

Bedfordshire County Netball Volunteer Awards Presentation Event 11 June 2023, Held at The Keep, Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford



Gloria Keech, County Chair, welcomed everyone to The Keep in Kempston to the County Volunteer Awards celebration to take part in an Afternoon Tea and a glass of Prosecco.

Nominees and nominators for the various County Volunteer Awards came together on Sunday 11 June 2023. Gloria thanked guests and also Alison Brightman, Bedfordshire County President, for joining the celebration.

Gloria said “It is one of my more delightful tasks as Chair of the County to be able to be part of the presentation event, to meet recipients and to recognise their contribution to the County. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our sport and without their dedication netball could simply not function.”

The afternoon commenced with a lovely afternoon tea and a glass of prosecco before moving on to the presentations of the Volunteer County Awards.

Gloria stated how delighted the County was with the number of nominations we received this year. Hence, the reason we are in a bigger room this year! The task for the Judging Panel was very difficult, with so many worthy nominations, 42 in total and 10 Long Service bio’s to read also. We know we have wonderful volunteers in Bedfordshire and it is great that we can acknowledge some of them today.

Firstly, we will present the **Bedfordshire County Long Service Award for 2023**, this Award recognises the contribution of a volunteer who has used their invaluable experience to give outstanding service for 15 year or more within the County.

The following members were awarded the **Bedfordshire County Long Service Award**:

Nicky Stacey; Gaby Gabriel; Gemma Owen, Debbie McDermott; Tracey Petrie; Jess Wallis; Heather Kennedy; Jacqui Hardy; Tracey Grahame and Juliet Jones.

Gloria explained that the criteria for each of the Award categories will be read out first, with the names of the nominees for that category. However, a short precis only of the information provided in each of the nominations for each winner will be used for today’s purpose - we would need double the amount of time we have today to read out all of the amount of work that each volunteer does on behalf of their Club, League or the County.

Now moving onto our other County Volunteer Awards.

The following members were presented with an Award in the various **Bedfordshire County Volunteer Awards for 2023**:

The Bedfordshire County Young Volunteer Award: **Kennedy Knight**

The Bedfordshire County Coach - Children & Young People Award: **Desta Wright-Brown**

The Bedfordshire County Grassroots Officials Award: **Jackie Stigwood**

The Bedfordshire County Coach - Adults Award: **Jess Wallis**

The Bedfordshire County Grassroots Volunteer Award: **Anna Roberts**

The Bedfordshire County Club of the Year Award: **Westoning NC**

The Bedfordshire County Unsung Hero Award: **Phyllis Charles**

Our final two Awards are presented in honour of two exceptional past Bedfordshire members, Nancy Morris and Sylvia Eastley.

The winner of The Nancy Morris Trophy 2023 is: **Nicky Knight**

The winner of the Sylvia Eastley Trophy 2023 is: **Fran Smith**

Gloria finished by congratulating all the volunteer recipients today, winners and nominees, and a special thank you also to those of you here who completed and sent in nominations.