



CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE AGM 23.11.23

One year on from being elected as County Chair, I'm beginning to settle into the role and must offer my sincere thanks to all committee members for their support during some challenging times. My initial aim was to ensure sound governance procedures were in place which were understood by all to ensure the smooth running of the committee. As some roles were vacant, I also prioritised recruitment to fill the gaps as soon as possible. Thank you to all those who have stepped into new roles to ensure netball provision in Nottinghamshire. Not only have we recruited new team members but we have also had a bit of a "cabinet re-shuffle" involving new roles or in some cases additional roles! I am personally very grateful to have such flexible people on board; people who are willing to share the workload certainly make my job a lot easier. However, there is also a bit of a downside to people taking on more than one role because, when they retire, there are once again multiple roles to fill! Currently, our Secretary is also our Website and Social Media Secretary, our Vice Chair is also our Governance and Finance TSG Lead as well as our Resolutions Lead, our Welfare Officer is also our EDI Officer, our Performance TSG Lead is also our Volunteer and Club Development Representative and I am not only Chair but also County Officiating Lead. Please remind all your club members that anyone who is interested in applying for a committee role that there is plenty of time to find out more details of what that role entails. Shadowing of existing personnel can be arranged to ensure not only a good understanding but a smooth transition.

In terms of membership, we are still suffering from the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic as many people have not returned to netball. As a county, our total membership currently stands at about 77% of the 2022-23 figure. We have a much higher number of junior members (U18, 14 and 11) than senior members (O18). I suspect that much of this is due to our NDO, Claire Bowen and programmes such as Netball Youth Camps, Bee Netball and junior tournaments. We must also mention other England Netball programmes such as Back to Netball, Walking Netball and Netball Now which attract good levels of participation in Notts thanks largely to the sterling work of our NDCC, Ruth Pickthorn. The Notts Winter League continues to be well supported as do the Two Counties Leagues but, sadly, this year we have been unable to continue our Sunday League due to lack of entries. Regionally, Nottinghamshire clubs are involved in both junior and senior competition and we wish them all the best of luck. Nottinghamshire Schools' participation in tournaments has also increased thanks to the hard work of the Schools' TSG. The county rounds for national age groups (U19, 16 and 14) have now been completed and we wish all those going forward to the regional schools' tournament in February 2024 every success. Additional "Fun" tournaments for U16 and U14 have also taken place with more planned for the other age groups in 2024.

Volunteers are key to the on-going success and further development of netball. Nominees from Nottinghamshire did well at the Regional One Awards earlier this year so well done to all our winners. Of course, all our clubs would not exist without volunteers so don't forget to let them know in any way you can just how much they are valued and appreciated.

This year NCNA is saying "goodbye and thank you" to two long-serving volunteers. Firstly, we must say a huge thank you to our out-going Secretary, Patricia Codner. I don't actually know how long she held this position but the fact that I can't remember who was the previous secretary shows that it's a long time. Of course, it's not really goodbye as she will still be supporting netball as an umpire and as

an officiating assessor, mentor and friend. Secondly, we must also say “goodbye and thank you” to our outgoing co-vice chair, Liz Lorrimer. She was also our Winter League Secretary for a long time, then becoming our Competition TSG Lead until fairly recently although she continued to support the current TSG by attending regional meetings. She has also been our representative at meetings around the Rosefield Project. Once again, it’s not a final farewell as she continues to be actively involved with Bridgford NC so will still be supporting them at NUSA and the region.