



# EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL NEWSLETTER

## END OF SEASON

Our 24-25 season is coming to and end! From Regional League, Regional Clubs, our qualifying tournaments and Premier League. Take a look at our standings...

READ MORE ON  
PAGE 4



## WHO IS YOUR UNSUNG HERO?

Help to recognise the incredible people who have made an impact on your netball journey! Closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> May!

READ MORE ON  
PAGE 2

## SUSTAINABILITY

FROM PAGE 8

## EVENTS

FROM PAGE 9

## AROUND THE COUNTIES

FROM PAGE 12

## NETBALL SUPER LEAGUE

FROM PAGE 14



HERE IF  
YOU NEED!

See our Club  
support  
package!

**EAST MIDLANDS ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**MORE INFORMATION HERE**



[facebook.com/NetballinEastMids](https://facebook.com/NetballinEastMids)



[@netballineastmidlands](https://@netballineastmidlands)



NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

REGIONAL

## ONE AWARDS 2025



Thank you to all those that have nominated our amazing netball volunteers for our East Midlands ONE Awards so far!

The ONE Awards event spotlights the amazing people who volunteer and make netball happen, through varying roles like officiating, coaching, administration, supporting school netball activity, clubs and local leagues.

Nominations will close on 18 May so please get your nominations in!

*Save the Date 6th July at Radisson Blu, East Midlands Airport*

### CATEGORIES OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS:

Coach of the Year – Children & Young People

Coach of the Year - Adults

Community Official of the Year (in honour of Sheelagh Redpath)

Outstanding Contribution of the Year (in memory of Mary Bulloch)

Pioneer of the Year (in memory of Muriel McNally)

Unsung Hero of the Year (in a Club or League)

Club of the Year

Young Volunteer of the Year

Teacher of the Year

Inclusion Award

East Midlands Jean Bourne Back to Netball Award

East Midlands Jean Perkins Walking Netball Award

East Midlands Jean Staley Award

East Midlands Long Service Award



**NOMINATE NOW!**



NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

REGIONAL

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

#### East Midlands Netball Annual General Meeting 2025

to be held on

WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
7PM

Via Zoom (registration required)

Check your emails for details  
Queries to  
[EastMidlands@EnglandNetball.co.uk](mailto:EastMidlands@EnglandNetball.co.uk)



NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

[READ MORE HERE!](#)

## REGIONAL STAFFING CHANGES

After five years as Regional Officer, Eleanor Udall will be leaving her role at England Netball on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Throughout this time, Eleanor has worked passionately to capture and share the stories, achievements and developments across our netball community. She has worked closely in supporting our Regional Management Board and wider volunteers, clubs and leagues including the ONE Awards. Thank you for all your support, you will be greatly missed. Best of luck Eleanor in your new role!



The regional office can still be reached at [Eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:Eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk)





NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

## COMPETITIONS

# REGIONAL LEAGUE 2024-25 REGIONAL RESULTS REGIONAL LEAGUE



### Division 1

- 1 Hinckley Hurricanes
- 2 Northants Storm 1
- 3 TFC Leicester 1
- 4 Bridgford Navy
- 5 Charnwood Rutland 1
- 6 Cliftonettes Scarlett
- 7 Lincoln City 1
- 8 Nottinghamshire Sirens



### Division 2

- 1 Hucknall Town
- 2 TFC Leicester Too
- 3 Ashby Giants
- 4 Nottingham City
- 5 Grasshopper 1
- 6 Grasshopper 2
- 7 Falcons Yellow
- 8 Northants Storm 2



### Division 3

- 1 Derby Roses
- 2 Hawks
- 3 Lincoln City 2
- 4 Ashby Titans
- 5 Cliftonettes Navy
- 6 Charnwood Rutland 2
- 7 Moll Buzzers
- 8 Sleaford Barge



### Division 4

- 1 Foxhall Jets
- 2 Bridgford Blue
- 3 Northants JMs
- 4 Bramcote
- 5 Brigg
- 6 Fenland Panthers





NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

## COMPETITIONS

# REGIONAL LEAGUE 2024-25 REGIONAL RESULTS REGIONAL LEAGUE



### U14 Division 1

- 1 Bramcote
- 2 Lincoln City
- 3 Allestree
- 4 Nottm City Sapphires
- 5 Louth
- 6 Charnwood Rutland A
- 7 Northants Storm Purple
- 8 Bingham



### U14 Division 2

- 1 Stamford & Rutland
- 2 Market Harborough
- 3 Charnwood Rutland B
- 4 Northants Storm Black



### U16 Division 1

- 1 Lincoln City
- 2 Charnwood Rutland A
- 3 Bramcote
- 4 Northants Storm Purple
- 5 Charnwood Rutland B
- 6 Louth
- 7 Allestree
- 8 Stamford & Rutland



### U16 Division 2

- 1 Nottm City Swifts
- 2 Cliftonettes Red
- 3 Cliftonettes Jade
- 4 Long Eaton JNC
- 5 Northants Storm Black
- 6 Grasshopper
- 7 Bingham
- 8 Stapleford



NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

## COMPETITIONS

### NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE



The final league positions  
Charnwood Rutland - 10th in Division 1  
Northants Storm - 3rd in Division 3



### REGIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT



Congratulations to Hampton Harriers, Nottingham City, Futureprint, Aircare and Brigg who have gained places in Division 4 for the 2025-26 season.



### U14 REGIONAL CLUBS



Congratulations to U14 Regional Tournament **Winners Lincoln City** and **Runners up Bramcote**. Both teams go on to represent the East Midlands at the National U14 Clubs Finals on 17th and 18<sup>th</sup> May at EIS Sheffield.

### U16 REGIONAL CLUBS



**Congratulations to Charnwood Rutland and Lincoln City** on finishing winners and runners up at the Regional U16 tournament. They go on to represent the region at the National U16 Clubs Finals on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May at David Ross Sports Village, Nottingham University. Best of luck!





NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

## COMPETITIONS

### REGIONAL SCHOOLS

What a day of netball! Despite the chilly weather, the courts at Repton School were buzzing with energy on 1st February as 30 school teams battled it out in the fiercely contested Regional Schools Netball Tournament. With skill, determination and teamwork on full display, the event was a true celebration of school netball at its finest!

The competition was fierce, but in the end, the top teams emerged victorious, securing their place in the National Schools Competition. Special congratulations to the cup winners and runners-up, who then had the exciting opportunity to compete for the national title! Under 14 cup winners were Branston Community Academy with Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School the runners up. Under 16 winners were Stamford School with Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School also being the runners up. Under 19 winners were Oakham School with Repton School the runners up!



A huge shoutout to the Derbyshire Netball Association for their incredible efforts in organizing such a fantastic event. From the first whistle to the final goal, the standard of play was outstanding, with every team giving their all.

Notably, three of the teams earning a spot at Nationals came from Lincolnshire, a first for the county! Well done to all teams involved, it was a brilliant day of netball. Special mention also goes to the teams who also took part in the Plate competition, with St Martins winning the U14 Plate with Ecclesbourne as runners up, Nottingham Girls High School the U16 Plate with West Bridgford runners-up and Priory LSST the U19 Plate, with Sponne School as runners-up. More information on the event can be found [here](#).







NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

SUSTAINABILITY

## OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

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. We support local clubs and leagues in adopting sustainable practices and championing innovative initiatives such as Market Harborough Netball League's partnership with Pledgeball, which inspires eco-friendly lifestyle changes through fun, competitive pledging. From grassroots engagement to regional projects, we're committed to driving positive change for our planet, on and off the court. We are excited for you to watch this space and read our new policy on our website [here](#)!



## ASHBY NETBALL CLUB BREAKING RECORDS FOR CHARITY!



The Ashby Netball Club has pulled off a truly spectacular feat, combining record-breaking achievements with an awe-inspiring act of charity that has captured hearts far and wide. Their recent Ashby Netball Marathon not only saw players endure a jaw-dropping 75 hours of continuous play, but it also led to the smashing of three Guinness World Records and raising over £57,000 for charity!

Determined to leave a lasting impact, multiple teams took on the challenge of breaking the World Record for the most goals scored in 60 minutes and the most goals scored in 3 minutes. The previous record of 1105 goals in an hour, set by Trinity Netball Club in 2021, was absolutely shattered when one of Ashby's teams netted an incredible 1564 goals in just 60 minutes! If that wasn't enough, the club also set a brand-new record for the most goals scored in 3 minutes, hitting an impressive 97 goals. A standout moment of the marathon came when Imogen Talbot took to the court with a singular mission – to beat the individual record for most goals scored in one minute. The record of 40 goals was held by Suzanne Hobson in North Yorkshire, but Imogen's lightning-fast shooting saw her land a whopping 49 goals in just 60 seconds! That's a goal every 1.25 seconds, an astonishing feat of skill and endurance.

This incredible effort was more than just a show of athletic excellence. The 75-hour netball marathon was all in the name of charity, with funds raised set to make a real difference in the community. Over an astounding £57,000 was raised for Kids Village, a charity dedicated to providing free, life-enhancing respite holidays for critically ill children and their families.

Kids Village is on a mission to build a unique holiday village in the heart of the UK, near Lichfield, Staffordshire. Their goal is to create a safe and supportive environment where families can escape the pressures of daily life, find joy in magical moments, and make lasting memories together. With no cost to the families, this initiative offers a much-needed break from the stress and challenges of ongoing treatments and hospital visits, providing a space of relaxation and happiness. This charity is close to the hearts of the club as Carla Garey (their Club Development Lead) made a pledge to fundraise after seeing her inspirational little girl Evelyn, fight for her life after being born with a rare congenital condition causing a defect of her RET gene and one of the resulting factors was a condition called Hirschsprung's Disease; the amazing players at Ashby Netball stood up and wanted to help. You may remember their 24-hour netball event that raised over £20,400 back in 2023 for the same charity. Even Parliament took notice! Congratulations Ashby NC! Read more on our website [here](#).



NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

## EVENTS

# SPRING JUNIOR TOURNAMENT



March 9th - Stamford Junior School

A beautiful spring day with clear skies and a light breeze was perfect for our inaugural Spring Junior Netball Tournament, completing a busy netball weekend following the Super Cup the day before. Throughout the day there was a fantastic display of skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship. With 25 junior teams competing, the courts were alive with energy from the very first whistle to the final goal.

The teams were divided into three age groups U11s; playing BEE Netball and U12 and U14 teams. Different formats were played in the age groups, ensuring fair and exciting matchups, with the top teams progressing to the seeded finals. Spectators, including proud parents and enthusiastic friends, cheered on from the sidelines, creating an electric atmosphere.

The day concluded with a heartfelt awards ceremony, where players received medals for the winning and runner-up teams. Special thanks to coaches, referees, volunteers and families for making the event a resounding success.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another fantastic tournament in the summer! More pictures and fixtures from the event [here](#).







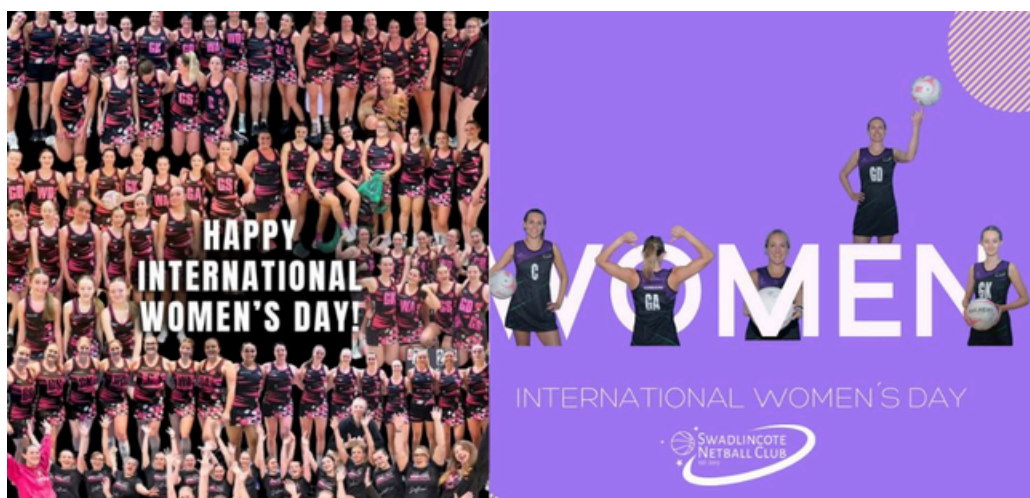
NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

EVENTS

## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2025

✨ Reflecting on International Women's Day 2025 ✨

A shoutout to everyone who took the time to recognise this day either at events, sharing stories, or simply taking a moment to celebrate the women who make a difference every day.



**Shout out to all the women that  
inspire us!**



## BRIGG CELEBRATE 25 YEARS!

Brigg Netball Club celebrated it's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 with a 'Net' Ball at Hemswell Court, Lincolnshire.

Current Head Coach, Vanessa McErlain-Naylor, also the Club's founder, has been at the helm ever since. The Club was set up following requests from the girls who had attended the primary school after-school club (which she ran to support her son's school), who wanted to keep playing together when they moved on to Year 7.

With support from husband, Mark, the Club became a reality and what a success it has been!! The club has seen a number of past and present, NPL and junior international players wear a Brigg dress as part of their netball journey (including a current senior international USA player).

The Club has also been successful in starting numerous coaches and umpires off on their respective paths, including Vanessa's son Stuart (Superleague umpire). In 2012 Brigg was voted the England Netball 'Club of the Year' at the National Golden Globes (now called ONE Awards).

The Club is a wonderful friendly place to be, with a great family feel, one which the girls are reluctant to leave and many return there post university.

The toast to Brigg Netball Club was proposed on the evening by Meg Chapman, current senior player and one of the original players 25 years ago!

VIVE BRIGG NETBALL – Here's to the next 25!







NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

AROUND THE COUNTIES

## BREAKING BOUNDARIES: CHAMPIONING MEN'S AND MIXED NETBALL IN LINCOLNSHIRE



In a sport traditionally dominated by women, one Lincolnshire netballer is breaking new ground.... this time by opening up the court to men's netball. A long-standing ambition to introduce men's netball finally became a reality in late 2024, thanks to the vision and determination of a local female player, coach, and umpire - Emily.

Her inspiration reignited after attending the National Mixed Netball Finals in Loughborough, where teams from across the UK showcased the speed, skill and teamwork of mixed play. Soon after, she passed her B Award umpiring assessment, which bolstered her drive to take action locally.

The real turning point came in October 2024, when a parent from her home club, Louth Netball Club, expressed a shared enthusiasm for starting a men's session. Wasting no time, the first official men's netball session launched the following month, drawing in eight male participants from varied backgrounds. Their quick progress and passion for the game were clear—and by December, they'd already played (and won!) their first mixed match.

Not one to rest on early success, she continued coaching and growing the group, watching with pride as the men returned in February 2025 for a second victorious match. Sessions have since evolved into a regular mixed offering, carefully structured to prioritise the men's development while fostering an inclusive environment. With another mixed tournament on the horizon this May in Grimsby, this grassroots effort is gathering real momentum! We look forward to seeing Emily and the team progress and build up Mens Netball sessions in Louth!





## MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS



A huge congratulations to Kate Mann on umpiring her 100th Netball Super League match! Kate becomes only the eighth umpire to reach this incredible milestone - what an achievement! Thank you, Kate, for your dedication and service to the league.



Shout out to Jackie Milsom, a Loughborough Lightning and East Midlands Legend on an amazing achievement of 300 NSL games! Congratulations Jackie!



NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

LIGHTNING

## LIGHTNING OFF TO A STRONG START!

We're well into the 2025 Netball Super League season, and it's been another exciting chapter for Loughborough Lightning.

The squad has made a strong start, securing impressive wins against Celtic Dragons, Leeds Rhinos, and Manchester Thunder. In a fiercely contested East Midlands derby, Lightning narrowly missed out to league newcomers Nottingham Forest, a result that has only fuelled the fire for the home fixture rematch.

That rematch will take place at Motorpoint Arena Nottingham this May, and we'll be looking to even the score in front of a passionate local crowd.

### Upcoming Arena Fixtures

Friday 2 May, 7:30pm – Lightning vs Manchester Thunder

Saturday 31 May, 4:00pm – Lightning vs Nottingham Forest (East Midlands Derby!)

These Arena Games are a great way to enjoy top-tier netball in a big match atmosphere, perfect for families, friends and first-time fans.

Catch up on the season so far and secure your tickets [here](#): Loughborough Lightning Netball







NETBALL  
EAST  
MIDLANDS

FOREST

## NOTTINGHAM FOREST NETBALL: MAKING HISTORY, BUILDING LEGACY!

The roar of the crowd, the flash of red and the electric energy of a team writing history. Nottingham Forest Netball have launched into their inaugural Netball Super League season and what a journey it's been so far! Now heading into Round 7, Forest have delivered a rollercoaster of results, but the heart and passion have been undeniable.



Three epic home games have already set the Motorpoint Arena ablaze, none more thrilling than the local derby against Loughborough Lightning, where Forest stormed to a sensational victory, igniting the home crowd and painting the arena red. As well as the NSL, our NXT GEN have opened our match days with nail biting netball, these matches are equally not to be missed.

But it's not just about the netball, match days have become full-on experiences! Families have been treated to everything from face painting and photo booths to treasure hunts and netball activities and the fun's only growing. With plans to expand the excitement outside to Bolero Square, Forest is creating a vibrant pre-match atmosphere that fans of all ages won't want to miss.

Community is at the heart of Forest's mission. The incredible Roots Netball Programme for ages 8-16 has taken centre stage at the arena, with young players showcasing their talent on the show court. April 11th was a true celebration of all things Nottingham netball, from ball patrol teams to an inspiring Back to Netball match; the county came together under one roof.

The next three matches will equally be celebrating our counties' success and promoting the local clubs and schools within Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire being put in the spotlight.

Add these dates to your diary and book your tickets now [here](#)!

**Sunday 4th May v London Pulse**

**Sunday 11th May v Manchester Thunder**

**Thursday 5th June v Birmingham Panthers**

This is more than just sport it's a movement. A community. A chance to be part of something big. So, what are you waiting for? Grab your tickets, wear your red, and be part of the Forest family! The arena awaits.



Let's make history together.

[COMMUNITY ROOTS  
PROGRAMME](#)

[TICKETS](#)

[FOREST NEWS](#)



# Meet the Team...!!!



**EAST  
MIDLANDS**



**Rachel Bussey (Interim)**

Partnerships & Delivery Manager  
Rachel.Bussey@englandnetball.co.uk



@NetballinEastMids



@netballineastmidlands

Regional Office Contact:

EastMidlands@englandnetball.co.uk



07545924994

@LincsNetball

@lincolnshirennetball

**Louise Key**

EM Team Leader & NDO Lincolnshire

Louise.Key@englandnetball.co.uk

Mon/Tues/Wed to 2pm/Thurs

www.lincolnshirennetball.co.uk



**Megan Sayers**

NDO Leicestershire & Rutland

Megan.Sayers@englandnetball.co.uk

Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

www.lcna.co.uk

07540 126816

@Leics\_Netball

@lcna.netball (County Page)

@Ndo Leicestershire England Netball



07551578361

@NDODerbyNotts

@ndo.derbyshirenottinghamshire

@netballinderbyshire\_notts

**Claire Bowen**

NDO Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

Claire.Bowen@englandnetball.co.uk



**Kelly Thomson**

NDO Northamptonshire

Kelly.Thomson@englandnetball.co.uk

Mon/Tues/Thurs

07545924954

@NhantsNetball

@netballinnorthants



**eastmidlandsnetball.co.uk**