



# England Netball Annual Report 2022-23





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# Welcome

## Bridget Blow, Chair

This report documents the period between April 2022 and March 2023. As you will see, there have been some fantastic achievements, from the power that hosting the Commonwealth Games on home soil has had in terms of legacy, to the amazing impact of all the volunteers whose achievements I so enjoyed celebrating at the national One Awards.

The board have been pleased to see the sport's recovery since the pandemic, with England Netball membership returning in droves to deliver the largest number ever seen, increasing by 6% in comparison to the same time in the 2021-22 membership year. This is a testament to the strength of the Netball Family and to the commitment of all the volunteers who have helped the sport return even bigger and better.

At the 2022 AGM, the membership continued to show their support for the future of the sport by supporting a small increase in membership fees for the 2023-24 season. This is a return to small, incremental annual increases after the fees had been frozen since the rise in 2017, which came about as a result of the reduction in Sport England funding, a freeze which was held for a further year as a result of the pandemic, along with the option of a 30% discount in 2020-21.

My predecessor David Armstrong resigned from the role of Chair at the end of the 2022-2023 year that this report celebrates. Having been on the board for over seven years, and having seen the progress that has been made in the sport over this time, I was pleased to be appointed by the board as Chair from 1 May 2023 and will proudly undertake this role until the end of my term in September 2024.

During this last year the board has been joined by two new, independent directors with David Stublely joining in September 2022, followed by Michael Bourne in November, bringing their expertise to the board in broadcast and commercial, and elite sport respectively.

I look forward to leading England Netball and the board over the next year to continue to progress the Adventure Strategy and lead a movement on and beyond the court.



# Fran Connolly, CEO

The first year of undisturbed netball since the pandemic unsurprisingly saw a slow start as the population at large adjusted to life after what we all hope was a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Crowds took time to return and participation programmes were not at maximum numbers but by the end of the year, as confidence returned, we were back to sell-outs and recorded our highest ever membership numbers.

It was the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games that really kick-started the return of the feelgood factor, with the prospect of the world's best teams travelling to these shores to put on a show proving to netball players and spectators alike that the sport was back.

By the end of 2022, participation programme numbers were well on their way to recovering to near pre-Covid figures and at the same time, we prioritised increasing engagement with under-served communities all over the country.

For the next generation, we relaunched Bee Netball, with Trailblazer clubs leading the way. And we returned to a full complement of netball competitions at all levels, including the Premier League, the National Performance League, the National Schools and Clubs competitions, School Games, and the ParaNetball Championship. We also introduced innovations such as inaugurating the National Schools Cup, which has provided more opportunities for schools to engage and achieve success; and streaming the Premier League for the vast army of fans out there. Meanwhile, the largest ever number of learners have completed coaching and officiating courses to support the game.

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games offered a great opportunity for the Netball Family to get back together and enjoy the thrills of our sport after a draining couple of years.

Around the Games, we kicked off the #MakeYourMark campaign, supported by the Roses; we gave fans real insight into elite netball with our Courtside podcast; more than 150,000 tickets were sold, the most of any netball event anywhere, ever; we saw 12,000 new people give netball a go at Fan Park, 4 million watched our sport on television, and we saw 11 million social impressions and a staggering 900% increase

in Play Netball webpage visits. We provided care packages for clubs to support the Roses at the Games and then encourage members to engage with the tournament; and gave a real focus to another under-served community by arranging watch parties for Muslim women. At the end of the games it was time to celebrate and say goodbye to Stacey Francis-Bayman and Eboni Usoro-Brown as they announced their retirement following impressive domestic and international careers.

As preparations turned to the second global event in two years, the 2023 Netball World Cup in South Africa, the Roses and Roses Futures programme members were selected, including some exciting new faces such as Liv Tchine and Funmi Fadoju. The Roses tested themselves against many of the top nations, during which the England Netball Family were proud to celebrate Roses stalwart, Jade Clarke, who became the first ever netballer to win 200 caps for one country and was awarded an MBE.

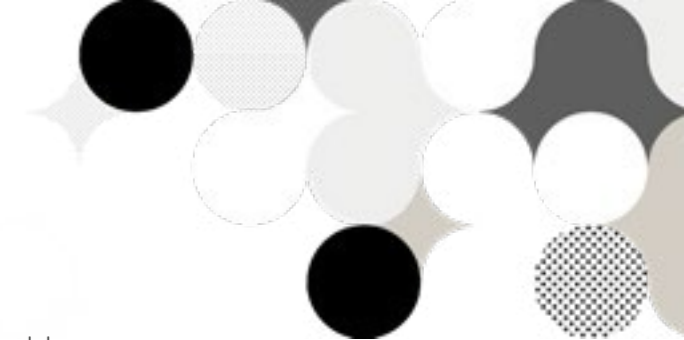
The national side won home series' against both Uganda and Jamaica and lost a close-fought series against Australia that provided a great opportunity for the Roses to test themselves against many of the teams they could face in the Netball World Cup.

In terms of preparing the next generation of Roses stars, Fast5 gave many Roses their first taste of senior international competition as 10 athletes travelled to New Zealand to gain valuable experience.

The 2023 Netball Super League season started with our #GetSomeNet campaign, encouraging people to get behind their team. It was disappointing to lose Wasps from the competition ahead of the season but the remaining 10 teams competed in a thrilling campaign, with congratulations going to Loughborough Lightning for triumphing and taking the win in the final.

It was great, too, to see the continued growth of the men's game, with the England Thorns participating in their first ever international series, against Australia, and at the Fast 5s in New Zealand.

All in all, this was a year where not only did netball return from its Covid-induced issues, but it came back all guns blazing with the incredible support of the Netball Family, and we can now look ahead with real confidence.



### A Game for Life



**No1**

Team Sport for Women

**659,300**

Women and Girls Playing Annually

**269,200**

Women Playing Fortnightly

**3rd**

Most Popular Team Sport (men & women)

**24,500**

Programme Participants

### Extraordinary Experiences



**111,000**

Members

**80+**

NPS Scores for all EN Events

**7th**

Big Netball Conversation

**£13.3mil**

Income



### Commonwealth Games

**150,000**

Tickets Sold

**4 million**

UK TV Audience

**12,000+**

Tried Netball

**11 million**

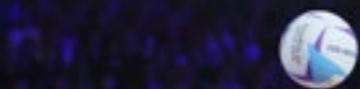
Social Impressions

**900%**

Increase in Visits to Play Netball Webpage

**270%**

Increase in Merchandise Revenue



### A World Leading Game



**3rd**

World Ranking

**24**

Full Time Roses

**16**

Future Roses

**200+ caps**

Jade Clarke

**5,000**

NSL Grand Final Tickets - Sold out



### A Visible Presence



**450,000**

Social Media Followers

**21,500**

Average YouTube Views for NSL 2022



### A Resonant Voice



**180,000**

NETBALLHer Launch Impressions



### A Thriving Collective



**34,000**

Volunteers

**624**

ONE Award Nominations

**5,263**

Learners

**2**

New Non-Executive Directors





**A Game for Life**

*“We will enrich our approach to growing the game, ensuring that netball is a sport for everyone, at every stage of life.”*

**England Netball continued to support throughout the year a huge number of clubs, leagues and programmes for all age groups, from Bee Netball to Walking Netball.**

## Clubs and Leagues

Our clubs and leagues are the lifeblood of our sport. Every year, up and down the country, netball is played with a real competitive spirit combined with a sense of fair play and fun, enriching the lives of over 100,000 participants and their networks.

As the world has returned to some kind of normality after the pandemic, we have continued to provide tailored support to registered leagues, and we are constantly exploring how we can further enhance that support.

During the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, we pulled out all the stops to ensure that at a time when our sport was most in the spotlight, people could find information that would help them join a local club, introducing an upgraded online Club Finder. Using a postcode search, people are now able to find their nearest club – as well as giving all the essentials of when and where they can train and enjoy competition, the Club Finder shares useful information to help people choose a club that is just right for them.

Ahead of the Commonwealth Games we updated our Care Package for clubs with tools and resources to help prepare and maximise the opportunity the Games presented. This included tools and resources to help clubs welcome new people, host watch-alongs and increase their presence on social media.

One great example of this was when, as part of the Commonwealth Games legacy project, a series of watch parties were hosted for the growing Muslim netball community, including a Community Watch-Along, which introduced community leaders from pilot sessions to international netball.

100 ‘Watch at Home’ bags were also delivered into the Muslim community to encourage people to host parties in their homes, introducing their neighbours, friends and family to the sport.

In addition, a group of game-changing Muslim women helped us continue to extend our understanding of how we can work together to diversify netball’s fan base, engage new audiences, and ensure live netball experiences can be enjoyed by all.



## Safeguarding

This year we introduced our Safeguarding Officer newsletter, which shares key topics and guidance to support volunteers to ensure clubs are safe spaces for all involved. This included highlighting the importance of having a Safeguarding or Welfare Officer within adult clubs to support the welfare of all members and highlighted amendments to the Child and Adult Safeguarding Policies and the Safeguarding Training Matrix.

As a result of enhanced support we have seen greater engagement with our safeguarding team, who have worked closely with counties and clubs to safeguard our members. Much of this engagement is in the form of seeking guidance and advice. Of the safeguarding cases received 89% aligned to children and young people and 11% adults at risk.

Enhancing our safeguarding framework has been a priority and England Netball have engaged in Sport England’s Case Management Programme, a Lottery Funded-scheme that provides support to NGBs via Sport Resolutions, offering advice and investigation support for Adult and Child Safeguarding concerns. Alongside this we have introduced new case management software aligned to the requirements of this programme to allow us to maximise the support that can be accessed.

# Programmes

Our range of programmes continued to rebuild following the pandemic. 24,500 participants engaged in our programmes over the year, with Back to Netball in particular returning almost to pre-pandemic levels of participation as well as seeing an increase in the proportion of participants from underserved communities.

As the eyes of the nation focused on Birmingham for the Commonwealth Games, we ensured that people could go online and find their nearest session. With a focus on Back to Netball, we made sure our Session Finder was full of activity. Over 250 sites across the country ran our programmes, with over 4,000 joining us to participate.

In addition, as part of the Commonwealth Games, while attending the games over 12,000 tried netball at one of our 'Have a Go' areas across the Fan Park, including a visit from the Duchess of Edinburgh.

# The Relaunch of Bee Netball

The Commonwealth Games was a prime opportunity to relaunch Bee Netball, our programme for 5-9 years olds, and work with a cohort of Trailblazers clubs from around the country who led the way, offering children the chance to register for places on local Bee Netball programmes which got underway in September.

Bee Netball is designed to introduce children to the skills of netball; throwing, catching, footwork and shooting but more importantly, it supports every child's personal development on and beyond the court. All Bee Netball activities are underpinned by our Beeliefs, our core values focused on improving children's belief in their own ability. Like all team sports, netball is also a great way to make new friends.

Bee Netballers received a personalised welcome pack through the post (a personalised T-shirt, a Bee Ball and the innovative Bee Book), as well

## OUR Beeliefs

- Bee proud.** Bees are proud of their efforts and love their game.
- Bee friendly.** Bees welcome anyone who wants to play netball.
- Bee together.** Bees work for the team and support everyone.
- Bee fair.** Bees play fair and treat others as they would like to be treated.
- Bee strong.** Bees are independent and determined and always try their best.
- Bee yourself.** Bees are true to who they are and let other people be who they are.



*“The Bee Netball programme is a huge step forward in bringing a modified game to primary aged children and it is amazing for the future of netball. We have loads of seven-to-nine year olds signed up already and I know they were super-excited to receive their t-shirts, ball and workbooks.”*

**Nina Bardowell - Head Coach, NBNC Flames**

*“For us, Bee Netball is an essential string to our bow when it comes to our junior section, and our club pathway in general. It is so important to build up the skills that are key for netball and which benefit children in other aspects of life, like social skills and self-confidence.”*

**Harriet Holme - Secretary, Penrith NC**

as activities designed for those starting netball for the first time and special messages from the stars of the game. Children and their parents report having had an amazing experience.

At every home international series since its relaunch, the Bees have been a part of the action. They've had the ultimate experience, enjoying behind-the-scenes tours, welcoming and motivating the Roses as they arrive at the arena before acting as game mascots.

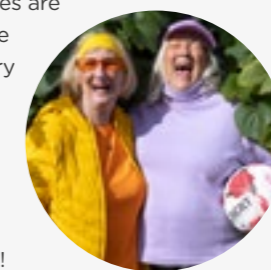
We have also introduced 'Bee Leaders', who are specially trained to deliver play-based activities to children in a way that really supports the personal, social and emotional development of children.

Bee Netball continues to be part of School Games and over the last year, 51,000 children and young people participated in this activity. Moving forward we will continue to strengthen our relationship and presence within School Games.

# Walking Netball

Plenty of people know from joyful experience that Walking Netball is an amazing community full of life and laughter. Anyone can play regardless of age, fitness or netball experience, with benefits including: improved mental and physical wellbeing, a ready-made support network of like-minded people in a fun and positive environment where there is zero judgment or pressure.

It's netball, but at a walking pace where the rules are slightly tweaked. Usually held indoors, there were over 200 programmes running across the country over the year with 3,500 participants having a wiggle and a giggle. Since its inception, more than 37,000 women have got involved in their local communities. Sessions are run by specially trained Walking Netball Hosts who run the activities and join in with all the fun and laughter!



# The Power of Walking Netball

For one participant, it has been transformational. Vicki, from West Yorkshire, has seen her life turned around thanks to the kindness and support of her local netball club, Todmorden Tornados.

After helping run an out-of-school netball club, Vicki was keen to get involved herself. Luckily, one of her colleagues knew of a local Walking Netball group. Nervous about walking into the unknown and restarting her netball journey, Vicki eventually plucked up the courage to go along.

“My heart was pounding; my palms were sweaty and I had a distinct wobble in my legs. I felt like I was walking through some saloon door out in the Wild West!

“As I walked in all eyes turned to look at me and for a brief moment, I thought I'd done the wrong thing and was about to turn heel, but then the staring eyes became beaming smiles and I was welcomed with open arms.”

After a few difficult years at work, Vicki saw her confidence sap away and began to experience high-functioning social anxiety. This in turn has made it difficult for her to get out and about but since starting netball again, she has started to see positive changes.

“Netball has helped my social anxiety. I feel a lot of anxiety if I have to socialise with my friends and workmates. I'm paranoid at times that I'm being judged and talked about and it makes me very self-conscious. I also don't like crowded places, but I never feel like that with my netball teammates.

“There are people there with their own demons to deal with, but you'd never know. For those 60 minutes, there are people around you who have an ear or a shoulder if you need one. If that's not what you want, it's 60 minutes to focus on something else other than what's going on around you in a 'safe space'.

“It's also about learning new skills or remembering the ones you maybe had when you were at school. It's about enjoying a level of exercise suited to all abilities, it's about keeping your mind active and it's about having your own personal therapy group, but above all, it's about having fun!

“My journey has been incredible. My confidence has grown, my fitness has grown and my social circle has grown and none of this would have been possible without the love, dedication, support and compassion of the like-minded people and the wonderful coaches who have given me a reason to get up and get out every Wednesday night.”

# Our Regions

As ever, our regional staff and volunteers have been working as one to deliver opportunities for the Netball Family to enjoy our sport. Here are a few highlights from across the nine regions.

## West Midlands

**Total Members: 11526**  
**Total Participants: 3042**

- ✓ The region has been engaging with diverse and underserved communities through 59 programmes by partnering with projects and community groups, and building relationships with the communities and its members.
- ✓ There is thriving Walking Netball engagement across the region, with 989 participants, and over 200 attending regional Walking Netball festivals.
- ✓ 15 Commonwealth Games events were held within the West Midlands, capitalising on the Games and encouraging new participation in netball.



## South West

**Total Members: 16194**  
**Total Participants: 2632**

- ✓ Game Conference for coaches and officials, providing the opportunity to take their game to the next level with a mixture of practical and theoretical sessions, including learning about female health through NETBALLHer.
- ✓ Three Walking Netball festivals took place with a total of 293 netballers taking part.
- ✓ The first Vets Tournament within the region was delivered in Dorset to an inclusive group of over 40 players.



## North West

**Total Members: 12666**  
**Total Participants: 4256**

- ✓ Partnership with Merseyside Society for Deaf people to run taster sessions for deaf, partial hearing and autistic individuals.
- ✓ Partnership with Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, delivered UniteHER, a social, netball event for 11-16-year-olds, seeking to raise awareness of violence towards girls, engaging 23 girls and directing them to local clubs.
- ✓ Manchester Pride saw a mixed tournament delivered to let people know England Netball were walking in Pride.



## North East

**Total Members: 4491**  
**Total Participants: 2307**

- ✓ Para Netball was introduced to 40 children with disabilities for the first time. The region built partnerships with local organisations such as The Chronicle Sunshine Fund, Smile through Sport, Ability2play, our local Core Inclusive Club and Northumbria University. It included 12 young volunteers from local schools and colleges who led on some of the activities. The impact on these children has been amazing, with so much positive feedback.

## Yorkshire

**Total Members: 6077**  
**Total Participants: 2526**

- ✓ Three Jubilee-themed Walking Netball events, four Christmas 'Jingleball' Walking Netball events and 1 'Walkintine's Ball' event for Valentine's Day. These events were based on an extended Walking Netball session and invited participants from across the counties to come together.
- ✓ Funding was received to support the Active Withernsea Project to help create a club for the local community and to provide accessible activity for social groups in a LSEG community. The project allowed funding of two Level 2 coaches, with the intention that these coaches will give their time back to the community by continuing Back to Netball and junior netball sessions.



## East Midlands

**Total Members: 6966**  
**Total Participants: 1802**

- ✓ Walking Back is an award-winning initiative in Lincolnshire that secured nearly £10k in funding. Over 270 women took part, with 50% having long-term health conditions and 15% a registered disability. 11 Hosts have been trained up to continue this great initiative.
- ✓ A new partnership with Derby Deaf Netball, connecting local players and umpires to support a pioneering Deaf Netball tournament of six teams.
- ✓ Two trailblazing Bee Netball clubs in Nottingham have been at full capacity since their September launch, giving 45 Bee Netballers a chance to not only play netball but also become mascots at the International Series in Nottingham!

## South

**Total Members: 16666**  
**Total Participants: 3434**

- ✓ Working with Eastleigh Borough Council, in line with New Year Boost, we started a Walking Netball programme at a brand-new facility in Hiltingbury. It has come full circle with one of the participants now a Walking Netball host leading the session herself.
- ✓ Netball Youth Camps were a huge success, with 19 NYCs delivered to 341 participants.
- ✓ A successful partnership was set up with a local charity, facilitating delivery of 19 weekly after-school Bee Netball sessions for 40 children aged 7-11 years from Brighton & Hove LSEG community.



## East

**Total Members: 18313**  
**Total Participants: 2592**

- ✓ A successful Walking Netball festival took place with 15 Walking Netball teams and 140 women involved in a day of matchplay.
- ✓ In February, the East Regional Management Board, County Chairs, and EN staff came together to focus on 'ONE Team - ONE PURPOSE - One Ambition' with the EN 10-year strategy at its core, so that we can invest as much time and thought on 'how' we work together rather than focusing solely on 'what' we do together.
- ✓ The first East region Belonging and Inclusion workshop, 'Dedicated to Difference', was delivered.



## London & South East

**Total Members: 17751**  
**Total Participants: 1268**

- ✓ Working in partnership with Rethink Mental Health, Asian Mental health line has taken netball to new audiences to support their wellbeing. Walking Netball sessions are now being delivered at the Siri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara Temple.
- ✓ As a result of funding received from the Wembley National Stadium Trust, nine individuals from Brent have completed fully-funded netball coaching qualifications (four Level One Coaches, two Level Two coaches, and four Walking Netball Hosts).
- ✓ The first year of 'Beyond The Court' - an engagement initiative in partnership with the Metropolitan Police that looks to use netball as a vehicle for positive change for young women and girls at risk of entering the criminal justice system and/or gang-grooming.

# National Competitions

England Netball deliver a host of competitions for clubs and schools at all ages and abilities. Here is the rundown of how the year went.



## PLAYERS OF THE SEASON

**Premier League 1**  
Paige McCalla, New Cambell

**Premier League 2**  
Yasmin Hodge-England, The Downs

**Premier League 3**  
Alanna Pullen, Ryland

## Premier League

Premier League netball returned in September, with the three leagues being more competitive than ever. This season saw the introduction of England Netball TV, meaning matches could be viewed via a streaming service.

In Premier League 1, the victors were once again Oldham, with Leeds Athletic and Hucclecote relegated. Replacing them from Premier League 2 were winners Grangetown and runners-up The Downs, while relegated to Premier League 3 were Team Bath Toucans and Sussex Thunder.

Going the other way from Premier League 3 were winners Eagles and runners-up Norfolk United, while the bottom three going into the play-offs were Trafford, Leyton and TFC Leicester. In the play-offs, the nine regional league winners alongside these three sides battled it out to determine which three teams would play in Premier League 3 next season. Final standings saw Trafford and Leyton retain their status and they will be joined by Blackpool as NW regional winners.

## Netball Performance League

In April, teams from across the country gathered in Nottingham to conclude the 2022-23 season of the Netball Performance League (NPL), which commenced in December 2022. The league, which is split into U17, U19 and U21, provides players with a high-intensity performance environment aiming to prepare them for top-level competition.

London Pulse were crowned champions of the U17 South Division, securing a 54-38 win over Severn Stars in their final match of the competition to end unbeaten and one place ahead of Team Bath. Manchester Thunder claimed the top spot in the North Division, finishing the season with a 100 percent win record.

In the U19s, London Pulse secured top spot, finishing their campaign unbeaten with Manchester Thunder finishing in second.

Finally, Manchester Thunder were crowned champions in the U21 category completing their campaign unbeaten, with Loughborough Lightning a close second.



# National Clubs Championship

The National Club Championships provide the pinnacle for junior club players and are a breeding ground for the future stars of netball. Clubs qualify through regional competitions and battle it out to be crowned champions in the U14 and U16 age groups.

After a weekend of top-class netball action, Bury were crowned champions at the U16 National Clubs Finals at the start of May. The team from Greater Manchester produced some polished, high-octane netball to see off their competitors and take the title, beating Eagles 33-16 in the final. The weekend saw 18 clubs compete in a total of 63 matches across two days, with all the clubs so relieved to be in competition again after the pandemic-induced hiatus.

Coach Katie Myers said: "The girls are absolutely buzzing, and they proved how amazing they are on a national level. They started a little shaky, but grew each performance as they shook off the nerves. I am incredibly proud of all of them."

The end of May 2022 saw the turn of the U14s, and it was Kingsway Power who were crowned champions after a thrilling 24-23 extra-time victory over Turnford in the final.

Kingsway Power coach Lauren Palmer said: "That win meant everything. As a club that only formed in September 2019, we only had a few months together before lockdown struck. We were always playing catch-up to some of the big clubs as we were so newly formed. The girls were a credit to themselves, their families, and the club."

The last of the club events concluded at the Copper Box Arena in June where three winners from each of the U15 and U17 age groups came together to see who would be crowned champions. The teams that reached the finals had come through regional events held between December 2021 and February 2022 and this was a chance for those teams who had missed out at U14 and U16 levels due to the pandemic to show what they could do. With the Copper Box also as the venue for the Vitality Netball Super League Grand Final, the six clubs had the added bonus of playing on the show court.

In the U15 section Teignbridge Titans (South winners), Kingsway Power (North West winners) and Turnford (Midlands) fought their round robin competition, and it was Kingsway Power who came out on top after winning both their games.

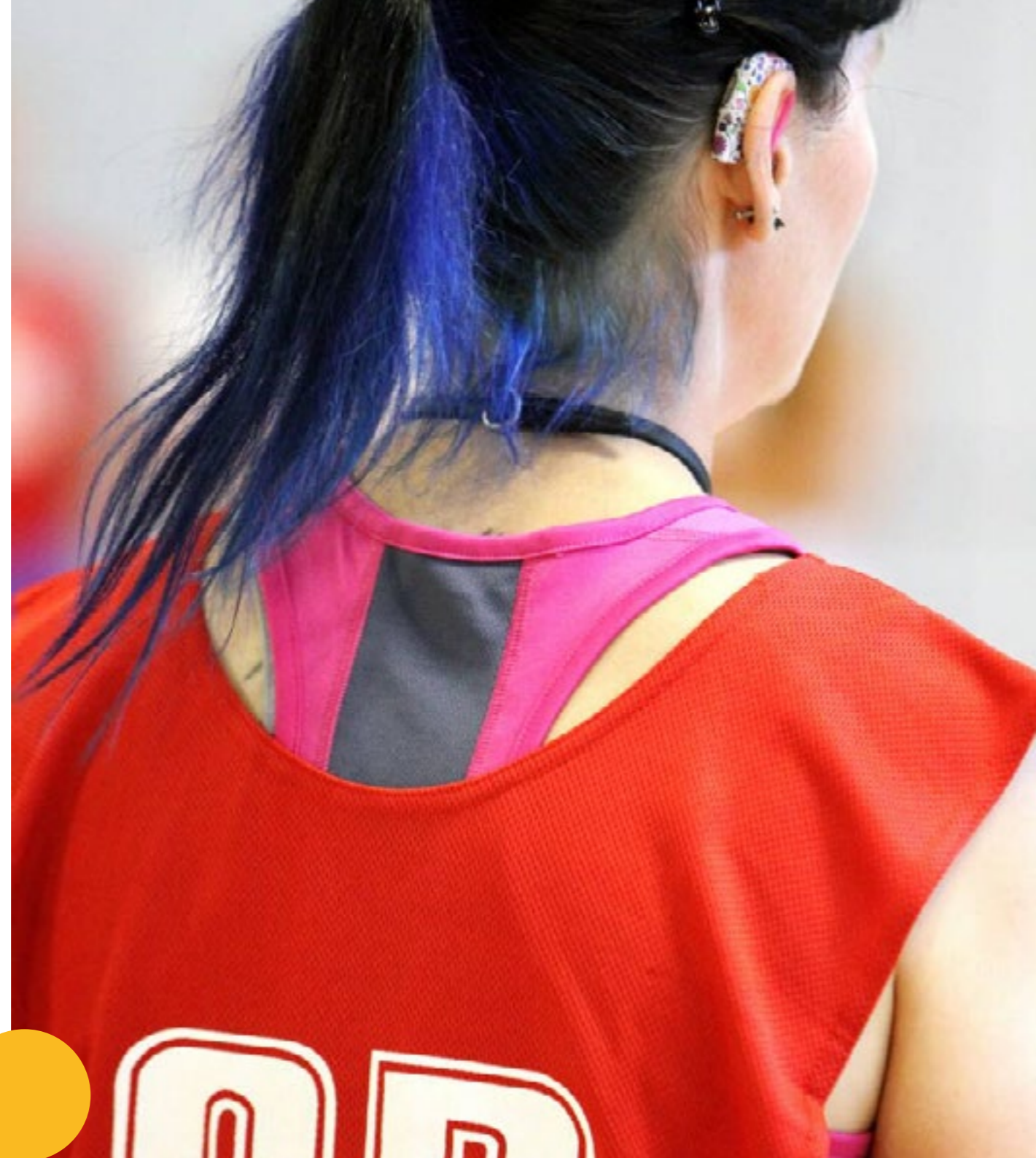
In the U17 section, it was a fight between Eagles (South winners), Oldham (North West winners) and Charnwood Rutland (Midlands), with Oldham powering to victory beating Eagles 22-19 and Charnwood Rutland 25-13.



## School Games

Following a successful National Finals in 2021, the sport returned for the 2022 National Finals with 11 teams competing to be crowned champions.

Taking place in early September at Loughborough University, the School Games is the UK's biggest multi-sport event for young athletes and it was Manchester Thunder who came away with the title, beating London Pulse 38-16 in the final, with Team Bath pipping Surrey Storm for third place.



## ParaNetball

The ParaNetball School Championships took place on 10 February with the ParaNetball Club Championships the day after. The Championships were open to all disabilities, whether sensory or physical and the number of teams entering are well on the way to returning to pre-pandemic levels.

During the pandemic, disabled people were one of the most impacted groups and slowest to return to playing sport. So England Netball is working really hard to return people to the sport. ParaNetball is the only team sport for women and girls that can be played to a national standard that is a running game, not a wheelchair game.

In the schools competition, gold went to Friars Academy, silver to Woodlands Academy and bronze to St Georges Academy, while the club competition was won by Net4All White, with Special Olympics St Albans in second and Manchester Thunder in third.



## National Schools Finals

Following qualification through county and regional rounds, the top 18 school teams across U14, U16 and U19 age groups went head-to-head at Oundle School for the National Schools Finals.

In the end, reigning champions Putney High beat Withington in the U14 age group, with Walthamstow School sealing bronze. In the U16s, Redmaids' High School beat Bromsgrove School and in the third-place play-off extra time was needed to separate North Chatterton and Hurstpierpoint, with the latter (the only school to have a team qualify for all three age groups) taking the win. Berkhamsted beat Hartpury College in the U19s with Millfield taking third place.

For the first time this year, a National Schools Cup was introduced, with the teams finishing third and fourth in their respective sections contesting semi-finals before a third-place play-off and final. The Cup winners for U14 were St Swithuns, with King's School Worcester and Hurstpierpoint coming second and third respectively. The U16 Cup was won by Torquay Girl's Grammar School with Cheadle Hulme School and The Marist taking the other podium places. Finally, the U19 Cup saw Wellington as the ultimate winners followed by Wrekin College in second and Hurstpierpoint third.

# Extraordinary Experiences

*“We will transform the way our sport is consumed, tailoring every touch point to provide an exceptional experience at every step of the journey.”*



## Membership

What an incredible year for membership! Over 111,000 players and game makers became part of a national Netball Family that spans the length and breadth of England and extends across every level of the game – from grassroots play to the height of international competition, including our very own national team, the Vitality Roses.

By being part of the membership in 2022-2023, players and game makers continued to protect the sport that they love, whilst honing their skills, and creating friendships that last a lifetime. In return, the sport committed to serving and protecting them; not only did members unlock a range of benefits that brought them closer to the sport, but they were covered by England Netball’s centrally arranged programme of insurance\* for personal accident, and in defence of personal injury allegations during their participation in registered netball activity.

**Looking back:** By 31 March, England Netball had 111,123 personal members for the 2022-2023 membership year, a 6% increase on the same time the year before.

Not only that, but as a result of our collective efforts to launch Bee Netball, and to encourage our registered netball groups to create exceptional first impressions of our game, the U11 membership grew exponentially in 2022-2023 by an incredible 2,681 members, resulting in a 15% growth for the category year on year.

**Looking ahead:** The England Netball AGM was held on 17 September 2022 at the Crowne Plaza, Solihull. The Board was pleased to welcome members and Honorary Life Members to the event where there were 54 votes in the room, either via representatives or proxies, making the meeting quorate.

A huge thank you to the membership for adopting changes to the Personal Membership Fees (subscriptions) for the 2023-2024 season as set out below.

This small increase will help England Netball, as a not-for-profit organisation, maintain service levels, resourcing, and provide best value, enabling us to take strides towards the Adventure Strategy, together.

\*Subject to the terms, conditions, provisions, and exceptions of the policy.

	March month-end   Year on Year				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	Variance	Growth	2023-2024 Fee
O18	47800	48981	1181	2%	£39.00
U18	14693	15330	637	4%	£18.00
U14	22275	23538	1263	6%	£10.00
U11	18410	21093	2683	15%	£7.00
Social	1722	2181	459	27%	£15.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104900</b>	<b>111123</b>	<b>6223</b>	<b>6%</b>	

## Insight

Our research and insight is helping to drive netball forwards, ensuring England Netball is providing the Netball Family with what they want and what they need, using the latest research and findings to ensure best practice is always being followed.

In 2022, England Netball ran the seventh iteration of the Big Netball Conversation, the Netball Family survey of attitudes and behaviours. It was the first time we had asked experience questions since 2019, but more excitingly it was the first time we asked questions in line with our new Adventure Strategy (on the Moral Compass, our purpose and ‘belonging’), thus the first chance to start evidencing the impact of our adventure.

We also conducted an England-wide public perceptions tracker to give us the full story of attitudes and behaviours for both the Netball and non-Netball Family.

Using both data sources, we have been considering the implications of the findings, which will be used to continue to shape our delivery over the coming years to help grow our audience and deliver extraordinary experiences.

## Our Purpose (figures from the Big Netball Conversation)

**Belong:** 93% of the Netball Family feel proud to be a netballer, while 87% feel accepted and 92% feel happier because of netball.

**Flourish:** 69% of the Netball Family feel they’ve developed on the court, 70% feel they’ve developed beyond the court, and 84% feel more confident because of netball.

**Soar:** Netball is most positively impacting the lives of young people. 80% of the Netball Family aged 16-24 feel netball inspires them to exceed personal expectations in life.



ACROSS THE SQUAD  
**20** 898  
CWG APPEARANCES CAPS

BIRMINGHAM  
2022

commonwealth  
games



## Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Following a season with their Super League, SSN or ANZ clubs, the 12 selected athletes undertook a pre-Games training camp in South Africa, featuring unofficial fixtures with Malawi and South Africa before returning to Nottingham for final preparations, ahead of embarking on the Team England Immersion camp in Loughborough.

The squad was captained by Natalie Metcalf, who was part of the gold medal-winning Commonwealth Games squad. A further five members of the history-making 2018 squad also returned while, for five squad members – Eleanor Cardwell, Laura Malcolm, Layla Guscoth, Sophie Drakeford-Lewis and Imogen Allison, who was called in after Beth Cobden was injured – Birmingham 2022 was their Commonwealth Games debut.

The Roses won all of their first four group fixtures (against Trinidad & Tobago, Malawi, Northern Ireland and Uganda) by considerable margins (52, 25, 44, 21) and beat New Zealand in the final group fixture by 10 goals, thus topping the group and reaching a semi-final against Australia, who had lost to Jamaica in the group stage.

England lost to eventual winners Australia in the semi-final by a margin of nine goals, and then to New Zealand in the bronze medal match by a margin of seven goals, finishing the tournament in fourth position.

MAKE  
**YOUR  
MARK**

## PLEDGES

**GEVA  
MENTOR**

“Empower, engage and enjoy”

**SOPHIE  
DRAKEFORD-LEWIS**

“Embrace every moment of the journey”



A #MakeYourMark campaign was launched, with the Roses getting involved. There were 11m impressions across #MakeYourMark and a 900% increase in visits to the Play Netball webpage.

The event was the biggest netball event on UK soil to date with 150,000 tickets sold. There was also a UK TV audience of some 4 million and 12,000 people, including the Duchess of Edinburgh, visited the Fan Park and took part in onsite activation activities.

A new fanwear range was launched, the first of its kind for England Netball, and featuring a graffiti-themed design, included hoodies and full print leggings, along with loose fit sweatshirts, soft touch cotton t-shirts and new accessories such as washbags, water bottles and a hijab. The range increased merchandise revenue by 270%.

Netball fans across the UK could watch all of Team England's matches at free screenings as England Netball teamed up with a series of venues to inspire and excite audiences.

South London's iconic Pop Brixton and popular pub chain, The Botanist in Birmingham, Nottingham, Alderley Edge and West Bridgford, worked together

to create a series of designated screening hubs, where fans could come together and watch the sold-out games.

At the end of the Games, Vitality Roses greats Eboni Usoro-Brown and Stacey Francis-Bayman announced their retirements.

Eboni said: “As a young girl it was my dream to play for England, and I proudly stand here today having amassed over 100 caps, having represented the Roses in seven major tournaments including being part of the team that created history by winning gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the honour of being inducted into England Netball's Hall of Fame. To be a Rose is an immense privilege that I have never taken for granted. Each time that I have appeared in the red dress, I have never wanted it to be my last.”

Stacey added: “I feel incredibly content to be able to say, on my own terms and at what feels like the right time, that I have decided to retire from playing netball. I am so thankful for the people that I have met and the experiences I have had that have made me into the passionate, courageous, and honest woman that I am.”



# A World Leading Game

*“We will set new standards for netball, showcasing inspiring performances by outstanding players in international tournaments and domestic leagues and events.”*

## Performance Full-time Roses programme

With the ambition of becoming the world’s best female sports team, 24 athletes were selected to join the full-time Roses programme, comprising 18 England-based athletes, five in Australia and one in New Zealand.

New athletes selected onto the programme were Liv Tchine, Zara Everitt, Ellie Rattu, Alice Harvey and Funmi Fadoju, who all made their full debuts later in the year against Uganda. This group were later joined on programme by Elle McDonald and the returning Chelsea Pitman.

Stacey Francis-Bayman and Eboni Usoro-Brown both retired, while George Fisher took a temporary break from the programme.

Head Coach Jess Thirlby said: “Not only did we see a number of our hugely experienced and familiar names retain their places in an increasingly competitive programme, but also new talent being acknowledged for their continued rise within their domestic competitions. To see athletes graduate from our Future Roses programme and be elevated into the Roses for the first time is testament that our systems are working well and we look forward to supporting those athletes.”

In November, the Vitality Roses moved back up to third in the world, swapping places with Jamaica, in the world rankings.



**Jess Thirlby:**  
*“Beyond the Roses, our depth is reflected in the exciting Futures group and it’s really positive that we have increased the number of athletes we can offer places to this year. Capturing the talent that are showing up as having real potential to become Roses in the future and helping to support, harness and accelerate that talent now bodes well for the years to come and in our quest for sustained and repeated success on an international stage.”*

## Future Roses & Roses Academy

The newly designed Future Roses Programme is an integral part of the Vitality Roses setup. It is designed to support, enable and create ‘Roses Ready’ athletes in the pathway to be elevated to the Roses full time programme and to increase the probability of sustained success on the world stage, with a view to readying talent for the 2026 Commonwealth Games and 2027 Netball World Cup.

16 athletes were selected for the programme, which features a combination of tailored training camps, competitive opportunities during the international window (including Fast 5, England ‘A’ fixtures against international opposition and Development team pre-Roses fixtures curtain raisers v England Thorns) and support for athletes in their Netball Super League team environments.

Kat Ratnapala (formerly Head Coach at Saracens Mavericks) was appointed as Future Roses Head Coach, along with a new Pathway Analyst, Physiotherapist and Strength & Conditioning Coach.

Meanwhile, young athletes between the ages of 16 and 19 attended monthly training camps at Loughborough and in February the England Under 17 team won the Europe Netball Under 17 tournament, while an England Under 18 team has entered the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games to take place in Trinidad & Tobago in August.

# Roses Development Framework

Additions were made to the Roses Development Framework, a resource available to Franchise and County Pathways which provides guidance on how to identify talent and the experiences and exposures that will assist in athletes' development as they look to become Roses.

A review of the Player Pathway led to a series of changes in what Franchises and Counties are expected to deliver, and six online continuous professional development (CPD) courses were provided to County and Franchise Pathway coaches.



## Uganda Series (5, 8 and 9 October)

Three matches were played against world 6th-ranked Uganda in October in Nottingham and London. Five debutants were selected (Funmi Fadoju, Zara Everitt, Liv Tchine, Ellie Rattu and Alice Harvey), along with three returning players (Chelsea Pitman, Fran Williams and Hannah Joseph).

The squad was co-captained by Imogen Allison and Laura Malcolm and the series won 3-0 with hard-fought victories 60-51, 53-45 and 64-51, a creditable return from a young and inexperienced team against a competitive Uganda team, with Fran Williams winning Player of the Series.

Nearly 10,000 fans were in attendance across the three events and there was a marked uplift in spectator experience with all events scoring extremely well, with an increase in fan activities off court and the presence of a DJ, resulting in fans rating all events as World Class.

*"The series gave us everything we hoped for - a fantastic challenge against a brilliant side. We knew that they're incredibly talented and so every game threw up different challenges. There was not one game where we were never comfortable, but I could not be prouder of what this group have achieved."*  
**Jess Thirlby,**  
**Validity Roses Head Coach**



## Australia Series (26 and 30 October, 3 November)

Immediately following the end of the Uganda series, the Roses flew to Australia for a three-match series against the world number 1 ranked team in Newcastle, Sydney and Brisbane.

The series was lost 3-0 (54-55, 48-56 and 53-57) – however the series outcome does not tell the full story, with all matches being competitive and the Roses pushed the Diamonds hard, with either team being possible winners right up until the final moments in the first and third games.

Over the course of the series the Roses lost just four of 12 quarters, winning five and drawing three. With outstanding performances from Funmi Fadoju, Fran Williams and Eleanor Cardwell in particular, this was an excellent series that gave great exposure to some younger athletes in front of sizeable crowds away from home (5,000, 15,000 and 9,000), and exposed the team to the best in the world.

Eleanor Cardwell celebrated a half-century of appearances in the series opener against the Australian Diamonds and Laura Malcolm followed her one game later, while the recently formed England men's side, the England Thorns, played their inaugural international fixture against the Australian men's side, just eight months after the squad's formation.

Although the Thorns went down to a 73-27 loss, the experience they gained will stand them in good stead as they can use the game as the foundation from which to build their international programme over the coming years.



## Fast 5 (11-12 November)

In November, a group of 10 athletes, with just two having previous international experience, travelled to New Zealand to participate in the World Netball Fast 5 event. The squad was led by the Future Roses Head Coach, Kat Ratnapala and the tournament was used to expose a group of younger athletes to international netball without any particular expectations on performance.

The team beat Uganda, New Zealand and Jamaica to finish third in the group stages, before losing to New Zealand in the play-off to be placed fourth overall. Of particular note were the performances of Zara Everitt as captain, Tash Pavelin, 18-year-old GK Jayda Pechova and Elle McDonald, who had only recently received her British passport.

## Jamaica Series (11, 14 and 15 January)

The Roses played a three-match series against fourth-ranked in the world, Jamaica, who had reached the final of the Commonwealth Games, both in Manchester and London. The Roses triumphed 2-1, defeating the Sunshine Girls 73-52 in match 1, losing 58-61 in match 2, and winning the deciding final match 63-59.

Impressive performances were given by Liv Tchine (who shot over 90% across the series), Imogen Allison, Layla Guscoth, Funmi Fadoju and Alice Harvey, whilst Elle McDonald made her full debut and Chelsea Pitman returned to the team.

The series was shown free-to-air across BBC TV, BBC iPlayer and online, with CEO Fran Connolly saying; "We were delighted to be working with the BBC again, elevating the visibility of our sport ahead of what will be an important year for us with the Netball World Cup taking place in the summer."

This was the first time the Vitality Roses had played in the North West of England since the 2019 Vitality Netball World Cup in Liverpool and was also the team's first international match in Manchester since November 2016 when they also played Jamaica.

To celebrate the series, all U16s could enjoy world-class netball for just £5 and full-time students could attend for £10. Some 16,000 fans attended across the three games, including 6,500 in Manchester on a Wednesday night. The series received an NPS score of +92, a World-Class rating and the highest ever for a netball event.

As curtain-raiser events, fans watched an England A team take on the Scottish Thistles in Manchester, before a Future Roses team took part in two games against the England Men's netball team, the England Thorns, at the Copper Box Arena in London.



## Quad Series (21-25 January)

The Roses next took part in the Quad series in Cape Town, competing against Australia (lost 55-61), New Zealand (lost 45-55) and South Africa (drew 46-46, won 49-42) to finish third. The series proved to be a valuable rehearsal for the Netball World Cup, from both a performance and an operational perspective.

During the series, Jade Clarke became only the second player in world netball to reach 200 caps after Irene van Dyk, who made 145 appearances for New Zealand and 72 for South Africa over her career.

Clarke, the most-capped player for a single country, has not only played consistently at the top level for almost 20 years but has been an incredible advocate for the sport for all ages. Since then, she has helped win three medals at the Netball World Cup and four at the Commonwealth Games, including that historic gold against Australia in 2018.



## U17 Europe Netball Championships (23-26 February)

In February, England U17 were crowned 2023 Europe Netball U17 Championship winners in Antrim. Leah Setsoafia's side won all four of their games to complete a clean sweep en route to the trophy once again as they did in 2022.

The young Roses beat United Arab Emirates 81-22, Scotland 97-23, Wales 71-32 and Northern Ireland 95-15.

All 12 athletes got out on court, meaning five of the young Roses - Hannah Gibson, Neve Marsden, Isabella Phillips, Katie Rayner and Eleanor Sadler - won their first junior caps.






# NETBALL SUPER LEAGUE

After the 2022 Netball Super League finished, it was confirmed that Wasps Netball would not be in a position to compete in the NSL moving forwards as Wasps Holdings Limited entered administration and ceased trading in October.

It was also confirmed that all player pathway activity would be maintained through an England Netball-operated Central Player Pathway Programme, including the U15, U17, U19 and U21 squads, allowing selected teams to compete in the Netball Performance League (NPL) competition. The programme was run by former Wasps Pathway Lead, Lesley Blair ensuring we were able to keep our commitment of retaining a network of pathway programmes offering high quality support and experiences to talented girls across the country. Former Wasps players were supported by rules changes to allow them to relocate to other franchises wherever possible.

In terms of coach education, the Super League Head Coach programme was delivered, featuring a series of in-person workshops. Multiple workshops were held for Pathway coaches and plans put in place to deliver bespoke learning programmes for Talent and Performance Coaches.

There were significant player movements in the closed season, with Laura Malcolm joining Tactix Netball and Eleanor Cardwell signing for Adelaide Thunderbirds for the 2023 season. And the signing window in October saw several high-profile moves within the Super League – former Team Bath teammates Layla Guscoth and Sophie-Drakeford Lewis signed for Mikki Austin's Surrey Storm and most-capped Vitality Rose Jade Clarke made the move from Leeds Rhinos to London Pulse, who also welcomed Chelsea Pitman. From the Future Roses squad, former Loughborough Lightning defender Ella Bowen signed for Manchester Thunder and Rhea Dixon moved further south from Leeds Rhinos to Loughborough Lightning.



## Netball Super League 2023

The Netball Super League returned in February with fans able to watch the action on Sky Sports and YouTube. At the sold-out Season Opener at the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham, Sky Sports aired all five games featuring the ten teams live on Sky Sports and Sky Sports YouTube, giving fans their first opportunity to see all the teams' new line-ups as they took to court.

A new #GetSomeNet campaign was launched, encouraging fans to get fully involved in the Super League throughout the season. The 2022 season reported the highest average attendances on record and the league was looking to further build on this success by attracting new audiences for the 2023 season and delivering matches in some of the nations biggest indoor arenas.

New for the 2023 season was live Friday Night Netball, a dedicated broadcast slot every week from 7-9pm. A brand new 15-minute hype show on social media with exclusive access to players and behind-the-scenes footage led into Sky Sports' traditional build-up and comprehensive analysis.

Two games were streamed each week on the Sky Sports YouTube channel, while highlights of every game were also available on the NSL YouTube channel.

There was also a new and vibrant look for the season, with a combination of colours to promote the sides that represent the league coupled with a design that demonstrates different aspects of the game and reinforces the huge energy of the sport. From the flow of game play, to changes of direction and movement, and finally to the adrenaline that comes from playing the game itself.

The season opened with reigning champions Manchester Thunder getting their title defence off to an emphatic start against Celtic Dragons, while eventual Grand Final winners Loughborough Lightning also triumphed, over a new-look Team Bath.

Lightning, Thunder and Pulse jostled for top position throughout the campaign with little to separate them come the close of the regular season. It was Pulse, building on their strong showing of the season before and benefiting from the experience of Chelsea Pitman and Jade Clarke joining the London side's plethora of bright young talent, who set the pace, but the final standings saw Lightning close level on points with Pulse, with both tied on 51 points, with Pulse confirmed as top due to their superior goal difference.



Thunder took third on 48 points and Surrey Storm fourth on 39, the latter a full 15 points clear of fifth place Mavericks. Severn Stars, under new coach Jo Trip, had their best ever season, winning seven games. At the other end of the table, Dragons took the wooden spoon, losing 15 of their 18 matches to finish on seven points, five behind ninth-placed Team Bath.

Rounds 8 and 9 were played under the theme "Show Your International Colours", celebrating the league's international diversity. Players from more than 12 nations compete in the NSL and during these rounds venues were adorned with various international flags and compiled playlists of songs from the players' various countries.

Meanwhile, rounds 14 and 15 of the campaign were special Pride-themed events with the NSL coming together to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. This involved teaming up with the charity Stonewall to support the Rainbow Laces campaign and match venues being decorated accordingly along with various fundraising events taking place.



Lightning's Mary Cholhok finished as the regular season's top scorer, netting a staggering 808 goals and topping the scoring charts for the third time in her career. Cholhok's six-year-old son joined her in the UK from Uganda earlier in the season, his arrival spurring her on to put in stellar performances on the court week after week. "I've been wanting this for years; it's been tough mentally not having him here but now I have a lot of joy and I can now focus on my career knowing that I'm complete and I have everything I need," Cholhok said.

The Grand Final sold out after just three weeks of going on sale, with 5,000 tickets sold, and the weekend served up matches of the highest quality as the Final Four took to the court.

In the first semi-final, London Pulse produced a brilliant display, toppling two-time champions Surrey Storm 55-42 to book the first spot in the Grand Final. The second semi-final saw Loughborough Lightning edge out Manchester Thunder by 65 goals to 59 to reach a third successive Grand Final.

In the third place playoff, Thunder comfortably took bronze, beating Storm 55-38, with Natalie Metcalf and Lenize Potgieter leading the way as Karen Greig's side ended the season on a high.

The Grand Final was a dazzling affair, Lightning ultimately coming out as victors 57 goals to 48. Pulse opened up six-goal leads in both of the first two quarters, but Lightning pulled things back to go into the halftime break just two behind.

With Pulse chasing a first-ever title, Victoria Burgess' Lightning side used all of their experience to hold them off and take a second Super League crown.

Fran Williams was named Gilbert Player of the Match after notching up 10 turnovers, six deflections and four interceptions. Lightning captain Natalie Panagarry then lifted the Netball Super League trophy for a second time to top an incredible season for the centre.

**"It's just amazing. I've been dreaming about this to be honest. Everything felt like it was going our way from the second quarter, and I truly believed that we could do it. My love of the game came back this year. This year made me realise that netball has been my release, something I have needed to help my health, my fitness, and mentally with everything that has been going on with me and my wife."**

- Natalie Panagarry

Panagarry's wife Katie was diagnosed with cancer, the Lightning captain responding by delivering the season of her life on court.

"Netball is an escape for me that I absolutely love. I completely took the pressure off myself this year and leaned into the girls. I needed their help, loads of the players stepped up and I felt like I didn't need to do anything other than just be me and play. I could just focus on that and they took over. I felt so relaxed within netball this year and loved being around the girls and the team.

"Being in this final for me was enough, I was so happy to get here, but to actually picking up that trophy was everything I have dreamed of this year."







# A Visible Presence

*“We will elevate our sport to a new place of prominence achieving landmark visibility, drawing new audiences to the game, whilst evolving our identity and taking the sport to new uncharted territory.”*

## Campaigns & Storytelling

England Netball ran a host of campaigns over the course of the year, from #MakeYourMark at the Commonwealth Games, to the relaunch of Bee Netball, the rebrand of Walking Netball, the introduction of the ground-breaking NETBALLHer, and #GetSomeNet to encourage people to get involved with the Netball Super League.

The constant drive to put netball into the public eye is proving successful, with the latest Active Lives Survey showing that netball is back to being the most popular team sport for women - 269, 200 women took to the court between November 2021 and 2022 fortnightly, compared with 244,900 female footballers (which means 10% more women are playing netball).

Netball is now the third most popular team sport for men and women in England based on fortnightly participation, behind football and cricket, and just ahead of basketball and rugby union.



## Fran and Pam step up

35 elite female athletes, including Vitality Rose Fran Williams and former England captain Pamela Cookey, came together to drive positive change within sport, as part of a unique programme created by women's sport charity, the Women's Sport Trust.

Williams and Cookey join a community of 76 athletes who have been part of Unlocked since its inception in 2020. Now in its third year, the programme continues to bring sportswomen together to tackle the issues they're passionate about from addressing visibility and driving more commercial value to increasing diversity and focusing on women's health issues.



## Nat's story

Vitality Rose Natalie Panagarry talked about her wife Katie's cancer diagnosis and the journey the pair have been on. In the 50-minute interview on Sportspiel, Nat speaks candidly about life as they knew it being turned upside down, moments of anger and having to tackle hurdles no one in their 30s expects to face.

But she also shares the recent moments of hope and happiness - from the pair tying the knot back in November to being positively overwhelmed by the countless messages of support they have received from the Netball Family.

Netball has been and continues to be an outlet for Nat although she admits her approach to the 2023 Netball Super League season was different. Her joy at winning the Netball Super League final with Loughborough Lightning was an amazing moment for all netball fans.



## Jade Clarke awarded MBE

Vitality Rose most-capped player Jade Clarke was awarded an MBE after being named in the New Year Honours list for 2023.

The London Pulse and Vitality Rose midcourter, who made her debut for the England in 2003, was recognised for her services to netball.

Jade began her netball journey when she was nine at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School in Partington, Manchester where she grew up. She played at Trafford Netball Club, followed by Oldham before then joining Loughborough Lightning, taking part in the inaugural season of the Netball Super League.



## Jayda Pechová shortlisted

Future Rose Jayda Pechová was named amongst the top 10 athletes shortlisted for the SportsAid One-to-Watch Award 2022.

The annual award, launched by the charity in 2006, shines a spotlight on the achievements of Britain's brightest young sporting prospects.

The Team Bath defender was nominated from a raft of 1,000 young athletes supported by the charity across 60 different sports. The success of the One-to-Watch Award's 'Hall of Fame' speaks for itself with previous winners including Tom Daley OBE, Hollie Arnold MBE, Courtney Tulloch and Alex Yee MBE - who have amassed over 50 senior medals from Olympic and Paralympic Games, World and European Championships, as well as the Commonwealth Games.

Jayda has already enjoyed success at youth level on the international stage. In 2021, she was part of the team who took gold at the Europe Netball U21s championship and captained the U19s side this year to another gold medal. Domestically, she has been a part of successful London Pulse squads, including Winners of the National Performance Grand Final 2022 (Under-21s) and runners-up in the National Performance League (Under-21s). She signed for Team Bath before the 2023 Netball Super League season.

## Ziana sweeps the board

Ziana Butt, an England Netball Young Volunteer and Youth Sport Trust Forum representative committed to making the sport more inclusive, received a British Empire Medal in the Kings New Year's Honours for services to netball and diversity. She also was named Young Volunteer of the Year at the ONE Awards and recognised as part of the 2023 Community Sport and Recreation awards.

To add to her list of achievements, Ziana won the 2023 London Sport Award for Volunteer of the Year. She hopes winning this accolade will further help her on-going efforts to show people sport is for everyone. She says: "I felt incredibly honoured to even be in the final. There are so many amazing people out there who do so much incredible volunteering. The award isn't just for me - it is an opportunity to continue making sport more accessible, continue making it a more inclusive environment, and continue encouraging more South Asian youngsters to take up sport."

Co-author of the book Aisha's Netball, Ziana is breaking the stereotypes, encouraging conversation about diversity, inclusion and sport, and making all Asian youngsters feel more accepted.



## Beyond the Court Recognised

Beyond The Court is a partnership between the Metropolitan Police Service and England Netball aiming to build trust and open up conversations about youth violence with young women and girls. The project offers a series of netball and police activity days to develop practical netball skills, build confidence and create genuine connections between participants and the police.

This initiative was designed to combat the lack of sports engagement initiatives for young women and is a crucial programme looking to become an integral part of the Met's fight against violent crime in the capital. Through Beyond the Court, the Met will be able to grow the conversations around youth violence in South London with the people most affected, build closer relationships with young women in the capital, and give the police a greater understanding of what they can be doing to support young Londoners. It is hoped that it will be the first of many initiatives bidding to help young women all over the city and beyond, and if the successes of the launch are any indication, the future looks bright for the programme.

Beyond the Court continues to be supported by athletes from Netball Super League franchise London Pulse. Since its initial year, the project has been expanded into a longer term programme promoting the fundamental values of netball both on and beyond the court - empowering participants to engage in a positive outlet, enhancing their physical and mental wellbeing, and breaking down barriers between young women and the police.



## Courtside podcast

England Netball launched its first official podcast in June, bringing fans closer to players, the national team and the game ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

'Courtside', was hosted by TV and radio presenter Lindsey Chapman with Jess Thirlby, Vitality Roses Head Coach, the first guest, with the podcast recorded 'courtside' at Jess's old secondary school where her love for netball began. She talked about her journey in the sport, and her progression from player to coach. Other episodes featured Jo Harten, Natalie Metcalf, Layla Guscoth, Geva Mentor, a Commonwealth Games Special and many other Vitality Roses.



# A Resonant Voice

*“We will amplify our voice to influence, inform and ignite positive change.”*

Netball has been unapologetically “hers” since its inception more than a hundred years ago, a mark of distinction unparalleled in any other sport. We were the first sport to put women and girls at the heart of what we do. For the best part of a century, the Netball Family has worked alongside England Netball to create opportunities for women and girls to get on court and experience the thrill of the game for themselves, resulting in over 196,700 women and girls flourishing in the game in a typical week, and countless stories that collectively point to one thing: netball has the power to change lives. Whether that is in a club, in a league or through Bee Netball, Back to Netball, Blended Netball or Walking Netball. There are stories you can all share of where netball has changed lives.

We know the bonds of belonging that netball forms enrich the lives of players ages 5 and 95, and every age in between. However, we cannot ignore that there are a number of vulnerable life stages that impact female lives both on and beyond the court. These are times when women and girls are more likely to worry about showing up authentically, and stop playing, just when they need support and community the most. The facts and figures on the next pages are a stark illustration of that.

Collectively, we can change this and in doing so, enrich more lives through netball. Whether we play, coach, officiate or are a cheerleader in a female’s life, together, we can educate ourselves, challenge the system that holds us back, and support women and girls to show up to the game without apology – and, ultimately, soar.

Back in 2019, as part of the Adventure Strategy consultation process, we gathered the Netball Family’s views on the future direction and priorities for the sport. 30,000 of you passionately felt that we needed to act beyond the court. To be a strong voice for women and girls, supporting them at every life stage whilst speaking clearly and responsibly on the topics that matter to them most.

And that is why we worked with female health experts, The Well HQ, on all aspects the female body and key life stages.



# NETBALLHer

In April 2022 England Netball launched a 10-week virtual learning pilot with The Well HQ and 52 members of the netball family to help determine our approach to educating the netball family and beyond on female bodies and female health across all life stages.

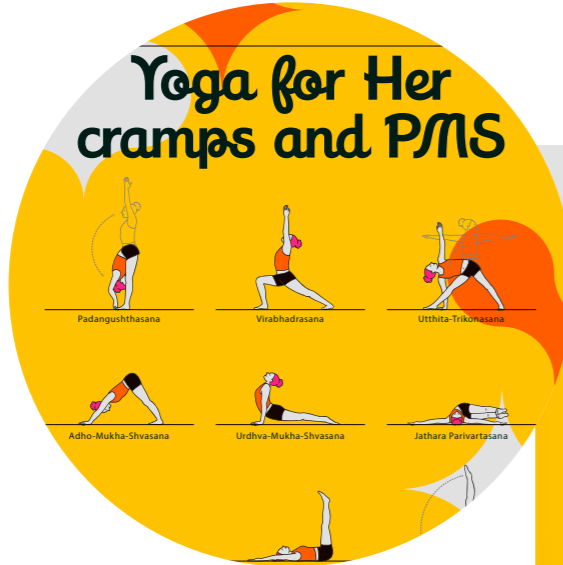
Then, using the insight from the pilot, in February 2023 NETBALLHer was officially launched to the Netball Family alongside our dedicated NETBALLHer website - [www.netballher.co.uk](http://www.netballher.co.uk) - where anyone can access the expert resources for free. The programme is aimed at addressing female health across all life stages, providing credible, evidence-based information for the membership and beyond on all the areas that happen exclusively and differently to girls and women. This is a place for real stories, to listen, and to learn from leading experts to understand female bodies.

Topics include Pelvic Health, Menopause, Menstrual Cycle and Bras & Kit with more topics such as Injury, Nutrition, Pre & Post Natal and Puberty on the horizon.

A month later, in March, we launched NETBALLHer to the general public live on The One Show, to an audience of over 2 million, as well as via a launch video across our social channels where our tweet saw over 180K impressions. There was also coverage across a number of other media outlets including BBC national and local, Sky & The Independent as well as appearing on a number of podcasts.

Alongside the website we launched a member exclusive NETBALLHer community on Facebook, and an Instagram live series to bring the content to life, with 454 viewers joining our first Instagram Live. In the first month over 10,000 new users accessed the website.

Since the launch of our industry-leading education programme, social media has been filled with positive reactions to the initiative, discussions on key topics



As we featured in the spring issue of 5TH QTR, England Netball launched NETBALLHer in March, a programme designed to better educate women at girls at all levels of sport about their bodies across the different life stages

NETBALLHer will see England Netball uphold their focus on women and girls, becoming the first sport where all women and girls are able to show up authentically, without apology. The hope is to empower women and girls across the different life stages and acknowledge the stark health differences that exist between females related to ethnicity and geographic location. The Well HQ's Dr. Emma Ross joined 4's Women's Hour to talk about the programme and delivered into conversation with...

**NETBALLHer**

## Court Short Kit

**1. Ingredients**

- Tampons and pads of differing absorbencies
- Small box or bag
- Fab Little Bags\* / disposal bags
- Communication: posters/ messages - tell people about it

**2. Method**

Purchase supplies (roughly £5)

Decorate the box (optional) or use a washbag or ziplock bag, fill it with period products and place it in toilets / kitbags / relevant places

Communicate they're there - make sure everyone knows these products are in place whenever required with no permission necessary

Check periodically to refill and ask teammates / coaches to help keep it stocked up

Once you know its running costs (how often it needs to be refilled), engage club colleagues and ask if they'll share the expense

\*fablittlebag.com

NETBALLHer from England Netball | [netballher.thewell-hq.com](http://netballher.thewell-hq.com)

### What does NETBALLHer cover?

The dedicated [www.netballher.co.uk](http://www.netballher.co.uk) site has expert resources for topics which so far include:

- Pelvic health
- Menopause
- The menstrual cycle
- Bras and kit

There will be more to come on pre- and post-natal, injury and puberty, as well as a series of detailed CPD courses launched this summer on puberty, young women, pre- and post-natal, and menopause (see page 46 for more). You can listen to the NETBALLHer episode of Courtside - the England Netball official podcast - at [pod.fy6/180128](https://pod.fy6/180128)

**Tammy Parlour**  
CEO of Womens Sport

"Great to see England Netball looking at what women and girls need off the court as well as the great job they do on the court. It's so important that women and girls in all sports can turn up as their authentic selves. These topics need to be discussed and a sporting system created which is fit for purpose."

**Eleanor Cardwell**  
Vitality Rose

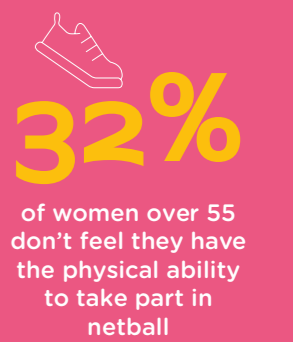
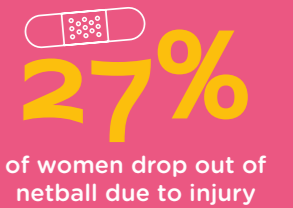
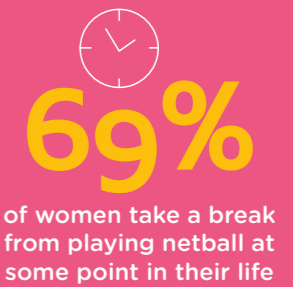
"Growing up I got larger breasts than everyone else and I wasn't given any information about what kind of sports bra I should wear and it made taking part in PE quite uncomfortable. I hope through this movement we, as a sport, can have more open conversations about topics like this and girls can play sport without being concerned about areas of their body or their health."

(particularly every Thursday during our NETBALLHer-dedicated social series, NETBALLHersday) and members of the Netball Family openly sharing their experiences, such as Roses Academy athlete Daisy Lees.

The NETBALLHer movement will enable everyone in netball and beyond to better understand, nurture and support women and girls at every life stage, at every age. Together we are on a journey to unlocking the potential of netball, by unlocking the potential of "her".

England Netball's Executive Lead for NETBALLHer, Kelly Gordon said: "It is England Netball's responsibility to give the Netball Family the knowledge, the confidence, and the platform to leverage real change. NETBALLHer will do this through expert resources, learning offers and a lobbying voice. The website will provide countless resources as well as highlighting women's stories."

## Did you know?



# Marking Important Events

## Ramadan

Ramadan is a special month in the Islamic calendar where Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, devote themselves to their faith and draw closer to Allah, or God through prayer.

For Sumayyah, the captain of Revolution Netball Club, activities on a netball court paused but it hasn't stopped the group from staying connected. She said: "Even though we're not running any sessions, our group chat is very active. I think generally, a lot of people tend to put sport on the back burner. Those two to three hours they would typically dedicate to playing sport or playing netball, are often put towards Ramadan."

Revolution, formerly known as ISOC Netball (Islamic Society Netball), is a community club that plays in Somers Town, London and is made up of Muslim and ethnic minority women who are passionate about sports and fitness. At the end of Ramadan, the club came together by hosting a group Iftar - the meal where the fast is broken.



## Pride

England Netball is dedicated to difference, committed to being an active ally and encouraging everyone within the Netball Family to do the same. During Pride Month in June, we celebrated members of the LGBT+ community and Active Allies within the Netball Family as part of our Dedicated to Difference pledge.

England Netball also took part in the Pride in London parade in July, bringing together individuals from across the netball community.

For Solihull-based sixth form student Charlotte and her mum Clare, netball is their absolute passion. Charlotte feels the representation the parade offers is incredibly important, as well as placing emphasis on netball being a safe and welcoming space.

"For me, representation is just everything," she said. "With netball, you see players at international level

who are openly LGBT+, it makes my heart happy!"

"When I saw England Netball were doing the Pride parade, my heart just danced!"

Meanwhile, Essex-based teacher Sophie Revett returned to netball after taking a break since playing at school. She is passionate about diversity and inclusion, and as a result has established a nurture group called Proud, as a safe space for her students to discuss and celebrate all things LGBT+ inclusion and diversity as well as setting up the school's first Pride week.

She said: "I've always had the idea that it [netball] can be a little bit cliquy, but I have not seen that side of it. Everyone has been so lovely, welcoming, accommodating and really inclusive. It has really drawn me in and is something that I am going to play and get involved in for the foreseeable future."



## National Inclusion Week

Across the regional ONE Awards celebrations over summer, eight individuals or organisations received Inclusion Awards to celebrate the work they've done and continue to do. This could be through the introduction of initiatives removing barriers to participation for individuals or communities who may not have previously accessed netball opportunities, or engaging with not-for-profit and other cause related organisations. They may also have provided opportunities and / or sought to address diversity in the administration and governance of our sport e.g. through Youth Advisory and Board diversity.

England Netball featured and celebrated each of the regional winners during National Inclusion Week

- **Lyndsey Barrett (East)** - setting up her own organisation to help tackle equalities with a focus on disability, long term illness and dementia
- **London Pulse Netball Club (London and South East)** - committing to diversifying netball's fanbase and increasing its accessibility by partnering with the charity Metro Blind Sport
- **Claire Iles (North East)** - supporting her netball club as Inclusion Secretary, setting up Walking Netball and provisions to support those in low socio economic environments
- **Uma Ramanathan (North West)** - introducing the first affiliated netball club in a community where ethnic diversity and poverty co-exist
- **Trevor George (South)** - introducing and delivering Walking Netball to the Isle of Wight to support women of all ages, disabilities and challenging life experiences
- **Kathryn Pearn (South West)** - introducing Walking Netball and Back to Netball for a wide range of ages, as well as raising money to ensure affordability of the sessions
- **Sports Key (West Midlands)** - focusing on the inclusion of ethnically diverse women within their communities and bridging the gap between age ranges
- **Nadera Amini (Yorkshire)** - supporting isolated groups, specifically girls and women from minority groups and single mothers, with physical activity sessions, mental health and language barriers

# Championing Causes



## Clean Sport

England Netball reaffirmed our commitment to clean sport by backing UK Anti-Doping's (UKAD's) Clean Sport Week campaign. Clean Sport Week is UKAD's national awareness week, which ran in May and championed clean sport, education and anti-doping initiatives with sports across the UK.

The theme for the campaign was "what you see is 100% me" as we all want to see 100% hard work, determination and respect for the rules from athletes competing on the world stage. So, alongside UKAD, we made it our mission to ensure all our athletes were ready for the Commonwealth Games and could say with confidence "what you see is 100% me" when turning up to compete.

In the build up to Birmingham 2022 and Clean Sport Week, we worked with UKAD to complete the Assurance Framework, which National Governing Bodies must do to show they are meeting their anti-doping responsibilities.



## Look Good Feel Better

Cancer support charity Look Good Feel Better joined forces with England Netball in September to host a sports tournament with a difference.

The event, in its fourth year, was hosted at Warwick University and 30 teams from across the UK benefited from professional coaching and umpiring from England Netball as well as the opportunity to meet and learn tips and tricks from elite athletes from the netball world - providing a fun, friendly and supportive environment for all abilities.

The tournament has raised over £121,000 since its inception in 2017, which has enabled the charity to provide its support for over 2,500 people living with cancer.

All monies raised help Look Good Feel Better continue to provide wellbeing workshops and advice for women, men and young adults undergoing cancer treatment. The workshops are led by trained volunteers in the health and beauty industry who help to put a smile back on the faces of people living with cancer.



**"As well as raising vital funds for people living with cancer, we want to ensure all participating players and spectators have the best experience and that is a day to remember."**

Ian Daniels, Director of Fundraising at Look Good Feel Better



## Joining forces with Gilbert and Jaffa

In support of the UK's leading dementia research charity, Alzheimer's Research UK, England Netball partners Gilbert and Jaffa launched a limited-edition netball to help raise funds for life changing dementia research.

The netball aims to help confront misconceptions surrounding dementia, by highlighting that the condition is caused by physical diseases, most commonly Alzheimer's.

A brain with dementia can weigh around 140g less than a healthy brain, which is about the weight of an orange. Like other physical diseases, research will find a way to treat the diseases which cause dementia and keep people connected to their families, their worlds and themselves for longer.



Lucy Squance, Director at Alzheimer's Research UK said: **"We hope this limited-edition netball will inspire people to learn more about dementia, while helping to fund the ground-breaking research that will transform the lives of everyone affected by the condition."**

# A Thriving Collective

*“We will unite our people and partners behind our purpose, nurturing and unlocking potential and achieving common goals.”*



## Partnerships

### England Men's and Mixed Netball Association



England Netball supported the England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to grow their footprint by offering insight and advice to create a growth plan that enables more males to play, whilst also complementing the female form of the game.

EMMNA is the main delivery and support arm for the mixed and male club network, with England Netball supporting in key areas, particularly events and further developing the workforce.

Mixed and men's netball has seen an incredible growth in recent years. With more clubs and leagues popping up all over the country. There are now more than 30 recognised clubs around the country and EMMNA continue to provide opportunities for teams to compete all the way through to elite level through organised leagues and tournaments. The pinnacle is the annual men's and mixed netball nationals and the England Thorns toured Australia in October 2022 to play their first international match before heading over to New Zealand to compete in the Fast 5 World Series against both southern hemisphere nations.

**“Last year saw great opportunities to showcase men's and mixed netball with games played at the Netball Super League Season Opener and as curtain-raisers during the season and before the Jamaica international at the Copper Box. The more opportunities that exist to showcase the sport, the more people we'll attract, not just players, but spectators and volunteers.”**  
Ryan Allan, President of EMMNA

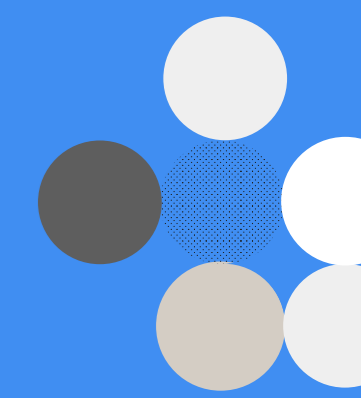
EMMNA selected their first ever men's teams in March 2022. Congratulations to the Thorns and Trailblazers.

#### THORNS

Ryan Allan  
Eskay Bee  
James Firminger  
Louis Gabriel  
Charlie Gray  
Louis Keeling  
Richard Laney  
Ky Lewis  
Geoff Mackay  
James McClland  
Jamal Nicholson  
James O'Connor  
Luke Owen  
Daniel Rix  
Edward Smith  
Klem Speck  
David Sunaki  
James Thompson-Boston  
Rowan Weaver  
Damian Williams  
Tommy Wiseman

#### TRAILBLAZERS

Jared Bleakley  
Kieren Thawbert  
James Firminger  
Jack Gill  
Thomas Greenfield  
Bobby Jagger  
Ky Lewis  
Manish Manoj  
Daniel Moaddabi  
Luke Owen  
Oscar Salter  
Joseph White  
Solomon Wright







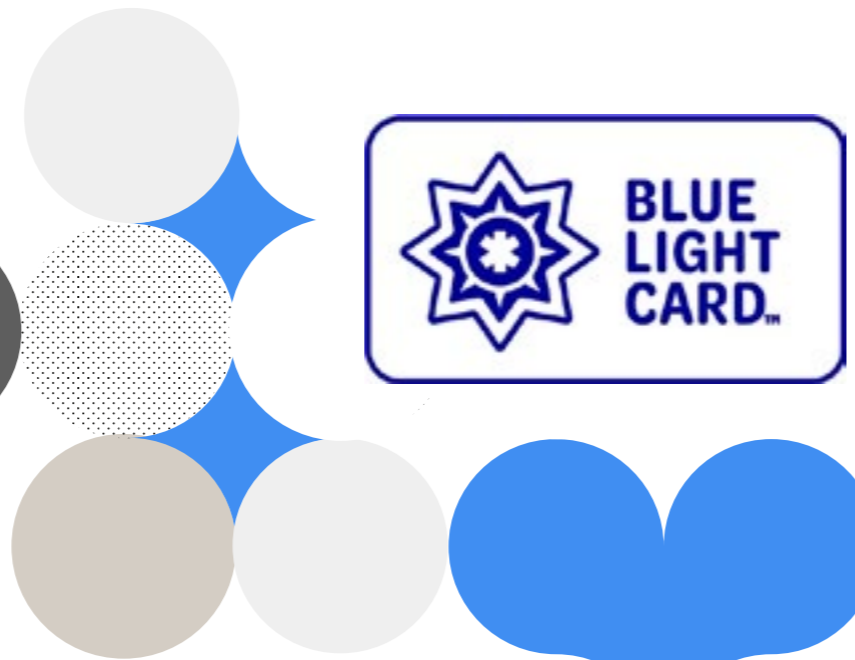
## Sustainability Partner



England Netball has joined forces with South East-based community creator Thakeham Group as its first-ever sustainability partner.

The link up between Thakeham and England Netball will see a series of new campaigns and initiatives to inspire the organisation, players and all involved in the sport to become more environmentally aware and uphold the consciously sustainable element of our moral compass.

Both organisations already share the same environmental aspiration and a mutual commitment to playing their part in creating healthy sustainable communities with Thakeham pledging each home they build to be carbon neutral in production and England Netball is currently in the process of having its carbon footprint assessed by Planet Mark, who are a sustainability certification and net zero provider.



## Blue Light cards

England Netball is working with Blue Light Card to provide NHS and emergency workers with exclusive opportunities to watch live netball.

Blue Light Card is the UK's number one discount service for the NHS, emergency services, social care sector and the armed forces, providing over 2.8 million people with access to free tickets and discounts across a range of areas as a way of saying thank you for helping people every day.

To help key workers unwind from their day-to-day work, England Netball donated a number of tickets for each of our events, starting with the series against Jamaica in January.

## Sponsors

As well as extending our partnership with floor specialists Dynamik and renewing with Gilbert until 2026 for Bee Netball, England Netball announced a four-year partnership with Seat Unique, a trusted premium ticketing marketplace.

Offering exceptional hospitality packages and VIP tickets for some of the biggest teams and events in world sport, including NFL London and the Women's FA Cup Final, Seat Unique becomes the latest sporting partner to join England Netball on its Adventure Strategy.

Seat Unique provided exclusive courtside access to showcase events throughout 2022 and beyond including the VNSL Grand Final.

England Netball also named OTE Sports as its nutrition supplier for the Vitality Roses.

Providing a range of naturally flavoured nutrition offerings including energy gels and protein bars, OTE supply the Vitality Roses squad with products throughout the international season and their training camps.

In addition, OTE are also providing exclusive member benefits for England Netball registered clubs and leagues.

### SEAT UNIQUE

The Premium Ticketing Marketplace

**"We are so pleased to be working with England Netball, providing greater accessibility to their growing fanbase who are looking to enjoy premium sporting experiences.**

**Making unique hospitality experiences available to buy 24/7 is a key demand in our industry today, and we look forward to fans using our platform to take advantage of England Netball's incredible hospitality offering."**  
CEO of Seat Unique, Robin Sherry



**"We are delighted to have renewed our long term, successful partnership with England Netball in the run-up to Netball World Cup 2023 in Cape Town. We are particularly excited by the new opportunities it creates for us to work together to further develop the sport in England, including the Bee Netball programme and in promoting our new Gilbert netball footwear line."**  
Richard Gray, CEO at Commercial Gilbert Netball



**"We truly believe we have the perfect products to support the demands of the sport at whatever the level. We believe sports nutrition doesn't have to be elitist, and that we have a duty to educate people about how best to use our products; and so, we'll be working closely with England Netball to provide this support to their members."**  
Annie Simpson, Head of Marketing at OTE

# Volunteers

Volunteers' Week in June is a time to come together and give an extra special thank you to an estimated 34,000 volunteers for their invaluable contributions enriching lives through netball.

From coaching and officiating to leading counties and regions, supporting events or facilitating netball sessions, plus much more, all make significant and invaluable contributions to lead a movement on and beyond the court.

England Netball simply would not exist without volunteers with most of the 2,500+ clubs, several hundred leagues, 53 counties and nine regions organised by netball volunteers, who give a huge amount of time and energy freely to our sport.



The national ONE Awards ceremony took place at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, recognising the incredible contributions made by individuals and organisations leading the movement on and beyond the court in local communities up and down the country.

There were 20 award recipients throughout the night, from those who have dedicated 25 years or more to netball to those who have made their mark on our sport in its biggest year yet.

England Netball President Joan Mills kicked off the proceedings by presenting the award for those young volunteers who have completed 400 hours as part of the Pass on Your Passion programme within the last two years and the star-studded evening boasted a number of special guests from within netball and the wider sporting landscape, such as England stalwarts and recent retirees Stacey Francis-Bayman and Eboni Usoro-Brown.

**Pass on Your Passion:** Anja Miller (NW), Becky Etchells (SW) and Sian Kelly (SW)

**Young Netball Volunteer:** Ziana Butt (LSE) and Amy Tomlin (SW)

**Teacher of the Year Award:** Samantha Evans (WM)

**Coach of the Year (Children and Young People):** Claire Bowen (EM)

**Inclusion Award:** Lyndsey Barrett (E)

**Long Service Award:** Jackie Rowland, Nora Fletcher, Kath Hardman, Sue Richards and Lynda Manson

**Special Recognition Award:** Colette Thomson MBE

**Mary Bulloch Community Volunteer Award:** Sally Essex (LSE)

**Sheelagh Redpath Officiating Award:** Susan Wilkinson (E)

**Coach of the Year (Adults):** Phyll Karkoski (E)

**Murial McNally Award:** Louise Hastie (SW)

**Unsung Hero:** Ann Selby (S)

**Club of the Year presented:** Wyre Netball Club (NW)

**“The England Netball ONE Awards are such an important part of our Netball year - acknowledging the unselfish and untiring work of our dedicated Volunteers.”**  
Joan Mills, England Netball President

## OVERALL

1331

members of the netball family joined the celebrations

143%

increase in nominations

89

Regional ONE Award winners

5

Regional specific ONE Award winners

35

hours celebrating at ONE Award events

9

Regional Venues

2

Netball Super League Franchises



# Volunteers Week

## Working as One

England Netball introduced the Working as One approach to enhance support and unite Regions and Counties with local staff teams to support community netball. We piloted with 20 staff a volunteer learning offer - the first to be delivered in a sport - with the creators of the Working with Emotions Toolkit.

## Young Volunteers

A national working group brought together young volunteer voices who have achieved 400+ hours, won a national ONE Award or hold a Young Volunteer role on a Regional Management Board. Group members Izzy Cottrell and Ziana Butt worked with Netball New Zealand Youth Panel to deliver a session at the IWG Conference in November 2022.

Meanwhile, 948 young volunteers registered for Pass on Your Passion, with 375 people contributing a total of 14,765 hours through the year to make netball happen and five individuals achieving 400 hours.



# Coaching & Officiating

Following feedback from the Netball Family, learning and development opportunities had been transformed with a move to digital and blended learning experiences available. As a result the demand for places this year was higher than ever before with new-look courses flying off the shelves.

Officiating saw the highest ever number of new umpires qualify. 1,357 (1,034 Into award, 393 C award, 33 B award & 19 A award), with two World Netball International Talent Identified and five International Umpire Award new umpires.

There were 927 newly qualified coaches (593 Level 1 coaches, 320 Level 2 coaches & 14 Level 3 coaches), as well as, 35 learners who attended a coaching CPD workshop.

In coaching we revised and launched the new 'Bee Leader Award', amended the L2 Coaching award, delivered workforce standardisation and CPD, while launching a workforce 'community of practice'.



**“As an insight-led organisation, we listened to feedback from our learners and have revolutionised our offers to be more accessible and convenient than ever before and it’s been fantastic to see not only the uptake of, but successful completion rate of, our courses.”**  
 Gary Burgess, Head of Officiating

## New coaching philosophy

England Netball launched a new Coaching Philosophy as part of the Roses Development Framework (RDF), a guide for everyone who has a part to play in developing the next generation of talented netballers for the Roses and our elite domestic clubs.

The new Coaching Philosophy element of the framework was developed by Head of Coaching, Prof. Chris Cushion, who said: “The RDF Coaching Philosophy provides a clear indication of our thinking about coaching and how it can be delivered to support coaches working with our talented young athletes.

“We considered the evidence about how athletes learn and develop, what makes an effective talent development environment, and from research and insight from coaches and coach developers about what constitutes ‘effective coaching’”.

# Governance

Following the release of the revised Code of Sport Governance the England Netball board have focused on ensuring compliance with the newly introduced areas ahead of the Sport England compliance assessment in April 2023. At the March 2023 board meeting the board confirmed full compliance with Tier 3 of the Code and evidence was submitted to Sport England.

This included:

- Development of a new People Plan that will support Netball People in the broadest sense, from our Board and employees to coaches, officials and volunteers in the sport. The plan seeks to address the biggest challenges people in netball face to ensure we continue to grow the number of people that make the game happen, develop a consistent culture that is fun, safe and inclusive, deliver great experiences and provide consistent and accessible learning and support.
- Working with Regions and Counties to assess levels of compliance with Tier 1 of the code and supporting further development through the enhancement of the governance toolkit. Over the coming year we will be continuing to support these organisations to progress toward full compliance.

During the year, two new Independent Non-Executive Directors were recruited, David Stubley [above-right] and Michael Bourne [right], bringing enhanced commercial and elite sport expertise respectively. With the addition of these skill sets we enhanced the advisory and management group structure through the addition of a Commercial Advisory Group and an Integrity and Clinical Governance Management Group.

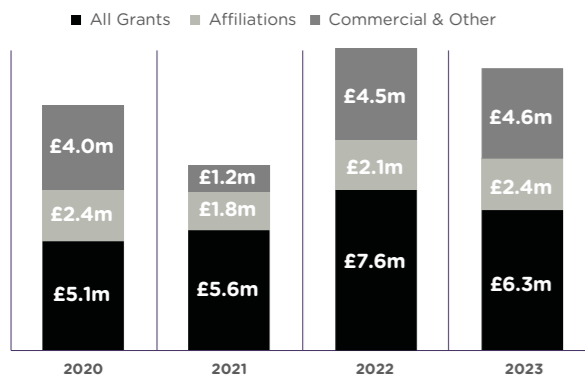


<b>HOLDING COMPANY</b>	All England Netball Association Ltd (England Netball) Chair: Independent Chair of England Netball			
<b>SUBSIDIARY COMPANY</b>	Indoor Netball Association Ltd (Dormant Subsidiary) Chair: Independent Chair of England Netball			
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	Nominations Committee Chair: Senior Independent Director		Remuneration Committee Chair: Independent Director	
	Audit & Risk Committee Chair: Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee		Investment Steering Committee Chair: Independent Chair of England Netball	
<b>ADVISORY / MANAGEMENT GROUP</b>	Case Management Group Chair: Safeguarding & Welfare Board Champion	Regional Chairs Forum Chair: Grassroots Netball Board Champion	Integrity & Clinical Governance Management Group Chair: Anti-Doping Board Champion	
	NSL Board Chair: Independent NSL Chair	Professionalisation Advisory Group Chair: CEO	National Heritage & Archive Group Chair: President	Commercial Advisory Group Chair: Commercial Board Champion

At the end of March 2023 Chair David Armstrong took the decision to resign from the board. As a result, Bridget Blow was appointed by the board into the casual vacancy of Chair until September 2024.

# Finance

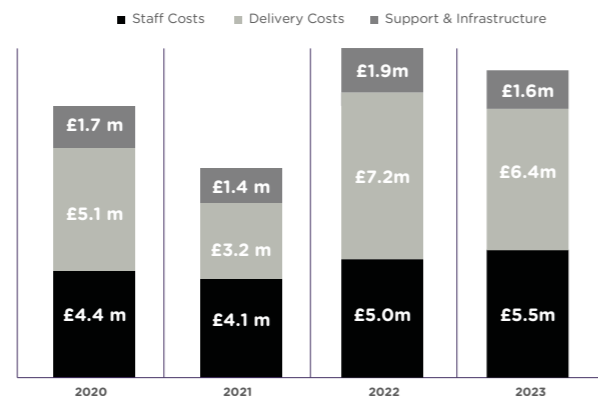
## INCOME



### Income

Income for the year was £13.3m compared to the previous year of £14.2m, a decrease of £0.9m (-6.6%). This decrease was mainly attributable to decreases in short term grant funding (-£1.3m) provided as Covid-19 support. Membership affiliations have increased back to pre-pandemic levels (+£0.3m). Ticket revenues saw a decline of £0.6m across all events, as a result of spectators returning slower than expected in the first half of the year, this was however mitigated by an increase in other commercial revenue streams (Sponsorship, Broadcast, Merchandise and Corporate Events).

## EXPENDITURE

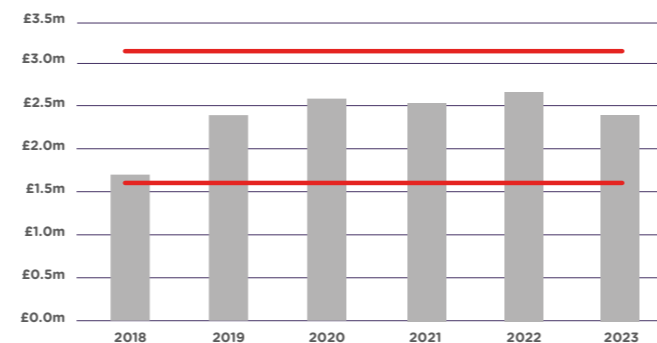


### Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £13.6m, a decrease of £0.5m (-3.8%) compared to the previous year (£14.1m), due to the decrease in grant-funded delivery expenditure.

Delivery expenditure has decreased by £0.8m with the largest decreases being competition and events (+£0.7m) because we had delivered the Netball Super League behind closed doors the previous season. Grassroots delivery remained at the same level. Staff costs have increased due to our investment into our People with new roles, fewer vacancies, benchmarking across the sector and one-off cost of living awards. Support and infrastructure costs have decreased due to a reduction in grant-funded expenditure whilst irrecoverable VAT was higher in 2021-22 due to the amount of grant funding received.

## England Netball Reserves



### Balance Sheet

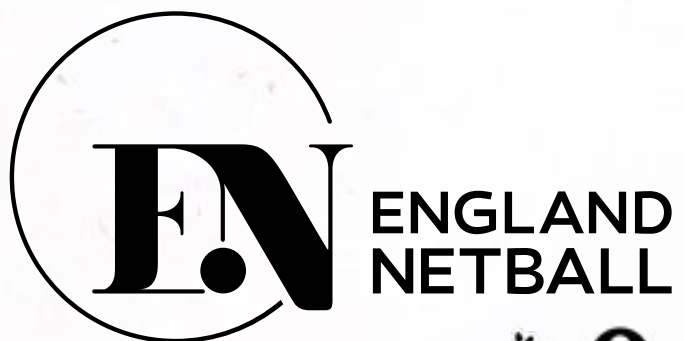
There has been no investment into fixed assets during the year. At the end of the year England Netball maintained a healthy cash position of £4.1m although lower than the previous year (£6.8m) due to the timing of the receipt of Sport England grant funding.

The general reserve position has decreased by the deficit generated (£257k) to £2.4m, which is within the minimum and maximum targets required by our current reserves policy.

### Balance Sheet (Key Items)

	2022-23	2021-22
	£'000	£'000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	4,091	6,831
Debtors	1,399	1,183
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	(3,329)	(5,664)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>2,350</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,649</b>
<b>General Reserve</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,649</b>





**ENGLAND  
NETBALL**

**England Netball, SportPark,  
3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough,  
Leicestershire, LE11 3QF**



LOTTERY FUNDED

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[www.EnglandNetball.co.uk](http://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk)  
[@EnglandNetball](https://twitter.com/EnglandNetball)**