**Report following the Maccabi Games**

I was selected as Head Coach for  the GB Junior Maccabi Netball Squad at the end of 2012 and coached them regularly up to the Maccabiah games which took place in Israel in July 2013.

After attending the opening ceremony in Teddy Stadium (30,000 capacity sell out) spirits were high amongst all the GB squads.

With netball being such a big part of my life, I was proud to be representing my country and was hoping and aiming to bring home a medal. Gold was the dream as it would be with any coach or player

Going into the 19th Maccabiah Games, Australia were undefeated at both junior and senior level and so the task ahead was going to be tough. The juniors had their opening game against Australia and although holding them to a draw at half time, we lost by 10 goals. We played them later on and the result again didn’t go our way as we lost by 17.

Going into the final against Australia meant we were the underdogs, but the team were well prepared both mentally and physically and knew what we had to do (all our training and other games were leading up to this one big game). And do it we did! Having held them to a draw at ¼ ½ and ¾ time we took the lead in the last two minutes of game and hung in tight. The gold was in touching distance and we never lost sight of it and as the final whistle went, we were the winners: 47 to 44! History was made- Australia were defeated and GB came out on top.

I was also assistant coach to the GB Senior squad and they took 3rd place over South Africa (so a bronze medal as well as my gold).

Vanessa McErlain-Naylor