

Cheshire County Netball Association.

Dear Cheshire Member

The 2012/13 season has been a very successful one for Cheshire. In September we selected 180 girls from all over the county to be in the County Academies, which included two Under 19 academies. In addition we scouted girls into the U12 county Academy with 20 new Year 7s brought in for monthly training and match play opportunity.

County Squads & Satellite Squad Training

The Academies trained fortnightly and the satellites monthly and each squad travelled to Merseyside for the NCL fixture in March, so coaches could assess each player's development after they had played in Cheshire in October. We ran a Festival for all girls in January where all the girls played in at least 2 positions and the u12s had their first competitive outing which resulted in three under 14 satellite players moving to Academy making a total of 5 who moved up. Two players also moved up to the u16 squad with two moving out. The NCL in March saw the first outing for Greater Manchester Academy squads for a number of years and their coaches admitted that they had sorely missed the match play and it showed in the games with the Cheshire Under 19s winning 14-4 and the under 16s winning their match easily.

In February half term we had a fantastic tour to Barbados where the U16's and U19's played the

National squads as well as some local clubs. Players, parents, team managers and the committee worked hard to put this in place and we played a total of 14 matches over the week with both squads having some tough games against the National Squads and Prison and Police Clubs. The Under 19s played the National under 21 squad who are attending the World Championships in August and after a breathtaking fast and physical game it ended all square. The Barbados coaches were pleased with the competition and asked for more games of this standard. Friendships were built with the local opposition and we donated old Thunder kit to the Police Lads and Girls club who run a few teams from their base at Hastings Beach. The party enjoyed some relaxation time with a boat trip on the Jolly Roger, a trip to the Fish markets at Oistins where they enjoyed the Reggae music. A special thanks to Nigel Jordan for arranging a day at the Polo where we watched Cheshire Polo play Barbados Polo in the sunshine and all the pictures taken are on the website.

In May the U14 and U16 played at the Thunderdome against Lancashire and Greater Manchester. Both ended up runners up losing narrowly to Manchester, this being the only defeat the under 16 squad suffered all year.

We held Pre trials for the Under 14's on Saturday 8th June and u16s on 9th June. We will be holding final trials at Widnes indoor Sports centre, on Saturday 7th September. There has been an England Netball directive whereby we will have no more than 20 players in each academy so competition will be fierce for the places. We will be looking to continue strength and conditioning into the county training plan.

The under 16s will be training each week for 30 weeks of the year and training will start on Tuesday 10th September 2013 at Priestley College.

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Eighteen players were nominated to attend the North West Festival run by the Regional Talent Coach Karen Greig on 15th June at Wirral Grammar and we wish them all the best. Hopefully they will emulate Rebecca Airey who has played for England U17 at the World Championships winning Gold and been voted the Players Player.

County Plan

The committee has just finished the four year plan and this has been submitted to England Netball. Cheshire were praised as a forward thinking County as we have excellent communication links with the website, facebook and twitter all of which keeps players and parents updated. Cheshire were the only county who were running academies for under 12's and Under 19s and we have a Hardship Fund so that no talented player will be denied the opportunity to play for Cheshire due to finances.

We have been in liaison with Sir Steve Redgrave who is looking to build a large Sports Centre of Excellence for Rowing and Netball by the river at The University of Chester. This is now nearing the planning application stage of the process. Bell developments are the project leads and we have been kept apprised of the progress. Chester Club are also looking to develop a four-hall sports centre along with Chester Rugby club. This is a new venture in its infancy but has great potential.

Cheshire also established links with Chester University where with a reciprocal agreement where by we provided a Cheshire Coach for their squads and they provided Cheshire with a sport hall when Priestly was closed during exams and school holidays.

Cheshire Schools

We supported the Schools helping run all the Schools Tournaments for every age group throughout the season and even helped with the High 5 finals day. A special mention goes to Fallibroome School who won u14 County Tournament and went one better winning the Regional Competition and finished 5th in the whole country a great effort. Wilmslow Under 19s also won the county round and were runners up in the Regionals and so qualified for the national finals.

County Junior Regional League

This was the 2nd Year in this format for the NW with Cheshire having 9 clubs in the new Regional Junior Leagues which saw Chester, Didsbury, Macclesfield Pink Ladies, Wilmslow and Boughton Belles representing the county in the u14 and 16s leagues against teams from Manchester Lancashire Cumbria and Merseyside. All competed well and we have seen the standard rise with NW representatives, Oldham, defending their U14 and U16 titles.

County Junior League

The County has again allowed the Junior league to run the qualification for the under 13 and 15 age groups and worked with their Chair Nikki Kendrick to try and take the league forward which has had a few problems with the weather causing a number of cancellations. The league is now looking at moving indoor to guarantee the games will go ahead to help planning but this will be offset with an increase in cost to each club.

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County Elite League

The County again supported the Elite League and it has expanded to 16 clubs playing and now into 2

divisions This League is the envy of other counties as we use this for player, club and umpire development and forms the pathway for senior clubs to qualify for the Regional league on the way to the Prem league. Well Done to Merseyside Police who won the premier and the NEWTS Division 1.

Manchester Thunder Superleague

The County did not support Thunder financially but bought into the coaches training package and paid for additional coaches to attend the Sessions taken by Thunder head coach Tracey Neville. We also provided Officials for their home games

Cheshire also bought the player package and a number of girls were chosen to go to the Thunder training days.

We have had a number of girls selected for the Thunder development academy who have had the additional training all year. We had 8 girls selected for the tri festival with Yorkshire and North East hubs during the school holidays all of who were under 13 (Year 8).

Coach Development Fund

We have continued to help our clubs develop by providing £250 maximum to each club who applied for development of their staff ranging from level 2 to first aid to Safeguarding fees. We have sent Coaches to the national Conference and supported our A grade umpires enabling them to attend the National Conferences.

Planning

Following this AGM, we will continue to plan for the next season, working with the NW Regional Board in order to access the Regional training and other opportunities, which could be available to our volunteers, officials and players.

This will mean a number of changes to the format for the season ahead with each coach being supported by team managers and not only looking at the skills of the players but their fitness and core strength which will be measured regularly. We had to dispose of S and C company as they did not adhere to the agreement we had and poor feedback from players and parents. However Hayley Preece stepped in and worked well with the players and after great feedback we will continue with this next season.

England Netball have now delivered a new vision and realized that they need competition for girls from under 16 upwards and are re introducing match play into county academies with 5 opportunities throughout the season. They have also asked that we use their training plans and session plans for the 30 weeks and to link these to our other training groups, which will now be development pods.

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England are also re introducing the Clubs National Under 19 competition and Cheshire will continue to run an Academy at this age and depending on numbers trialling and staff availability we may run two academies as we have this season.

England have also asked for all counties to ensure they have succession planning and whilst we have one of the largest and hard working committees we always welcome new members who are willing to help. I would also like to inform you that after 8 years as Chair of Cheshire that this next year will be my last season

I would like to finish by thanking our hard working committee, coaches, umpires team managers

Officials and other volunteers, including the newly-formed Fundraising Committee who put a lot of time and effort into making the whole season run smoothly.

Kevin Rowley
Chair