



The weekend of the 17th-19th November, Cheshire Netball Academy took 30 athletes to the IOM for a full on weekend of netball match play. A 1 hour delay for a 20 minute flight on Friday night meant a drop off straight at the restaurant for tea before a 20 minute walk to our hotel which certainly blew the traveling cobwebs away. Three squads of 10, U14, 15 and 17 were up bright and breezy for an 8am breakfast before making their way to their 1st team building exercise.

How many athletes can you get into a bus stop?



Answer all of them!

The National Sports Centre, Douglas was out home for the weekend. Three hours of match play saw all squads undefeated before an hours relax in the pool / swim zone. After a mobile free dinner and quiz, we had Cheshire's got talent – with each squad providing entertainment. U14's provided the dance act (after deciding against [kumbaya](#)), U15's saw Suzy sing an amazing solo with her not so in tune backing group and the wining U17's wrote and performed a rap!

Sunday and back to the NSC via the public bus, we played a mixture of 7 aside and fastnet which was good fun for players, coaches and umpires alike. Once again undefeated including the U17 win over IOM U21. The captains were asked to reflect on their weekend - the under lying message across the 3 groups was the being given the time to make friends, play some great netball and be proud of their achievements – especially those who shot a 3 pointers in Fastnet!

But as county chair (and umpire for the weekend), I can only applaud the dedication of the coaches and athletes together who showed their strength, skill and team work throughout the weekend. I'd like to thank the Cheshire coaching team (especially Phil the organiser) along with Pip Cross and our hosts in the IOM.