



NETBALL DORSET AGM 2021 COMPETITION DIRECTOR REPORT

My first year as Competition Director for Netball Dorset has certainly been different with the impact of Covid-19 meaning that one day we were all systems go, albeit under rule modifications and with lots of risk mitigations in place, and the next day everything was off. Then it was on again, then off again, and so forth.

This report summarises what has, and what has not, happened this last season and sets out some potential plans for the year ahead in anticipation of Covid-19 restrictions being lifted.

SOUTH WEST OPEN REGIONAL COMPETITION

Dorset had two teams express an interest in entering the Open Regional League, Dorset All Stars and Poole Netball Club and it was planned to hold a playoff match to determine which team would go forward to Regional playoffs. However, Region confirmed before the season was due to commence that they would not be holding playoffs and no new teams could enter so our County playoff was not held.

There were continued discussions regarding the open regional league and how it could proceed until in early October with the Government directive that over 18s could not play netball indoors it was decided to postpone the competition until further notice, thus meaning no regional competition for the three Dorset open teams: Aquarians, Poole and Bournemouth.

SOUTH WEST UNDER 18 REGIONAL COMPETITION

At the point the Open regional competition was postponed, clubs were offered the opportunity to enter into an under 18s competition. Three Dorset clubs entered, Dorset All Stars, Wimborne Aquarians and Arthusans. Teams were able to play a few matches in October and December 2020 but with the lockdown from January no further matches have been played.

UNDER 16 AND UNDER 14 REGIONAL COMPETITION

There was some success within Dorset for these age groups as we were able to hold playoff matches amongst the four teams in each age group that expressed an interest in entering the regional competition. It was not without challenge as Covid-19 restrictions and the November lockdown led to a number of match postponements. However, all matches were played and the final Dorset standings are:

Under 16 County Playoffs

TABLE	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST	GOAL AVERAGE	POINTS
Wimborne Aquarians	3	0	0	144	73	1.97	15
Poole	2	0	1	137	71	1.93	11
Hawks	1	0	2	79	113	0.70	6
Bournemouth 1	0	0	3	56	159	0.35	1

Congratulations to County U16 champions Wimborne Aquarians, and runners up Poole.

Under 14 County Playoffs

TABLE	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST	GOAL AVERAGE	POINTS
Poole	3	0	0	150	42	3.57	15
Bournemouth 1	2	0	1	113	74	1.53	10
Wimborne Aquarians	1	0	2	63	103	0.61	6
Bournemouth 2 Buds	0	0	3	36	143	0.25	0

Congratulations to County U14 champions Poole, and runners up Bournemouth 1.

All teams were put forward to represent Dorset in the Regional competitions, with the top 2 in each age group due to play in Division 1 and the other 2 in Division 2 for their respective age groups. Unfortunately, the impact of the Covid-19 lockdowns led to the South West Region taking the decision in March to cancel the league element of the competition.

It is now planned to hold a South West qualifying tournament at Taunton School for the under 16s on Saturday 17th July and the under 14s on Sunday 18th July. Wimborne Aquarians and Poole will represent Dorset in the under 16 tournament, and Poole and Bournemouth 1 in the under 14 tournament. These tournaments will determine which teams are put forward for National Clubs which England Netball are planning to hold for under 16s on the 21st/22nd August at Redbridge Leisure Centre and under 14s on the 28th/29th August at Sports Central, Newcastle.

FUTURE PLANS

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

It is very much hoped that the Open, Under 16 and Under 14 regional leagues will return to their normal arrangements for the 2021-22 season, but this will be dependant upon the roadmap out of lockdown and restrictions being lifted.

Teams will shortly be invited to express an interest should they wish to take place in these competitions in order that, where necessary, County playoff matches or tournaments can be arranged.

OTHER COMPETITIONS

I plan to investigate interest levels from our members for running a number of tournaments within the County, including an Open tournament, Back to Netball, Walking Netball, and possibly Fast 5 and Mixed tournaments. This will be dependant upon restrictions being lifted, but do keep a watch on social media, and an eye out in your emails, once restrictions lift as this will be when I start to ask questions to gauge interest levels.

FINALLY

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to what has been a difficult season for netball competition and fingers crossed for a more standard season in 2021-22.

Ali Holmes

Netball Dorset Competition Director

24th May 2021