

Bedfordshire Academy Invitational Event - 30th April 2022 held at the Bedford Academy in Bedford



Having held the inaugural event in 2019 it was great to be able to invite 11 counties to take part in the Bedfordshire Academy Invitational Event on the 30th April 2022 for the second time.

The objectives of the event are for:

- An opportunity for young Academy players to compete against squads from all areas of the country
- To compete against a variety of styles of play
- An opportunity for players to adapt throughout the day to the environment and the umpires
- To enable coaches to develop their match play experiences
- To enable umpires to be mentored and experience representing their county
- To develop Bedfordshire volunteers
- To develop relations between Bedfordshire CNA and other counties

11 counties from Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, East Essex, Hertfordshire, Manchester, Norfolk, North Bucks, Surrey and Sussex brought 39 Under 13 and Under 15 squads to the Bedford Academy outdoor Courts on a super sunny day. All the players who took part are in their County Academies which is part of the England Netball Performance Pathway and it gave all the players to represent their County and compete against Counties from across the country – something that does not happen very often.

The Bedfordshire County Netball Committee appointed a working group (Juliet Jones, Lou Brown, Kay Smith, Gloria Keech, Rachel Lewis and Maggie Jackson) to enable this to happen.

24 umpires from Bedfordshire were recruited to officiate all the matches and they were supported by 3 mentors (Lou Brown, Sandra Howlett & Bern Palmer) throughout the day to assist in their development.

Additional Bedfordshire volunteers were sourced and they were superb: their roles ranged from parking duty, scoring, timing and hosting the visitors. The volunteers: Anna Roberts, Heather Nolan, Andrea Rawlings, Sarah Hughes, Aimee McGrath, Nina Clutton, Bev Newton, Jayne Piggott, Desrene Delpratt, Jim Keech, Paul Brown, Ed Jones and David Jackson.

Nicky Knight, Head Coach from Maulden NC organised 8 outstanding Young Leaders who assisted with the timing and managing the courts; they were: Maddie Glenister, Charlotte Rogers Poppie Harris, Meghan Moclair, Lauren MacBain, Caitlyn Knight, Milly Dunger and Amelia Wileman.



Bedfordshire County Netball would like also to thank Bedford Academy in Bedford for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities to enable us to host this event and the School's staff for their assistance on the day.
<https://www.bedfordacademy.co.uk/>

We would also like to thank Aliyah Zaranyika and Holly James, players from Saracens Mavericks, Superleague Club, for taking time out from their busy schedules to attend the Event and spending the day with us to talk to players and coaches from several of the County Squads.
<https://www.mavericksnetball.co.uk/>



The Netball was very competitive and the results are:

UNDER 13 FINAL PLACINGS

1 st	SUSSEX	10 th	HERTFORDSHIRE 2
2 nd	CHESHIRE 1	11 th	EAST ESSEX 2
3 rd	SURREY 1	12 th	NORTH BUCKS 1
4 th	HERTFORDSHIRE 1	13 th	NORFOLK
5 th	EAST ESSEX 1	14 th	CAMBS 1
6 th	SURREY 2	15 th	CHESHIRE 2
7 th	BERKSHIRE	16 th	NORTH BUCKS 2
8 th	MANCHESTER	17 th	BEDFORDSHIRE 2
9 th	BEDFORDSHIRE 1	18 th	CAMBS 2

UNDER 15 FINAL PLACINGS

1 st	SURREY 1	12 th	BEDFORDSHIRE 1
2 nd	CHESHIRE 1	13 th	HERTFORDSHIRE 1
3 rd	BERKSHIRE 2	14 th	SUSSEX 2
4 th	MANCHESTER 1	15 th	EAST ESSEX 2
5 th	MANCHESTER 2	16 th	HERTFORDSHIRE 2
6 th	CHESHIRE 2	17 th	NORFOLK
7 th	BERKSHIRE 1	18 th	BEDFORDSHIRE 2
8 th	SUSSEX 1	19 th	NORTH BUCKS 1
9 th	SURREY 2	20 th	CAMBS 2
10 th	EAST ESSEX 1	21 st	NORTH BUCKS 2
11 th	CAMBS 1		

Congratulations to all participants and our thanks goes to the Coaches, Managers and Families who enabled the players to take part

We look to welcoming counties back in 2023!