

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Netball South



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

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FUNCTIONAL REPORTS

Chair's Report

To our South Region Netball family; I want to personally thank all of you that volunteer tirelessly in different roles ensuring our sport is growing and very much thriving in the South, with success across all areas, from players, coaches, officials, team managers, parents; the list is endless and could not happen without you, so a huge thank you to 'our team behind the team'. To my fellow RMB members and TSG officers who have again worked relentlessly for the 2023-2024 season making sure our Region is one of the most successful with a Regional Management Board and TSG officer group that is skilled, organised, passionate and driven to actively promote our Sport and support our members and embracing change when it is needed.

Officiating saw major achievements again and a special mention too, to our youth players who again did our Region proud at the National Clubs and our players across the younger age groups Roses who have been selected into the National academies as well as our main Roses squad securing the World cup silver medal, unprecedented for us as a Country. The Pathway nationally is where our emerging talent starts their journey and credit to the great clubs and Counties that support them on their journey.

At the time of writing this, the Superleague 2.0 has been announced which changes the direction of our sport on its quest for professionalisation; the Superleague needs our national talent pathways to be strong, robust, and accessible and Netball South will ensure that our Region continues to be one of the strongest areas for producing this talent with an infrastructure in place to support this. We are in the process of addressing this for our Region with England Netball.

I say this every year but will do so again; our sport could not achieve what it does without our volunteer infrastructure and I want to personally thank everyone who gives their time for our sport. I am proud to be part of this great volunteer network and want to continue our journey to embrace trust, openness, honesty, transparency and foster a culture of 'working as one' for the good of the sport.

The main themes we, the Exec and our Board at Netball South with our Counties are embracing this year are:

- Ensuring we have a pathway accessible for our emerging talent.
- The next phase of the Adventure Strategy, underpinning the England Netball Adventure strategy 10- year plan.
- All Counties achieving Tier 1 Governance for our Region and Counties which is mandatory for England Netball (ref: Sport England Sports Governance).
- Delivering the One Awards at the Netball South Celebration Event on 15 June 2024 which was a success.
- Delivery of the National school's regional rounds.
- Delivery of the Regional qualifiers on 8th&9th of June.

We are continuing to face real challenges in our sport due to rising cost of living which knocks on to the sport in a variety of ways including travel, facilities, kit, and we want to ask everyone to think about this and ways we can support our sport to ensure there are no financial barriers to entry; this will include Netball South asking England Netball to review the fee structure on membership and reduce this to assist our sport; Netball South will not be charging their membership element for the 4th year running.

Finally, I want to thank you, our members who we serve and look forward to another great season of netball, with final special closing to our Board, but in particular to Toni, our vice chair, and Jo, our Finance Director who work tirelessly behind the scenes with me.

Julie Tucker

Chair Netball South Regional Management Board

Competitions Report

Club Competitions:

Netball South conducted a full set of Regional Leagues and Divisions in ages ranging from U13 to Open

- 43 rearrangement requests were received during the 2023/24 season.
 - National Schools
 - 26 requests
 - 1 withdrawn
 - 1 declined as didn't meet criteria.
 - Higher Level netball
 - 7 requests
 - 0 declined
 - Other requests
 - 10 requests
 - 5 declined

Of the 27 requests 22 received were granted.

League Results:

OPEN DIV 1

Winners Swan
Runners-Up Weston Park Blades

OPEN DIV 2

Winners Brize Jets
Runners-Up Team Matrix

OPEN DIV 3

Winners Eagles 2
Runners-Up Rushmoor 2

U19s DIV 1

Winners Eagles
Runners-Up Swan

U19s DIV 2

Winners Dreams
Runners-Up Rushmoor

U16 Div 1

Winners Eagles
Runners-Up Weston Park Blades

U16 Div 2

Winners Clan
Runners-Up Swan

U14 Div 1

Winners CD Phoenix
Runners-Up Royals

U14 Div 2

Winners Team Beds
Runners-Up MK Netters

U13 Div 1

Winners Eagles
Runners Up 5 Ways

U13 Div 2

Winners MK Netters
Runners Up Magnet

Swan went on to represent Netball South at the National Premier League playoffs, unfortunately they narrowly missed out on gaining a place in Premier Division 3 and hence will remain in Open Div 1.

Brize Jets and Team Matrix will be promoted to Open Division 1 with Shooting Stars and CD Phoenix being relegated to Open Division 2.

Eagles 2 and Rushmoor 2 will be promoted to Open Division 2 with MK Netters and Clan being relegated to Open Division 3.

Open Div 3 Playoffs

Sunday 19th May saw six teams competing, with Athena Bs and Shooting Stars 2 securing the two places available in the Open Div 3 league for the 2024/25 season. It was a hard-fought day with 4

teams still in contention going into the final game. *(CD Phoenix 2 were unable to maintain their place in Open Division 3 at the playoffs)*

U19 Div 2 Playoffs

Four teams also competed for one place in the U19 Div 2. Two teams finished on the same points, so the place went to CD Phoenix based on Goal Average. Commiserations to Team Beds for coming so close.

Dreams and Rushmoor were promoted from U19 Division 2 to U19 Division 1.

National Results

U14 Clubs

5th CD Phoenix

9th Royals

U16 Clubs

5th: Eagles

6th : Weston Park Blades

Congratulations to all teams representing Netball South

National Schools

The National Schools Regional Round took place on Saturday 3rd February 2024

Regional Results

U14

Winners: Headington

Runners-Up: St Swithins

U16

Winners: Wellington College

Runners-Up: Hurstpierpoint

U19

Winners: Wellington College

Runners-Up: Stowe School

National Results

U14

8th : Headington

9th : St Swithins

U16

= 5th : Wellington College

= 5th : Hurstpierpoint

U19

2nd : Stowe School

3rd: Wellington College

Congratulations to all teams representing Netball South.

Looking Forward:

The entry tournaments will be held on 8th and 9th June in Farnborough, fixtures will then be published and distributed as soon as possible. England Netball are undertaking a review of the regional rules with a view to standardise sections where appropriate. Netball South will then review these standard rules and propose additions as they deem appropriate, considering the discussions at the January 2024 club forum. These revised rules will be circulated, with teams being able to provide comments via a Google form. Following the collation of comments a decision will be made as to whether a rules forum is required.

Toni Brunsdon

Interim Competitions Director, Netball South

On the behalf of CTSG

Officiating Report

NS Open & U19 Leagues

The 2023/2024 did not get off to the best of starts due to confusion regarding fixtures. However, allocations were made to 3 Open Divisions and 2 U19 Divisions, with minimum disruption.

Umpire Achievements

Emma Izon and Emma Walker were awarded a position as Reserve Umpire at Superleague matches, to gain knowledge and experience at what is expected at these matches, with Rebecca Moher shadowing at matches. Emma Walker was selected to attend the Netball Europe U17 competition in Gibraltar in March 2024.

We have had one of the most successful seasons with umpires attaining A and B Award Levels with their Umpiring pathway. Erin Graham and Megan Pratt attained their A Awards and Ildiko Wardle, Isabella Kelly, Suzanne Haley, Ellie Balchin, Emma Stone, Elaine Pieters, Clare Van Spall and Laura Stunell all attained their B Awards.

Each County in the Region registered several Into Officiating and C Award umpire successes. Let us hope these umpires will now progress to the next level.

Helen Turton, Rebecca Moher, Nicola Bolton and Clare Kitchen attended the National Schools Finals, with Rebecca being appointed to an U19 Semi Final.

Assessor Success

Chantel Moore completed her training and has been approved as a B Award Assessor.

Technical Officiating Achievements

Tracy Stubbs was appointed to the England Thorns v Jamaica Men's Match.

Jo Coker, Tracy Stubbs, Mary Stanley and Emma Dell officiated at the Surrey Storm v Republic of Ireland match.

Jan Johnson, Sarah Jackson and Jo Coker were appointed to the Netball Europe event held in Wales.

Julie Arnold and Toni Brunsdon were appointed to the NPL competition weekend in Nottingham.

Julie Arnold was appointed to the NPL Opening Day in Nottingham.

Julie Arnold, Tracy Stubbs, Toni Brunsdon, Jan Johnson, Debbie Horn, Kim Simmons, Rachel Tanner and Mary Stanley were appointed to the Nations Cup held at Wembley.

Jo Coker was appointed to the Superleague Opener held at Loughborough.

Julie Arnold and Mary Stanley were appointed to the NPL Closing Day held in Nottingham.

Tracy Stubbs, Jan Johnson, Toni Brunsdon and Kim Simmons have been appointed to the Superleague Finals in Birmingham.

We are very strong in the South with our Technical Officials, and it is good to see that a majority are being selected for National and International matches.

Netball South are responsible for appointing TOs to the NPL and NSL at Surrey Storm and London Pulse, and we have a good group of other TOs who support these franchises as well.

We have also supported Eagles Netball Club in their first season in National Premier League Division 2, and it was great to see them promoted to Division 1.

Courses

All umpire courses are now run online by England Netball. I know the Counties have faced a huge task in getting assessments organised for Into Officiating and C Award.

All current Assessors were required to attend an Assessor Standardisation Course, which is generally held every 4 years. I would like to thank Kim Schepens, Yvonne Jamieson and Audrey Castle for their support to Netball South in the past and have now taken the decision to step down as B Award Assessors.

World Netball have issued the 2024 Edition of Netball Rules, which will come into effect on 1 September 2024. England Netball are currently in the process of holding Webinars and are encouraging all members of EN to attend at least one session. Game Management and Contact sessions are to follow. County Officiating Leads will lead this in their Counties and all Umpires who are currently listed on the Accredited Umpires List (AUL) for Regional Umpiring have been emailed and encouraged to attend these sessions.

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 – Rachel Tanner and Liz Sywyj

FINAL– Helen Turton and Emma Izon-Siskin

U16 – 3rd/4th play off – Nicola Redman and Laura Thurow

FINAL – Ellie Balchin and Connor Sharod-Southam

U14 – 3rd/4th play off - Laura Stunell and Eloise Smith

FINAL – Ben Vallely and Megan Pratt

Inter Services Championships

The following umpires/officials supported the UK Armed Forces at their Inter Services Championships at The Garrison, Aldershot:

Emma Dell, Julie Arnold, Mary Stanley, Tracy Stubbs, Julie Wilks, Karen Jones, Kim Simmons and Emma Izon-Siskin.

Regional Tournaments

Various umpires were appointed to the Regional Schools, Regional Division 3/U19 Play Offs and Junior Entry Tournaments. There were a lot of new faces mixing with the more experienced umpires. Court Mentors were appointed to all 3 tournaments, and I thank everyone for their support.

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 2023 to 30 Apr 2024

1. The Region submitted key governance documents to England Netball by 31 March 2024 as evidence of good governance as recommended by Tier 1 of Sport England's Code of Governance. Hampshire, Berkshire and Sussex also complied with this deadline.
2. Confidential legal advice provided to both the RMB, and members of Netball South as requested.
3. Confidential matters of concern referred or dealt with in accordance appropriate timelines.
4. Successful netball celebration and One Award event organised and delivered on 17 June 2023 [Netball South Celebration Event 2023 Wrap Up! - Netball South](#)
5. Netball South's Mary Stanley was awarded England Netball Honorary Life membership at the EN National One Awards event on 14 October 2023
6. Equality, diversity and Inclusion - two members of the RMB attended England Netball's Dedicated to difference workshop and EN's online inclusion training modules completed by several members of the board.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE FUNCTION:

<u>KPI</u>	<u>HOW TO MEASURE</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
1. Submission of NS governance documents to EN by 31 March 2024	Cross check with EN guidance	100	100	0

NOTABLE ACTIVITY and EVENTS POST 30 Apr 2024

- Preparation and support, in partnership with the Regional Office team, to the One Awards panel and then planning for One Awards winners event on 15 June 2024.
- RMB Youth rep Millie Waite to be a member of the panel.
- Continue working to improve and evidence Netball South's governance in line with its governance action plan. Risk register, Board experience and skills matrix to be refreshed.
- Exploration of ways to hear and listen to the voices of young netballers and athletes in the Region

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 2023/24.

National highlights:



NetballHER

On 1st November we launched to members the first of our 4 courses as part of the NETBALLHer Learning Offer, 'The Female Body'. All the information on how to access these free course can be found [here](#). NetballHER also celebrated its one-year anniversary since its launch. The full impact of the female health initiative can be found [here](#). The NetballHER program won the Great British Workplace Wellbeing Female Health Advocate Award.

AGM

The 2023 AGM was held on Saturday 16th September in Solihull, and we were joined by a number of our valued members. This meeting marked the end of three board members' time on the board, Tracy Clarke, Debbie Ryan and Sharanjit Gulati. At the meeting the members elected two new Nominated Directors to the EN board, Serena Kersten MBE and Claire Harris. They both join the board with immediate effect along with two new Independent Directors, David Mahoney MBE and Tim Rolfe and a Co-opted Director Jill Emney. You can find out more about our new look board [here](#).

Director of Development



Katy Ryan has returned from maternity leave to resume her role as Director of 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. We thank Kelly Gordon who has provided expert leadership to the Development team over the year in the role of DoD and we are 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.

Tournaments and Events:

National and Regional One Awards

The 2023 Regional ONE Awards event was held in June at Wavell School. It was a fun filled day with plenty of faces showing up to support those up for awards. We received a new record number of nominations, over 80, with the ONE award category winners; Lisa Wayman, Liz Creighton, Stars NC, Mary Stanley, Lindsay Sartori, Laura Ellis, Sarah Wilcox, Carolyn Davies and Zoe Cheal, all being shortlisted for the National ONE Awards event in October. A full write up and pictures can be found [here](#).

England Netball CEO Fran Connolly welcomed more than 264 guests to the Belfry Hotel in Sutton Coldfield and brought Vitality Roses Head Coach Jess Thirlby and Netball World Cup debutants Funmi Fadoju and Olivia Tchine to the stage to acknowledge an historic summer after the team reached their first final.

There were 23 awards presented on the evening, starting with seven recipients of the Pass on Your Passion reward and recognition scheme acknowledging the contributions of some amazing young volunteers who have logged over 400 hours of volunteering.

Our very own Mary Stanley was awarded an Honorary Life Membership at the event. A huge, and thoroughly deserved achievement. Congratulations, Mary.

England Vitality Roses:

Netball World Cup 2023 - England won silver at the Netball World Cup after reaching the World Cup final for the very first time in South Africa. The Vitality Roses, who beat the world number one Australia and reigning champions New Zealand on route to the final, were ultimately defeated by the Australian Diamonds 61-45 who have followed up their Commonwealth Games gold medal with a world title. England are the first team other than Australia and New Zealand to play in the World Cup final since 1995.

Commonwealth Games 2023 - Team England beat Scotland 34-29 to secure the bronze medal in the inaugural Commonwealth Youth Games netball competition. Both sides were looking to bounce back and finish their campaign on a high after just missing out on the gold medal match.

NZ Test series 2023- The Vitality Roses concluded an incredible three-match test series in which the New Zealand Silver Ferns regained the Taini Jamison Trophy with a 2-1 win. For many of the players who took to court this was their first experience coming up against the world number two side and over the course of the three matches they stood up tall, silencing many overseas who had questioned their ability before seeing them shine and push the Silver Ferns across three brilliant test matches. Congratulations to the Performance team who have been working incredibly hard

with the team over the past two months and will now be getting all the athletes back together to prepare for the South Africa series in December.

U21 Netball Europe- The England's U21s took part in the Europe Netball tournament at the UK Sports Institute in Sheffield. England took on fellow Home Nations Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales across three days of netball for the European title.

Fast 5 2023 - The Vitality Roses won bronze at the 2023 FAST5 Netball World Series in Christchurch, New Zealand with Paige Read picking up player of the tournament.

Netball Super league - The new NSL season kicked off on Saturday 17 February at the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham for the Season Opener. Building on a successful 2023 where we saw average attendances rise by 10%, we had a renewed focus going into 2024 to deliver more thrilling matches, provide enhanced experiences for fans and grow the game by taking the sport to new audiences. This year also saw the NSL secure extended broadcast contracts with BBC and Sky Sports confirming a minimum of two games would be available to watch live and on demand each week on BBC Sports and Sky Sports YouTube channels. See all the details about the Season Opener and the 2024 fixtures at netballsl.com.

Regional Highlights:

Oxfordshire facility refurbish – The central venue league in Oxfordshire had their facility condemned preventing all leagues from playing. A huge effort between EN, the CNA and facility providers resulted in newly resurfaced courts and rejuvenated, floodlights enabling 1770 to play and benefit and returning the Oxfordshire Netball league both junior and senior to a central venue. Fantastic partnership working between staff and the ONDB and resilience demonstrated by all!



NETBALLHer Implementation at local level - Hampshire has been encouraging its clubs and programmes to support NETBALLHer. Ravens Netball club has fully embraced NETBALLHer organising donations from senior members to enable the Club Safeguarding Officer to make up Court Short Kits for all Level 2 coaches to support across the clubs complete playing programme. A

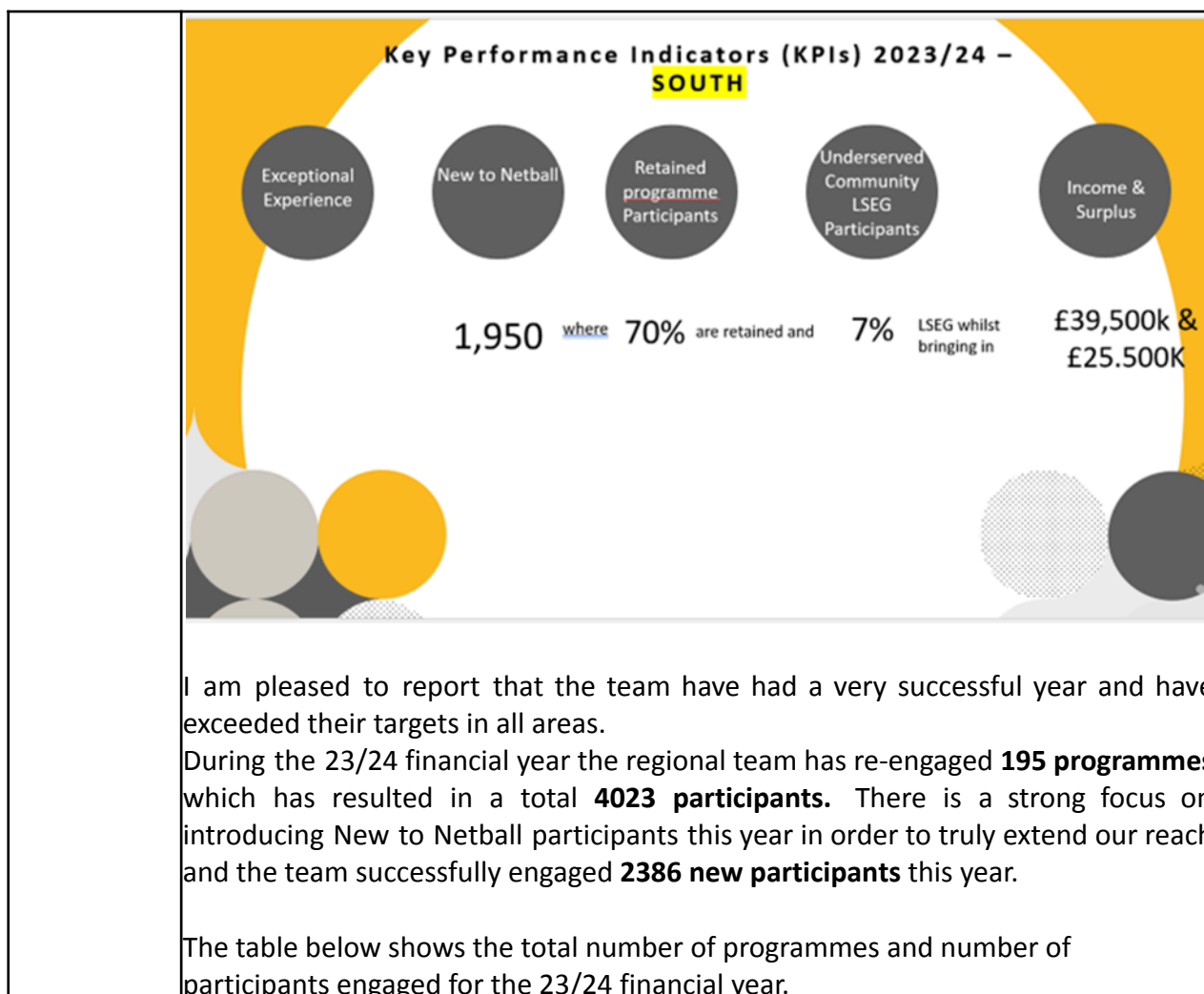
new Mental health and Wellbeing hub on their club website as part of their members area has aligned to NETBALLHer.



Hampshire League and Programme Partnership - In Hampshire A Netball Now programme in partnership with Gosport & Fareham Netball Association ran from Jan 24 - March 24 with 51 participants attending including 26 who had not played netball in the previous 12 months. The programme had previously ran June 23 - Nov 23 - engaging 70 participants and creating 2 newly formed teams who joined the Gosport & Fareham member league. This is a live example of how programme implementation can support and strengthen an EN member league.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE FUNCTION:

Membership	Engage	2022/23 O18 – 8088 U18 – 2431 U14 – 3719 U11 – 3371 Total – 17,609	2023/24 O18 – 8077 U18 – 2616 U14 – 4034 U11 – 3185 Total – 17,912	Variance O18 - 11 U18 + 185 U14 + 315 U11 - 186 Total + 303
Learning & Development	Virtual courses delivered Nationally: Athlete Identification – 6 Games Sense Workshop – 4 INTO Officiating – 120 C Award Officiating – 39 Level 1 Coaching – 41 Face to face courses delivered across the Region: B Award Officiating – 1 (1 course ran in April 23 in Sussex) Level 2 Coaching – 3 – (Sussex, Hampshire, Bucks) Walking Netball Host – 3 (South Bucks, Hampshire, Oxfordshire)			
Regional Participation	Against a back-drop of EN's Adventure Strategy Destinations and subsequent objectives for 2023/24 the regional South staffing team of NDO's and NDCC core objectives for programmes and participation (Game for Life) in 2023/24 focus around the following:			



Number of Programmes & number of participants

Programme	Number of Programmes delivered	Number of Participants
Back to Netball	59	1378
Netball Now	18	531
Walking Netball	72	789
Netball Youth Camps	28	407
Other Programmes (e.g. Netball festivals, PARA Netball and Junior activity outside of Bee Netball Trailblazer Clubs)	18	918

Please note Participation figures are for period: 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

There has been no change to the NDO/NDCC structure for Netball South and each County continues to have an England Netball member of staff to support the County, Leagues and

Members. The role of Sussex NDO has been vacant since February 2023 and following a robust recruitment process a new NDO will be starting in Sussex in August 2024.

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 23 – April 24	N/A
Registered Leagues at Risk	National EN staff (Participation and Membership) working with local EN staff (NDO) on league support package	EN	Sept 2024	EN to work closer with regional & Counties to identify support
Cost of living crisis and the impact on participation (continued)	EN Pricing Policy Partnership working with potential funders and grant providers and facilities to reduce costs.	EN	Ongoing	N/A
NSL 2.0 Changes proposed for 2025	CEO regularly communicating and consulting with Regional Chairs Group	EN	Ongoing – Jan 2025	From May 24

NOTABLE EVENTS POST 30th Apr 2024

- NSL 2.0 Announcement – May 24
- Netball South One Awards – 15th June 24
- NSL Grand final – Resorts World Arena, NEC Birmingham – June 29th, 2024

Regional Staff contacts

Partnership Manager:

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

Zoe Barrett	Regional Officer	07442897972	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

Zoe Barrett
Regional Officer, South
England Netball

Finance Report

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR TIME PERIOD – 1 May 2023 - 30 Apr 2024

1. Zero membership Fees charged 01.08.2023 to 31.07.2024
2. Continued understanding of expenditure as cost codes continue to grow as and when something new arises

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE FUNCTION:

<u>KPI</u>	<u>HOW TO MEASURE</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
1. n/a	n/a	100	n/a	0

NOTABLE EVENTS POST 30th Apr 2024

- Proposed zero membership fees for 2024/2025 season to RMB so this will be proposed at AGM for all Members who have voting rights to vote
- Continued improvement of financial reporting compared to previous year with correct allocation of expenditure relevant to technical groups so that we can adjust for future years and ensure ALL members receive the benefit of Netball South Financial aid
- Continue to look at better banking facilities to reduce the amount of administration needed and for better interest rates on savings
- Investigation into Hardship funding avenues

Jo Coker
Finance Director, Netball South

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income & Expenditure Account



Ladies of Ledger Ltd
TB4, Tapnage Farm, Titchfield Lane, Fareham, PO175PQ
Email: office@ladiesofledger.co.uk website: www.ladiesofledger.co.uk

23rd May 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Review of Netball South Accounts Year Ending 30 April 2024

We have completed a review of the records for the period ending 30 April 2024 and confirm that the accounts represent the transactions reviewed. No cash or cheque transactions were made. Only the HSBC accounts opened 2021 were in use and there were appeared to be no transactions via any other bank provider.

A sample of payments and receipts were chosen at random and comments are made as follows:

- Membership fees were minimal and totalled £3.00.
- Expenses claims were reviewed and found to be in order and as per reimbursements made.

The following items should be noted:

- 1 A large reserve in excess of £116,000 at the year end exists in the HSBC savings account.
- 2 The maintaining of claim forms and receipts on the googledrive appears to be still working very well and is proving beneficial for all back up that requires keeping.

Yours faithfully

Ms A Salter

COUNTY REPORTS

Berkshire

Berkshire Netball has enjoyed another successful year due to the work of all the amazing volunteers in the clubs and leagues throughout the county and on the Board.

Highlights are as follows:

- Berkshire Junior Netball League was once again a huge success with teams from across Berkshire and beyond enjoying regular matches at various venues across the county. Kate Maxfield, worked tirelessly together with her sub-committee 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 also took place to give teams the chance to keep playing regular netball.
- Berkshire Netball's U13 & U15 PDPs for our talented youngsters ran at St Neot's School, Eversley and Wellington Health & Fitness Centre, Crowthorne. Berkshire also hosted two Play Days and welcomed teams from Surrey and Hampshire to provide an opportunity for athletes to put into practice the skills that they were learning in their PDP sessions. We also attended the Bedfordshire Invitational PDP Tournament with teams from all over the county and finished 5th in both age groups out of 18 teams.
- We welcomed several new coaches to our PDP coaching team this year to work alongside our more experienced pathway coaches. The coaching team were- Kate Maxfield, Georgie Maxfield, Marina Bowles, Zoe O'Brien, Jacqui Cossar, Poppy Simpson, Katie Holmes and Sarah Feast.
- A number of Berkshire U15s were selected for franchise U15 Schools Games Academy programmes for Surrey Storm and Mavericks as well as for the U17 NPL and PDP squads.
- Berkshire's Performance Lead, Sarah Feast, continued to sit on the Surrey Storm Talent Management Group.
- Berkshire Netball provided a number of bursaries to support coach development at various clubs within the county.
- Berkshire's Umpiring Secretary, Mary Stanley, oversaw the development of many umpires within the county at all levels and, due to the hard work by her and her team of assessors, many umpires were successful in gaining their umpiring qualifications. There was a significant number of aspiring young umpires who attended the online Into Officiating courses and have subsequently passed their practical assessments. Many of them gained experience and were mentored at the Berkshire Junior Netball League matches during the winter and summer.
- Berkshire's NDO, Debbie Spindlow, continued to provide excellent support to the Board as well as delivering her own work programme within the county. She organised a number of EN netball programmes within the county e.g. Walking Netball, Back to Netball. She also organised a tournament for teams whose players are not currently part of a competition squad as well as a Walking Netball Tournament.
- Berkshire clubs and schools were once again very well represented at national finals of their respective competitions with Eagles going through from the Netball South competition to National Club Finals in the U16 age group (finished 5th at Nationals) and Royals going through in the U14 age group (finished 9th at Nationals). Wellington College

qualified through the county and regional rounds to go on to play at the National Schools Finals in both the U19 and U16 age group.

- Berkshire officials have once again been heavily involved with the VNSL this season fulfilling roles as technical officials/umpires etc.
- Eagles Netball Club built on the success of last year by achieving back-to-back promotions by winning promotion to the top tier of the National Premier League. Their home matches at Rivermead Leisure Centre provided an opportunity for Berkshire netballers to go along and watch some top-class netball right on their doorstep.
- Athena-Bs won a place in Div 3 regional league at play offs.
- The Board completed the Governance review as required by England Netball.

Thank you to everyone involved with netball in Berkshire and to all the amazing people who help to make all of this happen.

Sarah Feast

Chair Berkshire Netball Association

Hampshire

This year we continued to spend a lot of our time developing our governance and reaching the expectations of Tier 1 for governance. This is an ongoing and ever developing requirement of EN to ensure that Counties are supporting them to receive their funding from Sport England. 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. We are one of the only Counties in the whole of the Country to have been able to complete this work. This has been cumbersome on the Committee, will continue to take up our time and I would like to thank all for doing this and the required training that we have had to complete as well.

Last year I advised that we would be looking to focus on our strategy linked to England Netball Adventure Strategy, this has not been possible and is still an outstanding item for us, but we are also waiting for more information on this from EN and the Region before we embark on this. We have also had a quick review of our constitution and have proposed some minor amendments. What have we been doing this year – we have concentrated on consolidating our leagues and looking at how we can improve and develop these – adult and junior. We continue to look to improve these and will be having more forums with teams and umpires in the coming weeks. We have reviewed our position to the coming years subscription for Hampshire and our Treasurer will be leaving the affiliation fee as per this season. We will continue to advertise (finding different ways to get the message over) and encourage the use of bursaries and we will be reviewing our criteria in the coming year and how these work to make it easier for members.

FINANCE

Bursaries have been awarded this year as per our criteria. Our affiliation fees for 2024 – 2025 will remain at £0.50 per adult and zero per junior.

LEAGUES

The 2023-24 season has run smoothly this season for both Seniors and Juniors. This season we added an under 19 division which was well supported. It was not possible to allocate umpires this season, but this will be looked at again going forward.

Entry forms amended rules will be sent to teams and be put on the website as soon as we can confirm dates. We are currently waiting for region to confirm their dates

Shooting Stars won Division one and will be the team to represent Hampshire in the play offs for Regional Division 3. Pulse Premier U19 will represent Hampshire in the Under 19 Regional Entry Tournament.

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 I know for leagues that the lack of grass roots umpires continues to cause issues of being able to cover matches.

An Officiating Technical Support Group was established this year and we have been working with leagues to support them. The group includes Gary Holden who has been particularly working with Portsmouth and Gosport and Fareham and Holly Buddle who is part of the Andover League. We will be continuing to try and develop umpires' skills over the next year.

We have been assessing umpires as quickly as we can – you have all been crying out for more umpires and I am pleased to advise that from April 23 to end March 24 we have had 19 new C Award umpires. This continues to be a drop in numbers to what we were seeing pre COVID. In addition, we have had 57 umpires pass their Into Officiating awards which is twice as many as last year.

As you may be aware all courses are now run by EN online and to become an umpire you must firstly complete an Into Officiating Course and assessment and then do your C Award Course. Over 330 people in Hampshire have already done the Into Officiating. Unfortunately, in the same period only 69 people have subsequently booked on to a C Award course and I will be working with umpires to see what we can do to support more moving to this next stage. I am 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. In the same period only 11 people are looking to do the B award most of whom were existing C umpires.

We are aware that the cost of becoming an umpire have now increased from the 1st April and would ask leagues to continue to support those working to the Into Officiating level and remind people that the county does have bursaries to assist for C and above.

We now have 5 new Assessors within Hampshire, Sam Roots, Jo Coker, Jodie Morley, Rebecca Moher and Sharon Moher. All the new assessors are able to assess Into Officiating and are working towards becoming C award assessors.

I would like to thank all the assessors who have supported me and continue to do so, Chris Grainger, Christine Backshell, Mandy Gerrard, Gary Holden, Emma Dell, Tracy Stubbs, Nicola Bolton and Sharon Penny all from Hampshire. Julie Arnold, Janice Treasure and Marty Stanley from other counties.

Finally, we know that there have been a number of Rule Clarifications being introduced from September 2024. I am working with leagues to provide forums and opportunities for umpires and players to learn about the changes, but I would also like to direct people to watch the videos that World Netball have made which are really helpful and take any opportunities you can to attend sessions provided by England Netball which will be run from May to September.

SCHOOLS

This year our schools' tournaments run effectively, we held the U19's competition on Wednesday 11th October and the U14 & U16 ran on Saturday 7th October. As previously minuted the winners of the U19 competition were St Swithun's and Runners up were Barton Peveril. Barton Peveril had a very successful year, also qualifying to attend the AoC National Championships. Their girls represent a number of different Hampshire clubs, and we wish them well.

The winners of the U16 competition were KES, Southampton and runner up were St Swithun's. The winners of the U14 competition were St Swithun's & runners up KES, Southampton. St Swithun's U14 made the National finals and came 13th overall in the Finals competition. We at HNA are incredibly proud of all the schools' participation.

It has been brought our attention again that the IoW schools should be attending our county tournament rather than entering directly into the regional tournament. We will advise the IoW contact this term of the dates that have been set for 24-25 season. U19 date is Wednesday 9th Oct and U14 & U16 is Saturday 5th October.

It has been brought to my attention that both Sussex and Surrey are running tournaments for State school only participation at the end of the season and I wonder if this something we should be working with our NDA and other coaching partnerships to offer.

SAFEGUARDING

The number of referrals to me have increased, coaches and volunteers are being scrutinised in a way we haven't really seen in Netball before. There are a number of reasons for this, but we have started to work with Sarah Goddard from Energise Me who has been appointed as a Hampshire Safeguarding and Wellbeing officer. Her mandate is to support organisations in how they deal with safeguarding and participant welfare issues.

We would like to invite her to talk to us about how she can support us further, plus link our local leagues to her services moving forward.

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 Surrey Storm Counties (Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire) with the U15 squads only losing one match and the U13's winning their final event.

• Athletes

Currently we have athletes in three different U15 long squads who are preparing for the school games at the end of August.

Surrey Storm:

- Lillie Buckton
- Ava D'Arcy-Ly
- Annabelle Franklin-Wilson
- Freya Morrison
- Delilah Wadsworth

Team Bath:

- Rosa Kasozimusoke
- Poppy Russell

- Ava Tarry (has another trial due to injury)

London Pulse

- Kianna Williams

This number is higher than the other countries in our group.

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

- 'Open' Evening

We ran an 'open evening' offering junior club coaches an opportunity to visit the academy to see the standard of players and understand the selection process prior to nominating athletes for trials. This was received positively by the coaches in attendance.

- Parents Meetings

A meeting was held at the start and finish of the academy. The role that the County plays in the performance pathway was explained and parents were given opportunity to ask questions. At the final U15 session the current National landscape was explained with the fact that all NSL teams have re-applied for their place next season and as yet we do not know who has been successful. This will have an impact for those athletes leaving the academy and moving onto U17 NPL sides. We are keeping the parent WhatsApp group open so that we post up to date information as we hear it.

- Trials

In preparation for next season Preliminary Trials for U13s and U15 have been held with 25 from each age group going forward to Final Trials where they will trial with the age eligible from this year to get final numbers for next season.

Carol Williams

Chair Hampshire Netball Association

Sussex

It has in Sussex once again been a busy netball year across the County.

This is an opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for all they do.

We have been joined by Jessika Wood as junior representative and more recently Hannah Hunte who has taken on the various social media platforms and the county website. Thank you both for your help with this.

The County and Committee would like to thank Natalie Bygraves who is stepping down from her role as Performance Lead of the academies to pursue new adventures. Many thanks Natalie for your organisation and guidance to all the coaches and players and good luck for the future.

While I thank all the Committee members for their hours and commitment to netball I express huge gratitude to Lindsay Sartori for the many hours of work to get Sussex where they should be regarding the governance documentation. Sussex would not have completed this without her knowledge, expertise and dedication. Other counties have also benefited from her help, and I am sure they are as grateful as we are.

The County recently said goodbye to Hannah Sturdy our Development Officer. She has been a massive help during her time in post.

In regard to officiating the following was shared at the Sussex AGM by Alice Johnson-
Courses:

Into Officiating – 63 umpires have attended an Into Officiating Course, 21 umpires are due to attend an Into Officiating Course between May and August 2024.

C Award – 16 umpires have attended a C award course; 2 umpires are due to attend a C award course between May and June 2024.

B Award – 1 umpire has attended a B award course, 1 umpire is due to attend a B award course starting in May 2024.

Assessments:

Completed Assessments

Into Officiating – 28 umpires achieved Into Officiating Level.

C Award – 14 umpires achieved C Award Level

B Award – 2 umpires achieved B Award Level

A Award – 1 umpire achieved A award Level

Special mention and congratulations to Laura Stunell (B), Ellie Balchin (B) & Megan Pratt (A) for achieving their B & A awards. An incredible achievement and very well deserved given the dedication and work that you have put into your umpiring this season.

Kate Miller, the County treasurer, gave an overview of the support the County has given to the many bursary applications. Venue costs and travel costs have increased hugely, and it is an agenda item for future meetings as Sussex will struggle to continue this level of support in the years to come.

Beneficiaries of County support are the National Schools County round, the County State School cup, an individual for PDP, a senior club for participating in a National Competition, travel support for a club fulfilling a regional fixture away in Guernsey and an U14 team playing in the National Club finals.

Helen Willard

Chair Sussex Netball Association

Oxfordshire

It's been an up and down year for Oxfordshire. Our central venue courts are still an ongoing concern. We were excited at the start of the season to get our courts back having spent 2 years away from them. However, an issue with the resurfacing has meant that we had to move all our games again to an alternative venue for the winter season. We finally got the go ahead to use them for the summer league. There are still ongoing issues, but we are managing to play on them.

We've continued to develop our umpires, with 26 new IO umpires & 7 new C awards with a further 19 now actively working towards their C awards. The umpire academy is running again this summer and we have 18 new trainees starting their journey. By September we will have 37 trainees umpiring across the Junior & Adult leagues.

In January a working group was set up to look at the structure of netball in Oxfordshire. Highlight areas of concern and to devise a structure to take Oxfordshire forward over the next 5 to 10 years. This has been a successful piece of work, and we are now in the stages of restructuring based on the recommendations of the working group and their findings.

This is still an ongoing piece of work and hopefully next year I can write and tell you all how successful it has been.

Lesley Killpack

Chair - ONDB



North Bucks

North Bucks has had a successful year due to the ongoing hard work of all the volunteers in the clubs and leagues throughout the County and on the Board.

Highlights are as follows:

- There are two adult leagues in North Bucks MKINL and ADNL, both of whom work tirelessly to ensure there is netball for all ages and abilities in our County. We want to personally thank the MKINL league who work in partnership with North Bucks for their talented youth to access the leagues and the necessary level of competition for their ongoing development.
- In addition, we want to thank Kym Dennis and her team for providing a walking netball festival annually that is a huge success in the Milton Keynes area.
- North Bucks Netball's U13 & U15 PDPs for our talented youngsters run at multiple sites and are lucky to have such an amazing coaching team to support this programme including Tracy Gilloran, Laura Thurow, Adrian Dumbleton Julie Tucker Debbie Hayhurst and our hard-working coordinator Gemma Loud. Our North Bucks squad secured the inaugural National title for Mavericks (Superleague) competition at U13 age group in a final that was showcased as a curtain raiser game prior to the Mavericks v Manchester Thunder match earlier this season.
- North Bucks Performance Lead, Julie Tucker, continues to champion our County for equal and fair access to pathways.
- North Bucks Netball continues to support coach development within the county with bursaries for a number of Level 2 coaches from various clubs and financial support to our leagues, contributing towards escalating facility hire.
- North Bucks Umpiring Secretary, Carolyn Davies, oversaw the development of many umpires within the county. There was a significant number of aspiring young umpires who attended the online Into Officiating courses and have subsequently passed their practical assessments. Many of them gained experience and were mentored at various Junior Netball matches during the winter and summer.
- Stowe school U19 squad, with 3 of the athletes on the court started their netball journey at Mk Dons and Mk Netters Netball Clubs secured the runners up National Schools title, Issy Kaye, Anna Collinge and N'dea Lambert; one of those players Issy Kaye is currently in the England Roses programme.

Mk Dons and Mk Netters Netball Club recently had the news, that now 3 of the players that came through their clubs, Sophie Egbaran, Celena Appleby-Prince and Issy Kaye, are all within the Roses academies, 2 of them Sophie and Celena, named in England futures.



In closing, North Bucks will again be proposing not to include the County element of the England Netball Membership fee and will be asking England Netball to review the cost of their fee to their members.

Thank you once again to all our hardworking volunteers who make this sport what it is.

Julie Tucker

Chair North Bucks Netball Association.