

Berkshire Netball Development Officer's Report 2024/25

- In accordance with our agreement with England Netball, we continued to run 2 x U13 and 2 x U15 PDPs for talented young athletes at St Neot's School, Eversley (U13) and Wellington Health & Fitness Centre, Crowthorne (U15).
- The coaching team were- Kate Maxfield, Georgie Maxfield, Marina Bowles, Zoe O'Brien, Jacqui Cossar, Katie Holmes, Christina Turton-Berenger, Poppy Simpson (ad-hoc) and Sarah Feast. We were also joined by Katie Fisher who was able to bring lots of experience from within the England Pathway.
- Berkshire PDP athletes enjoyed a number of match play opportunities over the course of the programme against other counties including Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, North Bucks, South Bucks.
- We also enjoyed some match play against Pulse Power's Berkshire PDP which contained several previous Berkshire PDP athletes.
- We sent 1 x U13 and 1 x U15 teams to the Bedfordshire Invitational PDP Tournament. This was an opportunity for the selected players to compete against teams from all over the country with 18 teams competing in each age group. The Berkshire squads performed well and finished 5th in both age groups.
- A number of current Berkshire athletes were selected for franchise U15 Academies for Pulse Power and Bath and are waiting to hear if they have made it into the final competition squad.
- It was great to see a significant number of former Berkshire athletes being successful at franchise trials in September and gaining places in franchise U17/U19 and PDPs at Pulse Power, London Pulse and Mavericks.
- Following the creation of the Pulse Power pathway to replace Surrey Storm after the restructuring of the NSL last summer, Berkshire's Player Pathway Lead (PPL), Sarah Feast, joined the Pulse Power Pathway Management Group together with representatives from the other counties. This has recently merged with the London Pulse PMG as both pathways are now being administered by the same person.
- Pre-screening for U13 and U15 PDPs 2025/26 has taken place on 12th (U13) and 19th (U15) June with an unprecedented numbers of triallists from various counties, in particular for U15s where we have had over 130 applicants.

We are looking forward to working with the new crop of athletes in 2025/26 and can't wait to help them develop their talent within the pathway.

Sarah Feast - Player Pathway Lead