of the trophies to honour Bedford netballers that deserve it This year we have honoured Helene Wright who has sadly passed away, Nicky Merritt who has decided to retire from Wilstead Netball Club after decades of support and our very own Jackie Stigwood who is at the heart of Bedford netball – a member of the committee, an umpire, mentor and assessor.

**Youth League (Weds evenings)**

This is the second year of the league being back under the control of the league. This year we had 33 teams enter between 10 clubs. The teams were divided into 4 divisions.

1st division winners Grangers Thunder

 runners up Shefford Spirit

2nd division winners Westoning Topaz

 runners up Shefford Sharks

3rd division winners Westoning Wolves

 runners up Luton Tornadoes Pink

4th division winners Cranfield Warriors

 runners up Shefford Sparks

A summer league will be run, and the paperwork has been sent out to clubs, and we have cut the entry fee by 50% from £70 to £35.

We have not changed the entry fees into the main league since the league committee has taken over running it. As it running at approx. £2,000 per year profit, we will be reviewing the entry fees for 2025/2026.

**Junior League (Sunday mornings)**

This year we decided to hold a short pre-season league to give the junior players more netball. Having set the dates we were made aware that there was a conflict with the Luton League but on investigation it would have only affected 1 team. We will, however, bear this in mind for the future. This pre-season league was provided totally free of charge to the clubs.

The normal junior league is still underway, and we have a total of 47 teams from 10 clubs. The intention is to have a final tournament at the end of June to finish the year off.

We will be looking at running a pre-season league again and will keep this free of charge as the main league is running at a approx. £2,500 profit per year. We will continually review fees as appropriate.

 **Umpires and Mentoring**

We have continued with our summer mentoring programme. In 2024 we tried to include an hour for mentoring young umpires as the only other opportunity is within the youth league and mentors’ availability can be limited on the Wednesday evenings. We already have the dates in place for the 2025 programme which will run from June through to August as long as we have teams and mentors available.

2024 summer programme:

* 14 adult candidates, 12 passed, 1 was injured had had to pull out and 1 dropped out.
* 4 youth candidates – all passed

2024 adult summer league for candidates going for their C award – 5 passes

2024/2025 adult league candidates going for their C award – 4 passes (2 of which were Iow passes from the summer programme and achieved their C award by January 2025).

2024/2025 youth league:

* 6 IO award passes from September to April
* 2 IO to C award passes – one of which obtained their C within 1 year of passing IO

2025 summer programme:

* 18 candidates
* 19 under 18 candidates

As a mentoring course was held and we now have 4 new trainee mentors to help during the 2025 programme.

4 assessor passes Jackie Stigwood, Angela Beattie, Katie Sanders and Julie Wilkinson can now test IO and C awards.

The achievements made in progressing umpires in Bedford and testament to the hard work that in put in by Fran Smith and her team of mentors.

We would like to congratulate both Katie Johnson for achieving her A award and Sheran Lobley on her B award as both these umpires contribute to the Bedford league, and we benefit from their knowledge and experience.

**Count Awards**

We are very pleased that Bedford netball was well represented in the winners this year and would like to congratulate:

Heather Pollard – long Service

Jeanette Johnson – Sylvia Eastley

Grace Milligan (Maulden) – Mancy Morris

Maulden NC – Club of the year

Caitlyn Knight – Young Volunteer

Nicky Knight (Maulden) – Adult coach

Sue Davis – Grassroots official

Katherine Gallagher (Maulden) – Unsung Hero

Sue Williams (Cranfield) – Young Person Coach

Fran Smith was nominated for the Service to Sport Award at the Bedford Sports and Physical Activity Awards 2024. She didn’t win but the nomination is testament to the amount of work she puts into the B&DNL. She has done so much over her 40+ years including setting up the summer league, the mentoring programme and without her the youth and junior leagues would not have been the success they have been since it came back under the leagues control. The committee rely heavily on her knowledge and experience. She just gets things done.

I went with her to the awards night and if I remember correctly there were only two nominations for netball.

I am not sure if this is relevant but thought I would make note that within the junior teams there have been boys playing and a girl that is Hard of Hearing and wears implants. We put her team on a court where there would be the least whistle noise to assist her.

**Facilities**

The Academy are currently in the process of constructing a new classroom building which has only caused a few issues with parking over the past year. Construction seems to be going well. The new building will include a community café which will benefit our netballers and their supporters

**Luton, Dunstable & District Netball League** 

**Report for Beds CNA**

Our cup/plate competition finals take place on Sunday 22 June with Dunstable Diamonds & Black Pearls going into the Plate final and Luton Red Tornadoes & Red Devils battling in the Cup final.

The Versatility Charity Tournament in support of CALM takes place on 8 June 2025 at Putteridge High School, we open this to anyone wishing to put a team together without needing to be affiliated.

Once again, our biggest challenge has been facilities, using school courts isn’t ideal particularly when we have a new sports centre locally, sadly there are no outdoor courts at this site.

Our summer league starts on 5 July which is now booked to capacity.

Louise Harwood

Chair



**LEIGHTON BUZZARD NETBALL LEAGUE REPORT FOR 2025 AGM**

This year LBNL ran two divisions with div 1 being made up of adult and higher-level youth teams and div 2 being made up of just youth teams. This has been extremely successful, and we plan on running with this again next season. We have already had an expression of interest from 2 possibly 3 youth teams. We just now need to encourage some more adult teams to join.

Everything ran, as always very smoothly. Even when a team unfortunately had to pull out halfway through the season we managed to adjust without any fuss!

The winners of division 1 were Angels and runners up were LB Vipers

The winners of division 2 were Angels Halos and runners up MK Netters Cyclones.

Our summer league starts on 22nd June when we will get to see our brand-new posts!

Thank you to the committee for their continued hard work, to all the teams and to the umpires for making our netballing a great experience!

Lian Howlett

Chair



## Bedfordshire County Netball Association

## Annual General Meeting Report

### Netball Development Officer

### Season 2024–2025

## Membership Growth

We are delighted to report an outstanding 104.66% increase in netball membership from the previous season.

* Current membership total: 2,775
* Greatest growth area: Under 11s

## Bee Netball Club Expansion

This season saw the formation of three new Bee Netball clubs, helping to drive youth engagement and expand our county’s junior netball footprint:

* Bedford Tigers
* Blaze
* Galaxy NC

## Development Programmes Delivered

Over the 2024–25 season, we successfully delivered a total of 21 targeted programmes, including:

* Local Sports Engagement Grants (LSEG) initiatives
* Netball Youth Camps (NYC)
* Back to Netball
* Walking Netball

Total participants: 579

New to Netball players: 362

## Youth Engagement Highlights

We hosted two sell-out Netball Youth Camps in Bedford, which were incredibly well-received. These events played a vital role in encouraging youth involvement and supporting player development at a young age.

## Looking Ahead: Netball Super League Relaunch

The Netball Super League (NSL) is undergoing a major relaunch for the 2025 season, introducing a fresh structure and format.

* 9 teams to compete, including our local franchise: London Mavericks
* A new Under-23 feeder league is being introduced, supporting long-term talent development pathways

## Summary of Key Achievements

* 104.66% increase in membership – now standing at 2,775
* Significant growth in Under 11s
* 3 new Bee Netball clubs launched
* 21 programmes delivered across the county
* 362 New to Netball players welcomed
* 2 sell-out Netball Youth Camps hosted in Bedford
* NSL and U23 feeder league relaunch creating new opportunities

Thank you to our coaches, volunteers, clubs, and partners who have worked tirelessly to support the development of netball in Bedfordshire. Your passion, commitment, and energy have been the driving force behind this successful season.

Let’s continue this momentum into our Season Ahead!

**Joanne Brewster**

Netball Development Officer

Bedfordshire County Netball Association