

**The Reading and District Netball Association  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at  
The Royal British Legion, Downing Road, Tilehurst, RG31 5BB  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014**

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 7.45pm on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and was chaired by Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Joint Chairs of the RDNL.

**1. Welcome – Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Chairs**

Welcome all of you to the Reading and District Netball League AGM 2014, and a special welcome to our guests: our Vice Presidents Ros Witt, Lynne Tyler and Jennie Underwood, and Nick Clark from our sponsors Frasers Office Supplies. Thank you all very much for attending.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM and EGM - Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Chairs**

Item 2 on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the last AGM and the EGM that was held in May. We did send these out with the AGM Letter and asked all contacts to forward them onto their teams so that they could read them. We hope you have all done that – by a show of hands, could you please let us know whether you have read the minutes? **Majority response: Yes.** As that is a majority, does anybody have any issues with them? **Response: No.**

For your information, there are further details regarding the results of the EGM vote in the pack that you were given when you signed in.

Just to touch on this now, obviously you all now know that the vote was in favour of remaining at Theale. We acknowledge that it felt very quick from being notified of the EGM to being asked to vote, but we would like to reassure you all that it was not a quick decision by the committee to look at alternative venues; there have been a number of ongoing issues with Theale in recent years and despite our efforts to rectify these, the committee has felt that the custom we bring to the centre has been undervalued. As such, the search for a potential new venue began three years ago and it has only been with a push from some dedicated committee members that the proposal came together. With Academy Sport's enthusiasm to host our league and all of the changes they would have made, they were the only viable alternative to Theale.

The feedback we have received regarding the proposal has been largely positive, with many of you clarifying that although you voted against the move, you felt that Academy Sport could be a realistic option in the future, but would like to see changes before making a decision. As such, we will continue to liaise with Academy Sport and provide them with your feedback, so that a possible move in the future may still be viable.

As we are staying at Theale, we have been looking at ways we can expand the league, and have approached a company to ask for a quote for floodlighting an additional court.

Their quote was £20,000 including VAT but we would like to do our research and get more quotes before deciding what to do.

We have been in contact with Theale and continue to try and build a relationship there; the latest update is that whilst the good condition of the nets is being maintained, they have assured us that they have replacements if needed! They have also asked us to remind all players that bringing dogs and smoking cigarettes are prohibited on site.

Less positive is that they have said any funding from Parkwood and West Berkshire Council for floodlighting or resurfacing would be highly unlikely, but we're not giving up just yet!

Depending on the number of applicants to the Saturday league, we do have the option of expanding that to accommodate either a fourth division or expanding the existing divisions. Again we are looking in to the viability of these options.

We have also had suggestions from league members about the viability of running a senior league and a junior league, these are things we want to look at doing but we thought we'd save that for next season as this one has been quite busy already!

### **3. Season Review (in brief – for full reports see Appendix 1) - Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Chairs**

Well we have had another fantastic season – the RDNL continues to shine, not only for your friendliness, but also the standard of our netball and umpires, our participation in numerous charitable events and our commitment to improving and expanding the opportunity to play netball for all in Berkshire. So thank you all!

Teams have more than done their part, with the lowest number of complaints being received this season than in recent years, and the willingness and enthusiasm to help others out any which way they can. The number of teams participating in tournaments and charity events has been huge this year as well so once again, thank you for all of your hard work and help with ensuring that the RDNL remains to be such a great league.

We do however need to touch on a couple of issues this season, but they won't take long:

Firstly, we would like to remind teams of their scoring duties and reiterate the need for teams to take these responsibilities seriously; we don't want to deduct points but we also feel that teams should be able to sort these issues out without calling upon the committee for assistance. Having separate scorers has been part of the RDNL for a few years now and it should really be second nature to a lot of teams. Committee members, as well as those more experienced players, are happy to give advice to those who have never done it before – so please just ask.

There have also been a number of injuries this year and we have been asked to remind teams to provide their own first aid kits, especially ice packs, for if their own players are injured.

Lastly, and this will impact upon next season so please make sure you feed this back to your teams. The committee has been monitoring the borrowing rule closely this season and we have decided to reduce the number of across borrows to 3 per team, rather than the usual five. Up borrows will remain unchanged, and division 4 midweek and division 3 Saturday will continue to have unlimited across borrows. This is largely due to the number of times teams have exceeded their borrowing allocation; an unprecedented number of points have been deducted this season because of this, so we felt that reducing the number would make it easier to manage – not only for our committee members but more importantly for teams themselves, whose responsibility it is for ensuring they do not exceed the number of borrows! This change will be monitored and the committee will review the rule again next summer.

So to the league reports – in your packs you have been provided with the league reports in full, Vicky and I are just going to summarise and highlight key details for you...

In midweek division 1, Thunderbirds 1 are victorious again, having only lost 1 match all season (to second placed, and equally as deserving, SB Renovations). Red Kites had a great first season in division 1, finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. Stewarts, Nexus and Panthers all had tricky seasons with pregnancies and injuries but they fought hard regardless and we're sure they'll all come back strongly next season.

In division 2, it was close at the top of the table and although Rockets sealed the top spot with a game to go, the fight for the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot came down to the last game between RG7 Comets and Volume; the latter won and pushed Comets down to third. Further down the table, the teams fought valiantly but injuries and point deductions meant that Thunderbirds 3 and Highmoor-Ibis unfortunately end bottom of the table.

In division 3, Marcatus 7s had a fantastic season, remaining unbeaten and gaining maximum points, whilst The Rackets just beat Storm to the second spot. Lots of division 3 teams fell foul of the borrowing rule and so lost vital points, despite there being some great, close matches.

In division 4, Laurel Park dominated, with Hurricanes taking top spot and Tornadoes the second spot. Division 4 saw some new Back to Netball teams this year and all have done really well, hopefully they enjoyed their season and will be back next year!

On Saturdays, SB Renovations top the table once again, with no losses and only 1 draw. Team Rock finished a few points behind and deservedly took 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. The middle of the table was hotly contested, with teams fighting for every point. Marcatus Gold struggled for form this season but we're sure they'll be to winning ways next season.

In division 2, two teams battled for top spot from the outset, RG7 and Red Kites, with both only losing one match, each to the other! Red Kites eventually clinched it by one point. All teams once again battled hard, with the points system seeming to have achieved its intention, with closely fought games making all the difference.

In division 3, Panthers Pink remained undefeated throughout the season, again gaining the maximum of 80 points, whilst the three teams directly below them fought hard to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place, with Allsorts eventually stealing it. Credit must go to The Razzlers, who were new this year and fought well in every match! Onwards and upwards for next year.

The Juliet Burke Cup & Plate tournament was again a great event this year, albeit with some mixed weather! The round robin matches went off without a hitch, but awful weather on the day of the quarter finals meant a change to the schedule for the following week when both the quarters and semi's were played. Eventually, Team Rock and Thunderbirds made it to the Cup final, where Rock ran out eventual 60-32 winners; whereas in the Plate, Volume took on Tadley and emerged victorious, albeit by a narrow 2 goals!

The Mixed Rally, played after the Cup & Plate finals, was also another success – with the boys trying their hand at netball, and some actually doing quite well! Team Rock made it two wins out of two, as they beat Veet in the final 11-3. The fifth placed play-off teams ensured that nobody ended the day losing, as Posha Coffee and Besabeau ended on a 3-3 draw.

Su's Back 2 Netball on a Monday night is going from strength to strength, with new players turning up regularly and new teams being created all the time. We would love to be able to accommodate these teams in the league so we will be looking at the feasibility of expanding the divisions in any way without further compromising the amount of netball you all get to play! This brings us on to divisions 1 and 2; we will be looking to provide teams with more games if at all possible but please bear with us as it is more difficult to reduce the number of teams than it was to increase them!

Our umpire training has had another extremely successful season, but we'll let Jennie talk about that in a few minutes!

So to the summer league. We have now played 2 fixtures of the versatility summer league and as you all know, we are trialling a 4x 10 minute quarter format. With this, we are also changing the lengths of the breaks, to see which work best. We will only adopt this format in the winter league if it is largely liked by you all... I have been canvassing opinions, which have been largely positive, but we will continue to do this throughout the summer so please let us know whether you like it or not.

Finally, we would like to bring your attention to the amount of charity events that the RDNL or RDNL members have been involved in this year, to mention a few:

- In November Laurel Park held Play for Pudsey, an all-day netball match fundraising for Children in Need, which raised over £1400
- In March we held The Big Match Fastnet Tournament, organised by Carla Symonds of RG7, which raised over £500 for Action for Children and The Brain Tumour Charity
- Also in March, the RDNL took part in England Netball's Net 10 for Life, raising over £180 for Cancer Research UK (thanks to Su Oliver for coordinating!)
- In April, Team DB held the annual Donna Day fastnet tournament, which was again hugely successful in raising over £3000 for Berkshire Cancer Centre
- In May and June we held our annual Juliet Burke Cup & Plate tournament, which has raised nearly £300 for Asthma UK

All in all, a successful year and we hope you are looking forward to the 2014/15 season as much as we are.

The winners of the Cup and Plate competition were then presented with their awards.

**Winners of the Cup – Team Rock**

**Winners of the Plate – Volume**

**4. Umpiring Update – Jennie Underwood, Umpiring Secretary**

Jennie praised the standard of umpiring in the RDNL, thanking both umpires across all divisions, as well as Lorraine Paull for her support as Umpiring Administrator. All 50 umpires were then presented with a personal gift from Jennie.

**5. Presentation and Adoption of Accounts – Laura Baynes, Treasurer (see Appendix 2 for full accounts)**

Court fees will not increase next season due a nearly £800 buffer. Court fees came to £15k, not £7.5k – another £7.k still to pay. Frasers sponsorship of £700 continues. RDNL have made a number of direct charitable donations.

**6. Vote on Proposed Changes to Constitution - Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Chairs**

The committee would like to propose two minor changes to the constitution:

The first is that point 7.4 lists the end of year date for the accounts is listed as 30<sup>th</sup> May, which is neither the end of the financial year nor the last day in May – as such we would like to propose that this is amended to 30<sup>th</sup> April. **No objections.** Proposed by Victoria White. Seconded by Bethan Beezley.

The second change is point 6.10, which states that the quorum for the RDNL Committee to make a decision is 6 members; we would like to propose that this is amended to 5 (to reflect 25% of the committee and ensure that any vote will have a deciding majority).

**No objections.** Proposed by Lisa Wise. Seconded by Charlie Wood.

### **7. Election of Committee Members - Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Chairs**

Included in your pack should be the current committee and those that have nominated themselves for a position on the committee. You are still able to nominate yourselves tonight so please put your hand if you would like to stand for a position as we come to each one.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Chair	Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin	Jacqui Ives	Claire Beezley
Vice Chair	Jennie Underwood	Claire Simms	Kerry Pardoe
Secretary	Sarah Key	Donna Hancock	Jo Anderson
Treasurer	Laura Baynes	Sandra Wilkins	Su Oliver
Umpiring Secretary and Administrator (combined role)	Julie Whittaker	Jennie Underwood	Tracey Little
Fixtures Saturdays	Jennifer Pavey	Megan Walmsley	Sarah Key
Fixtures Midweek	Laura Pennicott	Lisa Goodwin	Debbie Griffiths
Publicity Saturdays	Megan Walmsley	Nicky Coleman	Jacqui Ives
Publicity Midweek	Su Oliver	Nicky Spence	Adele Brickley
Division 1 Midweek	Kate Martin	Adele Brickley	Charmaine Nathaniel
Division 2 Midweek	Carmelle Bell	Nicky Spence	Leanne Smith
Division 3 Midweek	Victoria White	Vicky Heath	Angela Hudson
Division 3 Midweek – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rep	Stephanie Kape	Donna Hancock	Jennifer Pavey
Division 4 Midweek	Jo Coombes	Emma Cardin	Ann Geater

Division 4 Midweek – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rep	Eleanor Young	Kate Martin	Rachel Wasylciw
Division 1 Saturdays	Nicky Smith	Megan Williams	Tracey Little
Division 2 Saturdays	Charlie Wood	Holly Walsh	Angela O'Neill
Division 3 Saturdays	Caran Hutchings	Ann Geater	Sandra Wilkinson
Meeting Secretary	Julie Kinsella	Carly Nickson	Jenny Obin

### Umpiring roles

As Jennie has alluded to, we are very sad to be losing two key members of the RDNL committee this season - our Umpiring Administrator (Jennie Underwood) and Secretary (Lorraine Paull); they are happy to stay on the committee in other roles but they feel that they need a break from their umpiring duties – so we do have a volunteer for the Umpiring Admin role, and we feel that the two roles could be amalgamated into one.

### **8. Questions and AOB**

1. Berkshire Netball have decided to offer all adult leagues in Berkshire a bursary of £250 to use as they see fit to benefit the players that participate in their league. We haven't yet decided how to spend this money so if anyone has any ideas please either see us at the end or email us; we will of course communicate the decision to you
2. The committee are really proud of the standard of umpiring in the RDNL, having played in other local leagues and national tournaments, we are reminded just how good our umpires are. As such, we are keen to try and maintain these high standards and so next season we would like to introduce umpiring forums; these will be scheduled in to the fixtures and attending at least one of the two will be compulsory for all RDNL umpires.
3. RDNL Fees for next season – leave at £20 per 20 players, but chase up additional 20's
4. **Kerry Pardoe, Team DB** – Re Umpiring in the RDNL – Could the committee please discuss the rule over umpires wearing sunglasses during match play.  
**ACTION:** Committee to discuss.

5. **Jo Anderson, Team DB** – Re the Cup and Plate – Would like to suggest that the Cup be for Divisions 1 and 2, and the Plate be for Divisions 3 and 4. **ACTION:** Committee to discuss.
  
6. **Sue Clements, Theale A4 Metal Recycling** – Re Umpiring – Should umpires be umpiring for their own teams? Should they instead be supplying umpires for opposite times? **ACTION:** Committee to discuss.
  
7. **Sue Clements, Theale A4 Metal Recycling** – Re Umpiring – Should umpires be marked on their performance at the end of a match (on the score card)? **ACTION:** Committee to discuss.
  
8. **Emma Cardin, Posha Coffee** – Could you please clarify the new rule on borrowing for Div 3 Sat and Div 4 Weds? **Response from Chairs:** Essentially, no change. All other divisions, 3 borrows across the division (not 5 as per last season).
  
9. **Angela O’Neil, Highmoor Ibis** – Is there somewhere we can donate old kits? **Response from Trista Thompson, RG7:** Willing to take kits on behalf of RDNL to donate.
  
10. **Laura Baynes, Pump Tech** – Caroline (accounts auditor) is going in to retirement – is anyone an auditor or does anyone know an auditor who would be willing to audit the RDNL accounts? Possible volunteer – Sharon Turner.

**9. Presentation of Awards**

**Midweek results presented by Roz Witt and Lynn Tyler**

	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	Thunderbirds 1	SB Renovations
Division 2	RG7 Rockets	Volume
Division 3	Marcatus 7s	The Rackets
Division 4	Laurel Park Hurricanes	Laurel Park Tornadoes

**Division 4 Wooden Spoon Award presented by Nick Clark: The Green Dots**



**Sat results presented by Nick Clark**

	Winners	Runners Up
Division 1	SB Renovations	Team Rock
Division 2	Red Kites	RG7 Black
Division 3	Panthers	Allsorts

**Players Player presented by Caran Hutchings****Midweek**

Div 1	Natasha Billouin (Thunderbirds 2)
Div 2	Amelia Hodgets (Thunderbirds 3)
Div 3	Kate Butcher (Marcatus 7s)
Div 4	Jen Wright (Razzlers), Vicky Tidman (Shorts Electrical), Claire Macbeth (Quality), Jan Goodwin (Mortimer White) and Amanda McLaren (Laurel Park Toradoes).

*Overall Winner – Katie Butcher*

**Saturday**

Div 1	Sarah Key (Pump Tech)
Div 2	Lisa Clements (Theale)
Div 3	Dawn Evans (Allsorts)

*Overall Winner – Lisa Clements*

**Sportsmanship presented by Nick Clark**

Saturday: Theale A4 Metal Recycling

**Midweek – Donna Barrett award – presented by Team DB**

*Winner is RG7 Jets and Panthers*

Team DB would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved with Donna Day again this year. For our fourth fastnet tournament we welcomed a record of 20 teams. Well done to the winners SB Renovations.

We wanted to say a special thanks to Malvina Mitchell from SB who managed to get a donation from her work Towry Law and to Theale for the wonderful hamper they made up and donated to the raffle. Thank you to Frasers Office Supplies who printed our flyers and sourced the chairs that Sandra, Donna's sister bought for the cancer care centre at the RBH with this year's fundraising.

Last year the funds we managed to raise went towards buying a bladder scanner for the Royal Berks. And we are very pleased that we have been able to purchase the chair weighing scales they wanted this year. From previous donations we bought some patient trolleys that they were so impressed with they have decided to roll them out to other wards in the hospital.

Although quite stressful to organise we very much enjoy doing Donna Day in her memory and thank you all for your involvement however great or small.

**Sayers Toms most improved umpire 2014/15 presented by Lorraine Paull (see Appendix 3)**

Winners are:

Beginners: Tracey Little, Rachel Wasylciw, Megan Walmsley and Kate Martin

C Award: Adrea Rose and Rachel Caswell

B Award: Julie Whittaker

**Jennie Underwood Special Award presented by Jennie Underwood**

Winner is Lorraine Paull

**Over 50's Roz Witt presented by Roz Witt (see Appendix 4)**

Winner is Jacqui Ives

**Junior Player Award presented by Lynne Tyler (see Appendix 5)**

Winners are Chloe Hodgets and Elvie Clark-Morris

**Frasers Most Improved Player Award presented by Nick Clark (see Appendix 6)**

Winner is Charlotte Maskell

**RDNL Brenda Sawyer Special Award for Services to Netball presented by Caran Hutchings (see Appendix 7)**

Winner is Lisa Wise

**RDNL Chair's Award 2014 presented by Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin (see Appendix 8)**

Winner is Su Oliver

**RDNL Dedication Award 2014 presented by Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Chairs (see Appendix 9)**

Winner is Team DB

**10. Thanks , Gift Presentation and Close - Nikki Manwaring and Vicky McLaughlin, Chairs**

We would also like to extend a special thanks to three ladies who are stepping down from their roles on the committee after a number of years, so we would like to personally thank Jennie Underwood, Lorraine Paull and Laura Sylvester for all of their hard work on the committee.

Thank you once again to our President Caran Hutchings and our Vice President Jennie Underwood; we also have two of our other Vice Presidents here tonight, Lynne Tyler and Ros Witt, and we'd like to thank you both for coming and still playing a part in the RDNL – please accept these as thanks on behalf of the league.

Thank you also to Nick Clark from Frasers Office Supplies, they have agreed to continue to sponsor the league next season.

Thank you also to our photographers from the Reading Chronicle and Reading Post.

Thank you all very much for attending and we look forward to seeing you on the courts throughout the rest of the summer and more importantly, at the start of the 2014/2015 season!

## **Appendix 1**

### **Reading and District Netball League**

#### **Midweek Division Round Up – 2013/14 Season**

Starting with Division 1, praise must go to Thunderbirds 1 who only lost one match all season (to SB Renovations) and are this season's winners. SB Renovations gave them a good run for their money, only losing two matches in total and finishing a close second.

Business Moves finished third, having a good run in the second half of the season, with Red Kites (in their first season in Division 1) level on points with Business Moves but losing out on goal difference. PumpTech (Veet) had a good run in the middle of the season but with injuries, players working away from home and 4 weddings to plan between them they had difficulty fielding a team towards the end of the season.

Thunderbirds 2 had a strong season and were top of the second half of Division 1, with RG7 Jets holding their own close behind. Both Stewarts and Nexus struggled to field regular teams due to injuries, a pregnancy (congratulations Helen Simmonds!), and general unavailability (congratulations Claire Morris on becoming a firefighter!), but both played some great matches and scared the top teams. Panthers were also hit by pregnancy and injuries this season but fought bravely in all of their matches.

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<b>RDNL Midweek Division 1A Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</b>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
Thunderbirds 1	13	12	0	1	452	267	185	2	0	0	62
SB Renovations	13	11	0	2	457	308	149	2	1	0	58
Business Moves	13	6	1	6	423	401	22	6	2	0	41
Red Kites	13	6	1	6	408	410	-2	6	2	0	41
PumpTech (Veet)	13	5	0	8	334	384	-50	4	4	0	33

<b>RDNL Midweek Division 1B Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</b>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
Thunderbirds 2	13	7	0	6	322	327	-5	2	4	0	41
RG7 Jets	13	6	0	7	367	397	-30	2	5	0	37
Stewarts Coaches	13	4	1	8	342	377	-35	2	7	0	32
Nexus	13	4	0	9	291	376	-85	2	5	0	27
Panthers	13	2	1	10	273	422	-149	2	5	0	20

Division 2 saw the battle between 4 teams as RG7 Rockets, Volume, RG7 Comets and Thunderbirds 5 could have all taken the top spot. The end result was RG7 Rockets finishing top (only being beaten twice all season and both times by their club mates in Comets!), with Volume stealing the second spot with a spirited fight against Comets in the last match. Comets ended up third, with Thunderbirds 5 finishing fourth.

Mortimer Pink comprised the rest of the top half and a much improved team saw them win some big games. Theale finished top of the second half of Division 2, seeing off the other teams in style. Whiteknights lost a couple of key players in the season and are actively recruiting for a new challenge next season. Marcatus Gold dropped points due to scoring issues and Highmoor-Ibis and Thunderbirds 3 both missed players due to injuries and work commitments but will hopefully be back stronger next season.

<b>RDNL Midweek Division 2A Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</b>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
RG7 Rockets	13	11	0	2	398	260	138	4	0	0	59
Volume	13	10	0	3	355	241	114	0	3	0	53
RG7 Comets	13	9	1	3	370	289	81	2	2	1	51
Thunderbirds 5	13	7	1	5	292	267	25	4	2	2	42
Mortimer Pink	13	4	1	8	270	312	-42	4	4	0	31

<b>RDNL Midweek Division 2A Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</b>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
Theale - A4 Metal Recycling	13	6	1	6	265	274	-9	4	3	0	40
Whiteknights	13	4	1	8	297	355	-58	4	4	0	31
Marcatus Gold	13	4	0	9	284	308	-24	12	3	6	29
Thunderbirds 3	13	4	1	8	237	343	-106	4	2	1	28
Highmoor-Ibis	13	3	0	10	225	344	-119	8	2	6	19

Division 3 saw Marcatus 7's close the season unbeaten, with maximum points – well done to them! The Rackets and Storm fought hard for second place with Rackets just pipping it on the last game.

The Rackets are merging with Laurel Park to strengthen their squad for next season. Storm's GK Katie Allen unfortunately injured herself in a tournament and is now out for

up to 9 months whilst she has an operation to repair her ACL – we hope the operation goes well and she’s back on her feet soon.

Team DB finished a very credible 4<sup>th</sup> with some great results, and Mortimer Black ended the season with a goal difference of zero – not sure we’ve had that before! Zimblers had a steady season and held their own in a number of matches, Yell were unlucky in some of their matches but put on a good show with some steady shooting, and Thunderbirds 4 sadly had injuries to players. Finally, Besabeau played some good matches but unfortunately fell foul of the borrowing rule, having points docked in the last few games.

<b>RDNL Midweek Division 3 Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</b>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
Marcatus 7's	16	16	0	0	459	219	240	0	0	0	80
The Rackets	16	12	0	4	471	274	197	8	0	0	68
Storm	16	12	0	4	382	297	85	4	1	0	65
Team DB	16	7	1	8	345	307	38	10	2	0	50
Mortimer Black	16	8	1	7	324	324	0	6	2	1	50
Zimblers	16	7	1	8	301	347	-46	4	3	5	40
Yell	16	5	0	11	378	467	-89	6	6	5	32
Thunderbirds 4	16	3	1	12	263	408	-145	2	5	5	20
Besabeau	16	0	0	16	164	444	-280	6	2	10	-2

Division 4 saw Laurel Park domination – Hurricanes came top, only dropping points in one draw, with Tornadoes coming a very close second. Shorts Electrical played well to finish third, and Razzlers, their first season as a Back To Netball team, stormed up the division ending 4<sup>th</sup> – that the ladies had never played together before shows their determination and we look forward to seeing them in action again next season.

Checkpoint suffered injuries but managed to string together some great results, as did Mortimer White in their first season. Both Ladybirds and Quality achieved some solid wins against higher placed opposition, as well as gaining the 2 bonus points in some really close matches, to secure some well-earned points. Green Dots played their first season and despite a lack of players in some matches were always a friendly bunch. They are merging with another team for next season and will be back stronger and with a full squad.

<b>RDNL Midweek Division 4 Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</b>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
Laurel Park Hurricanes	16	15	1	0	363	142	221	0	0	0	78
Laurel Park Tornadoes	16	12	0	4	293	148	145	6	1	0	67
Shorts Electrical	16	11	1	4	274	210	64	4	1	5	58
The Razzlers	16	9	0	7	248	178	70	8	2	1	54
Checkpoint	16	9	1	6	255	222	33	4	2	0	54
Mortimer White	16	5	0	11	191	284	-93	6	4	1	34
Ladybirds	16	3	0	13	179	297	-118	8	1	0	24
Quality	16	4	1	11	182	280	-98	2	4	6	23
The Green Dots	16	2	0	14	97	321	-224	2	0	3	9

## Saturday Division Round Up – 2013/14 Season

SB Renovations top the table once again, finishing 7 points ahead of second-placed Team Rock, after an impressive season with no losses and only 1 draw. Team Rock and Business Moves again finished in the top three, having lost only 3 or 4 games out of the 16 played. It looks like it could be hard for any other team to attempt to take these top spots!

There were only 7 points separating the next 3 teams, Nexus, PumpTech (Veet) and RG7 Purple. Both PumpTech and Nexus had to concede a match this season so did well to remain mid table. Although they both won 7 games, Nexus drew two matches which meant they just beat PumpTech to take the 4th spot. A close last match between PumpTech and RG7 saw the former win by only 2 goals, giving them the few extra points needed to overtake RG7 in the table.

The bottom of the table decider went down to the very last game: Stewarts Coaches, who have struggled for players this year, found themselves in a relegation battle with Volume. Both won 5 games, but Stewarts ultimately found safety thanks to 2 draws, meaning that Stewarts finished with 39 points and Volume with 35.

Marcatus Green struggled in Division 1 against some tough teams this year, having avoided relegation last season, but we hope they can fight their way back up to division 1 next season.

<i>RDNL Saturday Division 1 Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</i>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
SB Renovations	16	15	1	0	872	561	311	0	0	0	78
Team Rock	16	13	0	3	681	391	290	2	2	0	69
Business Moves	16	11	1	4	744	612	132	0	3	5	56
Nexus	16	7	2	7	538	559	-21	2	4	0	47
Veet Supremes	16	7	0	9	561	587	-26	2	6	1	42
RG7 Purple	16	6	0	10	625	675	-50	6	4	0	40
Stewarts Coaches	16	5	2	9	527	547	-20	4	4	0	39
Volume	16	5	0	11	534	600	-66	2	8	0	35
Marcatus Green	16	0	0	16	325	875	-550	0	5	0	5

In division 2, there was a bright start to the season for Tadley, Whiteknights, Basingstoke, RG7 Black and Red Kites, all comfortably winning their first matches. Team DB had a slightly more challenging start to the season and were unable to field a team for their second match.

By the third match, only three teams had 100% – Basingstoke, RG7 Black and Red Kites, suggesting it would be a competitive division for the three teams... When RG7 played Basingstoke it was very close, with the latter narrowly missing out. In the lower half, a draw between Theale and Team DB showed that everyone was fighting for their place! Whilst the rivalry at the top continued, Thunderbirds quietly crept up the table, so when they were victorious over Basingstoke, there was a fourth competitor for top spot.

In November, a top of the table clash saw RG7 Black beat Red Kites by 2 goals, putting the pressure on both teams to win every match. By Christmas, the table looked very

similar to that at the end of the season, but with half a season left, there was still every opportunity to shake things up.

After the Christmas break, teams came back with passion, and by February, Marcatus Blue had pulled themselves clear of the relegation zone and nestled themselves nicely in mid-table. Thunderbirds continued to strengthen throughout the season, but had their difficult start been too little, too late? Theale's win over Whiteknights showed their determination, but was it enough to save them from demotion?

The decider for the division 2 top spot was also decided when Red Kites faced top of the table RG7 – a convincing win allowed them to knock RG7 into second place, and with a game in hand over their rivals, they were all but guaranteed the top spot.

The new league points system seems to have achieved what it intended, with first and second place separated by just one point at the end of the season, and with closely fought games making all the difference.

<i>RDNL Saturday Division 2 Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</i>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
Red Kites	16	15	0	1	897	410	487	2	0	0	77
RG7 Black	16	15	0	1	757	507	250	0	1	0	76
Thunderbirds 6	16	12	0	4	637	510	127	4	1	0	65
Basingstoke	16	8	0	8	632	578	54	6	5	1	50
Whiteknights	16	6	1	9	606	670	-64	4	6	0	43
Tadley	16	7	0	9	450	509	-59	2	6	1	42
Marcatus Blue	16	5	0	11	413	649	-236	2	4	0	31
Theale - A4 Metal Recycling	16	2	1	13	460	637	-177	8	8	0	29
Team DB	16	0	2	14	362	744	-382	0	6	1	11

In division 3, a good start to the season was had with Laurel Park Hurricanes securing their first win in the RDNL Saturday league. Panthers Pink, TNT and Posha Coffee also started strongly, with Storm putting points on the board in week 2 with their first season win against newly relegated Mortimer Mavericks.

October saw some very close and intense games between Posha & Storm (the former winning by 3), Mortimer & LP Hurricanes (which ended in a draw), and LP Hurricanes & TNT Gym (the latter winning by 3). The Rackets, Allsorts and Panthers also secured wins, leaving Panthers top, with Allsorts just behind them, neither having dropped any points.

Panthers and Allsorts continued to dominate the division in the run up to Christmas, whilst other games were again intensely contested, Mortimer Mavericks securing their first win of the season and LP Hurricanes and The Rackets giving us the most exciting game with a 27 goal draw.

The last fixture of the first half saw top team Panthers meet 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Allsorts; Panthers took the win to remain undefeated. Allsorts and Posha sat closely behind, with the rest of the table remaining wide open.



The second half of the season continued in the same vein, with all the matches being hotly contested. This period also saw Laurel Park Cyclones taking Mortimer Mavericks' space in the league, and they started off well, beating The Rackets 27 – 20. Panthers and Allsorts continued to dominate, both winning their games convincingly, and both LP teams again met for a tough game which ended in a draw.

The last couple of months of the season saw some really close matches, The Rackets and Posha Coffee fought hard for 3<sup>rd</sup>, with The Rackets leapfrogging Posha in March, but Posha taking it back on the final game. The rest of the table saw little movement, the hard work having already been done by the top 2 teams. Panthers are the worthy, undefeated winners of division 3 this season, with Allsorts the deserved runners up.

<i>RDNL Saturday Division 3 Table sponsored by Frasers Office Supplies</i>											
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Bonus Points within 5	Bonus Point over 1/2	Point Deductions	Points
Panthers Pink	16	16	0	0	711	269	442	0	0	0	80
Allsorts	16	11	1	4	561	406	155	2	2	0	62
Posha Coffee	16	11	0	5	495	450	45	4	2	1	60
The Rackets	16	10	1	5	506	443	63	2	2	0	57
Storm	16	7	0	9	444	477	-33	6	4	0	45
Laurel Park Cyclones	16	6	2	8	335	392	-57	2	4	0	42
Laurel Park Hurricanes	16	3	4	9	354	429	-75	4	5	0	36
TNT Gym	16	4	0	12	361	439	-78	4	7	0	31
The Razzlers	16	0	0	16	173	635	-462	0	1	0	1

### Juliet Burke Cup and Plate Tournament 2014

The first and second rounds of cup and plate were played the hot sun, all teams doing well to maintain their energy and play some good, competitive netball. By the end of the first few rounds the Cup and Plate groups were decided and the teams were able to see who they were to face.

The quarter final fixture date was a wash out and so the format was changed for the quarters and semis, playing both on the same day with slightly shorter matches. Unfortunately, this meant that some teams were unable to field a team, resulting in only one Plate quarter final being played.

The Semi Finals were played in high spirits with lots of supporters on the sidelines. In the Cup Semi-Final RG7 Black met Thunderbirds, and Team Rock met Whiteknights. In the Plate, Volume met Posha Coffee and Tadley met Laurel Park 2. Thunderbirds, Team Rock, Volume and Tadley were all victorious and moved on into the finals.

In the Cup, the match started off fairly even and up until the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter it could have been anybody's game, but Team Rock came out fighting in the final quarter to pull away and win by 60 goals to 32.

In the Plate, the match was close all the way through, with the lead changing several times. In the end, Volume were victorious, narrowly beating Tadley by 2 goals (final score 36-34).

Mixed Rally 2014

This year's Mixed Rally was again a great spectacle – not necessarily for the standard of netball, but just to see the men in our lives try and play some match and have their own turn at being dainty flamingos! In the case of PumpTech and Veet, the guys even dressed like flamingos – so well done to them for being good sports!

The weather was extremely hot and those men that had never tried netball before certainly realised that it wasn't the non-contact, lazy sport of old. They played well and put some great effort in, with some of them even mastering the footwork rule!

In the end, Team Rock managed to accrue two medals for the day, claiming victory over Veet in the final with a score of 11-3. The second place play-off was contested by Red Kites and PumpTech, the former holding on for a 7-6 win. In the third place play-off, Thunderbirds beat RG7 7-4; and the fourth place play-off was won by Theale, who overcame Mortimer by 7 goals to 6. Finally, and to ensure no team went home as losers, the fifth place play-off between Posha Coffee and Besabeau ended in a fair 3-3 draw! Well done to everyone.

## Appendix 2

**READING & DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT 2013-14**

	2013/14		2012/13	
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
BALANCE B/FWD	8,085.07		7,358.51	
COURT FEES & PLAYERS REG <sup>1</sup>	11,671.00	15,172.09	10,158.83	7,465.83
CUP & PLATE 2013	255.00	-	180.00	-
MIXED RALLY 2012	270.00	-	350.00	-
SUMMER 2012	1,250.00	-	660.00	-
DONNAS DAY 2012	-	-	60.00	-
SPONSORSHIP <sup>2</sup>	1,463.50	-	-	-
INTEREST RECEIVED & BANK CHARGES	0.44	-	0.48	-
EXPENSES & ADMIN	-	842.16	-	1,128.40
AGM / TROPHIES	85.00	1,435.00	-	1,411.85
UMPIRING	-	400.00	-	340.00
AUDIT FEES	-	-	-	80.00
DONATIONS <sup>3</sup>	-	75.00	-	256.67
BALANCE C/FWD		5,155.76		8,085.07
	<u>23,080.01</u>	<u>23,080.01</u>	<u>18,767.82</u>	<u>18,767.82</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE:	-	2,929.31		726.56

<b>BANK &amp; CASH BALANCE:</b>	5,155.76	
<b>FEES STILL TO RECEIVE RE 2013/14</b>	715.00	Players Regs
<b>PAYMENTS STILL TO BE MADE RE 2013/14</b>	(5,081.85)	Court Fees, expenses, donations, trophies
<b>TO CARRY FORWARD INTO 2014/15 SEASON</b>	<u>788.91</u>	

<sup>1</sup> At the start of the season, we had Court fees yet to clear which is why the expenditure looks so high for this season

<sup>2</sup> Sponsorship from Frasers this season and catchup from prior season. Agreed to continue sponsorship at £700 for the coming season

<sup>3</sup> Includes donation to Buscott Ward. Still to make contribution re Cup & Plate entries

SIGNED BY TREASURER - L BAYNES:



DATE: 01/07/14

SIGNED BY AUDITOR - C D GRANT:

DATE:

**Appendix 3**

Before we start with the nominations, the Committee, Jennie and myself would like to thank Su Oliver, her team of coaches and all the Back to Netball Ladies for letting us use their Monday night training sessions for beginner umpiring. It has made life so much easier being able to use these sessions for training beginners instead of having to go straight on to Division 4 games. We would also like to thank all the Division 4 teams who have allowed us to use their games for umpire training.

For the C Awards we would like to thank all the Division 2 and 3 teams who have allowed us to use their games for training.

Without all your co-operation we would not be able to train our umpires in a more structured way enabling us to be able to maintain a high standard of umpiring.

Lastly I would like to thank Jennie for training myself and allowing me to mentor the beginners. It has enabled me to learn a lot of what is expected of umpires. I have really enjoyed working with the beginners and then passing them on to Jennie for them to start their C Award training.

Our nominations are:-

**Tracy Little**

Tracy started her beginner training last season. She found umpiring a lot harder than she thought. She has gained in confidence and persevered and with a lot of hard work has been umpiring Division 4 for most of the season. She is now training to be able to umpire Division 3 next season.

**Rachel Wasylciw**

Rachel, like Tracy, also started her training last season. She didn't find umpiring easy and with a lot of perseverance, dedication and a lot of hard work by turning up every Monday night in all weathers she has managed to umpire Division 4 most of this season and is now training to be able to umpire Division 3 next season

**Megan Walmsley**

Megan only started umpire training in March. She had previously been umpiring while coaching the Back to Netball Ladies at Sue Oliver's Monday night training. Megan has progressed very quickly and gained enough confidence and is currently training on Division 3 games. Hopefully she will be able to think about starting her C Award training sometime next season.

**Kate Martin**

Kate only started umpire training with Megan in March. Kate had never umpired before but in a short time has managed to be able to start umpiring Division 4 games and will be having ago on a Division3 before the end of the Summer League. To gain extra practice she is helping to umpire the Social League started by Su Oliver. She is also helping with umpiring on Su's other training nights

**Andrea Rose**

Andrea started her beginner training a couple of seasons ago and won the Most Improved Umpire award last year. Andrea continued to umpire division 3 games and at the beginning of the year, one of our C Award umpires had to drop out and we asked Andrea if she would be interested in starting her C Award training. She was more than happy to start her training and worked very hard enabling her to pass her C Award in February 2014.

**Rachel Caswell**

Rachel also started her beginner training a couple of seasons ago moving up to her C Award training but unfortunately had to stop due to health reasons. Rachel was well enough to resume her training this season. Rachel's perseverance and hard work was second to none as she passed her C Award with a "Good" marking in February.

**Julie Whittaker**

Julie began her B Award training 2 seasons ago having to commit to both local and regional fixtures covering Saturdays and Sundays. The learning is steep with the players having higher expectations of the umpire. Julie gained her written paper with an "A" pass which is the highest grade and means she will not have to sit the "A" Award paper should she want to go on higher.

Julie gained her "B" Award in March.

The Award for the Most Improved Umpire goes to TL, RW, MW, KM, AR, RC and JW.

#### **Appendix 4**

##### RDNL Ros Witt Over 50's Award 2014 – Jacqui Ives

This lady is only just eligible for this award, having celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> only this year!

This lady plays for a couple of teams, both of whom have provided kind and positive words about her.

She is not only a player but also an experienced umpire, always happy to help out if she can. This lady can regularly be seen at Su Oliver's training on a Monday night, helping with coaching and umpiring, and imparting her skills and experience onto others to help their development.

For her Saturday team, her skills and knowledge have not only helped to improve their game but her encouragement has really boosted their confidence. She is positive on court and always has a constructive comment or suggestion during the breaks, helping to keep them motivated even when playing some of their toughest matches.

They consider this lady to be a key member of their team and feel she thoroughly deserves this award.

For her Midweek team, this lady radiates positivity and encouragement, whether on court with her team or cheering and coaching from the sidelines. She passes on her experience and reading of the game both during training sessions and in match situations, making a real difference to the patterns of play. She never gives up and will strive to maintain a lead or turn over a possible defeat, leading by example from defence and motivating the players around her through her constant communication and teamwork.

Although she doesn't think so, she is also actually a really versatile player which is a bonus for any team!

She is a real asset to all of the teams she plays and umpires for, and helps to coach, and so, the Ros Witt Over 50's award 2014 goes to Jacqui Ives.

## **Appendix 5**

### **RDNL Junior Player Award 2014**

This year saw a high number of nominations for this category, we are giving this awards to 2 deserving players. Winners, please come up to collect your award once we have read out the nominations for both of you

#### **The first player:**

This player is a highly dedicated and committed player. She plays in several leagues across Berkshire: The Berkshire Junior Netball League, RDNL and the Berkshire Premier League and has been with her club for 6 years already.

She comes to every training session with a very focussed attitude and a willingness to learn and improve. She encourages her teammates to give their all at training as she knows it will pay off on court.

Over the last 12 months she has played, in Div 2 of the RDNL and we have seen her develop into an incredibly accurate shooter. She has deservedly been nominated the player of the match by her peers on several occasions. She has an enviable ability to hold on to the ball and read passages of play as they open up, making her a very effective attacking player with a pin-point accurate feed into the circle.

She is a joy to have on the team and we have watched her improve immeasurably this year. This player may only be 16, but she thoroughly deserves to be nominated in this category as recognition for her hard work and dedication to the sport. She is obviously highly thought of by her team and club.

The first winner of this award goes to Chloe Hodgetts from Thunderbirds.

#### **The second nominee:**

This player joined her team in September 2013 having only played with her school team prior to this. She is a talented netballer who, at the young age of fifteen, has improved in confidence each game throughout the season and has developed quickly to become a very strong link within her team. Her determination and commitment to netball has been crucial and instrumental to the successes of her team this season. In addition, she has offered to play for other teams if and when they have been in need of shooters.

This player is committed to the team and the game. She excels in her position as Goal Attack and plays well under pressure and can always be relied upon to give her best. Her commitment is evident prior to every match as she ensures she is at least half an hour early to make sure she has adequate time to warm up and get her eye in for her shooting role. Her father or grandfather accompany her weekly, practising alongside her, giving her advice and cheering for her.

During the course of the season she has made phenomenal progress. In addition to her excellent shooting abilities, her court play is outstanding. Although she is energetic and incredibly difficult to mark, those that play against her always acknowledge her incredible skill and sportsmanship. Unsurprisingly, this player has had the most players' player votes for her team and, for the reasons above, thoroughly deserves the recognition of this award.

The second winner of this award goes to Elvia Clark Morris from Posha



## **Appendix 6**

### RDNL Frasers Most Improved Player Award 2014

This player joined RDNL 3 seasons back. Not having played netball for over 10 years, she wasn't clear on footwork, often asking "Am I allowed in there??" and also getting to grips with the concept that it was a non-contact sport!! But she gives her all, to every game she plays.

She was out of the game for short period of time at the beginning of this season, whilst she had her second child and she was keen to return and came back as soon as the doctors would allow (if she'd had her way she would have come back sooner!!)

She regularly plays a Centre position and continues to give it her all, and has received Player of Match a few times over the season. She builds on her netball awareness, knowledge and skills from every game she has played and this can be seen with her accurate passing into the circle, her positioning and how she has mastered her footwork. This may seem like simple and basic skills of netball, but considering this player came to her team as an accomplished and successful footballer, it was no small feat "to change her game", and she has improved every season and it can be said that she is an accomplished and successful netballer.

This year the award for Most Improved Player goes to Charlie Maskell of Team DB

## **Appendix 7**

RDNL Brenda Sawyer Special Award for Services to Netball 2014

This lady is clearly “Nutty for Netball”!

She consistently strives to increase awareness and interest in the game at all levels and has raised the profile of netball locally, with some cracking radio interviews. She has recently obtained funding to trial youth netball in the area running sessions for them twice a week for 4 weeks and will trial more in July with a view to starting a satellite youth team.

Alongside these sessions she runs her own club and the Back To Netball sessions.

Whilst looking for ways to increase the love of our game she has also run a number of charity matches to raise money for good causes whilst providing a fun atmosphere for those who take part. With an increase in players and interest her club has also expanded.

She is always looking for new ways to promote the sport via schools and has spent a lot of time talking to the Berkshire Netball Development Officer about funding and other ideas for making netball available to all. She always supports other teams charity run events and will help teams where she can, although we’re never quite sure where she finds the time!

The Brenda Sawyer Special Award for Services To Netball goes to Lisa Wise from Laurel Park

## Appendix 8

### RDNL Chair's Award 2014 for Exception Service to RDNL

Vicky and I decided to bring back this award for a lady we feel deserves special recognition. This lady received a nomination for a different award, but we felt that under the circumstances, the work she does for the RDNL should be recognised separately.

This lady is, undoubtedly, a superwoman! Over the last couple of years we have heard a number of people comment on all the work she does and wonder how on earth she manages to do it all!

Not content with running hugely successful Back to Netball training sessions each Monday, she also coaches netball sessions on Thursday evenings.

Add to that her commitment to umpire and coach on both Wednesdays and Saturdays, helping to mentor prospective umpires at her training sessions, and participating in nearly every RDNL tournament, you can see how busy this lady is – but she carries on regardless, along with a full time job and two very talented daughters, with whom she has to travel the country for their hobbies.

During the course of her work, she has not only formed countless new teams, but has also inspired other members of the RDNL to start coaching and umpiring. She also recently organised a shooting workshop for existing RDNL members, proving that she has the desire not only to help new players but more experienced players also.

On top of all this, she also joined the RDNL committee in 2011 and has been an integral member since then, writing up the match reports and results for all 4 midweek divisions *every week*.

This lady also played a key role in the proposed relocation to Academy Sport and despite us voting to stay at Theale, the work she undertook for the good of the league should not be overlooked.

Recently, this lady has co-organised the Reading Social Netball League, primarily to give new teams the opportunity to play proper matches and to get some good experience. Feedback is that this, also, is very successful – but would you expect anything less?!

This lady's achievements are made all the more remarkable given that she has had a tough few months with family illnesses, as well as training for her level 2 coaching award (which she passed only a couple of weeks ago!)

All in all, this lady has had a hugely positive impact on the participation of netball in Berkshire, and does everything with a great attitude. Her enthusiasm, passion and commitment know no bounds and it is not just the ladies that nominated her that appreciate all she does, which is why we are extremely pleased to announce that the

RDNL Chair's Award 2014 for Exceptional Service to the RDNL goes, as if you hadn't figured it out already, to Su Oliver.

## Appendix 9

### RDNL Dedication Award 2014 for Services to Charity in Memory of Donna Barrett

This winner was nominated for the Special Award, but again, I felt that their hard work should be recognised in some other, more bespoke, way.

There are actually a couple of winners for this award and as I go on, you will understand where I'm going with this.

The work that has been done by these award winners has not been done for *any* sort of recognition, but we feel that their dedication should be both admired and applauded.

These players have been playing in the RDNL for a great number of years and they are integral to the league due to their commitment and passion for the game, not only collectively but also individually. Many of them have held key roles on the committee and helped the league in a variety of ways over the years, including having five umpires between them.

The reason for being awarded this, however, is completely different entirely...

Just over 4 years ago the league lost a very special lady: a Chair, a team mate, and more importantly, a friend. In her memory, these players changed their team name and decided to run a charity netball tournament and family day to raise money for the ward in which she spent her final weeks. But I don't think anyone thought they'd do quite so well – in 4 years they have raised over a fantastic £15,000 – funding reclining chairs for chemotherapy patients, comfortable chairs, foot stools and fans for the rest rooms, and contributing towards a much needed bladder scanner.

As you can imagine, organising such a fantastic and large scale tournament is no mean feat; especially given the fact that their organisational skills weren't the best! But seriously, it takes a huge amount of dedication and commitment – in the months beforehand there were numerous letters sent to local businesses for support and sponsorship, in the weeks beforehand there was the scheduling of the tournament itself, and in the days beforehand there is a LOT of mad baking!

The number of teams entering every year and the amount they continue to raise is testament to the hard work and dedication they give to this day and to remembering the life of this special lady. They truly embody the spirit of netball, their enthusiasm for the game and dedication to keeping her memory alive through hosting a tournament in the sport she loved is the reason for this nomination, so without any further ado I would like to present the RDNL Dedication Award 2014, for services to charity, in memory of Donna Barrett, to Team DB.