



**Grasshopper
Netball Club** NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2018

Dear all

On behalf of your Committee, here is an update on some new developments with regard to next season.

As a CAPS Club (still awaiting England Netball's decision), we need to be strategic and have an Action Plan, which shows our vision – to develop more coaches and umpires within the club. We have been stagnating on both fronts for the past few years, hence the changes that have already begun.

Our umpiring development has started, as both Hannah Wale and Georgia Clarke have done the C Award and Beginner Umpire Award courses respectively, within the last 2 months. Georgia C is now hoping to get onto the next available and convenient C Award course and Hannah – having passed her written C Award exam paper – is now practising like mad in the Summer League and is being mentored by Kathy Cox (last game) and Tracy Glover – who passed her B Award last season. Other umpire mentors in the club are Steph Hiom, Donna Osborn and Andy Scigliano.

On the coaching side, for the time being, Andy Scigliano will assume the Club Coach position, but will not be delivering all the coaching sessions because our aim is to 'grow our own' coaches and give interested club members the opportunity to coach throughout the season (you don't even have to have the qualification yet); already, this has begun to happen as several club members have expressed a wish to be involved in doing this next season, which is excellent!

Initially, Andy Scigliano, Kate Garner and Donna Osborn will sit down together in early July to review the training sessions for next season and plot out our pathway (this normally happens anyway). It is our intention to facilitate current club members having the opportunity to further develop their coaching skills, with some members perhaps choosing to undertake the UKCC Level 1 or 2 Coaching Award along the way; grants *are* available at regional level to help

with the cost of these and Grasshopper Netball Club also looks to help out members with their netball 'professional development' too. Leicestershire County also organises Coaching CPD sessions for a small cost and we hope that our members will want to attend some of these too – no prior coaching qualifications or experience needed. In addition, we are looking to invite 'special guests' to lead certain training sessions throughout the season too – just to mix it up a bit - and feedback from *any* of these 'special sessions' would be greatly appreciated!

Please also remember that we have grown from one youth team to three. They are a lovely group of keen, enthusiastic and committed youngsters and are the future adult members of the club. Next season, we hope that more club members will get involved with them and we are also hoping to involve more parents and give them some professional development and training at the start of the season too, so that they can play a full part. So if you want to get involved in coaching, but are not brave enough to coach your own playing peers – then consider helping us out with these lovely youth players on Thursday night when you're not training; the 'buzz' they give you is something else! At the LNL Youth League Presentation evening on Friday 15 June, G1 Youth won the runners-up plate for the division; G2 Youth won the 'Most Sporting Team' award and G3 player, Eliza Weselby (yes, Rosie's sister) won the overall 'Player of the Season' award for the division, winning over half of the votes over the year. **Congratulations to them all and thanks to all who have helped out with them this season.**

Another new development that we would like to offer everyone is for you to have a named 'senior' player who could be your recognised point of contact for your own netball playing development during the season. This way, we can ensure that everyone receives personalised feedback – if they want it – on how to develop their skills and playing knowledge. This would be from the top down – eg, our regional 'elite' players to our lesser experienced club players. **Please let Andy Scigliano know if you wish to take up this opportunity next season; it has already been started with some players and is proving fruitful already.**

With regard to the regional situation next season, we have already submitted our application form for this. The intention next season is that the G1 regional team be managed and overseen by Donna Osborn – the Club Captain and G1 regional Captain - *and* her Vice Captain – someone who will be chosen by

Donna to ensure the best possible working relationship that should benefit all players in the squad throughout the season. In addition, Donna will be ably assisted by Andy Scigliano and Steph Hiom on the bench – just as they were at the recent regional play-offs for the G1 and G2 regional teams. This means that there will be 4 people involved in the decisions relating to the regional team – both beforehand and on the day. We are also very keen to persevere and further develop our G2 Regional Team with a view to them successfully entering the Regional League Division 3 next year, so as part of the current affiliation drive, you must let us know if you are aspiring to this level of netball so that we can facilitate the opportunities for you to get there; we won't know if you don't tell us! It is our intention, once more, to arrange friendly fixtures for both regional teams during next season - which normally incur an additional cost for those players, over and above the Club fees.

Which leads us on to scoring and time-keeping – both *essential* roles at regional *and* at LNL on Tuesday nights. At regional, with Andy Scigliano on the bench next season, we will need offers of help for scoring, so we're also offering up some 'unofficial', but good training on the essentials of doing these jobs, so that you might offer to do it for us on Sundays. It's a great way to see a good standard of netball and there is no age restriction, so we're even considering training up our youth players too (many of whom do the Duke of Edinburgh Award and need to learn new netball-related skills as part of that).

We are also very happy to confirm that we have received confirmation from DMU that we have secured one court at the Diamond Jubilee Sports Hall on Thursdays again next season. The time will be confirmed once DMU has sorted out its scheduling.

We intend to start back training on Thursday 16 August and this will be for all those who can make it (who are not still on holiday). Following feedback received from the article that Andy Scigliano sent out last September about how to conduct trials moving forward, we will still be following our normal format, but will no longer read out the teams on the final night, before normal training sessions begin the following week. Instead, we have listened to your feedback and will probably email out the teams afterwards instead. We hope that by the end of August, our team selections will be complete and that the early part of September can then be given over to the final teams practising aplenty, in time for the LNL Winter League.

Finally, we feel it is important to explain to our members, once again, that whilst many of you are out of the 'netball zone' over the summer holidays, your committee does have to meet to review the number of affiliations and therefore, player commitments received to date. Depending upon the number of players that have committed by the middle of July, will depend the number of teams that we decide to enter into the Leicester Netball League, so if you have not yet affiliated, but know that you want to – please let Kathy Cox know urgently. The deadline for the form and first £50 affiliation fee has already passed. We would hate you to be disappointed in August when you find out that we have only entered 3 teams, not 4, on the basis of the information we had mid-summer; obviously, this could result in the squads per team being huge and you playing less netball.

Thank you for the time you have taken to read this.

Andy Scigliano, Chairperson - on behalf of the Committee -
Grasshopper Netball Club
June 2018