



AUGUST 2017

NEWSLETTER

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Undefeated U15Bs. P10, W9 D1

CHAMPIONS! THUNDERBIRDS SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

The season ended on a massive high. Out of 11 teams entered into the Birmingham Intermediate League (BINL) five are champions; namely **U11Bs, U12As, U13As, U13Bs and U15Bs**.

A further three teams are runners up: **U11As, U14Bs and U15As**.

A big hand also goes to our **U12Bs** who deserved so much more than their third place on paper.



Undefeated U11Bs P10 W8 D2



The U12As (left) emerged this year in a league of their own. In the Spring they bagged the Worcestershire and Coventry/Warwickshire titles. Now they have seen off the best the West Midlands has to offer making them Triple Champions. With a solid campaign and resounding goal advantage, the girls reduced teams like Parkside into 2nd place.



Inseparable. The U13As (above) and U13B (left), both played 10 games, won 9, lost 1 and scored 47 points.

Neither U13 teams were at the presentation at Yendy's on 16 July, but as you can see, Kelly is very happy to look after the trophy until our Awards Evening on 16th September. (Details on Page 3)

Congratulations to every individual who took part. You have been a credit to Stratford Thunderbirds.



GIRLS ON TOUR



U10s Semi Finalists at Bury



T'birds made a great impression at the summer tournaments. At **Cov/Warks** the U12s, with a heavy handicap, came runners up. Our youngest netballers shone at **Bury** in June: the U10s (left) were undefeated all day, won the quarters but then stumbled in the semis. **Mollie Hegarty** was selected as the Strongest U10 player, giving her a trophy to take home.

U11's got to the quarter-finals, while the U12's did better than last year including a convincing defeat of Parkside 7-1. In contrast, the older girls had tougher contests: no wins and a draw for the U13 with 2 wins for the U14s.

Yendy's: all our girls fought hard at this final outing with many adapting well to playing up for older teams. U12A continued their hoard adding Yendys to their outstanding list of victories.

POSTCARD FROM PONTINS Junior Rep, Helen Lavery, shares her enthusiasm for Thunderbirds' first residential tournament .

This was one of the best Tours I've ever been on! From learning new skills by watching some of the top teams, to dancing with my friends at the disco on Saturday night; I can honestly say that I would definitely do this Tournament again.

At Pontins, we were all in chalets next to each other, which was great. Our first night was my favourite. The whole team watched TV together, laughing and singing to the music.

The next day brought lovely weather and seven matches, all of which were great learning experiences. We were lucky enough to have one match on, one match off the whole day, so we really could soak up the sun and bond with the rest of the team. This really showed when it came to playing on court.

After the matches, we went back to the chalets to freshen up and have some down time which we spent chatting and working out in the outdoor gym. It was then fish and chips on the Prom before heading back to the on-site disco. I have some great memories, including dancing with the 'Blue Coats' and learning all the moves to the songs, singing at the top of my voice with everyone and the live band which gave an incredible performance.

On Sunday, the sun was shining again as we headed to our morning matches. These were closely contested, and we ended up coming 3rd in our group. The team was a combination of girls from the U14s and U15s, and even though some of the girls had never played together before, we are now all good friends.

I would absolutely recommend this trip to anyone who wants to develop their netball skills, whilst having a fun time and making new friends.

A massive 'thank you' to our Team Managers, Ellen Lavery and Jane Jewel, who encouraged us when we were tired and hot and without whom this trip could have never happened. Thank you also to Caroline Francis and Wendy Lerner who looked after us in the chalets and made sure we always had plenty of food and water.



Our new Junior Rep, Holly Binks, shares her thoughts on the past 12 months

What an amazing year! As a player, (U13) I feel that all our teams have come on such a long way with everyone improving as an individual and team player. With Kelly's help and the support of our team managers, we have taken our club from 'good' to 'great' this season. Winning trophies and medals has made all that hard work, training, early mornings and travelling worthwhile.

Playing in the Birmingham League has given a boost to our confidence. The games were more evenly matched and suddenly we had a real chance of winning fixtures. That pushed teams to try even harder than before. Instead of losing matches, we then found ourselves in with a chance of winning the whole thing.

What made a big difference was when Kelly moved the training sessions around and made groups smaller. It was really good because we enjoyed more focused attention. It helped make teams just that little bit stronger and gave us the push that we needed.

On behalf of everyone, I would like to say a massive thank you to Kelly, the team managers and everyone on the committee who have made this year a fantastic one and put a huge amount of work into the club. We are all very grateful!

Also, as a side note, Kelly has invited me to join Helen as a junior representative on the committee. If any player has ideas on how we can take our club forward, please feel free to share your thoughts with me. I look forward to seeing everyone together at the party in September!



GET CONNECTED Thunderbirds now has 100 followers on Twitter. Are you one of them? Remember this is the club's first resort on match days for updates and results. We also now have a closed Facebook group and dedicated email addresses:



@stratfordtbirds



Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Club



info@stratfordthunderbirds.com
kit@stratfordthunderbirds.com



'NET' Ball & Awards Evening 2017

A celebration of friendship, teamwork and achievement.



Members, parents & siblings are all welcome

Date: **Saturday 16th September 2017**

Time: **6.00pm to 11.00pm**

Venue: **Ettington Village Hall
Rogers Lane, Ettington CV37 7SX**

Presentations start at 6.30pm followed by Hog Roast at 7.30pm & Disco

Soft Drinks free

Wine & beer available for donation

Cost: £5 per head to cover food

(Family concession £15 for 2 adults and up to 3 children)

Names and numbers are needed for catering.

Tickets available from 1st to 8th September via

E-mail: info@stratfordthunderbirds.com

Vegetarian options available on request.

GROUP HUDDLE FOR TEAM HEDDLE

With a very heavy heart Thunderbirds say 'Goodbye' and "Thank you" to Lena & Charlie Heddle who are returning home to Australia this summer.

Lena has been a valuable asset to the Club, helping Kelly at training and motivating the U14s as Team Manager. The team will miss Charlie too; she has been a joyful team mate and formidable player on court.

The club wishes them the best of luck and may they long continue to grace the netball court Down Under x



TAKING A STAND ON GOOD FOOTWEAR

In recent months, Kelly has noticed some of the girls slipping on the indoor surfaces. She fears this is a consequence of wearing unsuitable trainers that do not have the correct tread on the sole. Not only is their a risk of slipping, it could ultimately result in ankle injuries.

By the time we start the new season in September, Kelly requests that all girls be wearing proper netball trainers. There is lots of choice either online or in good sports shops. Please feel free to approach Kelly for advice if you are unsure as to what is required.



GETTING OUR CLUB MATCH FIT

The executive committee were delighted to receive so many offers of help at the AGM on 4th July. We now have a larger team in place to prepare for another exciting year ahead. The year just completed has been another steep learning curve for our fledgling club and parent's comments about planning, team selection, kit, logistics etc, have been taken on board.

At the same time, we have to conform to revised rules and practices laid down by England Netball and the respective leagues that we play in. With this in mind, the club needs to refresh its database with information required by various bodies. New paperwork will be issued during the summer holidays for you to read, complete and sign. It will include a reminder of the code of conduct expected of both players and parents, plus information relating to social media. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. It will help volunteers with affiliations, safeguarding, the organisation of fixtures and future tours.

The club is delighted to formally welcome on board Molly McCormack as an additional coach to support her mum, Kelly. Molly, who is an undergraduate at Loughborough University, is already a Level 1 coach and working towards her Level 2. To cover an additional coach and foreseeable increases in costs, training fees will increase in September from £6 to £7 a session. (Except 1 hour session on Tuesday at KES. This will rise from £4 to £5). This still compares favourably to other sporting provisions in the area. Membership remains at £30 which includes England Netball affiliation, league and tournament fees.



MASTERCLASS WITH A REAL STING

A small group of T'birds are in no doubt that their game has improved since attending a Wasps' Game Day Coach Class. After enjoying an hour's coaching on the Ricoh Arena court with some of the Wasps pros, the girls were lucky to be invited to be ball runners and flag bearers at the exciting end of season Vitality Superleague clash against Team Bath which Wasps won 49:35.

Some T'bird parents, who got together and booked this themselves, wanted to recommend it to others. Game Day Coach Class can be booked directly for groups of 10+, for players of any ability aged 7 to 16. A fee of £35 per person includes match ticket, junior membership and Wasps gift.

Search www.waspsnetball.co.uk/coachclass

KIT ORDERS While a range of sizes are kept in stock, some items may take up to 8 weeks to order. If you have kit that could be handed down, please discuss with Sarah Saffet-Cole via kit@stratfordthunderbirds.com or advertise items on our club's Facebook page.

CUTTING OUR LOSSES A polite notice to all parents; the club was charged for all those players who dropped out of summer tournaments at the last minute. Not only can this make team selection difficult, it wasted precious club funds. In future, parents who commit then withdraw without notice, will be asked to cover all costs incurred. If doubtful, please do not commit. Thanks again for your consideration in this matter.

THUNDERBIRDS' NEW VOLUNTEER LINE UP FOR 2017 - 2018



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Club Manager - Ellen Lavery
Secretary - Jackie Walker
Treasurer - Adrian Stubbings
Safeguarding Officer - Gemma Evan Cook
Kit Secretary - Sarah Saffet Cole
Fundraising and Sponsorship - Ellie Davis
Press, Publicity & Website - Elaine Binks
Junior Representatives - Helen Lavery & Holly Binks

NON EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Player Development/ TM Rep - Maria Rogers
Membership Administrator - Sally Key
Events Coordinator - Sam Toye
Volunteer Coordinator - Jenny Lomas
Umpiring Secretary - Helen Dormer
Venues Secretary - Lorna Hegenbarth
Equipment Coordinator - Alex Burnard
Tours Coordinator - Sonia Hockaday
Fundraising Team—Becky Edwards & Sam Watts
IT & Webmaster - Maria Rogers
Back To Netball - Kizzy Galvin

TEAM MANAGERS (Moving up)

U11A Leesa Breenan
U11B Helen Dormer
U11C Natalie Wood
U12A Katherine & Adrian Stubbings
U12B Kizzy Galvin
U13A Gemma Evan Cook
U13B Lisa Bunting
U13C Stephanie Boyle
U14A Maria Rogers (*Committee representative*)
U14B Nicola Appleby
U15A (*Vacancy*)
U15B Jane Jewel
U16A Ellen Lavery
U16B Jane Jewel



Stratford Thunderbirds Bank Transfer Details:

Using this method for fees, membership and party tickets, saves time and money for the club.
 Thank you

Sort code 60-20-41

Account No 43812538

**Thunderbirds have 'lift-off' again,
week commencing Monday 11th September.
Happy holidays!**

