

### **BFNL report – June 2023**

We had to end our winter league earlier than expected due to having to cancel so many matches due to weather and court conditions. The original plan had been to have teams play each other 3 times, giving our teams a huge amount of court time, but this proved impossible.

The summer season started at the end of February to ensure that we were able to complete the season with enough weeks available in case of cancellations.

We also made the decision to decrease the need to cancel by moving the venue to Bryanston school from The Blandford School. Games from 18th April have been played at the new venue. This was not a decision that the committee took lightly, nor was it met initially with all teams being on board. However the committee felt that the courts at TBS were no longer fit for purpose with an increasing number of falls and injuries on ever slippy courts due to unstable surfaces. We also wrote to our local MP. We have not received any communication back, however there is a rumour that TBS courts are being resurfaced/painted this summer, which we hope will allow us to return to our original venue. The courts at Bryanston are lovely underfoot however the flood lighting is currently not ideal and does not cover the whole court evenly.

The league has 2 divisions with 12 teams entered, currently there are 2 dedicated junior teams; one fielded by NDNC and the other by Bryanston school. Many of the Bryanston school team are involved in the Team Bath pathway or have previously been involved. It is always lovely to see young players enjoying our sport.

Channon Bruton our umpire secretary is working toward becoming an umpiring assessor, this will allow her to assess umpires within the league. Her dedication to her role continues to be very much recognised and valued by all. Thanks to her continued hard work, all games are umpired by qualified umpires, with all div 1 umpires being C grade or above umpires. We are also very lucky to have a qualified B grade umpire who participates in the league Fran, who is always approachable with those more complex questions.

At the time of writing we have only had to cancel one match and will be finishing league play on 13th June, followed by 2 weeks of tournament play.

The league is keen to organise a mixed netball tournament, which would be open to any teams and all funds to go to charity. Current plans are to have the event take place at the end of August/ beginning of September.