

## **Berkshire Netball Chair's Report 2024/25**

Thank you to everyone involved in netball in Berkshire for another successful year.

There is so much great work going on within the leagues, clubs and communities to provide so many different opportunities for people to get involved with netball as players, officials, coaches, team managers and other volunteering opportunities. Something for everyone!

A few things to mention from the past year:-

- Following completion of the Tier 1 Governance review which we reported on last year, we are still waiting for feedback from England Netball to help us plan for the future.
- Berkshire Junior Netball League just seems to go from strength to strength with was once again a huge success with teams from across Berkshire and beyond enjoying regular matches at various venues across the county. Thank you to Kate Maxfield who, together with her sub-committee, worked tirelessly to ensure that so many young players had the opportunity to compete on a regular basis.
- In addition to the winter league, a friendly summer league is also taking place to give teams the chance to keep playing regular netball.
- Berkshire Netball continued to run 2 x U13 and 2 x U15 Player Development Programmes as part of the England Netball Player Pathway. We welcomed Katie Fisher to the coaching team who was a great addition with her experience of the Player Pathway. This year saw additional training opportunities outside of the pathway with the creation of the fortnightly U13 and U15 Academies for those players who just missed out on a place in the PDPs.
- Berkshire Netball continued to provide financial support to clubs and individuals with a number of bursaries awarded during the year, particularly for new coaches being supported with the cost of their courses.
- Berkshire's Officiating Lead, Mary Stanley, together with her team of mentors and assessors, oversaw the development of many umpires within the county at all levels which has resulted in many new umpires gaining their qualifications this year.
- Berkshire's NDO, Debbie Spindlow, has once again provided excellent support and advice to the Board as well as delivering her own extensive work programme within the county. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work and enthusiasm and unwavering support for Netball in Berkshire.
- Berkshire clubs were well-represented in the Netball South regional leagues again this season with Eagles, Royals, Athena Bs, Woodley, Bs and Magnet all competing in various age groups. Eagles qualified in both U14 and U16 age groups and went through to the finals of the National Clubs competition with their U16s being the first Berkshire team in over ten years to lift the trophy and their U14s taking third place in their final. Berkshire Netball were delighted to provide bursaries to help with the cost of attending the finals.
- Wellington College U19s qualified through the county and regional rounds to go on to play at National Schools Finals in Sheffield to represent Berkshire and Netball South.
- Berkshire officials have once again been heavily involved with the NSL this season fulfilling roles as technical officials/umpires etc.
- Our Safeguarding Officer, Christina Turton-Berenger, has been busy keeping everyone up to date and supporting all our teams/leagues to ensure they are compliant with EN requirements.

Thank you to everyone on the Board and to everyone involved with netball in Berkshire and to all the amazing people who help to make all of this happen. The dedication and hard work of all those who help to deliver netball in the county is undoubtedly appreciated by all of those that benefit from it.