

FEBRUARY 2020



NEWSLETTER

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**U14s & U16s ARE
CHAMPIONS OF
WARWICKSHIRE**

Congratulations to both our U14 & U16 squads for their performances in the County Cup and progression to the Regional round of the National Clubs Competition .

This achievement is even more impressive when ages are taken into account; the majority of the U16 squad were last year's U14 County Cup winners, while this year's U14 squad feature a good number of U13 players.

The U14 squad were undefeated in their campaign since September, with convincing score margins: Henley (25-20), Copsewood (70-6), Lyndon Centre (48-19), Elmdon (41-25) and Leamington (63-6). Meanwhile, the U16s narrowly lost to Lyndon Centre (29-33), but won against Leamington (55-30), Elmdon (59-22), Copsewood (50-13) and Henley (35-29).

Both squads, now representing Warwickshire, have made a spectacular start in the West Midlands Regional competition. Since the New Year the U14s have defeated Newcastle Town 49-23 and Ryland 42-18, not to be outdone by the U16s's who secured victories against Westside 49-19 and Sutton Royals by 48-15.



"It is a very exciting time ahead for both of these hugely talented squads", said coach Molly Salmons. Both she and Kelly have worked closely with the girls to create a progressive training programme in readiness for this competition. "We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated, hard working, young athletes. They deserve all of their successes so far".



U14s Milly & Liv:
Looking the part in their
new tracksuits

TESTING KIT!

"It has been great to see some of the girls in the new kit. We are rightly proud of the new design and amended colour. However, as some of you will be aware, the new Kit relationship continues to be fraught with difficulty for us. **We cannot thank you enough for your patience and understanding.**

Latest News: All replacement garments from the first phase and all items ordered in the second phase were expected before the end of March, HOWEVER our garments are manufactured in China and we all know the impact Coronavirus is having on the movement of goods and labour. In light of the ongoing difficulties, Surridge have requested that we delay any further order windows until all current health and manufacturing issues on outstanding orders are sorted.

We are volunteers and this has been an incredibly difficult ongoing process from the breakdown of our last kit supplier and our subsequent relationship to the disappointing service offered so far by the new one. Please be assured that no one understands how important kit is to the girls more than Kelly and Molly, who went to extraordinary lengths, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to find a supplier that we believed could meet our needs.

If you have any kit issues in future, please email Surridge directly on projectsteam@sdlGroupLtd.com Once we are happy that Surridge are producing the kit design as required we will notify you of a next order window. Thank you for your continued support".

Sarah Saffet Cole, Kit Secretary

Ordering process is outlined on the "Kit" page of the Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Club website.



BOOST FOR CLUB FUNDING & PUBLICITY

Thanks to the endeavours of Martin Phillis, our recently appointed Executive Committee member for Fundraising & Sponsorship, the club has been awarded a Magic Little Grant of £500 from the Postcode Lottery's Community Trust.

This provides us with desperately needed new training equipment, including 15 netballs and bibs plus resources for Team Managers.

Our netball crazy Dad went a step further to secure the Stratford Town Trust for financial help towards First Aid training.



Stratford
Town Trust

at the heart of our community



Back in October, another devoted netball Dad joined the committee sharing not only his expertise in information technology, but also a valuable contact with his employers.

Colin Lock, persuaded his company, Fortem, to sponsor Thunderbirds and provide software that safeguards the club's social media platforms. It also allows volunteers to share information safely, in keeping with data protection regulations.

Colin has worked wonders with our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts and will be a great asset to building Thunderbirds' publicity and Press profile.

THUNDERBIRDS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Despite the tremendous boost to our coffers and professional look of our netball club, there is still so much on Thunderbird's wish list.

If you own a company or have an employer looking to raise its profile in our netball circles, please contact **Martin Phillis** on email

sponsorship@stratfordthunderbirds.com

The following Sponsorship packages are available

'FRIENDS OF THUNDERBIRDS' : Donations from £240 per year

These contributions would help towards the club's running costs and helping to subsidise an ambitious programme of summer tournaments.

GAZEBOS: Come the warmer months, we shall be entering several tournaments, up and down the country, and will need to purchase gazebos to provide sun protection and central meeting points. These are not cheap but could represent a wonderful sponsorship opportunity for any company wishing to associate itself with a winning name like "Stratford Thunderbirds".

TEAM MANAGER & COACHES UNIFORMS : 1 x Package £2,500

We need new hoodies and t-shirts for our volunteers and coaches, especially now that the girls will be wearing a new Thunderbirds kit. Once again, an excellent opportunity for a company name to be seen courtside at all our playing venues.

AWARDS EVENING : Packages from £500

Sept 2020 marks the club's 5th birthday. Having missed out last year, the club wants to celebrate the landmark, the trophies and medals won, but more importantly acknowledge the progress of individuals and teams, good sportsmanship, exemplary behaviour, effort and raw talent. It also pays tribute to the volunteers who make our netball club a reality. Sponsorship would help to cover cost of venue, refreshments and entertainment.

LOCAL GIVING: Personal donations can be made through our dedicated fundraising site. <https://localgiving.org/charity/stratford-thunderbirds/>

With the benefit of gift aid your contributions will once again go to support our running costs and summer tournament ambitions



COURTING NEW PARTNERS

Following three very progressive and rewarding seasons in the Birmingham Intermediate Netball League, Stratford Thunderbirds has taken a brave decision to withdraw ahead of the new season. At their AGM last October, clubs from outside the city boundary were made to feel 'endangered' as they were preventing new local clubs from entering the League.

Other "outsiders", such as Rylands (Bromsgrove), Lyndon (Solihull) and Henley could also see the writing on the wall and shared their concerns with Kelly at Thunderbirds. The conclusion was to set up a new "Central Intermediate Netball league" (CINL) with Bromsgrove School as its hub and venue for fixtures.

After also losing our link with the Coventry League in 2019, the emergence of the CINL on our doorstep, with Thunderbirds as a founding member, is a welcomed development.

Plans are well advanced with the first fixtures taking place on Sunday 19th April. An end of season tournament is also scheduled for Sunday 12th July. Thunderbirds have entered no less than 17 teams, from U11 to U15, who can look forward to a good contest against well organised clubs.

Bromsgrove School offers excellent facilities, with six courts, ample parking, changing facilities and refreshments. Here's to an exciting new 2020!

IN LIGHT OF THUNDERBIRDS WITHDRAWAL FROM BOTH COVENTRY AND BIRMINGHAM LEAGUES, ALL TROPHIES AND SHIELDS WON IN 2019 HAVE TO BE RETURNED ASAP.

CAN WE APPEAL TO ALL TEAM MANAGERS OR PLAYERS, THAT MAY BE IN POSSESSION OF A LEAGUE TROPHY, TO PLEASE BRING THEM TO TRAINING, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

COVENTRY CHAMPIONS 2019: U12A/ U13A/ U14A

BIRMINGHAM CHAMPIONS 2019: U13A/ U13B/ U13C/ U14A/ U15A



VOLUNTEERING VACANCIES

Thunderbirds could use some more help from its parents if our momentum is to continue. Elaine Binks is standing down from the Executive Committee after four years. Before she can do so, she needs to off load some of her non-committee duties. If you can help in any of the following roles, please email info@stratfordthunderbirds.com or call Elaine direct on 07970 481992 to discuss.

- GDPR OFFICER.** Have you been GDPR trained at work or knowledge of data protection law? Thunderbirds needs a named officer to oversee good practice and implementation of our GDPR policy. The individual would only be called upon in the event of a complaint or to provide guidance to the Executive Committee from time to time.
- VOLUNTEERS COORDINATOR.** This ad hoc role calls for the occasional purchase of equipment or supplies for coaches and Team Managers, arranging DBS checks and first aid training for new TMs, mobilising a group of parents for the planning and execution of Awards Evening, keeping a database of volunteers details and liaising with the Committee when needed. Handover available
- CAPS COORDINATOR** – (stands for Club Action Planning Scheme) For any club to be affiliated to England Netball it needs to be CAPS accredited. We have Bronze status awarded in 2016, but will be due for an online audit in next 12 months. Our paperwork and archive is up to date – we just need a named volunteer to update as required. Handover available
- AWARDS EVENING ORGANISING TEAM.** To sort a venue, catering, entertainment and purchase of medals. Need to get started in Spring for event in September. The more the merrier!



PATHWAY GIRLS

Thunderbirds wants to give a big shout out to our girls who have stretched their wings in recent months and achieved places to train and play with all the top netball club U17 academies in the Midlands. Their hard work and dedication has been rightly recognised and is undoubtedly making a difference to Thunderbirds' fortunes in the regional competitions.



Wasps:
Zoe, Elise
and Mia

Loughborough Line up: Molly (Coach), Sophie, Eleanor, Sian, Mollie, Jess, Abbie, Lolita & Danni.



Issy and Dani head west to Severn Stars



Everyone Active Sporting Champions

Applications are open for this annual scheme offers providing access to training facilities, financial support and expert advice.

All successful athletes on the scheme are provided free access to Everyone Active Centres across the Country and for the higher tiers there are sponsorship opportunities up to £5000. For more info. go to www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/137091

Deadline online Applications is Friday 28 February 2020

