

Netball – Environmental Sustainability

The affect that netball has on the environment is something we seldom consider particularly when on court fighting to win a match

What am I talking about ?

- The way we travel to matches , the materials we use to play with etc and even the food we consume at games matters
- The things we need to consider come under 3 main headings
- Reduce – Reuse- Recycle

Reduce

- Listed below are some areas we can reduce our negative effect on the environment
- These lists are not definitive but merely examples of things that may be considered

Transport

- The use of public transport ,cycling or car sharing (where possible) when travelling to matches, training and tournaments. There is considerable scope to reduce harmful emissions to atmosphere through even minor changes in our transport practices

Reduce

- Proper use of equipment can extend its life and usage ,something as simple as using a netball at its proper pressure, not using it as a football means that they do not need to be replaced as often
- Ensuring where possible indoor matches are not played in venues which are over heated and wasting energy
- Look at encouraging plant based food options at tournament catering

Reduce

- Wherever possible the use of ZOOM or other meeting platforms should be considered rather than having committee members travelling many miles to attend meetings

This will reduce negative energy and transport effects

- Encourage the use of reusable water bottles and discourage single use plastic products

Reuse

- Old equipment of that that has been little used and in some case not used at all can be reused either within a club itself or donated to the local schools or community groups
- Posts, ball, bibs, skirts and trainers all fall into this category
- Many sports clubs already operate such schemes.

Recycle

- Virtually all the waste products from netball can be recycled
- Metal from old posts can be melted down and reused
- Old dresses and skirts that are no longer fit for purpose can be reprocessed
- Netballs can be turned into raw material for the production of new sports surfaces, soft fall matting, gym flooring etc

The future

Netball can do a lot for very little cost or in most cases no cost to help the environment

Is there a role for NNA ?

Certainly

It should :-

- Identify best practice locally and beyond including best practice in other counties and sports
- Disseminate this information and encourage Clubs to adopt it where possible and have their own Environmental Champion and audit their environmental affects
- Coordinate environmental best practice in Notts Netball
- Have a Committee member(s) to take ownership of the task
- Have an aim to be a lead Netball County in environmental matters