



COUNTY REPORT – AUGUST 2022 – JULY 2023

Chair Report- Hannah Reed

On the whole the 22/23 season was a success despite some challenges early on. I would like to start this report by acknowledging the sad passing of two very much loved members of our netball community. Sheila Shand passed away on 11th June 2023. Sheila was instrumental in developing netball at Billesley and Kings Heath Little League Netball and Bournville and was a huge inspiration to myself. Some of my own early netball memories involve Sheila. More recently our County President Margaret Palmer passed away on 27th September 2023. Margaret assisted several Roses teams whilst acting as team manager for England Netball and was a key member and club president at Lyndon Centre. Margaret has been a great support to myself since I joined the committee and she will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

Due to a few role changes mid year I would like to extend my thanks to Sam Evans (schools) Alanna Rolinson (officiating) and David Griffiths and Colette Thomson for their academy support in anticipation of the 23/24 season. We pass on our thanks to Chauvell Lynch and Anne-Marie Hooper who have left us this year as well as John Sproson who helped to support the umpires for the schools competitions. Carla Lloyd has taken over this role. Once again I would like to extend my thanks to every committee member for all their hard work in facilitating and supporting netball in Birmingham.

Birmingham had plenty of nominations at the One Awards with myself, Anne-Marie Hopper, Gaynor Jones and Kemi Okunnu all up for an award. Sadly, non of us won, but it was still a great night. Asia Liguat however did go on to win the National Inclusion Award at the National One Awards held at The Belfry in October.

Finances- end of year 31st July 2023- £5316.69.

Secretarial Report- Gaynor Jones

The AGM was held via Zoom in November 2022 attended by Clubs Reps and Committee and the financial statement was approved with the closing balance of £13461.32

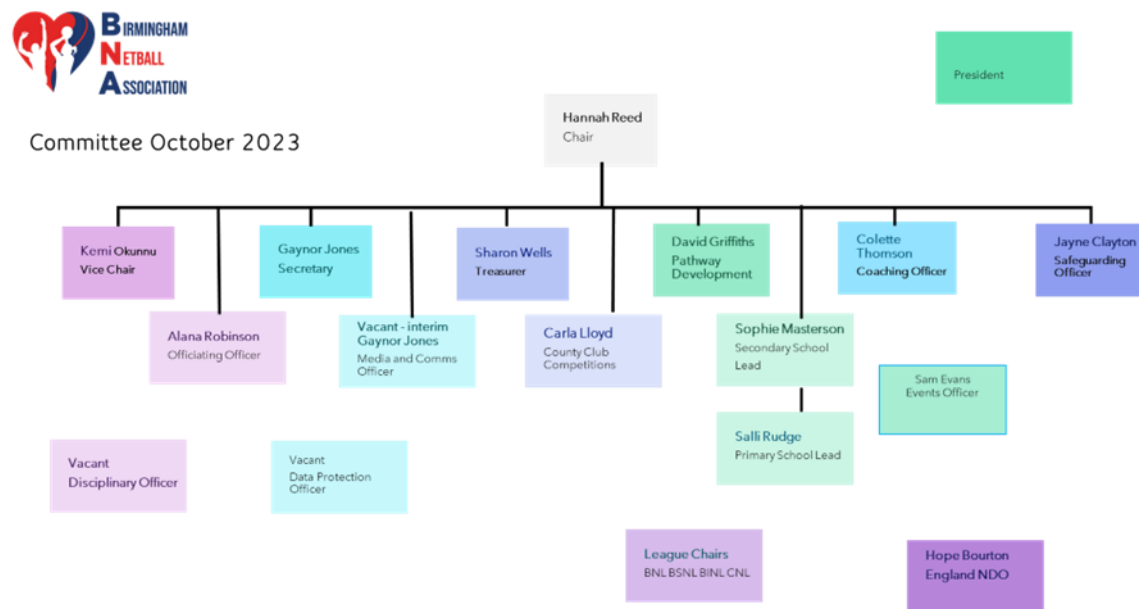
Five committee meetings were held during the year via Zoom. Meetings were positive and proactive and enabled us to share knowledge and experiences, stay connected with England Netballs' forward plan and each of the Birmingham Leagues.

During the year there were changes to the BNA Committee membership. Ann Marie Hooper left the position of Pathway Development Lead and was replaced by David Griffiths as co-opted lead. The Schools' Lead was co-opted as Sam Evans however during the year school responsibilities were split between primary and secondary schools and Sophie Masterson and Salli Rudge were co-opted into these positions respectively. Sam Evans remained on the Committee as Event lead moving forward. Alanna Robinson became the Officiating Lead shadowing Hannah Reed (as this was a dual role alongside the Chair role).

We completed our County Plan of improvement actions to feed into the overall West Midlands 1–3-year plan.

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

Committee Structure



Officiating Report- Alanna Robinson

This year we've made a good start and progress into building our umpiring network. We have been successful with offering Informal free observations for all umpires on the pathway which will 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. There is still more demand for assessments and mentoring that still cannot be met by the county.

BNL league commenced on 9th September 2023 and have agreed to continue to allow us to carry out C award assessment on league fixtures up to division 4.

There have been no forums as of yet this year but we plan to hold some in January once we have received the changes to the rules. The forums will also focus on issues we have encountered and witnessed at central venue fixtures which we have viewed as important to revisit.

Assessments undertaken in 2022/23

- Intos- 16 new Into's (1 NYM)
 - Into –completed course- will be awaiting future assessment-2
 - C awards- 4 new C awards (1 NYM)
 - C awards- completed course- will be awaiting future assessment – 5
 - Pending assessments- carried forward: C award- 5
 - B award- 2 passed B theory paper - Awaiting Assessment. 1 awaiting paper
- 1 new assessor - 1 pending, 2 awaiting course.

Awaiting full update on assessors who have completed the standardisation training.

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

Hannah continues to deliver virtual courses for EN.

Pathway Development Programme – David Griffiths

Birmingham County ran U15 and U13 PDP (known as Academies) between September 2022 and July 2023. Trials were held in early September, in line with England Netball guidance. The trials attracted nearly 200 applicants across the two age groups. Whilst this caused a few challenges for the selectors, it demonstrated the attraction the Academies have in the County.

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, player technical development and tactical awareness, in line with the England Netball program. Guest coaches were invited to deliver a number of sessions, which proved very popular with the players.

We attended 2 tournaments run by other Counties, as well as 'match play' days at Rugby School with a small number of other Counties. The 2 tournaments were very good experience for the players, the match play, on reflection, perhaps not so much. We also had

one friendly match against Severn Stars Academy hub. One issue at the tournaments and Rugby School match play were the lack of County coaches to manage the team. This resulted in players parents managing teams. Whilst the parents were qualified coaches, the use of non-County coaches was not ideal and did not portray a professional image. (For 2023-24 the County has more coaches in the team and therefore this situation should not occur).

Special thanks go to the coaching team of 2022/202, Anne-Marie Hooper, 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 go to the Birmingham umpires that attended trials and tournaments.

For the upcoming season we have implemented a number of initiatives

- New Academy badge
- New Academy kit
- Addition of an U13 Development Academy
- Recruitment of new coaches into the Academy

The new group of coaches are looking forward to a successful 2023-24 season!

Coaching Development Report – Colette Thomson

Birmingham Coach development group established in January 2023

Aims

- Create a group to support the development of coaches within Birmingham and thus improve the netball experience for players
 - Explore netball strategies, practices and game understanding
 - General support and advice
 - Remove the feeling of “coach isolation”
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- 40 people have shown an interest in being involved - 16 different clubs
 - 5 sessions held covering
 - Basic principles, club codes of conduct
 - Circle Attack
 - Circle Defence
 - Centre Pass Attack
 - Through Court defence strategies
 - Attendance varying from 4 to 10 coaches

Initial Outcomes

- Increased interest in Birmingham Academy coaching
- 15 additional coached involved in Academy Selection and Coaching sessions.

Potential developments

- Increased publicity of sessions to increase attendance
- Practical sessions

Issues

- Availability during the season
- Viability of practical sessions – sportshall/player availability

County Club Competition- Carla Lloyd

In 2022 the following teams entered the Birmingham Regional Qualifier League Matches

Team	U14	U16
Aces	1	0
Birmingham	1	1
Bournville	1	1
Foxes	1	1
Little Sutton	1	0
Parkside	0	1
Sutton Royals	0	1
Sutton Town	1	1
Sparkhill	0	1
Total teams	6	7

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 Birmingham City and Little Sutton v Aces. The final was played between Sutton Town v Little Sutton. Sutton Town were placed first with Little Sutton in second place for the regional stages. Aces qualified third and were chosen to play for the regional stages at Walsall.

Under 16's The semi-finals in the U16 category were between Sutton Town v Birmingham City and Parkside v Foxes. The final was played between Sutton Town v Parkside. Sutton Town were placed first with Parkside in second place for the regional finals. Foxes qualified third and were put forward for draw in regional stages.

The play offs for 3rd and 4th place and finals were played on the 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:

BNA committee for their ongoing financial and general support of this event.

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.

Nechells Well Being Centre Staff who helped prepare the courts each Sunday ensuring games ran on time.

Schools- Sophie and Salli (written by Hannah)

County Schools competition- all competitions ran (under 19,16 and 14) as well as an under 15,13 and 12 competition. Chauvell Lynch left the post suddenly which created challenges in addressing entries for each event. Sam Evans help to collate entries from schools in order for the events to continue smoothly. Sophie Masterson has now taken over the role and organised the Schools meeting for this year in organise dates for events. Many thanks to Sam for stepping during the Interim.

Primary schools league was difficult this year as schools complained about having to travel to far for fixtures- this was not helped by the fact that entries were still down after Covid.

England Netball Programme - Birmingham Netball Development Officer Report, 2022/23

EN Birmingham Team

The Birmingham team consists of a Netball Development Officer, two Netball Development Community Coaches and a Children's Sport Activator. There has been some change amongst this team within the year in all Positions. Kirsty Dixon has left the post of NDO and Hope Bourton has replaced her moving across from Warwickshire NDO. Amy Stoddart has finished her year long contract as Birmingham NDCC as this was a commonwealth games legacy role. She is staying around England netball as she will finish the NDO maternity cover for Warwickshire. Val Thomas has returned to her role as NDCC and is keen to continue to grow Back to Netball over the patch. Victoria Morris and Lucy Fletcher (nee Heap) remain in their Birmingham roles. Please see the bottom of the report for contact information of all the Birmingham team.

1. Supporting clubs and leagues to return, providing match play opportunities for every member.

- **Leagues**

All member leagues returned to court this season, Birmingham netball League (BNL), Women’s Netball league, Birmingham Intermediate league, Birmingham Summer Netball League, and first season for the Central Netball League.

- **Clubs**

Total number of clubs has increased by 8 to 60 clubs this season.

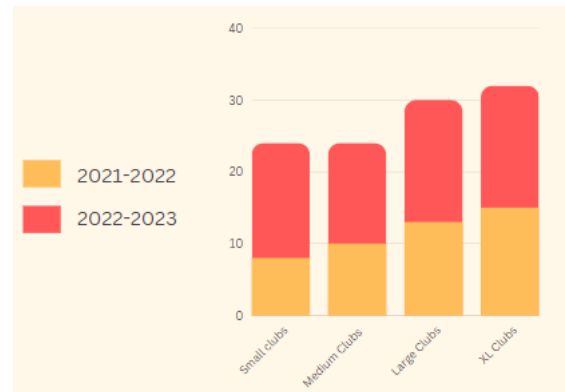
Total number of clubs- 60

Small clubs (less than 20 people) – 14 +1

Medium clubs (21-50 people) – 14 =0

Large clubs (51- 100 people) – 16 +5

Extra-large clubs (100+ people) – 16 +2



- **Membership**

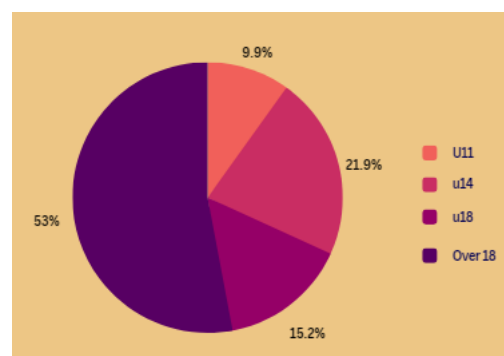
Membership sat at **2513** people this year across all leagues.

U11's- 239

U14's- 527

U18's- 367

O18's- 1276

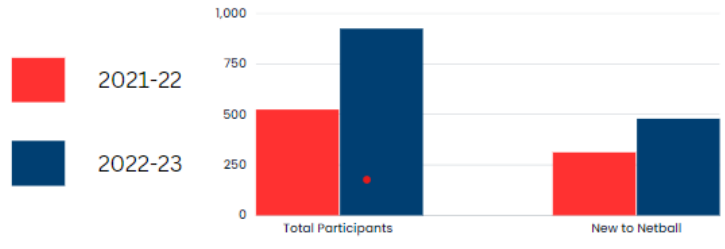


2. Re-engaging participants previously involved in programmes.

- **Programmes**

Participation numbers in
Programmes in Birmingham 2021-22
vs 2022-23

In the 2022-23 season there were **1580** Participants in programmes across Birmingham- **753** are New to netball across these programmes.



<p><u>Back 2 Netball</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stechford Leisure Centre - Shenley Academy - South and city college Birmingham – (Golden Hillock campus) - South and City College Birmingham (Bordesley Green Campus) - Solihull College - Erdington Academy - Beechcroft Multi sports club - Prince Albert High School - Christ Church Secondary Academy
<p><u>Walking netball</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tudor Grange Academy - Christ Church Secondary Academy - Manor Farm Community Association - Streetly Sports & Community Centre

3. Coaching and umpiring qualifications

Coaching Qualifications Level 1 x 78, Level 2 x 90 and Level 3 x 2
 Officiating Qualifications A x 5, B x 15, C x 125 and Into x 130.

4. WM Regional winners from Birmingham

Division one winners from Birmingham- Linden
 Division Two Runners up from Birmingham- Barr Beacon- Prem Playoffs
 Division Two Runners up from Birmingham- Sutton Town- Promoted to div one.

5. National

- NETBALLHer launched- Initiative launched promoting women’s health.
- Vitality Roses remain third in latest world rankings.
- Claire Nelson hired as NSL Managing Director
- Mark Foster hired as EN Chief Commercial Officer
- England netball was part of the pride at London Pride 2023

- New kit launches for the Vitality England Roses
- Jo Harten and Serena Guthrie join the Vitality Roses coaching team.
- Vitality announces partnership extension with Vitality – doubling investment including grassroots.
- Nike announces a free sports bra to a grassroots girl for every goal scored by the Vitality Roses at the World cup.
- Silver medal at the Netball World Cup – Best Finish in a world cup.
- Commonwealth youth games Bronze for England u18.
- Announcement of professionalisation of the netball super league.

- **B2N & WN festivals**

Both ran this summer netball world cup themed. Birmingham teams have entered both.

- **3 Netball Youth Camps ran in Birmingham at Shenley Academy and North Birmingham Academy.**

Total participants = 78 New to netball = 21

Birmingham Contacts

Partnership Manager – Zoe Mitchell

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Regional Coordinator – Emma Payne

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NDO Birmingham – Hope Bourton

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NDCC Birmingham- Lucy Fletcher

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NDCC Birmingham- Val Thomas

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NDCC/ CSA- Victoria Morris

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