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Kent netball



Kent Netball Development Officer



In June the county's
England Netball
Development Officer,
Natalie Beckett, resigned
from her post to move
onto a new role within
England Hockey.

Natalie was the Development Officer for 6 years and during that time was involved in a number of initiatives including school club links, teacher training, coach development and Back to Netball. As well as EN projects, Natalie has worked closely with the Kent committee, assisting them with the implementation of projects such as the Emerging Schools Festival, County Senior League, and the new Volunteer Awards. Many thanks to Natalie for her work over the years and we wish her luck in her new role. We will still see her however as Natalie is staying on with Kent Netball as a member of the Committee.

We now welcome Sally Tibbitts as the new Development Officer. Sally comes with experience from One Netball and a degree in Sports Development. Sally is also an active netball player & coach. We look forward to working with Sally on all things netball!



Congratulations

2012 saw the launch of Kent Netball's new volunteer awards that recognise the contributions made by individuals and organisations. With over 4,000 affiliated members there's a huge amount of work being carried out by a large volunteer workforce and the awards aim to thank them for their efforts.

A number of nominations were received in this, the second year of the Awards, and the winners were announced at Kent's AGM in September....

- Joyce Crust Award – **Natalie Beckett**
services to netball in Kent
- Needham Rider Award – **Liz Roche**
services to Kent youth netball
- Marge Millar Award - **The Kent Netball Archives Group**
services to netball in Kent by an organisation
- Coaches Award – **Rachel Napolitano**
outstanding contribution to their club/organisation/community
- Officials Award - **Caroline Duggan**
outstanding contribution to officiating in netball
- Young Netball Volunteer – **Candice Laidley, Sabina Netball Club**
outstanding contribution to the development of netball in Kent by a young person
- Young Netballer Award – **Nicole Humphrys, Telstars NC**
awarded by the Kent Talent Group for achievement in the Excel pathway

Congratulations to all the winners on their awards!

The L&SE Golden Globes were awarded in July. There were few nominations from Kent, however the L&SE Region did present a special award to **Eclipse Netball Club** for their achievements which saw them gain both the Bronze and Silver CAPS award, win the U16 Regional League in their first season and gain 4th place at the U16 National Clubs Finals. **A great first season, well done to Eclipse!**



Eclipse NC receive their award from
Sasha Corbin

Club Competition >>>

This year's L&SE Regional League, was won by Essex Met based club Academy. Wealden, last year's winners, had another successful season taking the runners up spot. Also in Division 1 Vibrant had their best season for a couple of years finishing well in 4th place. In Division 2, Crystal Palace took the runners up spot behind Poly NC, a great achievement in their first year in the league. At the other end of the table Raiders finished in 8th place and will be re-joining the Kent County Senior League next season.

After promotion last season Telstars faced a tough season in Premier 2. But with 8 wins and only 3 points separating them from Grangetown in 4th, they finished in a credible 6th position. KCNC found it hard going however and with 3 wins finished in

10th place. This meant an automatic relegation to Premier 3.

In Premier 3 Comets also struggled with inconsistent results and finished the season in 8th place. With Lawn NC already relegated this meant Comets, and 9th placed Wyvern Grangers joined the Regional League winners to fight for the remaining Premier League places in the Play-offs.

The Premier League Play-offs took place over a weekend in May. L&SE winners Academy already had a squad in the Premier league, so the L&SE spot was passed to runners up Wealden. It was Wealden's second year in the Play-offs but after finishing 3rd in their group they were unfortunately out of the running early on. Comets meanwhile looked to be progressing to the latter stages, but a last minute



opposition fight back in their last game resulted in a draw and Comets also finishing 3rd in their group on goal average. Comets will now join Wealden in Division 1 of the Regional League

This season's Premier & Regional leagues are now in progress. You can follow all their results at www.Englandnetball.co.uk/competitions or www.londonandsoutheastnetball.co.uk

Good luck to all our clubs for a successful season.



Eclipse U16 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

Eclipse were this year's winners of the U16 Regional League and, with 2nd place Telstars, went on to represent the Region at the National U16 Clubs in Norwich. Telstars had a tough first day group with Weston Park Blades and Turnford, and went on to finish in 13th place. Eclipse progressed through to the final group stages where they had a really tough 3rd place battle with Weston, and just lost out by 2 goals. Well done Eclipse, a great achievement to be 4th in the country!

Congratulations to also to Telstars & Wealden for reaching the national finals.

County league action

After missing out by 1 point last season, Telstars were determined to get a shot at the Regional League and set the early pace in the Senior County League.



So Telstars were crowned League Champions and received the much coveted spot in the Regional Play-offs. Competition at the Play-offs was fierce. After a good early win unfortunately Telstars lost their next 4 games in some tough competition. This resulted in a 4th place finish and so Telstars will be returning to the county league in this coming season.

In the County Junior League Telstars U16's were looking for their 4th successive title but newcomers Eclipse had other ideas. In what was a very exciting competition with some great netball, Eclipse managed to take the title, remaining unbeaten all season.

In the U14 section, last year's winners Wealden were hoping to repeat their achievement. They stormed to an early lead and never looked back, winning all their league games. CFX pushed them all the way, losing only 2 games all season, both to Wealden.

This year the U19 section ran for the 2nd time. Whilst a small competition, it nonetheless provided some very high quality netball. Run away winners were Sabina who won all their 9 matches, taking the title 17 points clear of second place.

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

This season the senior County League takes on a new look with 2 divisions and home and away matches. We welcome Sabina and Macklins who won through from their respective local leagues.

Fixtures are now underway. Good luck to all clubs in both the Senior & Junior County League, have a great season!

Back to Netball



Back to Netball in...

As Back to Netball continues to thrive across the county, Kent's second Back to Netball Festival took place in July at the Rainham Netball Centre.

Nine teams of new netballers from across the county came together to test their newly learned skills and enjoy some competitive netball in a social and relaxed environment. With groups from the whole of the Kent area there were players ranging from those who had only just recently started to those in the early stages of lower local league participation.

Unlike last year's tournament in the rain, this year's event was played in out glorious (and very hot!) sunshine. With plenty of sun cream and water, the ladies enjoyed a day of fun and enjoyable netball, with a little bit of competition thrown in! The winning team were the Ashford Mantarays with Colfeians B2N in second and Club Langley taking third.



Ashford Mantarays



Colfeians B2N

Thanks to all the teams for taking part, we hope you had a great day. And a huge thank you to our superb

team of volunteer officials, and to event officials Dawn Cox and Rachael Purchase who stepped in at the last minute to ensure the day ran smoothly.



Want to Coach? >>>

UKCC courses to April 2014 have been released. Courses in the L&SE Region are....

UKCC Level 1

- February 2014 – NewVic Plainstow, E13 8SG

UKCC Level 2

- January to March 2014 – Sports Centre, University of Essex, CO4 3SQ
- March to April 2014 – NewVic Painstow, E13 8SG

Find details of these and other courses across the country, on the Get Involved page of www.englandnetball.co.uk

For information on the latest coaching opportunities visit www.kentnetball.co.uk

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.



If you want to get back into the sport, or want to try it for the first time then come along.

There are a number of Back to Netball groups running across Kent. For details of these visit the Back to Netball page of www.kentnetball.co.uk or to find your nearest session using the England Netball session finder, www.englandnetball.co.uk/my-game/back-to-netball

If you would be interested in delivering Back to Netball in your area please contact Sally Tibbitts (Kent Development Officer) for more details on sally.tibbitts@englandnetball.co.uk

Want to Umpire?

Kent Netball runs umpiring courses throughout the season. The current programme has come to a close but a new programme has been set up. C umpire awards are to be planned as follows:

- Sunday 24th November @ Leigh Academy, DA1 1QE (Closing date 10th November)
- Sunday 19th January 2014 @ Kent College, Canterbury, CT2 9DT (closing date 9th January 2014)

For full details, frequently asked questions and booking forms visit the Umpiring page of www.kentnetball.co.uk

Already qualified? Perhaps you'd like to train as Tutor to deliver the ever-increasing demand for courses. Or maybe qualify as an Umpire Tester to help us increase our number of qualified umpires. For details or further information on becoming an Umpire Tutor / Tester contact Caroline cduggan@kentnetball.co.uk

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, Caroline, on cduggan@kentnetball.co.uk



Academy Success

The 2012-13 Academy programme came to end in April culminating in the London & South East Region Regional Festival held where 28 squads from the Academies of the 4 counties across the Region took part in a fun and competitive day of netball...

Once again Kent's U17s squads remained unbeaten throughout the day finishing in 1st and 2nd places. In the U14 section, Kent's Potential 1 squad retained their title after a nail-biting final with Essex Met. The two Development squads finished in 4th & 5th places in their groups.



In June, Kent Netball held their trials for the 2013-14 Academy programme. From 250 athletes, and after 3 weekends of intensive selection, 38 athletes have been selected for the U17 Academy whilst 53 have been selected for the U14 Academy. Congratulations to all everyone on their successful trial. A full list of all those athletes selected can be found on the Performance pages of www.kentnetball.co.uk

In July the following players were selected into the L&SE Regional Academy:

- Paige Money, Ellen Whitehead (*KCNC*)
- Lizzie Roberts, Imogen Spark (*Eclipse*)
- Lucy Appleby, Charlotte Brazier, Chloe Daley, Leah Goss, Hannah Kinsey, Emily Rees (*Telstars*)
- Amy Grant (*Beacons*)

Congratulations to all the players on their achievements!

National Trial Success

England Netball held their selection trials for the 2013 National Excel Programme in March. **Nicole Humphrys** was selected for the U19 programme, whilst **Nicole Flynn, Leah Melvin** and **Laura Morton** were selected for the U17s. At the following Selection Camp in July, **Nicole.H** and **Laura** retained their respective places in the programme.

Huge congratulations to Nicole and Laura, and to Leah and Nicole.F. Also a special mention to **Laura True** and **Imogen Spark** who were nominated for a National trial nomination, this is an achievement in itself. Well done to all the girls, you should be very proud.

Nicole added to her honours this season by receiving Kent Netball's **Young Player of the Year Award**. Nicole has worked very hard to achieve her NTL & National squad places, and never giving up on her goals despite any setbacks. Well done Nicole!



Superleague

The 2012-13 Netball Talent League came to a thrilling close at the Ponds Forge arena in Sheffield in April. Twenty matches were crammed into two days as the final matches of the league season were played out, plus an inaugural Cup and Plate competition.



Storm NPL Squad 2012-13

After finishing as runners up last year, Surrey Storm had high hopes for this season. With mixed results going into the weekend it was always going to be a big ask, but after some competitive matches the squad finished in a credible 4th place. Well done to all the squad and a special mention to Kent athletes **Olivia Emanus, Katie Harris, Hayley Pring, Mel Steingass, Freya Thompson & Laura True**. Congratulations also to Kent players, **Sally Fisher, Maddie Ellison** and **Nicole Humphrys** who represented the Mavericks squad and helped them to their 5th place finish.

This season England Netball have rebranded the NTL as the **Netball Performance League**. The NPL will provide the best possible competitive opportunity for the country's best young athletes and complements EN's performance pathways.

The NPL has 10 teams covering all 9 English regions, supplemented by the inclusion of the Junior Dragons from Cardiff. The 2013 / 14 NPL season begins with the annual pre-season tournament in November, and concludes in April. Trials for NPL squads have been taking place over the last couple of months and we are delighted to announce the following selections of Kent athletes:

- **Hertfordshire Mavericks** - **Sally Fisher, Maddie Ellison, Nicole Humphrys, Laura Morton**
- **Surrey Storm** - **Leah Melvin, Hayley Pring, Laura True**

Following two days of trials, **Surrey Storm** have selected the long squad ahead of the 2014 Superleague season. **Amanda Davis** and **Katie Harris** return for another season in the senior ranks, whilst **Freya Thompson** and **Olivia Emanus** make the step up from the NPL (formerly NTL) squad after impressing in their 2012/13 season. The long squad will be reduced to a final 15 in the coming weeks.

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 Sevenoaks / Benenden

U16 TWGGS / Sevenoaks

U14 Tonbridge / Invicta

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.

Kent's qualifying teams travelled to Essex for the Regional finals where competition was very high across all the age groups. In the U19 section Sevenoaks narrowly missed out on a National qualifying spot by finishing in an impressive 3rd place. Benenden found the going a little tougher and finished the day in 6th place.

In the U16 section however, great netball by the squad from TWGGS saw them go one better than last year and they took the U16 Regional title! This also meant National qualification for the 5th year in a row! Sevenoaks also had a great day, with plenty of great skills on display achieving an excellent 4th place finish.

Success was also seen in the U14 section. Tonbridge Grammar fought some tough matches taking the runners up spot behind Guildford High School and securing a National Finals place. Invicta, in their first Regional tournament, finished in 6th place.

Well done to all our Regional qualifiers!

At the **National Finals**, TWGGS got off to a flying start winning their first 7 seven matches and a semi-final spot looming! Unfortunately the unbeaten record didn't last as they lost their last game, but the team still won the group and progressed to the semi-finals. Once there they

faced tough opposition against Aldridge and, in an exciting game, qualified for the final by 1 goal! The final against Beaconsfield was another fiercely contested match but this time TWGGS narrowly missed out on the title, losing by 1 goal. TWGGS PE Teacher Kerry Murray said " It really was a truly brilliant final and all of the squad should be so incredibly proud of what they have achieved. They certainly showed they can compete at the highest level of netball and to be crowned second best in the country is an incredible accomplishment."

Well done to Kerry and the whole squad!!

This seasons schools tournaments are underway and the Kent finals will take place on Saturday 30th November at Rainham.



TWGGS U16 squad



The Knole Academy

Emerging Schools

The Emerging Schools Festival took place on 3rd 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 Knole Academy had a great day winning both the Year 7 & 8 competitions with Mascalls (Yr 7) and Blackfen (Yr 8) taking 2nd. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all the schools for taking part.

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 Kent's School Games were held at the Rainham Netball Centre on 27th June. 11 teams, all local festival winners, came together to find the Kent champions. After the group matches, the semi-finals provided exciting games, especially between Westcourt (Gravesham) and Claremont (Tunbridge Wells), with Westcourt winning the game by 2 goals. In the final, Westcourt played Ightham (Malling & Sevenoaks) who had so far remained unbeaten. Great attacking play by Ightham saw them win the game by 2 goals and take the title. Fleetdown made up for their loss in the semi-finals by winning the bronze medal match against Claremont.

Games were superbly officiated by umpires from across Kent, and a team of excellent young leaders from Swadelands 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.

International Action

England took on South Africa in the FIAT International Series in September 2013. The three match contest took place in Bath, London and Worcester. The opening match occurred at the University of Bath on Sunday 22nd September. Anna Mayes' side started the Series strongly and ran out victors in the South West.



Three days later the action headed to London and Wembley Arena. England have a great record at the venues and secured the series with victory which continued our run of excellent results in front of a packed out area in the nation's capital.

A final stop off in Worcester brought the Series to a conclusion on Friday 27th September. Having enjoyed a fantastic Netball Superleague Grand Final in the West Midlands, it has been decided to take the last match back to the brand new University Arena. A 3-0 series success was cinched in front of a sell-out crowd in Worcester.

The National Team have now made their way to South Africa and we wish the squad huge success in all three games.

To support England on the international stage please visit www.Englandnetball.co.uk for details and ticket information.

Club Action Planning Scheme

Congratulations to **Canterbury Pilgrims** who achieved their Bronze CAPS award earlier this year. And to **Raiders** who successfully completed their 4 year re-accreditation to the Silver 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 www.Englandnetball.co.uk.

Netball Now

Netball Now launched in Kent University!

Last Saturday Netball Now was launched at Kent University. **Netball Now** is a programme set up by England Netball.

It's simple and straight forward way to play netball. It's not coached session; it's not a competition led by rules, regulations or score recorded. It is simply a session that you turn up at, pay a small fee and play a game of netball! The sessions are just for fun and we want you to enjoy and get what you want in terms of a game and work out.

Kent University sessions will run every Saturday from 1-3pm until Saturday 7th December (exclusion date Saturday 16th November). The session will take place in the sports centre on Campus (www.kent.ac.uk/maps/)

Please feel free to go down and get involved and for any more information please contact Sally Tibbitts on sally.tibbitts@Englandnetball.co.uk or 07854089830.

There will be more Netball Now launched next year in the county so please keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Benenden FastNet

Benenden School hosted their first FastNet tournament earlier this year, open to schools from across Kent and the Region for U16 and U19 age groups. With 24 schools taking part, the competition aimed to introduce FastNet to players (and umpires!) and for many it was their first experience of this new form of netball.

Organiser Louise Hall was thrilled with the success of the event, which saw Coloma Convent School and Putney High School take the U19 and U16 titles respectively, with fierce competition from Benenden who featured in both finals.

Louise said "It was fantastic to see so much quality netball on show, particularly with so many Kent Schools keen to be involved in addition to other schools within the larger region. This also gave teams the chance to face different opposition and try some different rules, which everyone did with great spirit!" Appearances from Surrey Storm regulars Tamsin Greenway and Becky Trippick, as well as new faces Katie Harris and Georgia Lees, helped boost the day, and young netball helpers from Benenden were involved in table official roles.

Feedback on the event has been superb and Benenden look forward to hosting the tournament again next year as an annual event in the netball calendar. If your school is interested in taking part next year contact Louise LH@benenden.kent.sch.uk

If you have any news or stories you would like featured in the next edition of this newsletter then please let us know.

Or if there are any topics you would like covered then do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.



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