

NORFOLK COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION

REPORTS FOR THE AGM TO BE HELD ON 21 JUNE 2024

1. CHAIR (Anne Harper)

It's hard to believe that another action packed year has come around since I last wrote an AGM report. We have two new people on the County committee, Anoushka Williamson who is our Netball Development Officer and Roz Russell who is our Inclusion Lead.

At this point I need to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone on the County Committee. These people are a very rare breed and it is these few who make the county machine function. I have said it before that without them we would not have netball being played by so many if it wasn't for volunteers who work hard to support players in Norfolk. Sadly it's always the negative that folk remember and not the many positives. We have hundreds of women and girls playing each week who tend to forget or don't see what goes on in the "engine room," of all five area leagues and the county committee. I'm sure everyone would extend their gratitude and be amazed if they knew just how much a small number of people actually do so we can all enjoy and play our great game.

One Awards is a celebration of volunteers in different categories which is hosted by The East each year. Nominees from all counties in the East gather together after the AGM to recognise and congratulate amazing people. Norfolk have sent in nominations and have been successful in the past. At this event last year Karen Webb from Norfolk United was rewarded and recognised for all her hard work. Karen went on to represent The East at the National One Awards as Coach of The Year. This was a massive achievement, many congratulations!

All five areas in Norfolk continue to thrive. I would like to thank all of the area committees for doing an excellent job, again everyone is a volunteer. Central area naturally has many more teams and personnel to look after. The smaller areas have fewer teams but they too offer exceptional opportunities for anyone who wants to play or umpire. It is heart-warming to see ladies and girls getting onto the court where players are obviously enjoying themselves. It would be fantastic if more teams were able to participate in the smaller leagues. Our NDO is always available to support all our leagues.

This year Norfolk added a new tournament to bring the number up to three a year. This was held in March but to spread them out more evenly it was decided to move the Spring tournament to the middle of January. It was held at the UEA inside and from the feedback we received, it was a much enjoyed and well run tournament. As this was so successful we intend to make it an annual tournament.

Our Competition Lead, Shelly, has done a superb job again. She not only provides competition outside of the area leagues, but is also involved in The East region .

The Performance Pathway which looks after talented youngsters from U.11 up to U.15 has continued to flourish. This is run by Gemma Ashton who puts in an enormous

amount of time. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated person heading up Norfolk's elite youngsters.

These players may be on their way to play in Super League teams if they are committed enough and continue to make excellent progress. We have two athletes who successfully trialled and were offered places in the Saracens Mavericks U.15 Competition Squad. Two more athletes managed to be given places in the reserve squad. A further five players gained places in Norfolk's Saracens Mavericks Futures academy.

We need to thank Gemma Ashton for her time and enthusiasm in running the Performance Pathway programme. Gemma is supported by U.15 head coach Claire Wells and Strength & Conditioning coach Josh Marlow. U.13 head coach is Sophie Hansell with assistant coach Caitlyn Edwards. U.11 head coach is Katie Chillingworth and she is helped by Keira Hardiman. All these people provide safe and excellent coaching to our athletes. A very big thank you to all of them.

We have three clubs which compete in either the East Region League and in the Premier Leagues. These are Thetford, Thoroughbreds and Norfolk United. To reach this standard is an achievement in itself.

This coming year we will be looking at introducing opportunities to play in mixed teams and teams for men. Getting more junior teams will be a major focus as Norfolk has very few clubs for juniors.

We have eight Walking Netball groups which are based all over the county. They provide netball to be played by our more senior ladies and for those recovering from injury. Although Walking Netball suggests the game is played at a slower pace, don't be fooled! It is a time when ladies can play together with no pressure but turn up knowing that they will get great exercise but more importantly they can socialise and enjoy one another's company.

Norfolk has run a festival back in March and another is planned for July. These festivals are organised and run by our Netball Development Officer, Anoushka. This is one of the many activities each NDO puts on for their respective counties. If there is anything netball related that you would like to find out about Anoushka is available to ask. If she doesn't know the answer she will find out.

Officiating is a big focus this year involving some changes to the rules of the game. There is a small working party putting together information which all players, coaches and umpires must take on board and understand. Norfolk's Officiating Lead is part of this group; Sophie has spent many hours working on this project to ensure everyone involved in netball has the right information and understanding of what these rule changes are and how to implement them.

Within officiating there is mentoring. Again Norfolk has a very strong and professional team of mentors under the guidance of Sue Brown. I frequently travel around the East where I come across other umpires and I can honestly say that Norfolk umpires are doing a very good job. This supports my thinking that our officiating team which includes mentors and umpires is doing a grand job.

We have one Back To Netball group which is aimed at ladies who haven't played for a while but would very much like to get back on the court. This gives them playing time and quality coaching so maybe eventually they will feel confident enough to play in teams again.

Commercial leagues unfortunately are becoming more popular. Yes, it's good that so many ladies are playing but it is a worry that these leagues do not provide insurance. As we all know affiliating to England Netball gives insurance to all, from players to volunteers and to officials. Participants are only covered if they have their own personal accident policies if they choose to participate in the commercial leagues.

Looking ahead, England Netball is going to be celebrating it's centenary in 2026. Events and ideas are already in the pipe line. I hope netballers in Norfolk are ready to support and participate !!!

Thank you to all who take the time to read this, Norfolk are always ready to welcome anyone who would like to volunteer to help in any way to keep netball flourishing in the County.

2. HON TREASURER (Anna Bright)

The current balance sheet is showing a profit of £1,154.54, however we have not made a payment to the Schools account which I estimate to be around this amount so I would report that we have potentially broken even this year.

The reason we are not showing a loss is entirely due to Performance making a profit, all other areas have made a loss.

ACCOUNTS:

The balances on each account as at 30.04.23 are:

Lloyds:	£14,404.52
PayPal:	£ 726.91
Total:	£15,131.43

We have also opened a 32 day notice account, into which we put £15,000, with an interest rate of 1.85%. The balance on this account as at 30.04.23 is: £15,099.63. Therefore, we have a total balance of: £30,231.06 (this is down by £502.70 on last year).

AFFILIATIONS:

Income of £6,889.47, which is back up again when compared to last year which was £5,644.89 but still not at the pre-COVID figure of £7,474.61.

NDO

Once again we have paid for the NDO @ a cost of £3,096.15 (reduced to reflect the time the post was vacant). We haven't yet committed to paying for the NDO for 23/24, the cost for this will be £3,650 which is over 50% of our current income. I have raised my concerns about this cost to the Exec Committee – please see more below.

Performance:

Showing a profit of £2,627.94, however this doesn't account for the income from PayPal above as this hasn't been transferred over. Therefore, it would be a profit of £3,354.85. We still have £7,854.21 ring fenced in the accounts + £2,627.94 = £10,482.18 to be ring fenced for Performance.

UMPIRING/COURSES:

We have seen a complete loss of income from courses and an increase in costs for umpiring as we're striving to get more mentors on board and progress and develop more umpires.

We have made a loss of £1,694.68 and having discussed this with Sophie and Sue we can only see this figure increasing as we have more committed to more mentoring sessions for mentees and have more qualified mentors along with the need to host IOA practical sessions, rules refreshers etc. This is an area that I think our affiliation money should be invested in as it directly benefits all of our members.

WALKING NETBALL/BACK TO NETBALL:

Currently WN is showing as having made a loss of £752.49. This is an improvement on last year and is in a large part due to the success of Gina's Wymondham walking netball group, however it is important to note here that these figures do not include any of the host invoices for April as these will be in the May accounts and therefore the actual loss figure will be higher. We have increased participant fees from £5 to £6 per session. The Watton group continues to make a loss but the City Academy group does compensate for this slightly. The Fakenham group made a loss and I do not have accurate figures for Dereham yet.

We are looking into funding to support the new WN hosts/groups so that we can make these viable.

COMMITTEE:

Expenses are higher this year as we have purchased a laptop and memory sticks at a cost of over £500.

PUBLICITY:

To support our newly appointed Representative we have invested in the website, there will be ongoing costs associated with this.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND:

This was a newly created fund for 22_23. We allocated £800 and we used £645. Majority of this money has gone to support WN hosts but we were also able to help Vixens netball club out following a break in resulting in their kit being stolen and supported a member to get her coaching qualification. The Exec have discussed this fund, the application process and terms and conditions and will be making some changes.

DONATIONS:

We donated £250 to the local foodbanks. This was in line with an EN directive.

MIXED NETBALL:

Following the success in the previous year with £279 being ring fenced, this was used to support Kerry Todd's mixed netball start up. Loss of £297 to be reported.

Conversations are ongoing with Kerry about potentially bringing Mixed Netball under the county umbrella so that we can support this.

SCHOOLS:

A proportion of the affiliation money is for schools; we are struggling to get accurate figures from EN but I estimate this to be around £1,100.

JUNIORS:

Nothing to report.

BUDGETING FOR 23_24

England Netball have asked us to put together an estimated budget for 23_24. I have excluded Performance from this as Gemma runs this as a separate area, with her own budgets and costings etc. Any profit made in this area is ring fenced to be re-invested in Performance.

	Income	Expenditure
Affiliations	£7,000	
NDO		£3,650
Schools		£1,200
Umpiring/Mentoring/Courses		£3,000
Walking Netball		£750
Financial Support Fund		£500
Committee		£300
Publicity		£250
Juniors		TBC
Mixed Netball		TBC
	£7,000	£8,450
	£7,000	£8,450

These are estimates only and whilst the income might go down the expenditure is only likely to increase. As you can see on this basis, we will make a loss of £1,450 without Junior or Mixed Netball investment.

With all our other costs increasing I have raised my concerns with the Exec committee about committing to pay EN for the NDO role as I do not feel this will be sustainable. My biggest concern here is that our members' money from affiliation is being paid back to EN for a post that has targets set by EN and generates income for EN. Of the three new walking netball hosts whereby the income is coming into the county only one has a successful, profitable set up. So, whilst I appreciate that the NDO generates income for Norfolk too, sadly there hasn't been enough of a benefit reflected in the accounts, rather the opposite with a rise in costs to set up the various Walking Netball enterprises, getting people qualified, providing equipment etc. We have not seen an increase in Junior netball or income from Junior netball during this period. This is not a reflection on Andrea, I am referring to the role, I feel that our members have a right to have a say where their affiliation money is going and to commit to give over 50% of it to EN should be discussed and agreed at this AGM.

Please see Balance Sheet attached.

3. COUNTY OFFICIATING LEAD (Sophie Pike)

Umpiring is finally getting back to normal now after a very slow start compared to other areas in the East Region. Our uptake for courses is still really slow although IOA courses are being snatched up and filled as they are being released. I have asked all leagues if they have enough people to do an IOA course in the County and if we do then I will contact EN to organise. EN have come back to say they don't do closed courses but will raise it. C Courses are a bit slower to fill and this may be due to the IOA no longer having an expiry date. This will create a gap in our umpires in particular C award umpires, which will of course have an ongoing affect with umpires working towards B. B courses are being filled due to only one or two per year.

ASSESSMENTS

Congratulations to the following umpires on passing their assessments:-

IOA Assessment – Megan Broughton, Nikki Scott, Sophie Hollis, Ellie Kelf, Kudzie Garikayi, Danielle Fysh, Maria Beck, Natalie Farr, Abby Carr, Eleanor Wagstaff, Becky Ingram, Rachel Cook, Catherine Putt, Sophie Hardman, Lauren Fowler, Julie Field & Danielle Tracey.

C Award Assessment – Maria Rusivakula, Karen Mobbs, Nicola Gedge, Bethan Reeve, Cassie Bishop, Rebecca Burgess, Zara Veasey, Elis Golding, Meghan Broughton & Jade Ring.

B Award Assessment – None

B THEORY

Congratulations to Dinky Topley & Anna Bright on passing their B written paper.

IOA PRACTICAL SESSIONS

These sessions are greatly appreciated by those learners who have attended the online sessions. We held one in October 2023 with 6 attending out of 8 applying, one in January 2024 with 8 attending. Nothing was planned for April 2024 due to only one learner waiting for a course and lack of umpires applying through ENgage to do courses.

UPDATE ON EAST REGION LEAGUE

All Regional umpires have been given three months' notice that they must attend a rules update and game management session 9th July 2024, if they don't attend then they cannot umpire in this league unless of extenuating circumstances. Again there has been great attendance for the East Region league from the Norfolk umpires. Congratulations to Gina Hopkinson on her appointment as Regional Umpire Co-Ordinator.

COUNTY PLAY OFFS FOR REGIONAL LEAGUE

These took place on 17th January 2024 at UEA. A big thanks to Karen Last and Deb Sutton for umpiring.

REGIONAL LEAGUE PLAY OFFS

This will take place 4th May in Suffolk several umpires from Norfolk have been invited to umpire due to the lack of B award umpires in Suffolk.

NEW ASSESSORS COURSE

We had 2 umpires put forward to do this course, Deb Sutton & Anna Bright. Deb has completed her course now and completed her two observations at IOA level. Anna didn't complete this due to technical problems with the session run.

2024 RULES UPDATE

Email went out to all the big clubs in Norfolk to see if they want this delivering to their clubs rather than attending a county run one. NU, Knights, Thetford and Knights asked for individual ones to be delivered. Dates are now sorted for most areas.

A big thank you to all our assessors and mentors who give up such a huge amount of time to help all umpires in Norfolk along their umpiring pathway.

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.

Over the last season there have been 18 IOA Learners, 13 C Award Learners, 8 B Award Learners and 2 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.

5. TOURNAMENT SECRETARY (Michelle James)

Date	Tournament	Total Raised	NCNA	Charities
3 Sept 2023	Lyn Elvin Memorial	£1648	Nil	• £1648 – Big C
16 March 2024	County Spring	£1000	£1000	
21 April 2024	Jean Liddle	£1197.30	£598.65	• £199.55 MacMillian • £199.55 Refuge • £199.55 Nelson's Journey
		£3845.30	£1598.65	£2246.65

Upcoming Tournaments

1 st Sept 2024	Lyn Elvin Memorial
18 Jan 2025	County Spring
27 April 2025	Jean Liddle
31 Aug 2025	Lyn Elvin Memorial

6. 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 – Wymondham College	Runners Up – Norwich School

All the above then went on to represent Norfolk in the regional round held at Stanborough School, Herts. Well done to them all.

Again, Gresham's School held U12 & U13 schools' netball tournaments which were very well attended by over 20 schools in our county. It was great to see over 20 schools from the county competing with a range of ability but with the same enthusiasm for enjoyment of playing.

U12: Cup Winners: Norwich School	Runners Up: Gresham's
Plate Winners: Sprowston	Runners Up: Sheringham High
Bowl Winners: Notre Dame	Runners Up: Lynn Grove
U13: Cup Winners: Langley Prep	Runners Up: Norwich School
Plate Winners: Notre Dame	Runners Up: Cromer
Bowl Winners: Sprowston	Runners Up: North Walsham

A massive thanks to Tom and his team at Gresham's for organising and being so generous with their hospitality.

Thanks, as always, to all those involved in helping run all our schools' tournaments, leagues and friendly 'rock up and play' games in our areas as well as our county finals.

7. COUNTY PLAYER DEVELOPMENT LEAD (Gemma Ashton)

Due to regulations enforced by England Netball, we were forced to hold our final trial in September, following on from a series of pre-trial training over the summer holidays. Several of our talent identifiers (selectors) had attended a recent EN course on Performance Identification and trials were run in accordance with their recommendations.

The process ran smoothly, and I feel that with every year we run the program, we refine our processes to increase their efficiency.

Our U11 Academy trained at Norwich School Sports Centre and was overseen this season by Katie Chillingworth and then assisted by former NCNA athlete and Saracens Mavericks player, Keira Hardiman. Athletes trained weekly and then came together for 3 matchdays throughout the season. A big thank you to Katie for leading the U11 program this year.

The U13 Academies have been led by Head Coach, Sophie Hansell, and Assistant Coach, Caitlyn Edwards this season. 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. It has been a solid year and I would like to extend my thanks to Sophie and Caitlyn for their hard work.

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. It has been a strong season in terms of individual player improvement, despite the teams not always being able to replicate this under pressure in competitions. I am very proud that three of our U15 athletes successfully gained places in the Mavericks U15 squad, as well as a fourth athlete gaining a reserve place. As the year draws to its conclusion, it has been emotional to say goodbye to some of the athletes who have been with us for up to 5 years.

A highlight of the season was a guest training session with England Thorns player, Ky Lewis. He took our U13 and U15 Academies for a session and the girls thoroughly enjoyed it!

Competition for the U13s and U15s has been inconsistent and is an area that we need to develop for the future to ensure that we continue moving forwards. I worked hard at the start of the season to book some match days in, but it has been tricky getting other counties to travel to us and commit to matches. The only other county to organise any competition was Bedfordshire, who ran a tournament. We did travel to Staffordshire for a tournament and arranged a matchday at a neutral venue versus South Bucks.

Discussions have continued with England Netball this season regarding all Counties within the East refusing to sign the County Agreement. Whilst England Netball continue to be keen to listen to our concerns, this is not followed up with any action and they continue to demand a lot from us, with very little in return.

As I write this, the news has been announced that Mavericks will continue in the Netball Superleague 2.0 as the 'London Mavericks'. I presume we will still fall under their territory in terms of pathway support but await further information.

Thank you to the NCNA committee, and particularly Anna Bright, for their continued support.

8. COACHING LEAD

Vacant post - no report.

9. PUBLICITY OFFICIER

Vacant post – no report

10. SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (Lauren Jordan)

There were two safeguarding concerns raised this year, both of which were dealt with internally. We sought advice for one from England Netball and were advised that it could be handled at County Level.

An email has been sent out to the League Representatives to pass down to their Leagues following information from England Netball: this reads

Dear All,

I hope you're all well.

My name is Lauren Jordan and I support the Norfolk Netball League with safeguarding.

Any safeguarding concerns can be sent to the Norfolk County Netball email address. Please note that this email address is not monitored constantly and if something is an emergency you are advised to call the police on 999 or in the event of a non-emergency on 101.

I wanted to share some information re. Safeguarding following some information received from England Netball. Some of this may only be relevant to those teams that are youth teams or adult teams with under 18s in them, however it is important to note that you may have adults at risk (vulnerable) in your team as well.

Social media, including WhatsApp (see Social Media policy attached):

Best practice is that Under 18's are not communicated with in direct message groups, such as WhatsApp, to protect volunteers and young people.

England Netball say:

Instant messaging applications (informal communications)

- *As a person in a position of trust, do not instant message anyone under the age of 18 directly.*
- *Any group conversations should not be used as formal points of communication*

- *Any group conversation must not contain any players U18 with someone who is over 18 in a position of trust. Any Group conversation set up with U18s must have permission of their parent or guardian to proceed.*
- *Any Group conversation which in acting for the purposes of communicating between person in a position of trust and U18s (i.e U18 Netball Team) may only contain the parent or guardian of the person U18.*
- *Any group conversations should have at least 2 administrators in it.*

Emailing (formal communication)

- *Emails should never be sent to U18s on a 1-2-1 bases. An additional club member should always be copied in as well as parents or guardians, if deemed appropriate the U18 can be copied in.*
- *Where possible send emails from a club account not a personal email account.*
- *If using a club email account ensure that 2 people can access that account.*
- *If in an emergency direct communication is required with an U18, ensure that another club member and a parent or guardian are copied in.*

There are a few options:

1. Parents are the communicators in the groups for entirely youth netball teams
2. There is written permission from a parent / guardian for their child to be in the group for adult teams
3. Other apps are used, such as TeamApp or Heja.

We appreciate that part of sport is to build up independence and sense of responsibility for young players. Some of our academy teams have started using an app called Heja which allows for communication between players and coaches, but parents should be able to view these conversations. It also means that mobile phone numbers aren't seen.

See here for Heja (there are very similar apps out there, so feel free to look around and consider what works for your club): <https://heja.io/>

Photography / Filming

Please note that if a player needs to be filmed or photographed during their game, e.g. because of exams, permission must be sought by every player in the team, the umpires and scorers.

If a player on a team is under 18, there must be written permission from a parent or guardian.

England Netball DBS and Training

If you are working with people under 18, you will need to have an England Netball DBS. For volunteers, it is only the admin fee that needs to be paid.

You can find out more information about DBS and how to get one on the England Netball website here: <https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/11115602/DBS-Online-Guidance-0923-DN-1.pdf>

England Netball doesn't accept the DBS update service at the moment.

DBS certificates are non-transferrable and a separate one is required regardless of level of check in any other voluntary or paid roles.

Similarly England Netball won't accept safeguarding training from other providers / paid or voluntary roles. Please see here to check what you may need for your role:

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/22153703/Safeguarding-Training-Requirements-volunteers-and-coaches-Jan-24.pdf>

General Safeguarding Checklist from England Netball -

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/02140511/England-Netball-Safeguarding-checklist.docx>

(Please note that England Netball have a lot of policies that would work for clubs, so check these out!)

Many teams, clubs and leagues will already have things in place, however there were a few areas where questions had been raised previously and I wanted to share some information.

Kind regards,
Lauren.

11. RESOLUTION OFFICER (Mandy Carrick)

As of June 3rd no issues have needed to be resolved, therefore, nothing to report. It is however, important for all members to know that the County has this process in place, and should there be anything within a club, which cannot be resolved internally within that club, the issue/s can be brought to the Resolution Officer who do their best to help resolve the problem.

12. BELONGINGS & INCLUSION OFFICER (Roz Russell)

Herewith a summary of everything that has been achieved for Diversity and Inclusion in 2023-2024.

Firstly I had to work with Lyndsey at East of England Netball to create an updated role profile for the Diversity and Inclusion Lead, which has been completed. An e-mail address has also been created for inclusion. Inclusionnorfolk@gmail.com This has been cascaded out to the various leagues although no-one has reported any issues via the e-mail address yet.

Whilst cascading out the new e-mail address I also encouraged people to complete the England Netball inclusion training and sent a link to their website to encourage continuous professional development and best practise. I have also sent out links to websites that Lyndsey told me were interesting and informative on the subject of inclusion.

Finally this month I have arranged a taster session to be run at the UEA sports park as part of the inclusive club which runs on a Wednesday and if the participants enjoy it, Emma who currently runs the walking netball class at UEA will run a regular session. It won't be weekly but will be part of a multi-sports offering that is currently running but good that Netball will be one of the sports offered!

13. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (Anoushka Williamson)

Total participants: 41

New to netball: 32 (since April reset)

Current sessions:

- Thetford Netball Club Monday 5.45pm-6.45pm (winter) or 6.15pm-7.15pm (summer)
Thetford Academy, Croxton Road, Thetford. IP24 1LN indoors during the winter & then at Kings House Gardens, Kings Street, Thetford. IP24 2AP outside during the summer
Gill Alexander gill.alexander@sky.com- 07724 067760
- City College Norwich- Monday 6-7pm
Anne Harper
- Kings Lynn Tuesday 10am-11am Lynnsport, Greenpark Avenue, Kings Lynn. PE30 2NB
Fliss von Christian flissvonchristian@gmail.com- 07787 161446
- Watton- Tuesday 1:15pm-2:15pm Watton Sports Centre, Dereham Road, Watton. IP25 6EZ
Anne Harper
- Dereham Thursday 11am-12pm Dereham Leisure Centre, Station Road, Dereham. NR19 1DF
Fliss von Christian flissvonchristian@gmail.com- 07787 161446
- Ketts Park Thursday 7pm-8pm
Angela Butcher wymondhamwn@outlook.com- 07769 748319
- Wymondham Leisure centre Friday 6:15pm-7:15pm Wymondham Leisure Centre, Norwich Road, Wymondham. NR18 0NT
Gina Hopkinson wymondhamwn@outlook.com 07769 748319
- Lynn Grove Academy, Saturday 10am-11am Lynn Grove Academy, Lynn Grove, Gorleston-on-sea. NR31 8AP
Libby Gates libby_g@hotmail.co.uk- 07827 927005

- Back to Netball just finished at City College/Sewell Park- over 10 weeks we had 41 participants and 32 New to Netballers

Future sessions

- Netball Now at Rickinghall over the summer for SNNL

General info

Since coming into the role I have had frequent meetings with Anne and believe we have developed a very strong working relationship and one I believe has thrived. We have met frequently either at The FDC in Norwich or at her Walking Netball sessions over a tea and cake. I believe our strong relationship has led to slightly improved (I know not great) relations between the county and England Netball. I have also been frequently attending all walking netball and back to netball sessions across the county to build relations and get to grips with the landscape. Off the back of this, I set up a new Back to Netball session in Norwich with the support of Lorraine Nabarro as coach. This was hugely successful with 41 participants attending across the 10 weeks, with 32 of these being new to netball. My hope is that this can continue over the summer and participants have already started messaging between themselves to organise sessions.

NetballHer went live on the 2nd November offering a free course in women's health to all England Netball members.

The 4 modules are:

The Female Body - available now

The Female Body - Puberty Edition (Coming Soon)

The Female Body - Pre/Post Natal Edition (Coming Soon)

The Female Body - Menopause Edition (Coming Soon)

If we can promote this around Norfolk that would be amazing! We are also trying to promote clubs/leagues/sessions having a "court short" box for all participants to use if they need to.

Kerry Todd is looking for someone to take over her mixed team (Phoenix Netball) in Norwich. They currently run every other Thursday but would be open to other training nights. Please contact Kerry on 07375463754 if you are interested or know of someone that would be interested.

I have had an amazing 10 months at England Netball but I have now been offered a fulltime position in women's football which I could not turn down. My last day is the 3rd July but I would love to keep in touch with as many of you as possible! Please feel free to message me on my personal number at any time as I would love to stay involved in netball, 07931001261.

14. NORWICH REPRESENTATIVE (Vicky Askew)

Another great year of Netball.

The winter league continues to be popular with 36 teams entering in Winter 2023. Due to high demand we are currently trying to source an additional venue to open a 'feeder' league for the UEA indoor competitive league to meet the needs of the NNL. Unfortunately, there is no additional court time available at UEA so we are sourcing other options. The winter leagues at both Open Academy and CVL at City Academy proved ever popular. During the winter season the league took the decision, after consulting with teams, to move the CVL league to Hellesdon High due to the poor quality of the courts at City Academy and increased risk of injury to players and umpires.

Summer league 2024 has started well with a few new teams entering the competitive league.

We are looking at ways to improve the use of the website and trialling Winter league applications via the site. The aim is to decrease the amount of admin work needed by committee members. The number of users and hits on our website are positive, with many questions being answered through the FAQs and easier access to information. We are also looking to launch additional communication to members in the coming weeks.

The roll out of the new rules has been organised with four workshops being held across Norwich. This is a MUST for all umpires that wish to continue umpiring within the league. It has been very pleasing to see that some captains and coaches are keen to attend too.

A BIG THANK YOU to all involved in the Norwich Netball League. Let's hope for a sun filled summer season!

15. NORTH NORFOLK REPRESENTATIVE (Michelle James)

The League is currently running on Sunday mornings at Aylsham High School. There are eight teams in two divisions although from September this will likely be incorporated back into one division. Since the committee took over the allocation of umpires no games have been cancelled due to lack of umpires so this will carry on in to the next season.

16. SOUTH NORFOLK REPRESENTATIVE (Gill Jennings)

Winter Season 2023-2024, we started on time but the second week it was cancelled due to the weather and from then unfortunately it didn't really get much better. With a lot of re-arranging, we managed to complete the last game on time in Mid-April.

Again, we had 6 teams, each playing each other 3 times, which has meant a good mix of games.

All games have been good with no major injuries or issues. We have had some good competitive netball being played and everyone enjoying the games.

Final Results:

Total	Points	Position
Phoenix A	33	1
Pink Panthers	27	2
Swifts	26	3
Thetford	14	4
Pink Arrows	1	5
Diss	0	0

Unfortunately, I have been told that Pink Panthers and Pink Arrows will not be competing again next winter for a lot of personal reasons from their team members. Which currently means we will only have four teams.

I am talking to Diss High School who may want to enter a team and also hoping we can get some interest from a few of the Netball Now participants.

I will be running Netball now through the summer.

At present Rickinghall courts have an issue with the flood lights, one of the lights is not working and they have been told the complete system will need to be changed and updated. This will be a cost of approximately £12,000. They are currently looking into getting funding, however, I'm not sure how this will affect us for the winter 2024-2025 season.

17. EAST NORFOLK REPRESENTATIVE (Karen Oakley)

The winter season finished on 12th March 2024 with the following results

Division 1 Winners	Cliff Park Eagles
Division 1 Runners Up	Luma
Division 2 Winners	Cliff Park Swallows
Division 2 Runners Up	M&H K-Os
Fair Play Winter 2024	Emily Roberts – Ravens and Sophia Vanston - Loddon

The winners and runners up were presented with their awards at the Annual General meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at Lowestoft & Yarmouth Rugby Club, Gunton Park, Old Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 5HE

65 members were present at the AGM with all teams represented. The following members were related and new members elected onto the committee for 2024/25 season.

Chair: Sharon Boyd
Vice Chairman: Karen Oakley – Duly elected
Secretary: Sheelagh Redpath
Treasurer: Lorraine Baldwin
Affiliation: Sheelagh Redpath
Fixtures: Victoria Arnull – Duly elected
Umpiring Secretary: Joint – Ellie Kelf and Amy Smith - Duly elected
Committee Members: Cherie Knights; Eleanor Shulver; Melanie Sandford

During the meeting the following Annual Special Awards were presented

THE LINDA CRISP AWARD for services to Officiating was presented by Sammy Harwood (Linda's daughter and Wendy Moor (Linda's sister)
The recipient was Deborah Smith from Beccles.

THE LYN ELVIN AWARD for services to the League was presented by Sharon Boyd
The recipient was Melanie Sandford

Summer season commences on Tuesday 23rd April and will be a handicap tournament with 13 teams playing each other at Lynn Grove with matches at 7pm and 8pm on two outdoor and one indoor court

NEW RULES ROLL OUT:

After consultation with Sophie Pike Norfolk COL Lowestoft will be setting their date/s for a face to face session/s at the beginning of September (dates to be confirmed at wither Lynn Grove or Inspire (Lowestoft). This will be classroom based – facilitated by Karen Oakley and delivered by Sheelagh Redpath.

18. WEST NORFOLK REPRESENTATIVE (Linda Rumbold)

This year has been rather a mixed bag for WNNL. However, we are lucky enough to have a consistent Committee that works together well for the good of the league.

On the positive side we gained two extra teams last September, so for the first time since Covid we have been able to have two divisions this year. Also all these teams have either qualified umpires or those who have completed their on line IOA. A special mention is due to Jade Ring who is now a fully fledged C Grade umpire. We do have several non-playing umpires that cover emergencies or are resident umpires for teams while their new IOA grades get practical experience.

Jade, apart from working for her C award, and along with Dani Fysh, has also organised junior training for an hour before the league matches. This has been well subscribed and their aim is to be able to extend the time and break down the training into age groups. This would need to be on a separate night from the league itself.

On the negative, and I am sure similar to other leagues that play outside, the weather has done its best to see us off this year. Indeed it is still trying! We had so many rearranged games and even rearranged rearranged games. We always make sure the fixtures have spare weeks in the hope that we might be able to organise some practice evenings for teams and/or umpires or even a tournament. But not this time!

However the biggest negative this year has been our venue. The lines on the courts have completely disappeared in places and it is credit to players and umpires alike in persisting without incident to deal with this. As a committee we have been hassling the school since we restarted after the Covid break but to no avail even though several promises have been made.

Referring again to the weather, we have all become used over years to getting soaked and playing on, but cancellations were mainly due to the poor drainage of the courts and subsequent water logging that made the surface unplayable. We were invited by EN to apply for funding from them. Eventually the venue agreed to cooperate, we were successful in the Stage 1 application and a site visit was organised. This was then cancelled by the school's Governing Trust at the last minute as they have been awarded funding for a sports facility revamp by the Department for Education. However this will not be for some 3-5 years and does not comply with the requirements for EN's funding scheme. On top of this, the school are no longer allowing us to park on the school premises.

We have now appointed to the committee an officer for Premises and Funding and she is working with EN, the Borough Council and Alive West Norfolk to investigate the possibility of new facilities in the town. Netball is very poorly catered for. This is a longer term project but in the meantime we are considering moving to another school where the courts are in better condition but there are only two not the three we have at the moment. This would hinder expanding the league; we had hoped to get nearer the 20-22 teams we had before Covid. A veritable Catch 22 situation.

Notwithstanding the above, the 12 teams we do have continue to enjoy the netball we have are currently able to provide here in the West.