



Honorary Life Members Newsletter

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Redpath's Roundup

With the schools about to break up for the long summer holiday and various people disappearing off for their two weeks in the sun, I'm writing this between licks of yet another ice-lolly in the depths of Netball House as we're now into week three of what's turning out to be a bit of a scorching summer. I'm sure that many of you like me were wondering if it would ever arrive, especially after the wash out that was last year's summer.

For those of you that enjoy Wimbledon tennis, I'm attaching a photo of Yvonne and me at Centre Court when I was lucky enough to secure two tickets for the first day of play. We had a great day watching Roger Federer, Maria Sharapova and Andy Murray all win their first games of the tournament. How momentous that turned out with Murray going on to win the Championship. I'm hoping to be visiting friends in Australia over Christmas and New Year and planning to attend the Australian Open tennis whilst I'm there catching up with a few netball friends.



We've been able to include in this edition of the newsletter Marva Bernard's article and photographs following the senior team's visit in April. Our CEO Paul Clark has finally been prevailed upon to write his debut piece for the newsletter as have Sasha Corbin and Amy Willis, Coaching Development Manager.

A couple of days ago Liz Barton Jones our volunteer manager asked me for some information on the Muriel McNally award and I was able to take her straight to the archives and almost found the information she wanted immediately – well, two hours immediately! Despite being hot and flushed by our efforts, Liz left the office a very happy bunny that day as although she has been around netball for years, she had never understood the story behind the award or indeed who Muriel was.

With the AGM and Golden Globes being organised on Saturday 21 September, Yvonne and I are on the case with our annual HLM lunch, which this year is being held at the Holiday Inn near the Birmingham International Convention Centre. Attached to this newsletter is your invitation to the Golden Globes, which is being held at the nearby National Motorcycle museum. If you are able to come along to this year's lunch, we'll be delighted to see you and will be grateful if you can let me know if you can make it so we can arrange catering.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and hope to see you in September.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheelagh".

Sheelagh, Editor



Photograph by Collin Reid

Paul Clark, CEO writes

I am delighted to have been asked by Sheelagh to write a piece for the July edition of the HLM newsletter.

2012/13 has been a fantastic year for Netball with adult participation in the game reaching an all-time high, making netball the fastest growing women's team sport in England and who can forget those wonderful nights in January when we beat Australia not once, not twice but THREE times and recoded our first ever series win against the World Champions. It still brings a smile to my face every time I think about.



Baroness Campbell was presented with the Arthur Bell Trophy by HRH The Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward and Andy Reed OBE, Chair of the Sport and Recreation Alliance.

Our HLM's have also experienced a wonderful year Maggie Jackson received her MBE from HRH Prince Charles; Sheila Perks MBE received the Sports Coach UK Lifetime Award for her services to Netball and Baroness Sue Campbell of the Youth Sport Trust being awarded the Sport and Recreation Alliances Arthur Bell trophy, which was presented at their recent AGM.

The trophy is given to an individual or organisation that is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to the development of community sport. Janet Wrighton attended on behalf of England Netball and was delighted to congratulate Sue in person.

I must not forget to extend my congratulations to Barbara Bishop who, with her husband Bill, celebrated her Golden Wedding Anniversary in July; and to Jean and Laurie Bourne who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 1 August. Jean writes that 1953 was also the year she became a Panel umpire and flew to Jersey for the Inter-county to play for Kent. Perhaps Barbara and Jean might contribute something to the next newsletter?

It is great to see that the HLM's club is flourishing and I look forward to seeing you all at the annual HLM's lunch

The Jamaica Netball Association (Netball Jamaica) Takes Pleasure in Hosting England Netball by Marva Bernard

First, it is always a pleasure for us to have an England visit. I have always felt we have a special bond maybe because our historical ties, but we really do look forward to "when the English are coming." And, it is the same whether it is a series for rankings or us just playing for practice.



Photograph by Collin Reid

It is made all the more interesting that in recent times either the Sunshine Girls or the English Roses has been third or fourth ranked in the world; so we are constantly fighting to upstage one another in the process of going on, we hope, to topple Australia and New Zealand at the World Championships.

I am also hoping that very soon we will diversify our areas of partnership and add tours involving other age groups such as Under-16s, as well as having coaches and umpires training as a part of the package.

So far, the Jamaican audiences have enjoyed the encounters, while the JNA enjoys hosting you and benefitting from the improvement in our play that obviously comes through the engagements between our two teams.

I am also delighted to mention that during the last tour of the English Roses in April, our Prime Minister, The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller attended two of the matches and greeted the teams. That was special for all of us.

Worthy of mention too is the fun that we all had at the end of the official series. We were the guests of one of Jamaica's top rated north coast hotels where the Sunshine Girls played the English Roses in a friendly game of beach netball, watched by a bunch of netball fans and curious tourists. That was followed by England team adding a game of beach volley ball to the fun agenda. Then they relaxed at the beach enjoying the sun, sand and hospitality of the hotel.



Photograph by Collin Reid



Photograph by Collin Reid

It was really a great way to end that series and so it is no wonder that the Under-21s currently on tour have asked you for "equal opportunity" and so we have made sure to arrange for them to stay at a top class north coast hotel for one day where they too will have their fun before boarding the plane back home.

We are grateful to England Netball for the cooperation that results in these tours and wish for them to continue as both our countries seek to take our teams to the top of world netball.

Sasha Corbin, England Player and Ambassador talks about her new role within England Netball

It is an absolute privilege to be able to share my developing netball career with you all; to have the opportunity to communicate with all England Netball's Honorary Life Members is of course an honour in itself.

Recently as an England Netball athlete, I have been appointed as an England Netball Ambassador, which is a fantastic opportunity that I will cherish with great pride.

Respectively, all netball athletes are ambassadors for our fantastic sport and will continue to be, but the unique role I currently have works directly under EN's Commercial and Marketing team in order to further promote our sport. What's great about the new job is that it's based around my athlete commitments and is designed not to interfere with the national squad programme or Netball Superleague.

Prior to this appointment, for the past two years I worked for EN as a 'Netball Development Community Coach' in North London delivering Back to Netball, promoting the sport and engaging women into netball. I have enjoyed every moment of coaching and introducing women and girls into netball, but I am most proud of providing hundreds of women with more opportunity to play netball in areas where there was little or no supervision.

My passion and my life is netball too, just like every person reading this and if there is anything I can positively do to help promote our sport then I'm in. However, I never lose sight of my ultimate dream, which is to be the best and that means to be a Commonwealth and World Champion with the England squad!

As you are well aware, the South Africa International Series is fast approaching and I know the team are excited about the coming challenges, I hope to see you all there in your red gear because we always need your support.

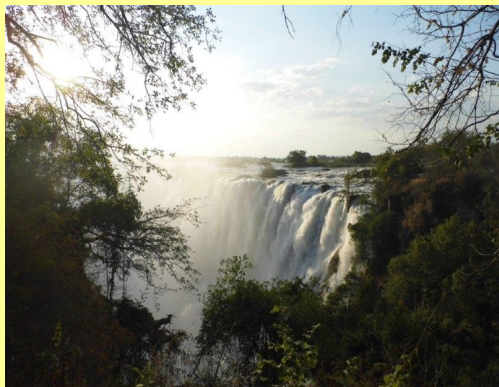
I hope I get another opportunity in the future to share some more experiences with you. I'm really looking forward to the challenge and growing as a person and a netball athlete.



Amy Willis Coaching Development Manager writes about her visit to Zambia in May

I recently had the opportunity to visit Zambia for three weeks as part of the IDEAL Professional Programme delivered in partnership with UK Sport and Durham University.

Based mainly in Lusaka, but with the opportunity to visit Livingstone in the Southern Province, my primary aim was to look at supporting the Netball Association of Zambia to implement its 5 year strategy and create a structure for talent development in the country. I did quite a few club visits and coach mentoring, delivered a Level 2 Coaching course and ran a Youth League festival, so home from home really!



Not so familiar was a weekend game park mini safari where I saw real life Giraffe and Zebra, and got to visit the magical Victoria Falls. It was amazing as the reams of photographs that I took will testify!

I couldn't resist including the photo attached as this is what you really call "grass roots" netball! The ball is made out of plastic bags and elastic bands and the post out of a large twig and wire – totally amazing and humbling how resourceful people are out here. Don't get me wrong, I have seen some 'proper' courts, posts and Netballs, but I thought this was just brilliant!



The players and family of Kafue netball club also looked after me during my visit as the attached picture will testify.

My one luxury item in my luggage was some English PG Tips as my one cup of tea a day just about kept me going!



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