



July 2018



NEWSLETTER

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THIRD YEAR ENDS ON A GLORIOUS HIGH

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE LEAGUE

U13A CHAMPIONS**U12A CHAMPIONS****'End of Season' Tournament Winners:****U13A & U11/12 Mixed Team**

BIRMINGHAM INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

Div 1	U15A	10th place
Div 2	U15B	5th place
Div 3	U14A	CHAMPIONS (P8 W8)
Div 4	U14B	3rd place
Div 5	U13A	CHAMPIONS (P9 W9)
Div 6	U13B	CHAMPIONS (P8 W6)
Div 7	U12A	3rd place
Div 8	U13C	CHAMPIONS (P10W10)
Div 9	U12B	CHAMPIONS (P9 W9)
	U12C	8th place
Div 10	U11A	CHAMPIONS (P9 W9)

BINL 'End of Season' Tournament Winners**U13A beating Rylands U15!**

REDDITCH SENIOR WINTER LEAGUE

Div 3 U16s 2nd Place (P14/W11)

Thunderbirds first venture into a Senior League and the score lines were staggering, e.g. beating Firefox 75:23 in their first fixture. The three games lost were to eventual Champions Panthers, and the closest of shaves against Ryland Rays 35:36.

REDDITCH SENIOR SUMMER LEAGUE (Ends Aug)

Div 2	Thunderbirds' Eagles currently 4th
Div 3	Thunderbirds' Kestrels currently 8th
Div 4	Thunderbirds' Falcons currently 3rd
Div 4	Thunderbirds' Harriers currently

These result tables say it all; Thunderbirds have enjoyed even more success this year and more than 200 girls have grown in confidence. They have made Kelly, Molly and all our Team Managers very proud indeed.





The busy summer schedule started back on 5 May with a trip down to **Cranfield**, Bedfordshire, but it took another week and a trip to Bromsgrove for Thunderbirds to really get going.

Thunderbirds on tour!



Our U11A (top left) got off to a flying start, winning the **Rylands** tournament while an U12/13 'Allsorts' team (top right) came home with the Ryland's Plate too.



U12s (below) took top spot on 16 June at the **Newbury** tournament

The next weekend, a trip up north saw our U12s shine (left) when they were Runners Up at the **Manchester** Thunder Tournament on 19 May. The trip also gave the U13s a chance to rub shoulders with some of England's Roses, sporting their Commonwealth Gold.



On 7 July, U13As were our best hope in **Bury**, winning three tough games but the unusual taste of defeat sent some a bit loopy! (left) The U12s, U13Bs, U14s and U15s all gave it their best shot despite the early rise.



Finally to **Yendy's** tournament, **Wolverhampton**, in mid July, where the opposition can be as punishing as the heat. U13As missed a semi final place by just two goals.

SPECIAL THANKS to Kelly, Molly, Team Managers, Ellen and Sonia, who got the girls prepped, entered and in some cases, transported. Big hand also to all the girls and parents who came on tour this year. The players' skills and experience will undoubtedly have come a long way too!



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Our U13A team started the year by being shortlisted for the Stratford upon Avon District Sports Awards, in the category of "Junior Team 2017". The girls attended the awards ceremony at the Stratford ArtsHouse in January along with scores of other accomplished sportspeople, coaches and volunteers.



They were nominated as then triple champions of the Worcestershire, Coventry & Warwickshire and Birmingham Intermediate leagues. The squad of nine players lost out to the mighty Stratford Athletics Club which has the combined talents of 200 members!

CHAIR'S CHOICE Thunderbirds is immensely proud of U13A player, Zoe Phillis, who was awarded Birmingham Intermediate Netball League's "Outstanding Player 2018".

Zoe (right) was selected by BINL's Chair, Norma McLean for her excellent play and sportsmanship. On hearing the news, Kelly said, "Zoe is definitely a player to look out for in the future. Over the last 12 months she has really pushed herself to gain a prominent A team place for Thunderbirds U13s.



Stratford Thunderbirds Awards Night

Saturday 15th September

6.00pm to 10.30pm

Ettington Village Hall,
Rogers Lane, Ettington, CV37 7SX

**Presentations start at 6.30pm
followed by**

BBQ at 7.30pm & Disco

Cost: £5 per head for food:

**Choose Burger, Hot Dog or Veggie Burger.
Soft Drinks free! Donation for wine & beer**

NEED NEW KIT FOR NEXT SEASON?
THUNDERBIRDS KIT WILL BE AVAILABLE
TO BUY / ORDER ON THE NIGHT!

While this is a family occasion, space is limited for non netball playing siblings.
All children must be accompanied by parent or nominated responsible adult.

To apply for tickets please send email to
info@stratfordthunderbirds.com

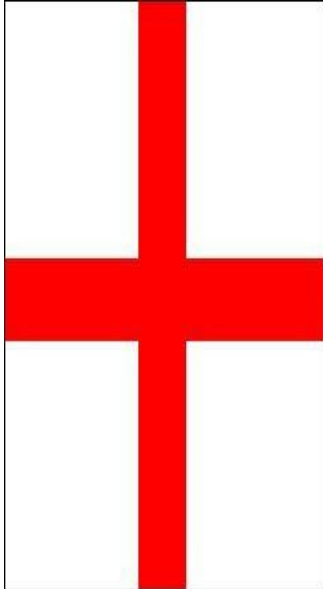
**with names & food choices of those attending, then
transfer £5 per head into the Stratford Thunderbirds
bank account, quoting "AWARDS"**

NO LATER THAN SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

BBQ Food vouchers can be collected on the door

CALLING INTERNATIONAL RESCUE When you have a group of 18 students on tour from South Africa, itching to play netball, who ya gonna call? Stratford Thunderbirds!

Our club was thrilled to be approached by a UK sports tour operator to host two matches on **Sunday 30th September**. The touring students are aged between 15 and 18 years, from nine different schools throughout South Africa. They were specially selected for this touring squad after competing in the Arthur Johnson Tournament hosted by Point High School in Mosselbay. After the matches they look forward to some sightseeing in Stratford.



The games will be played at Stratford Leisure Centre: set up 9.30am followed by matches at 10am & 11am, some hospitality, photos and a good mingle.

Once memberships are renewed and training gets underway again, Kelly will select a squad of older players/ seniors to be a suitable match for our visitors.

We shall need two umpires plus a crowd of spectators (all ages) to provide some atmosphere for this rare event. Local press will be invited too.

More details to follow in due course.



THUNDERBIRDS COMES OF AGE With our club barely out of nappies, we have to come to terms with the fact that many of our members are no longer juniors. Our U16s made a marvellous first impression on the Redditch League coming runners up in Division 3 last season. Now our U14s & U15s are still enjoying the challenge of playing in the Redditch Summer league, joining ranks with the 'Back to Netball' ladies.

This collaboration has not only been beneficial to our developing juniors, it has boosted squads when players were short and the camaraderie was more than obvious. We wear the same kit and go by the same 'Thunderbirds' name so it seems the natural thing for juniors and seniors to merge as '**Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Club**'.

Due to insufficient attendance at the AGM, the merger could not be formalised. The Committee therefore offers the month of August for any objections to be registered.

If you do have any strong objection to the merger, please send your name and reason why to info@stratfordthunderbirds.com. The matter will be reviewed again at the next executive committee meeting. Silence will be taken as a vote of confidence.



BACS PAYMENT DETAILS

Using this method saves time and money for the club! Thank you

Stratford Thunderbirds Bank Transfer Details:

Sort code 60-20-41

Account No 43812538

OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS At the club's AGM earlier this month, the following parents volunteered to continue in their roles:

Executive Committee: Club Manager Ellen Lavery, Club Secretary Sally Key, Treasurer Adrian Stubbings, (Temp Venues/ Umpires) Helen Dormer, Kit Secretary Sarah Saffet Cole, Safeguarding Officer Gemma Cook, Publicity/ CAPS Coord Elaine Binks

Non Exec Committee: Player Development/ TM Rep Maria Rogers, Tours Secretary Sonia Hockaday, Equipment Coordinator Alex Burnard, Events/General Sam Toye.



WE'RE FEELING STRETCHED AND COULD USE SOME HELP!

It's little wonder considering our membership has quadrupled in 3 years. The Executive Committee are mighty grateful to those parents who do volunteer their time and services. We do, however, find ourselves with ad hoc projects that need extra manpower or expertise.

We have a vacancy for a **Venues Coordinator**, i.e. someone to pre-book training halls each term with established contacts, but with the capacity to find alternatives, in a hurry, should a school have an event or exams that clash.

We need **Umpire Secretaries**, to pre-book cover for each of the leagues. Once again we have established contacts. The club plans to train more umpires to ease the burden. Do you have experience applying for DBS checks? We need someone to oversee online applications and coordinate official documents; a 'one off' project for September.

Are you savvy about new **Data Protection** legislation? We need someone to ensure our procedures and policy are in order.

Finally, we have events coming up. For the Awards Evening (15th September) we need 6 volunteers to help set up and decorate the hall, man the bar and clear up afterwards. The more the merrier! Please contact Sam Toye on email samantha_toye@hotmail.com if you'd like to join the party team!

If you feel you could offer any assistance, please send an email to info@stratfordthunderbirds.com and we'll follow up in September. There will also be a volunteers table at the Awards Evening to enlist helpers. In the absence of help, this incredible club will simply fold. Thank you for your consideration.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Thunderbirds owes a huge debt to those ladies who stood down this year.

Ellie Davis, our former Fundraising Officer said farewell last Autumn after negotiating a day of bag packing at Tesco's and helping to organise our Awards Night 2017. She left Thunderbirds with a huge parting gesture; her carefully considered application to the Stratford Town Trust, to support the club's performance development ambitions, produced a flabbergasting grant of £15,000.

Lorna Hegenbarth has worked hard for two years organising our training venues. It seemed very straightforward when we only needed SGS one night a week but our expansion now takes us also to the Croft School, Stratford & Meon Vale leisure centres and KES over four evenings. She has been a wonderful ambassador for our club and we wish her all the best as the rest of her life takes over.

Jenny Lomas has been with us from the outset as Volunteers Coordinator. She was instrumental in getting the first band of parents together and organising training for them.

BACK TO TRAINING: WEEK COMMENCING MON 10TH SEPTEMBER

The club is busy getting members affiliated to leagues and England Netball. Once we know which members are renewing and which facilities are available to us, you will be advised in due course which training session is best suited to your daughter/ daughters. If this causes any conflicts in schedules we will do our utmost to accommodate, where possible.





CLUB EXPECTATIONS FOR 2018-2019

As we round up another tremendous year, the Executive Committee acknowledges the extraordinary effort, time and money each family ploughs into supporting their daughter's love of netball. In the interest of smooth running and to keep everyone's workload manageable next year, there are a few matters that would be timely to address now.



Kit Standards:

Essential: Training shirt & shorts, Club socks and skins (not with school name). Dress for matches

Optional: Hoodies, waterproof jackets

For training sessions, we request that :

- (1) long hair is plaited. We understand that some girls rush to get to training or are sometimes a little late, so any sort of plait will be sufficient. Plaits to be secured with black or blue bands (no other colours please.)
- (2) Club training top or netball dress
- (3) Club shorts or plain black leggings
- (4) Club Socks
- (5) Sport appropriate underwear, preferably black but white will also be allowed. (No bright or neon colours)
- (6) Thunderbird or non branded plain black skins (top & bottom in winter)
- (7) NO MAKE UP other than a little bit of concealer, if required.
- (8) No Jewellery - especially no earrings. From September, coaches will **NOT ALLOW** any player who turns up to training or matches with fresh piercings to take part under any circumstances. Covering plasters will not be allowed. If girls do turn up to training or matches with covering plasters, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child. If your daughter is keen to have her ears pierced, during the summer holidays would be ideal.
- (9) Appropriate netball trainers with necessary ankle support. These provide safer/better grip on court.

For League matches and Tournaments :

As above, but long hair should be in two neatly tied plaits, secured with black or blue bands only.

Also netball dresses should be worn wherever possible. This not only looks smarter, but allows us to use Velcro position bibs.



Player & Parent conduct:

Kelly has politely requested that girls do not talk to parents during a match. Only coaches and Team Managers are to discuss tactics and changes to positions. Frustration or conduct of an aggressive nature should not be directed at Team Managers. Remember they are parents who volunteer and act in line with Kelly's direction. Any complaints or concerns should be addressed to Ellen Lavery, the Club Manager, in writing to email info@stratfordthunderbirds.com. Alternatively, request an appointment to see the Head coach. Membership is conditional on both players and parents signing a Code of Conduct. This calls for good sportsmanship and respectful behaviour both on and off the court. Copies are available on the club website and fresh copies will be issued to sign with new membership forms.



Late Collection Penalties

Can parents please observe the end time of the training session and collect children on time. Late collections cost the club money compensating Kelly and Molly for their time. In future, if a parent is late, a penalty fine will be charged, i.e. £ 5 per 15 mins/ £15 30 mins. The number of incidents this year has forced the Executive Committee to rule that persistent offenders will be asked to leave the club.



Training & Match fees

Can all parents please endeavor to pay training fees within the first two weeks of each term. Our Treasurer does an incredible job managing our cash flow and could do without the chasing. **NO PAY NO PLAY.** Next season should see an end to the discrepancy in match fees between the leagues. These are necessary to cover the cost of umpires' fees. Expect £1.50, per quarter played, across the board.



Have a great summer!

