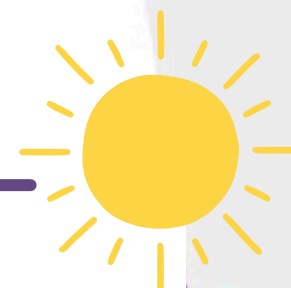




**NETBALL
EAST
MIDLANDS**

SUMMER 2026



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL NEWSLETTER

EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL FESTIVAL FT. ONE AWARDS

Over 400 members of the East Midlands Netball community came together to celebrate England Netball's centenary year and recognise our incredible ONE Award nominees. To read all about the event and relive the celebrations, head to [page 2](#).



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

It's been a busy winter across the East Midlands - from award-winning coaches to community action! 💜 See what our netball family has been up to from [page 15](#).

MIXED NETBALL

Inaugural East Midlands Mixed League Season Concludes with Buzzers Blades being crowned regional champions. Read the full story from [page 21](#)



NEW SEASON CHECKLIST

FROM [PAGE 20](#)

COACHING CORNER

FROM [PAGE 19](#)

NETBALL SUPERLEAGUE

FROM [PAGE 22](#)

NETBALLHER

FROM [PAGE 18](#)



CHECK IN ON
YOUR CLUB'S
STRENGTHS AND
AREAS OF
DEVELOPMENT
USING THE
[BUDDLE HEALTH
CHECK](#)



ENHANCE YOUR
COACHING AND
OFFICIATING
TOOLKIT WITH
OUR UPCOMING
COURSE LAUNCH!

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EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL FESTIVAL FT. ONE AWARDS: A CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF NETBALL



On Saturday 4 July, East Midlands Netball proudly hosted its very first **Netball Festival ft. ONE Awards**, bringing together the netball community to celebrate a truly historic occasion – **England Netball's Centenary Year**.

With more than **400 people** attending throughout the day, the festival showcased everything that makes our sport so special: community spirit, inclusivity, celebration and connection. Designed to be an event with something for everyone, the day brought together players, volunteers, officials, coaches, families and supporters from across the region to celebrate both the history and future of our game.

A particular highlight of the event was the collection of displays created by several counties and the East Midlands region, showcasing the **past, present and future of netball**. These displays captured treasured memories, celebrated current achievements and

shared aspirations for the years ahead, demonstrating the impact netball has had on communities across the East Midlands for generations.

We were delighted to welcome **England Netball Archivist Alastair**, who shared insights into how England Netball is celebrating its centenary year and highlighted the many ways members of the netball family can get involved in commemorating this remarkable milestone!



100 YEARS OF ENGLAND NETBALL

#EN100



The festival truly demonstrated that **netball is a game for everyone, from 5 to 105**. Walking Netballers Joy Williams from Nottinghamshire and Mary Yardley from Derbyshire proudly showcased everything that Walking Netball has to offer, while later in the afternoon, Lincolnshire Netball Development Officer Louise Key delivered an engaging Bee Netball session, giving attendees an opportunity to experience the programme that introduces young children to our sport in a fun and accessible way.



There was plenty to enjoy away from the courts too. Attendees were entertained by **live music**, enjoyed the **bouncy castles** and **BBQ**, explored the various displays and stands, and connected with friends old and new throughout the day. The festival atmosphere reflected the warmth and inclusivity that sits at the heart of the East Midlands netball community.

We were also honoured to welcome a number of special guests, including **Nottingham Forest Netball Super League and NXT Gen players Jayda Pechova and Regan Peters**, **Loughborough Lightning Head Coach Vic Burgess**, and **England Netball Chair Baroness Sue Campbell**. Their support helped make the event even more memorable and highlighted the exciting opportunities and pathways available within our sport.



100 YEARS OF ENGLAND NETBALL

#EN100



Alongside the festival activities, **Derbyshire Netball hosted their annual awards** ceremony, celebrating the achievements of volunteers and members within their county. The day then culminated with the **East Midlands ONE Awards**, proudly hosted by The Best Netball Podcast Ever, where we recognised the outstanding volunteers whose dedication, passion and commitment continue to make netball thrive across our region. Details of each of our ONE Award winners will be shared over the upcoming days.



The celebrations concluded with one final and particularly special award presentation. After **40 remarkable years of service to East Midlands Netball**, Vice Chair Sue Connor was recognised for her extraordinary contribution to the sport. As Sue prepares to step down from her role this autumn, the standing ovation she received reflected the gratitude and admiration felt by so many people whose netball journeys she has helped shape over the decades.

Attendees also generously supported our fundraising raffle, helping us raise an outstanding **£810** for two fantastic charities selected by the Regional Management Board: **Love4Life** and the **Royal Osteoporosis Society**. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and purchased tickets to support these worthy causes.

The success of the inaugural Netball Festival ft. ONE Awards would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of so many people. A sincere thank you goes to the **East Midlands Netball Volunteer and Club Development Group**, whose vision and commitment brought the event to life. Thanks also go to the **East Midlands Regional Management Board**, our **five county netball associations** for their support and contributions, and **all the volunteers** who supported on the day for helping to deliver such a memorable celebration.

As we continue to celebrate **100 years of England Netball**, this event was a fitting tribute to our sport's heritage, its vibrant present and its exciting future. Most importantly, it was a celebration of the people at the heart of netball, those who give their time, energy and passion to ensure our game continues to thrive for generations to come.

100 YEARS OF ENGLAND NETBALL

#EN100



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE NOMINEES

On July 4 we also took the opportunity to celebrate our amazing East Midlands **ONE Awards nominees**. This involves placing the spotlight on the people and clubs from East Midlands' five counties who make netball happen and drive participation and inclusion.

For 2026, there were four main categories and a simplified nominations process:

- **Special Recognition Award** – recognises long-term impact, legacy and meaningful influence on the sport
- **Rising Star Award** – recognises emerging leaders making consistent, selfless contributions
- **Outstanding Contribution Award** – recognises individuals who go significantly above expectations
- **Thriving Collective Award** – recognises collaborative projects with strong shared impact

There were also four East Midlands-specific award categories:

- **Jean Bourne Back to Netball Award** - recognises someone whose lifestyle has significantly changed since coming to Back to Netball
- **Jean Perkins Walking Netball Award** - recognises someone whose lifestyle has significantly changed since coming to Walking Netball
- **Jean Staley Award** - recognises dedication to netball through administration, coaching or officiating at club, county and regional level.
- **East Midlands Long Service Award** - recognises those who have given outstanding service to East Midlands Netball for 10 years or more.



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS THE NOMINEES

Special Recognition Award

Victoria Lane

Mary Yardley

Yvonne Blunt

Liz Alsop

Caroline Richards

Cheryl Naylor

Sue Eaton

Donna Beckett

Carol Hallam

Thriving Collective Award

The Best Netball Podcast Ever

Long Eaton Junior Netball Club

Lincoln City Netball Club

Adelphe Netball Club

Bingham Netball Club



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE NOMINEES

Rising Star Award

Holly Smith

Rebecca Bowen

Natasha Callis

Outstanding Contribution Award

Kerry Gardner

Jenny Williams

Allie Bailey

Tilly Wardhaugh

Jayne Bell

Carla Garey

Kaylla Driscoll

Kate Garner

Alison Smith

Sarah Cottrell

Kimberley Durham

Hazel McConnell

Claire Bowen

Connie Xavier

Jen Newman

Jess Mountford



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS THE NOMINEES

Jean Staley Award

Kaylla Driscoll

Kate Garner

Jess Mountford

Jean Perkins Walking Netball and Jean Bourne Back to Netball Award

Tilly Wardhaugh

Angela Howat

Hannah Hitchcock

Hazel McConnell



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE WINNERS

The winners from each of the **main** categories will be invited to attend a national celebration in October. Congratulations to all of our winners on this well-deserved recognition of their contribution to netball.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Victoria has made a contribution to netball spanning over 35 years, rooted in a powerful generational legacy that began with her mother, a dedicated county committee member and coach who first introduced her to the sport. From the age of 7, she was immersed in netball, and by just 16, Victoria had already begun coaching, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to developing others. Throughout her journey, the values instilled by her mother, including dedication, community and a deep love for the game, have remained central to her approach. Her legacy is not only what she has built, but what will continue to grow because of her. Thirty years of coaching certainly can't be summed up in a few sentences. Her impact goes far beyond that and lives on in all the players who have been fortunate enough to know her.



VICTORIA LANE



MARY YARDLEY

In 1993, **Mary**, together with another member, was instrumental in setting up a league to get ladies back to the netball courts. As confidence grew, the senior players who had now established themselves in teams moved on to higher competition or joined established clubs. The next step was to introduce young players (U11-U16), so there was a competition created for junior clubs in Derby. This generated more clubs running junior sections and the league continues to be played on Tuesday evenings at two venues in Derby. The League was named 'The Yardley Netball League' to honour this person's commitment.

Mary has shown sustained commitment to Derbyshire through her role as Vice Chair of Derbyshire Netball for 16 years and she is the current Volunteer & Club Development Lead for East Midlands.



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE WINNERS

Donna has been a keen volunteer for netball in Derbyshire, East Midlands Region and England Netball for over 25 years. Throughout many years of service, she has umpired at County level, Regional level and then at National Level through her involvement at National League and National Clubs and National Schools Tournaments.

Comment from members included: 'Nothing is too much for her and she always goes over and above to support the girls.'



DONNA BECKETT

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION - DELIVERING GREAT SESSIONS



Connie has made an impact across club, county and franchise. She founded her own club, Nottingham Sirens, which directly increased participation opportunities for athletes across the East Midlands.

Since 2017 she has been involved with Loughborough Lightning pathways and has supported numerous athletes who are now competing in NSL.

CONNIE XAVIER

Sarah has taken up the mantle for U11s in Leicestershire. She began this journey with a commitment to BEE Netball and has recently qualified as a BEE Leader. She has built her club programme from a few regular children into a thriving programme with more than 20 regular attendees who love the sessions and go on to join netball clubs and become life-long netballers.

She has developed and runs the only U11 tournament in Leicestershire. The tournament runs monthly and is highly subscribed to by clubs across the county with up to 21 teams participating in both five-a-side and seven-a-side netball. Sarah works tirelessly for this age group, with whom she has an amazing affinity and the clubs, the children and the parents value her immensely.



SARAH COTTRELL



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE WINNERS

Kerry has taken Stamford and Rutland Netball Club from 12 to 180 members. She started a club with one dream, to provide a place for local girls to play netball and she has taken it to another level, allowing the girls to compete on a national stage, which was evidenced through the club's U14 team securing a place at National Finals for the first time.



KERRY GARDNER

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION - MAKING IT ALL HAPPEN



JAYNE BELL

Jayne has played a pivotal role in officiating in Derbyshire and East Midlands. In a single season, she played a key role in the successful qualification of 10 B Award umpires and 2 A Award umpires, representing a regional record for qualifications! This was achieved through consistent mentoring across BUCS fixtures, local leagues, regional league matches and test matches.

Beyond umpiring, Jayne regularly officiates as a Table Official at Super League, BUCS and international fixtures. She has been appointed to major global events, including the Netball World Cup 2019 (Liverpool) and World Youth Cup 2025 (Gibraltar), and volunteered at the Commonwealth Games.

Kaylla founded GD Netball five years ago, from a single Back to Netball team of friends and has grown it into a fully affiliated England Netball club with 40 active members and five competitive teams.

Her commitment to inclusion is exceptional. In a rural county where many clubs prioritise performance pathways, she has intentionally built a club that welcomes women of all ages and abilities.



KAYLLA DRISCOLL



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE WINNERS

Kate has been instrumental in widening access to netball through school and community outreach. She leads a highly successful school netball programme with exceptional participation and performance, promoting links with local clubs and county pathways. She has supported School Games initiatives and local primary schools.

Her influence is not limited to results or titles, but is seen in her lasting impact on people, participation and opportunity across all levels of the game - simply outstanding.



KATE GARNER

RISING STAR



REBECCA BOWEN

Rebecca has volunteered in netball for many years, completing 400 hours through Pass on Your Passion and progressing with her qualifications. She is now a Level 2 Coach and BEE Leader.

Even with her own challenges, this nominee has taken the initiative to develop what Bingham Netball can offer to players and now runs both BEE sessions for Years 1-3 and is the Head Coach for the U16 and Performance squads, offering additional performance sessions and trial preparation.

THRIVING COLLECTIVE

The Best Netball Podcast Ever have shone a spotlight on the players, coaches, volunteers and communities who make netball happen, creating a more inclusive and welcoming space that inspires people to connect with the sport. Since September, this work has reached 27,000 people through downloads and built a monthly audience of 14,000 listeners, helping drive thousands of fans to NSL matches and strengthening the link between grassroots and the elite game.



THE BEST NETBALL PODCAST EVER



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE WINNERS

JEAN BOURNE BACK TO NETBALL

Tilly's personal confidence has grown significantly since joining Back to Netball. The safe environment that the session offers encouraged her to attend every week, not only improving her netball skills but also helping her to make new friends, join any social gatherings outside the court and show the rest of the group what a fab team player she is. Tilly has grown to be a great motivator within the sessions, encouraging new players and taking on more of a lead role.



TILLY WARDHAUGH

JEAN PERKINS WALKING NETBALL



HAZEL MCCONNELL

At the young age of 76, Hazel has been a part of 'Walking Netball' for the last eight years as a participant and seven years as a 'Walking Netball' host. During this time, she has overcome some health issues. Keeping active has helped her maintain a healthier and more active lifestyle. She has used netball to keep a healthy mind - playing and delivering sessions which have impacted positively on others too. Her involvement led her to complete Walking Netball Host training in 2019, delivering two 'Walking Netball' groups and now she's on to her third group as a volunteer at Kettering Arena, where she has been volunteering for over 15 months. Hazel attended this group as a player, and once the host moved on to pastures new, she stepped in to help as a host temporarily until a replacement was found, to avoid the group from disbanding.



EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL CENTENARY ONE AWARDS

THE WINNERS

Hannah joined the Derby Walking Netball Group in 2023 and is the group's youngest member at the age of 38. She has some mobility problems as a result of a childhood illness, but always loved playing netball at school.

The impact that Walking Netball (WN) has on this nominee is considerable. Her confidence has grown - from being initially very worried and anxious - to a person who now smiles and joins in the chats. This is a testament to the trust in the 'Walking Netball' hosts and the support and encouragement of the group members and her own increasing self-assurance.



HANNAH HITCHCOCK

JEAN STALEY AWARD



KATE GARNER

Kate exemplifies the spirit of the Jean Staley Award through her sustained and wide-ranging contribution to netball across club, county and regional levels over more than 20 years.

Her administrative contribution has been extensive and highly impactful. She has served on the Leicester Netball League committee for over 20 years and is currently Vice Chair and has also stepped into the Chair position when required. She has played a key role within Leicestershire County Netball Association, School Games and Grasshopper Netball Club and has strengthened league infrastructure and secured funding for equipment and new initiatives.

LONG SERVICE AWARD

This year, five individuals were recognised with the Long Service Award. Congratulations to **Robyn Rogers, Kate Mann, Vicky Otterburn, Pam Weatherby and Lizzie Saunby** on this well-deserved achievement!



VICKY OTTERBURN

PAM WEATHERBY



NETBALL
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COMMONWEALTH GAMES

PLAYERS, VOLUNTEERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS FROM ACROSS THE REGION CAME TOGETHER TO BE PART OF AN UNFORGETTABLE COMMONWEALTH GAMES EXPERIENCE!

The Commonwealth Games brought together the very best of international netball, and the East Midlands was proudly represented both on and off the court as players, officials, volunteers and supporters travelled to Glasgow to be part of the action.

Throughout the tournament, members of the East Midlands netball family made the journey north to get behind Team England and celebrate our sport on one of its biggest stages. It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces from across the region sharing their experiences and creating lasting memories.



Among those supporting from the stands were members of **Portland and Mellish Walking Netball Group**, who proudly cheered on the Roses throughout the competition. Members of **Thistle Netball Club** in Nottingham were also in attendance, showing their support for Team England and helping to create an incredible atmosphere inside the arena.



Northamptonshire was particularly well represented, with **Northamptonshire County Netball Officiating Lead, Nic Grant**, volunteering at the Games, while **Northamptonshire Netball Development Officer Kelly Thomson** also travelled to Glasgow. They were joined by members of **Towcester Netball League**, **Northants Storm Netball Club** and **Oundle Town Netball Club**, highlighting the passion for netball that exists across the county.

Leicestershire's presence was equally strong, with members of **Ashby Netball Club** making the trip to support the sport and celebrate the achievements of athletes from across the Commonwealth.





NETBALL
EAST
MIDLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

PLAYERS, VOLUNTEERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS FROM ACROSS THE REGION CAME TOGETHER TO BE PART OF AN UNFORGETTABLE COMMONWEALTH GAMES EXPERIENCE!

Closer to home, members of the netball community also came together to support Team England. In **Lincolnshire**, **Walking Netball participants enjoyed a special tournament and watch party** ahead of England's group-stage fixture against Australia. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for players to connect, enjoy some friendly competition across six teams and cheer on the team together. Congratulations to **Melport 2**, who were crowned tournament champions, and **Nocton Nutters**, who secured the silver medals. The day was a wonderful celebration of Walking Netball and showcased the strong sense of community that exists within the game across Lincolnshire.



The East Midlands was also represented on the international stage by an impressive number of players and officials. Representing **Team England** were **Loughborough Lightning's Jess Shaw and Ella Clark**, alongside **Nottingham Forest's Jayda Pechová** and newly signed **Imogen Allison**, who proudly wore the red dress in front of packed crowds.

Elsewhere, several athletes connected to the East Midlands showcased their talents for their respective nations. Forest NSL stars **Brie Grierson** and **Rhea Dixon** helped **Jamaica secure a silver medal**, while **Niamh Cooper** and **NXT Gen athlete Evelyn McCagherty** represented **Northern Ireland**, who finished 11th overall.



Rolene Streutker recorded a strong fifth-place finish with **South Africa**, while **Iona Christian** represented **Scotland**, finishing eighth. **Nottingham Forest NXT Gen athlete Meg Pilkington** also competed at the Games, representing Wales, who finished 10th.

Adding to the region's representation was **Derbyshire's Kate Mann**, who was selected to umpire at the competition. Officiating at a major multi-sport event is a tremendous achievement and reflects the high-quality officiating talent being developed within the East Midlands.

The Games provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate not only elite performance but also the strength of our wider netball community. From players and coaches to officials, volunteers and supporters, the East Midlands was represented at every level of the event.

We would like to thank everyone who travelled to Glasgow, volunteered their time, represented their nation or showed their support from the stands. Your passion, commitment and enthusiasm helped showcase the very best of East Midlands netball and demonstrated the important role our region continues to play within the sport.



NETBALL
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INTERNATIONAL NETBALL

HERE COMES THE SUN

21 & 22 NOV
COPPER BOX ARENA | LONDON

ENGLAND

Vitality

NETBALL HORIZON
SERIES 2026

ENGLAND VS JAMAICA

ON SALE NOW

**NEXT UP, WATCH THE ROSES ON HOME SOIL AS THEY
TAKE ON COMMONWEALTH GAMES SILVER
MEDALLISTS, THE SUNSHINE GIRLS, IN THE HORIZON
SERIES THIS NOVEMBER 🏐 🌹**

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY

I wish I knew

by **NETBALLHer**

East Midlands Netball Is Looking For Local NetballHer Champions

So... what is a NETBALLHer Champion?

A NETBALLHer Champion is someone who helps bring the NETBALLHer movement to life in their netball world. Think of it as being a positive force for change, raising awareness, sharing resources, and making sure netball is inclusive and empowering for women and girls.



“ ”

I think becoming a **NETBALLHer Champion** is great, you meet lots of new people of all ages, and even at the age of 75 I am still learning interesting and important facts about all aspect of health and well-being.

ANGELA BASS

SOUTH WEST NETBALLHER CHAMPION

- A NETBALLHer Champion raises awareness, shares resources, and supports an **inclusive netball environment** for women and girls.
- Champions promote NETBALLHer in their club or organisation through **conversations, posters, social media, events, and signposting** people to learning and resources.
- A great Champion is **passionate about netball**, committed to **supporting women and girls**, and keen to **break down barriers around female health**.
- Champions are **positive role models** who communicate with confidence, **inspire others**, and help embed **NETBALLHer values** into everyday netball activity.

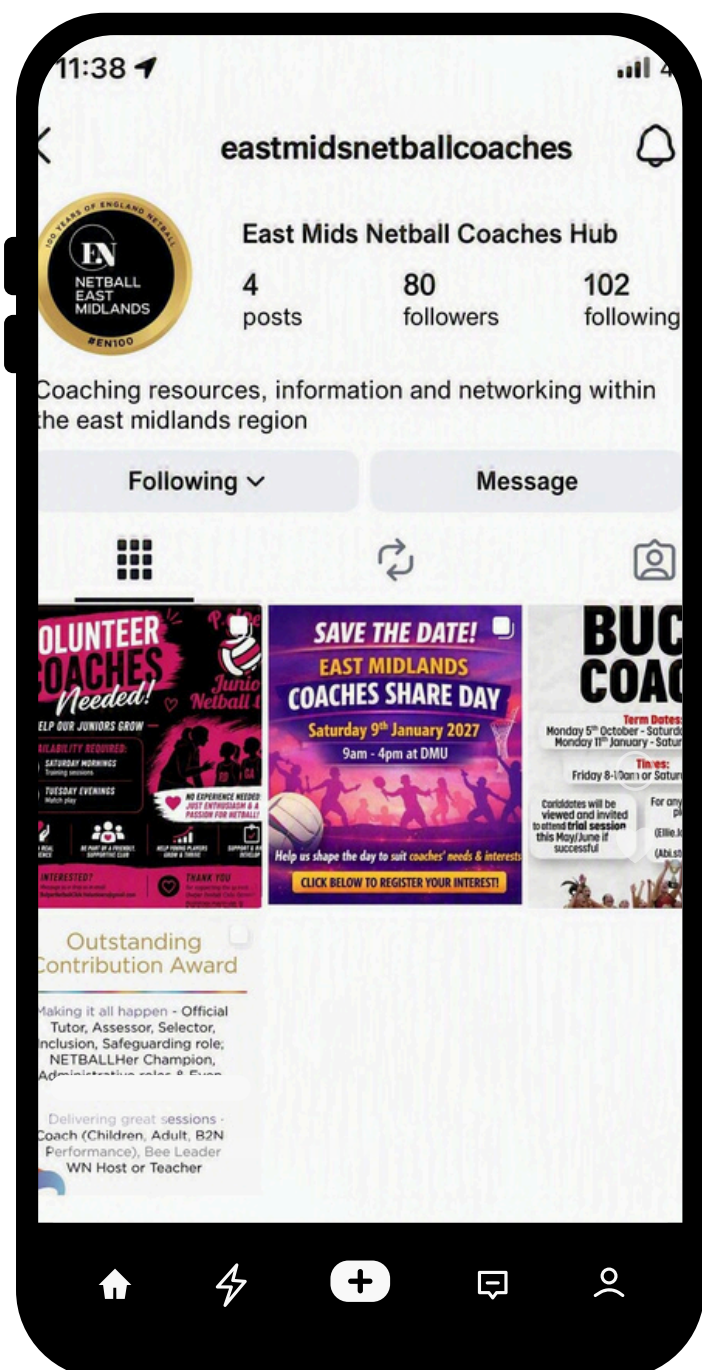
For more information or to become a NETBALLHer Champion, email eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk



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COACHING CORNER

DO YOU FOLLOW EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL COACHING HUB ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

East Midlands Netball Coaches Hub is a dedicated space for coaches across the region to connect, network and share ideas. Through our Facebook group and Instagram page, coaches can stay up to date with the latest coaching courses, workshops and opportunities, celebrate success stories, and access coaching tips, drills and resources. The Hub aims to bring the East Midlands coaching community together to learn, support and inspire one another. 🏐💜

BECOME A BEE LEADER



Bee Leader Certificate

For teachers and Level 2 and 3 netball coaches



🐝 **Become a Bee Leader** and inspire children aged 5-11 through fun, engaging netball activities.

☀️ **Learn to deliver child-centred sessions** that build confidence, enjoyment and fundamental netball skills.



💻 Complete **2 hours of self-led online** learning within 6 months at a time that suits you.



💷 Just **£30** for England Netball members.

💛 Help **create positive first experiences of sport** and support children to develop on and beyond the court.



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO



NETBALL
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IS YOUR CLUB READY FOR THE NEW SEASON?

'THE ESSENTIALS'

SAFEGUARDING

[QUICK LINK](#)

Your Club Safeguarding Officer should...

- Have in-date Time to Listen training and a DBS check (if you have junior members)
- Be allocated to the Safeguarding Officer committee role in ENgage
- Ensure club members know who their Club Safeguarding Officer is
- Have an active membership

RISK MANAGEMENT

[QUICK LINK](#)

To manage risk, you should have...

- A copy of your venue risk assessment
- A Dynamic Risk Assessment Checklist ready for each netball session (find a copy via the Quick Link!)
- An accident and incident management process

COACHES & UMPIRES

[QUICK LINK](#)

Is everyone with a role in your club appropriately qualified?

- Does your lead coach have a Level 2 or Level 3 England Netball coaching qualification?
- Do your Level 2 or Level 3 coaches have an in-date UK Coaching Safeguarding Course if working with children?
- Do your umpires have an INTO Officiating, C, B, or A Award?
- [Do your first aiders have in-date qualifications?](#)
- Have you checked who needs a DBS and if they are in date?

'GETTING READY TO PLAY'

MEMBERSHIP

[QUICK LINK](#)

Have you completed membership checks for 2026-2027?

- [Have you shared your club's QR code to help players find your membership packages effortlessly?](#)
- [Have you assigned volunteers to the mandatory club committee roles in ENgage?](#)
- [Do all your players, coaches, and committee members have an active 2026-2027 membership?](#)

ELIGIBILITY

Your club should read England Netball's Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy and Inclusive Kit guidance.

Links:

- [Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy](#)
- [Inclusive Kit](#)



NETBALL
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MEN'S AND MIXED NETBALL

EAST MIDLANDS MIXED LEAGUE CROWNS FIRST-EVER CHAMPIONS

This summer saw the successful launch of the [inaugural East Midlands Mixed League](#), providing a new and exciting competitive opportunity for mixed netball players across the region.

Running [from April to July](#), the league featured [eight teams](#) competing throughout the season, showcasing great skill, teamwork and sportsmanship. Following a closely contested campaign, a [huge congratulations go to Buzzers Blades, who were crowned our first-ever champions, with Little Sutton Fire finishing as worthy runners-up.](#)

The introduction of the league marks an exciting milestone for netball in the East Midlands, creating more opportunities for players to get involved in mixed netball and connect with others who share a passion for the game.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the players, coaches, officials, volunteers and supporters who helped make the league such a success. Your enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to embrace this new competition have laid strong foundations for the future.

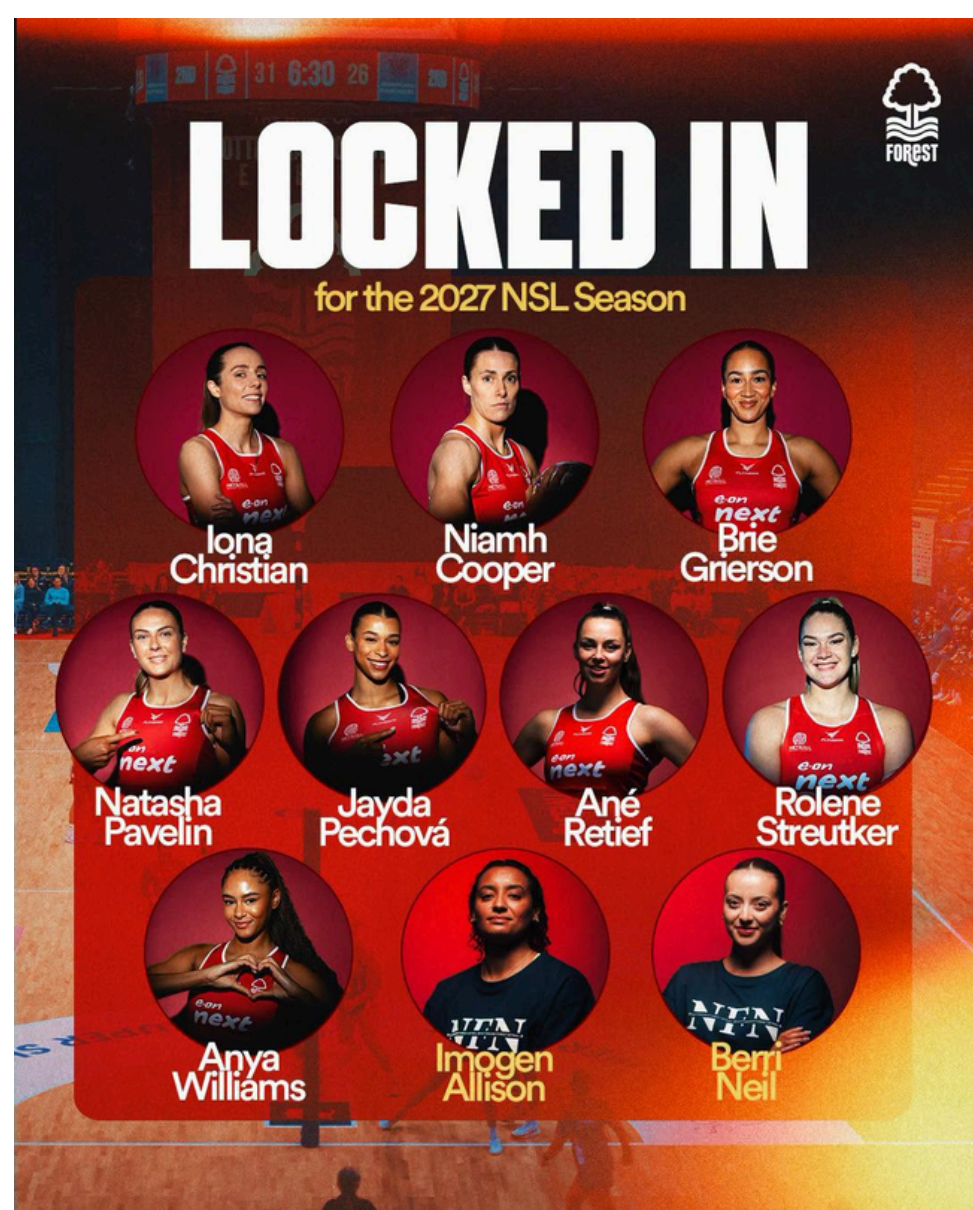
Interested in giving mixed netball a go? [Click here to find a mixed netball club near you and get involved.](#)



NOTTINGHAM FOREST



NOTTINGHAM FOREST COMPLETE THEIR 2026/27 LINE-UP



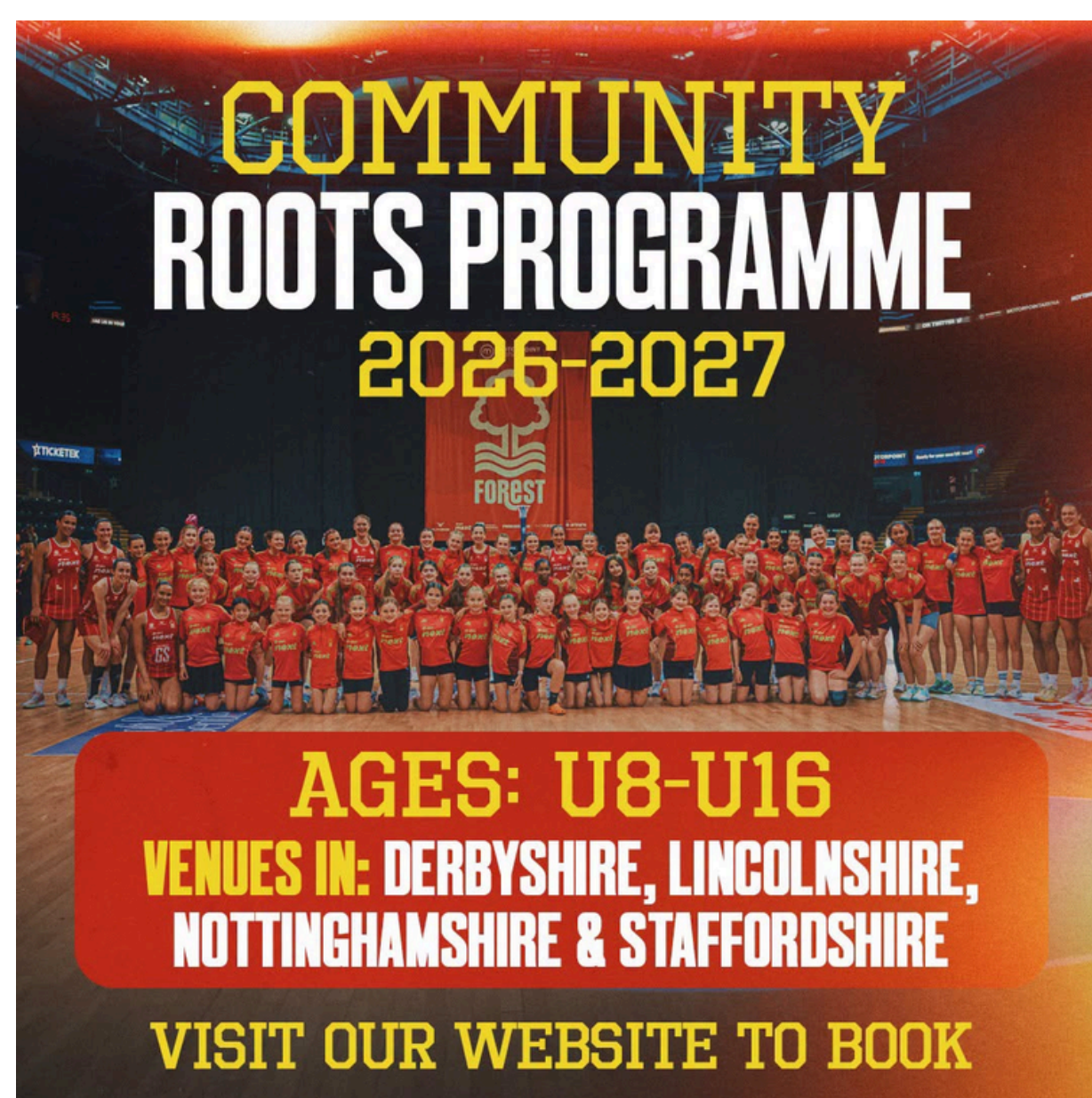
Following a record-breaking 2026 season that saw Nottingham Forest secure their first-ever Netball Super League play-off place, Head Coach Chelsea Pitman has finalised her squad for the 2026/27 campaign. Eight players have re-signed to continue their journey with the club, providing a strong foundation for the season ahead.

Forest have also strengthened their line-up with two exciting new additions, welcoming Imogen Allison and Berri Neil to the squad. With a blend of continuity and fresh talent, the Reds will be looking to build on last season's success when the 2027 Netball Super League fixtures are announced in October.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST COMMUNITY ROOTS

Nottingham Forest's Community Roots programme aims to create a clear pathway between grassroots and performance netball by providing an environment for development with investment on and off the court to deliver high-quality experiences.

The programme runs from September 2026 to June 2027 across a wide range of venues.



QUICK LINKS



[@nfnetball](#)



[Nottingham Forest Netball](#)



[All the Forest Netball News](#)



[More information on community roots](#)



LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING

Lightning Complete Their 2026/27 Lineup

Hannah Leighton joins Lightning from Nottingham Forest, bringing versatility across WD/C and international experience with Scotland, including appearances at the Netball World Cup and Commonwealth Games.

Hannah Gibson arrives from London Pulse NXT Gen as an exciting young shooter. An England NXT Roses player, she represented England at the 2025 World Youth Cup and brings strong potential to the attacking end.

Together, the two final signings add energy, versatility and quality to Lightning's 2026/27 squad.



Camps and Masterclasses

Take your netball skills to the next level with Loughborough Lightning's camps and masterclasses. Designed for players of all abilities, our sessions provide expert coaching from elite Lightning players and staff, helping you refine your technique, build confidence and elevate your game. Expect a fun-filled day of netball skills, strength and conditioning, and the opportunity to meet new friends in a positive and inspiring environment. Whether you're looking to master the fundamentals or gain insights from top-level athletes and coaches, our camps and masterclasses offer an exciting opportunity to train, learn and play the Lightning way. Keep an eye on our website for details and booking information for our October Camp. We'd love to see you there!

Athlete Development Hubs

The Lightning Athlete Development Hub programme launched this season, providing Year 7-10 athletes across the East Midlands with additional opportunities to develop their skills, game understanding and confidence in a fun, supportive and challenging environment. The programme complements existing school, club and county netball provision while helping players develop the Lightning way.

Follow Lightning on social media



@lborolightning



@lborolightning



Loughborough Lightning



YouTube

Loughborough Lightning Netball



NETBALL
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2026 AGM

Notice

EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

**TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 7PM**

VIA ZOOM (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

**CHECK YOUR EMAILS FOR DETAILS,
INCLUDING INFORMATION ON HOW TO
REGISTER AND ACCESS THE RELEVANT
DOCUMENTATION**

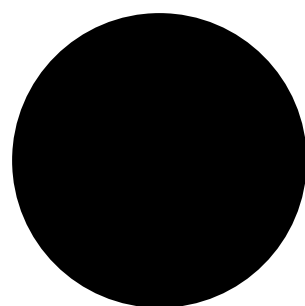
**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ANY ASSISTANCE,
PLEASE CONTACT
EASTMIDLANDS@ENGLANDNETBALL.CO.UK.**





NETBALL
EAST
MIDLANDS

MEET THE TEAM!



Vicki Clark

Partnerships & Delivery Manager
vicki.clark@englandnetball.co.uk



@NetballinEastMids



Alice Harvey

East Midlands Regional Officer
EastMidlands@englandnetball.co.uk



@netballineastmidlands



07551577994



Louise Key

EM Team Leader & NDO Lincolnshire

Louise.Key@englandnetball.co.uk

Mon/Tues/Wed to 2pm/Thurs

www.lincolnshirennetball.co.uk



07545924994



@LincsNetball



@lincolnshirennetball



Jasmine Gannon

NDO Leicestershire & Rutland

jasmine.gannon@englandnetball.co.uk

Mon-Thurs 9:30-2:30pm Fri 9:30-12:30pm

www.lcna.co.uk



07540 126816



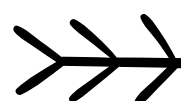
@Leics_Netball



@lcna.netball (County Page)



@Ndo Leicestershire England Netball



Claire Bowen

NDO Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

Claire.Bowen@englandnetball.co.uk

Mon - Fri



07551578361



@NDODerbyNotts



@ndo.derbyshiren Nottinghamshire



@netballinderbyshire_notts



Kelly Thomson

NDO Northamptonshire

Kelly.Thomson@englandnetball.co.uk

Mon/Weds/Thurs



07545924954



@NhantsNetball



@netballinnorthants



eastmidlandsnetball.co.uk