



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Netball South

Website: [Welcome to Netball South - Netball South](#)

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FUNCTIONAL REPORTS

Regional Management Board Report

To our Netball South Netball family – a big thank you to everyone who volunteered in 2024-25 across the Region to enable and grow our sport - players, coaches, officials, team managers, parents, committee members. The successes we have had at local, county, regional and national levels could not have happened without your passion and commitment.

After serving the Region, firstly as a Board member and then chair for over 4 years, Julie Tucker stood down in the autumn of 2024. We should like to thank her for her work in leading both the RMB and netballers across the South over that time and wish her well for the future. (She remains involved in Netball South governance through her role as North Bucks County chair).

As a result of vacancies and limited capacity, the last year has not been easy for RMB members, some of whom have been covering the business of vacant roles. Despite this, much has been achieved with the support of the EN regional team Zoe Barrett (maternity cover for our NS regional officer), Lucy (regional officer) and Amy Stewart (partnership manager). Amy Stewart and Zoe will both be working in Netball South-West only from September. We would like to thank Amy, in particular, for her hard work, advocacy and friendship to our region over many years.

Many thanks and great tribute must also be given to vice chair Toni Brunsdon who stepped into the breach during the year as interim chair as well as leading the Competitions TSG. With support from Jo and Lindsay, all regional business and representation commitments have been fulfilled.

During 2024-25 we have made great efforts to re-engage with county committees. Three 1hr meetings have been held since February enabling the sharing of information, ideas and achievements. Some examples of mutual support have also emerged as a result of these meetings. We have also used them as an opportunity to introduce our newly recruited members of the RMB.

The stage is set for another successful season in 2025-26 which in February 2026 marks the beginning of England Netball's Centenary Year – a great opportunity to both celebrate the pioneers from our sport's history as well as looking at ways to make it sustainable for the next 100 years. If anyone has any creative or inspiring ways as to how we might do that in the South – please let us know.

Netball South Regional Management Board

Competitions Report

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR TIME PERIOD - up to and include 19 May 2025

All leagues have now been completed.

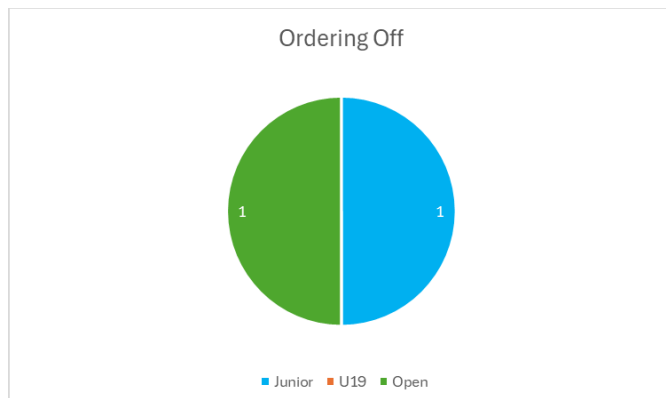
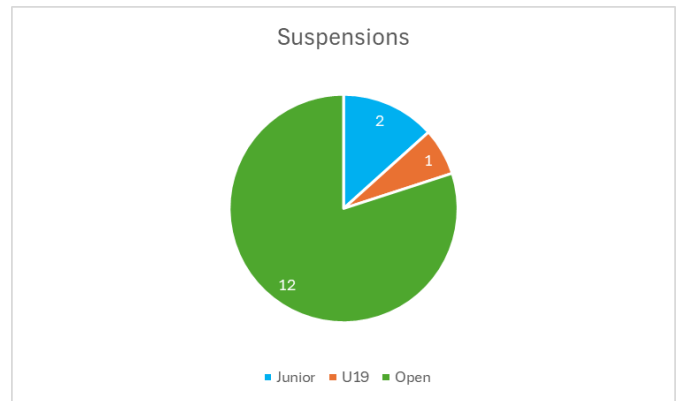
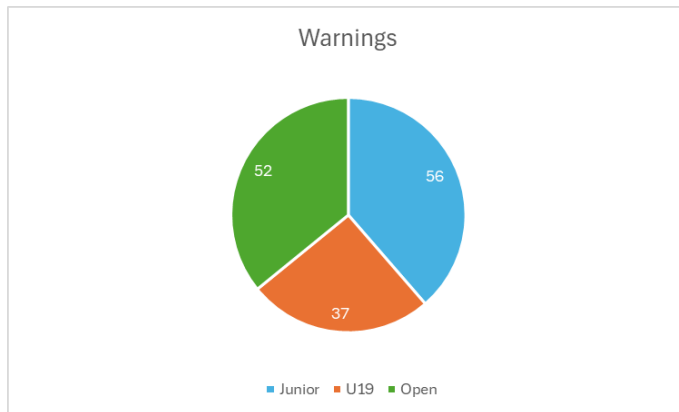
1. Rearrangements (2024/25 Season)

- a. U13 - 3 games rearranged due to the weather and 2 as mutually agreed by teams
- b. U14 - 4 games rearranged due to the weather and 1 due to higher netball
- c. U16 - 3 games rearranged due to the weather, 21 due to higher netball and 2 as mutually agreed by teams
- d. U19 - 1 games rearranged due to the weather and 2 due to higher netball
- e. Open Div 3 - 1 game rearranged due to serious injury where the player couldn't be moved.

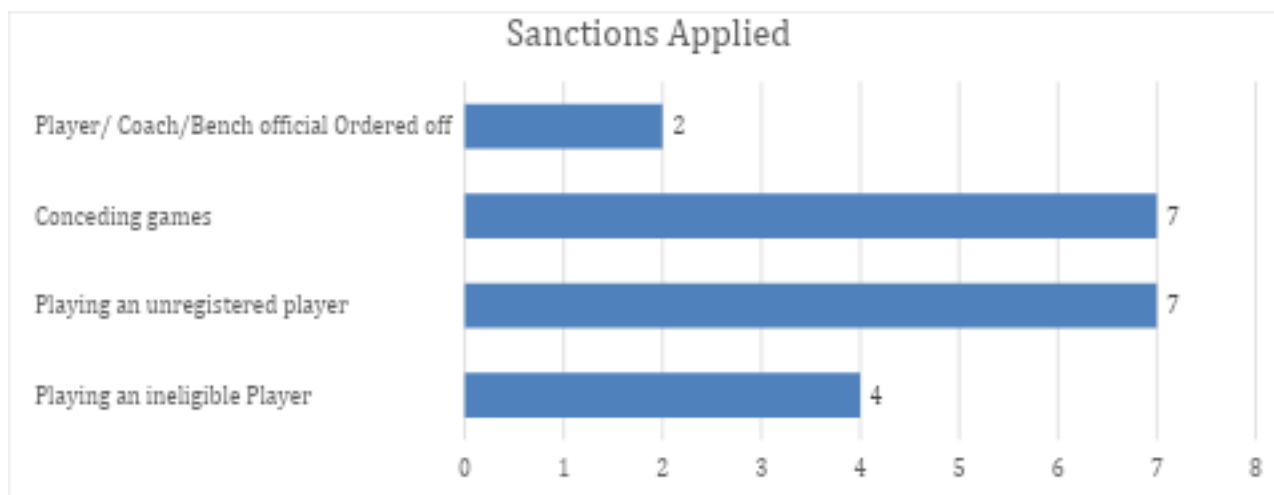
The 21 games rearranged due to higher netball causing angst between teams.

2. Game Management (2024/25 Season)

- There were 162 cases of game management recorded this season, recorded against 132 different players. These have been applied by 65 different umpires.



3. Sanctions (excluding sanctions for ordering off)



4. Premier Play-Offs

- Sussex NRG represented Netball South at the Premier play-offs. Unfortunately they didn't gain promotion this year but said that they now know what they need to do and are keen to try again.

5. Open Div 3 and U19 Play-offs – 18 May 2025

- 7 teams entered for the U19 play-offs
 - Complete NA and Team Matrix gained entry to U19 Div 2
- 9 teams entered for the Open Play-offs
 - provisional Result Magic and Pulse Premier gained entry to Open Division 3

6. Junior Entry Tournament – 7/8 June 2025

- 22 teams have registered an intent to enter the U14 entry tournament
- 27 teams have registered an intent to enter the U16 entry tournament

Final numbers will be known once the deadline for payment has passed (16 May 2025)

- 18 teams had expressed an interest to enter the U13 2025/26 Regional league. As this would mean only 2 teams missing out on a place the CTSG made the decision not to run an entry tournament and run 2 Divisions on 9 teams. Initially the divisions were going to be based on geographical location to reduce the travelling commitments but following requests from various teams it has been decided to base the divisions on last years u13's

placings. There has been one late request for entry which the CTSG are considering due to the county from which the team is from (Oxfordshire).

7. National Clubs

- U16 – Huge congratulations to Eagles who won the National Clubs for 2024/25. Weston Park came a commendable 7th.
- U14 – Eagles achieved 3rd place, another good result, and 5Ways came a commendable 11th.

8. Dates for the diary

- Junior Entry Tournament – 7/8 June 2025
- Club Forum – Initially planned for 15 May but is being rearranged to allow CTSG to issue draft regulations and to give teams more time to digest

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE FUNCTION:

<u>KPI</u>	<u>HOW TO MEASURE</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
1. Minimise Sanctions	Maintain Breaches of Regulations Document on Google Drive	10 or less	20	+10

KEY RISKS/ISSUES:

<u>WHAT IS RISK/ISSUE</u>	<u>MITIGATION</u>	<u>BY WHOM?</u>	<u>BY WHEN?</u>	<u>NOTES</u>

Toni Brunsdon
Interim Competitions Director, Netball South
On the behalf of CTSG

Officiating Report

Netball South Officiating Report 2024/2025

NS Open & U19 Leagues

The 2024/2025 proved to be challenging with umpire availability. However, all fixtures were completed with minor rearrangements for the U19s. The 1 September 2024 also saw the implementation of the Amended Rules, with a significant change to Game Management. Umpires have handled this well, but it has also proved challenging for the teams to come to terms with.

Umpire Achievements

With the introduction of the NSL 2.0 Superleague and NXTGEN for U23s this season, umpires in the South have had very limited opportunities given to them, as the squad numbers were reduced.

Emma Izon-Siskin, Lisa Vallely and Emma Walker were all given the opportunity to be a Reserve Umpire at Superleague matches.

Emma, Lisa, Emma and Rebecca Moher were all appointed to NXTGEN games.

Lisa Vallely was appointed to travel to St Kitts to officiate at the USA Men's Netball Championships. Kylie Woodhead and Alice Johnson were appointed to the National Premier League Play-offs, with Kylie being appointed to one of the Finals.

Rebecca Moher, Laura Stunell, Mae Holmes and Erin Graham were appointed to the National Schools Finals, with Erin being appointed to one of the U14 Semi Finals.

Erin Graham, Helen Bond and Megan Pratt were appointed to the National U16 Club Finals.

Alice and Liv Johnson, Nicola Bolton and Liz Sywyj were appointed to the National U14 Club Finals.

We have had another successful season of umpires attaining either their A or B Award level with Helen Bond achieving her A Award and the Olivia (Lolly) Macdonald, Maria Thorley, Diane Long, Shannon Cooney, Martha Simons, Laura Thurow, Stacey Wilson and Connor Sharod-Southam achieving their B Awards.

Each County in the South recorded a high number of Into Officiating and C Award successes.

Assessor Recognition

Margaret Deighan and Jo Kelly were appointed to the NSL Super Cup that kicked off the start of the NSL season, and to various NSL matches during the course of the season.

Margaret was also appointed to the UAP (Umpires Assessor Panel) for the Africa Netball Cup.

Technical Officiating Achievements

Julie Arnold, Leo Bacchus, Sarah Jackson, Jan Johnson, Kim Simmons and Tracy Stubbs were appointed to the Nations Cup (England, South Africa, Malawi and Uganda) at the Copper Box.

Due to the demise of the Surrey Storm franchise, South Technical Officials were involved in the new London Pulse Power NPL as well as the London Pulse NPL. These included Julie Arnold, Leo Bacchus, Toni Brunsdon, Emma Dell, Sarah Jackson, Jan Johnson, Jo Coker, Kim Simmons, Mary Stanley and Tracy Stubbs.

Julie Arnold, Toni Brunsdon, Jan Johnson, Jo Coker, Kim Simmons, Mary Stanley and Tracy Stubbs have been involved with the NXTGEN and NSL matches.

Jan Johnson and Mary Stanley have been selected for the Netball Europe World Youth Championships to be held in Gibraltar in October 2025.

Once again, we have supported Eagles Netball Club in the National Premier League Division 1.

Courses

Into Officiating, C Award and B Award continue to be run online by England Netball. The demand for these courses is so great that some umpires are finding it difficult to get on to them, with the limited amount of availability.

Regional Schools

The Regional Schools were held in February and was well supported by umpires within the Region with the following appointments were made by the Court Mentors on the day:

U19 – 3rd/4th play off – Sharon Penny and Clare Van Spall

FINAL– Emma Walker and Helen Bond

U16 – 3rd/4th play off – Hannah Hunte and Laura Stunell

FINAL – Fran Megson and Megan Pratt

U14 – 3rd/4th play off – Jade Hollis and Ben Vallely

FINAL – Shannon Cooney and Diane Long

Inter Services Championships

The following umpires/officials supported the UK Armed Forces at their Inter Services Championships hosted by the Royal Navy in Portsmouth:

Emma Dell, Julie Arnold, Mary Stanley, Tracy Stubbs, Julie Wilks, Karen Jones, Kim Simmons, Emma Izon-Siskin, Connor Sharod-Southam, and Hannah McGonnell

Regional Tournaments

Various umpires were appointed to the Regional Schools, Regional Division 3/U19 Play Offs and Junior Entry Tournaments, although this tournament unfortunately was cancelled at the last minute due to the weather. There were a lot of new faces mixing with the more experienced umpires.

Court Mentors were appointed to all tournaments, and I thank everyone for their continued support to Netball South umpiring, mentoring and assessing.

Finally, I thank all members of my OTSG for their continued support, enabling Officiating within the Region to run smoothly.

Julie Arnold
Director
Officiating Technical Support Group

On behalf of:
Tracy Stubbs
Julie Wilks
Alexia Bolton
Carol Williams

Governance Report

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR TIME PERIOD – 1 May 2024 to 30 Apr 2025

1. The Region submitted **key governance documents** to England Netball on 31 March 2024 as evidence of good governance as recommended by Tier 1 of Sport England's Code of Governance. 4 of our counties did likewise. Feedback has been received from EN on the Region's submission and a couple of small improvements to the Region's governance are being actioned. No feedback received by Counties as yet.
2. **RMB Volunteer recruitment** – a campaign in December and January 2025 successfully recruited three new Board members enhancing our current skill base. Lindsay Filiata, Melissa Piggott and Dawn Williamson joined the Board in March as Performance / coaching lead, Media and Marketing lead and General member with business strategy expertise respectively. All of these areas had been covered by current Board members over recent years and we
3. **Confidential legal advice** has been provided to both the RMB and members of Netball South as requested by Jeremy Pendlebury (RMB member with legal expertise).

4. **Confidential matters of concern** referred or dealt with in accordance appropriate timelines. There was a significant increase in MOC (35) plus some subsequent appeals. A confidential log is retained and also a record of experienced panel members who have supported the process. Areas of complaint include coaches, officials, league administration and potential safeguarding matters. The RMB's thanks goes especially to Carolyn Davies for her work as Resolutions officer and all panel members both from Netball South and beyond.

We look to make continuous improvements as a result of matters of concern raised by members when appropriate. For example, we are following up on an appeals form for Competition sanctions.

5. Our NS One Awards Event was a successful **celebration and recognition of the work of our volunteers**. It was organised and delivered on 21 June 2025 at Gorse Hill Hotel, Woking.. 138 guests enjoyed the afternoon. We had 81 One Award nominations for 10 award categories. Our thanks to everyone for attending and to the panel members for giving up their time to read through and score the anonymised nominations. Thanks also to both Lucy Cusack our regional officer and Zoe Barratt (Lucy's maternity cover to April 2025) for their significant contribution to the event's success.
6. The **2025 Netball South's Presidents Award** was given to Eagles Netball Club for their outstanding achievement in winning the Under 16s National Clubs tournament and securing bronze medals in the Under 14 age category. A wonderful achievement for all the young athletes and their coaches.
7. **EDI and Netball HER** – see separate report below. Our thanks to Amie Hing-Gibbs for her work in this area.
8. **Youth representative** – Millie Waite has been involved in many areas of the Region's work over the last year including supporting regional competitions, One Awards event volunteering and being a One Awards panel member. She provides the voice of young people around the table and is developing more and more confidence in understanding what goes on behind the scenes of NS regional business.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE FUNCTION:

KPI	HOW TO MEASURE	TARGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
1. Recruit new volunteers onto RMB / TSGs	Present new members for election at 2025 AGM	5 (inc. Chair)	4	1 (no candidates for volunteer role)

NOTABLE ACTIVITY and EVENTS POST 30 Apr 2025

- Preparation and support, in partnership with the Regional Office team, to the One Awards panel and then for the NS One Awards nominees event on 22 June 2025
- Exploration of ways to hear and listen to the voices of young netballers and athletes in the Region
- Release of the EN Gender Policy

24/25 EDI Annual Report – Amie Hing - Gibbs

The 2024/25 year has been a pivotal one for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) in our sport. We’ve made significant strides in refining guidelines for different playing categories, providing greater clarity and inclusivity across all levels of the game.

One of the year's standout successes has been the continued growth of **NetballHer**, which gained strong visibility and support through the Super League. We’ve also deepened our focus on **safeguarding** and **mental health**, recognising their vital roles in creating safe, supportive environments for all participants.

This year saw the introduction of **purple wear** for **International Women's Day**—a new initiative designed to raise both awareness and funds. While we didn’t hit our fundraising target, the campaign laid solid groundwork, and we’re confident we can expand its reach and impact in 25/26. Importantly, all funds raised were donated to the **World Netball Foundation**, helping to grow and support netball communities globally.

Looking ahead, 2025/26 is shaping up to be an exciting year. We anticipate growth in **mixed, boys’,** and **men’s netball**, as category guidelines evolve and awareness increases. We’re also planning deeper

collaboration with NetballHer, alongside renewed efforts for **International Women's Day** and the exploration of additional events to promote EDI principles across the sport.

Together, we continue to build a more inclusive and equitable future for everyone in netball.

Lindsay Sartori

Director

Governance

On the behalf of Governance TSG (including legal, resolution, volunteers, EDI / NetballHER and Youth representation)

England Netball Report

Firstly, we would like to extend a huge heartfelt Thank You from England Netball to each and every Netball South Member for your continued support, passion and dedication you have shown for our wonderful sport throughout 2024/25.

National highlights:

Gender Policy - England Netball have published the Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy that will come into effect across the game from 1st September 2025 and includes information relating to transgender players. We are now working to support the Netball Family to ensure that netball facilitators are adequately prepared for the upcoming season. Until this time, the Trans Inclusion Guidance which was last updated in August 2024 remains in place. [England Netball | Gender Eligibility and Participation Policy](#)

2026 Commonwealth Games - Glasgow 2026 will feature a 10-sport programme which, along with netball, will feature Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming and Para Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Bowls, Para Bowls and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball.

NETBALLher launch advisory board - Led by Kelly Gordon, Chair and Executive Lead for NETBALLHer at England Netball, the NETBALLHer Advisory Board includes system leaders with the vision to push boundaries and drive progress across the sector. Uniting an exceptional group of leaders with influence and experience working across grassroots sport, health, governance, policy, elite sport, law and advocacy, all of whom are dedicated to advancing opportunities for women and girls.

[England Netball | Five NETBALLHer articles from 2024 you might have missed](#)

Consciously Sustainable - With sustainability at the heart of our business priorities this year, I wanted to take the opportunity to raise some awareness of the work of our fantastic

Sustainability Changemaker Group. The group acts across the organisation to achieve the following aims:

- Steer and shape the content of a climate change and environmental sustainability strategy and action plan.
- Measure England Netball's carbon footprint and work towards achieving Planet Mark business certification.
- Raise awareness of our carbon footprint with staff and partners, and find engaging, cost-effective solutions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Develop a comms strategy that encourages and normalises consciously sustainable values, actions and behaviours.

If you are passionate about sustainability and interested in learning more about the group and its work, please reach out to Charlotte.Malyon@englandnetball.co.uk who will be able to share more information with you.

Member Benefits Platform - Now EN members have access to even more savings with a brand-new benefits platform. With exclusive offers and discounts from a range of exciting brands – such as Airbnb, Costa, and Pizza Express, as well as various family attractions, and well-known cinema and supermarket brands* – there is money to be saved and experiences to be enjoyed with Howden's Benefits Platform.

All you need to do is visit englandnetball.besaving.co.uk and sign up using the exclusive member code we have emailed you and start saving today!

Domestic Kit Guidance - We believe everyone should feel confident, comfortable, and empowered in what they wear on court. Read on to find out more about our [domestic kit guidance](#) and discover the importance of choice, safety and unity.

AGM - The England Netball AGM 2024 was held on 14 September 2024 at the Mercure Birmingham West Hotel, West Bromwich. The Board was pleased to welcome members and Honorary Life Members to the event. [England Netball | England Netball hold AGM 2024](#)

Staffing and Partnerships:

Katy Ryan returned from maternity leave to resume her role as Director of Development (4 days per week Tues – Fri) with lead responsibility for Game for Life and People (Development). Imogen Greatbatch will remain as Interim Deputy Development Director providing support for the People function within the department as Katy transitions back into the business.

A huge thank you to Kelly Gordon who has provided expert leadership to the Development team over the last 11 months in the role of DoD. I'm delighted to confirm that Kelly will be staying with EN as Executive Lead for NETBALLHer and will also be supporting with the embedding of our Working as One initiative locally (more details will be shared shortly). Kelly will be working an average of 2 days per week (Mon & Tues).

England Netball and Netball Super League partnership with Superdrug Online Doctor - The partnership which begins immediately, is a major six figure investment into the sport and will see

Superdrug Online Doctor become Official Partner of both England Netball and the Netball Super League (NSL). The partnership will complement England Netball's industry-leading NETBALLHer initiative which supports women and girls at all levels of sport about female health across the different life stages.

NIXI Body - NIXI Body's range of leak-proof underwear is designed with exercise in mind, to keep women moving through menstruation, motherhood and menopause. Netball is the most played team sport for women in the country, with over 3 million people taking to court every year, supported by the industry-leading NETBALLHer initiative which provides women and girls with the tools and resources they need to show up authentically and thrive in the sport at every life stage.

England Netball & Netball Super league partnership with Collection - Following a successful partnership which saw Collection Cosmetics support the NSL in the build up to the 2024 Grand Final, the beauty brand has now committed to a new deal that sees them double their investment across England Netball and the NSL.

Collection Cosmetics are committed to celebrating real beauty and promoting body confidence through spotlighting the stories of real women to inspire their female customers. This partnership will see netball put at the heart of this as Collection Cosmetics will empower women and girls with the inspiring stories of grassroots netballers, NSL athletes and the Vitality and Future Roses.

KitQueen and Nike - England Netball will be continuing their Nike relationship. The partnership will be supplied by KitQueen as the Official Kit Supplier of England Netball and the Vitality Roses.

SiS Official Sports Nutrition partner - The partnership will see leading performance nutrition brand SiS (Science in Sport) partner with England Netball in a multi-year deal as the Vitality Roses build towards the Netball World Cup in 2027.

A world-leading performance nutrition brand, SiS combines world-class knowledge and scientific formulations to provide optimal performance solutions for athletes, supporting their energy, hydration and recovery. This partnership will see the brand provide the Vitality and Future Roses with a range of products, supplementing their elite training programmes and powering their performances on court.

Soft & Gentle partnership - England Netball and the Netball Super League (NSL) have today announced a new partnership with Soft & Gentle that will see the health and beauty brand become the Official Super Shot Partner of the NSL and an Official Partner of England Netball.

Tournaments and Events:

The Netball Performance League (NPL) Tournament was held at the University of Nottingham. The tournament provides an opportunity for talented young athletes to compete in a highly disciplined and intense tournament at the end of the NPL season. Loughborough Lightning lifted the U21 NPL Tournament trophy and London Pulse taking the top spot in the U19 and U17 age groups.

National Schools - Hartpury College (U19) and Putney High (U16) have retained their 2024 titles at the 2025 National Schools Finals, in association with the British Army with Yarm School winning the U14 age group

National Clubs - Eagles have been crowned champions of the 2025 U16 National Clubs Finals, in association with the British Army.

Premier League Champions - Oldham Netball Club (PL1), The Downs Netball Club (PL2) and Blackpool Netball Club (PL3) have taken the 2024-25 Premier League titles. .

National and Regional One Awards:

The 2025 Regional One Awards is due to take place on 22nd June at Gorse Hill Hotel, Woking. The Region received 81 independent nominees across all 10 categories with circa 140 guests due to attend the Afternoon Tea and presentation event. A huge congratulations to everyone nominated.

The National event is due to take place on Saturday 18th October, the venue is yet to be confirmed.

England Vitality Roses:

The Vitality Roses have had a busy season with numerous fixtures against the top ranking nations. They maintain their World ranking of 4th despite a brief period of hold 2nd place.

Three match test series vs Diamonds in Australia (Sept 2024) - Australia claimed the test win 2-1 but only after the Vitality Roses took it to a deciding third game after only their second ever win over Australia, in Australia.

Vitality Roses win 2024 Taini Jamison Trophy in New Zealand (Sept-Oct 2024) Having already secured the Taini Jamison Trophy with back-to-back wins against the Silver Ferns in game one and two of the series, the third and final game saw New Zealand take the win 61-56 against the Vitality Roses.

This series win marked the first time that England has won the Taini Jamison Trophy since 2021, and the first time England has ever won a test series in New Zealand within the first two games.

Fast 5 - The Vitality Roses have finished fifth at the FAST5 Netball World Series 2024 after a hard-fought weekend of competition

Netball Nations Cup - England captured their first-ever Vitality Netball Nations Cup in Feb 2025, After two thrilling weekends of Vitality Netball Nations Cup action in Nottingham's Motorpoint Arena and London's Copper Box Arena, the Vitality Roses stormed to victory and lifted the trophy in front of a sold-out crowd.

In early 2025, the Roses finally won the Netball Quad/Nations Cup after five prior runner-up finishes

England U17 (Young Roses) - They swept the 2024 U17 Europe Netball Division 1 Championship England's U17 squad previously won the competition in 2024 in a tournament that saw the side go unbeaten throughout – and they repeated that feat, this time with a new-look squad.

Netball Horizon Series November 2024- This is a four-year series that will be held across England and Jamaica, with two home matches to be played in England and two away matches played in Jamaica for the next four years. Jamaica lifted the [Rhone Hornsby Trophy](#) in the inaugural Vitality Netball Horizon Series after a 61-53 victory in the decider. With both sides having recorded one win apiece and a draw, the stage was set for a tantalising finale at the National Indoor Sports Centre in Kingston.

Netball Reimagined/ Netball Super league 2.0 - On International Women's Day we held the first ever Netball Super Cup at Sheffield's Utilita Arena. This event marks the start of the relaunched Netball Super League, a moment that so many colleagues across the organisation have been working incredibly hard towards for a long time. The revamped Netball Super League (NSL "2.0") launched in March 2025:

Reduced squad sizes, fully professionalised contracts.

Average player salary rose ~82%.

Sky Sports tripled coverage of NSL games

[Home | Netball Super League](#)

Nxt Gen League - New U23 League and Player Pathway Structure Announced for 2024/25

As part of the Netball Super League (NSL) relaunch, England Netball has confirmed the introduction of a new U23 feeder league to strengthen the talent pipeline and support emerging players.

Key features include:

Nine teams: Eight aligned with NSL franchises (Birmingham Panthers, Cardiff Dragons, Leeds Rhinos, London Mavericks, London Pulse, Loughborough Lightning, Manchester Thunder, Nottingham Forest Netball) plus Team Bath by invitation.

Target group: Primarily for U23 athletes, with up to four over-age players allowed per squad to support transition and return to elite play (e.g. post-injury or maternity).

Format: Home-and-away fixtures starting February 2025, aligned with NSL matches where possible.

Squads: 16–20 players; U23 athletes may be called up to NSL as Temporary Replacement Players, with match fees and additional compensation.

Registration: NSL signing window closed end of August; U23 registration follows. Club trials to be announced.

This league was developed following an independent review and stakeholder consultation, ensuring continued elite opportunities amid NSL structural changes. It will sit within a broader national player pathway network across U15, U17, U19, and now U23 levels, ensuring consistent access to high-quality coaching and competition across the country.

Regional Highlights:

Targeting Muslim and Asian Women and Girls (Debbie Spindlow, Berkshire NDO) -

We know we have a larger than average Asian population in Windsor and Maidenhead and that Cosmopolitan Roses Netball Academy (CRNA) were doing some great work in targeting Muslim women to get into the sport and to flourish in a performance environment. We approached them

about setting up Back to Netball sessions and trying to encourage more local women to play netball and worked together to apply for funding from Berkshire Community Foundation.

We were successful in getting almost £2.5k and used this to set up an Open Day to give women and girls from local mosques the opportunity to try netball. As a result we had some great demand and had almost 50 women and girls attend. We subsequently tried to find a venue for evening Back to Netball sessions that allowed us to cover windows and doors so ladies could remove hijabs and abayas and play safely whilst maintaining their modesty. Unfortunately, this wasn't the easiest of tasks but we were able to find outdoor venue so juniors could start playing.

Eventually we were able to find a school that would open up in the evenings. As a result there are currently 51 women and girls playing junior and adult netball at Newlands School in Maidenhead. The funding was used to purchase equipment and pay towards court hire and coaching/umpiring costs. We also used some of the funding to pay towards coaching and umpiring course fees to ensure the club can continue to grow.

A mosque in Reading heard about the work we were doing and contacted us to put on netball sessions. I was able to find a coach to deliver on their behalf and we are now hoping to arrange some friendlies between the two groups.

Women from the netball sessions have felt fitter, lost weight and have noted on their improved mental health and wellbeing as a result of netball. We have new coaches and umpires in the area and CRNA have forged partnerships with organisations such as London Pulse who are supporting them in providing the Pakistan Netball Academy linked to the Pakistan National Team.

There is a big demand and passion for netball within the Muslim and Asian population and I'd love to continue to support the growth of this. One thing I've also learnt is the number of home schooled Muslim girls there are in Maidenhead, Windsor and Slough and am looking to grow my coaching workforce to be able to provide some "home school" netball sessions.

Thakeham funding for Walking Netball (Care McCormick, Hampshire) - Carey worked with EN commercial team to bring to life some of our partner funding from Thakeham Group. With the £1000 funding received / split to run two purposeful programs. A Walking Netball session and New Year Festival aligned to our priorities. Both opportunities have been successful, engaging with over 200 people.

Engagement since inception in September for our WN programme saw 30 ladies engaged with 28 of these being New to Netball and a throughput of 228 attendances .

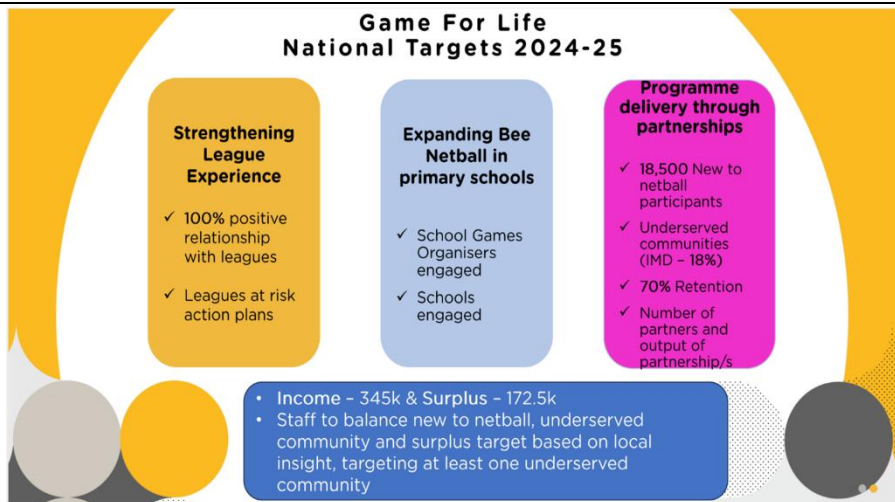
Testimonial from one the participants:

"Until recently, I hadn't played netball for well over 50 years and, to be honest, I wasn't an enthusiastic player at school. So when I found out about the New Milton walking netball sessions from a friend I wasn't sure it would be for me, but thought I'd give it a try. I'm so glad I did because It's such an enjoyable way to exercise. The sessions are fun, with a mixture of skills practice and matchplay, and your brain is working almost as hard as your body! Becky is really supportive and a great coach; I've made new friends, my fitness has improved and I've realised I can play team sports after all!" Sally Browne Walking Netball Participant"

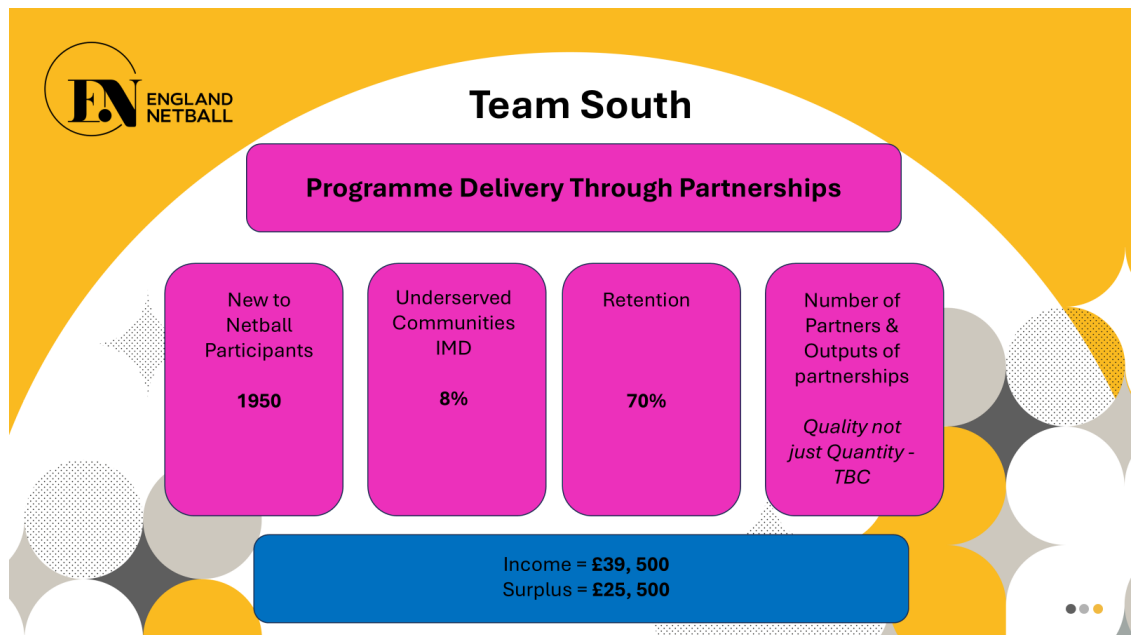


KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE FUNCTION:

Membership	ENgage	2023/24 O18 – 8077 U18 – 2616 U14 – 4034 U11 – 3185 Total – 17,912	2024/25 O18 – 7878 U18 – 2809 U14 – 4058 U11 – 3381 Total – 18,127	Variance O18 - 199 U18 + 193 U14 + 24 U11 + 186 Total + 215
Learning & Development <i>(*Please note these are taken from the Financial year 1st April 23 – 31st March 24 due to EN reporting processes)</i>	To be completed			
Regional Participation	Against a backdrop of EN’s Adventure Strategy destinations and Development Directorate priorities for 2024/25 supporting Game for Life, the Partnership and Delivery Team were focussed on the follows:			



Specifically, the regional South staffing team of NDO's and *NDCC (*for first 6 months of the year) core objectives for programme and participation in 24/25 were:



I am pleased to say the team have had a successful year and widely achieved their targets, falling only marginally short in financial surplus. It should be noted however these targets were not readjusted in the absence of a full time NDCC for 6 months of the year (Oct – March) so the team performed extremely well against original targets at reduced capacity.

Description	Full Year Target	Current Position/ Progress (25.03.25)		RAG (vs forecast)
New to Netball	1950	2219		114%
IMD Participants	8% of participants	N2N 10%	Total 8%	9%
Retention (attended more than 1 session)	70%	N2N All = 73% O18 = 97%	Total All = 70% O18 = 76%	73%
Income	£39, 500	£43, 170		109%
Surplus	£25, 500	£24, 650		97%

The table below shows the total number of programmes and number of participants engaged in the 24/25 financial year

Number of Programmes & number of participants

Programme	Number of Programmes delivered	Number of Participants
Back to Netball	60	883
Netball Now	15	500
Walking Netball	87	692
Netball Youth Camps	22	305
Other Programmes (e.g. Netball festivals, PARA Netball and Junior activity outside of Bee Netball Trailblazer Clubs)	17	1873
Total	201	4253 (*of which 2219 were New to Netball)

Please note Participation figures are for period: 1st April 2024– 31st March 2025

There has been no change to the NDO structure for Netball South and each County continues to have a dedicated England Netball member of staff to support the County, Leagues and Members. All NDO's are part time with the exception of Sussex who benefits from a full time NDO. There are no current vacancies to report. Alongside this the region is supported by a full time Partnership and Delivery Manager and Regional Officer.

During this reporting period the South did lose a full time Netball Development Community Coach (NDCC) when Rose Johnston left the organisation. This role has now been removed from the EN development staffing structure for 2025 onwards so this role will not be replaced in the South regional staffing team.

KEY RISKS/ISSUES:

<u>WHAT IS RISK/ISSUE</u>	<u>MITIGATION</u>	<u>BY WHOM ?</u>	<u>BY WHEN?</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Staff retention	All delivery staff on permanent contracts. CPD opportunities provided to aid staff retention Annual staff survey results analysed, and action plans created	EN	Mar 25 – April 26	N/A
Registered Leagues at Risk	National EN staff (Participation and Membership) working with local EN staff (NDO) on league support & member package	EN	Sept 2025	EN to work closer with regional & Counties to identify support
Cost of living crisis and the impact on participation (continued)	Partnership working with potential funders and grant providers and facilities to reduce costs where ever possible	EN	Ongoing	N/A
Hampshire NDO at max capacity due to loss of NDCC & volume of opportunities	Exploring increase in hours for existing NDO Focus on programmes delivered through Partnership Agreements and not staff led to help manage capacity	EN	Ongoing	N/A

NOTABLE EVENTS POST 30th Apr 2024

- Netball South One Awards – 22nd June 2025
- NSL Grand final – The O2, London – 6th July, 2025
- Netball South AGM – 8th July 2025
- National One Awards – 18th October

Regional Staff contacts**Partnership Manager:**

Amy Stewart	Partnership Manager South & Southwest	07872400739	Amy.Stewart@englandnetball.co.uk
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Regional Officer:

Lucy Cusack	Regional Officer	07540127404	South@englandnetball.co.uk
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Regional Office address:

England Netball, Netball South, Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, Bisham, near Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR
07442897972
<http://www.netballsouth.co.uk/>

Amy Stewart
Partnership & Delivery Manager South & South West
England Netball

Lucy Cusack
Regional Officer, South
England Netball

Finance Report**Notable Events:**

Continued improvement of financial reporting
Continue to look at better banking facilities

Outstanding

Investigation into hardship funding avenues

Errors:

Entry Fees for Junior League - rectified and refunded

Accounts 2024/2025:

Back dated transactions due to submission dates to ensure expenses on accounts

Reserve Aims:

Minimum of 3 years

Profitable Lines:

Open & U19 League:

The budget for the 2024/2025 season was set based on the previous years expenses.
For the 2024/2025 season there have been 86 unclaimed expenses. On an average expense that would have been an additional £ 2,362.24, so original budget was correct at that time.

Bursaries:

We will continue to support Clubs/Teams and Individuals for B Pathway, Level 2 and Level 3 coaching, competition travel and expenses for National Clubs, Premier Play Offs and Regional League Travel to Guernsey if required, facilities upon request.

2024/2025 - Mainland Teams approx. spend for just flight costs was £ 38,664.97

Netball South assisted teams to the value of £ 13,922.44

Proposal for 2025/2026:

Regional Membership per individual will be zero

Membership Totals:

	As at 21.05.2025	Full Year
South Region	2024-2025	2023-2024
Over 18	7796	8091
U11	3328	3194
U14	4019	4035
U18	2796	2617
TOTAL	17939	17937

2025/2026 Entry Fees will be:

Junior Regional League @ £ 35.00 per team

U19 and Open Regional League @ £ 475.00 per team

Jo Coker

Finance Director, Netball South

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income & Expenditure Account

Region South Accounts

Income and Expenditure Account Prepared As At 27/05/25

Year Ended 30 April 2025

Year End	30.04.2025	30.04.2024	30.04.2023
INCOME			
Membership		3	15
Competitions	31485	29815	27905
Special Projects			8860
Officiating	1120	260	650
Other (Interests & Misc)	2186	2368	725
	<u>34791</u>	<u>32446</u>	<u>38155</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Regional	1970	2875	2137
Competitions (Including Officials)	29701	33612	25965
Special Projects			11550
One Awards	2497	3455	683
Officiating (Including Pathway Courses)	2314	2542	1741
Media and Marketing	450	573	432
Bursaries	17341	8879	7900
Accountancy	360	317	280
Other	191	91	714
	<u>54823</u>	<u>52342</u>	<u>51402</u>
Profit (Loss) for the Year	-20032	-19896	-13247
Reserves B/F	110159	129775	143022
Adjustments	316	280	
Reserves C/F	<u>90443</u>	<u>110159</u>	<u>129775</u>
Savings Account	91555	116368	132500
Current Account*	<u>-1111</u>	<u>-6209</u>	<u>-2725</u>
Total Reserves	<u>90443</u>	<u>110159</u>	<u>129775</u>

*NOTE: Current account minus due to back dating of expenses

COUNTY REPORTS

Berkshire

Berkshire Netball Chair's Report 2024/25 There is so much great work going on in Berkshire within the leagues, clubs and communities to provide so many different opportunities for people to get involved with netball as players, officials, coaches, team managers and other volunteering opportunities. Something for everyone! A few things to mention from the past year:-

- Following completion of the Tier 1 Governance review which we reported on last year, we are still waiting for feedback from England Netball to help us plan for the future.
- Berkshire Junior Netball League just seems to go from strength to strength with was once again a huge success with teams from across Berkshire and beyond enjoying regular matches at various venues across the county. Thank you to Kate Maxfield who, together with her sub-committee, worked tirelessly to ensure that so many young players had the opportunity to compete on a regular basis.
- In addition to the winter league, a friendly summer league is also taking place to give teams the chance to keep playing regular netball.
- Berkshire Netball continued to run 2 x U13 and 2 x U15 Player Development Programmes as part of the England Netball Player Pathway. We welcomed Katie Fisher to the coaching team who was a great addition with her experience of the Player Pathway. This year saw additional training opportunities outside of the pathway with the creation of the fortnightly U13 and U15 Academies for those players who just missed out on a place in the PDPs.
- Berkshire Netball continued to provide financial support to clubs and individuals with a number of bursaries awarded during the year, particularly for new coaches being supported with the cost of their courses.
- Berkshire's Officiating Lead, Mary Stanley, together with her team of mentors and assessors, oversaw the development of many umpires within the county at all levels which has resulted in many new umpires gaining their qualifications this year.
- Berkshire's NDO, Debbie Spindlow, has once again provided excellent support and advice to the Board as well as delivering her own extensive work programme within the county. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work and enthusiasm and unwavering support for Netball in Berkshire.
- Berkshire clubs were well-represented in the Netball South regional leagues again this season with Eagles, Royals, Athena Bs, Woodley, Bs and Magnet all competing in various age groups. Eagles qualified in both U14 and U16 age groups and went through to the finals of the National Clubs competition with their U16s being the first Berkshire team in over ten years to lift the trophy and their U14s taking third place in their final. Berkshire Netball were delighted to provide bursaries to help with the cost of attending the finals.
- Wellington College U19s qualified through the county and regional rounds to go on to play at National Schools Finals in Sheffield to represent Berkshire and Netball South.
- Berkshire officials have once again been heavily involved with the NSL this season fulfilling roles as technical officials/umpires etc.
- Our Safeguarding Officer, Christina Turton-Berenger, has been busy keeping everyone up to date and supporting all our teams/leagues to ensure they are compliant with EN requirements. Thank you to everyone on the Board and to everyone involved with netball in Berkshire and to all the amazing people who help to make all of this happen. The dedication and hard work of all

those who help to deliver netball in the county is undoubtedly appreciated by all of those that benefit from it

Sarah Feast

Chair Berkshire Netball Association

Hampshire

Firstly, before saying anything about this year's achievements, the Hampshire Committee have whilst being a small group continued to deliver a fantastic league and opportunities for our players throughout the county.

We recently advertised for new members to fill some vacant positions and an update on trying to develop a succession plan for all roles as we all complete the recommended number of years and beyond. We all love what we do but we are very conscious that there is a need to have new people and new ideas to take things forward for the good of County Netball and the future of the sport.

This year we continued to spend a lot of our time developing our governance and reaching the expectations of Tier 1 for governance. As part of this we have had to review how we do things, our risk maps, our skill set and many other processes and documents.

This year we have agreed to provide a cash sum of £1000 to each of our 8 leagues to allow them to use in a manner that supports the growth of netball in their area. We are looking forward to hearing what the money has been used for and how it has made an impact in the local area.

FINANCE

Bursaries have been awarded this year as per our criteria. We have decided that our Affiliation Fees for 2025 – 2026 will be zero per adult and junior.

LEAGUES

The 2024-25 season has run smoothly for both Seniors and Juniors. Although it was looked at, it was not possible to allocate umpires this season

Intent to enter next season forms have been sent to all senior and junior teams.

Entry forms, amended rules will be sent to teams and be put on the website as soon as we can confirm dates

Pulse Premier won Division one and represented Hampshire in the play offs for Regional Division 3 and were successful and we wish them luck in the Regional League. Swan won the under 19 League but are ineligible to enter the Regional Play Offs so Team Force represented Hampshire. Again this year we ran the National Schools.

UMPIRING

This year has continued to be a difficult year for Officiating for the County as well as for leagues. There is a lack of experienced umpires and those looking to develop their skills offering to do Hampshire Games and for leagues that the lack of grass roots umpires continues to cause issues of being able to cover matches.

We have been assessing umpires as quickly as we can and In Hampshire from April 24 to end March 25 we have had 21 new C Award umpires which is 2 more than last year and but this

continues to be a drop in numbers to what we were seeing pre COVID. In addition, we have had 63 umpires pass their Into Officiating awards which is 7 more than the previous year.

A Huge Congratulations to all our new umpires

As you may be aware all courses are now run by EN on line and to become an umpire you must firstly complete an Into Officiating Course and assessment and then do your C Award Course. In 2024 64 people attended the Into Course and 70 have either attended this year or are booked to attended before the summer. Unfortunately, in the same period only a 41 people have subsequently booked on to a C Award course or 9 are booked for before the summer this year. We will be working with umpires to see what we can do to support more moving to this next stage. We are aware that a number of leagues are doing all they can to encourage this as well and holding specific events during the summer season to get more people involved in umpiring. We are aware that the costs of becoming an umpire have now increased and our leagues are continuing to support those working to the Into Officiating level and the county does have bursaries to assist for C and above.

We now have 16 Assessors within Hampshire, and 2 new Assessors are currently on their journey to join the workforce, Jeannie Brumhill and Julie Gailer.

We would like to thank all the assessors who have supported the Councy and continue to do so, Chris Granger, Christine Backshell, Mandy Gerrard, Gary Holden, Emma Dell, Tracy Stubbs, Nicola Bolton, Sharon Penny, Sam Roots, Beverley King, Rebecca Moher, Sharon Moher, Chrissy Bannerman, Jo Coker, Jodie Morley all from Hampshire. Julie Arnold, Janice Treasure and Mary Stanley from other counties.

SCHOOLS

This year our Schools Tournaments continue to run effectively. We held the U19's competition on Wednesday, 9th October and the U14 & U16 ran on Saturday 5th October. As always so many thanks to the HNA committee and the umpires who do such a MARVELLOUS job of running these competitions.

The finals of both U14's and U16's were contested by King Edward School, and St Swithun's. St Swithun's U16's were the only team to progress from the Regional round to National finals. The U19's competition was won by Peter Symonds who played off against a strong Portsmouth High School, both teams competed well at the Regional rounds.

For season 2025 - 2026 the planned dates for the competition are Saturday, 4th October for U14's & u16's and Wednesday, 9th October for the U19's competition. However this season, we will have the added challenge of locating a venue to host this competition. Possible options are using Wavell School, Russell Howard or, an avenue we haven't explored as yet, would be to use Places Leisure in Eastleigh for an inside event.

Last year we discussed that other counties are running for State School only participation at the end of the season. We have discussed this in our committee meetings, but Schools have not been contacted for this season. With pre planning in mind, a provisional date of Thursday, 26th March, 2026 is being proposed - venue to be confirmed. This should include Colleges/ Universities in the planning of this event and try to look for both INTO and C qualified umpires to develop good practice.

SAFEGUARDING

This season we have dealt with some referrals, but it has become clear that the role involves being more present in our Netball community. England Netball has started to publish more information about the role, making it specifically relevant to the groups we work with. They have also published a Job Description for the County Safeguarding Lead. The EN safeguarding lead is in regular contact about updates and training.

We have started to work with the team from Energise Me, their mandate is to support local Sports organisations in how they deal with safeguarding and participant welfare issues.

PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

- Coaches/ Staff

The coaches this year were Jan Crabtree and Ruth Claridge (U15's) and Chrissy Bannerman and Nikki Dunning (U13's). These are supported by Chris Granger who attends most sessions and Val Banks who keeps all of the admin up to date. Training is well attended and the athletes work hard to develop their skills and improve.

- Match Play

We have had several match days with our Pulse Power Counties (Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire) and these provide invaluable match experience for our athletes.

- Athletes

Currently we have 5 athletes in the Pulse Power U15 long squad who are preparing for the school games at the end of August.

Caitlin Jupp

Georgina Le Quesne

Hallie Eldridge

Amber Bonage

Millie Sloam

At the final session awards were presented to athletes for their achievements and improvement.

	U13	U15
Attacking Player	Aleyna Parry	Hallie Eldridge
Defending Player	Evie Hammond	Georgina Le Quesne
Most Improved Player	Grace Whitehurst	Alice Wroath-Hickley
Coaches Player	Imogen Thorne	Caitlin Jupp

- At the last session we were very fortunate to have an injury prevention talk on zoom by Professor Philip Chapman-Sheath. This was very informative and received well by both athletes and parents.

- Parents Meetings

A meeting was held at the start of the academy. The role that the County plays in the performance pathway was explained and parents were given the opportunity to ask questions especially with London Pulse taking over the pathway in our region.

- Trials

In preparation for next season preliminary trials for both the U13 and U15 squads have already taken place. The final trials will be held in September, 2025.

Carol Williams

Chair Hampshire Netball Association

Sussex

Thank you for taking the time to read through the various reports. I thank those who have written detailed and thorough reports outlining all that has happened in netball across the county. So much has happened and we must congratulate all the successes for players, umpires and coaches in the past year. Thanks also to all the committee members who just get on with their specific role. Also to all the volunteers who ensure that netball at all levels and ages runs smoothly year in, year out. Without these volunteers there would be less opportunity to enjoy the sport. Enjoy the season ahead.

(Reports to be summarised)

Helen Willard

Chair Sussex Netball Association

Oxfordshire

This year has seen several positive developments in Oxfordshire Netball's competitive and organisational landscape. A new competition for the U19 age group has been successfully introduced, providing a valuable platform for older junior players to continue their progression and remain engaged in the sport. We are also exploring the re-introduction of a structured U17 competition, which would run on the same night as current U19 to bridge the gap between U15 and U19 levels, supporting player retention and offering more consistent, age-appropriate match play. Additionally, the inclusion of U11 match play within the county framework marks a positive step toward developing early competitive experience for our youngest players.

The 2025 Coaching Secretary's Report highlights ongoing support through the Oxfordshire Netball Development Board's generous bursary scheme, offering up to £142.50 for Level 1 and £300 for Level 2 coaching qualifications, with recent funding awarded to two Level 2 coaches.

Efforts are underway to launch U11 Development Hubs in Abingdon and Bicester from September 2025, targeting Year 5 and 6 girls to build netball skills and confidence, with plans to expand to four hubs over two years. Trials and training sessions will run monthly from November to May, led by experienced coaches, with financial support available. A Coaching Academy originally planned for 2025 has been postponed to 2026 due to personal circumstances and will aim to support new and progressing coaches.

The Oxfordshire COL Report (June 2024 – May 2025) reflects a successful year for officiating development in the county. Completed assessments include 8 INTO Officiating Awards, 5 C Awards (with 2–3 more learners nearly ready), and 2 B Awards. Encouragingly, learner uptake remains strong, with 57 enrolled on INTO Officiating courses, 13 on C Award, and 2 on B Award courses since June 2024. The Oxfordshire Umpire Academy, currently midway through its programme, has 16 learners progressing well toward their INTO Officiating qualifications, many showing potential to advance to the C Award in September 2025. It's particularly positive to see

Over 18 learners engaging in the pathway. Additionally, support is being developed for a small group of Over 18 learners who couldn't attend the Umpire Academy but have completed their virtual learning and now require practical experience to prepare for junior league umpiring this autumn. The report ends with a heartfelt thank you to the Oxfordshire Officiating Working Group for their continued dedication and support, with special recognition to Kate Miller for her administrative and mentoring contributions and to Deb Horne for her ongoing expertise despite personal health challenges.

Jo Kelly's 2024 Schools Tournament Report expresses gratitude to all who supported the successful County Netball Tournaments held on 9th November 2024, particularly the umpires (Team White), the organising committee, and St Helen & St Katharine School for hosting. A total of 27 teams from 14 schools participated across U14, U16, and U19 categories, with one team withdrawing. The tournaments followed a round-robin format and concluded with St Helen & St Katharine winning both the U14 and U19 sections, while Headington Rye School claimed the U16 title. All winning and runner-up teams went on to represent Oxfordshire at the Regional Rounds. Looking ahead, the 2025 County Tournaments are provisionally scheduled for Saturday 8th November 2025, with the venue to be confirmed.

The 2024–25 season saw the successful delivery of Oxfordshire's County Player Development Pathway (PDP) for both U13 and U15 age groups, each involving up to 20 athletes and running from October to May. The programmes concluded with county tournaments for both age groups, where one team from each participated. A key takeaway from this season is the need for more match play opportunities against other counties, which is being considered for the future to enhance competitive experience. This year, Oxfordshire officially transitioned from the Central Warriors to the Loughborough Lightning territory. Discussions are underway to establish an U17 PDP locally, as regular travel to Loughborough would be challenging. In an effort to address the disparity in netball exposure between independent and state school students, U11 development hubs will launch in both the north and south of the county next season. These hubs aim to build skills earlier and level the playing field for future PDP selections. Coaches interested in contributing to the programme are encouraged to get involved.

For the first time in Oxfordshire, we have welcomed boys to compete in our netball competitions. This was initially trialled with the new U11 age group and has proven successful, encouraging greater inclusivity and participation. Additionally, a male player (16) has been trialled in the Prem Plus league, with clubs responding positively to this development. While there are currently no plans to formally open the leagues to male participants at this stage, we aim to build interest over the coming years in the hope that clubs will welcome male players with open arms. Our long-term vision is to establish a dedicated male and/or mixed netball league within Oxfordshire.

Monday nights continue to feature Prem 2 and U19 competitions, with Prem 2 now comprising teams from the former Prem 2 and Division 1. Meanwhile, Wednesday nights have been restructured to consolidate Divisions 2, 3, 4, and 5 into larger divisions, providing more match play opportunities across three sessions instead of two. Currently, 33 teams compete on Monday evenings and 37 teams on Wednesdays, with all six courts fully utilised during both sessions on each night. The 2024/25 season will finish off with a dedicated Celebration Day on Saturday, 12th July at St Helens & St Katherines School, Abingdon.

The day will begin with our AGM, followed by a county-wide Fun Play Day for young players in Years 4 to 9. This junior event is designed to encourage participation without the pressure of club

representation—players will register individually, and teams will be formed on the day, with experienced coaches from across Oxfordshire leading each group. Importantly, the Fun Play Day will also offer a valuable development opportunity for our trainee umpires, who will officiate the games with support and guidance from their mentors throughout the day.

The afternoon will feature the finals of the new summer competition—the Cup, Plate, and Bowl—bringing the eight-week tournament to an exciting close. We'll then celebrate the season's achievements with presentations for League Winners and Runners-Up, culminating in our inaugural OXO Awards (Oxfordshire One Awards), recognising outstanding contributions to netball across the county.

This event marks a new chapter in building community, visibility, and recognition for everyone involved in Oxfordshire Netball. Food & drink will be available for the Celebration Day, offering a meal deal to keep everyone fuelled throughout the event. All Oxfordshire Netball members attending will receive a voucher to redeem food at the trucks, as a thank-you for their involvement over the season. Accompanying parents, guardians, and siblings are welcome to purchase food on the day but will not be eligible for a free voucher.

Looking forward into 2026 and beyond, we will be further developing the U11 Hub programme. This is a key Oxfordshire initiative aimed specifically at targeting state primary schools where netball provision and delivery is currently lacking. Our goal is to provide more equitable opportunities for young players across the county, helping to build skills, confidence, and passion for netball from an earlier age.

Lesley Killpack
Chair - ONDB

South Bucks

We appointed a new Chairman in September 2024 and this, coupled with the continuing hard work of the committee, has put us on the front foot for 2025 and beyond. Netball is certainly thriving here in South Bucks. Our Kingsmead Netball Centre alone sees over 1,800 netballers a week through its gates. We have 11 clubs entering around 49 teams playing in the Junior League at the weekend. We attract teams from out of county too which is great. We have two from NW London and two from Berkshire, including a new team this year.

There are about 60 teams representing 30 or so clubs in the summer/winter leagues and, in addition to all that, the centre is also used for training during the week. We also have a separate Chalfont League, outside of High Wycombe, but I haven't been supplied with numbers for that. All in all participation levels have increased from last year and one of our key focuses is to continue to improve those levels of participation for the coming season.

With more participation we will inevitably need more volunteers - whether it's Team Managers, Coaches, Safe Guarding Officials or First Aiders - and this was set out by the Chairman at our last AGM as another key focus point for the coming year. Our goal is not just to increase volunteer participation but to get more volunteers qualified in order to retain their services and create more 'buy in', as it were.

Officiating

We have had many volunteers gaining their 'Into Officiating' award in the last 12 months and we have had several C award passes and one B award pass. One of our committee members (Mel Simpson) has also qualified to be able to carry out C award assessments.

The County round of the Schools Tournament gave valuable experience to those new to umpiring.

Schools

Our Schools Tournament was a success again and we witnessed some exceptional play from some very talented netballers. A special thank you to everyone involved with the smooth running.

U19 Winners – Wycombe Abbey

U19 Runners Up – Sir William Borlase

U16 Winners - Wycombe High School

U16 Runners Up – Dr Challoner's

U14 Winners – Wycombe High School

U14 Runners Up – Dr Challoner's

At the Regional Schools Tournament Wycombe High School U14 qualified for the National Schools Finals alongside Brighton College both representing Netball South – well done to both teams.

Financial Grants

Beneficiaries of County Support have been as varied as, but not limited to, clubs travelling to Guernsey, volunteer and coach development and a school travelling to Nationals. Any awards made have met our criteria.

One Awards

In March of this year we held our very own South Bucks One Awards evening celebrating those volunteers and coaches who continue to work tirelessly to grow the sport in our County. As a result, we have nominations in almost every category at the Regional One Awards and I wish all nominees every success.

Performance Report

Successes

- We have two athletes selected into Mavericks U15 development squad: Romy Comer Blaze NC and Esme Williams Clan NC.
- We have one athlete selected for the Pakistan National Team - trials were run by London Pulse on behalf of Pakistan Netball - Sophia Kamathia – Falcons NC. Sophia is also selected to attend the Asian Youth Games in June in South Korea - she has to go there for the selection, hopefully she will be selected.
- Loughborough Lightning - Seven players have attended monthly training sessions at Loughborough Lightning on Fridays, they have now been selected for the U15 Territory Futures Squad and will play against the Loughborough Lightning U15 National School squad at Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham on the 2nd May ahead of the NSL match against Loughborough Lightning and Manchester Thunder - this is an amazing opportunity for them. They are Suzy Voss (Royals), Amy Quick (Clan), Erin Ford (Clan), Ria Khanna (Marlow Kites), Tomi Oshin (Marlow Kites), Sophie Ashworth (Royals) and Grace Speller (Magic).

At present players going out of age range, and not in a Franchise Pathway, have nowhere to go as there is no U17 pathway programme in place. So the Performance Lead and the Chairman are discussing the practicalities of an U17 Academy within the County as a way of retaining our Performance Athletes and helping them transition into the senior leagues. This of course will also be open to those players who have developed as netballers at a later stage and suitable players from other clubs and counties.

Focus topics for the next 12 months

Increase Player Participation including a potential new over 18's Mixed Division Winter League.
Possibly hosting a Mixed Tournament.

Increase our number of volunteers and qualification levels amongst our volunteers.

Player Retention – the drop off after U15 is excessive. The gap between U16 and U19 is not helping, hence the need for a U17 Academy.

Long live Netball in South Bucks!

Jonny Sanders

Chair South Bucks Netball Association.