

## **Norfolk County Chair's Report, 2022/23**

The 2022/ 23 season is at last back to normality. All areas have been able to complete their fixtures despite the weather being far too hot, too wet or too icy. Some were a little late in finishing but at least all games have been completed. Well done to all those responsible for arranging fixtures, I'm sure all players would like to thank you.

We need to help smaller areas and some junior clubs to grow so we can encourage and hopefully inspire more youngsters to take part no matter their ability. Our county desperately needs to increase the number of junior clubs. There must be lots of ladies and girls who want to play but don't have the opportunity because we don't have enough options out there. We need more people to step up and help so we can grow our sport before we lose these people to other activities. Due to Covid 19 we have lost lots of people who found alternative forms of enjoyable exercise and haven't returned to netball. In an ideal world lots of players would willingly give their time to put back into our sport what they received earlier in their own playing career.

Your County Committee has compiled a strong County Plan which has been sent off to The East as well as a solid foundation towards completing the Governance Tier 1 documents. Both these documents are mandatory for all counties to have and keep up to date as laid down by England Netball.

Supporting umpires at every level has been on going as usual.

Young talented athletes have succeeded and performed very well through The Player Performance Pathway. We all send our dedicated coaches our grateful thanks for all their hard work. I'm sure the youngsters appreciate your contribution towards developing their talents.

Our top clubs, Thoroughbreds and Norfolk United have competed in The East Region Leagues and Premier Leagues with mixed success. Congratulations for getting to this stage in the first instance. A big thank you to all the umpires who quite regularly spend a whole day travelling and umpiring these matches on either a Saturday or Sunday. Some do travel the day before as games can be any where in the country!

Our schools also went to the second round of The National Schools' Tournament. The winners and runners up from the County round went through to represent Norfolk at The East Event. Again our schools can hold their heads high as all those who went displayed a terrific level of ability. Umpires from Norfolk were a big part of the officiating team and court officials. This is a huge tournament involving U.14, U.16 and U.19 age groups.

Norfolk has supported coaches, umpires and players financially in order to achieve and work towards qualifications. We have more Walking Netball Hosts who too have benefited from County financial assistance. The Hosts provide opportunities for ladies and girls to play and exercise at a slower pace in a fun environment. These sessions also provide a time to relax and socialise which is so important for mental health. Some stay afterwards to have tea and if you are super lucky, cake too!

The Jean Liddle and Lyn Elvin tournaments were a huge success. All monies from the entry fees, raffle and cake stall were donated to the winning teams' charities of their own choice. The Lyn Elvin charity was chosen by Lyn's family.

We are looking to host another tournament to remember Joy Haycocks who sadly passed away earlier this year, probably in late September or early October.

I hope after reading this report you will think about the people who keep Norfolk Netball afloat. All the volunteers who give their time for all of us so we can continue to play and enjoy our glorious sport.

If you have read this, thank you.

Anne Harper, Chair.