



## Chairman's Report – June 2014

"If it aint' broke don't fix it" how many times do we hear that expression?

We are all sceptical about change, as well as apprehensive about examining our lives in case we find something that needs fixing! Sometimes however, you do need to carry out such an analysis to grow and succeed and, as a region we have done just that.....

We began a journey over two years ago to review and restructure the East Midlands Regional management team to ensure that we could increase and widen the base of participation of our sport in order to achieve greater levels of success and to ensure that we met governance compliance. In short, to make East Midlands Netball the most active and successful region in the country.

During the preceding 2 years, a working group dedicated their time developing policies and procedures to be able to form a management team, and structure fit for purpose thus ensuring we meet and exceed our responsibilities to our members as well as ensuring that our volunteers are protected in respect of liability and culpability.

This journey has not been without its headaches and at times I must admit doubts about our success however, I can stand here today and confidently say I don't think we have ever been in better shape and I thank each and every one of the management structure both past and present for their dedication and hard work along the way. Without your belief and unerring vision we could and would not have succeeded in getting thus far.

As with any new process the first few months have not been without teething problems, however, I am more confident than ever that the decisions made have been the right ones and we go forward with a clear strategic vision and a strong, skilful team in place and we look forward to making that vision a reality. The core components of our four year plan show a balanced, realistic and achievable goal and indeed having recently completed our review of year one we are confident having evaluated the results that we will meet and in some areas exceed our targets across our region.

I touched briefly a few moments ago about the efforts of the management team, however, there are countless others such as our umpires, coaches, team managers, bench officials and the numerous unsung heroes making tea, washing kit, transporting players etc., all personnel who as volunteers give so much to the region, expertise, time, energy, dedication, commitment, in order that we can all participate. Without volunteers we would not survive. Volunteers play a vital role in netball across the region and without these people many clubs, leagues and events would not be able to run. In short volunteers make our sport happen. To all volunteers I say *"Thank You"*

Two very small words *"Thank You"* which when you look at them in the context of what personnel give to me always seem so inadequate - we have all seen and heard the saying *"Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless they are not paid because they are priceless"* a more apt turn of phrase I could not employ.

Not only do we have a volunteer workforce in the region we also have a highly motivated, extremely dedicated and skilful paid workforce who do an exceptional job – going over and above their employment responsibilities to assist us all in delivering netball - So a huge thank you to all staff members. As we enter a new era in the East Midlands we look forward to succeeding not only in performance but in development, support of volunteers, and achieving success at every level and every opportunity. We have a strong and flexible platform to springboard our aspirations and I look forward to that journey and to ensuring together we grasp the opportunity.