



BEDFORDSHIRE

County Netball Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 – 2021

Chairman's Remarks AGM 2020-21

Yet again we find ourselves in different times and our AGM is being held by a Zoom link, little did we realise that 12 months on since our last AGM, we are still waiting for life to return to normal and of course the impact that this has had on netball. That said, it is encouraging to know that netball in Bedfordshire has survived, everyone has pulled together, shown what can be done and I am sure we will be back better and stronger when normal netball activities return. It is a testament to everyone's commitment that despite everything netball activities have continued to take place.

So, firstly, we need to acknowledge the commitment by the many volunteers at all levels of the game who have worked tirelessly throughout the difficulties to ensure that we could return to playing netball in a safe environment. So whatever role you have played, take a bow, your commitment, hard work and enthusiasm has made a difference.

Recognising our volunteers is paramount, without their contribution Clubs, Leagues and the County would not be able to function, this is one particular area that the County will focus on for the forthcoming season. The work of our volunteers is usually celebrated annually through the County Awards leading to the EN Golden Globes event, this has been impacted through this last year. However, we need to offer congratulations to those Bedfordshire members who were nominated in the various categories to the East Region GG's:

Teacher Award: **Lisa Rattu**, Mary Bulloch Award: **Juliet Jones**, Muriel McNally Award: **Kay Smith**, Grassroots Coach Award: **Sherma Joseph**, Grassroots Official Award: **Louise Brown**, Grassroots Official Award: **Kay Smith**, Young Volunteer Award: **Zoe Tomlin**.

Special congratulations to Lisa as the winner of the East GG Teacher Award

This has been very much a start and stop affair of a season, however, you will see from the Annual Report presented tonight that still a lot that has been achieved. Planning behind the scenes has continued and programmes and objectives have been set by both Leagues and the County for next season. Membership numbers and getting back all our netball activity will be a priority for all of us.

The County finances continue to be in a healthy position, thus enabling us to maintain the Development Fund, where resource is available to assist Members who wish to improve their knowledge and skills and pursue personal development. Full details of the Development Fund criteria and application forms are available on the website, www.bedfordshire-netball.com.

The County Committee, work tirelessly on your behalf to ensure that we maintain good standards and practices across the County. We will always welcome new members, particularly in the specific Technical Support Groups or Working Groups. Please if you are interested in becoming involved speak to me or any other Committee Member.

I must thank the County Committee Members for their hard work throughout the season and for their significant contribution to netball in the County; and a personal thank you to them for their support to me throughout the season.

Gloria Keech
Chair, Bedfordshire County Netball

Performance TSG Report 2020–21

Academies

September Screening 2020

- 25 Players selected into the U13 Academy
- 30 Players selected into the U15 Academy
- 7 players selected into the Saracens Mavericks Futures Academy
- 1 Player selected into the Saracens Mavericks U17 Academy

May Screening 2021

- 1 player selected into the Saracens Mavericks U15 Development Squad

Academy Training Environment 2020 – 2021

Led by Michelle Power, Debbie Ellis, Lisa Rattu, Claire Southam

- 2 day Pre Season Camp Sep 1st & 2nd September 2020
- 19 weekly on line delivery sessions via zoom thanks to the coaches
- 1 day Easter Camp - on court
- 9 weekly on court Training Sessions

England Netball Performance Identification Workshop, June 2021

Claire Southam and Debbie Ellis attended on behalf of Bedfordshire Academy Group and will cascade back to the Academy coaches

Bedfordshire Academy Presentation 2021

Presentations for both age groups U13 and U15 were held at Redbourn School on the 28 June following the last training session

Retirement of Bedfordshire Lead Identifier

We would like to thank Alison Brightman for all her hard work in this role. It requires an enormous commitment and we wish her well as she leaves this role.

Bedfordshire Club Development Netball Pilot Competition 2020-2021

Purpose of Competition To ensure more Bedfordshire players have more appropriate performance competition, currently this is not available in Bedfordshire within the youth and junior leagues

A new 8 week competition involving Clubs from Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Cambs and Northants started in 2020/2021 season

It has been successful in its pilot year and will be continuing in the 2021/2022 season

Bedfordshire Coach Education Programme 2021-2022

An 8 month programme for Bedfordshire Club Coaches will be starting in September 2021. Closing date is 30th June 2021

The focus is Workshops, Tutorials and a Mentoring Programme for those Bedfordshire coaches accepted onto the programme

The Programme is led by Maggie Jackson and Hayley Mackellar

The workshops (part of the Coach Education Programme) will also be available to those in Bedfordshire and surrounding counties delivered by: Karen Atkinson, Denise Ellis, Tamsin Greenway and Colette Thomson

Maggie Jackson

Performance TSG Lead

Competition TSG Report 2020-21

As with most netball competitions this year, we have all been affected by the on/off ability to play netball at any level but following the launch of the Bedfordshire Clubs Netball Development Competition (BDNDC), we were able to offer matches to Clubs from Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. 8 clubs were invited to participate in two age groups U13 and U15.

Some matches were affected due to Covid but we were able to complete most of the programme as planned.

Most Clubs who entered are keen to enter again next year and have enjoyed the level of competition we were able to offer.

We are hoping to add an U19 category next season

Juliet Jones

Competition TSG Lead

Officiating TSG Report 2020-21

The Officiating TSG consists of the four league umpiring secretaries, the Assessment Lead, the Mentoring Lead and the Courses Lead, overseen by the County Umpiring Secretary. This committee meets several times throughout the year.

This season has seen the Leagues start and postponing their winter leagues throughout the County. Games that have been played have followed the EN modified rules and guidelines.

For information please note that EN have advised that no umpire assessments can take place before 1 September 2021. This is to allow umpires to get their match fitness back having a long period of time without umpiring and to allow them to umpire back under normal rules.

During the season we have provided umpires for Academy match play events in May and June for U15 matches against Hertfordshire. We also provided umpires supporting the BDNDC matches. A big thank you to all umpires across the County who officiated at these events.

EN launched the on-line delivery of the IO Award Course in May and approximately 40 Bedfordshire learners have booked on to do the course. It was agreed the County would pilot an add-on training session to these learners, at no cost to the participants, to enable them to have some practical training following their attendance on the EN course, a pilot session was held on 26 June in Biggleswade and a further 2 dates, 5 and 12 July will take place in Bedford.

Kay Smith

Officiating TSG Lead

Bedfordshire Schools Report 2020-21

The schools AGM was held on 7 June and the following are notes taken from this meeting. It was held via Zoom and attendance was good. We may continue with this method post-pandemic and see if attendance is boosted.

There has been no competitive netball in schools this year and we're hoping we can get back to normal next season

We are working on the assumption that things will be back to normal in September and will make adjustments as necessary if this turns out not to be the case.

The County Tournament dates below have been confirmed, and the courts at the Academy are booked for all, including reserve dates.

U19 - Tue 9 Nov (reserve Tue 16/11)
U16 - Thu 4 Nov (reserve Thu 11/11)
U15 - Mon 22 Nov (reserve Mon 29/11)
U14 - Wed 17 Nov (reserve Wed 24/11)
U12&U13 - Tue 1 Mar (reserve Tue 8/3)
U11 - Wed 23 Feb (reserve Wed 2/3) @ BGS

- C Award umpires must be provided for the U14, 16 & 19 County Tournaments (cup not plate).
- If you do not enter on time you will not be allowed to enter.
- If a school qualifies for the regional round and then pulls out of the regional tournament, they will be denied entry to the following year's county tournament and a fine of £100 will also be imposed. The entry form will reflect this and schools MUST sign to say that they agree to abide by these conditions, and the fine will be paid if they withdraw from the regional round. Entry will not be accepted without a signature.

Umpires for tournaments

- In 2019, JB helped organise umpires for tournaments, however we don't feel this is needed as there were plenty of umpires available to cover all of the games. If you do not have a 'C' Award umpire on your staff, please contact external umpires early (as soon as dates are confirmed) and you should not have a problem in securing an umpire.
- If schools do require help with finding an umpire please contact JB or HC before the summer holidays and we can forward details onto you.
- The Academy have asked for all injuries and accidents during a tournament to be reported at the school reception desk before leaving the premises.

AOB - County

- The AGM next year will be on Mon 6 June, 2022. Remember you must send a school representative, otherwise you will not be able to enter the County Tournaments.
- Gloria Keech, Chair of Bedfordshire County Netball Association asked for volunteers to join the County Committee. There are roles that need to be filled as general committee members and on Technical Support Groups for competition, performance and officiating. More hands means less work for all so please do come forward if you are able to help - contact JB or HC.

Bedford League - 2019-20 season winners

	Winners	Runners up
U19	SWA	Sharnbrook
U16 Prem	SWA	BMS
U16 Div 1	Etonbury	Wootton
U16 Div 2	St Andrews	STM
U15 Prem	BMS	Redborne
U15 Div 1	Sharnbrook	Harlington
U15 Div 2	Goldington	BGS C
U14 Prem	SWA A	Lincroft
U14 Div 1	SWA B	Lincroft B / Etonbury
U14 Div 2	Redborne	Bedford Academy

Julie Bassett and Helen Cuthbert
Joint School Representatives

Bedfordshire NDO Report 2020-21

PROGRAMMES

Back to Netball

Sessions taking place at

Van dyke School, Leighton Buzzard, Monday sessions, 30 people registered

Sandy Sports Centre, Sandy, Tuesday sessions, 25 registered

Great Denham School, Bedford, Monday sessions, 50 registered

Chalk Hills Academy, Luton, Saturday sessions, 18 registered

B2N - Club Development

Henlow NC, now have 4 adult teams

Galaxy NC, 3 adult teams, with a 4th identified for September

Wixams NC, currently 1 adult team

Walking Netball

Silsoe, Wed am, Leighton Buzzard, Mon pm, Bedford Academy, Tues pm

CONTACT DETAILS & USEFUL LINKS

Email: joanne.brewster@englandnetball.co.uk

Tel: 07587033637 Twitter: @BedsNDO Facebook: www.facebook.com/NDOBeds

www.bedfordshire-netball.co.uk www.netballeast.org.uk www.englandnetball.co.uk

Luton, Dunstable & District Netball League Report 20-21



Our league finally started on 11 April 2021 with 14 teams entered, we adopted a “relaxed” friendly return to play with no Cup or Plate competition or promotions and relegations. We will finish on 4 July and there will be no summer league. I’m pleased to report that we have had zero reported cases of Covid-19 and that is largely due to all our members adhering to the strict guidelines put in place by Ellie Yeatman, our league C19 officer, scanning QR codes, answering the C19 health questions at each match has become the norm!

We were fortunate to receive funding support from Sport England for our return to play and together with the 50% contribution to league entry fees from Beds CNA we were able to offer all our teams the court costs free of charge as well as no league entry fee. Once again we will be matching Beds CNA 50% contribution and not charging any league entry fees for 2021/22. On behalf of the members of LDDNL I would like to thank Bedfordshire CNA for their financial contribution and to our NDO Jo Brewster for her assistance in obtaining our funding bid.

We will be moving our central venue from Chalk Hills Academy to Ashcroft High School next season, we will have an additional outdoor court and improved indoor facilities at our disposal. There is also an opportunity to add two more outdoor courts with the help of additional funding support, which we are looking into.

Our biggest challenge is in relation to growing our adult league and introducing youth and juniors but despite the pandemic we have been putting plans together which we will start working on once we are not hampered by a pandemic.

I wish everyone a long and happy summer and hopefully a pandemic free return to our winter league next season.

Louise Harwood
Chair, Luton, Dunstable & District Netball League

Heritage Netball League Report 2020-21



We were not able to hold the 2020 Summer League so unfortunately no mentoring of IO umpires or assessments was possible. We currently have 6 umpires at various stages of their C award, once we are able to recommence our fully mentoring programme these umpires will be given priority.

Due to the hard work of the Heritage Committee, teams & venues, we were able to start playing again in early October 2020. However, like everyone else, we then had to stop again but since re-starting in March 2021, we have managed to fulfil some games in our winter league.

The Heritage Academy has re-started with approximately 30 girls attending every week.

The Heritage League and the Academy have recently agreed to be the main sponsor of Samuel Whitbread Netball Academy. Samuel Whitbread is an Upper School in central Bedfordshire, who were seeking partners for their netball academy, and the Heritage League saw this as a fantastic opportunity to grow and develop netball in the area.

It is proposed that the 2021 summer league will start in July and we have currently 38 teams, we will take the opportunity to mentor new umpires and those working towards their C award.

Louise Brown
Chair, Heritage Netball League

Bedford & District Netball League Report 2020-21



As I am sure everyone else found this was a challenging season – we made several attempts to re-start the league and to play our 2019/2020 Cup and Plate Finals. We finally achieved the latter in April 2021. Once we could finally re-start, we set up a mini adult league with 50 teams playing over 9 weeks – so did manage to salvage something from the 2020/2021 season.

All of the potential restart programmes, the Covid restrictions, Covid training, rule changes, mitigation plans, risk assessments etc. have involved a tremendous amount of work by the Covid Sub Committee – Fran Smith, Vanessa Girvan, Natascha Kelly and Emma Sears plus me and Fay Legg. On behalf of all the teams I would like to say a huge thank you to them all – we have had to react very quickly at times, and everyone has done a tremendous job.

The Junior and Youth leagues are up and running again now – simultaneously and on a friendly basis. There are 25 teams in the Youth league and 24 teams (in 4 Divisions) in years 7 and 8 of the Junior League with 10 teams in years 5 and 6 who are playing a round robin.

We are accepting entries now for the 2021/2022 season and to date have 60 teams entered – fewer than normal – the final date for entry was June 30th but we may still get some late entries.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to 4 members of our Committee – Chris Short, Fay Legg, Pat Wier and Nicky Merritt. Chris has been our match secretary for all divisions since 1996 – 25 years – an amazing contribution. Before that she shared the job (3 divisions each) with Fay Legg who has been our Secretary since 2006. Pat has done several stints on the committee and has been on the Umpiring Sub Committee, producing our Newsletter for Umpires - “On my Whistle” - for the last few years and Nicky has been on Committee for 4 years plus of course being really involved with the Junior and Youth Leagues.

We were so disappointed that we could not have our AGM, with all the teams present, to be able to express our appreciation to them all and to wish them well going forward. We decided to send them all flowers, a personalised bottle of Prosecco and a gift to spend on whatever they may choose which they have all so much enjoyed.

As we say farewell to them we welcome Natascha Kelly to the position of Secretary and Jeanette Johnson as Match Secretary. Two new members join the committee – Rachel Stocker and Angela Beattie – and we also have one co-opted member, Bev Newton.

We are now all set for the 2021/2022 season and just hope we have the chance to run it without further interruptions.

Heather Nolan
Chair, Bedford & District Netball League

Leighton Buzzard Netball League Report 2020-21

Plans to start a new League in Leighton Buzzard came to fruition in July 2020, when we secured the use of 4 lovely brand new courts at Van Dyke Upper School in Leighton Buzzard.

The League was fully registered with EN as a new League on 23 August 2020. We started on 18 October 2020, with weekly matches scheduled, on Sunday mornings, but unfortunately interrupted after only 2 weeks.

We re-started in mid-April 2021 following Covid guidelines and playing under modified rules, with 16 teams taking place in the League, the remaining matches still to be played, we are due to finish on 18 July.

I must say a big Thank You to everyone connected with the organisation of the League which has enabled everything to run smoothly.

Despite the bumpy initiation into running the League, we are now looking forward to the new season, starting with an Open Tournament on 12 September and the League competition itself scheduled to commence on 26 September 2021

Lian Howlett
Chair, Leighton Buzzard Netball League