

July 2016



NEWSLETTER

With 'Thunderbirds' Netball Club fast approaching its first birthday, it already has 111 members under its wings, playing for ten teams. From September, we will span Years 4 to Year 10 but this ambitious fledgling club will not sit still until it is turning out an U18 team.

Since Easter, training has been in full swing over two nights each week. A big 'THANK-YOU' to everyone for adjusting to the new timetable. Both Kelly and the committee appreciate that this has called for a great deal of compromise and reorganisation but the benefits are more than apparent. Sessions are less crowded and training has been tailored for teams rather than a wide age band, allowing individuals to develop at their own pace.

However, as our Chair, Lucy Hargreaves, explained in a recent email to parents, extraordinary demand forces us to consider expanding further. More importantly, with tough opposition in both leagues and tournaments, our older girls now need more intensive coaching to help them bridge the gap with long-established clubs. Every effort will be made to accommodate each family's considerations as we set our sights on extending the training schedule to add a Wednesday night. Further details will be sent directly in the coming weeks.

Head Coach, Kelly McCormack, looks back on an amazing first year, *"I would like to congratulate all the girls who managed to play in the local, Regional & Worcester leagues - win or lose, it has been a great experience, for players, parents and the managers in our first competitive season. I am particularly grateful to all parents for giving up your weekends and evenings to get your daughters to matches and training."*

HIGH 5 As WIN CLUB'S FIRST TROPHY

It was medals galore for our youngest members who entered Warwickshire's first 'High 5' Tournament on Sunday 22nd May at the Cauldon Castle Sports Centre, Coventry.

The High 5 A team have the honour of winning the club's first trophy and will go down in history as Champions of Warwickshire's first 'High 5' event.

Fielding five of the 19 teams participating, Thunderbirds dominated the competition taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.



Kelly said, *"I am immensely proud of the players, Team Managers, parents and club officials who attended this event. It really has put Thunderbirds on the map! With 19 teams taking part from both schools and clubs around Warwickshire, this is a massive achievement for the girls who have only been playing together since the New Year and with only brief experience of playing in the Worcestershire 'High 5' leagues. To see our young U9's playing their socks off and beating U11 teams was amazing."*

High 5 Netball is fast and furious version of the game for U11s. Only five players are allowed on the court at any one time with a strict rotation through every position. Players must be fit and skilled to play both offensive and defensive positions.

Amy Barrett, captain of the Thunderbirds A team, was presented with the trophy after her team to win six matches and drew one with their team mates, Thunderbirds B.



KELLY'S ROUND UP:

"What a great first season for our ever growing netball club!

I would like to say well done to two of our new players - Emma Jones and Rebecca Cutler for stepping in last minute for the end of season Warwickshire tournament for the U12B team. It was tough debut tournament, but as usual they kept smiling and gave it their all!

We have played quite a few tournaments over the last few months, and it has been fantastic to see so many club players take to the court with such determination and tenacity.

I can honestly say that nearly every single player has given 100% effort when representing the club. Greater confidence will come with maturity and match experience.

We have managed to bring back some silverware to the club, with the breathtaking performance of all our U9s, 10s and 11's at the High 5 Warwickshire tour - they really did put Thunderbirds on the map.

Placing 1st, 2nd & 3rd is simply brilliant. Bring on next year! This same group of girls also did exceptionally well in the Worcestershire Youth League, also gaining 1st & 2nd place.



Our U13's & U14's have had a tough season having played some very strong opposition. The clubs we're playing against have been going for years and the girls that they're up against have played at least three years of club netball - so our girls are on catch up. To make them work even harder and to try and speed up the catch up period, I have pitted them against older girls. This will only strengthen our girls quicker, as when they play their own age group next year, they will find these matches a lot easier.

On the whole the majority of the girls have risen to the occasion and kept their heads up and morale high, focusing on their own and team performance. If I'm being honest, a handful of girls have put their heads down, but it's our job to work with them and teach them to always remain positive before, during and after a match. This is where our parents are needed the most; journeys to and from a match should be positive - sometimes it's only natural that your daughter may have 'a moan', but let's nip it in the bud and tell them to learn from tough matches and to realise that they are actually benefitting from these experiences.



One of our most positive teams this year is the U12's, now managed by Emma Sower, who has a lovely positive energy around her. On most occasions we have promoted 2/3 strong players from this squad and played them up. (Next year the U13's have their big competition), but the remaining girls stay positive and really do play to win.

They are happy on and off court and really do take direction well from Emma and I. They are one of our most versatile teams and most of them can play 3 or 4 positions.

It has also been great to see all our Team Managers - Leesa Brennan, Katherine Stubbings, Gemma Cook, Lena Heddle, Jane Jewell, Emma Sower, Viv Blake and Sonia Hockaday attend their first big tournaments.

**Results for Coventry & Warwickshire leagues
(U12 A & B, U13 & U14 A & B)
can all be found on their website**

<http://www.coventryandwarwickshirennetball.co.uk/winter-201516.html>

CLUB DEVELOPMENT



Thunderbirds Netball Club has passed its national assessment and is now fully 'Club Action Planning Scheme' or 'CAPS' accredited. It was made official at this year's Annual West Midlands Netball Awards held at Villa Park, Birmingham on 17th June.



Thunderbirds were also one of six clubs, out of 299 in the region, to be nominated for a West Midlands 'Goal'den Globe Award'. Thanks to Lucy Hargreaves, Sam Toye and Adrian Stubbings for representing the club at the Awards Evening, Sadly, Lucy will just have to save the acceptance speech for another day as we have not been successful this year, however, the nomination alone has raised our profile and boosted our young club's confidence no end.

The nomination was made by **Sarah Taylor**, who is Warwickshire's representative for 'England Netball'. She has worked closely with us in an advisory role, conducted a rigorous training inspection in April and enjoyed the buzz of the photo call at the Leisure Centre back in March. Bck the she made no secret her intentions saying, "I am going to nominate Stratford Thunderbirds because of the quality of training and match experience it offers to such a range of ages and abilities". She was also amazed with what a group of volunteer parents could achieve in such a short period of time.



Kelly McCormack had the rare honour of being invited to England Netball's Performance Coaching Workshop in Liverpool back in January; a ringing endorsement for our Head Coach!



Congratulations to **Jane Jewel** for completing her Level 1 coaching qualification. The club is grateful to her for giving up a weekend to achieve this.



Thunderbirds have been awarded a training grant of £600 from Warwickshire County Council for 'upskilling parent volunteers'. So far, this has paid for Jane's training and we hope others will step forward for coaching and umpiring courses.



Our own 'in house' training for Team Manager is underway. Three hours already completed in the classroom will shortly be followed by three hours on court. Its aim is to provide shared learning, consistency in techniques and a chance for our highly valued volunteers to bond.



Thanks to a cash award from 'Friends of Kingsley School' and for benefit of girls from both the school and our club, Stratford Thunderbirds were all geared up to provide officiating courses next season. Plans were suddenly stalled when we discovered that 'England Netball' are changing some of the game rules. Until these have been finalised and published, our plans remain on hold. You will be kept posted of this wonderful opportunity in due course.

HAVE YOUR SAY.....

Now that we have some experience under our belts and your girls have participated in either leagues, tournaments or both, the club wants to hear your feedback. What's worked well / not so well? What we could do more of / less of? Any feedback (positive or constructive) would be appreciated. We are all learning!

For feedback, please contact our Club Secretary, Elaine Binks, via email : Elaine.binks@talktalk.net

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

May we politely remind parents that your netball club has a carefully considered code of conduct which all are encouraged to adhere to. It embraces good sportsmanship, sets an example to our junior members and protects everyone associated with our club. A few key points to remember:

- If you are concerned about a Team Manager's decision at a match then please wait 24 hours before talking to them. Please remember they are all volunteers!
- Do applaud good play...of both teams.
- Please remind yourself of the Parents Code of Conduct. It can be found on the club's website

<http://www.stratfordthunderbirds.com/>

Thank you!

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed **Adrian Stubbings** onto our committee as Treasurer. With his wife Katherine busy as a Team Manager and daughter Lucy making her mark in the U11 squad, thankfully for us, Adrian didn't want to become a 'netball widower', volunteering instead to keep a healthy grasp on club finances. Applying his valuable accounting skills, he has just reviewed our first 'end of year' figures and its reassuring to know that 'Thunderbirds' are in good shape.

Helen Lavery also joins the committee as Junior Representative.

As a regular for U14 A, she is one of the club's more experienced players and will be a valuable channel of communication between the girls and the grown-ups when planning for next year. If any young player has a comment or suggestions to put forward, please liaise with Helen at training or via email helen.laveryyy@gmail.com.

Helen wanted to take this opportunity to share some of her own thoughts. *"I am overwhelmingly proud of the Thunderbirds community and what we have achieved over the last year. I realise what a task it must be to get a netball club in to full swing in just a matter of months.*

The enthusiasm and hard work that Kelly and the Managers put into the training sessions is fantastic. I know that I thoroughly enjoy every session, and have had the amazing opportunity to play in many high calibre matches, as have many of the girls, and I am grateful to them for their support.

Our High 5 teams have really been brilliant this season and I hope they have enjoyed being part of Thunderbirds. Even though the under 11's, 12's, 13's and U14's have had some tough games, we have really learned a lot; not just about match tactics, but about each other too. I think we have all made some great friends.

On behalf of all Thunderbird players, I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to our Coach, Kelly, and to all the Team Managers, parents and volunteers for doing so much to make sure that we all have an opportunity to enjoy our netball. I am really excited about what next season will bring, and look forward to competing in County and Regional matches, not to mention the tournaments, which are great fun!"



OTHER NEWS



Last training date this term is **Monday 18th July & Tuesday 19th July**.



Training recommences week commencing **Monday 12th September**. Ellen Lavery will be in touch shortly with plans, once finalised, as to who is training when and at which venue.



LEAVE OR REMAIN? Don't worry, this time it's not such a contentious question! Watch out for an email month regarding renewal of club membership plus affiliation to 'England Netball'.



Thunderbirds would like to send its members a personalised e-birthday card. Unfortunately, some recent attempts were not received and went straight to 'spam'. If you would like your daughter to receive hers, please allow for emails from "Blue Mountains" to be accepted.



Before you order the next size up, you might like to know that Thunderbirds are proposing a second hand shop for match dresses and training shirts only. It would help keep costs down while extending the life expectancy of these quality garments.

Our kit provider has also agreed to repair/replace damaged name transfers that appear on the sleeves of Stratford skins. Details of both to follow in September.



Kelly, Team Managers and committee are busily reviewing tournaments to attend next season, with a thrilling prospect of a seaside residential netball weekend under consideration for summer 2017.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Name	Role	Email	Mobile
Lucy Hargreaves	Chair & Volunteers Co-ordinator	lucyehargreaves@yahoo.co.uk	07818 012807
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Adrian Stubbings	Treasurer	kastubbings@gmail.com	07872 009714
Elaine Binks	Club Secretary/ Publicity	Elaine.binks@talktalk	07790 481992
Helen Lavery	Junior Representative	helen.laveryyy@gmail.com	
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Sam Toye	Events	Samantha@jcn.co.uk	07776 148724
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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

APPEAL: Remember, there are plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in the wider committee (team managers, supporting coaches, fundraising, second hand kit shop, etc.) On match days, offering to collect match fees or scoring would go a long way to help our Team Managers.

All offers of help are heartily welcome, regardless of how much or little time you have available! For this contact our **Volunteers Co-ordinator**, Lucy Hargreaves, on lucyehargreaves@yahoo.co.uk.

