

## **County Officiating Lead's Report**

I am delighted that "traditional" netball restarted in September 2021 and we were able to undertake assessments, for the first time since March 2020. Congratulations to all our successful learners (details below) and thanks to assessors, clubs and teams for their role in assessments, both for Essex Met and for the Region. Thanks also to Redbridge for allowing umpires to use the former café in the Pavilion and for all those, particularly Pat Meadows, who provided refreshments for our umpires.

### **Assessments**

Successful learners (September 2021-May 2022) were:-

Into Officiating Award: Lorna Duley and Alice Longshaw

C Award: Dani Agnew, Nicole Catling, Fran Cross, Vicky Ford, Alice Longshaw, Cherelle Mitchell, Niamh Murphy and Ella Wray

B Award: Jamal Nicholson and Loan Oung

Special congratulations to Alice, who had the double distinction of being the first Into Officiating Award pass in Essex Met and also passing her Into Officiating Award and her C Award in the same season-well done!

### **Courses**

As anticipated in my report last season, all England Netball courses are now delivered online, with only the B Award course having a practical session as part of the course. This has meant that learners have had to gain their practical experience elsewhere, eg at training sessions. I contact all learners when they have completed their course to offer assistance, but don't always receive a response-an experience shared by the other County Officiating Leads in the Region.

I am aware that the courses can get booked up very quickly, so please use the Expression of Interest form on the England Netball website and England Netball will contact you when a relevant course is available.

### **Mentoring**

We continue to offer mentoring for learners working towards their Into Officiating, C and B Awards and the Region continues to offer mentoring for learners working towards their A Award.

### **Umpires**

Due to concerns over clubs sourcing umpires, particularly at the beginning of last season, the Executive Committee undertook a review of the situation and made a number of recommendations, which included the suspension of our reassessment programme, potentially making more umpires available. We have sufficient numbers of qualified umpires, but many of them choose not to umpire.

To address this, we will continue to encourage more umpires to qualify and/or progress towards a higher award but we need clubs' support to encourage their members to attend courses and work towards qualification and to encourage their qualified but inactive umpires to take up umpiring again. As you are aware, we are considering a Rules change for 2023-2024 to require each club to provide at least one active umpire for every two teams in the League as a condition of entry to our League to increase the number of active umpires.

As always, I am available to provide assistance and information to help our umpires qualify and progress. Information is available on our website and on the England Netball website, but if you have a query, please ask.

Jane Kelloe

County Officiating Lead