

EAGLES NETBALL CLUB ARCHIVE NEWS

31st AUGUST 2009

Eagles Shine at Berkshire Senior Tournament

On a very sunny fathers day 4 squads of dedicated Eagles teams went out to show all the other Berkshire teams what we were capable of... and we did just that.

Our 4 squads consisted of under 14's (Eagles 4), under 15's (Eagles 3), under 19's (Eagles 2) and Seniors (Eagles 1) all in one open tournament, which meant many of our youngsters were going to be playing senior teams all day and this was something that wasn't going to phase them.

The morning started out well for all 4 teams, the under 14's lost one game against misfits and powered through to win the rest of their games, the under 15's lost their first game to Woodley Hornets but then pulled together to win their 2 remaining games in comfort, the under 19's again lost one game against Woodley Harriers and won their other 2 and the Seniors breezed through their group with 3 wins out of 3. On the last game Maria even changed the whole team out of position and we still managed to walk away from the game with out a goal being scored against us.

To Maria's delight we had secured all four teams in the top section for the afternoon games which unfortunately meant we were all playing at the same time, however with all the parents we had enough support for all our teams. This was the round robin section of the afternoon so whoever had the most points won the tournament overall.

The under 14's won their game against RG7 purple and drew against Misfits which was a great result for them having lost to them in the morning. They lost games to Woodley Harriers, Wokingham Sapphires, and Eagles 1, however the girls should be proud of themselves as they gave these teams great competition and all 3 of these teams play in the Senior South Regional League. The girls finished in a very respectable 9th place.

The under 15's seemed to step up a gear in the afternoon, they managed to rectify their earlier mistakes and beat Woodley Hornets comfortably. They again lost to Eagles 1, Woodley Harriers and Wokingham Sapphires but again they should be happy with how they performed against them as they gave some good competition. They also lost to Thunderbirds by 1 which was a close fought game but I know the girls were dissapointed not to come away with a win from that one. They comfortably beat RG7 purple too. The girls should be very happy with their performance as they finished in 7th place.

The under 19's also put out a good performance in the afternoon. They only lost to Eagles 1, Woodley Harriers, Eagles 3 and Misfits. They drew against Woodley Hornets and Wokingham Sapphires, which I hear you put on very good performances for and they beat Eagles 4, RG7 purple and Thunderbirds comfortably. Unfortunatley there was an injury of the day when Kirsten fell on her wrist against Woodley Hornets, so the rest of the games the girls dealt with having just 7 players very well and Kirsten continued with cheering from the sidelines. Luckily I hear it is not broken and she just sprained it, so fingers

crossed you will be back to playing in no time. The girls finished in a much deserved 5th place.

The Seniors had a very successful afternoon but this wasn't without some panic when our first game of the afternoon against Thunderbirds we struggled to get out of first gear, however with a very frustrated Maria on the sideline we pulled our socks up and won the game 7-2. The rest of the afternoon was very comfortable for us but our biggest test was against Woodley Harriers, however we showed our composure and walked away winning the game by 1 goal. The Seniors remained unbeaten all day and retained our title for the second year.

Now it continually felt like we were playing Eagles teams through the afternoon. Eagles 4 showed some very good performances against the rest of the girls, the match against the under 15's (Eagles 3) was very close going goal for goal the whole way through however Eagles 3 managed to pull away and win the game by 2. Eagles 4 also gave Eagles 2 a run for their money as they went up 3-0 in the first few minutes but Eagles 2 showed their composure and eventually won the game 6-3. Eagles 2 vs Eagles 3 was also very closely fought however Eagles 3 came out triumphant by 1 goal much to Eagles 2's dismay. All three teams put up good performances against our senior team (Eagles 1) however Eagles 1 refused to be beaten and continued their winning streak throughout the day.

Now this report seems very long and confusing but it proves very hard talking about 4 Eagles team in the same tournament let alone in the same group, but basically I would say that every single person should be very proud of themselves as it was a very long day but we still managed to take the tournament by storm. The younger girls especially should be proud of themselves as most of the other teams that had anyone else of similar ages were fighting it out in the second division, you showed your worth and proved why you belonged in that first group. I wish you all the best of luck at Pontins, stick as a team, work as a team and play as a team and I am sure you will come out on top. Finally I would like to thank all the parents that came along and supported their children even though it was Fathers Day. Your support is always valued.

Becky Lee

Eagles Outclass All and Retain Title

Our most senior members took to the courts this Sunday as defending champions of the over 40s.....

Their aim to retain their title!!!!!!!!!!!!

A pre match chat from the coach set the tone for the day, the girls warmed up with much enthusiasm, which is compared to the other teams who didn't warm up at all!!!!!!!!!!!!

The day started well and we played our group matches at a slow canter. Having no true centre we made do with the efforts of Tricia who took things in her stride and expected any turnovers to be held up until she'd made her way down court. Tactically this took a bit of time to adjust to, Kay spent a lot of time on one leg stalking whilst waiting for Tricia to arrive Annie insisted on

either launching the ball or throwing it at her team mates' knee caps, a little time on the bench contemplating the error of her ways ensured that she did not repeat these mistakes again.

Kay took a beautiful intercept but according to the umpire her poor footwork skills let her down, I consoled her as her feathers were slightly ruffled and I didn't want a dissent call against us, I'm assuming the umpire understood the dissent rule because she certainly had no comprehension of footwork!!!!!!

Karen, our Captain and GA had great difficulty in catching the ball, so to enable Jacky to get her timing for movement corrected; we worked on the premise that she moved once Karen had dropped the initial pass, this coaching point worked superbly!!!!!!!!!!!!

Donna spent a lot of time being penalised for her relentless attempts to intercept the ball, apparently according to the umpire, contesting the ball is no longer allowed. she had one great intercept the whole day and I missed that, so I'll take her word for it!!!

Jane and Barb were excellent squad players because their presence ensured that if someone made a mistake they were ready and more than able to take their slot. This resulted in a lot of substitutions.

We came through the group stages unchallenged; I prepared the girls for the round robin stage which I knew would be tough.

I was wrong; unfortunately the opposition were unable to compete with my very athletic, assertive and highly motivated squad.

Their slick movement and experience shone through, they finished the day undefeated and never really got out of second gear, champions again as predicted by Tricia on Facebook the night before!, never doubted it really.

Our aim now is to make it a triple.
Well done girls, it was fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Eagles Make Clean Sweep of County Tournament

Eagles reaffirmed its dominance in Berkshire by winning all three age groups in the Berkshire Junior County Netball Tournament. The open tournament, which was contested over three age groups from U11 to U13, was attended by some of the top teams from across the south of England, including Poole, Rushmoor and CD Phoenix as well as local teams Woodley, Wokingham and Royal Borough.

Our Under 11's continued their winning ways by dispatching local rivals, Royal Borough to set up a final against Woodley. Despite strong opposition from Woodley, the littlest Eagles, who also took out the County league this year, won the trophy in a hard fought match. All the girls played exceptionally well all day and never once moaned when it was their turn to sit on the sideline. They had a great day in the sunshine and enjoyed adding another medal to their collection!

CD Phoenix and New Cambell were no match for Eagles U12's in the round stages and again Eagles found themselves facing Woodley in the final. The team, also undefeated league champions, showed superiority across the court,

winning the final 7 goals to 2. Despite not being really tested all day, the girls never dropped their standards and played some excellent, fast, controlled netball. This will be a team to be reckoned with in the future.

The Under 13 final was a much more closely fought game, with Eagles locked in a tie at full time with CD Phoenix. Having beaten Poole in the semi and determined to take the silverware, Eagles U13's dug deep in extra time to score the two goals necessary to clinch the final. The game was tense and exciting, with the U11's cheering loudly from the sideline. The girls remained calm and level headed and thoroughly deserved their excellent win.

Eagles U14 in Easter Eggstravaganza!

On Saturday 4th April our U14 team put their unbeaten record on the line against 3 other teams that had qualified for the South Region play offs, for the right to represent the region in the National finals. The venue was Reading University, the opposition, Weston Park (Hampshire), CD Phoenix (Sussex) and Kingswood (S. Bucks). First game, Weston Park, winners of the other qualifying Pool and likely to be the hardest match. The game started at a lightning pace, both teams too well aware of what was at stake, mistakes were made by both teams but no goals were scored for some time. The first goal went to Weston Park but eagles soon drew level, other goals were swapped before Eagles started to get on top and show signs of the netball that had seen them go unbeaten to this stage. The half time score was 9-5. Eagles started well in the second half and pulled further away, but a couple of silly mistakes resulted in Weston Park closing the gap and sensing that they were in with a chance. With great determination and quick, slick passing, Eagles regained the upper hand and held on to win 17-13, a great start to the day. Weston Park put them under a lot of pressure and their shooter proved to be a real handful. Game two was CD Phoenix again a scrappy start to the game saw Phoenix take an early lead and Eagles struggled to move ahead, but they held a slight half time lead of 6-5. Talk about a game of two halves, Eagles dominated the second half as they had done in the qualifying rounds. Defending the whole court and putting together some excellent passing moves, final score 17-7. The last game was against Kingswood, a team we had beaten earlier in the season. From the way the game started it would seem that we thought the 51 goals we scored in the first game had been carried forward to this one, 3-0 down after a few minutes. If those girls were trying to make Neil and Maria sweat it was certainly working. However normal service was resumed for the remainder of the game and Kingswood did not score again, final score 16-3.

The girls gave their parents, supporters, all members of the club and coaches a day to remember. They can be very proud of their achievements so far, **SOUTH REGION CHAMPIONS and UNBEATEN, BRILLIANT!**

But, as they well know the hardest work is yet to be done, we want to be in Loughborough on the 30th May and so there are some hard matches to win on the 16th in Walsall. I am sure we all wish them the best of luck, they have all the attributes needed and if they put them together on the 16th then they are very capable.

On behalf of the girls, many thanks to all the club members that turned up to support them on the 4th, they couldn't have done it without you. (Well actually they could but still, Thanks).

Debut Tournament Brings Success to U11's

No one would have known the U11's were playing their first ever tournament on Sunday when they came head to head with some of the big guns like Weston Park, Redbridge and Turnford. The girls breezed through their opening rounds, brushing aside Weston Park 6-0, Redbridge White 5-2 and annihilating Shooting Stars 15-0 which was especially pleasing after their team manager questioned how old our girls were! The team remained undefeated through the preliminary rounds despite a large mess-up by yours truly which resulted in Eagles taking the court against Newbury with only 5 players! With some mammoth defending, they managed to keep Newbury from scoring and came into half time 0-0. Thankfully, with a full team, they managed to win the game and save my hide...thanks girls and sorry again!

After a refreshing burst of hail, Eagles took the semi-final with ease from Redbridge Blue 7-0. The first final was a tight game against Bugs which they won 2-0 - only one game against Turnford laid between Eagles and the trophy. It was a hard fought match that could have gone either way but unfortunately Eagles lost by the narrowest margin 2-3.

Even though I know the girls were disappointed not to win, I was extremely proud and pleased with their excellent performances. Everyone gave 100% all day and no one ever argued or moaned when it was their turn to sit on the sideline. It was an absolute pleasure to be their manager!

Congratulations to Cosi, Jaya, Dominique, Sophia, Jada, Holly, Isla, Ellie and Lucy!

Jacky

Under 12's Take the Title!!

Under 12's took the Saucony Tournament in their stride on Sunday. The team consisted on Katie, Fay, Ellie, Olivia, Lauren, Lydia, Alana, and Morgan.

With the excellent and patient defensive work of Lauren, Lydia, Morgan and Alana the girls only conceded 10 goals in the entire tournament of 12 games! They managed to score 78 goals with the calm and composed shooting of Fay, Katie and Ellie. Centre Court star Olivia Wilkinson played a large part in creative play throughout the court.

Results - against Weston Park 7-3, against Newbury Juniors 12-1, against Fleming Park 4-0, against Bournemouth 10-0, against Turnford A 5-2, against Brighton 11-1 against Mid Sussex A 14-0. Semi final against Woodley 4-1 and in the round robin final Turnford A again, 3-1 final game against Essex Open they lost 2-1 but as it was round robin there was a very tense moment at the end of the tournament it went down to goal difference an goal average and

with our fantastic defense and amazing shooting, we were announced as winner! The girls did not know (neither did any of the coaches or parents) that we had won. Their faces lit up and they could not believe they had won the tournament. They thoroughly deserved the win just for having to play Turnford A twice in one day!

Despite the sun, rain, oh and the hail, they were a team to be very proud of.
Well done girls.

Natalie

BRIDESMAIDS AGAIN! - But still a successful day.

Along with the U11 and U12, this was the first tournament of the season for our u13 girls. Following last years runner up spot, the team was hoping to go one better. The day started brightly enough with a hard fought 7-4 win against Wokingham, three more wins followed, 5-1 Poole Opals, 8-2 Essex Open and 11-0 Saucony. Game 5 was always likely to be the section decider against, Turnford, last years winners. As expected it was a very tough contest with neither team wanting to give way, the game was close throughout but Eagles hung on for a 7-6 win. This was an excellent victory and proves this team can play against some of the best. Following two more wins 5-3 Lymington and 7-3 Brighton it was on to the play offs. In the semi finals we faced local rivals Woodley, never an easy game but the girls won 8-3. This victory put them in a 3 way final with Shooting Stars and Turnford. The Shooting Stars game finished 4-4, which may seem disappointing, but they came through a group which contained Weston Park. So a win in our final game against Turnford might be enough to secure a tournament victory. As with our earlier encounter the first half was closely contested and with a 4-3 lead at half time and competing well things looked good. However, Turnford did not allow us to get any kind of rythm in the second half and they ran out 8-4 winners. So yet again they had to settle for runners up, but that elusive victory cannot be too far away and with a win against Turnford during the day it can still be viewed as a success. Well done to all of you, Georgina, Anna H, Anna W, Kate, Joanna, Mary and to our two newcomers Katherine and Leo.

Ball Girling in the National Talent League for the Team South V Brunel Hurricanes Match

On Saturday 21st February, 6 juniors from Eagles netball Club - Kate Reynolds, Amelia Lumley, Ella Baumann, Holly Russell, Joanna Koutalides and I - Dominique Hamilton, arrived at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre to be Ball Girls for the Team South home game against Brunel Hurricanes. I am sure that, like me, the other girls were terrified to be ball girling at a game of such a high standard of netball.

We were welcomed by Sue Baldwin (Manager of Team South also with responsibility for Ball Girls at home matches). Sue greeted us with a smile and explained what she needed us to do. We immediately felt more

comfortable.

Ball Girls were given black Team South T-shirts as a part of our uniforms.

Some of us were only little so the t-shirts fitted like dresses!

Each Ball Girl took up her designated position at courtside.

The Game began!!!

It was my first time being a ball girl so I was uncertain about doing it, my fellow ball girls must have felt the same. As soon as the ball rolled off court we had to retrieve it and pass it back to the correct player. We very quickly settled in to our job.

What a game!!! Brunel beat Team South 56-33!

Sue thanked us and congratulated us for being such alert and disciplined ball girls. We took pictures with both teams and even got some autographs!

We learned many new tactics from watching this level of netball which we could try to bring to our own game.

I really enjoyed Ball girling for Team South and hope to do it again!

Dominique Hamilton - U11's

Eagles V RBWM - 8th February 2009: Maidenhead

Eagles under 12's took to the Court against another team of under 13's as they are completing in the higher age group. From start to finish the under 12's showed composure and patience, working the ball skillfully up the court. The interceptions and turn overs in the defensive end were made to look easy by Alana who went on to secure player of the Match. The shooting trio of Fay, Hannah and Katie did not look pressured or stressed when converting the turn overs into fantastic goals. The game was won by the team for playing calm and skilled netball. The girls all felt that a good performance was required to impress Maria, Jacky, Neil, Kat and Fran all eagerly watching a successful win on the sideline.

Final score 21 -16 to Eagles

Eagles U11's Still On Top Overall we have to be pleased with getting 3 teams into the quarter finals, Oldham and Turnford were the only other clubs to achieve this, so well done to all the girls for working hard and making this possible. We would like to thank all the parents who came to support the teams, Becky, Kat and Suzanna for making life easy for Maria and me and a big thanks to Janice Treasure who umpired every game on Sunday, including all play off games up to the final, so that I could watch the girls play, she is one in a million!

Eagles U11's faced their toughest opposition to date on Sunday; the Royal Borough like Eagles were undefeated and looking to keep their record in tact.

The game started off fast and furious, with Eagles making a few uncharacteristic mistakes. However, despite some rather vocal and intimidating opposition supporters, our littlest Eagles got it together and played some really great netball, winning the game 14-9. Losing our incredibly accurate GA, Isla, with a neck injury early in the match put some extra pressure on the team but everyone stepped up and gave 110%. Dominique, who I had to put back to GK had to be peeled off the GS...my instruction to

stick like glue was really taken on board! Jaya, as usual took some fabulous intercepts, reading the game like a much older player. Our centre court combination of Cosima, Holly and Lucy ran till they couldn't run anymore...their faces redder than beetroots....they played with a lot of maturity, controlled the ball and delivered it safely to the shooters. What can I say about our shooting combination of Ellie and Jada? Up against a very strong defense, the new combination did exactly as I asked. They kept rotating, didn't rush and worked themselves beautifully into position. I was very proud of everyone and Eagles thoroughly deserved the win. With just one more match against Finchampstead, it looks like we have the league wrapped up but let's go through with an undefeated record! Thanks to Alex who umpired beautifully and even received a compliment from the opposition!

Jacky

All Suited Up.....But Rushmoor Spoil The Party **Eagles U14 v Fleming Physique**

The U14's turned up for their second game of the South Region Junior League looking splendid in the 'New' team tracksuits. After a sticky first quarter, when we were only leading 11-3, yes most teams would have been happy with this, but we are not them, the girls settled back to their normal game. Once again the defensive work of the whole team meant that Fleming spent a lot of time playing across the court and on the few occasions that they were to penetrate, they were restricted to long shots.

In the third and fourth quarters we looked very strong, the shooters were on form and the driving onto the circle edge and feeding in were excellent. The final score of 63-10 was again just reward for a strong and hard working performance.

Neil

Eagles U16 v Rushmoor

This is a difficult game to report on as most of the girls did not play to their full potential. The game was always scrappy as evidenced by the 6-1 lead we had at the end of the first quarter. At the end of the second we still held a 10-8 advantage but Rushmoor were sensing a comeback. Defensively Rushmoor were very strong for the whole game, but in the third quarter their Goal Shooter began to find her range and shot them into a one goal lead. In the last quarter Rushmoor held a lead of 3 and although we reduced the deficit back to 1 there was not enough time to get that vital goal, with Rushmoor winning 28-27. The girls battled hard up to the end but paid the price for not capitalising on their dominance early in the game.

Neil

Eagles U12's V Surrey Heath

Sunday 18th January 2009

At long last the under 12's playing as under 13's got to take part in the Berkshire League. Prior to the game and although they had not taken played they sat in third place as a result of a forfeited game by Wokingham.

They met with Surrey Heath, who daunted them instantly with the height difference, once they realised height wasn't everything, they were ready to take up the challenge. Instantly the girl's game flowed like they had always played as a team. Some great shooting from Hannah and Fay along with the quality of the passes into the circle were impressive. If the ball made it to into the defensive end, the more than capable hands of Alana, Lydia and Zoe, brought it straight back down the Court. First quarter ended 10-2 to Eagles. The second quarter things slowed down slightly but all the girls ensured that a loose ball was an Eagles ball. Laura and Ellie found the contact on them at times difficult, but they both maintained their composure; in fact, it appeared to make them more determined. Second quarter ended 17-5 to Eagles.

Fourth quarter saw the return of Hannah and Fay in the shooting circle with a target of 40 goals by the end of the game. The determination the team had to perform well produced a fantastic final quarter to the game. This was also assisted by a clear difference in the fitness levels between the two teams. Eagles went on to win the game by 37 goals to 16. Although this was just shy of the 40 goals target, the girls were playing out of their age group and impressed onlookers, including the parents of the opposing team with their skills and interceptions.

Natalie

Congratulations to Alex Greehy on passing her C Award umpiring exam on Saturday 17th January!

Great Start to New Year for South Region U16s & U14s!
Saturday 10th Jan

Eagles U14 71 MK Netters 15
Eagles U16 50 MK Netters 20

Match Report U14

Following their first defeat of the season, in the Bracknell League, last weekend, the U14 team started their quest to represent the South Region in the National finals.

Their first game was against MK Netters from North Bucks. What an amazing performance the girls put in, from the first whistle to the last. Every single one

of them worked with great intensity all the time they were on court, which resulted in a great win. Their willingness to defend the whole of the court made it virtually impossible for MK Netters to move the ball fluently. Well done girls, let's maintain that level of performance for the rest of the competition.

Match Report U16

This was the U16's first game together after the Christmas break and although they never allowed MK Netters to challenge for the lead, the second and third quarters were rather edgy and mistake ridden. However, in the last quarter the girls showed us what they are capable of, moving the ball freely, shooting accurately and defending with dominance; the final quarter score was 18-2. The team was a mixture of U16 and U15 girls and the younger members of the squad did not let the club down.

Discount on Netball Shoes

Jacky has negotiated a 20% discount on all netball shoes with Cliff Roe Sports, who have stores on Ascot High Street and in Daniels at Windsor.

All you have to do is show your England Netball Affiliation Card which shows you are from Eagles and you will be entitled to the discount. You can use your 2007/8 card until this year's card arrives.

She also has a supply of Cliff Roe Gold Loyalty Cards which can be used when purchasing other sporting equipment and clothing. You accumulate points for money-off vouchers. Please see Maria, Neil or Jacky at training on Wednesday if you are interested in getting a card. There are no hidden catches, you just get money-off vouchers sent to you which you can use on your next purchase.

U11 Match Reports

The first ever league match for our littlest Eagles saw them win comfortably against Woodley, 14-5. The newly formed team combined like they'd been playing together for years and showed some great potential. Jaya was our Player of the Match, taking numerous interceptions and regularly breaking down Woodley's attacking plays. For their first competitive match, I was impressed by how maturely the team played, making few mistakes, listening to advice and playing hard to the final whistle.

What a great first game!!

So, after a positive start to the season, nothing could prepare the coaching staff for what happened in the second game against Wokingham. After a disorganised start to the day, where teams couldn't get on to a court to warm-up, and being forced into some inventive "hallway" warm-up techniques, Eagles hit the court running. Before they even realised the game had started, Wokingham found themselves 5-0 down and things only got worse!! Poor Wokingham simply didn't know

what hit them, with Eagles scoring almost a goal a minute to win the game 39-0!

What a performance! It is impossible to single out an individual player of the match; everyone contributed to a great all round team display. The mid court worked the ball fluently up and down, taking important interceptions and delivering the ball safely to the shooters. Our attack was superb, the ball movement in the circle was fast and accurate and 39 goals; very impressive. The defence, what can I say? To keep a team goalless is an impressive achievement. Everyone deserves a real pat on the back.

Credit to all the team for a very mature victory, you made excellent passing choices and didn't drop your intensity for a moment. Well done girls.....I really enjoyed making that phone call to Maria after the match to tell her the news!

Jacky

Match Reports Bracknell District League **Division 2, Eagles 2 v Wokingham Sapphires** **27th September 2008**

The Eagles 4 team still had steam coming out of their ears after a some what eccentric umpiring performance cost them last weeks match. Unfortunately for Wokingham Sapphires the girls came out 'All Guns Blazing' and raced away in the first quarter. There was excellent shooting from Sarah Jones and good support from Rachel Lee, with Savannah Guerriera having an inspired game at wing attack. The first half however, belonged to the defensive duo of Emma Grunnill and Maddie Russell, I am sure that at one point Emma's arms stretched all the way across the circle. With a strong Goal Keeper behind her Maddie was able to continue her fantastic start to the season and go hunting the ball, with much success. The slippery surface made quick ball handling very difficult but at times the play was very slick. The mid court trio of Amelia Kenneth, Ella Pepper and Lily Fisher were their usual disruptive selves and when Elizabeth Ferguson wasn't falling on her backside she made a good contribution in attack. Wokingham rallied late in the game and the winning margin did not increase in the last quarter, the final score was 36 – 26.

Division 4, Eagles 6 v Sunningdale **27th September 2008**

This was the first game ever in the Bracknell League for the young and inexperienced Eagles 6 team, 4 of whom are still u13's. The game was a little scrappy to start with as the youngsters got over early nerves. Sunningdale took an early lead as Kayla Spitzer and Joanna Koutalides took time to settle, but once a couple of goals had gone in the team seemed to relax and played a good first quarter, drawing 8-8. The game remained close at the start of the second

quarter but Sunningdale had bought on a different shooter and her accuracy began to make a difference, Sunningdale pulling away to a 20-14 half time lead. The remainder of the game was much closer and the Eagles girls continued to put in a lot of effort all over the court; however, some unforced errors at crucial moments meant they were unable to close the gap and Sunningdale eventually won 37-26. Considering there was a mixture of ages and that they had never played as a team before the girls performed really well. The pressure of playing against taller and stronger players will help when they play in their own age group. It was good to see Bronwen Bedford and Kayla Spitzer play for an Eagles team after showing good commitment during training. The full squad was, Tamrin Gumbs, Natalie Kirkham, Bronwen Bedford, Anna Holloway, Kate Reynolds, Joanna Koutalides, Kayla Spitzer and Emily Sandom .

Division 3, Eagles 5 v Chaffinch **20th September 2008**

Chaffinch started the better of the two teams and raced to a 3 – 0 lead, the young Eagles team were slow to get going and made too many early errors. The rest of the first quarter was evenly matched and Eagles just got their noses in front to lead 10 – 8. Yet again Chaffinch started strongly as the second quarter began and they drew level at 10-10, at times Eagles were struggling to bring the ball out of defence effectively, although the Eagle defence were having a good game against two very accurate shooters. As the second quarter went on Eagle began to dominate in attack and defence and stretched out a 6 goal lead at half time 19-13. The third quarter belonged totally to Eagles, the defensive trio were cutting off balls into the circle and also taking many rebounds, the attack were putting a lot of pressure on the ball coming up the court and forced a lot of errors in the centre third, the ball was being moved swiftly by the attack and the shooting was accurate. At the end of the third quarter Eagles led 31 – 17. In the fourth quarter Chaffinch changed their tactics and were sending the second ball from the centre pass straight into the circle to the shooter who held her position well against the Goal Keeper, the Chaffinch shooters were very accurate and although the last quarter was very close Eagles managed to maintain the gap and won 42 -27.

Pontins - Week 2 **5th and 6th July 2008** **U14, U15, and U16**

We arrived at Pontins Friday night with the prospect of yet another netball tournament played in the pouring rain. After digesting some healthy fish, chips and tomato sauce we headed back to the luxury chalets for a spectacular evening of stimulating conversation provided by the team. Being highly tuned athletes and wanting to perform well we tucked ourselves in by 10pm ish! We rose early Saturday morning, breakfasted and starting our preparation for a full day of netball (some of us needing a little more time than others!).

We breezed through the first day winning all our matches and then hit the night scene which involved pub grub and serious gambling at the arcade. Sunday morning, penniless and with brollies in hand we made our way down to the courts, we won the next few matches making it to the quarter finals where for the first time in the weekend we were up against some stiff competition. We were unable to rise to the occasion and sadly went out of the competition at this stage. We all had a super weekend; team spirit was great and the perfect preparation for season that lies ahead.

Hannah Joseph

Pontins - Week 1
28th and 29th June 2008,
U11, U12 and U13

Having arrived on Friday night and all settled into our chalets, followed by a Fish 'n' Chip supper, there were a few tears and tantrums, but once Maria realised she was not going to get a bed time story everyone finally got to bed and slept well, except Kathleen who did not have access to her jammies as Anna White took a liking to her bag and used it as a pillow. We were off to a really early start with the U11 playing their first game at 8.30 with the U13 also playing in the morning. As usual Maria left nothing to chance and made sure that the all the admin was done.....by somebody else! This was only the third tournament the U11's had played and we were not sure how they would cope with so many games in two days, they were also missing the height of Morgan and Alana and to make matters worse they had to play Oldham A in their group. Tear up the script, how good were they! Under the expert netball and paternal guidance of Becky and Suzanna, (I am not sure which one played the Dad, probably Becky as she was drinking pints all weekend) they ripped through their group, winning all 8 games, scoring 44 goals and conceding only 7, including 4 clean sheets. We have to make some mention of the Oldham game, particularly as they went on to win the U11 cup and also 5 out of the 6 cups over two weekends.

Our little Eagles did the club and themselves very proud, the 4-3 score line could have been more as they pressured Oldham all over the court and forced lots of turnovers, everyone played really well but just a mention for Olivia Penrose who started the day shooting very nervously, but put the goals away in this game when it mattered. The scores from their Saturday games were: Conquerers Sioux 4-1; Turnford B 5-1; Asco 4-2; Three Counties 8-0 (Perhaps they should have brought 4 counties); Oldham A 4-3; St. Hugh's School 9-0; Finchampstead 5-0 and Plymouth Marjon 5-0.

The U13 squad had an equally successful morning, with only Yendys putting up any kind of resistance. Unfortunately, Freya Russell fell and injured her ankle in the second game and was unable to play again for the whole weekend. However, she continued to support the rest of the girls wholeheartedly for the rest of the tournament even though she was bitterly disappointed and upset at not being able to play. Most of the games were won by half time, with the defence being very dominant and taking lots of interceptions and the attack

moving the ball accurately and swiftly into good shooting positions. They topped their group, winning all 8 games, scoring 89 goals and conceding only 17. The scores were: Chelmsford Cubs 11-2; Turnford B 12-2, Hatfield Jays 8-1; Y Strade 18-4; Plymouth Marjon 10-1; Yendys 6-4; MSYNC 15-2 and Worcester City 9-1.

The U12 had the luxury of a lay in. In their dreams! They are not teenagers yet, get up and support the other girls you lazy monkey's! They finally got on court at 12.54 and had been very supportive of the other two teams. They also found themselves drawn against Oldham, but these are the sort of teams we need to be playing all the time to improve our game. After a slow start, with two close wins, they faced up to Oldham; now, I think that for an under 12 Georgina is taller than the average girl, but even if she had stood on my shoulders she would still have had trouble reaching up to defend the goal shooter. The team played very well and Georgina made it as difficult as she could for the shooter, but Oldham won 7-3. Inspired by this close defeat and thinking nothing could be that difficult they rattled in 48 goals and conceded only 4 in the next four games, eventually finishing as runners up to Oldham. The scores were: Woodley 5-2; Yendys 5-2; Oldham A 3-7; Y Strade 16-0; Hucclecote 10-0; Flames Black 16-2; Chelmsford Cobras 6-2.

In the evening, under the supervision of Ober Fuhrer D'Amaro und Field Commandant Butler the girls were allowed some time out of prison, I mean off the camp site and we enjoyed some reasonable food at the Seagull. The girls all got on well and were very well behaved and were all in bed at a reasonable hour, ready for the next day.

On Sunday the games get tougher if you are in the Cup, as you have to play teams that finished in the top half of their division on Saturday. The u11 seemed to have a fairly comfortable first game as they had already beaten the first team they were playing, the previous day. However, they were in for a shock as ASCO did not allow them to settle and although the game was close they lost 4-3. This was their first taste of defeat all weekend and with supposedly tougher games to come the girls would need to raise their game.

The threat of finger nails and teeth being pulled out without the use of anaesthetic, by Suzanna and Becky seemed to do the trick as they proceeded to improve with every game, winning all three games and finishing runners up in the group, qualifying for a place in the quarter final. They beat Cliff Park 4-2; MSYNC 6-0 and Hatfield Robins 6-2. In the quarter final they were to face local rivals Woodley, who are a very good u11 team. As they had done all weekend the girls worked very hard and played with a desire to win, at half time they were 3-1 down and in spite of having chances to draw level the final score was 3-2 to Woodley. All the coaching staff would like to congratulate this team for their achievements over the weekend, they exceeded our expectations with their quarter final place and with the level of their play.

The u12 team got off to a great start on Sunday beating Poole Opals 8-2 and Sutton Coldfield 8-3, these were two very good victories against teams that finished 3rd and 4th in their divisions on Saturday. The defence was playing well and limited the other teams to few opportunities, the ball was moved fluently down the court and the shooters were accurate as always. In the final game they played Poole Jewels a very good netball team for their age, they are

quick and pass the ball accurately and early, unfortunately they do resort to tactics other than pure netball ones and our girls were not tough enough to deal with this and lost 7-1. Again they had finished second in their group but this was good enough for a quarter final place, where they would face Oldham 'A' again. The girls tried really hard and did not give up, Georgina had an almost impossible task but she played her socks off, which is a pity because if she had kept them on it might have made her a bit taller, taking 4 or 5 clean interceptions against a much taller player. In the end they lost 10-2 but they must be congratulated on a very good weekends work and a place in the quarter final is a good result. Special mention should be given to Anna and Francesca who did not make the court on Sunday but were unceasing in their support of the girls playing.

The u13 team had an interesting division on Sunday as it included Turnford, the only team to beat them in their own age group this year; we had won one final each at different tournaments. The whole team looked very determined on the Sunday and I think someone must have upset Rebecca Tillman during the night because she was taking no prisoners on the court. The first two games posed few problems and they beat Conquerers Vikings 9-5 and Kingsley 11-1. The Turnford game was always going to be a tense and close game and although never behind we were unable to pull away, thanks to a couple of timely interceptions at the attacking end in the closing seconds we hung on to win 5-4. Yet again we had topped the group and made it to the quarter final. Unfortunately, the luck of the draw meant that we had to play another group winner in the next game, where as three group winners got to play a runner up. We were up against Chelmsford Cosmics and it was a real end to end game, at half time we were leading 5-4 and had chances to extend that lead, all the girls were trying really hard, perhaps too hard, as little errors started to creep in a vital times. In the end we lost the game 9-8, it was a massive shame for these girls as it was the only game they had lost all weekend. The quality of the netball they were playing suggested that they were capable of going all the way this year and it would have been a fitting climax to a very good year. As a foot note to this game, you will be pleased to know that the hole in the court caused by my hat hitting the ground in frustration was repaired in time for the following weekend!

When: Saturday 7th February at 7.30pm At long last the under 12's playing as under 13's got to take part in the Berkshire League. Prior to the game and although they had not taken played they sat in third place as a result of a forfeited game by Wokingham.

They met with Surrey Heath, who daunted them instantly with the height difference, once they realised height wasn't everything, they were ready to take up the challenge. Instantly the girl's game flowed like they had always played as a team. Some great shooting from Hannah and Fay along with the quality of the passes into the circle were impressive. If the ball made it to into the defensive end, the more than capable hands of Alana, Lydia and Zoë, brought it straight back down the Court. First quarter ended 10-2 to Eagles.

The second quarter things slowed down slightly but all the girls ensured that a loose ball was an Eagles ball. Laura and Ellie found the contact on them at times difficult, but they both maintained their composure; in fact, it appeared to make them more determined. Second quarter ended 17-5 to Eagles. The third quarter saw Katie, a new member to Eagles take to the court for her

first time. She came on as Goal Shooter with Hannah moving to Wing Attack. Katie showed potential with her calm, patient and accurate shooting, this was assisted by Hannah, usually in a shooting role, who gave fantastic passes converted comfortably by both Fay and Katie. Alana and Lydia's safe hands once again performed numerous turnovers for Eagles. End of the quarter saw Eagles leading 28-12. Laura Nichol was voted by Surrey Heath as the player of the match, she showed maturity and tenacious throughout the game. I hope the girls are very proud of their hard work today. Can't wait to watch them take to the Court again soon. Eagles under 12's took to the Court against another team of under 13's as they are completing in the higher age group. From start to finish the under 12's showed composure and patience, working the ball skillfully up the court. The interceptions and turn overs in the defensive end were made to look easy by Alana who went on to secure player of the Match. The shooting trio of Fay, Hannah and Katie did not look pressured or stressed when converting the turn overs into fantastic goals. The game was won by the team for playing calm and skilled netball. The girls all felt that a good performance was required to impress Maria, Jacky, Neil, Kat and Fran all eagerly watching a successful win on the sideline.

Seniors Do the Double **Sunday 22nd June 2008**

There was no stopping the Eagles teams this weekend. After the success on Saturday of the U14s, it was the turn of the slightly older girls to make their mark in the Berkshire Tournament.

With a guest appearance from Kathryn Baumgartner in mid court, who linked well with Sophia Candappa, Lara Heywood and Kathleen Butler. It was difficult for other teams to contest such a dynamic line up in the centre court.

The day started well and all the group matches were won with ease. Due to this we were able to experiment with combinations and put the long and rangy Kirstie Rusher (normally GS) out to GD where she performed admirably under the direction of captain and GK Donna Tuvey, a more mature and experienced player.

The shooting combination of Becky Lee and Sophie Windle worked well, although they could not break the amazing scoring record of 21 goals in 14 minutes as achieved on the previous day by the u12s!

The afternoon session was a round robin of 7 matches, it was difficult to get the girls motivated, they were all a bit too complacent, tired and lethargic and dare I say it "BORED!" A couple were still suffering the effects of the night before (I'm not going to mention any names but you know who you are!) and although they were winning their matches comfortably, they never really moved out of 2nd gear.

Typically we had a glitch which put us under pressure and nearly lost us the competition but we just managed to hang onto 1st place with a better goal difference.

I would also like to thank Carly who umpired tirelessly all day and did a great job! Without your help we would not have been able to compete.

U14s Swoop on Silverware! **Saturday 21st June 2008**

A murky day in High Wycombe saw a new look combination in the U14s Eagles squad. Due to the long term injury of Amy, we were forced to make changes to an already successful line up. After waiting a couple of hours before we took to the court, Eagles were a little luck lustre against Woodley and only just managed to defeat them. However after a little word in their ear, can't imagine what was said, the girls went on through the rounds encountering very little opposition.

The quarter finals against Milton Keynes, who in defence and attack were over 6ft tall was tight to begin with, but Eagles who were more mobile, athletic and agile romped away with a decisive victory.

The semi final against Clan was an epic. Eagles went down 4-0 to them and it looked like there was no way back. However they clawed it back to 5-4 at half time. A goal had been scored as the hooter blew which the umpire disallowed although she had not blown her whistle to end the half. Not a happy bunch of girls, this injustice did not deter them, they went on to equalise and take the lead, Clan came back at them, as the final whistle blew the score was even. Extra time of only one minute was allowed, Clan had the first opportunity to score they missed, the ball travelled down to our end where we found an opening and Sara put the ball in the net. Our centre, straight to Sara we are two up, Clan have a final opportunity, they score, whistle blows, and Eagles have won.

Wow I don't think my heart can take any more of this!

To the final against Manor, they were going to be tough, undefeated all day there was no way they would go down without a fight. Kirsten had reported that their shooters were spot on, she was right. The game was end to end of thrilling, high quality netball, half time score was 5-5. It could have been anybody's game.

We needed to put the shooters under pressure, which is exactly what Emma and Hannah did, they got tighter and with Ella and Amelia contesting every ball, Manor could not get the ball into their shooters, this gave the attacking trio of Lily, Elizabeth and Sara lots of opportunities to convert the turnovers. We won the game convincingly 11-6.

I would just like to mention Rachel and Savanna who did not get on court for the final matches, I'm sure they were disappointed, but their attitude and behaviour was exemplary, we would not have won the tournament without their contribution during the rounds. I'm really pleased for you all, you are a credit to the club and your resilience is to be applauded.

Congratulations

Maria

Little Eagles Make their Mark!
Saturday 21st June 2008

A newly formed Eagles u12 competed in the High Wycombe tournament on Saturday. Due to lack of availability, the opportunity arose for 3 u11s, Alana John, Fay Carmichael and Laura Nichol to make their debut and pit their wits against older and more experienced players. With the support of Georgina Westwood, Kate Reynolds, Anna Holloway, Mary Ferguson and captain Joanna Koutalides, the girls got off to a flying start and won all of their games with ease. Defensively the towering height of John and Westwood made it very difficult for the opposition to find the net. Centre court was fast and fluid, offering the attacking duo of Koutalides and Ferguson lots of shooting opportunities. A couple of our results were 21-0 and 18-0. Some great shooting guys!

And so to the quarter final, Eagles cruised through with relative ease. The semi final against Dame Alice was a very different affair, this was testing us and sadly the game slipped from our grasp. Dame Alice was a well drilled experienced team and our lack of match play as a team showed through. They were the eventual winners.

However we weren't finished yet, we had one more match to play for 3rd/ 4th position. The girls did not let their disappointment show; they went on to win this game fairly convincingly.

Girls I was really pleased with your performance today, Laura, your interceptions and hunger for the ball was fab, Fay, although you were very nervous, your approach to the game was calm and thoughtful, you would never have guessed you'd never played with us before. Well done! Alana you worked really hard today and you took on board some new concepts. It was really exciting to see you drive out and take some lovely interceptions. Great squad performance!

A great big Thank you to Alex Rigby u15 who gave up her time to help, she warmed them up, kept them in order and took the strain off me. I really appreciated your help Alex.