



Easter 2017

NEWSLETTER



Website: www.stratfordthunderbirds.com

Twitter [@stratfordbirds](https://twitter.com/stratfordbirds)

THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO IN NEW BIRMINGHAM & WORCESTERSHIRE LEAGUES



Like a western saloon bar, a deadly hush descended on north Birmingham on 12th March when Stratford Thunderbirds finally strolled into town. All the regulars wanted to see what the new kids on the block were made of. Little did they know that quite a few feathers were about to be ruffled.

The first week produced some impressive high scoring wins, to be followed a week later with 14 wins out of 17 matches. Since then, our website results page has looked very healthy, while the weekly match reports on Twitter have captured some precious reactions, including this one from a winning U11B team .

Kelly believes it has been a good move for Thunderbirds, "Teams are better matched and the standard of umpiring is very high. What pleases me most is that it has allowed B and C teams to gain plenty of match experience. The girls have all worked so hard and played tremendously".

With fixtures overlapping in Coventry, it has called for extraordinary effort both on court and on the motorway, with parents ferrying players between the two venues. Never was your dedication more apparent than on Mothers' Day, when so many mums turned out courtside. Thank you to all our Mums and Dads who make this possible and well done to all players who acted up to support their club mates.

Meanwhile, over in Stourport, the Worcestershire Hi 5 League got underway on 19th March. With titles to defend and reputations to build on, our U9, U10 and U11 teams have got off the a cracking start.

For our youngest U9s players, pictured right, it was their first experience of competitive netball. If that wasn't nerve racking enough, they have played against U11 teams and have come away undaunted and hungry for more. The future is looking very bright for Thunderbirds!



KEY DATES FOR YOUR SUMMER DIARY



Coventry & Warwickshire Tournament

Bury Tournament (U10s to U14s)

Bury Tournament (U15s only)

Pontin's Weekend (U15s only)

Yendy's Tournament (Wolverhampton)

Final training sessions Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th July

Thunderbirds 'net' Ball & Awards Night Sat 16th September

A celebration of players' achievements and the club's 2nd birthday. To be held at Stratford School, from 6pm to 11pm.

Sunday 23rd April

Saturday 17th June

Saturday 24th June

1st & 2nd July

Sunday 16th July

18th & Wed 19th July

Sat 16th September



FUNDRAISING BOOSTS



EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

It was a proud day on 18th March when our girls who are more accustomed to placing balls in nets, found themselves filling bags with groceries at Tesco's in Stratford. Smartly turned out in their Thunderbirds kit, the girls were patient, charming and helpful to customers. For their trouble, generous shoppers donated a total of £500. This will go a long way to paying our travel costs for the Bury tournaments in June. Special thanks to Tesco's for making us welcome in their store and to every player who gave up their time. **You are a credit to our club!**



More good news on the fundraising front; Thunderbirds have qualified for a £1,000 grant awarded by housing developers, **Persimmons**, as part of their Community Champions initiative.

Letters were sent to local residents, which prompted one of our parents to apply. Imagine their surprise last week to receive a call confirming the cash award.

Persimmons said, " Our charity match programme gives donations of up to £1000 to clubs and charities throughout the UK, which have already raised vital funds themselves". In our application, we appealed for help towards the purchase of new waterproof jackets and bottoms for playing outdoors during those bitter winter months. After reading the story of Thunderbirds' rapid growth, their panel also viewed our website and twitter feed for tales of success on court and fundraising efforts to date. It all paid off.

Like the NFU Mutual donation, this sum will be taxed but it will help keep kit costs down significantly. Details of winter kit to buy at reduced rates will follow in the Autumn.

Keep your eyes open for any other grants on offer, because you never know!

Ellie Davies, our Fundraising Coordinator, has been in talks recently with **Stratford Town Trust**; a potential source of financial support in future. The conversation was most encouraging and an application for a grant is in preparation.

An important detail that the Trust are keen for us to publicise is that low income families, who live within the CV37 Stratford boundary, are offered support towards club training fees, kit and trips.



Stratford
Town Trust

at the heart of our community

If you meet these conditions and would like some more details, please contact our Club Secretary via email: Elaine.binks@talktalk.net. Full discretion is assured.

KIT NEWS

BAGSY—ITS YOURS FOR ONLY £10 (SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER)

Thunderbirds have commissioned these bespoke club kit bags and thanks to the generosity of NFU Mutual, they will be offered to all members for £10 (normal cost to produce is £15). An initial 50 bags are in production for delivery in May.

Orders are being taken NOW, on a 'first come first served' basis.
Further orders will be based on demand.

Features include embroidered club logo and water bottle holder. Ideal for change of clothing on match days and sleepovers! Would make a lovely birthday gift or reward for your daughter.

Email your request to sarah.saffetcole@gmail.com and transfer £10 into Thunderbirds' account. BACS Payment details can be found on Page 5



NEED A NEW MATCH DRESS?

Sarah, our busy volunteer responsible for ordering kit, is anticipating a huge demand for new dresses once the winter skins are put away and girls want to dress lighter for the summer fixtures/ tournaments.

Please note that while she keeps a small amount of stock in reserve, orders for new dresses can take up to 8 weeks!

Sarah is gearing up for a bulk order of new kit for delivery in September.

The deadline for orders and payment is 17th July.

It is still the club's hope to get a 'second hand dress exchange' system set up, but for this we need more volunteers!

New Developments



Club Fees : Summer term starts week commencing 24th April and lasts 11 weeks. Invoices have already been issued using a new software package which cleverly issues receipts for training fees and kit purchases too. May we politely remind you that payment for the summer term is due no later than May 1st, allowing a month's grace to pay. The club needs payment on time in order to cover venue costs and Kelly's salary.

We are grateful to those who do pay on time and save volunteers from having to chase. For those who do not, a policy of "Don't pay, Won't play" will have to be imposed. A warning will be followed by deselection and ultimately, members will be asked to leave training and replaced by another player on our waiting list. **Thank you for your cooperation.**



Late Collection of players: On rare occasion, a parent may be late collecting their daughter from a training sessions. In recent months this has inconvenienced Kelly several times. If she is delayed for this reason, Kelly has every justification to charge the club for her time. When this occurs, a £5 penalty will be added to a member's next invoice. By setting this deterrent, the committee hopes that Kelly will be treated as a Head Coach and not a child minder! **Once again, the committee appreciates your cooperation.**





Recruitment Drive

CV37

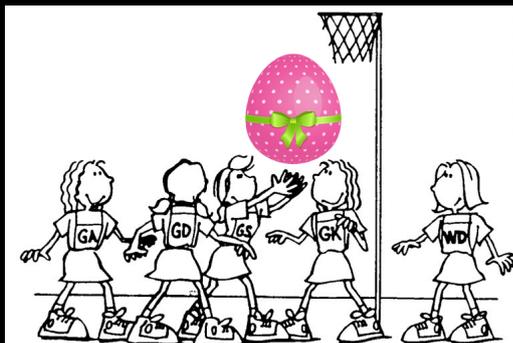
In less than two years, 15 netball teams have emerged, new friendships have been made, and success has been achieved on netball courts throughout the West Midlands. We are blessed with a Head Coach who builds confidence and steers our girls onto a winning path. She is supported by a group of willing parents who volunteer to keep our wonderful group of girls safe and organised.

What this club does not have is enough volunteers. The subject of 'sustainability' keeps raising its ugly head at committee meetings with the simple conclusion; if we cannot recruit more parents to share the load, Thunderbirds will simply not survive.

We desperately need more Team Managers. For this role, you do not need to be a netball expert. Kelly selects the team and gives guidance on tactics. The Team Manager puts this into action, confirms availability and meeting times, keeps the team motivated on court, administers first aid (training course provided) and finally collects match fees. Kelly would be happy to talk to anyone who thinks they could help.

Thunderbirds needs another coach (Level 2). The club has funding for anyone who would like to pursue a qualification at either Level 1 or 2. We have no contingency for Kelly should she be unwell or unable to meet her commitments. That's a lot of pressure on her shoulders.

Our AGM is approaching in June. As well as appointing a new Chairperson, existing committee roles need to be redistributed. It is no exaggeration that this club is in fantastic shape; finances are in good order, policies and procedures are in place and we have the respect of numerous outside agencies. Please consider if you could help sustain this remarkable success story.



Committee members and team managers are listed on the next page. Please feel free to contact anyone of them for a chat about the roles they perform.

We all have busy lives and a family to consider. By mobilising more volunteers, we can all enjoy the pleasure netball brings.

Have a wonderful Easter break!



**Thunderbirds
needs you!**

USEFUL CONTACTS

Name	Role	Email	Mobile
Ellen Lavery	Co-Chair, Membership, Affiliation Secretary & U16 Team Manager	ellenlavery01@gmail.com	07905 311416
Adrian Stubbings	Co-Chair & Treasurer	kastubbings@gmail.com	07872 009714
Elaine Binks	Secretary & Newsletter	Elaine.binks@talktalk.net	07790 481992
Sarah Saffet-Cole	Kit Secretary	Sarah.saffetcole@gmail.com	07846 338325
Gemma Cook	Safeguarding & U12A Team Manager	gevancook@tiscali.co.uk	07711 829009
Ellie Davis	Sponsorship & Fundraising	elliedavis7@hotmail.com	07939071206
Alix Hay	Website/ Social media	Alix.hay@hotmail.co.uk	
Sam Toyne	Events	Samantha@jcn.co.uk	07776 148724
Helen Dormer	Umpiring Secretary	Helen.absalom@absalomconsulting.com	07798 812680
Lorna Hegenbarth	Venue Bookings	lornapop@hotmail.co.uk	07951 837471
Helen Lavery	Junior Representative	helen.laveryyy@gmail.com	
Kelly McCormack	Head Coach	kellymacknb@gmail.com	07772 309794
Katherine Stubbings	U11A Team Manager	kastubbings@gmail.com	07769 353255
Leesa Brennan	U11B Team Manager	leesabrennan@btinternet.com	07779 787224
Lisa Bunting	U12B Team Manager	lisabuntingsales@outlook.com	07771 706457
Stephanie Boyle	U12C Team Manager	steph0130@hotmail.co.uk	07825 999122
Maria Rogers	Web Master & U13A Team Manager	mariarogers@jellydots.com	07775 625585
Lena Heddle	U14 Team Manager	s.heddle@bigpond.com	07576 845785
Jane Jewel	U15 Team Manager	janejewel@virginmedia.com	07857 659181
Kizzy Galvin	U11B/ Back to Netball	kizzygalvin@hotmail.com	

BACS PAYMENT DETAILS

Using this method saves time and money for the club!

Thank you for your consideration.

Stratford Thunderbirds Bank Transfer Details:

Sort code 60-20-41

Account No 43812538