



BEDFORDSHIRE

County Netball Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2022– 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS 2022-2023

The 2022-23 season has been a very busy year for Bedfordshire Netball with some special events allowing us to showcase netball in our County, to highlight a few; a lovely County Awards Afternoon Tea; an exceptional PDP Invitational Tournament hosting many other County PDP Squads and a Netball Celebration Day to encourage existing netballers and invite new people in the community to experience netball activities first hand, and also we have initiated and launched a new County Youth Performance league for the U13 and U15 age groups, this year in a pilot form running over only a few months in this first season.

At last year's AGM, we said a farewell to our long standing President, Kendra Slawinski, OBE, and welcomed a new President, Alison Brightman, who many netballers will know from her various roles within Bedfordshire. The addition of members for the County Committee roles at the beginning of the season was excellent; the appointment of a Volunteer Lead (a new position) and the inclusion of two extra co-opted members brand new to the Committee has been most welcomed.

At the beginning of the season, in liaison with EN and the East Region we have embarked on the Tier 1 Governance exercise to ensure we are running netball in the county in a professional and correct manner utilising good practice methods. This is an on-going process with set timelines and outcomes to achieve the various areas, we are currently making good progress against highlighted areas.

The County's finances are managed in a professional manner, annually audited by an external Accounting Company, and continue to be in a healthy position thus enabling us to maintain a Development Fund, where resource is available to assist members with CPD opportunities. Our thanks to Sheran Lobley for her excellent work in keeping us on track as our Finance Officer.

Our Netball Celebration Day event was held in early April and was aimed at existing netballers but also the local community. It was an opportunity to showcase the other aspects of netball, not just playing. A Mixed Netball Tournament was held through the day and activities for youngsters was offered. A Face Painting lady was kept busy all day with a very long queue of youngsters waiting to be painted up. Information was available to distribute explaining the opportunities that exist in coaching, officiating, and volunteering not just playing. A bouncy castle and an inflatable assault course was on hand to keep families entertained and also food vendors offered a variety of different food for sale. A kit drop off area for old kit and trainers was set up to collect kit to send to Gambia, organised by Maulden Netball club. All in all an amazing day, with such good feedback and queries on whether a date had been set for another one next year!

We held a PDP Invitational Tournament at the end of April, at Bedford Academy hosting U13 and U15 PDP Squads from the following Counties: Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Birmingham, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, East Essex, Essex Thurrock, Hertfordshire, Kent, Manchester, Norfolk, North Bucks, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, and Surrey. Over 370 youngsters participated and 24 umpires with 3 mentors offering mentoring throughout the day also taking part.

The County Awards Afternoon Tea took place in June and was well received. We welcomed all nominators and nominees to join together to celebrate and recognise all our volunteers and our President, Alison Brightman, was on hand to present the Awards to all the worthy winners.

We have now launched The Heather Crouch Legacy Youth Programme. This initiative will enable four young people aged 14-16 to be fully funded to join a 2 year programme to guide them to a coaching or officiating qualification. The funding was gifted to Bedfordshire through the Trustees of the Heather Crouch Legacy Fund.

The lack of Netball facilities, around the County, particularly indoor courts, continue to be a challenge for us. We have set up a Working Group to concentrate efforts to lobby and influence where at all possible when any new facilities being built or refurbished to ensure that netball is considered. The two major successes within the County is the refurbishment of the outdoor courts and lights at the Bedford Academy, now offering 9 courts and also the refurbishment of courts at Redborne School in Ampthill, 4 new courts and 4 MUGA courts. This is a challenge for the County but has been prioritised and will be a focus issue for us through next season.

My personal thanks to the members of the County Committee and to the new faces on the committee this year - their hard work behind the scenes to ensure netball continues to grow in the County is much appreciated.

Of course as always huge thanks to each and every volunteer within Bedfordshire, without their dedication and commitment, Bedfordshire would not achieve the successes that we do.

Gloria Keech
Chair, Bedfordshire County



COUNTY PERFORMANCE TSG REPORT 2022–2023

- The County Player Development Programme (formerly known as Academies) is the base of the England Netball Performance Pathway and the objective of is to develop the players as individuals and ensure they can compete under more pressure and higher intensity. They need to be able to learn to train on the court, develop their physical training and be accountable, compete in 60 minute matches (u15 age group) and 48 & 60 minute matches (u13 age group).
- The County Performance Player Development Programmes (PDP) have run this year from September 2022 to May 2023, with the Under 13 PDP running in Bedford and Luton and the Under 15 PDP running in Bedford with approximately 58 players involved. This year we have reinstated the Under 13 Luton PDP and we are hoping that this will now evolve, grow and develop.
- For the 2022/2023 season: Michelle Power & Debbie Ellis led the Under 15 Squad, Hayley Mackellar, Caroline McNally and Sophie Randall led the Under 13 Squad in Bedford and Rachel Lewis and Vicky Topa led the Luton u13 PDP . Jackie Stigwood was the administrator for the u13 Bedford / Mid Beds and U15 Beds Squads. Anj Patel was the PDP administrator of the U13 Luton Squad.
- The Pre Season Camp in August 2022 was successfully held for selected players from the Bedfordshire 2021 / 2022 PDP programme. As a consequence 7 players were selected into the 2022/2023 Saracen Mavericks Futures Group. 3 players who were in the 2019/2020 were selected in the Saracens Mavericks U19 Squad.
- Saracens Mavericks held preliminary U15 trials in January and Catie Clarke was selected and she has again been selected in the next set of trials in June 2023 and is in the long squad of the School Games group.
- Many thanks to all club coaches for their support of those players who re in a club who were selected into the Beds PDPs 2022/2023 season

| Under 13 | | Under 15 | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| Grangers | 2 players | Bedford Community NC | 1 player |
| Herts Dynamos | 4 players | Grangers NC | 1 player |
| Luton Tornadoes | 2 players | Herts Dynamos | 2 players |
| Maulden | 5 players | Leighton Buzzard NC | 1 player |
| MK Netters | 2 players | Maulden NC | 1 player |
| Shefford | 1 player | Shefford NC | 1 player |
| Team Beds | 5 players | Team Beds NC | 12 players |
| Westoning | 1 Player | Westoning NC | 1 player |

- Both age groups have been supported by our Strength and Conditioning Partners - the players demonstrated an improvement since the precious year in self-managing the programmes they were given but it is still proving to be not as effective as it should be. Therefore we have reviewed the situation and as a Performance Group we will continue to develop different ways to emphasise the importance of this area of the programme to develop primarily strength, conditioning and robustness so id players progress through the pathway injuries are minimised.
- During this season the U15 Squad and U13 competed regularly in PDP competitions against East Region counties and enabled the players to develop more experience in match play. Some of our U13 players are currently lacking regular local competition between September and May and we therefore still have to give both our PDPs more competition experience and this continues to be a clear target for the 2023/2024 season.

- Saracens Mavericks held an East Region Tournament for both age groups. This involved all East Region Counties and the results are as follows.

| Under 15 | Under 13 Luton | Under 13 Bedford / Mid Beds |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 nd Placing | 8 th Placing | 4 th Placing |

- The Bedfordshire Invitational PDP Event was held for the 3rd time in Bedford in April 2023. It involved both age groups and 32 squads from all over the country. The result was as follows:

| Under 13 Bedford / Mid Beds | Under 15 Bedfordshire | Under 13 Luton PDP |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12 th Placing | 7 th Placing | 15 th Placing |

- The End of Season Academy Presentation was held on May 15 2023: Tallulah Dwyer a former Bedfordshire Academy player and a current Saracen Mavericks Futures was the guest and took part in a Q and A. The awards were as follows

| Under 13 Bedford and Mid Beds | Under 13 Luton | Under 15 |
|--|---|--|
| Most Improved Shooter: I. Garder | Trainer of the Season: A. Birmingham | S and C Champions: A Kelly, E. Gatward, C. Piggott |
| Most Improved Centre Court: C. Peck | Most Improved Player: S. Ward | Shooter A. Kelly |
| Most Improved Defender: I Itsuokor | Players Player: P. Bingley | Mid Court L. Marsden |
| Coach's Player: P. Sleaf | Coach's Player: I. Hoy | Defence: N. Onagoruwa |
| | | Players Player D. de Soussa |
| | | Coach's Player C. Clarke |

- **A special thanks** to the all the 2022/2023 Academy Personnel Coaches, and Administrators and Selectors.
- **The future of the PDP Programme**

Currently the recruitment process for the Performance Group is underway
The Performance Group are always looking for personnel to support the programme: as an administrator, a selector or as a coach. If you are interested or want to find out more information please do contact Maggie Jackson

Maggie Jackson
Bedfordshire Performance Lead

COUNTY COACHING TSG REPORT 2022-2023

- Bedfordshire CNA continue to recognise the importance of supporting coaches in the county. It is recognised that to develop players so they can reach their potential and capacity there needs to be much more support given to coaches to develop their knowledge, confidence, experiences and opportunities.
- Therefore following the successful initiative of the Year 1 Coach Development Programme this was extended to a second year. The focus of this coming programme is even more bespoke for the coaches and there will be opportunities for them to coach individually and together as well as continued to be mentored much more in their own coaching environment as well as attend tutorials facilitated by Hayley Mackellar and Maggie Jackson as well as attend workshops.
- Those coaches who continued on this program and be part of Part 2 were:

| Names | Coaching Roles |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sue Davis | Team Beds NC |
| Debbie Ellis | Westoning NC & Team Beds NC |
| Rachel Fitzgerald | Luton Torndoes |
| Mandy Mistlin | Olney NC |
| Desta Wright Brown | Bedford Community Club & Team Beds NC |

- A new programme was also set up for young coaches who are coaching but are at the beginning of their coaching career. These coaches may still be playing and may be at school, university or just starting in full time employment. This was called the 18-30 programme. It was advertised and a recruitment process was undertaken.
- Those who were on this programme were:

| Names | Coaching Roles |
|------------------|---|
| Charlotte Ellis | Westoning NC |
| Louise Hone | Saracen Mavericks Hub |
| Holly McNally | Westoning NC |
| Caroline McNally | Westoning NC, Team Beds NC and Beds PDP |
| Sophie Randall | Team Beds NC and Beds PDP |

- Workshops, Tutorials, 1:1s and observation of coaching were held for all these coaches throughout the season - the mentors were Hayley Mackellar and Maggie Jackson.
- The workshops were delivered by nationally recognised coaches / tutors and facilitated by Hayley Mackellar and Maggie Jackson.
- Alongside these two programmes these workshops were open to coaches from any county. This proved popular by many coaches from outside the county but it continues to be disappointing that not more Bedfordshire Coaches (not on the programme) attended.

- The workshops that took place were:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| October 2 nd 2pm-5pm | Sam Brightman: Former Loughborough Lightning Franchise Pathway Head Coach and current teacher | Defending |
| November 19 th 2pm-5pm | Ann Marie Dwyer (Muller) Former Turnford Head Coach and Saracens Mavericks Technical Shooting Coach, Current teacher | Shooting |
| February 18 th 2pm-5pm | Denise Ellis Director of Netball Exeter University and former Head England Academy Coach | Mid Court |
| March 11 th 2pm-5pm | Anna Carter Former Loughborough Lightning HC and current Elite Academy HC in Leeds | Putting basic skills under pressure with intensity |

- The Coach Development Programmes have now been completed and our thanks go to the coaches named in this report who have been on both programmes for their enthusiasm, growth mind set and their willingness to give up so much time to develop their learning for the benefit of the Bedfordshire club players they work with.
- Plans are in place for the 2023/2024 season to hold 2 standalone workshops and a Bedfordshire one day conference - details will be on the social media platforms in the near future.

Hayley Mackeller
County Coaching TSG Lead

COUNTY COMPETITION TSG REPORT 2022-23

County Performance League

Bedfordshire County had a vision to bring together club youth sides from all Bedfordshire leagues into one County led central league, offering additional match play to the local leagues. The aims to provide more match play and a further development opportunity for young players within Bedfordshire against opponents they may not play against within their usual Bedfordshire leagues and to create a county competition and a further EN registered feeder league for clubs to enter the U14 & U16 East Regional Youth League (ERYL) entry tournament.

In March we launched the Bedfordshire County Performance League as a pilot for this season running monthly over 3 months with the County subsidising any entry costs and the venue costs for the pilot to help clubs provide this opportunity for the young players in Bedfordshire. The first week of matches took place on Sunday 26th March and was a great success. We received some lovely thank you emails and positive feedback from the clubs who took part.

Round 2 took place on Sunday 23rd April with the league concluding with the final round and presentations to the winners and runners up in each age group U13 and U15 on 14th May.

A feedback survey was sent to all the clubs who took part to help us plan the league for next season with the aim to run next season from October to January, working with the other leagues in the County to provide all season round match play for the youth players in Bedfordshire. All Bedfordshire clubs surveyed were very positive in their feedback and keen to again be part of this development opportunity for the coming season for their players.

Results and the league tables can be found on the Bedfordshire website under County League.

U15 Winners Team Beds; U15 Runners Up Maulden

U13 Winners JNA (Herts); U13 Runners Up BCNC

PDP Invitational Tournament

Event went off very successfully on Saturday 29th April in Bedford with 16 counties from all over the country taking part in the U13 and U15 age groups and we will look to continue to run this valuable development event annually.

East Senior Regional League and East Regional Youth League

Bedfordshire continue to have two clubs playing in the East Regional Leagues Grangers and Team Beds with MK Netters Seniors also playing in Bedfordshire.

In the East Senior Regional League, Grangers were promoted to Division 1 and Team Beds in Division 3 narrowly missed out on promotion finishing 3rd. MK Netters were promoted to Division 2.

In the East Regional Youth League, Grangers and Team Beds finished winners and runners up in Division 3 of the U16 competition. Grangers also had a team in the U14 competition.

Jo Randall
County Competition Lead

COUNTY OFFICIATING TSG REPORT 2022-2023

It has been a very productive Netball season for Bedfordshire, where the County has provided mentoring, assessing and tutoring to the umpires who are following various pathways. This is arranged in conjunction with the County Umpiring Sub Committee (CUSC) which comprises of:

The four league officiating leads: Bedford - Fran Smith; Luton and Dunstable - Maddy Harwood; Heritage - Sandra Howlett; Leighton Buzzard – Point of Contact - Sheelah McGregor.

The following officers: Mentoring Lead - Bern Palmer; Course Lead - Lou Brown; Assessor Lead - Katie Edwards-Sanders; Chair – Kay Smith

These volunteers work hard in providing a service across the County and I am grateful for their assistance in enabling me to fulfil my role as County Officiating Lead.

The CUSC are also responsible for attending to the Officiating County Priorities, which include encouraging more umpires to become mentors and assessors and tutors and I welcome any umpire who wish to become a mentor, assessor or tutor.

Assessments

During this season, we have had 31 Into Officiating Award (IO) passes and 12 C awards passes.

Three umpires working towards their B award recently passed their B award papers and are continuing to follow the B award pathway. We currently have 7 umpires working towards their B and 2 umpires working towards their A. Two umpires who umpire within Bedfordshire recently passed their B and A awards.

We currently have 8 assessors. Within this, 1 can assess up to A award, 3 can assess up to B award and 4 can assess up to C award. We also have 1 who can assess for IO only and 7 who are training to be IO assessors. These various assessments are held throughout the season.

Courses

We ensure that we provide free “add on sessions” as part of the mentoring process the IOs partake in, following the on line 2-part course. This was an initiative that Bedfordshire adopted on the onset of the IO course going online and is delivered by the four EN tutors that Bedfordshire have. We have held three of these during the season.

This is extremely successful and appreciated by the IOs. Although not fully supported by EN, it has proven to be a huge asset to Umpires as they begin their journey and is an element that Bedfordshire will retain.

The scorers’ course is for the leagues to organise and provide (when required) and again provided free by our EN tutors.

Game Management and C award refresher courses are provided by our EN tutors across the County and are free. We have held three and two of these respectively. All courses are held face to face.

Mentors

We have 34 mentors in the County that mentor at different levels from IO to A. This has greatly increased this season.

Invitational Event April 2023

We held another of the Invitational Events this year which was supported by 24 umpires and 3 mentors.

Kay Smith
County Officiating TSG Lead

BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS REPORT 2022-2023

It was great to see school sport getting back to normal again this year and our netball leagues and county tournaments were all completed as planned. Pupils enjoy playing in competitive sports and it was great having regular fixtures for them

Monday 5th June @ 4pm - Henlow Church of England Academy - SG16 6AN

Attendees - Bedford Greenacre (BGI), Castle Newnham, Redborne, Daubeney Academy, Bedford SSP, Goldington Academy, Harlington Upper School, Vandyke Upper School, Etonbury, Alameda, Bedford Modern School, Samuel Whitbread Academy, Wootton Upper School, Biddenham International School, Holywell School, St Thomas More, Sandy Secondary School, Bedford Girls School, Bedford Academy, Lincroft Academy, Robert Bloomfield, Wixams Academy, Edward Peake Middle school, Cardinal Newman School, Sharnbrook Academy, Lealands High School, Henlow Academy

Apologies- Bedford Free School (only wish to enter leagues).

Minutes

1. County Tournament Structure

All voted in favour of appendix A.

Teams enter the tournament (not the 'cup' or 'plate') The first round of fixtures will rank teams in a 50/50 split – top and bottom of each group. The top teams will progress into the 'cup' competition – the top two schools progressing to the regional round of the National Schools Competition. If a school who finishes first or second does not wish to progress this will be offered to the 3rd place team. The bottom teams will progress into the 'plate' competition.

2. Tournament Venues

Everyone was happy with the BA as a venue for the competitions. Reminder that as the competitions are in school hours, no spectators are allowed on site until after 4pm.

3. Entering Tournaments

Agreed that we will have 2 entry windows for the competitions. U19, U16, U15 & U14 will enter in September. U13, U12 & U11 will enter January.

4. Tournament Dates and Organisers

| Competition | Date | Venue | Organiser |
|-------------|---|----------------------|------------|
| U19 | Tuesday 7 th November (Res – 14/11) | Bedford Academy | BGS |
| U16 | Thursday 9 th November (Res – 16/11) | Bedford Academy | SWA |
| U15 | Monday 20 th November (Res – 27/11) | Bedford Academy | Sharnbrook |
| U15 | Wednesday 15 th November (Res 22/11) | Bedford Academy | Sharnbrook |
| U13 | U13- Tuesday 27 th February (Res- 05/03) | Bedford Academy | RBA |
| U12 | U12- Thursday 7 th March (Res 14/03) | Bedford Academy | RBA |
| U11 | Wednesday 14 th March (21/03) | Bedford Girls School | BGS |

5. League Structure

New structure proposed- A Premier division and then league pools with league finals mirroring the rounders. Please complete the google form in the email by Friday 14th July to allow for planning over the summer. We are returning to rotational fixtures. U19 & U16 week 1, U16 week 2 and U14 week 3 commencing on Tuesday 12th September.

6. League Venues

Happy with league venue. Fixtures will be scheduled once. Schools have the opportunity to play games elsewhere within the fixture's completion deadline. Venue to ensure floodlights are on if required.

7. League – Length of Games

U19 & U16 aiming for 4 x 15 minute 1/4s.

U14 & U15 aiming for 4 x 12 minute 1/4s

Minimum game length of 4 x 10 minutes.

8. League Results Reporting

Happy with current method of result reporting and this will remain on a google sheet.

9. Committee Help

Vicky Topa (Cardinal Newman School) and Josie Huckle (Bedford Girls School)

Bedfordshire – AGM 12th July @ Langford Football Club – 8pm

10. AOB

a. Umpiring

Agreed that neutral umpiring will be scheduled at all tournaments going forward.

ITO umpires can be used for competitions. C Award Umpires scheduled for the Cup section of the competition.

Umpire Refresher course to be held at Bedford Academy on 05/12/23.

b. Trophies

Schools to check and report back on the trophies they have in their possession (even if they have only won them this season)

c. Player playing 'up' (age banding form)

Athletes should only be 'playing up' on year group- for example Year 8 up for Year 9. A player can play up 2 year groups maximum however an 'age banding form' must be completed (attached in the email).

d. Beds PDP – Nominations

Bedfordshire Performance Development Pathway will be sent out in a separate email. Please nominate any players you feel meet the criteria.

Rachel Lewis
School Representative

BEDFORDSHIRE NETBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

END OF YEAR REPORT 2022-2023

Membership

We saw an increase this 22/23 season of just over 1% compared to last season. Total Membership for 22/23: **2328**

Breakdown Below:

| | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 | % Membership |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Total Membership | 2303 | 2328 | 101.09% |
| U11s | 334 | 380 | 113.77% |
| U14s | 474 | 477 | 100.63% |
| U18's | 316 | 306 | 96.84% |
| O18s | 1179 | 1165 | 98.81% |

We have 82 clubs across Bedfordshire which has remained the same since 21/22 season however it is important to note that the Small Clubs (20 people or less which are more likely individual teams) has decreased significantly.

Engage

This season has been a huge learning curve for players, clubs and leagues around the use of the Engage System. However, I am pleased to report that Bedfordshire is leading the way with its use and understanding of the system. Having the correct information in place although takes a little more time initially around the understanding will enable a much easier way to report and manage teams in the future.

I will be arranging some refresher training on this via Zoom in the New Membership year.

Programmes

Lots of exciting netball activity has happened over since our last AGM and I am currently planning a breadth of programmes for this upcoming season.

Back 2 Netball

We had a large amount of people taking part in our B2N sessions across the county with 116 of those who were completely new to netball taking part.

- A new club Silsoe was formed with 2 teams created.
- Additionally, another 15 Participants joined Galaxy NC from a Back 2 Netball in Sandy.
- Since April we have had 3 additional New Back 2 Netball programmes and I am excited to say they have been well attended.

Walking Netball

We have traditionally been a strong County for Walking Netball participants and the numbers for Walking Netball continues to rise.

- 2 New sessions were created last season which were funded by Central Beds Council at Flitwick and Dunstable. These sessions were hugely popular allowing attendees to enjoy playing for free!
- 4 Bedfordshire Teams represented Beds in the East Regional Walking Netball which was again the largest number of teams representing from any East County.

- December we will be running a Christmas Themed Walking Netball Festival as our ladies do enjoy a little competitive play.

Netball Now

- After a successful Netball Now in Biggleswade last year, we have run this again on a Sat morning with good numbers attending weekly.
- Planning an additional Bedford Mixed Netball Now to start very soon.

Netball Youth Camps

- A successful NYC took place in Oct half term with another planned this coming month on 28th July at Stratton Upper.

Bedfordshire Celebration Day

This was the first time the County had run anything of this kind. This was a fun day for all ages and a way for the County to give back and celebrate its members after the return from Covid.

The appreciation and enjoyment of the day was widely received and I look forward to support more of these events in the future.

Facilities

- We have a distinct lack of facilities across the County for Netball and this has been an ongoing issue across all leagues in the past.
- 2 of our Leagues have great courts for their games. (9 Bedford Courts were re-surfaced for last season)
- 2 leagues desperately need an injection of funding into facilities to sustain the demand for Netball in their area.
- I have been working closely with a consultancy agency over this last season and hope the findings will see an injection of money into the Luton and Central Beds area.

An exciting season for Netball with many wins after a challenging couple of years. I am excited for the coming season and the opportunities that arise.

My aim is to keep people playing and bring new people into our fantastic sport!

Jo Brewster
Bedfordshire Netball Development Officer



HERITAGE NETBALL LEAGUE

Established 1997
Affiliated to England Netball and Bedfordshire County Netball Association



HERITAGE NETBALL LEAGUE - County Annual General Meeting July 2023

Again, it is a pleasure to report on a good year for the Heritage League.

The summer League started at the beginning of July with 33 teams.

It's very pleasing to see the continued growth and development of umpires in the Heritage League especially during the summer league. We mentored several new IOA during the summer league & for the most part the players were all understanding that the umpires are training. Thank you to the fantastic team of mentors who give up their time so there are new umpires to cover our games.

The mentors are also busy during the winter league mentoring our new C & B umpires. We also have a team of assessors that are often out reviewing our qualified umpires to aid development.

The winter league started as usual in October with 46 teams. It is great to see that our clubs are growing with more teams entering. Well done to those that run the clubs as I know it is a lot of hard work.

Our match secretaries have yet again been working very hard to keep up to date with all the score cards & numerous questions & queries.

The cup finals were held in March which all went ahead, congratulations to all the winners.

Prem Cup Winner - Onyx
1st Div Cup Winner - Baldock Aces
2nd Div Cup Winner - Cobras Pink
3rd Div Cup Winner - Vixens
4th Div Cup Winner - Baldock Mystics
5th Div Cup Winner - Gamlingay Thunder

A new development for the Heritage League, set up & run by Anna Roberts is the start of the Invitational Youth Tournament for years 5 & 6 (ages 9-11) & years 7 & 8 (ages 11-13). We run the event 4 times a year to help our Academy girls get some match play.

The Academy continues to progress well with nearly 40 girls turning up every week to train. It is good to see the enthusiasm of the girls. It was especially pleasing to see Diamonds winning their age group at the Invitational Tournament in May.

I will end my report with a huge thank you to the Heritage Committee members. The work they put in to run & develop the Heritage League is amazing.

Louise Brown
Chair, Heritage Netball League

www.heritagenetball.co.uk

email: heritageleaguecommittee@btinternet.com





REPORT TO COUNTY AGM 2023

Our Summer league was held at Lincroft School last year as work on the new courts had already started. There were two divisions – one for Premier, 1st and 2nd and one for 3rd, 4th and 5th. After 8 weeks our winners in the respective divisions were Grangers Blaze and Meteor Majestics.

Our Summer league for this year will start on Monday 3rd July and will run for 8 weeks culminating in finals on 21st and 22nd August. The fixtures meeting for next season will be held on 5th September.

Our Sportsmanship Awards this year went to

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Premier Division | BCNC Onyx |
| 1 st Division | Rogues |
| 2 nd Division | Amphill Quip |
| 3 rd Division | Lidlington Oaks |
| 4 th Division | Storm |
| 5 th Division | Wixam Wasps |

Our Gary Burgess Umpiring Trophy went to Lucy Tuttle who passed her IO and a year later her C, umpired 49 games this season and is training to be a mentor.

We send congratulations to our league winners for 2022/2023

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Premier Division | BCNC 1st Choice |
| 1st Division | Luton Tornadoes |
| 2 nd Division | Westoning Gems |
| 3 rd Division | Westoning Hornets |
| 4 th Division | Morestaff |
| 5 th Division | Cranfield Gladiators |

We have also completed our Cup Finals - once again this year we split the teams into 8 divisions – played the competition on a knockout format, with a random live draw over zoom which was both very exciting and very successful. The teams were put into groups and played for trophies which honour people, past and present, who have made a great contribution to the success of the B&DNL

Our winners were:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| The Gloria Keech Trophy | BCNC Jewels |
| The Nancy Morris Trophy | Accord Phoenix |
| The Dot Bassett Trophy | Wixam Wasps |
| The Bernadette Palmer Trophy | Storm |
| The Sylvia Eastley Trophy | BCNC Dymonds |
| The Heather Nolan Trophy | Henlow Hurricanes |
| The Gary Burgess Trophy | Westoning Hornets |
| The Sheelagh Redpath Trophy | BCNC 1st Choice |

The League Charity Versatility Tournament planned for June has been deferred until September – before the start of the 2023/2024 season.

Once again our Youth League on a Wednesday evening was very successful with 31 teams taking part and below are the winners from the League and Cup and plate competitions

League:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Division One | Shefford Scorpions |
| Division Two | Grangers Thunder |
| Division Three | Maulden Panthers |
| Division Four | Wilstead Emeralds |
| Division Five | Bedford Sapphires |

Cup:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Division One | Maulden Margays |
| Division Two | Westoning Wasps |
| Division Three | Cranfield Vikings |
| Division Four | St. Neots Comets |
| Division Five | Wilstead Emeralds |

Plate:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Division One | Bedford Rubies |
| Division Two | Westoning Rockets |
| Division Three | Maulden Lynx |
| Division Four | Maulden Meerkats |
| Division Five | Westoning Vixens |

Due to the success of last season's versatility we again finished off with a versatility tournament which was greatly enjoyed by all.

We have now started the Youth summer league for years 8-10 enabling our year 8 players to be introduced to longer league matches. There are 19 teams competing over 3 divisions

The Junior league saw 36 year 4-8 teams. The same format as previous years was used, we had a league competition, then a cup/plate competition followed by a charity tournament and presentations which raised £800. This year's charity is The 3 Pillars Feeding the Homeless and Supporting the Community, a great way to finish the season. The Charity tournament winners were Grangers Tornadoes, Maulden Bobcats, BCNC Crystals and Cranfield Warriors in years 7 & 8 and Grangers Thunder in years 4 – 6.

Below are the winners of the League and Cup and Plate competitions.

League Years 4-6

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Division One | Grangers Thunder |
| Division Two | Westoning Flyers |
| Division Three | Maulden Kittens |

League Years 7 & 8

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Division One | Westoning Flyers |
| Division Two | St. Neot's Novas |
| Division Three | BCNC Gems |
| Division Four | Maulden Tigers |

Cup years 4-6

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Division One | Grangers Thunders |
| Division Two | Westoning Flyers |
| Division Three | Maulden Kittens |

Plate years 4-6

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Division One | Grangers Blizzard |
| Division Two | Maulden Cougars |
| Division Three | Maulden Tabbys |

Cup years 7 & 8

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Division One | Westoning Flames |
| Division Two | Shefford Sharks |
| Division Three | BCNC Gems |
| Division Four | Maulden Tigers |

Plate years 7 & 8

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Division One | Cranfield Raiders |
| Division Two | Westoning Lightning |
| Division Three | Shefford Swans |
| Division Four | Maulden Tigers |

Regional Youth League

This season we had 3 teams taking part in the ERYL their final standings were:

Grangers U14 5th Division 2

Grangers U16 1st Division 3 Team Beds 2nd Division 3

We are pleased to see an ever-growing number of young coaches and umpires at our Youth and Junior leagues, the experienced coaches and umpire mentors are working hard to enable this to happen and deserve a mention and big thank you from all at Youth and Junior leagues.

We thank all the clubs taking part and the adults that enable this to happen.

Some of our teams – Team Beds, Maulden, BCNC and Westoning participated in the pilot year of the U13 and U15 County League.

Walking netball on Monday mornings has continued to go very well and has grown in popularity. Many thanks to Claire Southam for her coaching for this programme.

Grangers were 3rd in Division 2 in the Regional league, with Team Beds also coming 3rd in Division Three.

We have had another busy year for umpiring with 1 B Award pass, 6 C Award passes, 20 adult I/O passes and 13 under 18 I/O passes.

We constantly have approximately 40 I/O candidates awaiting mentoring. 20+ are currently enrolled on our Summer Mentoring programme (16+). There are a further 20 U16's being mentored via their clubs.

We would like to say a big thanks to all the mentors that assist the league to progress and pass our I/O candidates – they are a very hard-working team. The summer mentoring programme is the biggest investment for the league with a mentoring session per mentee costing the league approximately £40.

We have a C Refresher course scheduled for Wednesday 26th July and a Game Management course on Monday 11th September.

We have 1 newly qualified I/O & C award assessor and 5 others working towards qualifying and 3 new trainee mentors.

Our Blue Ribbon Award this year went to our League Secretary, Natascha Kelly, who has done a fantastic job this year. We introduced a new outstanding achievement Award which went to BCNC 1st Choice from our Premier Division who were unbeaten all season, scored 1091 goals and had an impressive goal difference of 547. They also won the Shelagh Redpath trophy at our recent Cup Finals.

I finished last year's report talking about the new courts – which were already then under construction - and it great this year to be able to say they were all completed and we now have 9 wonderful courts. Just recently the new LED lights were installed and hopefully some new dugouts are still to come.

Heather Nolan
League Chair



LDDNL report for Bedfordshire County Netball Association 12 July 2023

Our 2022/23 season started in September at our new home “Stopsley High School” with the Open tournament on 18 September, a smaller number of teams entered than anticipated but we ran with it and a good fun day was had by all. The Versatility tournament was held on 11 June and was a great success.

We have been continuously striving to grow the league and have come up with some ideas of how to progress this, going forward, and we’ve started implementing some actions. We agreed that starting with Juniors, youth then seniors was a better way to succession plan and ultimately sustain the adult league, so we piloted a junior league in September 2022 which ran for 8 weeks. We have been analysing feedback and will be looking to make a few changes for the forthcoming season.

A big challenge for us this season was conceded games particularly in the top division which had an impact on final placings of some of the teams. This is something we need to address and during the summer we will be looking at how this can be avoided next season.

All our league games have now been completed with final placings:

Premier Division:

Winners: Red Devils

Runners-up: Red Tornadoes

Division 1:

Winners: Luton Lightning

Runners-up: 7up

The Cup and Plate competitions ran throughout the season ending with the finals on 25 June. It was a scorching hot day and all players and umpires did an amazing job under extreme temperatures.

Our Cup final was between Red Devils and Chic, with Chic taking away the cup after keeping the lead for all quarters, it was a very closely contested game of a good standard.

The Plate final was between 7Up and Dunstable Diamonds, the first quarter was slightly one sided in 7Ups favour but Dunstable Diamonds pulled it back to make it a very close, edge of the seat game. 7Up pulled ahead in the last quarter and won the match.

Luton League committee would like to thank the umpires:

Mel Strachan & Sheran Lobley – cup final, Julie Wilkinson and Nasem Khan – plate final.

Louise Harwood
League Chair



LEIGHTON BUZZARD NETBALL LEAGUE

Report for County Annual General Meeting 12 July 2023

So, our winter season is over, and our summer league began on the 8th of June.

This season it was lovely to welcome Angels, Kites and Southcott to division 1 and the new teams from LBY and MK Netters in division 2.

We had 7 teams in our 1st division and 8 in our 2nd for our winter season and we have 8 teams in our summer league with 3 of them being new teams.

The league was extremely pleased that 4 new IO and 1 C award umpires were qualified this season. As you all know you can never have enough umpires. Congratulations goes to Amy Cobb, Catie Clarke, Jayne Piggott, Chloe Piggott and Lisa Smith. Thank you to everyone that umpired, as you know there would be no game without you.

The season ran very smoothly with only a few bumps along the way. One of those bumps was losing a couple of committee members due to them moving away. That meant the few of us that were left had a lot more work to do than would be normal, so the fact that it ran so smoothly is a credit to those members. Thank you so much to the committee, I for one appreciate all your hard work immensely. For the new season we are lucky enough to have gained 3 new committee members.

Now on to the winners which is the fun bit! The winners of division 1 was LBNC Vipers and runners up Angels. Winners of division 2 was LBY Tornadoes and runners up MK Netters Thunder. Best attack goes to MK Netters Thunder and best defence LBY Tornadoes. Well done to all the teams.

Lian Howlett
Chair LBNL