

## **Essex Met County PDP Report 2024/25**

The Essex Met County Player Pathway continues to provide outstanding opportunities for young netball athletes to develop their skills and progress within the sport. Through structured training, competitive matches, and valuable partnerships, we are committed to developing talent and ensuring that athletes receive the support they need to excel.

A significant part of our success is the support received from the Jack Petchey Foundation, which plays a crucial role in recognising and rewarding the hard work and dedication of our athletes. The Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Scheme allows us to celebrate individual accomplishments, fostering motivation and a strong sense of achievement within the squad. This initiative not only acknowledges personal growth but also encourages leadership, resilience, and teamwork qualities essential for success both on and off the court.

As a testament to our partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation, our athletes proudly wear training and match T-shirts featuring the Jack Petchey logo, alongside the London Pulse logo and our own Essex Met County logo. These emblems represent the collaboration and support networks that empower our athletes to strive for excellence at every level of their development.

This season has also seen exciting improvements in our training facilities. Our U13 squad now trains at The Score Leyton, an upgraded venue that provides a high-quality environment for skill enhancement. Meanwhile, our U15 athletes train at Redbridge, where they continue to refine their game under expert coaching. These state-of-the-art venues enable us to deliver high intensity training sessions, ensuring that our players are well-prepared for competitive play.

Competition remains a vital part of our development programme, and a recent highlight was our match against Sussex County U13s, hosted by Surrey County Netball. This event was a fantastic experience for our athletes, giving them the opportunity to test their skills against strong opposition. It also provided our coaches with valuable insights into player development, tactical awareness, and team cohesion. The day proved to be a resounding success, reinforcing the importance of inter-county fixtures in shaping the next generation of netball talent. Gratitude was extended to Jane Kelloe and Tracy Howe for their excellent organisation of umpires for the Regional Festival held in Croydon. The event was a great success, with positive feedback received regarding its smooth delivery and professional execution. Parents have continued to play an important supportive role, particularly in assisting with scoring at various tournaments.

The Essex Met County Player Pathway continues to grow from strength to strength. We have a 2-year futures programme where athletes develop their skills further while training with and against the county PDP U13s. Our futures programme ends 25/26. I would like to say thanks to the dedication of our coaches, Joan Bovell, Nana Brown, Claire Criag -Lane, Cyanne Morgan, Tracy Howe, athletes, and supporters. With enhanced facilities, competitive opportunities, and the backing of initiatives such as the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards, we are confident that our programme will continue to develop skilled, confident, and ambitious players ready to make their mark in the sport. Thanks to Essex Met Committee members for supporting the PDP programme this year.

Further appreciation was shown to Pat Meadows and Val Hollingsworth for accompanying the athletes to a recent Pulse match. The event was well attended by the U13 squad who received certificates at half time on the court, and Essex Met County planned a similar experience for the U15s.

This year we have named one of our awards the Pat Meadows Award. This award recognises the following

**Outstanding Athletic Performance:** Consistently high levels of skill, dedication, and sportsmanship.

**Leadership and Mentorship:** Supporting and guiding peers, both on and off the court.

**Commitment to the Netball Community:** Actively contributing to the growth and development of Netball at grassroots level to PDP and NSL.

We would like to thank Pat for her 6 decades contribution to Netball and supporting grassroots Netball.