



Newsletter - December 2015

THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO! so it's time to update all our members with the astonishing progress made so far. We start this bulletin with some reaction from the lady who has brought the girls a long way since the club launched in September.

Head Coach, Kelly McCormack writes:

"What a fantastic start to our very first netball season! We have already seen a number of our teams take to the court in the 'Coventry & Warwickshire' and the 'West Midlands Development' Leagues. The girls have played fantastic netball and their commitment to training has been rewarded with some very pleasing results.

Behind ever strong club is an even stronger committee. I would like to say that in all my years of coaching I have never seen such a determined bunch of volunteers take to their roles with such vigour and determination, to do the very best job they can and without any previous experience. The girls are lucky to have such wonderful parents and subsequent fantastic committee".

Special thanks to Kelly. She has been racing around the region keeping a supportive eye on all the teams as they gain match experience. Our Team Managers share her delight with the girls' effort and our new netball club is warmed up for an F.A.B. 2016!



PLAYING BY THE RULES

England Netball's Club Action Planning Scheme (CAPS) is aligned to Sport England Clubmark which is the only national cross sports quality accreditation scheme for clubs with junior sections. It is built around a set of core criteria that covers the following areas: Playing Programme, Duty of Care and Safeguarding, Knowing Your Club and Your Community, Club Management and Action Planning.

Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Club is working towards accreditation that will then ensure we can compete in regional/national level leagues. A draft constitution, clubs rules, codes of conduct and safeguarding policies have been painstakingly researched, collated and tailored for our club's needs. Once approved, they will be shared with members and parents via the 'Thunderbirds' website.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We currently have 52 girls affiliated to the All England Netball Club, which is a tremendous start for a new Club, divided into four age groups, U11, U12, U13 and U14. The U14's have both an A and a B team.

Our U11 and U12 groups are currently full. This gives us enough for an A & B team in both age groups and means we have to start a waiting list for new players wanting to join. U13 is doing well, but would benefit from more players. With just eight girls registered, the Team Manager would have more scope with ideally four or five more girls. Please spread the word if you know any contenders at school in Year 8.



Meanwhile, the U14A and B teams are strong in numbers and have been playing competitively, with great success, in the Coventry and Warwickshire League at Excel Centre, Coventry on Sunday mornings.

To cap this, U14A squad also took part in the County Tournament recently and qualified in 3rd place to play in the West Midlands Regional Junior Netball League; a phenomenal achievement with only a handful of competitive matches under their belts.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Safeguarding Officer. To meet strict criteria laid down by CAPS, Gemma Cook has been appointed as the club's Safeguarding Officer. As a teacher and Head of Pastoral Care at The Croft School, Gemma is formally trained and experienced in handling such matters. This friendly and approachable face is one all the girls have been encouraged to familiarise themselves with. To help, business cards with her image and contact details have been printed and issued to all club members. Please ensure that your daughter is aware of Gemma and her role.

Meanwhile, all people who have contact with the girls through teams or training have completed or are going through DBS checks.

Communications: Elaine Binks has signed up to keep everyone posted through newsletters, along with news, results and photos on our new and growing club website: www.stratfordthunderbirds.com. If you have any content, messages or team photos that would suit any of these outlets, especially if they capture the girls having fun, she would love to hear from you.

It's only a matter of time before the girls will deserve some limelight in the local papers so please be mindful of any press or publicity opportunities when attending matches.

APPEAL FOR HELP

As Kelly says, we are fortunate to have a '*determined bunch of volunteers*' but they do have real jobs and lives to balance. With a healthy membership of players, we hope to mirror this by sharing the organisational roles among plenty of parent volunteers.

If you think you can help, please get in touch using contact details below. We currently have vacancies for:

Club Secretary: Responsibilities are booking venues, minutes of committee meetings, correspondence with venues and English Netball Association:

Coaching, Umpiring, Assisting and First Aid: These are all areas that need extra bodies. If any parents are interested, the club would be prepared to look into funding for training. Applications have already been made to Warwickshire County Council.

General volunteers: On match days, team managers could use assistance in collecting match fees and scoring. Bonus, you still get to see all the matches!

TEAM KIT



The committee would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks to our Kit Secretaries, Sarah Saffet Cole and Sam Toye. The girls look fantastic turning out for fixtures each week in their new dresses.

You will recall parting with a considerable sum of money for other items. Please be assured, Sarah and Sam have worked tirelessly to source the best wearing, colour coordinated kit from a range of suppliers. It has tested their patience; we politely ask for a little more of yours. Orders have been placed for hoodies, shorties and socks for delivery in the New Year. Team Managers will also be sporting new hoodies,

Now that winter is well and truly upon us, we have sourced some good quality skin tops for under the girls' netball dresses. They are black and have "Stratford" written up the arm in silver - very stylish! They should be available in early January and will cost £14.00. This is not a compulsory item, but many will agree, that it is essential for outdoor games.

Kelly is looking at training T-shirt samples this week to also have for January. Those who have already ordered and paid for them will have priority. The remainder will then be available to those who would like to buy one.

The training T-shirt will be black with the 'Thunderbirds' logo on the back. The desire is to have everyone in the same kit for training so the girls feel part of one team. Dresses can then be saved for matches and t-shirts can be worn over them to warm-up. The training shirts will eventually become compulsory. It would be really helpful for our volunteers if orders could be made sooner rather than later.

If you have not already ordered your daughter's training shirt, the available sizes are:

Ages 7-8/ 9-11/ and 12-13, or adult sizes: XSmall 35"/ Small – 38"/ Medium – 40"/ and XL – 45".

Please send all kit orders to either Sarah or Sam - contact details can again be found on the final page along with with the club's bank transfer details.

OTHER NEWS:

 **Fingers crossed** for Becca Blake and Helen Lavery who have been 'spotted' as potential players for Warwickshire; we eagerly await news from county.

 **Under 12 League starts in January through to March**, (exact dates and times yet to be confirmed). Fixtures will take place at the Excel Centre, Coventry - CV4 8DY, most likely on Sunday mornings.

 **Under 11 League.** Kelly, Gemma and Lisa are still in pursuit of opportunities for an U11 League. Coventry and Warwickshire have been slow in organising an U11 League so we are looking at opportunities in the Worcestershire League and arranging local, friendly matches. Details to follow ASAP.

 **Training Dates:** Last Training date this term: Monday 14th December

Change of plan for January: due to mock examinations, the sports hall at Shottery is not available so temporary enquiries have been made elsewhere. The best solution found was three out of four weeks in the Levi Fox Hall at King Edward's School (KES) in central Stratford. The only snag is that training will have to switch to Tuesday nights as follows:

Tuesday 5th January 2016.
(Tuesday 12th January 2016 - hall not available so NO NETBALL)
Tuesday 19th January 2016
Tuesday 26th January 2016

Time slots are also temporarily revised: **Years 6 & 7** 5.00pm to 6.30pm
Years 8 & 9 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Normal training and times resume at Shottery (5pm to 7pm & 7.00pm to 9.00pm) on Monday 1st February through to Monday 21st March. ***Note training will take place during the February half term***

 **Next Term's fees:** These have been adjusted to reflect the above changes i.e. 11 weeks @ £6 = **£66.00**. Payment is due on or before first training session. It is higher than usual because it covers a whole term including a session during half term. Chasing outstanding fees every half term has proven cumbersome for our volunteers so thank you in advance for prompt payment and your understanding.

Due to exceptional circumstances, if you have already told Ellen Lavery in advance or find that your daughter cannot attend the Tuesday sessions, there will be no charge for these weeks missed.

 **Training Together** Stratford Thunderbirds was born out of the 'Everyone Active' training sessions and many of our members still enjoy extra court time with Head Coach, Kelly, on Thursday evenings. It is the club's intention to continue working closely with Stratford Leisure Centre and support the town and local schools' development of players for the future. To cement this relationship and develop ideas for events and fundraising, Nick Richards, from 'Everyone Active', has been invited to join committee meetings when possible. If you know anyone who wants to try out for Thunderbirds, the Thursday sessions would make an ideal starting point.

USEFUL CONTACTS

	Role	Email	Mobile
Kelly McCormack	Head Coach	kellymacknb@gmail.com	07772 309794
Lucy Hargreaves	Chair	lucyehargreaves@yahoo.co.uk	07818 012807
Secretary	Vacant		
Ellen Lavery	Membership Secretary	ellenlavery01@gmail.com	07905 311416
Gemma Cook	Safeguarding/ U11A Team Manager	gevancook@tiscali.co.uk	07711 829009
Lisa Bunting	Sponsorship/ U11B Team Manager	lisabuntingsales@outlook.com	07771 706457
Maria Rogers	Treasurer/ U12s A Team Manager	mariarogers@jellydots.com	07775 625585
Claire Field	U12s B Team Manager	talktoclairefield@hotmail.com	07801 141884
Lorraine Davies	U13 Team Manager	lorrainedavies@gmail.com	07973 312424
Vivienne Blake	Fixture League Secretary/U14s A	vivienne.blake@googlemail.com	07807 290614
Jane Jewel	U14sB Team Manager	janejewel@virginmedia.com	07857 659181
Sarah Saffet Cole	Kit Secretary	Sarah.saffetcole@gmail.com	07846 338325
Sam Toye	Kit Secretary	Samantha@jcn.co.uk	07776 148724
Elaine Binks	Newsletter/Website Content	Elaine.binks@talktalk	07790 481992
Debbie Madden	Press Secretary	Madden.deb@btinternet.com	07773 164712

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



**Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New Year!**