



27 September 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Club!

We're three weeks in to being an officially affiliated Netball Club and hopefully all of your girls have enjoyed their first training sessions at the fantastic new facilities at Stratford Girls' Grammar School.

There has been a huge amount of activity over a very short time period to get this new club up and running and competing in this season's leagues. With that in mind this newsletter is designed to bring you up to speed on what has been happening.

The first thing to say is that the Committee are all volunteers and most of us are new to running a netball club. However, we are lucky enough to have a few people who have been involved with netball for many years and are very experienced. We are also incredibly fortunate to have Kelly McCormack who is not only a brilliant netball coach but is being incredibly generous with her time, experience and enthusiasm to coach all of the Committee and Team Managers in their roles and guide us through this wonderful world of competitive junior netball.

Committee

Attached at the end of this letter is a list of the Committee members and Team Managers with their contact details. We are still looking for a Secretary! Please let Lucy Hargreaves know if you are interested and willing to help out, either as Secretary or in any other capacity. All help is welcome. The Committee will aim to meet formally once a term.

Thus far Kelly has been taking the lead in getting us to become a fully-functioning netball club. As time progresses and the Committee becomes more familiar with what is required, Kelly will take a step back and focus solely on coaching.

If you have any questions or concerns please do email or call any of us. If we don't have an immediate answer, it will help us work out what we need to know to do our jobs properly and it will take some of the pressure off Kelly.

Teams

There are going to be nine teams:

U14A, U14B, U13, U12A, mixed U11 / U12 development, U11A, U11B, U10 Black and U10 Blue.

Kelly is responsible for team selection and will make it on the basis of merit. Some leagues have already started, others are due to start in October and the U11s and U10s will commence after Christmas. Please contact the Team Manager if you have any queries. If there isn't a Team Manager shown on the list and you have interest in volunteering then please contact Kelly.

If your daughter has been selected for a team and you have received a fixture list, it is essential that you let the Team Manager know ASAP whether your daughter is available. Likewise, if your plans change and your daughter can't play please let the Team Manager know ASAP so that someone else can be given the opportunity. The teams we are competing against are very professionally run – turning up without a full team would be embarrassing to say the least.

Website and Facebook

Maria Rogers has created a website and Facebook group that should facilitate efficient communications for Team Managers. Although ready to go live, we need a volunteer to manage the website. If you are interested in taking on this responsibility then please get in touch with Maria.

Coaching Assistants / Umpires / First Aiders

Kelly is our Head Coach and has been assisted by Vivienne Blake, Gemma Cook and Maria Rogers in the past. Any parents who have an interest in coaching or umpiring, or have first aid qualifications please do get in touch. The more help Kelly has, the better.

Kit

Sarah Saffet Cole and Sam Toye are our Kit Secretaries have taken on the mammoth task of designing the kit with Kelly and working out what we need for the nine teams. Thanks to Nicki Barber for the design of the logo! Dresses have been ordered and are expected in approximately 4 weeks. Hoodies and socks to follow. In the meantime can those girls that are participating in matches wear black/dark blue shorts or skorts with a white t-shirt and white ankle socks. Hair to be tied back with dark coloured bobbles please. Also, a polite reminder that only water is allowed in court – no fizzy drinks, thank you!

Membership

We have nearly 50 girls affiliated with England Netball thanks to the patience and hard work of Ellen Lavery in negotiating the online England Netball affiliation process. It is essential that all girls pay the required membership fee and thereby become individually affiliated with England Netball. League organisers will not allow girls to play if they are not affiliated. We will operate a 'no pay, no play' policy as there will be nothing more frustrating for all involved if we arrive at a match and have girls turned away.

We are now full in the Y5 and Y6 age groups and Ellen Lavery is operating a waiting list. We still have spaces in the Y7 and Y8 age groups so please spread the word. Ellen has also put together a welcome pack for new members.

CAPS

CAPS is the England Netball Club Action Planning Scheme. For us to play in competitive leagues we need to meet the requirements of CAPS. It covers such things as child safeguarding, club governance, codes of conduct, insurance, etc. There is a great deal of paperwork to do and that's what Lucy Hargreaves will be working on over the coming weeks and months.

Nails

At the first outing of the U11/U12 Development Team last weekend there was a nail inspection that caught us all by surprise! Please ensure that your girls cut their nails short before a match, otherwise there is a possibility that they will not be allowed to play.

Finally, thank you for all of your support, time and prompt payment. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions then please email or telephone the relevant committee member. A number of us will be at SGGs on Monday evenings.

Looking forward to a successful year!

Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Committee



Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Club - Committee

	Email	Mobile	Role
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Nicki Barber			



Stratford Thunderbirds Netball Club – Team Managers

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	U11 B		
	U10 Black		
	U10 Blue		