 Winter 2023

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Medway Junior netball winter league 2023/24 season. We used to have regular newsletters pre and during Covid and so thought we would restart. Feedback welcome and do pass on to your parents, carers, volunteers and players.

We are proud of the above figures. A lot of effort and organisation is behind them. We would like to thank everyone - players, umpires and coaches for choosing netball. Thanks also to all parents and carers who ferry players to and from the games and for their support. We would like to remind all coaches and spectators to applaud the efforts of all teams and players - remembering that some players in all divisions are playing competitive netball for the first time. They need your encouragement and for you to enjoy the games - win or lose.

**In the first five weeks of the winter netball season there have been:**

* **110 games played needing 220 umpires;**
* **4400 minutes played;**
* **2260 goals scored; and**
* **over 220 players taking the court each week.**

**With an eye on the future player, we have**

* **26 new recruits to Emeralds;**
* **making 51 players training in the hall each week; and**
* **looking to bring a further 2 new teams out into the competitive league next summer.**

**Our players.**

* We would like to say well done to Macklins U11’s, Diamond Juniors and Topaz 2 who are all playing in a league for the first time. They have all scored goals and shown great determination and resilience in their first round of matches. Good luck for the next set of games.
* It’s tight at the top of the Premier division with both Comets 1 and Crystals on 14 points;
* It’s competitive too in Intermediate with 2 points between Titans and Platinum Tanzanite, with Platinum a game in hand;
* three teams (Pink Diamonds, Jets, Macklins Minis) are battling for the top places in Division 1; and
* Platinum minis and Crystal juniors in Division 2 are in the top spots.

It’s very early days and plenty of time to see other teams improve. Enjoy your netball.

We have several newly qualified umpires - well done to all of them- who will need further practice, and a number of trainee umpires. Remember no umpire will get everything correct - so please do show some patience. Thank you!

After half term you will see Committee members more visible on Saturday mornings. We are hoping to be out and about on the courts and talking to spectators and will be wearing Hi-Viz vests. We all like to get positive feedback as well as picking up on any issues so would like to hear about positive sporting behaviours; and if you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please send us the information and any approved photos.

 A box of chocolates for the **first person** to send us something for the Christmas newsletter! And a free raffle ticket for the *Twelve days of Christmas* draw in December to everyone who sends us something for the newsletter. Thanks.

The final set of matches before half term are this coming Saturday, 21 October and the league returns on Saturday 11 November.  Have a good break and see you back in a few weeks.

The weather has been kind to us so far and we hope we continue to have bright and dry Saturdays up until Christmas. As it gets colder, get the leggings out and in very cold weather EN approved gloves can be worn by players. Please check with the Committee at the desk for details of what is approved.



If there is a risk of torrential rain, snow or a weather warning, the Committee will decide about play on the Friday evening. Otherwise, decisions will be made at the courts about whether games go ahead if there is adverse weather, or it rains during play. The weather can change quickly, and we will try to get games played if it is safe to do so.

Finishing with some more numbers, Lou and Zoe in the cafe have served you all thousands of hot drinks and hundreds of bacon sandwiches. Thanks to both and hope they get a break too before they are back at the hatch!

And finally, our website is back up and running after a long time dormant! We will be using this as our primary method of communication and will be posting fixtures and results there. Please do use it @[Home - Medway Netball League](https://medwaynetballleague.co.uk/)

MNL October 2023

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