

Welcome to the eighth issue of the Oxfordshire Netball Newsletter.

Well the 2008 season is now well on it's way, with more teams than ever entering the Oxfordshire League – requiring a new division, Div 5. The junior league is also back, with a slightly amended schedule to run prior to the regional competition in January.

The ONDB now has a Coaching Secretary who we look forward to meeting soon, this is a real step forward for the board, as we work towards our action plan, developing netball in Oxfordshire.

The County Academies for U14's and U16's will run again for a 2nd year. The Academy coaching programme was extremely successful last year, promoting player development. Academy trials have now taken place and those players selected will attend a 10 week coaching programme. Selection for the academies was led by Jan Crabtree Regional Talent Coach for the South, with the help of Teresa Barrett. In order to run the academies we do need coaches – please take a minute to look at the advert on the following page regarding this.

Congratulations to Sue Blackshaw, who was awarded a Long-Service Award from

England Netball at the Golden Globes on 13th September. I do hope you've been able to nominate in the Oxfordshire Sports Awards, which are being held on 7th November 2008.

Talking of awards, the ONDB are hoping to run a celebration/awards event at the end of the season. Anyone with an interest in event organisation should get in touch with Kate (ondbsecretary@googlemail.com) – so much good volunteering, coaching, umpiring, administration and general hard work happens across Oxfordshire in order to give our players the best opportunities we can. Individuals, teams, clubs and the county need to be celebrating these fantastic achievements!

Club News

Local netball team Challow Ladies is planning to continue it's success by encouraging more young girls to take up the sport. A grant from the Lottery's Awards for All programme will allow the club to set up a junior section within the club that will provide access to junior league competitions across a range of age groups within Oxfordshire. The project is part of a 2 year development plan at the local club and follows a series of back to netball sessions run with local sports college King Alfreds. The grant of £10,000 will enable the club to buy essential equipment, kit and provide playing facilities as

well as funding coaching development to encourage more involvement at the club. **Challow Ladies Netball Club Head of PR Michelle Mahoney** said: "We are a local club who have been playing for nearly 30 years, this is an exciting project that really allows us to expand and encourage young girls to become members of a club, to take part in healthy sporting activity whilst developing team and social skills. We currently have four level 1 coaches and two at level 2 – we hope to expand this significantly with most of the new coaches coming from the younger age groups. We have been working closely with the sport and community team at local secondary school King Alfreds and hope to attract many new players from both this and local junior schools".

Steve Kemp Sports Club Development Officer said "we can all learn from Challow Netball Club, they are one of the most pro-active clubs in Oxfordshire and have made massive strides in their development as a club. They have a very open approach to ideas and have a strong can do attitude and they are not afraid to have a go at a scheme. This successful lottery bid is a great example of this pro-active attitude"

Further Information:
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michelle@challownetball.f9.co.uk

Jo Gordon

Conratulations to Trinity NC for gaining their Silver CAPS award!!

Rhonda Forbes-Smith

Welfare

We've been talking to Natalie Carmichael (South Region Welfare Officer) about um.... Welfare...

The query with welfare arose when the ONDB were discussing what roles needed to be realised at the county level. There has always been some confusion over the role of a welfare officer, so to clarify, we asked Natalie for some help!

England Netball wish to ensure that every club, regardless of, but more importantly, CAPS registered clubs, appoint Club Welfare Officers. These need to be someone appointed and prepared to take on the roles and responsibilities at club level for welfare issues. They will report to me (Natalie) with any concerns they have. If these concerns can be dealt with on a regional level then they will be. If they need to be dealt with on a National Level then they will be passed on to the Child Protection Team appointed for England Netball.

The role that a club welfare officer will really have is just being the eyes and ears for the club. At club level they will need to check that the coaches are complying with Welfare guidance and if there are any complaints from players, parents or external sources, that these are passed on to the Regional Welfare Officer to look into. Forms and guidance is available from England Netball (or Natalie). A flow-chart for concerns is attached to this newsletter.

There is no welfare officer at county level, and this is following England Netball guidance.

Once a Club Welfare Officer is appointed, they should get in touch with Natalie (find her email address at www.netballsouth.co.uk). Any information coming from EN or relevant to their role will be passed on to the Club Welfare Officer, and Natalie will also be on hand to give assistance and advice.

Coaches Wanted – Academies

Are you a qualified Netball Coach or a coach volunteer looking to develop your coaching skills?

The Oxfordshire County Sports Partnership along with the Oxfordshire Netball Development Board are looking for Netball Coaches in the County who can deliver a range of inclusive and engaging coaching skills to players who are Under 14 and Under 16.

As you may be aware England Netball has abolished the county playing structure to aid with the player pathway and Long term athlete development. To compliment this programme the Oxfordshire County Sports Partnership will be running County Netball Academies for U14 and U16 age groups, providing the selected players with an opportunity to be involved with a higher level of training. This programme is subsidised by the Oxford Netball Development Board.

The Academy programme will run from 29th October 08 until March 09 on a Wednesday evening at Oxford High School from 7-9pm

Candidates will be short listed and asked to attend an interview. Closing date for applications is 20th October.

For more information/application

form, please contact Gilly Bettis Netball Development Officer for Bucks, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire County Sport Partnership.

Telephone 01296 585215 or mobile: 07841 311634

Or e mail gbettis@buckssport.org

Challow Ladies Netball Club

A celebration of success was the theme at Challow Ladies Netball Club AGM held last week. In the last year the club has taken huge strides and this is culmination of and reward for the hard work and dedication of the clubs members over the past three years.

Chairman Sue Campbell commented "Without the selfless contribution of many key members of the club we would never have been able to undertake the range of new projects and see so many of our goals materialise. To add to our Bronze CAPS accreditation and club mark award, we have successfully set up and are running High 5's netball for ages 9-11, a junior section, ages 11-16 all supported by the successful application for a £10,000 grant from Awards for All. The club is also taking an active part and contribution to developing netball in the local community and county."

The AGM also provided the opportunity for the club to celebrate the achievement individual of players, with trophies being presented for the following categories:

Player of the Year (Oct. 07 to July 08) **Jo Illsley**

Most Improved Player (Oct. 07 to July 08) **Beth Coleman**

Club Member of the Year

Jo Gordon

Junior Person of the Year - aged 16 and under **Hannah Warne**

and Krissie Illsley

We would like to congratulate the above club members on their awards.

Jo Gordon