

Lowestoft Netball League Umpiring Report 2010

After the various discussions around umpiring at last years AGM the following is now in place –

A record is kept locally of -

- names & dates of umpires attending courses
- names of umpires being mentored and waiting to be mentored
- level of Qualifications & date received

Congratulations to Jane Temple (Sole Bay), Emma Waner (Sole Bay), Jill Martin (Winterton) and Carla Smith (Blues n Twos) who all gained their Beginners Umpire Award this year.

Beginner Awards last 4 years and can only be re-taken once, after which umpires should have either progressed on to their C award or are no longer eligible to umpire.

Currently being mentored towards their Beginners Award are Sharon Boyd (Blues n Twos), Carly Ogogo (Nirvana) and Lynn Bullard for her C Award.

As Umpire Rep I have attended the yearly Norfolk Mentor meeting, a Tester course and a C Award course – to enable me to mentor Beginners to C Award.

I think all the umpires who have undergone the mentoring system will agree that it is a worthwhile process. Not only does it enable them to gain confidence and experience but helps with setting the standard required, resulting in not only more passes first time but also a higher standard of pass.

As a mentor I see how the process is helping to develop new and improving umpires, which in time leads to a higher standard and more professional game/league.

If anyone is interested in becoming a mentor and want to find out more of what's involved, please come and have a chat sometime.

I hope that all umpires feel supported within the league and, if any umpires (C as well as Beginners) would like to be mentored, or have constructive feedback on their umpiring to enable them to improve on their performance, please let me know.

Norfolk County Netball have announced the following -

Please can you inform all your C & B award umpires that unobtrusive assessing of all umpires will take place every 2 years. Where items for development are observed a plan to address those needs will be agreed.

This process is to ensure that umpires maintain the standards expected of their umpiring qualification. Assessing will be done by Accredited Testers and Mentors throughout the County.

*Sophie Pike
Norfolk County Umpiring Officials Secretary*

Thanks to all umpires and teams for their help and understanding with the fixtures which proved a nightmare at the start of the season but the 2nd half, after Christmas, has worked exceedingly well. Some umpires have said that they did not receive revised fixture lists from their teams as the Committee only send out to the email address of the team secretary. One of the benefits of the website we are creating is that a current list of all fixtures will be available for everyone to download.

The Committee, along with Linda's family, wished to commemorate her life and thought it fitting to present a shield for our Umpire of the Year Award, now known as the "Linda Crisp Memorial Shield for Umpire of the Year".

If any player or umpire wishes to purchase a Rule Book they are £5.

Finally a big thank you; to those teams where more than one umpire has made themselves available for games; Sue Does' who stood in whilst Karen was on maternity leave; and thanks to Jenny & Kerry from JJ's who have helped the league for many years by both being available every week to cover games.

Below are a few questions that the committee would like to raise for discussion -

- Do all teams want to continue with the allocation of umpires?
- Currently only C award and above can umpire 1st Division games – although this does cause us some issues when trying to allocate umpires, do teams still agree with this?
- Do teams like the friendly games or are they no longer required?
- Should the cost of umpiring go up?
- Should we introduce scorers for games, if so both Divisions or 1 only?