

Report for Netball Dorset AGM on 16/06/2021

Following the announcement of a return to community netball back in March, the SWDNL successfully hosted a series of friendly matches through out the month of May under the Rise Once Again Revival (ROAR) banner. Over 4 weeks up to 16 teams participated in fun and friendly match play that helped players have the confidence to return to the court. Trainee umpires at all levels were able to practice during an intensity of match play that they hadn't had access to in over a year.

The last session, held on the 27th May gave a glimpse of the glorious weather soon to come and the start of a modified summer league on 3rd June.

League entries were, understandably, down this year compared with previous years however a total of 16 teams submitted entries, which have been split between the 3 divisions. The season will run until 22nd July with divisions one and two playing teams twice, whilst premier division will have one rotation of matches.

At the time of writing, Covid restrictions look set to be relaxed fully on the 21st June. The committee has agreed the decision to continue to play the modified rules through out the whole season in order that no team is at a disadvantage during match play prior to the 21st June.

The discussions among the committee at our last meeting prior to the start of the league were focused on the obvious enjoyment we all got out of the ROAR and ensuring we continued with the good practice and adherence to the Covid guidance going forward for as long as necessary. It is anticipated that come the winter season more teams will look to return and player numbers will steady increase as confidence builds in those previously worried about the close contact and nature of the sport.

Elsewhere, back to netball and walking netball sessions are also starting to return and facilities appear to be opening up to allow teams back to train and play. I keep everything crossed that this continues and that nothing stops the progress we've made to getting back out on the court.

Sam