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Kent Netball Newsletter July 2012

# Kent netball



volunteers >>>

## Kent Academy athletes carry the flag

In April, England Netball took on Barbados in the International Test Series at Surrey Sports Park. And this event provided a fantastic volunteering opportunity for girls from Kent's Satellite Academy. 7 of our lucky athletes got the chance to carry the flag, act as ball girls, and meet and chat with the England players!! Shannon Murray and Paige Money had a great day "It was just the most amazing experience and one we will never forget. It was great watching the game, carrying the England flag with friends we have met through netball, and of course meeting the players at the end."

Join England Netball's Pass on Your Passion scheme to get involved in netball volunteering [www.Englandnetball.co.uk/youth-zone](http://www.Englandnetball.co.uk/youth-zone)



Kent volunteers with England's Rachel Dunn

## Time to say thank you! Reward your volunteers for all their hard work

The season is drawing to a close, but before you hang up your trainers for the summer, why not take a few minutes to think about that special person in your club who has made your season such a good one. That's exactly what Otford Netball Club did for their long serving founder and member, Shirley Ellis. Shirley is now the proud recipient of the London & South East Muriel McNally award.

Otford Netball Club, in Sevenoaks, was set up by Shirley nearly 20 years ago with a small grant and an enthusiastic group of 8 – 14 year olds. Today the club is thriving with over 90 members of all ages. As well as the club, Shirley was an integral part of the Committee that

launched the Sevenoaks Junior netball League, now providing regular competition for young players in the area. Shirley's passion for the game has been an inspiration for parents, coaches and young people alike. How does she do all of this - "No medals but just hard work". Shirley will join the rest of the L&SE Regional winners at England Netball's National Volunteer awards later this year. Well done Shirley on your award!

You may have missed the Golden Globes, but you can still say thank you to your volunteers. This season Kent

Netball have launched their Volunteer Awards!



L&SE Volunteer Award Winners

Do you have a teacher that goes that extra mile? Or how about your coach or umpire? A young volunteer who is always keen and enthusiastic? Or maybe behind the scenes you have that someone who takes the subs, looks after the kit, manages your website and everything in between!

Show how much you appreciate all their time and effort and nominate them now!!

The deadline is fast approaching so visit the Kent Netball website today to make your nominations

[www.kentnetball.co.uk](http://www.kentnetball.co.uk)

## Premier & Regional round up

In Premier 3, Telstars had an outstanding first season in the Premier League winning all their matches, scoring 856 goals and taking the title

13 points clear of runners up Grangetown! Telstars will now be competing in Premier 2 this coming season.

The rest of

Premier 3 was a tight affair with only 10 points separating 3rd to 10th. Comets had a steady season, posting good wins along the way, and maintained their place in the League finishing in 5th place.



Telstars Premier league squad

KCNC's relegation from Premier 1 last year meant they faced a tough season in a competitive Premier 2. After many hard

fought matches, including a win over eventual winners Leyton, the club also finished the season in 5th place.

In the L&SE Regional League, Wealden were crowned Regional Winners, losing only one game all season!

Wealden joined the rest of the country's Regional winners in the Premier League Play-Offs, hoping to win a place in Premier 3. After a successful first stage, winning all their group matches, they unfortunately missed out on promotion this year.



Comets in action

Elsewhere in the Regional League's top division Vibrant and Raiders both struggled with consistency, but managed to retain their places, finishing 6th & 7th respectively. In Division 2 Comets achieved 3rd place with a loss of only 6 games. At the other end of the table London Lionhearts finished in 8th place and will be re-joining the Kent County Senior League next season.

Congratulations to all the clubs on their season and in particular winners Telstars and Wealden on their success.



Wealden U14 squad

## National Clubs

### National U14 Clubs

Wealden and Telstars took top spots at the U14 Regional qualifier and went onto the National Finals in Bath in May. An exciting weekend of competitive action saw both clubs play very well. Wealden finished the day in 7th and Telstars 11th.

### National U16 Clubs

Telstars were this year's winners of the U16 Regional League and, with 2nd place Essex Open, went on to represent the Region at the National U16 Clubs in Norwich. The club had a really good first day, winning all their group matches. But they had tough matches in the latter stages and finished the competition in 13th place.

Well done to all the clubs and players on their national achievements!

## County league action

*Kent clubs have had a successful season this year in England Netball's Premier & Regional leagues.*

Last year's Regional Play Off qualifiers, Crystal Palace, were determined to get a second shot at the Regional League and set the early pace in the Senior County League. Telstars were hot on their heels resulting in a tense mid-season match between the two clubs, a match Telstars won by 1 goal! Crystal Palace bounced back and went on to win all their remaining matches. Telstars followed suit until a crucial game against KCNC which they narrowly lost and finished the season 1 point behind Crystal Palace. Crystal Palace were crowned League Champions for the second year and received the much coveted spot in the Regional Play-offs. And at the Play-offs there was success at last for the club, as they breezed through their matches and will be joining the Regional League next season. Congratulations to Crystal Palace!



Crystal Palace at the Play-offs

In the County Junior League Telstars U16's took their 3rd successive title with 18 wins from 18 and an impressive 1062 goal tally! CFX pushed them all the way, losing only 2 games, both to Telstars.

In the U14 section, newcomers Beacons made an impressive start with an early unbeaten run, closely followed by Wealden. As the season continued both Wealden and Beacons continued to post wins, with Telstars now joining the race for the title. Unfortunately penalties for Beacons meant they dropped places and Wealden went on to take the title, 1 point ahead of Telstars.

Congratulations to Wealden and Telstars, and all the clubs for providing an exciting season.

# Kent sweep the board

The London & South East Region held a Regional Festival on 11th March at the impressive new facilities at Redbridge Sports Centre. 28 squads from the Academies of the 4 counties across the Region took part in a fun and competitive day of netball...



Kent Netball Academy athletes

In the U17 section Kent's 2 squads had a great day taking 1st and 2nd place! After an early draw with Surrey 1, Kent 1 were aiming to win all their remaining games. As were Kent 2 who had only lost one game to Middlesex. An exciting game between the two squads, and a win by Kent 2 meant they went on to take 1st place, with Kent 1 taking 2nd. In the U14 section Kent's four squads were not to be outdone. The Potential squad won their group unbeaten, with the Bexley Development squad taking 2nd place. The Maidstone Development squad secured 1st place in their group, beating Kent's Potential 2 on route, who finished 3rd in the group. This meant an all Kent semi-final between Maidstone and Bexley, won by Maidstone, and setting up a final against Kent's Potential 1 who had beaten Surrey 1 in their semi. An exciting game resulted in Potential 1 winning the U14 section with the Maidstone squad as runners up. The Bexley squad finished 3rd overall with Potential 2 in 5th. The day was the end result of a season of very hard work from all the players. England Netball Development Officer, Natalie Beckett, said "The girls played so well, and with real enjoyment and enthusiasm. We are very proud of their achievements today." A special mention also goes to all the Kent Academy coaches for their dedication this season.



Fran Desmond & Amanda Davis

## National Trial Success

England Netball held their trials for the National Excel Programme in April. We are delighted to announce that **Freya Thompson, Olivia Emanus** and **Sally Fisher** were selected for the U19 programme. **Hayley Pring** and **Maddie Ellison** were selected for the U17s.

Congratulations also to **Laura True, Holly Walton, Sarah Durr** and **Katie Harris**, who were nominated for a trial. To receive a National trial nomination is an achievement in itself and all the girls should be very proud.

This year the L&SE Region have a number of players in the National Excel Programme, making them the second best Region in the country for producing junior national players. Kent can be very proud after being the county who have gained the most national representation!

## National talent

All of the National Talent League (NTL) sides descended on Sheffield EIS for the final rounds of the competition at the end of March to see who would be crowned NTL champions. Surrey Storm had already defeated last year's winner, Mavericks, and needed a win against Northern Thunder to take the title. This turned out to be the final competitive game of the league but unfortunately Storm just couldn't quite match Thunder's intensity. Coach Emma Blackmore said "The girls gave everything they got and could leave the court with their heads held high. To finish second, one place higher than last season, is a huge achievement for the squad". Well done to all the squad and a special mention to Kent athletes Amanda Davis,

Fran Desmond, Olivia Emanus, Katie Harris, Mel Steingass & Freya Thompson.

Congratulations also go to Amanda for receiving Storm's Most Outstanding Player of the Season award. Well done Amanda!



## Netball Europe

In March the England U17, U19 and U21 squads competed in the annual European Championship competition, with all three squads bringing home gold medals and an unbeaten record. Amanda Davis, Fran Desmond and Freya Thompson all played integral parts in the squads performances.

Amanda and Fran have also been selected for the U21 training squad, who are now in full preparations for the World Youth Championships next year. Congratulations to all three girls!

# School Tournaments

The Kent Netball Association ran another year of their county school tournaments, open to all schools across Kent and South East London.

In the county's National Schools qualifying tournaments the county winners and runners up were:

- U19 Benenden / Kings Canterbury
- U16 TWGGS / Walthamstow Hall
- U14 Colfes / Sevenoaks

The winners and runners up of the remaining tournaments were:

- U13 Tonbridge / TWGGS
- U12 Bromley / Benenden

Thanks to all the schools for taking part and playing with such enthusiasm. And thanks to all the young leaders from participating schools for helping the days run so well.

Kent's qualifying teams travelled to Essex for the Regional finals where competition was very high across all the age groups. Benenden and Kings struggled in a very strong U19 group, once again dominated by Barking Abbey, and finished 7th & 8th.

In the U16 section however, strong play by the squad from TWGGS saw them take 2nd place and, for the 4th year in a row, qualify for the National Finals! Walthamstow Hall, in their first Regional Tournament, took 7th place.

In the U14 section Colfes qualified for the Nationals in style playing some fantastic netball and taking the Regional U14 title. Sevenoaks also had a good day with an excellent 4th place finish.

Well done to all our Regional qualifiers!



Colfes U14s

At the National Finals both Colfes and TWGGS played impressive netball against tough opposition. Colfes, in their first National competition, achieved an impressive 7th place in

the U14 competition.

Meanwhile the U16s from TWGGS just missed out on a semi-final place, making them 5th overall in the country. TWGGS PE Teacher Kerry Murray said "This is an amazing achievement in which the girls will always remember with pride."

Congratulations to both the staff and players from TWGGS and Colfes on their success.



TWGGS U16 squad

The Emerging Schools Festival took place on 8th July. Schools from across Kent brought their Year 7 & 8 netball teams to the festival, which aims to bring new young players into the game. All the schools taking part were "emerging" netball teams, in the early stages of their netball development, so the festival really was a grass roots event.

The Year 7 winners were The Knole Academy with Chatham & Clarendon in 2nd place. Adding to their success in the Year 7 group, Chatham & Clarendon also won the Year 8 trophy, with The Priory School taking the Runners up spot. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all the schools for taking part.



Chatham & Clarendon Year 8 squad



## KCSSA



The Kent Colleges Student Sports Association (KCSSA) aims to plug the gap in the provision of competitive sports that lies between school and university. The KCSSA provide league and cup competitions for 6th form schools and FE colleges to encourage wider participation. The year culminates with a central venue multi-sports festival held in May. This year the Netball event was won once again by K. College who dominated from the outset with fast, strong match play. Runners up were Canterbury College.

If your college or school would like to take part in the KCSSA competitions visit [www.sportkent.co.uk](http://www.sportkent.co.uk) for more details.

# School Games

*The School Games is a new approach to competitive school sport designed to motivate and enthuse all young people. The games encompass a number of sports at intra school, inter school, county and national level.*

The Netball finals of the Kent School Games were held at the University of Kent on 22nd June. 14 teams, all local festival winners, came together on a windy day to find the Kent champions. After the group matches, the semi-finals provided exciting games, particularly between Hempstead Juniors (Medway) and Furley Park (Ashford), with Hempstead winning the game on a golden goal! In the final, Hempstead met Borough Green Primary (Malling & Sevenoaks) who had so far remained unbeaten. Great shooting by Borough Green saw them win the game by 2 goals and take the title. Furley Park made up for their loss in the semi finals by winning the bronze medal match against Herne Junior School from Canterbury.

Games were superbly officiated by umpires from across Kent, and a team of excellent young leaders from Swadlands School helped the day run smoothly. Many thanks to both, and congratulations to all the schools who took part.

The London Games took place earlier in the year at Crystal Palace. All 33 London boroughs were represented by schools who had won their local competitions. Lewisham narrowly missed out on the semi finals and finished in 5th place. Greenwich finished in 17th, Bromley and Bexley in 21st. Well done to all our schools for taking part in the finals.



Kent School Games medallists

# Coach Development Day

More than 60 coaches attended the first Kent Coach Development Day on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at Kent College in Canterbury.

Organised by the Kent Coaching Network in partnership with local experts and Development Officers from Boxing and Netball, the day offered coaches the opportunity to try new sessions before taking part in sport-specific Master Classes.

Coaches were treated to an opening address from Great Britain Hockey Coach David Bunyan followed by sessions on Strength & Conditioning, Nutrition, Psychology and Running Analysis, all delivered by experts from the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University.

The afternoon saw Boxing & Netball Master Classes. Tamsin Greenway, England International and Surrey Storm Player / Coach delivered a session focusing on centre pass and attacking strategies. The session was particularly interactive with coaches getting a chance to practice the strategies (alongside Tamsin!) and plenty of time for Q&A.

The feedback from coaches and tutors on the whole day was very positive, with many enjoying the opportunity to learn from fellow coaches from different sports. The netballers particularly enjoyed meeting and learning from Tamsin and getting an insight into top flight netball and coaching. Kent Sport Coaching will be developing future opportunities for coaches in the county and will continue to work closely with Netball, through the Development Officer, to ensure they can provide further development for coaches.



Join the **Kent Coaches Register**, a support tool for all sports coaches. Receive top tips and ideas you can use in your coaching, network and share best practice with other coaches, and access support to help you on your coaching journey. Register at [www.kentsportcoaching.org](http://www.kentsportcoaching.org).



## Want to coach?

UKCC courses for October to March 2013 have been released....

### UKCC Level 1

- January 2013 Cranford & Guildford
- February 2013 Docklands

### UKCC Level 2

- January to March 2013 Guildford

Find details of these, and other courses across the country, on the Get Involved page of [www.englandnetball.co.uk](http://www.englandnetball.co.uk)

If you'd like to be kept up to date with the latest coaching opportunities contact Natalie on [natalieb2@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:natalieb2@englandnetball.co.uk)

## Want to Umpire?

### Beginner Award

- 23rd September, Kent College Canterbury

### C Award Course

- 7th October, Colfes School, London SE12

Find more information and application forms at [www.kentnetball.co.uk](http://www.kentnetball.co.uk)

## Mentoring Success

The L&SE Officiating Group runs a mentoring programme for B to A Umpires. This year that programme has seen success with three more umpires achieving their A Award, including Kent's Ann Windsor. Congratulations Ann.

Kent Netball run a mentoring scheme for C Award Umpires who wish to progress to the B Award. If you would like be part of the scheme contact Kent's Umpiring Secretary, Sara, on [smills@kentnetball.co.uk](mailto:smills@kentnetball.co.uk)

## Back to Netball >>>

Back to Netball continues to thrive across the Region and now, thanks to Sport England funding, a team of Netball Development Community Coaches (NDCC) have been appointed to create new and sustainable Back to Netball opportunities across London.

Lucy Hantson is the NDCC working in Greenwich and has introduced 2 new sessions in the borough, with more in the pipeline. Find details of Lucy's sessions, and the rest of the Back to Netball schemes in Kent on the Back to Netball page of [www.englandnetball.co.uk](http://www.englandnetball.co.uk)

A Back to Netball Festival took place on 8th July at the Rainham Netball Centre. The festival was aimed at ladies who are new into playing netball, haven't played netball in years or are currently part of a back to netball session. 8 teams from across the county came together to enjoy the opportunity for some competitive netball but in social, relaxed environment. Unfortunately the event was unlucky with the weather, but all the women carried on playing through the rain with a smile! The winning team were Meopham Swans, who also took second place, with Fusion from Medway taking 3rd..



Meopham Swans

Thanks to all the teams for taking part, we hope you had a great day. And a huge thank you to the umpires and Justine, our Pass on Your Passion volunteer, for helping the event run smoothly.



# Local news

The Karen Tappin Tournament is held annually by Kent Netball in memory of Karen Tappin who passed away in 1997. This year's event was held at the Rainham Netball Centre on 27th May where 13 teams from across Kent took part. For the second year, the tournament was run as a FastNet event. Once players and officials had switched over to the new style of play, great fun was had by all and a lot of cheering was heard for a 4 point goal! After an exhausting day of fast netball in beautiful sunshine, the overall winners were Telstars NC with Canterbury Pilgrims taking second place.



## Club Action Planning Scheme

Congratulations to KCNC who achieved their Silver CAPS award earlier this year. And to Breakaways who successfully completed their 4 year re-accredited to the Bronze award



CAPS is England Netball's clubmark scheme. The aim of CAPS is to help clubs provide a safe and quality environment for young players, and to support the club's development and achieve their full potential. If your club has junior players and you would like to achieve the award then you can register for FREE on the Clubs' page of the England Netball website [www.Englandnetball.co.uk](http://www.Englandnetball.co.uk).

## Folkestone netball on the up

*Up until 2 years ago Netball had been more or less nonexistent in Folkestone for over 15 years. In 2010 Folkestone Town Netball Club set about to change this.*

With the help of Shepway District Council and support from Kent Netball, coaches Sarah Parker and Danielle Lynch initially held Back to Netball sessions for local ladies. These were extremely successful forming 2 teams with over 30 ladies attending on a regular basis. With more help from Shepway, and Sport Unlimited funding, the club also set up established a junior section which has gone from strength to strength and now coaches approximately 25 juniors each week.



Folkestone Town Netball Club then worked on starting a youth section in the summer of 2011 running a local school tournament to generate interest. The tournament was funded by local councillors and achieved its outcome in generating players for a Youth section who now train once a week.

The brand new Cheriton Road Sports Ground became the Club's home in September 2011 and the facility's Trust and the club had ambitions to get netball in Folkestone back on the map with a fully affiliated Netball league. After an initial tournament and a season of friendly game, enough teams and interest were established to set up a full league, which launched this April. And plans haven't stopped there! They hope to expand the adult league to two divisions next year, as well expand the Youth and Junior sections of Folkestone Town, eventually running local leagues for these age groups at the new sports ground.

Becky Weller, Sports Development Officer for the Cheriton Road Trust says "This is an exciting time for Folkestone & netball, we are looking forward to sharing our excellent facility with the Netball world." The development of the sport in Folkestone is a perfect example of what you can do with good partnership working, plenty of hard work, and great volunteers!



@Kentnetball

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## Charity Netball Event >>>

Saturday 10th March, saw Wealden Netball Club host a charity netball match between a Kent Select Women's Team and England's Men, sponsored by Simon Jones Superfreight Ltd.

The purpose of the event was to raise money for the Breast Cancer and Testes Cancer Charities, and also to highlight how great the game of netball is. Wealden Chairperson, Ann Windsor said "The initiative to host such an event comes from a membership of players who have a passion not only about their personal performance but for the sport of netball as a whole."

The women's team, coached by Surrey Storm player Natalie Seaton, were players from across Kent, united to provide a showcase of skills and talent. The England men, and their coach Amanda Newton, ex England captain, met the women's challenge with some highly entertaining and ambitious match play! Final score England Men 54 - Kent Select 31. The match was superbly umpired by A Award Umpires Caroline Davies, Jenny Fry & Denise Chittenden. The evening was enjoyed by players and spectators alike. And it raised £2200 for the charities. A success all round!

