



## A.G.M REPORT 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER FOR SEPT 2019-AUGUST 2020

### Chair Report- Hannah Reed

As my first full year as Chair of the BNA, it has certainly been a turbulent one. The 2019/20 season started off well at the last AGM in October 2019. The Birmingham Netball Association recruited 3 new members; Secretary (Gaynor Jones), Media and Communications manager (Sharon Smith) and Treasurer (Sharon Wells). Those appointed to these positions have made huge contributions and as a committee I am proud of the improvements and developments made and are continuing to make thus far.

County Club competitions ran as normal in the 19/20 seasons. Under 13 and Under 15 county club competitions will commence this year and being planned with necessary Covid protocols in place. Additional report is contained below.

County Academies took place during 2019 and full details are in this report.

Recommendations from clubs and teachers are being captured and planning to take place for 2020.

Umpiring assessments had been going well and more were planned for the summer until Covid prevented completion. 1 x Into Officiating course was cancelled. Birmingham however, is proud to have been selected as one of the county's piloting the new C award theory paper and have put forward 11 candidates. 1 has already passed. Additional report below.

We welcomed Georgi Rettey our new NDO after Pauline Knight retired. Georgi has made a big impact already and has been supporting the Birmingham County very well.

Sophie Masterson left as the schools rep and we welcomed Chauvell Lynch who has taken over. Last year all schools competitions took place and we had representation at the regional schools competition. We do not envisage running any schools competition currently.

The committee are also regularly supported by Colette Thomson, in a Committee advisory capacity and her insight is always invaluable.

The BNA also supported the Birmingham School Games Virtual competitions and with the support of Colette Thomson and Beth Cobden, created 3 challenge videos which went out to all school children in Birmingham over the summer holidays. I would like to thank Colette and Beth for their support. We have awarded 10 netballs to the secondary and primary school

with the most participants during that week as well as a signed England Netball to one of the most engaged pupils. The winners were a pupil from Paget primary school for the netball and Paget Primary and King Edward VI Handsworth School for the netballs.

**Within the County - The Birmingham Netball League started in September 2019 and progressed to February 2020 however the last few games had to stop due to Covid 19. The Birmingham Intermediate league was cancelled shortly after starting as was the Women's League and the Summer senior league was also cancelled.**

The BNA are in a strong and stable position moving forwards and I hope this will continue regardless of the situation we find ourselves in. I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work and support over the last year, which we would all agree has been a year like no other.

### **Secretarial Report- Gaynor Jones**

Following the 2019 AGM Hannah Reed took over as Chair of the BNA and re-structured the Committee with both new and current volunteers (note a new Secretary, Treasurer and Communications officer) and re-established relationships with the core Birmingham Leagues – Winter Seniors, Summer Seniors, Intermediates and a new relationship with the Women's League.

Eight meetings were held during the year secretariat was performed by Gaynor Jones – face to face at the beginning of the year and Zoom video from March. Meetings were positive and proactive and enabled us to refresh the BNA Constitution, the Roles and Responsibilities document and the Birmingham Netball Website. Full minutes were taken and actions closed in a timely manner.

The 2019 AGM produced and approved a financial statement with the closing balance of £17,800.13 . The new Treasurer from 2020 is Sharon Wells.

During 2019/20, 8 grants were approved for Coaching Courses – 1 x Level 3, 5 x Level 2 and 2 x Level 1. Not all courses took place during to Covid however support was still awarded for future courses.

Match netballs were provided to each team in the Birmingham Leagues.

### **Communications and Social Media – Sharon Smith**

The Birmingham Netball Website – Birminghamnetball.co.uk. – was re-branded with a new logo and updated to provide a “one stop shop” for Birmingham netball and kept live on a monthly basis and linked to key messaging from EN.

Two Newsletters have been produced to keep Birmingham connected with competitions and quizzes for juniors and seniors. Highlights were interviews with Rachel Dunn and Colette Thomson with questions from across the County. Sharon Smith has taken the lead in this area.

Social media has been updated and kept live throughout year to ensure consistent messaging from WM and EN with the help of our new NDO Georgi Rettey.

## Umpiring Report – Hannah Reed

During 2019/20 all Birmingham umpires benefited from umpiring forums to ensure consistency and applications of the Rules. Courses and Umpiring assessments were planned and some completed during September to March as follows:

- 10 Into awards
- 7 New C Awards
- (4 working towards B award)
- (2 working towards the A award practical assessments)

1 Into Course was cancelled despite being full and will be replanned when appropriate. 2 final C award assessments and 2 C pre assessments were deferred however will be completed in the future. Any umpire awaiting an assessment have been given an extension.

11 umpires are awaiting theory paper (resits) – all have been invited to undertake in the Pilot project for online assessments for netball Europe. Umpires have until the end of November to complete their theory as part of the pilot. 1 confirmed pass to date.

### 2020 Re-Start

To support the re-start for the BNL from 7th November and to ensure all umpires have viewed the new rules and modifications, Hannah Reed set up and completed 3 Zoom calls- each lasting 2 hrs which highlighted the new rules and modifications based on Gary and Cheryl's presentation, with an opportunity for umpires to ask questions during and afterwards.

The BNL have made this compulsory for umpires, so they could ensure umpires were fully aware of the new rules and modifications. Over the course of the 3 sessions, 125 umpires attended. 8 umpires who registered did not attend and this is likely because none of them were affiliated (had to be affiliated to view the presentations). If umpires who wish to umpire in the Birmingham League completed the local forums last year as CPD ran by me, and now attend another counties umpire forums (new rules and modifications) then this would be acceptable and they would be able to umpire in the BNL.

## Academies – Anne Marie Hooper

Anne-Marie Hooper coordinated the Birmingham U15 and U13 academy in 2019/2020.

Starting with trials, with over 100 applications for each age group, the selectors offered up to 20 places per academy. A team of selectors included BNA committee members, academy coaches and a coach from another county were presented. The trial were run in a new format over a whole day. There was representation from a number of Birmingham Clubs selected into the academy and we allowed late triallists (i.e. injured, ill on trial date) to attend training sessions as part of the selection process.

There was a team of 6 coaches which worked with both age groups and teams were entered in the Wasps Academy tournament and South Staffs inter counties tournament.

Several Birmingham players chose to trial for Super League franchises and we had success with a few offered places at Wasps, Severn Stars and Loughborough Lightning. It was a struggle for some players to commit to both an academy and a franchise hub place due to school, other sport, netball club commitments plus travelling out of the county for franchise hub training, so a couple chose to give up their Birmingham academy place.

Congratulations to all our academy coaches and players for their hard work and effort this season. It's been a delight to work with them all and seen improvements in every aspect of the academies this year. The season ended abruptly due to covid-19 but we will be back next season to continue the improvements and continue to support for the academy players on their netball journey.

## County Clubs- Carla Lloyd

Carla Lloyd coordinated the Birmingham U14 and U16 Regional Qualifiers and completed the 2019 competitions and has begun preparations for 2020.

In 2019 the following teams entered the Birmingham Regional Qualifier League Matches

Club	U14	U16
Birmingham City	1	0
Bournville	1	1
Bran Nu	0	1
Dudley Road **	2	0
Foxes	1	1
Linden	0	1
Parkside	1	0
Sparkhill	0	1
Sutton Royals	1	1
Sutton Town	1	1
<b>Total teams</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

All matches were played by early December, the U14s were split into 2 groups of 4 teams; U16 – 1 group of 3 and 1 group of 4. \*\* Dudley Road had to withdraw from the competition resulting in 6 U14 teams playing for spots in the regional stages.

**Under 14's** The semi-finals in the U14 category were between Sutton Town V Sutton Royals and Parkside V Birmingham City. The final was played between Sutton Town and Parkside.

Parkside were placed first with Sutton Town qualifying in second place for the regional stages.

**Under 16's** The semi-finals in the U16 category were between Linden V Sparkhill and Foxes v Sutton Royals. The final was played between Linden and Sutton Royals

Linden were placed first with Sutton Royals qualifying in second place for the regional stages.

**Umpiring Opportunities** were offered to Into and newly qualified C umpires to umpire these matches so they could experience regional conditions. All umpires were highly praised by team coaches and managers and many at Into level have now achieved their C award. Carla Lloyd fully appreciated parents who timed and scored the matches that helped the matches run smoothly.

Thanks to Colette Thomson for her invaluable assistance in scheduling the matches and to Dean Treasure and the team at Nechells venue for assistance throughout.

**Team Managers, Coaches and Parents** A big thank you to the team managers, coaches and parents who all work tirelessly to allow the girls to enjoy their netball. Without them these events just would not be possible.

### 2020 Plans

Eleven Birmingham Clubs/ teams who have previously entered teams have been approached to confirm entry for the U14 and U16 regional qualifiers. Six U14's and seven U16's have confirmed to date. They have been advised that there is no guarantee that they will progress to regional and national events.

Matches will be played in accordance with current COVID Guidelines and will take place at Nechells Wellbeing Centre, Birmingham during November and December.

### England Netball Programme - Georgi Rettey

Since September there have a few personnel changes within the EN team, before February 2020 Pauline Knight was in post with Sally Bromley as NDCC and Val Thomas on furlough. They worked together to provide netball opportunities for 467 participants of which 80% were new to netball (not played in 12 months).

Georgi Rettey came into post as NDO 1st April, by which time Covid lockdown took place however Georgi has participated by providing guidance, support and clarifications to the BNA, the Leagues and Walking Netball Hosts.

No face to face delivery has taken place but Georgi has engaged many Birmingham members in the Virtual Netball Club. Georgi has been working hard to support all clubs in their return to court and as of 27th October, there are 1375 2020-21 members which is 71% of the total number last year, this is expected to continue to rise as the Birmingham Netball League has a start date 7th November.

CAPS Club accredited has been put on hold, however, last season we had 6 clubs reaccredit: Foxes, Sutton Royals, Birmingham City, Sparkhill NC, Ashanti NC, Fusion NC.

**Report End**