



## COUNTY REPORT – AUGUST 2021 – JULY 2022

### Chair Report- Hannah Reed

What a year it has been; but one that I am sure none of us will forget in a hurry. Birmingham were proud hosts of the Commonwealth Games and is a highlight throughout this report, but I will come on to that later.

I am proud to chair our committee meetings in an effort to improve netball engagement year on year and this year has been no exception. Our committee is ever growing and again I am proud of all the hard work our volunteers put into netball both on and off the committee. It really would not be same without them. Gaynor for keeping me in check, Kemi for some wonderful suggestions, Sharon W who is an excellent treasurer, Sharon J who never sleeps and does a fab job on media comms, Carla for county club competitions, Anne-Marie for running our Academies, Jayne for thankfully having little work to do on safeguarding, Colette for her unwavering support in anything and everything, Chauvell and Salli for schools liaison and finally Kirsty who is there whenever I need her! Thank you all for another brilliant year!

Birmingham had a successful 2021-22 season with County Club competitions back up and running, Academies back up and running and officiating assessments back underway as well as leagues operating a 'business and usual' year. Each of these sections is covered in more depth later.

One of the committee's proudest moments was our involvement in the Commonwealth Games roadshow at the Birmingham Netball League (discussed below) and our schools netball tournaments which ran 3 formats (participation, semi-competitive competition and competition) or bronze, silver and gold events. The events were all supported by England Netball staff (x3), local coaches (x10) and umpires (x10) which engaged 60 teams from 52 primary schools across Birmingham. We were lucky enough to have Perry for one session along with 5 news, Free Radio and other media organisations as our first event coincided with 50 days to go; which of course was done on purpose!!

The committee allocated £2000 to support these events alongside support from the Community team from the Commonwealth Games and some in kind support. The feedback from schools was exceptional and I'm proud to say that the BNA showcased netball to the next generation at a once in a lifetime event. Schools were allocated a country to represent at the events and there were prizes for the best dressed! I won't forget that Inflatable Welsh Dragon for a while! I have included some pictures below from our events.







Thank you to our venues- Nechells Wellbeing Centre and King Edward VI Aston School – Trinity Road) for all their support.

Sam Evans also created a learning resource which I can show to support the education of countries associated with the games. A 50 question quiz was also used to support this. This went city wide and was used by England Netball in their watch parties.

The BNA committee purchased 10 tickets for volunteers to attend the Commonwealth Games.

Another highlight of the year was the West Midlands One Awards, where Birmingham had 5 winners including, Myself (Hannah Reed) for the Sheelagh Redpath Grassroots Officiating Award, Sam Evans for the Teacher Award, Carla Lloyd for Mary Bulloch Community Volunteer Award, Ellie Walsh for Young Volunteer Award and the Inclusion Award – Sports Key. We wish everyone the best of luck at the National Awards.

3 Committee members, including myself (Hannah Reed), Colette Thomson and Carla Lloyd were volunteers at the Commonwealth Games and Colette really enjoyed seeing the netball from a less stressful position.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our other activity.

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

The AGM was held via Zoom in November 2021 attended by Clubs Reps and Committee and the financial statement was approved with the closing balance of £13,461.62

Four committee meetings were held during the year via Zoom. Meetings were positive and proactive and enabled us to stay connected with England Netballs' forward plan and each Birmingham League. A new Vice Chair was appointed (Kemi Okunnu) and a new Primary School lead (Salli Rudge) joined the team.

During the 2022 the EN Governance Check Health Assessment (GCHA) was completed by the BNA and an action plan set for the next 12-18 months to improve governance and align to the WM and England strategic goal of attaining Tier 1 sport governance level. In addition, we completed our County Plan of improvement actions to feed into the overall West Midlands 1–3-year plan. Our revised Constitution has been developed in preparation for Season 22/23.

Coaching bursaries were provided for 7 Level 2 Coaches and 4 new Level 1 Coaches to county members.

### **Communications and social media- Sharon Smith**

The Birmingham Netball Website – Birminghamnetball.co.uk continued to be refreshed and improved to align to the GCHA action plan. One new Birmingham senior league was added to the website. A shared calendar of events is in development phase to enable all the County to see any potential conflicts or joint support events.

Social media has been updated and kept live throughout year to ensure consistent messaging from WM, EN and Birmingham and Commonwealth Games.

### **Officiating Report- Hannah Reed**

Like many other counties, this year saw us start to process umpire assessments that were held up in the system due to Covid. This has been successful with the majority of those wanting to take their assessment having had an opportunity to do so. Informal free observations for all umpires on the pathway continue to be funded by the County prior to final assessment (as Pre assessments have been removed) if they wish (15.00 for the

assessor). In relation to Into awards, if an observation is successful, the candidate may be offered the choice to do the assessment straight away. In which case the learner pays for the assessment not the county. This makes best use of the assessors' time, if only viewing 2 learners.

Most people are now aware of the process for booking onto courses and uptake has been good in Birmingham.

BNL league commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 with normal rules in place and ran a successful season. The BNL and BSL supported with assessments in Birmingham.

No forums ran last year, as it was important to focus on restart. Forums have commenced again for this year.

Assessments undertaken in 2021/22:

- Intos- 16 new Into's
- Into –completed course- will be awaiting future assessment- 44
- C awards- 17 new C awards (1 NYM)
- C awards- completed course- will be awaiting future assessment- 1
- Pending assessments- carried forward: C award- 4
- B award- 2 passed B theory paper. 1 due to take paper and another is booked onto a course.
- A award- Rob Tozer passed his A award Assessment.

Thank you to Sue Richards, Kim Lumley, Bernie Young, Jurdene Godsil, Rob Tozer, Gary Holden, John Sposon who have all supported me with assessments and observations. It is hugely appreciated.

*As of 29/09/22 we have had 3 Into umpires pass their assessments.*

Hannah continues to deliver virtual courses for EN.

21/22 was a successful season for assessments, and it is hope that 22/23 will be just as good!

### **Academies- Anne-Marie Hooper**

With fewer challenges than last year, Birmingham ran an U15 and U13 Academy between September 2021 and July 2022. Trials were held in June and July 2021 in readiness for the September start. Approximately 55 players were involved from a range of Birmingham clubs. We finished with 4 taster sessions for athletes looking to trial for the academies next year and wanted to gain an idea of what a Birmingham training session would be like. These taster sessions were also open to current Academy athletes.

Many thanks to all club coaches for their support of their players who were selected into the Birmingham Academies this year.

Both U15 and U13 programmes included strength and conditioning, positional workshops run by guest coaches and also the opportunity to watch our local Premier League team in a match at Nechells. We held sessions mixing the 2 age groups and the U15 group had a training match videoed (thanks to Colette) and had the opportunity to watch and analyse their match play at the next training session.

We attended tournaments run by other counties, entering U13 and U15 squads and in one we entered an U12 squad too. The U15 Academy had a training match against the Birmingham team which qualified for U14 National Club competition to help with their preparation for the competition.

Next year (2022-23) we would like to include more match play opportunities and possibly an Inter County tournament organised by Birmingham. For athletes, there needs to be a greater understanding of the importance of training on their own outside of the planned training sessions. Athletes need to develop as individuals so they can still perform/compete at higher intensity and under more pressure on their own, outside of their club team with individuals they are not familiar with. Birmingham would like to increase the number of athletes moving on to represent Franchise Age Group Competition Squads.

Special thanks go to the coaching team of 2021/2022, David Griffiths, Jill Hogan and Dionne Williams, whom with myself and a team of guest coaches completed the necessary number of hours required by England Netball.

Also, a big thank you must go to the Birmingham umpires that attended trials and tournaments.

We are always looking for people to assist with Academies, example roles could be Selector, administration, team manager/first aiders for match play/tournaments, assistant or lead coaches.

### **County Club Competition- Carla Lloyd**

In 2021 the following teams entered the Birmingham Regional Qualifier League Matches

Team	U14	U16
Birmingham	1	1
Bournville	1	1
Foxes	0	1
Parkside	1	1
Sutton Royals	0	1
Sutton Town	1	1
Sparkhill	0	1
Little Sutton (not CAPS yet)	1	0
<b>Total teams</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

All matches were played in round robin format ensuring each team had opportunity to play each other in the first round.

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

Both U14 and U16 teams played off for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place and those finishing in third place were put forward as reserves. The play offs for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place and finals were played on the new show courts. Parents and spectators were asked to make a small contribution to watch matches and this proved to be highly successful.

**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:***

Hannah Reed and Rob Tozer for umpiring the U16 final.

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

BNA for their ongoing financial and moral support of this unique event.

**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.

**Schools- Chauvell Lynch**

Schools competitions were back up and running this year following Covid and we had representation in each age group for qualifiers to regional. We also ran an under 15, under 13 and under 12 competition.

**England Netball Programme – Kirsty Dixon**

**Birmingham Netball Development Officer Report, 2021/22**

**County Participation**

During the 2021-22 financial year we were able to get back into full swing and final return to normal netball activity with minimal effect from Covid-19. It was great to be able to encourage the community to get back into netball and we have seen a large influx of 'new' to netball numbers. Throughout this period, we have also had new members of staff introduced to the England Netball Birmingham Team; Myself, Kirsty Dixon NDO and Amy Stoddard NDCC. This

has had a positive impact on the amount of session that have been delivered with the aim to increase more in season 22-23.

We were also extremely excited about the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the impact this would have on participant numbers. At England Netball we were able to deliver multiple ‘Session 0’ which were free session to help engage and encourage new participants to come to a netball session. These were successful with us delivering a total of 4 across Birmingham.

Figure 1: Programmes & Participants (April 21 - March 22)

These figures are NDO and NDCC figures combined

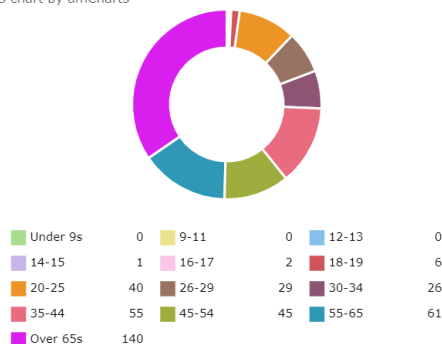
	Number of Programmes:	Number of Participants:
Back to Netball	13	275
Netball Now	4	53
Walking Netball	20	193

Figure 2:

Programme participants by age group (April 2021-March 2022)

These figures are NDO and NDCC figures combined

JS chart by amCharts



### England Netball Development Community Coach Update

Across the 21-22 season there were community netball sessions at 18 different venues across the city, engaging 500 ladies in netball. 6 of these programmes were specifically set up to support diversity and inclusion in netball. We have been increasing our presence and reached out to diverse community groups and prioritised Birmingham Wards that are listed as ‘high deprivation’ in Birmingham.

According to Gov data, over 50% of Birmingham population classes as ‘living in deprivation’, yet only a small proportion engage in netball. We are working hard to help change this!

In Sept 21, EN started engaging with a group of Asian women playing netball and since then, through just this group, 23 Asian ladies are regularly playing netball at Nechells Wellbeing Centre. We provide a safe space for women to remove their hijabs and scarves and play netball where they can’t be seen by men. Some of these ladies have long term aspirations to



play in a competitive league which is safe to uncover, this is in our plans for the coming season.

Programme highlights this year

-Working with diverse communities and adapting sessions to make it safe and appropriate for all to take part. This then led to EN Steering Group meetings to collect insight and the opportunity for participants to attend the Commonwealth Games

-Increasing the amount of session that are delivered in LSEG areas. With the support of EN funding we have been able to reduce some cost to help more people play netball.

-Developing strong relationships with partners and increasing promotion for session on social media and England netball session finder.

County Club Development & Membership

Birmingham Clubs and Leagues landscape is ever growing. With our current three leagues growing in number and they make a strong return with also positively effects our membership figures. Birmingham remains to be one of the highest Membership Counties in the West Midlands and with the future of more leagues on the horizon I believe 22/23 season will reflect in a similar fashion.

Birmingham has an impressive eight clubs with over 100 members attached, with many just behind in the 90’s.

Figure 4: Affiliated members by organisation and individual participants for the current season compared to the previous affiliation year

	Season 2019/20	Season 2021/22	Season 2022/23
Members O18	963	1084	899
Members U18	208	293	281
Members U14	466	515	358
Members U11	318	470	358
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>2362</b>	<b>1961</b>

Education & Training

Figure 5: Number of qualified Coaches and Umpires living in Birmingham

Level 1 Coaching	62
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Level 2 Coaching	78
Level 3 Coaching	2
Into Umpiring	97
C Award Umpiring	109
B Award Umpiring	15
A Award Umpiring	5

We have a Level two Coaching course taking place in Birmingham in February 2023. This has been booked up quickly.

In 2022 England Netball helped create a relationship with Sport Structures to arrange a Birmingham Members only Safeguarding course. This was very successful, and we will look to help support this again next season.

## **LEAGUES**

### **Birmingham Netball League- Deb Rolinson**

Between the whole Committees dedication and cooperative teamwork, I hope you all agree, despite some difficulties with cancellations, re-arrangements and Covid still impacting, we still managed a very good season, and were a lot closer to normality than we could have hoped a year ago, and I'd also like to thank all our Team Secretaries and Managers for (mostly) staying on top of the constant updates and fixture juggling, your co-operation this year was sincerely appreciated.

We do hope to be even more 'back to normal' for next season, and, apart from League cancellations for weather, we will not be permitting general re-arrangements of matches, without AT LEAST 2 weeks notice, for example for Team Weddings, and with the notable exception of the fixture nearest to Christmas.

In addition to our usual BNL 'duties' this year it was also our pleasure to 'host' and support the Commonwealth Games Roadshow, which was a very successful day – thanks to all the Teams who dressed up and joined in, and congratulations to all the prize winners:

BAI 5

Aces Hearts

Sparkhill E

Blossomfield Bees 1

&

MG Cougars Pink

We were so delighted to have been able to secure such great prizes, so thanks in particular to Alanna who secured the Severn Stars Tickets, along with Hannah, Colette, Kirsty and Asma for the Wasps tickets, bibs, balls, water bottles and Com Games badges – brilliant effort by all.

The Com Games will impact on us again this season, and slightly delay our re-start.

### **Birmingham Intermediate Netball League- Norma McLean**

Season 2022 commenced with the Pre-season in February. Teams numbers increased slightly to 96 which was a manageable number.

We initially started off at Birmingham Uni but due to the Commonwealth Games taking place in late July and the netball courts being used as a seating area for Hockey, we relocated to Shenley Academy for the remainder of the season. -Despite the loss of one court as well as the quality of the lower courts, Clubs adapted to the change in location. The competitive play of the players was impressive. We continue to have clubs from outside Birmingham taking part in the BINL. During the season we used INTO umpires giving them the opportunity to gain further experience and the confidence to aim at progressing to their 'C' Award in officiating. Winners and Runners up of each division deserved their award for all the hard work that was put in throughout the season. The BINL maintained that parents stay outside the courts which was welcomed by Managers & Coaches. Overall a successful 2022 season was had by all.

### **Birmingham Summer Netball League- Christine Peddie**

Birmingham summer league was quite successful, having the commonwealth games was a little bit challenging as this meant the league was placed across 3 sites. There were some bumps along the way. but with the help of our brilliant umpires, we managed to get all games covered even to the point of last minute.com. The AGM was held 13/10/2022 a few additions were made to the constitution and the rules with a little help from BNA and this was well supported.

Looking forward to the new season and back to central venue.