



## Chairman's Report – AGM 21st June 2015

My first AGM as East Midlands Regional Chair was back in 2009. In the seven years since, there have been immense changes not only to our regional structure but to sport governance. As we come to the end of another year, it is always good to reflect on the past- this last year has been without doubt one of the most challenging, diverse, exciting and rewarding since I was elected.

As a management board we have seen many changes since our re-structure. Having reflected in a recent planning day with TSG Chair's, it is clear to me that our development continues to progress and the skill sets of our management team complements our vision, strategies and regional plan. They are a highly dedicated, professional group of volunteers monitoring the regional plan and ensuring targets are adhered to and met.

I must emphasize the word "volunteers". Without these dedicated personnel giving up their free time to organise events and courses, support development, tend to financial matters, and generally manage the region- no participation would be able to take place. Therefore, on behalf on the member's, I want to convey our gratitude and thanks to all volunteers, and take this opportunity to re-iterate how important it is to recognise volunteers. With that in mind, I urge you to please take time to consider your nominations for next year's awards.

Recognition must also be given to our dedicated team of England Netball employed staff, who all go over and above their paid responsibilities, from our NDO's, NDCC and office staff supporting us all.

In October, we welcomed two new members to our office team- Melissa Carr, as Regional Manager, and Stephanie Orr covering Katie Griffin's maternity leave. Both hit the ground running and have slotted in as if they had been here for years! Thank you all both personally and on behalf of the membership.

As another year dawns on us I am sure you will agree we are moving from strength to strength in respect of governance and opportunities available. However, we as a region have to address an area which is giving us cause for concern, and that is the performance element of our game. It is with disappointment that we advise that we no longer have any East Midlands representation in the National Premier League, and our schools and clubs qualifying for national events fail to shine. As a regional management team we are looking/discussing what we can do to assist/support schools and clubs going forward and would welcome any suggestions/ideas from the membership at how this could be addressed- so please feel free to e-mail the regional office.

Moving from this room shortly we will be acknowledging our volunteers in our regional Golden Globes celebration event. This year we have received the highest number of nominations ever for our region, the calibre of the nominations was extremely high thus making the selection panel's job challenging.

Finally, I would on behalf of the membership I congratulate and thank all the coaches, umpires, team managers, administrators, bench officials as well as the un-sung hero's ensuring the kit is laundered and players are transported to meet commitments – without these personnel as a sport we would not survive. "Thank You All" for doing such an amazing job.

In conclusion I wish everyone in the region a successful, enjoyable forthcoming year.

Sue Collin

England Netball  
East Midlands Regional Chair