



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL ONE AWARDS

The England Netball National One Awards were held on the 18th October, and it was a night of fantastic success for the East Midlands. Find out more about our regional winners on [page 2](#).



OUNDLLE WALKING NETBALL FESTIVAL

A great day at Oundle School as Kelly Thompson hosted a Walking Netball Festival and celebrated World Menopause Day! Find out more on [page 4](#).

NETBALL WORLD YOUTH CUP

The Netball World Youth Cup took place in Gibraltar this September and featured outstanding East Midlands representation - from talented athletes to dedicated officials - giving us plenty to cheer about. Read more on [page 6](#).



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NATIONAL ONE AWARDS 2025



The 2025 One Awards were held on 18th October at the National Motorcycle Museum & National Conference Centre in Solihull. The ONE Awards celebrate the outstanding individuals whose dedication and volunteer efforts make netball possible. This year's event featured twelve national ONE Awards, alongside several Pass On Your Passion and Long Service Awards, as well as the presentation of a new Honorary Life Membership Award.

The prestigious event saw over 230 guests gather and celebrate the contributions and achievements of some of England Netball's amazing volunteers. England Netball Chair Baroness Sue Campbell welcomed guests before stars of the game such as England Netball President Eboni Usoro-Brown, Birmingham Panthers Head Coach Sonia Mkoloma, Vitality Rose Fran Williams and Future Roses Hannah Knightbridge, Sophie Egbaran and Izzi Phillips presented the 12 national ONE Awards.

We're beyond proud to share that the East Midlands had huge success at the awards, bringing home FOUR national awards and a prestigious Long Service Award!



Long Service Award: Caroline Richards

Caroline Richards was the recipient of a prestigious Long Service Award. The award is given to individuals who have contributed 25 years of service at county, regional, national and international level, dedicating significant time across varying roles to improve the lives of netballers around them.

As a long standing member of Derbyshire Netball's CMB and as a Committee member before the reorganisation of Derbyshire's administration, Caroline has given exceptional

service to a number of roles but predominately as Treasurer since 1995 and as Competition TSG Lead and representative on the Regional TSG since 2008. Other roles which Caroline dedicates her skills and time to are as a County Squad umpire until 2005, currently a member of Derbyshire's Governance and Finance group, County Secretary from 2003 to 2008 and part of the Archive Group in 2022.

Caroline is a member of Stiletto Netball Club and has been a valued player, attained her Level 1 Coaching Award and 'B' Umpiring Award to support the club. Her skills and enthusiasm guided and contributed to Stiletto for more than 40 years before she reluctantly hung up her trainers.

Caroline is highly regarded in Derbyshire; not only for the dedication and commitment which she gives to each role or task, but as a voice of reason who will always listen to and consider everyone's opinion or rationale before voicing her own measured responses.

Derbyshire Netball is proud and pleased that Caroline has received her EN Long Service Award – so richly deserved.



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NATIONAL ONE AWARDS 2025

Outstanding Contribution of the Year (in memory of Mary Bullock): **Claire Bowen**

The first of our remarkable national winners was Claire Bowen. Claire stands at the very core of Bingham Bullettes Netball Club and her passion, kindness and unwavering commitments have grown the club into an inclusive community for over 200 players, aged five to seventy-five.

Claire acts as a coach, mentor and leader and adapts to every need, ensuring that neither cost or confidence ever stops anyone from participating.

Whether providing subsidised or free kit, or offering alternative options for those who prefer not to wear a dress, she creates space for everyone to feel welcome. Her joy has made impact way beyond the netball courts and she has changed lives through belief and encouragement.

Claire has also supported local primary and secondary schools, expanding access to netball and creating greater opportunities for young people. She has forged links with local Rainbows groups, offering taster Bee Netball sessions that introduce the sport in a fun and welcoming way. Bee Netball has flourished at Bingham, with this section of the club operating at full capacity for the past two seasons.



Inclusion Award: **Linda Ryan**

Our second exceptional winner was Linda Ryan. Linda implemented innovative training ideas to transform access to netball for the deaf community. Equipment such as vibrating buzz balls and light-based umpiring systems broke barriers and revolutionised the game for the deaf community.

Linda showed incredible leadership and determination through her collaborative work with Deaf Sport UK, local partners, and national organisations. This work empowered the deaf community, created new opportunities and created a lasting impact both on and off the court.

As a driving force in creating more netball opportunities for the Deaf community, Linda has played a pivotal role in expanding opportunities within the sport. Through her compassionate and inclusive leadership, she has fostered a strong sense of belonging, connection, and aspiration within a group that had previously been underrepresented in netball.



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NATIONAL ONE AWARDS 2025

Unsung Hero: **Angela Stevens**

Our next fabulous ONE Award winner was Angela Stevens. Angela is the full embodiment of an unsung hero, working tirelessly behind the scenes, expecting nothing, yet giving everything. Angela was described as the true heartbeat of Ashby Netball Club and her kindness and dedication is the reason the club is what it is today.

Some of Angela's most notable achievements include transforming Ashby NC over a 15-year period into a thriving club of more than 220 members and playing a pivotal role in the team's 2023 Guinness World Record achievement which raised over £20,000 for charity.



Angela's influence extends far beyond the boundaries of a single club. As Secretary of the North West Leicestershire Netball League, she has been a driving force behind its remarkable expansion - from just 6 teams to an impressive 36. Through her dedication to improving infrastructure, streamlining administration, and fostering a professional yet welcoming environment, Angela has helped reshape local league netball and set new standards for the sport in the community.

Club of the Year: **Ashby Netball Club**



Our final ONE Award winner was Ashby Netball Club. Ashby pride themselves on creating welcoming and supportive environments where players of all ages and abilities can enjoy the game. Ashby host a diverse range of sessions, including senior, junior, mixed, walking and academy netball which create an inclusive team culture for all their members.

Ashby is a club of ordinary people achieving extraordinary things. From breaking three Guinness World Records and raising thousands of pounds for charity to showcasing netball to millions through their social media channels, Ashby has plenty to be proud of. Yet just as

noteworthy are the countless quieter moments of courage and kindness shown by its members every day. Ashby truly embodies the spirit of a community netball club.

Committed to fostering a genuine love for the game, Ashby contributes far more than the sum of its parts and stands as a shining example of the vibrant netball community within the region.

OUNDE WALKING NETBALL FESTIVAL CELEBRATES....

WORLD MENOPAUSE DAY WITH ENGLAND NETBALL'S 'I WISH I KNEW' CAMPAIGN

We celebrated World Menopause Day on Saturday 18th October at our Walking Netball Festival in Oundle showcasing our NETBALLHer 'i wish I knew' campaign. The ladies shared their 'i wish I knew' experiences via NETBALLHer table, as well as playing against teams from across the county and region and picking up a FREE caught short pack for their kit bags. One team entered and played Walking Netball for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed their day.

10 teams took part with over 110 players and spectators joining in a very special Q&A with Alice Harvey on her Loughborough Lightning and England journey. Linking in with Loughborough Lightning who donated prizes for the festival, presented by Alice was the icing on the cake.



Kelly Thomson – England Netball Development Officer – Northamptonshire Said ; ' Today was a celebration of being unapologetically female, from wiggling and giggling on the court, to sharing stories on female health, being inspired by Alice, hearing the inspiration from the International & NSL stage, to celebrating World Menopause day, it was a great success'.

Alice Harvey – England Netball Regional Officer – East Midlands said; "I absolutely loved attending my first Walking Netball Festival! It was so inspiring chatting with so many amazing women, hearing their stories, and finding out what brings them to Walking Netball. Huge thanks to all the volunteers and to Kelly for putting together such a brilliant event!"

Oundle Walking Netball Festival Celebrates....

World Menopause Day with England Netball's 'I Wish I Knew' Campaign

The teams played in a round robin in the morning and were grouped into the 'Wiggles & Giggles' & 'In it to win it' groups in the afternoon. The final placings were:

Wiggles & Giggles	Player of the team	'In it to win it'	Player of the team
1 st Oundle Ospreys	Maddy	1 st Barton Bees	Janet
2 nd O.W.Ls	Sue	2 nd Fenland Flames	Cheryl
3 rd Dolly Mixtures	Wendy	3 rd Netbelles	Eloise
4 th Sunshine Sistas	Ima	4 th Mellport	Gill
5 th Kingswood Corby	Rosey	5 th Loughborough Ladybirds	Tina



PLAYER OF EACH TEAM WITH THEIR LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING PRIZES



NETBALLHER TABLE

Thank you to all the hosts, team managers, umpires, scorers, players and spectators for a great day of netball. A huge thank you to Loughborough Lightning for their support and donation of prizes for players of each team and thank you to Alice for all her support and inspiring the netball family. Finally, a big thank you to Jamie & his team at Oundle Sports Centre for their help and support too.

‘Really enjoyed Saturday, you worked so hard I’m really pleased the whole tournament went like clockwork, a great success, well done you, lots smiley faces.’

‘I just wanted to say thank you for hosting this event, our ladies have thoroughly enjoyed the day and are looking forward to the next one.’

FEEDBACK FROM THE DAY

‘I want to commend you and your team, for your hard work in making the tournament happen. It was well organised and very enjoyable.’

MENOPAUSE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Share Your I wish I Knew
<https://form.jotform.com/252662264317356>

Visit NETBALLHer to access our menopause resources: netballher.co.uk/menopause/

If you are an England Netball member, our learning offer includes a module on Menopause with additional resources that can help to support you and others
englandnetball.co.uk/course/menopause/

NETBALL WORLD YOUTH CUP

The 2025 Netball World Youth Cup (NWYC) was held in Gibraltar this September. There was 57 games over nine days of competition and the East Midlands had plenty of representation.

England U21s Claim Bronze in Gibraltar

England's U21 squad delivered an impressive performance at the recent competition in Gibraltar, with Nottingham Forest's [Jayda Pechová](#) and [Anya Williams](#), alongside [Celena Appleby-Prince](#) of Loughborough Lightning, all featuring in the 12-strong travelling team.

After a delayed start to their campaign - caused by Sri Lanka forfeiting their opening fixture - England hit the ground running, opening with a commanding [65-28 victory over Wales](#). Two further wins saw them top Group C and advance confidently to the quarter-finals.

There, they faced Scotland and showcased their defensive dominance with a convincing [64-33 win](#), securing a place in the semi-finals against New Zealand U21s.

The semi-final proved to be a thrilling encounter. Despite New Zealand taking an early lead, England mounted a spirited comeback, reducing an 11-goal deficit to just two following a series of impactful changes. However, time ran out for the young Roses, who narrowly fell [49-51](#) in a valiant effort.

Less than 24 hours later, England returned to court determined to claim bronze. Facing a strong South Africa side, they quickly found rhythm and maintained their composure throughout. A steady, confident performance saw them seal a [55-35](#) victory and a well-deserved [bronze medal finish](#).



ENGLAND U21 LINE UP FOR THE MEDAL CERAMONY



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NETBALL WORLD YOUTH CUP

Regional Officials Shine on the International Stage

It wasn't just our athletes making headlines in Gibraltar - our region's officiating team also played a huge part in the success of the tournament!

Jayne Bell, Donna Fensom, Lizzie Saunby, Robyn Rogers, Nicola Grant, Sara Bostock, and Wendy Broad all represented The East Midlands with distinction throughout the competition.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JAYNE BELL, DONNA FENSOM, LIZZIE SAUNBY, ROBYN ROGERS, NICOLA GRANT AND SARA BOSTOCK



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ROBYN ROGERS, LIZZIE SAUNBY AND WENDY BROAD

A special congratulations goes to Wendy Broad and Robyn Rogers, who were selected as table officials for the gold medal final, and to Lizzie Saunby, who took to the court as appointed umpire. The final did not disappoint, as New Zealand and Australia battled it out in a thrilling contest that ended with Australia taking gold 62-48.

Congratulations to all our officials for their outstanding contributions to what was a magnificent nine-day showcase of international netball. Your professionalism, dedication, and passion continue to make our region proud!



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INTERNATIONAL NETBALL

VITALITY NETBALL INTERNATIONAL SERIES

The recent **Vitality Netball International Series** saw the **Vitality Roses** take on New Zealand's **Silver Ferns** in a compelling **three-match showdown**. The opening two games, held at the Copper Box Arena in London on 15th and 16th November, saw England suffer a narrow 58-61 defeat before bouncing back with a spirited and composed 61-58 victory in the second test. The series finale, held at the AO Arena in Manchester on 19th November was taken by the Silver Ferns who, after a closely contested first three quarters, ended the game 55-49.

While the final result didn't go England's way, there was plenty to celebrate in terms of performance and development. The series saw exciting new talent as **Jas Brown made her international debut**, bringing fresh energy to the Roses' line-up. Meanwhile, **Sasha Glasgow** and **Eleanor Cardwell** made a welcome return to the international stage for the first time since injury.

STARS FROM THE EAST MIDLANDS

The East Midlands was proud to be well represented by Loughborough Lightning as part of this series. **Beth Cobden reached a major milestone**, celebrating her 50th cap for England - a testament to her enduring class, dedication, and leadership on court.

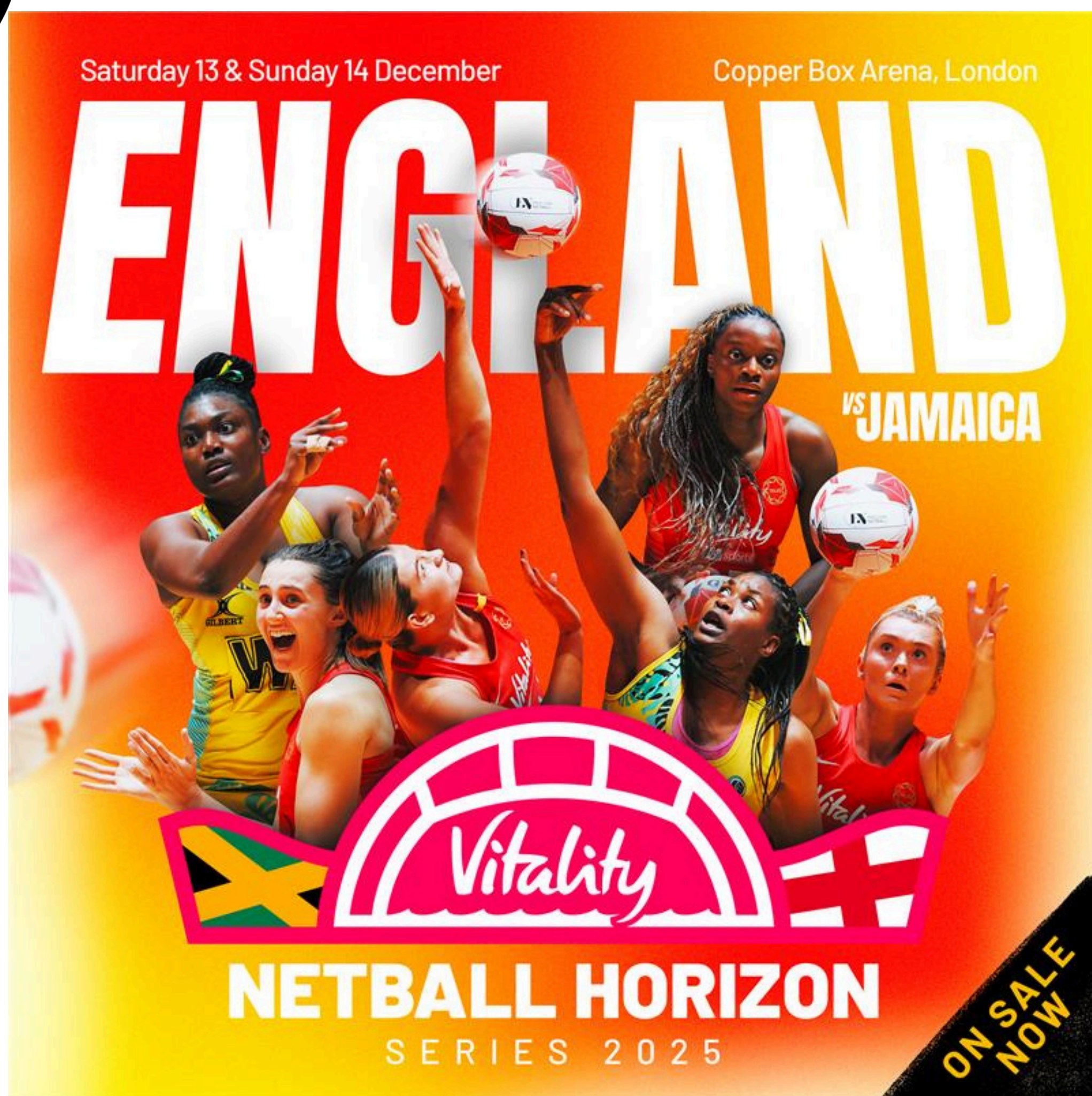
Jess Shaw was also a star of the series as she showcased her creativity and dynamism through the mid-court continue to make her a pivotal presence for the Roses. Their performances highlighted the depth of netball talent in our region and offered plenty of inspiration for the next generation.





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INTERNATIONAL NETBALL



The inaugural **Vitality Netball Horizon Series** launched in 2024, after **England** and **Jamaica** committed to playing each other in a home and away format **every year for four years**. In **December**, the Vitality Roses will look to earn the right to lift the **Rhone-Hornsby Cup** for the first time, after a closely contested series saw Jamaica take the title last year

VITALITY NETBALL HORIZON SERIES SCHEDULE**

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER – NATIONAL INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, KINGSTON, JAMAICA
JAMAICA VS ENGLAND FCP TO BE CONFIRMED

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER – NATIONAL INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, KINGSTON, JAMAICA
JAMAICA VS ENGLAND FCP TO BE CONFIRMED

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER – COPPER BOX ARENA, LONDON
ENGLAND VS. JAMAICA FCP 2:15PM

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER – COPPER BOX ARENA, LONDON
ENGLAND VS. JAMAICA FCP 2PM

*** FCP TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGE DUE TO BROADCAST REQUIREMENTS.*

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)

COACHING INSIGHTS

At [East Midlands Netball](#), we're passionate about supporting our region's coaches - the people who inspire, grow, and develop our netballers at every level.

At the heart of this support network is the [East Midlands Coaching Technical Support Group \(TSG\)](#), led by [Vicky Otterburn](#). This group is a dedicated team of volunteers working together to strengthen coaching across the region. With [representatives from each county](#), the group's aim is to empower coaches by sharing knowledge, building confidence, and creating opportunities to connect and collaborate.

The TSG plays a vital role in linking coaches with counties, the region, and East Midlands' two Netball Superleague franchises, ensuring everyone can access the guidance and resources they need to succeed. From organising workshops and mentoring opportunities to championing best practice, the group is dedicated to helping coaches, new and experienced, reach their full potential.



**VICKY OTTERBURN AND LOUISE HOPKIN
COACHING REGIONAL ACADEMY**



**JEN NEWMAN AND VICKY OTTERBURN AT A
COACHING CONFERENCE DURING THE 2025
NETBALL WORLD YOUTH CUP**

Leading the group is [Vicky Otterburn](#), a [Level 2 coach from Lincolnshire](#) currently working towards her [Level 3 qualification](#). Vicky's coaching journey began at just [16 years old](#), and since then she has gained a wealth of experience in roles including [East Midlands Regional Coach](#), [Loughborough Lightning Academy Coach](#), and [Head of Netball](#) at several schools across the country.



**VICKY'S FIRST EVER NPL TOURNAMENT WITH EASTMIDLANDS
NETBALL AND LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING**

Her passion for coaching was inspired by a PE teacher who never gave up on her - an experience that continues to shape how she supports others today. Having spent time in Australia, where she was inspired by the scale and professionalism of netball overseas, Vicky returned to the UK determined to help grow the game closer to home.



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COACHING INSIGHTS

VICKY'S ADVICE TO FELLOW COACHES REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF THE TSG PERFECTLY:

“You have got to put yourself out there [...] you will be amazed by all the different people you meet, the relationships you build and they won't ever go away, they will stand you in good stead ”

Whether you're just starting your coaching journey or looking to take the next step, the TSG is here to help you thrive.

To find out more about how the group can support your development, visit our website and get in touch through the enquiry link.

Available England Netball Coaching Courses

Click [here](#) for information on all upcoming England Netball coaching courses

or

If the course you're after isn't available right now, just complete the relevant Expression of Interest Form [here](#) - and you'll be the first to hear when the new courses launch

Available Netball Superleague Coaching Offerings



**NOTTINGHAM
FOREST**



**LOUGHBOROUGH
LIGHTNING**

To view Nottingham Forest's Coach Mentoring and Coach Education Programmes, click [here](#).

To view Loughborough Lightning's Coach Education offerings, click [here](#).



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MARKET HARBOROUGH YOUTH NETBALL CLUB GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Market Harborough Youth Netball Club held its first Environmental Day of the season at the weekend, bringing together 21 volunteers to help prepare the Harborough Leisure Centre's Community Garden for winter.

Netballers from across the club's age groups were joined by parents, siblings, and coaches, supported by Edward and Nick from Everyone Active. Together, the group cleared raised beds, removed persistent brambles from the bank, and collected leaves from the pathways to make them safer for visitors.

Volunteers were treated to a welcome hot drink from the Leisure Centre, and the sunny, crisp weather made for a perfect afternoon of community teamwork.



MARKET HARBOROUGH YOUTH NETBALL CLUB CLEARING HARBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR WINTER

Club organisers expressed their thanks to everyone who took part, noting that the day was such a success that they plan to return in the spring to help plant up the raised beds for the new growing season.

Keep an eye out for future MHYNC Environmental Days, as the club continues its efforts to support both nature and the local community.

At East Midlands Netball, we are proud to lead the way in embedding sustainability into every level of our organisation. We've recently launched our Sustainability Policy, outlining our commitment to reducing environmental impact, promoting transparency, and empowering our community through education and action. You can Read our sustainability policy [here](#).





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EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LEAGUE

There's been eight weeks of exciting East Midlands Regional League action since the season kicked off in September. There's been some narrow wins, standout performances and plenty of quality netball being played each week. Take a peek at how the tables look, as of the 24th November, but keep up to date with how the tables look every week, by visiting the East Midlands Netball website here: [Senior League Netball | East Midlands](#).

Division 1

Position	Team
1	Bridgford Navy
2	TFC Leicester TOO
3	Northants Storm 1
4	TFC Leicester 1
5	Charnwood Rutland 1
6	Hucknall Town
7	Hinckley Hurricanes
8	Cliftonettes Scarlet

Division 3

Position	Team
1	Northants Storm 2
2	Foxhall Jets
3	Cliftonettes Navy
4	Ashby Titans
5	Bridgford Blue
6	Charnwood Rutland 2
7	Northants JMs
8	Lincoln City 2

Division 2

Position	Team
1	Lincoln City 1
2	Ashby Giants
3	Derby Roses
4	Hawks
5	Grasshopper 1
6	Nottingham City Aces
7	Falcons Yellow
8	Grasshopper 2

Division 4

Position	Team
1	Harborough Hornets
2	Hampton Harriers
3	Futureprint
4	Fenland
5	Brigg Impact
6	Nottingham City Scarlet



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EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LEAGUE

U14 League	
Position	Team
1	Lincoln City
2	Belper
3	Stamford & Rutland
4	Nottingham City Robins
5	Charnwood Rutland
6	Louth
7	Northants Storm
8	Allestree
9	Hawks
10	Futureprint

U16 League	
Position	Team
1	Charnwood Rutland
2	Lincoln City
3	Bramcote
4	Bingham
5	Louth
6	Leicester Vixens
7	Northants Storm
8	Allestree
9	Nottingham City Scarlets
10	Cliftonettes Red

As always thank you for every player, coach, official and supporter for your continued dedication that allows for such amazing matches take place each week.



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EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL ARE HIRING!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW TREASURER!

If you have a passion for netball and good financial understanding we'd love to have you on board! We're seeking an organised and reliable Treasurer to help guide our region's finances, ensuring sustainability and supporting the growth of the sport we love.

KEY SKILLS

- Be able to produce budgets and forecasts
- Have basic accounting knowledge

KEY TASKS

- Manage regional finances in accordance with the decisions of the Regional Management Board (RMB)
- Keep a record of all regional income and expenditure
- Pay expenses as detailed in the Regional constitution
- Ensure that a written report is prepared for RMB meetings, included updated account

TIME COMMITMENT

- Variable - Average 2-3 hours per week

FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT CONTACT:

eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk

Whether you're experienced, looking to boost your CV, eager to grow your skills, or just passionate about giving back to netball in the East Midlands, we'd love to hear from you!

TO SEE THE FULL ROLE DESCRIPTION AND APPLY:

Visit our website [here](#).



ENGLAND NETBALL PREMIER LEAGUE

WARRIORS EMBARK ON A NEW CHAPTER IN PREMIER LEAGUE 2

After three successful seasons competing in England Netball's National Premier League 1, Charnwood Rutland Warriors begin a new chapter in Premier League 2. The Premier League showcases some of the best netball talent in the country, with teams travelling the length and breadth of England to compete at the highest level.



PHOTO CREDIT: BECCA TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Many of the Warriors' rising stars already represent franchise-level academies and junior international squads, and the experience gained at Premier League level is an essential step in their continued development.

Leading this exciting blend of youth and experience are long-standing club figures Corey McGlynn, Millie van Nierop, Georgie Brock-Taylor and Amy Braithwaite, all proud East Midlands representatives who have

been part of the club since their junior days. Supporting them are key signings such as Michelle Magee and netball legend Chelsea Pitman, whose experience brings an invaluable edge to the squad. While Jasmine Brown continues her commitments on the international stage, she remains a vital influence in developing the Warriors' talented junior defenders.



The Warriors have enjoyed a steady first half of the season, sitting mid-table and recording an unprecedented number of draws, a reflection of the competitive nature of the league and the team's growing resilience.

Head Coach Sam Griffin reflected on the team's progress: "I am proud of the start we've had, blending youth and experience. The Premier League provides a fantastic platform for players to develop their decision-making under pressure. We've had several matches where we've come back from 15 goals down, the resilience shown has been fantastic.

Looking ahead to the second half of the season, our focus is on continuing that growth, giving our younger players more opportunities on court, and learning to start stronger and maintain performance across the full 60 minutes. Premier League netball gives us the top-level competition we need to stretch and challenge our players."

The Warriors play their home matches at Sutton Bonington Campus, where supporters are warmly welcomed to come and enjoy high-quality, exciting netball free of charge. Come and see the next generation of stars in action as the Warriors continue their journey in Premier League 2





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ENGLAND NETBALL PREMIER LEAGUE

NORTHANTS STORM CONTINUE TO BUILD IN THE NATIONAL PREM DIVISION 3

As we Reach the Halfway point in the England Netball Premier League season, Northants Storm are hitting their stride in Division three!

Although their campaign began with two nail-biting one-goal defeats, Storm have since found their stride - claiming three consecutive victories in thrilling fashion.

Every week, the National Premier League delivers a fantastic showcase of athleticism, precision, and passion, and Storm have been right at the heart of that excitement. The team play their home games at the University of Northampton, so make sure to come along and support Northamptonshire's only Premier League side!

STORM'S LAST THREE - CREDIT [FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHANTSSTORMNETBALL](https://www.facebook.com/northantsstormnetball)



SUPPORT STORM ON SOCIALS



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[@NORTHANTS_STORM](https://www.instagram.com/northants_storm)





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MIXED NETBALL

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING... MIXED NETBALL IN THE EAST MIDLANDS!

Watch this space - an exciting new Mixed Netball League is in development for the East Midlands!

With the men's and mixed formats of the game growing rapidly across the country, we're thrilled to be working on a league that brings that same energy and opportunity closer to home. Our goal is to match the growing demand and create a vibrant, competitive, and inclusive space for everyone who loves the game.

Loughborough University played host to the 2025 Men's and Mixed National Finals last August, where more than 1,000 spectators filled the stands in the Sir David Wallace Stadium on the final day to celebrate the incredible skill and spirit on display. With 48 teams taking part across both competitions, East Midlands Netball is committed to champion the continued growth of the men's and mixed game.



While plans are still in the early stages, we'd love to hear from you! Whether you're a player, team, coach, or simply curious to know more, we welcome your input and interest as we shape the future of mixed netball in our region.

✉ Get in touch: If you have questions about the proposed league or are interested in entering a team, email us at eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk.



NOTTINGHAM FOREST

FOREST NETBALL SET FOR A THRILLING SEASON TWO IN THE NSL 2.0

After an incredible debut season in the Netball Super League, Nottingham Forest Netball are preparing for their return to the NSL in 2026 with the goal of making the Playoffs.

The team has added exciting new talent in Ané Retief and Anya Williams, joining a roster already rich in experience and passion. Playing home matches at the iconic Motorpoint Arena, Forest's athletes continue to draw energy from their electrifying fans. Head Coach Chelsea Pitman shared her excitement: "I'm really motivated by the season ahead. We've built strong foundations in how we play and who we are as Nottingham Forest Netball. With 10 talented players, we have the depth and quality to compete consistently. Pre-season is about putting in the work now building our savings account to draw on when February comes."



PATHWAY: GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STARS

The Forest Performance Pathway continues to thrive in its second year, nurturing homegrown talent from across the region. The NXT GEN squad retain a solid core of players, bolstered by fresh new faces eager to make their mark at the Motorpoint Arena. The U19NPL and U17NPL teams are ready for another competitive campaign, joined by an expanded U21 squad and increased development opportunities through PDP and FPC sessions across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, and Staffordshire.

Claire Sanders, Franchise Pathway Lead, shared: "I'm so proud of how far we've come in just one year, expanding our pathway, offering more opportunities, and keeping so many players from our first season."

COMMUNITY: NETBALL FOR EVERYONE

The Community Roots Programme is growing rapidly, doubling in size for Season Two. This inclusive initiative welcomes players of all abilities, building confidence, teamwork, and lifelong connections through netball.



Corey McGlynn, Community Manager, said: "We've had a fantastic launch this season and can't wait to bring our passion for netball to even more schools and communities. Our holiday camps and events are now live we look forward to meeting lots of new faces!"

QUICK LINKS TO TICKETS, CAMPS, GROUP BOOKINGS AND HOSPITALITY PACKAGES

[Tickets](#)

[Camps](#)

[Community
Roots](#)

[Group Ticket
Deals](#)

[Season
Tickets](#)

[Hospitality
Packages](#)



LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING

Back in Action: New Season, New Signings, and a Familiar Return!

After a well-deserved break, preseason is well underway for our NSL squad, including new signings Jess Shaw and Celina Appleby-Prince, as they look to prepare for the season ahead. It was also announced that former player [Jo Noel \(nee Trip\) will return](#) to Lightning as Assistant Coach this year, having led Birmingham Panthers in their inaugural season.



Jo Noel and Vic Burgess

NXT Gen on the Rise: Academy Prepares for NPL Season and we Bid Farewell to Pathway Lead Josie Pointon

After trials were completed in September, Academy teams have also been training hard, showing great commitment and energy as they work towards the start of the NPL season. Keep your eyes peeled as our NXT Gen squad announcement is coming soon! It has also been announced that Lightning will be saying a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Pathway Lead, Josie Pointon, as she leaves the Franchise [to join England Netball as the Roses Pathway Head Coach](#). Josie has been an integral part of the Lightning family, leading the academy pathway through one of its most successful periods, which also saw her Head Coach the NXT Gen when they became inaugural league champions in 2025.



Ella Clark at NSL Preseason Training

Loughborough Lightning have introduced Early Bird ticketing windows this year to ensure fans are rewarded for their loyalty! Tickets for all games are now available to buy across Sir David Wallace and Motorpoint Arena and more information can be [found here](#).

Brand new for the 2026 season, Lightning fans can benefit from TWO double headers at Motorpoint Arena, giving fans access to even more netball as supporters will be able to access a Lightning clash as well as another NSL fixture on the same day.

Saturday 14th March will see a Midlands v London showdown as Lightning take on London Pulse and Birmingham Panthers take on London Mavericks. On Saturday 4th April, Lightning will play Manchester Thunder whilst Nottingham Forest Netball play Cardiff Dragons.

Information on all fixtures and how to buy tickets can be found here – [Information and Tickets](#).



NETBALL SUPERLEAGUE

**We are
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SUPER CUP

SAT 21 FEB

ROUND 1

FRI 27 FEB

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SAT 6 JUN

GRAND FINAL

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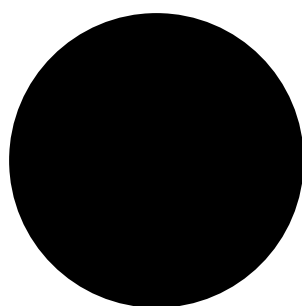
A netball player in a pink jersey with 'FATFACE' and 'WD' on it is celebrating with her arms raised, holding a trophy. She is surrounded by confetti and other players who are also celebrating. The background is a blurred crowd in a stadium.

Secure your Netball Super Cup tickets here!



NETBALL
EAST
MIDLANDS

MEET THE TEAM...!!!



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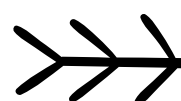
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