

Netball Superleague enters its third year

Top level Netball is destined to continue in England and Wales as the National Netball Superleague enters its third year.

Welsh Netball is pleased to announce that the Celtic Dragons team will continue to play in the Superleague and hopes to build on its 7th position in the League last season.

The Superleague will be covered once again by Sky Television. Very positively, Sky have committed to increasing their coverage over the Season and the Celtic Dragons will have a number of full games transmitted as live with highlights of other games also being shown.

A new Coaching Team has been appointed, with National Coach Denise Ellis as Head Coach and Anna Mayes as Assistant where she will combine a coaching role with a playing one; they make up a very experienced coaching team. National Performance Director Iain Root commented *"we have been very fortunate in being able to appoint a very skilled and experienced coaching team. There are huge advantages in Denise and Anna leading the Celtic Dragons as they have a good working knowledge of all the players that have been selected. I am confident that they will be able to build upon what was established last season by Head Coach Jess Garland."*

23 players have been selected into a long squad. Several players will be unavailable during the World Championships as they will be representing Wales in New Zealand. A larger player base is therefore needed, which will be reduced post-World Championships

Emma Bliss
Sara Hale*
Rochelle Modeste
Emily Rose
Stephanie Williams*
Anna Mayes*
Kylie Paynter
Adele Modeste
Ffion Berry
Carlie Ennis
Chrissie Munro

Amy Godwin
Lindsay Keable
Kelly Morgan
Naomi Taylor
Suzanne Drane
Laura McCann
Sophie Baxter*
Amanada Trounce*
Cara-Lea Moseley*
Kerrie Easey
Shenaide Blucher*

* *World Championship Squad players*

The Dragons will play 14 matches in total between 27 October 2007 and 8 March 2008. Seven of these matches will be at 'home'. Home matches are planned for:-

The National Indoor Athletics Centre
 North East Wales Institute in Wrexham
 Cwmbran Stadium
 Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff.

The full fixture list is:-

Saturday 27th October	3 p.m.	Celtic Dragons	Loughborough Lightning	NIAC
Saturday 3rd November	4 p.m.	Celtic Dragons	Northern Thunder	NEWI
Friday 9th November	7.30 pm	Celtic dragons	Mavericks	Cwmbran Stadium
Saturday 24th November	3 p.m.	Brunel Hurricanes	Celtic Dragons	Guildford
Saturday 1st December	2.30 p.m.	Team Northumbria	Celtic Dragons	Gateshead
Friday 7th December	7 p.m.	Celtic Dragons	Team Bath	WIS
Monday 7th January	7.30 pm	Leeds Carnegie	Celtic Dragons	EIS
Saturday 12th January	6 p.m.	Loughborough Lightning	Celtic Dragons	Loughborough Uni
Saturday 26th January		Northern Thunder	Celtic Dragons	Liverpool
Saturday 2nd February	4 p.m.	Mavericks	Celtic Dragons	Herts Sports Village, Hatfield
Monday 11th February	7.30 pm	Celtic Dragons	Brunel Hurricanes	WIS
Saturday 23rd February	3 p.m.	Celtic Dragons	Team Northumbria	WIS
Friday 29th Feb	7 p.m.	Team Bath	Celtic Dragons	Bath University
Saturday 8th March	3 p.m.	Celtic Dragons	Leeds Carnegie	WIS

Tickets are now on sale for all home fixtures. Bookings can be made from Welsh Netball, 33-35 Cathedral Road, Cardiff. Further info from www.welshnetball.co.uk or 02920 237048.

Welsh Netball have also been successful in entering a team in the England Netball Talent League. This is essentially an U19 Junior Superleague and gives an opportunity for some of Wales' talented U19's to experience high level competition on a regular basis. Most of the matches will be linked to the Superleague programme. The young players will be able to experience what it is like to play in front of a crowd and against the young stars of tomorrow mostly from England. As Iain Root commented 'this can only be positive in terms of raising the standard of Netball in Wales and offering opportunities for players to start getting the kind of experience they need if they are going to compete successfully at international level'.

The Celtic Dragons have agreed a new clothing contract with Gilbert so will take to the court in a new colour and new kit. Hopefully this will be an omen of other positive things set to happen this season.

For more information on the Celtic Dragons – www.welshnetball.co.uk