**Newark and Sherwood Sports Awards 2012**

**Newark B2N wins Inspirational Award**

Wednesday 28th November saw clubs and volunteers from across the Newark and Sherwood area coming together for the annual Sports Awards. Netball was represented and shortlisted in two categories. Sally Thomas, last years Coach of the Year for Newark Shooters NC, nominated her Back to Netball ladies in the **Sports Club of the Year** category and Lucy Owens in the **Young Volunteer** **of the Year**. Although neither of the nominations won the final award, four unexpected additional awards were given at the end of the night: the Inspirational Awards.

Newark and Sherwood’s Sports Council finished the evening by presenting these awards to clubs, coaches, athletes and volunteers who have inspired others in sport. Eight members from the current Newark Back to Netball scheme went up to collect their award. Sally Thomas their coach said “I am so proud of the ladies. They have come so far in such a short time and are a joy to coach. They are a great bunch of ladies”

**Nominations**

**Newark Back to Netball team**- This is their first year of training and competition and they have improved beyond recognition not only in their playing ability and fitness but also in their confidence and self-esteem. Many of the players had not played netball for over 20 years since they were at school and so it was a tremendous challenge to even come to the first training session. However, within 2 months of starting they competed in the Regional B2N Tournament at Loughborough University and won beating teams who had been established much longer than them- a fantastic achievement! They then went on to win the Lincolnshire County Tournament again beating much more experienced teams. The Back to Netball team has brought together a fantastic group of ladies from a wide range of backgrounds and sporting abilities who have improved and maintained their levels of fitness and also their self-confidence. They have a great team spirit and are a real pleasure to coach.

**Lucy Owens – Young Volunteer-** Lucy has been a real inspiration to Newark Shooters Junior Club members. Her enthusiasm for netball is demonstrated not only in her playing ability but in her coaching and mentoring of younger players. She has a kind, empathetic approach and the younger girls respect her as a player and as a coach. Lucy takes time to explain skills and drills to players to ensure they achieve the best that they can at their own individual level. She shows a maturity beyond her years when assisting coaching the Back to Netball ladies and is confident when umpiring their games. Lucy completed the Young Umpire Award this year and has put it to good use at training sessions. Lucy achieved the Newark Shooters Young Volunteer of the Year Award for her commitment and dedication to the club. She has a real passion for the sport which she passes on to others and is a real asset to the club.