



NORFOLK COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

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1. CHAIR (Anne Harper)

Yet another busy year has shot by. For the first time in many years we have almost had a full house of committee members. Everyone has been doing their jobs with some being much busier than others simply due to their role. To **everyone on the committee**, I want to say a huge **thank you** for everything you have achieved over the last year. Without your commitment and support the county bus would have come to a grinding halt.

As Norfolk chair the east meetings have been full on and usually, luckily, on Zoom. Last year's AGM and Working As One day were held in Cambridge. Chairs' meetings have been informative but demanding. If you have read all my previous reports, you will already be aware of my county activities.

England Netball have kept pressuring regions to chase and insist all counties comply and are in line with what England Netball requires. Again more and more documents and policies are needed. These policies and procedures ensure all counties are aligned to each other and we all have strong governance. This brings me to our constitution.

As you are aware, we have been strongly advised to look at Norfolk's present document and to update it. We will be better protected and have a stronger working constitution and will be more accountable to county members. Big thanks to a small working group, we spent two meetings going over the England Netball document alongside other county constitutions, thanks everyone for completing this mammoth task. It certainly wasn't easy and took a lot of brain power.

Again over the year, the Exec Committee have done a great job looking at documents, checking agendas, looking at matters arising and the usual to-do list after each meeting to ensure everything has been done before the next meeting. They do this to take the pressure off the rest of the committee.

At this point, we all need to say thank you to Lorraine for taking on the county tournament lead. She has done a fantastic job making sure all our events have been successful and enjoyed by all. It's such a shame that individuals always choose to criticise and complain, but are not prepared to step up and help out themselves. It's a case of take take but no give!

County Secretary; I don't think people realise how much work the county secretary has to do. Over the last few years England Netball's expectations have got higher and higher. Those at the top of the tree seem oblivious as to how much extra work has been fed down to counties. They forget that we are all volunteers giving our time freely. Karen is an excellent secretary, a true perfectionist, reliable, highly proficient, super-efficient and always polite and considerate in all she does for Norfolk. She has been my co-pilot and has made a massive difference helping me whenever I need it. I cannot thank Karen enough for what she has done. She is leaving very big shoes to fill.

As for myself; it's time to hand over the reins to someone else. I have learned a lot, but I cannot do this role any longer. There are a few people who know me and work closely with me who are aware of the reasons why I'm stepping down. I wish my successor all the very best, good luck!

2. TREASURER (Sue Howard)

I have just received the final Invoice for 2025-2026 and am happy to attach the Balance Sheet with the Income and Expenditure Summary.

Income		Expenditure		Profit/Loss
England Netball	£8,453.71	NDO	£4,000.00	£4,453.71
England Netball (Schools)	£1,160.00	England Netball (Schools)	£1,150.34	£9.66
Tournaments	£5,544.26	Tournaments	£4,015.23	£1,529.03
Performance	£27,200.00	Performance	£26,205.17	£994.83
IOA	£839.00	IOA	£80.60	£758.40
Mentoring	£0.00	Mentoring	£2,047.96	-£2,047.96
Umpiring & Courses	£1,087.00	Umpiring	£1,884.60	-£797.60
Running Costs/Committee	£0.00	Running Costs/Committee	£1,432.82	-£1,432.82
Publicity	£0.00	Publicity	£345.32	-£345.32
Hardship Fund	£0.00	Hardship Fund	£78.57	-£78.57
Financial Support Fund	£0.00	Financial Support Fund	£460.00	-£460.00
WN	£11,677.50	WN	£12,451.65	-£774.15
Juniors	£0.00	Juniors	£21.20	-£21.20
Netball Now	£330.00	Netball Now	£264.00	£66.00
Interest Received - Lloyds Dep	£331.80			£331.80
Interest Received - Lloyds Saving	£73.86			£73.86
Total Income	£56,697.13	Total Expenditure	£54,437.46	£2,259.67
		Profit/Loss	£2,259.67	
		Cash Balances		
		Current account balance - 57152660	£107.42	
		Deposit Account Balance	£20,400.78	
		Savings Account Balance - 88342560	£12,088.79	
		Total in Bank Accounts	£32,596.99	

I am pleased to report that following the vote at the 2025 AGM to make increases to the Norfolk fee of the EN Membership various categories, NCNA income from Memberships has increased from £6,986 to £8,453 this year.

Although the Walking Netball has made a loss overall (for the 5 groups) – a decision was made In April to increase the fee from £6 to £7, which would give a projected £1600 + increase in this next financial year. However, some groups are performing better than others but this will be addressed in the budgeting going forward and an individual summary will be sent to each host for their information and assistance with their individual budgeting.

Again, we have held various tournaments enjoyed by many, and as well as NCNA the following Charities have benefited by us sharing the profit and all have and expressed their thanks :-

Big C
Aylsham Community Trust
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Dementia UK
McMillan Nurses

'Netball Now' has had a very positive start and looks forward to a great year in 26/27

The Bank Interest has gone from £115 to £404 – small changes but they do all add up.

In conclusion, 2025 -26 is showing an improved set of Accounts with net profit from all activities increasing from £1,014 last year to £2,514 this year; and which is why I have not recommended any increase by Norfolk to the EN Membership fees this year.

Well done to all !

3. OFFICIATING LEAD (Sophie Pike)

This has been another extremely busy year, with a wide range of opportunities available for umpires across the county.

Development & Training

Game Management sessions have been delivered throughout the year, with 78 attendees since September 2025. Thank you to Sue Brown and Sophie Pike for delivering these sessions — the feedback has been excellent. Umpires have expressed a strong preference for more face-to-face sessions, and it has also been suggested that players and coaches would benefit from attending these sessions in future.

In addition to my existing responsibilities, I have now taken on the registration and welfare checks for all Under 18 'In Training' and 'Qualified' umpires.

Assessments

Congratulations to all umpires who successfully passed their assessments this year:

- IOA Assessment – Ellie Moore, Stephanie Seal, Lola Ware, May Smith, Becky Davis, Wendy Parks, Madison McKeever, Eleanor Lines, Chloe Sperry, Cailin Hall, Tallina Ellwood, Isabella Vettraino, Mandy Skinner, Cherie Knights, Sarah Leggett, Yasmin Caswell, Rochelle Catchpole, Matilda Lumley & Jess Hardy
- C Award Assessment – Rachel Savage, Joanne Coughtrey, Keelie Wincup, Lauren Fowler and Louise Benstead
- B Award Assessment – Anna Bright

The Junior league has been used to allow our U18s to complete their assessments, so huge thanks to them.

A sincere thank you to all assessors for their time and commitment in supporting these achievements.

IOA Practical Sessions

Three IOA practical sessions were held during the season (September, January and May), with a total of 31 attendees. Of these, six were identified as competent at INTO level and assessed during the sessions. Appreciation goes again to Sue Brown and Sophie Pike for tutoring. Again thanks go to Trowse netball who have supplied players for these sessions on two occasions and to NU who supplied players on the last session.

Assessors

The county has eight assessors, with all but two having completed their required number of assessments. The remaining two are expected to do so by the end of the summer league period. England Netball has requested that reasons for non-availability to assess are logged.

Umpiring Structure & Meetings

- The annual meeting with all umpiring leads took place in September 2025, marking the start of the two-year game management and refresher cycle.
- West Norfolk has already completed its session, with other leagues expected to confirm dates.

The Umpiring TSG was established in January and includes:

- Sophie Pike (Chair & COL)
- Sue Brown (Lead Mentor)
- Deb Sutton (Umpire Allocation Coordinator)
- Nikki Belcher Brown (IOA Practical Coordinator)
- Karen Last (INTO & C Award Assessment Coordinator)

This group has already made a significant positive impact and helped reduce my workload. Thanks go to all members for their hard work and commitment.

Competitions & Events

Thank you to all umpires who supported the following competitions:

- Inspirational Trust Event – successfully delivered over two days, with improved organisation and better break allocation.
- Schools County Rounds (U14, U16, U19) – took place across two days with strong support.
- BUCS League – another busy season supported by committed umpires.
- Men's & Mixed League – first season coordinated by Deb Sutton, who has done an excellent job.

Additional Training

B Theory sessions were once again provided, with thanks to Sue Brown and Sophie Pike for delivering these. There are four umpires taking the B paper in June 2026.

Meetings Attended

On behalf of the county, the following meetings were attended:

- 7 East Region Officiating TSG
- 4 England Netball County Officiating Leads
- 1 League Umpiring Leads
- 1 Mentors & Assessors
- 2 Umpiring TSG
- 4 NCNA

Closing Remarks

Finally, I would like to express sincere thanks to all tutors, assessors, and mentors who give up a significant amount of their time to support umpire development. Their contribution is invaluable and often goes under-recognised.

4. UMPIRING MENTOR LEAD (Sue Brown)

The Norfolk mentors/coaches are a group of volunteers who work with up and coming new umpires by sharing their knowledge and expertise to help the umpires work towards a qualification. Which is a big commitment along with their other roles (players, coaches, umpires), so thank you to you all for your time and I am sure all the newly qualified umpires out there would also like to express their gratitude as the help of mentors is invaluable.

Mentoring is offered to umpires working towards an assessment either the EN Into Officiating Award or the NE C Award. Coaching is offered to umpires working towards assessment in the NE B and A Awards.

A Award and Panel umpires can coach B to A umpires, B Award umpires can coach C to B umpires and C Award umpires can mentor Into Officiating and those umpires working towards their C Award assessment.

We have had the mentor workforce increase with 2 new ones able to mentor up to C award in the Kings Lynn League, which will help and be a big asset to the league. Current workforce: Norwich League a total 14 mentors with 10 actively working with learners, Lowestoft League: a total of 5 mentors with 3 actively working with learners, Kings Lynn League: 2 newly qualified learners who have already taken on working with two learners who recently attended the IOA practical session.

Over the last season there have been 18 IOA Learners, 14 C Award Learners, B Award Learners and 1 A award Learners been or currently being mentored to their award.

If anyone is interested in becoming a mentor please get in touch and I can discuss the criteria and see if it is something you can help with.

If anyone has any queries or questions around mentoring from a mentor or mentee point of view, please get in touch, I am here to support both.

As part of my role I attend Regional Lead Mentors meetings where we share information and also help the Regional Lead offer mentoring support around the County, attending Regional events to support the umpires.

5. COMPETITION LEAD (Michelle James)

Finishing Positions for Norfolk Teams in the National Premier League

Div 3

Norfolk United 4th

Finishing Positions for Norfolk Teams in the East Region League

ERSL Div 1

Norfolk United 5th
Thoroughbreds 8th

Div 2

Norfolk United 8th

Div 3

Thoroughbreds 9th
Thetford 10th

ERYL U16 Div 2

Norfolk United 5th

U16 Div 3

Thetford 5th

U14 Div2

Norfolk United 1st

U14 Div 3

Thoroughbreds 5th
Thetford 8th

UEA represented Norfolk in the recent ERS� play-offs and although they won three of their matches and narrowly lost a fourth they were unsuccessful in gaining a place in Division 3 of the League.

Norfolk will host next year's Juniors Entry Tournament in September 2027.

6. TOURNAMENT SECRETARY (Lorraine Narbarro)

Tournaments within the County continue to be popular, played in the right spirit whilst raising lots of money.

Overview of the year:

- The Lyn Elvin – a change of date due to a double booking by the venue lowered the number of teams participating. The amount raised for the Big C was £1,848. All profit from this tournament goes to the Big C.
- The New Year tournament - £698.33 100% went to NCNA. £525 court hire. £282 Trophies (should not need to go out again and therefore we should benefit from this next year).
- The Jean Liddle - £1,721. NCNA received £801 of this and the rest was split between four charities.

Following the announcement that 2025 would be the final Victoria Hawkins tournament, NCNA was approached to see whether we would organise the tournament in the future.

As a result, NCNA created a small group to review the current tournament structure and opportunities for all to take part. A questionnaire was posted on social media to gauge individual's views. There was not a huge response but the general feelings were:

Re: The VH tournament:

- NCNA should run the old VH tournament as a charity tournament on behalf of clubs / teams that expressed a wish to support a charity / remember a member of the netball community.
- The tournament should be two tiered, with each tier supporting different levels of play.

Re: Current tournaments:

Most of the comments made were already in place. Two areas that were not were:

- Limiting regional / Premier league players.
- Using INTO umpires if lower-level tournaments were set up.

In response to the above NCNA took the following actions:

- VH tournament – taken on and given a new name as requested by the previous organisers. Catherine Putt agreed to be temporary lead for this tournament, aided by others. The tournament was named 'The Fun in the Sun' charity summer tournament and is taking place on June 27th at CAN / UEA.
Thoroughbreds requested for it to be a celebration of Sarah Wagstaff's involvement in netball. Money raised will be split 50:50 between Target Ovarian Cancer and NCNA (ring fenced for Junior development projects).
For this year the tournament will be a single 18 team tier tournament to get it established. Further discussion needs to take place with a view to how this tournament, or another tournament, can be developed to support lower level teams in the future.
- Current tournaments – NCNA trialled limiting the number of regional / premier players to one per team in the Jean Liddle tournament. This proved very difficult to monitor and we had to rely on the co-operation of the East region and Clubs to manage it. For me, this queries the sustainability of this restriction as it is essentially a local tournament and we should not have to increase the workloads of others, and the tournament lead, to ensure restrictions are met. To date, NCNA have not had the opportunity to discuss this further but a questionnaire has gone to teams for feedback.
 - NCNA agreed to using INTO umpires for the lower-level tier tournament in the summer, but obviously this is not happening this year.

Future tournament dates

- The Lyn Elvin – Sunday 6th September 2026, 8.30 – 4.30pm, four courts.
This has been confirmed along with a cost of £50 for vendor site fees.
- The New Year Tournament - Sunday January 17th 2027, 9.40 – 4.20pm, three courts.
This has been confirmed and an invoice sent to NCNA which needs to be paid in November.

At a previous committee meeting it was suggested that we would look at the entry fees for this tournament because it is indoors.

- The Jean Liddle – **no date or venue set as yet and action is needed.** Discussion needs to take place re: use of the venue moving forwards. I have concerns over the court surface and the 'barriers' we might have to negotiate to secure the venue. This has been outlined in a separate report which has not yet had the opportunity to be discussed.

I have decided to step down as the tournament lead / secretary. Whilst it has been very enjoyable, the prospect of overseeing four tournaments in a year makes it a large role to commit to and it is essentially an on-going rolling programme.

The development of a small tournament group is positive. A further development of this might be that each tournament has a separate lead person from within the group to share the workload. Documents are now digitally stored and we are working to produce a 'tournament guide' which should support any future lead.

7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Sheelagh Redpath MBE)

I haven't had to deal with any specific enquiries from either members or clubs so thank you to the Leagues for dealing with their membership.

All affiliations were checked for any Norfolk tournament that required England Netball membership. The only queries that arose from the tournaments was that a player was affiliated through another county and not linked to Norfolk but when this happened the clubs involved responded very quickly with the correct information asked for.

A PLEA: It would be great if all clubs could ensure that their club is linked to Norfolk County and to the league that they play in. I know that our Netball Development Officer Fliss Von Christian will try and help when required as I would hope to do too. Perhaps the following screenshots might help

How do I link to a club?

You can join an organisation by following these instructions:

1. Log in to your [ENgage](#) account
2. Click on **Add** in the **My Organisations** section of your profile
3. Enter the organisation **name only** (please avoid adding the address details/ postcode as this may impact results)
4. Click the **Search** button
5. Select the organisation by clicking on the 'Tick'

The Organisation will now appear in the **My Organisations** section of your profile.

How do we join a league on ENgage?

You can request to join a league by following these instructions:

1. Log in to [ENgage](#).
2. In the My Organisations box, select the thumbnail next to your club's name.
3. In the 3x3 grid of squares in the top left select Team Management:
4. Select Join a league:
5. Enter the name of the league in the Name field:
6. Select the search button.
7. Click on the wanted league.
8. Select the tick box/s of the team/s you want to be linked to the league (in order to do this, you must have your team(s) set up in the Teams Management section of your ENgage club directory).
9. Select Save:

If the league accepts your request, you will be notified through an automatic email.

Please note: If you do not submit any teams to join the league, your request will not be accepted. You must submit your club and the *teams* that you wish to compete in the league.

8. SCHOOLS SECRETARY (Jill Masdin)

National Schools Competition – county round

These were held in November at the UEA.

U14: Winners: Norwich School Runners Up: Norwich High School for Girls

U16: Winners: Norwich School Runners Up: Norwich High School for Girls

U19: Winners: Norwich School Runners Up: Wymondham College

All the above then went on to represent Norfolk in the regional round held at Stanborough School, Herts. Well done to all of the above schools though a special mention should go to the U19 team from Norwich School who came 2nd and therefore qualified for the National Finals. These were held in March at The English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. Overall, they came 11th which equalled the best result achieved. A fantastic achievement, well done.

A reminder for the county round of the National Schools in November this year - U19s Thurs 12 Nov and U14/U16 Sat 21 Nov

Again, Gresham's School held U12 & U13 schools' netball tournaments which were very well attended again by over 20 schools in our county. It was pleasing to witness such strong participation from schools across the county, with players of varying abilities united by their enjoyment and commitment. Thanks go to Gresham's for organising and hosting this event. Having 6 outside courts is certainly an asset to the county.

U12: Cup Winners: Norwich High School for Girls
Plate Winners: Open Academy
Bowl Winners: North Walsham

Runners Up: Town Close
Runners Up: Thorpe St Andrew
Runners Up: Thetford Academy

U13: Cup Winners: Greshams
Plate Winners: Wymondham College
Bowl Winners: Notre Dame

Runners Up: Langley Prep
Runners Up: Aylsham
Runners Up: Open Academy

As always, a huge thank you to everyone involved in delivering our school competitions, leagues, friendly games and county finals. The continued growth and enthusiasm for netball across the county is fantastic to see.

9. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT LEAD (Gemma Ashton)

We held a series of pre-trial screening sessions over the summer to prepare for the final trial. These sessions were an opportunity for us to observe athletes who were new to our programme, and consequently there were a small number of athletes who were not invited to the Final Trial in September. Trials were run in accordance with EN recommendations, with some selectors having attended EN Performance Identifier courses. The process ran smoothly, and I feel that with every year we run the trials, we refine our processes to increase the efficiency, alongside the experience for the athletes. I feel it is important to ensure that all athletes, irrespective of the outcome, have a positive experience and it is particularly pleasing to receive positive feedback from athletes who are ultimately unsuccessful.

Our U11 Academy trialled earlier in the summer and were the first of our academies to start training promptly in September. They trained at Norwich School Sports Centre and were led by Sophie Hardman as Head Coach, and assisted by former NCNA and current London Mavericks athlete, Ava Shannon. Athletes trained weekly for 25 sessions and then came together for 3 internal match days throughout the season. The challenges for this age group, is the lack of competition as most counties do not typically run this age group. We are also questioned by parents, as to why clubs play 7-a-side format at U11 and not Bee Netball, as recommended by

England Netball. It would be helpful if Norfolk County Netball issued some guidance around this and committed to any future Junior U11 Netball having to adhere to EN recommendations.

Our U13 PDP's have been led by Head Coach, Sophie Hansell, and Assistant Coach, Hope Buxton this season. Hope is another former NCNA athlete who has more recently been part of the London Mavericks U18 PDP and Norfolk United East Region squads. They have trained weekly on Friday's at the UEA Sportspark, with our U13 Development Academy training 5-7pm and the U13 Academy 7-9pm.

We did instigate a mid-season recruitment for our U13 Development group, who were low on numbers. We took on a small number of strong athletes to bolster the group numbers.

I have led the U15 academy this season as Head Coach, supported greatly by Claire Wells as my Assistant Coach, and Josh Marlow as our S&C Coach. Josh has continued to provide S&C remotely and we will look to find an alternative to this next season, as I am not convinced that athletes are completing their S&C consistently, and we have experienced a lot of injuries and niggles this season which has been impactful. The cohort this season has mostly comprised of Year 9's, and whilst they are a very talented group, their relative lack of experience has shown during competition. Conversely, I believe that the experience they have gained this year will ensure that the U15 PDP is very competitive for 26/27.

A special mention to Thea Loveday, who trailed successfully for the London Mavericks School Games long squad and has successfully made the phase two cut at the time of writing.

Competition for the U13s and U15s remains a challenge but it is tricky getting other counties to travel to us and commit to matches, as they tend to have more opportunities in their geographical vicinity.

Lack of coaching depth remains a challenge, and I am keen to look at setting up an 'Apprentice' coach programme to enable us to promote talented and enthusiastic coaches into our programme.

Attendance at training and availability for match days has taken a downhill dip this season, and I think this is due to the use of an app to set attendance. We will ensure a clarification of expectations for next season.

Our relationship with England Netball continues to be a tricky one and they continue to demand a lot from us, with very little in return.

London Mavericks have worked hard to propose a programme across the East, in which all Counties look to align on certain aspects of set up and delivery. There are a lot of positives to this suggestion but also some negatives, which can hopefully be ironed out over the next 12 months to allow for a more integrated approach for 27/28 delivery.

Thank you to the NCNA committee, who continue to allow me autonomy to run the county pathway how I see fit.

10. COACHING LEAD (Helen Rowe)

This has been a particularly busy and progressive year for netball across the county, with a strong focus on reviewing and strengthening our junior provision to ensure opportunities for all within the county.

Development of Coaching Hubs

To support this vision, we have identified **Level 2 qualified coaches** who are able to lead and deliver structured "hub" sessions within the county. Located North Norfolk, Norwich and

hopefully North Walsham. These hubs are aimed primarily at **senior school pupils**, providing an opportunity for a quality training environment that bridges the gap between school and club netball.

The introduction of hubs is expected to:

- Enhance player development opportunities locally
- Improve retention of players in the teenage age groups
- Create clearer pathways into club and performance netball
- Provide leadership opportunities for developing coaches

Bee Netball for Under 11s

We have also started exploring the establishment of **Bee Netball groups for Under 11s**. This initiative is designed to:

- Introduce young players to netball in a fun, inclusive, and engaging way
- Build fundamental skills and confidence
- Encourage long-term participation

Expanding Bee Netball provision across the county remains a key development goal for the coming year.

Challenges and Constraints

Despite the progress made, we continue to face some significant challenges:

- **Limited number of qualified coaches**, particularly those available to work with younger age groups
- **A shortage of clubs willing or able to offer provision for Under 18 players**, which impacts retention during teenage years
- Increasing demands on volunteers, many of whom are already working at capacity

These constraints highlight the need for continued investment in coach development, recruitment, and support structures.

Looking Ahead

Moving forward, our priorities will include:

- Further development of hub programmes led by Level 2 coaches
- Expansion of Bee Netball provision across more areas within the county.
- Strengthening partnerships between schools and clubs to improve player pathways.
- Offer workshops with experienced L2/L3 coaches to introduce the role of the Netball coach.
- Recruitment and support of new coaches and volunteers.

11. PUBLICITY OFFICIER (Izzy Alison)

Publicity focus for the last 12 months has largely been around tidying up the website where I can. Unfortunately we don't know who's number is linked to the website so I am now having to complete updates via my phone which does take a lot longer than by laptop.

The main things I've been focusing on are trying to put in some consistency with font/colour schemes and content and to also reorganise older folders and documents. This remains a work in progress.

Wider publicity work - promotion of information on the Facebook page continues to take place - due to other commitments this is largely driven by information sent to me by other committee members.

I am starting to pull together a bit of a branding style - it's fairly basic but draws on the county colour schemes and will hopefully provide a basis for content in the future which can be edited and recycled as needed.

Looking forward to the next year (pending anyone wanting to put themselves forward) I will be expecting my first child in September, so initially navigating that and how my contributions will continue comes with a request to bear with me whilst I find my feet. I fully intend to carry on and I am hoping that some of the work I am trying to put in place prior to this will help.

I have some ideas on what I'd like to consider in the future but at the moment these are on the back burner until I have clearer idea on the year ahead.

12. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Fliss Von Christian)

EN Priorities for 2025/2026:

MODERNISING MEMBERSHIP

- Foster stronger relationships across the membership, particularly at county level
- Opportunity for leagues to take part in a membership landscape pilot if interested

SCHOOLS

- Work with more School Games Organisers (SGOs) to grow the reach of Bee Netball

NETBALL REIMAGINED

- Work with regional colleagues to promote London Mavericks and activate any agreed local community plans or delivery
- Develop a Working As One approach with our regional NSL team, focusing on county inclusion and involvement, and member voice

NETBALLHer

- Continue embedding female health across England Netball programmes, partnerships, events, volunteering, and membership
- Recruit a new NETBALLHer Champion linked with the CNA (from Walking Netball, club members, or health professionals)
- Could YOU be the Norfolk NETBALLHer Champion?? Get in touch!

NETBALLHer

NETBALLHer Champion Role – FAQs

So... what is a NETBALLHer Champion?

A NETBALLHer Champion is someone who helps bring the NETBALLHer movement to life in their netball world. Think of it as being a positive force for change, raising awareness, sharing resources, and making sure netball is inclusive and empowering for women and girls.

What would I actually do as a Champion?

You'd be encouraged to:

- Make sure NETBALLHer is visible in your netball environment eg. posters, convos, socials, you name it.
- Point people (players, coaches, officials, volunteers, etc.) to the NETBALLHer website and resources.
- Shout about the NETBALLHer Learning Offer to England Netball members.
- Get involved with other Champions: share ideas, support each other, and swap best practice.
- Help shape your club or organisation's marketing to reflect NETBALLHer values.
- Complete the 'Female Body' module from the Learning Offer.
- Embed NETBALLHer into any sessions or activities you run, be the example!
- Promote inclusive kit guidance so everyone feels comfortable and confident.

CORE NDO WORK

- Support leagues, clubs and members where required
- Assist local facility projects and development of facility strategies with support from the national facilities team
- Maintain Tier 1 Governance and Safeguarding assurances, working with counties, leagues and clubs, along with the support of the Active Norfolk Welfare Officer, to ensure cross-county compliance
- Identify underserved communities, understand barriers to participation, and provide targeted programmes
- Explore Sport England Place Partnerships and their potential for Norfolk
- Continue delivering programmes and events that support income generation to reinvest into netball

Participation numbers: New to netball target: 126 (75% target 168)

After another successful year of EN programme delivery, I'm delighted to have renewed the following Partnership Agreements for Walking Netball for 2026/2027:

- King's House Gardens, Thetford – Monday 6pm-7pm
- City College, Norwich - Monday 6-7pm
- Watton Sports Centre - Tuesday 1:15pm-2:15pm
- Dereham Leisure Centre - Thursday 11am-12pm
- Wymondham Leisure Centre - Friday 6pm-7pm
- Lynn Grove Academy - Saturday 10am-11am

...as well as two new ongoing Netball Now sessions:

- CAN/CNS, Norwich – Wednesday 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Lynnsport, King's Lynn – Wednesday 7-8pm

plus repeated short-term holiday NN sessions in Rickingham and Gorleston.

We have some fantastic coaches/leaders hosting sessions - we're extremely lucky to have them on board representing EN programmes across Norfolk! I'm always on the lookout for anyone interested in becoming a coach or host so we can offer more sessions throughout the county; if this is you, please get in touch so I can support you!

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Successful completion of Membership Pilots with both ENNL and WNNL, including delivering a league ENgage tutorial session, ensuring all teams/players in both leagues are now correctly registered and affiliated, helping in turn to increase and secure correct county membership.
- Delivery of my first Halloween-themed EN Netball Youth Camp at Langley School, Loddon, with 21 girls attending aged 9-13yrs for a full day of skills, drills and match play. Next NYC is planned for July 22nd.
- Launching a dedicated women's Over-40s Netball Now session at Lynnsport as a new Partnership Agreement. This has been really successful so far with great feedback from participants, and the group continues to grow.
- Planning and promotion of annual Walking Netball Festival; sadly, this year sign-up was too low, so the event was postponed pending a review of the offering.
- Guidance and support with using ENgage/EN website/EN Knowledge Centre for individual/team memberships, schools payments enquiries, cross-county affiliation queries, session bookings, qualifications and safeguarding checks.
- Meetings with NCNA Chair, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Leagues, and at-risk clubs/teams.

- Continuing promotion and expansion of Bee Netball across Norfolk through developing SGO/SSP connections and from school contacts made at the May SSP Bee events.
- Co-delivering Young Leader umpire support at Hobart High School to 16 girls ahead of West Norwich & Dereham SSP Bee Netball tournament.
- Delivering Bee Netball to 150 children at the Spirit of the Games Festival in January
- Supporting multiple SSP Bee tournaments at UEA/Lynnsport. Multiple school contacts made at SSP Bee events in May, with a view to plan and launch a South Norfolk multi-school Bee club next year
- Planning and promotion of the first CNA-led Bee Festival, which sadly also didn't get enough applications in time to go ahead. I will liaise with SGOs and CAN to find the most appropriate date during the next school year to rearrange the event.
- Continually building/strengthening relationships with leagues, clubs, players, coaches, umpires and volunteers across the county
- Setting up summertime Netball Now PA with SNNL for June
- Working closely with CNA Treasurer to categorise payments incoming from, and review financial viability of, all participation programmes across county
- Launching a new PA with Lorraine Nabarro for informal Netball Now at CoN/CAN in Norwich, which has fantastic numbers and now needs capping each week – great work Lorraine!
- Growing continuous insight of the netball landscape within Norfolk; the challenges and demands, strengths and experience available county-wide, and directly learning from the CAN members and the widely experienced EN East team, including NDOs, ROs and NDCCs.
- Collaborative working with Active Norfolk to explore Place Based working in Norfolk
- Attending Greater Norwich Sports & Physical Activity NGB meeting to discuss partnership projects, facilities strategies, and to understand priorities across Greater Norwich.
- Supporting NCNA and WNNL during their constitutional update process

13. NORTH NORFOLK REPRESENTATIVE (submitted by Shelley James)

The League is currently comprised of 6/7 teams and continues to play at two venues in North Norfolk - Alysham and Stalham.

The League has decided to move to a more friendly basis by removing the league tables and loosening the rules on how many players teams can have registered and how many times players from other teams can play across. All players will need to be affiliated to England Netball. It was decided to play only from September to the end of March as teams struggled with fielding teams after this time due to players' commitments elsewhere.

The League is well supported by umpires from Norwich for which we are very grateful. The roles of Chair and Vice-Chair are currently vacant and the League will look to fill these once the League resumes in September.

14. SOUTH NORFOLK REPRESENTATIVE (Gill Jennings)

The SNNL Winter League concluded on 23rd March 2026. Thankfully, there were not too many rearranged matches to complete, allowing us to finish the season just in time for the Easter break.

This season, our league comprised five teams, with each team playing the others four times. Unfortunately, we lost a team from Thetford Netball Club, who had been participating in the league for several years.

The teams competing this season were:

Phoenix Netball Club
Swifts
Pink Arrows
Diss
Diss High School

All matches were played in very good spirit and featured a great mix of experienced players and young newcomers. Umpiring arrangements required a little juggling at times, but all fixtures were successfully covered.

We continue to face challenges with some teams not providing their own umpire, and this remains an area for improvement moving forward.

Final League Table

Position	Team
1	Phoenix
2	Swifts
3	Pink Arrows
4	Diss
5	Diss High School

It was a hard-fought battle for the league title, but Phoenix successfully regained the championship this season.

The SNNL AGM will be held on 17 August 2026 at Rickingham Village Hall. Any teams, players or umpires who would like to become involved are very welcome to attend.

15. WEST NORFOLK REPRESENTATIVE (Linda Rumbold)

We have now had our first full year at our new venue, Lynn Sport, and lost no games for inclement weather across the Winter Season - a first. This, along with fully-working flood lights and visible lines, was very much appreciated by all.

We had 7 teams in each division, an increase of 2 over the previous season. This was due to the feeding up of teams from the King's Lynn Junior Netball Club run by Jade Ring and Dani Fysh. A further team has joined for the Summer League so we now have 3 divisions of 5 teams.

There were some extremely competitive and quality games in Division 1 with Bassetts finally forfeiting their Winter League Title to Kookaburras as an umpire had not noticed she was needed to umpire and the team was deducted 2 points. Only points make prizes!!

Division 2 had a clear winner in Phoenix. The junior teams acquitted themselves well achieving 4th and 6th place out of 7. There were also outstanding personal performances in Division 2 with Jessica Beck from Falcons (one of the junior teams) being awarded POM 9 times and Bryony Russell-Smith from Starlings being POM 8 times.

Congratulations to all!

With regard to umpiring we have had three players that have completed the IOA, one new C Grade and two new mentors.

All in all, a very successful and enjoyable year as always. What would we do without netball?

The above notwithstanding, the year is ending on a rather sour note. A proposed restructuring of the Constitution is effectively a coup aimed at removing the current Chair and Umpiring Secretary. It's not the proposal per se but the timing and method of it. The Umpiring Secretary is Jo Walton whom you all know. She has been a stalwart of netball over decades, second to none. She started our league in 1995 and has worked tirelessly for it ever since. She has umpired across Norfolk and beyond at many levels, for many leagues, teams and schools. She has attended meetings, organised Rules' Forums, tournaments, coaching, back-to-netball and umpiring practice sessions. She is a B Grade umpire and has been a mentor. She is inspirational to players, teams and students alike and has won EN awards. The whole situation saddens me deeply.