

West Yorkshire County Junior Netball League (WYCJNL) Chairpersons Report June 2016

The WYCJNL has now been running for 11 years and continues to offer competition at U16, U14, U12 and High 5. At the start of the season there were 13 clubs involved.

The **clubs** involved included Fusion, Huddersfield Giants, Leeds Athletic, Leeds Stars, Leeds YMCA, PADFC, Rothwell, Shipley, Twinkles, Wakefield Phoenix, Whitcliffe Warriors, Wakefield Wildcats and Yorkshire Terriers. This is one less than last season as Old Brodleians do not now have a junior section, Chevrons did not enter this season but we are delighted to welcome PADFC.

The league has been run by a **committee** comprising:

- Chair Alison Morby (Huddersfield Giants)
- Vice Chair Siobhan Holdsworth (Terrier Tots)
- Secretary Jayne Field (Wakefield Wildcats)
- Treasurer Louise Swainson (Wakefield Phoenix)
- Fixtures Jacki Womersley (Whitcliffe Warriors)
- Umpires Lucy Hufton (Shipley)
- Results Sec (U12s) Tracey Buchanan (Rothwell)
- Results Sec (U14s) Gerry Plant (YMCA) Pam Hirlam
Carol Oldroyd (Whitcliffe Warriors)
- Results Sec (U16s) Helen Fermoye (Twinkles) Carol Oldroyd (Whitcliffe Warriors)
- Results Sec (H5) Louise Boocock (Leeds Athletic)
- Advisor Jenny Skelton
- Advisor Rebecca Gallagher /Helena Russo (WYNDO)

This year the league **playing venues** have been Dewsbury Sports Centre, , North Bridge Leisure Centre, Huddersfield Leisure centre, Huddersfield University and Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre.

Team entries have increased again this year with 67 teams entered in competition in 4 age groups.

- U16s -22 teams (increase of 1 team from 2015) entered this season and play commenced in September in 3 divisions Divisions X, Y, Z with teams allocated to each division on ability and selected by coaches. The Championship Competition was completed in December. The Plate Competition continued after Christmas;
- U14s -24 teams (increase of 1 team from 2015) played in 3 leagues again defined as a Division A, B, C on ability and selected by coaches. The Championship Competition was completed in December and the Plate competition commenced in January.
- U12s - 11 teams (increase of 1 team from 2015) entered in this age group The Plate Competition was completed in December and the Championship competition commenced in January 2016. The competition structure is different for the U12s as it is difficult for clubs to recruit in August /September due to transition to High school but also the U12 Regional Festival is not until June.
- High 5 - 9 teams (same as 2015) entered in this age group and competition commenced in Jan 2016

Results are as follows:

U16 Championship Competition Division X winners were Leeds Athletic 1 and along with the second placed team Wakefield Wildcats 1, were invited to play in the Regional League Competition. In Division Y the winners were Wakefield Phoenix with Huddersfield Giants 2 as runners up. In Division Z Wakefield Wildcats 3 were winners with Yorkshire Terriers 3 as runners up.

In the U16 Plate Competition the Division X winners were Huddersfield Giants 1 with Yorkshire Terriers 1 being the runners up. In Division Y the winners were Wakefield Wildcats 1 with Whitcliffe Warriors 1 being runners up. In Division Z the winners were YMCA 3 with Fusion 2 as runners up.

U14 Championship Competition winners Division A were Leeds Athletic 1 and along with second placed team Huddersfield Giants 1 went forward to play in the Regional League Competition. In Division B the winners were Huddersfield Giants 2 with Wakefield Wildcats 2 runners up. In Division C Rothwell were winners with Fusion 2 as runners up.

In the U14 Plate Competition in Division A the winners were Shipley with Wakefield Wildcats 1 as runner up. In Division B Rothwell were winners with YMCA 1 as runners up and in Division C Yorkshire Terriers 3 were winners and runners up were Leeds Stars.

U12 Championship Competition winners were Huddersfield Giants 1 with the runners up being Wakefield Wildcats 1.

In the U12 Plate Competition the winners were Wakefield Wildcats 1 with Huddersfield Giants as runners up.

High 5 winners were YMCA with runners up being Huddersfield Giants.

Results from all the age groups are available from the website.

The end of season tournament for the High 5s took place on 24th April at Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre the winners were Wakefield Wildcats and the runners up were Leeds Athletic 2.

A new development was an end of season tournament for U12s took place on 15th May at Whitcliffe Mount Sports Centre the winners being Huddersfield Giants and the runners up were Wakefield Wildcats.

Many thanks to Helen Fermoye for organising these tournaments and Tracey Buchanan for sorting umpires!

Congratulations to the 4 teams that went forward to the Regional League

- Leeds Athletic 1 (U16)
- Wakefield Wildcats 1 (U16)
- Leeds Athletic 1 (U14)
- Huddersfield Giants 1 (U14)

In the U16 regional competition Leeds Athletic 1 and Wakefield Wildcats 1 were placed 1st and 3rd respectively. Leeds Athletic went through to the National Finals on 30th April /1st May 2015 and finished in 4th position. Well done to Leeds ...an excellent result for West Yorkshire!

In the U14 regional competition Leeds Athletic 1 were placed 1st and Huddersfield Giants 1 3rd. Leeds Athletic went through to the National Finals on 28th/29th May and finished in 9th position. Well done again Leeds!

Congratulations also to the 4 U12 teams that have been put forward for the Regional Festival Huddersfield Giants, Wakefield Wildcats, Leeds Athletic and Yorkshire Terriers. This will take place on 12th June. Good luck to all involved.

The junior league remains in a **strong position** and continues to be represented on the West Yorkshire County Committee. We believe the league is still going from strength to strength: the quality of netball continues to improve, with again more teams entered than ever before, 4 age groups are provided for, centralised umpiring has again proved popular, use of youth umpires and those awaiting tests with lower leagues and the mentoring they have received, no cancelled fixtures, new end of season tournaments, new team manager support document plus the general organisation of the league gets better every year. Teams from outside West Yorkshire are requesting places in the leagues and consideration will be given to these requests if there is capacity.

There continues to be **challenges** as one would expect. Difficult decisions have to be made and I hope clubs/coaches understand why certain decisions are made. (There is a mechanism to challenge!!!).

Other challenges this year include

- Playing venues not being spread evenly across the district
- Behaviour of players and parents towards umpires.
- Some clubs not paying fees on time
- Not making the best use of the website to promote the league
- An unwillingness of some team managers to step in and umpire – this again needs to be made clear to all clubs before next season.

The league committee are committed to continuous improvement and wish to **further develop** the league but also the junior clubs in partnership with the WYND0. Plans for the 16/17 season include:

- Supporting clubs to develop young leaders/ youth umpires
- Identification of more playing venues across the district
- Better promotion of the junior league via website
- Encouraging new clubs to join the league
- Supporting the NDO with the development of new clubs.
- Continuing to support the development of H5 and increasing numbers in the H5 league.

As Chairperson for the WYCJNL, I would like to **thank** my colleagues on the Committee for their support this year. I would particularly like to thank Louise Swainson who this year will be stepping down from the committee. She has been Treasurer for a long period of time and will be sadly missed.

We have again had new committee members too this season who I hope have enjoyed their year with us! The task of managing the league does not get any easier, particularly if we want to continue to improve. There is always plenty to do to take the league forward and I do appreciate the commitment and enthusiasm from the committee to make that happen. I hope the clubs appreciate this too and ask that they ensure that all involvedplayers, coaches and parents are aware of that commitment. Without the commitment from the committee the league would not run and there would be no competition for juniors in West Yorkshire. We do have a strongest junior league in place....in my opinion the best in the regionbut we will strive to improve and facilitate more girls to access competition in West Yorkshire.

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