

Berkshire Netball Chair's Report for AGM 2023/24

Berkshire Netball has enjoyed another successful year due to the work of all the amazing volunteers in the clubs and leagues throughout the county and on the Board.

Highlights are as follows:-

- The Board undertook and completed the Tier 1 Governance review required by England Netball and are currently awaiting feedback from England Netball. During 2024/25 we will be continuing to work on the areas identified for improvement as part of the review.
- Berkshire Junior Netball League was once again a huge success with teams from across Berkshire and beyond enjoying regular matches at various venues across the county. Thank you to Kate Maxfield who, together with her sub-committee, worked tirelessly to ensure that so many young players had the opportunity to compete on a regular basis.
- In addition to the winter league, a friendly summer league also took place to give teams the chance to keep playing regular netball.
- Berkshire Netball continued to run 2 x U13 and 2 x U15 Player Development Programmes as part of the England Netball Player Pathway and were please to welcome some new faces to the coaching team.
- Berkshire Netball continued to provide financial support to clubs and individuals with a number of bursaries awarded during the year.
- Berkshire's Officiating Officer, Mary Stanley, oversaw the development of many umpires within the county at all levels and, due to the hard work by her and her team of assessors, many umpires were successful in gaining their umpiring qualifications.
- Berkshire's NDO, Debbie Spindlow, continued to provide excellent support to the Board as well as delivering her own work programme within the county. She organised a number of EN netball programmes within the county eg Walking Netball, Back to Netball. She also organised a tournament for teams whose players are not currently part of a competition squad as well as a Walking Netball Tournament.
- Berkshire clubs and schools were once again very well represented at national finals of their respective competitions with Eagles going through from the Netball South competition to National Club Finals in the U16 age group (finished 5th at Nationals) and Royals going through in the U14 age group (finished 9th at Nationals). Bursaries were provided to both clubs to assist with the cost of attending National Club finals.
- Wellington College qualified through the county and regional rounds to go on to play at the National Schools Finals in both the U19 and U16 age group.
- Berkshire officials have once again been heavily involved with the NSL this season fulfilling roles as technical officials/umpires etc.
- Eagles Netball Club built on the success of last year by achieving back to back promotions and will be competing in the top tier of the National Premier League in 2024/25. Their home matches at Rivermead Leisure Centre provided an excellent opportunity for Berkshire netballers to go along and watch top class netball right on their doorstep.
- Athena-Bs represented Berkshire at the Netball South play offs and won a place in Division 3 for 2024/25.
- Christina Turton-Berenger was co-opted onto the Board during the 2023/24 season to be Berkshire's Safeguarding Officer.

Thank you to everyone involved with netball in Berkshire and to all the amazing people who help to make all of this happen. The dedication and hard work of all those who help to deliver netball in the county is undoubtedly appreciated by all of those that benefit from it.