

# Wales Select World Championship Squad

After two months of working with a long squad of 19 players Wales have announced their squad that will compete in the 2007 World Championships being held in Auckland, New Zealand from 10 - 17 November.

The squad combines youth and experience and will be captained by Ursula Pritchard (Billy Bowers) who has captained Wales over the last 3 years.

National Coach Denise Ellis was pleased with the squad named. She commented *“the long squad has worked very hard since June when it was selected. Competition for places was intense and some decisions were difficult to make but we now have a group of players that will work hard for 10 weeks and hopefully peak in performance terms in Auckland in November”*.

Four non travelling reserves have been named to compliment the World Championships. These players will continue to train and will be taken to the Championships if any of the selected squad is injured. National Performance Director Iain Root said *“The selection panel had some very difficult decisions to make but every player in the long squad needs to be proud of what they have achieved. As disappointed as they are, the non travelling reserves have shown their commitment to Wales by agreeing to continue to train alongside the squad which can not be easy”*.

Iain continued *“the squad contains many young players for whom this is their first World Championships. Hopefully the experience will put them in a good position to successfully represent Wales for a number of years. We have players who have competed in last World Championships, World Youth Championships and Commonwealth Games and they will be able to support the younger players very effectively”*.

## **The Squad named is:**

<b>Ursula Pritchard (Capt)</b>	<b>Sophie Baxter</b>	<b>Shenaide Blucher</b>
<b>Sara Hale</b>	<b>Bev Lovatt</b>	<b>Amanda Evans</b>
<b>Bianca Modeste</b>	<b>Anna Mayes</b>	<b>Becky James</b>
<b>Stephanie Williams</b>	<b>Amanda Trounce</b>	<b>Cara Lea Moseley</b>

## **Non Travelling reserves**

<b>Ffion Berry</b>	<b>Jo Davies</b>	<b>Kylie Paynter</b>
<b>Chris Weaver</b>		

The Wales Team has been drawn in the same group as World Champions New Zealand and emerging African Nations Botswana and Malawi for the first round. The matches will be tough but the team are looking forward to the challenge.

The Wales Team leaves for New Zealand on the 3 November and will have 6 days to acclimatise before the Championships, they have training sessions and matches arranged during the acclimatisation period before hosts New Zealand open the Championships on the 10 November against Malawi. Wales' first match is on the 11 November, against Botswana. First round matches will be completed by 13 November. Round 1 finishing position dictates the onward route through the Championships. Wales is hopeful of finishing higher than the 14<sup>th</sup> position achieved in 2003.

The Squad returns on 19 November.

Wales' involvement in the World Championships, which will be covered by Sky Television here in the UK, offers an excellent sponsorship opportunity for any individual or organisation that is considering sponsorship in the Sporting World.

**Anyone interested in sponsoring Welsh Netball or finding out more should contact:**

**Iain Root, National Performance Director at Welsh Netball on 02920 237048.**