ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WELSH NETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Welsh Netball Association Board of Directors would like to formally thank our members, staff and stakeholders for the wonderful support given to the Association during the last year. Strong relationships and good understanding of our sport are the reasons for our continued success as well as the enthusiasm and enjoyment of everyone concerned from primary school children through to elite international athletes.

2007 was an eventful year for Welsh Netball with the continuation of key programmes from grassroots to elite level and the introduction of new initiatives to develop Netball in Wales. Welsh Netball is also working with the larger community to further the development of our sport and those involved with Netball. The future is exciting and I encourage you to take time to read through this Annual Report and reflect on what has been a significant year for Netball. Going forward you are encouraged to browse our website on a regular basis to keep abreast of opportunities and developments.

Governance

- Welsh Netball's governance is checked annually using the Sports Council for Wales new online system, this has shown that our governance reflects the high standards set by the Board on behalf of our stakeholders.
- Welsh Netball's practices comply with the statutory legal and other external requirements and aim to achieve sound administrative and financial management. They are designed to ensure efficient and effective use of Welsh Netball's resources.
- The Board continues to monitor best practice recommendations and developments as they occur to ensure that governance is consistent with best practice.
- The Board currently comprises of five elected Board Members and the Chief Executive. There are vacancies for two competency based Board Members; advertisements have gone out to the business sector to attract applicants.
- During the last year the Board met 9 times.
- The disclosure of existing interests is an ongoing responsibility of each Board Member. Where a conflict of interest arises, or where a potential conflict of interest may arise, each Board Member must formally advise the organisation about any matter relating to that conflict or potential conflict of interest.

As set out in a presentation to the Executive Committee in May 2001, seven years ago, the core focus for the strategic direction of the Welsh Netball is still about developing The People, The Game and The Business. Things have moved on a long way in those seven years, but some things remain constant - the development of Welsh Netball depends on the continued growth of numbers of players, officials and volunteers at the grass roots level.

Welsh Netball is constantly challenged to move forward and develop and deliver exciting new initiatives to ensure Netball retains its standing and grows. This year the BIG weekend of Netball including our first Awards Ceremony is a great example of a new initiative that was very well received by all those who took part. Street Netball in Tredegar in South Wales is another great example of "outside the box" Netball thinking! There is more detail later in the report about both of these new initiatives.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WELSH NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Over the last 12 months 1,055 young Netballers had the chance to improve their skills and learn about key aspects of the game on fun days, festivals and camps.

The Association's Priority Areas For 2007/08 were:

- **Membership & Pricing Policies**

Membership figures have again shown an increase over the past year, the trend is still upwards. Participation levels continue to increase as well; conversion of participants into members is still an issue. Affiliation growth is vital in order that we continue to receive funding from the Sports Council for Wales. Clubs and Leagues are encouraged to make sure that all their players are affiliated to play, this is imperative for insurance purposes.

Our pricing policy for affiliation is much better than many other sports and fees have not increased at all since 2003. Additional member benefits including options on medical cover, improved insurance with hospital payments, eye treatments and broken bone cover as well as free use of the Sport'ers Club package last year meant that affiliation to Welsh Netball was excellent value for money.

The most significant, most requested and long awaited improvement for our Members finally happened in November 2007 with the launch of our new website. The new site was possible because of a Sportsmatch Cymru Award that we were granted linked to our sponsorship partner Pitman Training. The amount of detail on the site has gone up considerably and so has the news and general information available and it is easily maintained. All of the comments so far have been positive ones. If you haven't already, take a good look around the site at www.welshnetball.co.uk and let me have any ideas that you might have for further improvements or any news items that you want to be included.

- **The Coaching Plan, Coach Education and UKCC Development**

A significant initiative reported on last year that has continued in 07/08 was the Coaching Plan, supported by the Sports Council for Wales. This has resulted in the employment of local community coaches, grants for student bursaries and continued professional development opportunities for our talent centre and high performance coaches. The Coaching Plan is about improving the performance of teams whilst providing good support mechanisms for volunteer coaches at all levels.

The UK Coaching Framework has been accepted by the Board and work progresses on the detail of the delivery of all the aims of the framework within Wales. It is an exciting time for Coaching Development within the UK and volunteer coaches throughout our Coaching Pathway will see a difference with new opportunities becoming available, such as the Coaching Conference held on 10/11 May 08.

Team Building Exercise in the Coaching Conference!

Coaching Conference practical session

Development of the UKCC continues to move forward and our Coach Education Coordinator and National Performance Director are part of the driving force on the netball "ONSIDE" group that represents England, Scotland and Wales. There are still concerns about the costs of organising courses and the fees that are payable by attendees across all sports; high level meetings with the Welsh Assembly Government officials are progressing slowly to try to reduce the costs to everyone. Members wishing to attend courses can access financial assistance and are encouraged to do so. Clubs need to apply early for Coach Education funding through local Community Chest applications with which we are always willing to assist.

336 people have attended Starting Out Courses from September 2007 to May 2008, 52 people have attended UKCC Level 1 and 15 UKCC Level 2.

UKCC Level 3 has been developed and the first pilot courses have been organised. Welsh Netball secured additional funding to assist 2 of our Performance Coaches to embark on their Level 3 award during the last year.

Welsh Netball attained Awarding Body Status for Level 1 during 2007; this was a milestone achievement and the culmination of a huge amount of work. Awarding Status at Level 1 means that we can organise our own courses, with our own tutors and verifiers whereas previously we were reliant on England Netball. At some time in the not too distant future we will try to attain Awarding Body Status for Level 2!

- **Umpire Education Courses held**

Welsh Netball continues to provide Umpire Education throughout Wales, 331 people have attended Q Courses from September 2007 to May 2008, 121 attended Level 1 and 8 attended the pilot Level 2 course. Well done to all our members who have qualified as an umpire this year and a big thank you to everyone who has officiated week in week out at local leagues and events, without you the games would not take place.

We have continued to run the High Performance Umpires programme this year with 10 umpires participating in to it. Congratulations to all those selected and achieving at the top level of umpiring, a special mention to the following who received invitations to umpire as follows.

Claire Tyler	• Scotland vs. Malawi (Glasgow, April 2008)
Maria Webber	• Netball Europe U21 Championships (Belfast, March 2008)
Sarah Jones	• Netball Europe U17 Championships (Cardiff, March 2008)
Muriel Seal	
Alison Smith	

- **Club Development**

○ Welsh Netball has continued during 2007/08 to have partnerships with 12 Unitary Authorities, North East Wales Institute and the Urdd to provide local Netball Development Officers. The varying, mostly part-time contracts that form the partnerships mean that detailed work programmes must be followed to maximise the impact that the NDOs can have on our development. Focus over the last 12 months has been on clubs and leagues rather than schools. This is the last year of our current 3 year partnership agreements and over recent months discussions about options for the future and funding have been taking place with SCW and the UAs. This is a huge investment in staffing costs for Welsh Netball that is in the main

funded by SCW. It is hoped that agreements can be reached very shortly so that we can continue to work with our partners locally.

- The Club Mark scheme has been improved with special benefits for clubs that attain bronze, silver or gold. Currently we have 1 silver club, 3 bronze clubs and a further 28 clubs working with our development staff to attain recognition.

- Welsh Netball continues to be involved with the Millennium Volunteer scheme, the UK's largest volunteer initiative. The scheme allows young people to stand out from the crowd, learning and developing skills and qualities valued by colleges, universities and future employers. Congratulations go to five of our MVs Rebecca Haynes, Jennifer Jones, Victoria Randall, Laura Rees and Sarah Goulden as they have all hit their 200 hours volunteering target. We have 30 young people on to the scheme now and there are new places available annually, member clubs are encouraged to get in touch if you have youngsters who might be interested.

- Street Netball - To get the boys involved in Tredegar a 'street netball session' in partnership with the 5 x 60 officers was developed where the boys and girls could participate in netball together. The difference being that there were no boundaries as to where players were/weren't allowed to go hence no positions. Amended netball rules applied such that anyone could shoot to score but only from within the semi circle where no more than two players from each side could be at one time. Full rules on contact and obstruction, footwork and passing within 3 seconds were used. It started off a bit of fun and then developed into a competitive team game with the 5x60 officers developing inter-school lunchtime leagues of street netball. A festival was held in March where 65 young people aged 12-16 took part and played street netball.

- **Competition Structure & Results**

Welsh Netball continues to improve and provide appropriate and enjoyable events for our Members. Welsh Netball's mission of making netball a game for all continued in 2007/08 with the continued inclusion of mixed netball in our events and local activities and a new initiative setting up our first Disability Netball Club in Cardiff. A total of 3005 individuals have played in the WNA organised national events this season. This number increases vastly if the preliminary event rounds were added in plus the local primary school festivals, fun days and mixed tournaments. Unfortunately we have not as yet secured a date for a Netball Day at the Millennium Stadium, our application went in on time but they have failed to make any offers, although we are still hopeful.

RESULTS for 2008 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open & U21 Inter Area		**Age Group Inter Area**	
Open Div 1	**Cardiff & District**	U14	**North East Wales**
Open Div 2	**Cardiff & District**	U16	**North East Wales**
U21	**Glamorgan Valleys**	U18	**Afan Nedd Tawe**
Ann Smart	**North East Wales**	Presidents Cup	**Afan Nedd Tawe**
Veterans	**Central Vets**		
National Clubs			
Age Groups National Clubs		**BIG weekend of Netball**	
U14 – Cup	**Deeside**	Super Clubs	**Harriers**
U14 – Plate	**Penybont Dragons**	National Clubs	**Paragons**
U17 – Cup	**Maesteg**	Mixed	**Samuel Taylor**
U17 – Plate	**Mold**		

- **BIG Awards**

Over 100 people attended the event in April 2008 to collect awards or to cheer on family and friends. The awards will become a regular feature in our events calendar; it is a wonderful way of recognising the effort and hard work put in by volunteers.

Senior Club Coach of the year ***(sponsored by Harlequin Colour Press)***	Delyth Jones, Colwyn Netball Club
Junior Club Coach of the year ***(sponsored by Tony Foster (UK) Ltd)***	Tracey David, Maesteg Netball Club
Umpire of the Year ***(sponsored by Designis)***	Muriel Seal, Amersham Netball Club
Primary Teacher of the year ***(sponsored by Pyramid Partitioning)***	Erena Kolano-Rogers, Newbridge CIW Primary
Secondary Teacher of the year ***(sponsored by New Inn, Llantrisant)***	Sarah Llewellyn, Newbridge School
Unsung Hero of the year ***(sponsored by OCD)***	Norma Stephen, Apex Netball Club
Millennium Volunteer of the year	Sarah Goulden
Mary French Lifetime Achievement Award ***(sponsored by DEPhoto)***	Wendy White
Senior Player of the year	Becky James
U21 Player of the year	Stephanie Williams
U17 Player of the year	Catherine Roberts
Tier 3 Player of the year	Amy Cooper
Celtic Dragons Player of the year	Suzie Drane

SOME OF THE PICTURES TAKEN AT 2008 NETBALL EVENTS …

OPEN 1 INTER AREA WINNERS
Cardiff & District

U21 INTER AREA WINNERS
Glamorgan Valleys

OPEN 2 INTER AREA WINNERS
Cardiff & District

U14 INTER AREA WINNERS
North East Wales

U16 INTER AREA WINNERS
North East Wales

U18 INTER AREA WINNERS
Afan Nedd Tawe

- **Talent Identification & Performance**

  - **The Academy**

The Welsh Netball Academy is a bespoke programme which allows selected talented young athletes to combine high performance training alongside academic study. The Academy has been in operation for 4 years currently based at the University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC) where there are 18 athletes involved in the programme with ages ranging from 15-23 years. Athletes train either on a full time basis or part time basis from Monday to Friday, depending on their academic commitments.

The Academy training programme is designed to accommodate the specific needs of its athletes, in order to ensure the continued development and progression in a number of key areas identified by the Head Coach and the National Performance Director.

There are four main themes which the programme is focused around:

- Physical conditioning
- Technical development: Movement skills e.g. jumping, turning, agility. Technical skills e.g. getting free, shooting, catching.
- Game understanding; e.g. defending the shot, attacking principles on the centre pass.
- Social, emotional and intellectual development and lifestyle management.

The Academy is an ideal environment for young athletes, who want to develop their game to the highest level. Without the Academy many of these talented young athletes may only have contact with high performance coaches once or twice a month at national training camps, the daily contact with the coach at the Academy allows them to progress steadily, and develop into a complete athlete. The design of the programme encourages the athlete to engage in a learning process, allowing them to understand the reasons why they need to focus on a variety of skills, such as intellectual and emotional rather than just technical skills, which ultimately increases their chances of achieving their end goal of competing for Wales.

The programme supports the development of athletes who ultimately could represent Wales in various competitions in the future. Athletes from the Academy represented Wales in:-

Netball World Championships – 4
European U21 Championships – 7
European Senior Championships – 5
European U17 Championships – 1

Academy Members

Sarah Pascoe
Steph Williams
Carlie Ennis
Kylie Paynter
Lucy Main
Emma Thomas
Cara Lea Moseley
Kelly Morgan
Nichola James
Becci Baker
Collette Johnson
Rochelle Modeste
Sammy Jo Williams
Nia Rawlins

- **National Super League & Celtic Dragons**

The 2007/08 season was the third year of our inclusion in the Netball Superleague (NSL). Extended coverage by Sky Sports has meant that the league has continued to develop along with the profile of Netball in general.

Data provided by BARB via Sky Sports.

- Over 175 hours broadcast (60 original hours).
- 1.26m viewers reached across all broadcasts.
- Over 30k viewers watched at least 10 programmes.
- 76% of the audience for original transmissions are ABC1.
- 50% aged under 35 and 63% female.
- The average audience for first run broadcasts was 12k.
- The average viewership per Superleague match for last season was 98,000.
- The viewer demographic has changed over time with an almost 50:50 gender split.

This season the competition was complicated by the fact that the World Championships had been deferred to November. As a result 7 of the Wales World Championship squad were unable to play in the first 6 matches of the NSL which had an obvious impact on results.

Performance in the second half of the season showed significant improvement with scores against all opponents improving on those from the first half of the season. The final match of the season against Leeds Carnegie was a reflection of this, with the Dragons losing a very exciting game 45-44.

Due to facility access problems only one instead of the usual two of the Dragons' home games were televised as live and highlights of three of their other matches were also broadcast by Sky Sports. Although the Celtic Dragons didn't improve on their finishing position from 2006/07 the squad has certainly made progress.

The 2007/08 season also saw the introduction of the Netball Talent League (NTL). The League for U19 age group players offered an opportunity for all franchises to develop young players, introduce them to regular high level competition and get accustomed to travelling and playing in front of vocal and partisan crowds. Our Junior Dragons had an enjoyable first season with 20 young players representing the team across the competition.

Welsh Netball is grateful for the support offered by the Sports Council of Wales towards the Celtic Dragons and Junior Dragons, its key sponsors Gilbert Sports and Pitman Training as well as that offered by all the volunteers involved in Home fixtures. The loyal spectators who have been at many of the Dragons' games also perform an important function in terms of lifting the squad.

Celtic Dragons

Ffion Berry	Sophie Baxter	Emma Bliss (C)
Shenaide Blucher	Suzie Drane (VC)	Sara Hale
Carlie Ennis	Steph Essex	Lindsay Keable
Cara Lea Moseley	Anna Mayes	Emily Rose
Chrissie Munro	Amanda Trounce	Steph Williams

Junior Dragons

Sara Bell	Rachel Evans	Amy Cooper
Christy Buckley	Nichola James	Imogen Evans
Colette Johnson	Emily Lloyd	Kelly Evans
Nia Rawlins	Lucy Main	Nicole George
Clare Sutherland	Jess Robins	Tessa Hammond
Jess Sutton	Angharad Williams	Lowri Holborrow
Emma Thomas	Sammy Jo Williams	

- **World Championships**

2007 was an important year for World Netball with the World Championships (WNC) being held in New Zealand in November. The World Championships are only held every 4 years with competition for a place always intense as only 16 teams qualify to play in the event. Wales were drawn in a very interesting group comprising of World Champions New Zealand and the African nations of Botswana and Malawi. Wales opened their campaign with a solid 19 goal victory over Botswana. The second match against New Zealand was always going to be difficult especially in front of a packed house of committed and vocal Silver Fern fans. All 12 of Wales' players took to the court in the match and made the Kiwis work hard for their 86-24 win.

The final group match against Malawi was all to play for with both teams having won one match and lost one in the group games. Malawi won the match 55-52 - a close game that could have gone either way, Malawi eventually finished 5th in the competition. The Wales team and their supporters knew a great opportunity had been missed and prepared for their playoffs for places 9-16.

Wales beat Malaysia 69-32 in convincing style in their first playoff. The second playoff was against a very physical Fiji team who had never finished out of the top 10 at a World Championships and was determined to ensure that they maintained that record. In a match where the umpires afforded Wales absolutely no protection, Fiji ran out 68-36 winners and in so doing denied Wales a Top 10 finish.

Wales' final match was the classification game to determine 11th and 12th position. Trinidad and Tobago proved to be a formidable foe winning the game 48-45 another 3 goal loss for the Welsh team.

Wales finished a creditable 12th which was 2 places higher than their finishing position in 2003. Wales had beaten Botswana convincingly in the pool games but they finished 10th overall, two places above Wales and a very strange situation indeed!

IFNA, Netball's World Governing Body has introduced a new World Ranking System which reflects all international matches that countries play and allows rankings to change twice a year rather than being established once every 4 years.

World Championship Squad

Billy Pritchard (nee Bowers) (Capt)	Sophie Baxter	Sara Hale
Anna Mayes (Vice Capt)	Amanda Evans	Bev Lovatt
Shenaide Blucher	Becky James	Bianca Modeste
Amanda Trounce	Stephanie Williams	Cara Lea Moseley

Coach Denise Ellis **Physio** Sarah Jenkins **Team Manager** Alison Dacey
Performance Analysts Emma Williams & Laura Williams

- **Selection of Players for European Championships**

Open	**U21**	**U17**
Jo Davies	Alice Appleton	Lois Hough
Sara Hale (VC)	Sian Davies	Lowri Jones
Sarah Pascoe	Sarah Pascoe	Nia Jones (C)
Chris Weaver	Steph Williams(VC)	Steph Murphy
Bev Lovatt (C)	Emma James	Rhia Davey (VC)
Kylie Paynter	Nichola James	Nicol Halliwell
Amanda Trounce	Lucy Main	Beth Hopkins
Steph Williams	Kylie Paynter (C)	Sophie Morgan
Nia Rawlins	Amanda Trounce	Catherine Roberts
Shenaide Blucher	Carlie Ennis	Becci Baker
Becky James	Nia Rawlins	Chloe Cole
Cara Lea Moseley	Emma Thomas	Sioned Hiscocks
Team Management	**Team Management**	**Team Management**
Denise Ellis	Hazel Strudwick	Laura Williams
Hazel Strudwick	Denise Ellis (Mentor)	Bev Powell
Alison Dacey	Wendy Pressdee	Alice Watts
Kent Fyrth	Jess Thomas	Katy Gilvear

Netball Europe Open Championships - Glasgow

	England	**Northern Ireland**	**Scotland**	**Wales**	**Points**	**Position**
England		52 5 32	55 5 31	57 5 23	15	1st
Northern Ireland	32 1 52		35 1 44	43 5 42	7	3rd
Scotland	31 0 55	44 5 35		44 5 40	10	2nd
Wales	23 0 57	42 2 43	40 2 44		4	4th

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WELSH NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Netball Europe Under 21 Championship 2008 ~ Belfast

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Points	Position
England		51 5 42	46 5 38	49 5 28	15	1st
Northern Ireland	42 1 51		59 5 34	49 5 31	11	2nd
Scotland	38 1 46	34 1 59		41 2 42	4	4th
Wales	28 1 49	31 1 49	42 5 41		7	3rd

Netball Europe Under 17 Championships 2008 ~ Cardiff

	England	Gibraltar	Netball Ireland	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Points	Position
England		110 5 0	78 5 5	63 5 23	70 5 16	52 5 16	25	1st
Gibraltar	0 0 110		27 1 39	11 0 86	11 0 67	4 0 79	1	6th
Netball Ireland	5 0 78	39 5 27		16 0 57	13 0 60	8 0 61	5	5th
Northern Ireland	23 0 63	86 5 11	57 5 16		51 3 51	29 1 47	14	4th
Scotland	16 0 70	67 5 11	60 5 13	51 3 51		37 3 37	16	3rd
Wales	16 0 52	79 5 4	61 5 8	47 5 29	37 3 37		18	2nd

Match Points awarded as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points to the losing team if they lose by 5 goals or less
- 1 point to the losing team if scoring over 50% of the goals scored by the winning team.

○ Performance Planning & Identifying Talent

Identifying and developing Netball talent in Wales is vital on an ongoing basis. New young players are essential if Wales is to hold its World Ranking and improve upon it. In the knowledge that nurturing talent also takes several years it is important that potential future players are identified as early as possible. Welsh Netball has established a network of Talent Centres across Wales to do just that. Each one of Welsh Netball's Areas has a Talent Centre based within it. The focus has been on selecting players between the ages of 13 and 16, and delivering a minimum of 21 hours coaching. Each centre focuses on the same skill essentials which have been developed using Welsh Netball's Performance Standards which were explained in last year's Annual Report. In addition to the skill essentials players are taken through other vitally important issues that underpin the development of elite level athletes. These include:

- Nutrition
- Hydration
- Core strength development
- Warm up and warm down

Centres have been established in:

North East Wales	Flintshire	**North West Wales**	Aberconwy
Powys (2)	Brecon & Newtown	**West Wales**	Carmarthen
South East Wales	Risca	**Glamorgan Valleys**	Pontypridd
Cardiff	Trelai		

Every centre delivers 7 x 3 hour sessions, each session covering one of the Performance Standards. Each Centre has a Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Apprentice Coaches supported by a Team Manager and Umpire.

In June 2007 Welsh Netball submitted an updated 4 Year Plan for funding to the Sports Council for Wales. Every element of WNA's operation was referenced in this plan including a very detailed High Performance Plan. Funding for this top level of our player pathway is not taken from members affiliations but is supported by grants and international event income. As reported last year the structure of support for performance sport has been changed and as Netball is not an Olympic sport the impact of change has been significant for us. SCW has been able to continue to support our elite athletes during the last 12 months and we are very grateful for their support however certain key areas were not provided for in 2007/08 these included:-

- Funding to attend the World Championships
- Sports Science
- Nutritional Advice
- Physiological measurement, advice and support
- Sports Psychology advice and support
- Sports Medicine assessment, advice and support
- Lifestyle Management advice
- Strength and Conditioning planning and session organisation/delivery

Several of these vital areas have been provided to our National squads by other means but the funding that we now receive is mostly used up by provision of training facilities, travel, medical costs, physiotherapy and European Championship participation.

Partnerships

Sports Council for Wales

The support of SCW has been tremendous and much acknowledged. SCW grant aid was £279,100 for the financial year 2007/08 a reduction of £19,132 on last year. Welsh Netball would not be able to achieve at any level of the game without the funding that is provided by the Sports Council for Wales. The grant systems have changed in recent years to link directly with the Welsh Assembly Government Climbing Higher strategy for sport and physical recreation. This makes it more of a challenge for us especially at the performance level where WAG targets medals in competitions such as the Commonwealth Games.

Unitary Authority Staffing

Welsh Netball has partnerships with twelve Unitary Authorities to employ local development officers. These individuals continue to be a crucial part of our staff and development team.

Welsh Language & the Urdd

We continue to extend our links with the Urdd. We have been actively involved in competition provision and courses through the medium of Welsh. Our staffing partnership in Ceredigion has worked well and we hope to continue it for another year.

NSPCC

Partnership with the NSPCC has enabled us to develop better support structures for clubs with regard to child and vulnerable adult protection issues. We have been able to access free of charge Criminal Records Bureau checks for our volunteers and trained several local officers to be able to assist clubs with the administration involved.

International Federation & Netball Europe

As ever we retain a close working relationship with our International Federation. The Country Member Delegates of the International Federation met in Auckland at the same time as the Championships. One of the main outcomes from the Congress meeting was the agreement of some changes to the rules of our game, which will be advised to Members before they are implemented in Wales in September 2008. The European Federation Members are working closely with the International Federation to develop a strategy for Netball growth in Europe.

Physical Education in School Sport (PESS) and 5x60 Officers

PESS is a Welsh Assembly Government initiative which allows our governing body to work closer with education to raise standards of school age children. Close links exist with the local PESS officers to enable best use of resources. The newly employed SCW 5x60 officers are also linking in with our NDOs for school extra curricular activities in some areas.

Sponsors

Welsh Netball continues to receive valued support from several sponsors who have had strong relationships with us over many years, these include in particular **Grays of Cambridge (Gilbert)** who continue to sponsor our Netballs and recently agreed new deals for kit for Wales, U21s, Celtic Dragons and Junior Dragons. **Pitman Training** and **Sport Experience** continued their sponsorship last year. We welcomed some new sponsors on board during the year, **King David Tyres** linked to our U17 team.

It is obvious from this brief report that the year has been an exciting and challenging one both on and off the court. Ultimately though, our game still depends on the exceptional dedication of our many volunteers at both national and local levels. The extraordinary energy that people in our Netball community have and their willingness to grow, listen and try new things helps to keep Welsh Netball moving forward delivering a great sport for our players, spectators and partners.

The development and expansion of our organisation is also a direct result of the outstanding work undertaken by our small band of professional staff.

Welsh Netball's continued challenge is about never accepting the status quo – our challenge is to ensure Netball is attractive, fun and inspirational at all levels throughout the whole of Wales and is truly a **"game for all."**

I look forward to next year with great anticipation and just a little financial apprehension, I am confident that 2008/09 will bring even more exciting opportunities for our Netball community at many levels.

Susan J Holvey
Chief Executive Officer

REVISED EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL NETBALL RULES NOW AVAILABLE

GET YOUR COPY NOW!!

£5.00 inclusive of postage

Send payment *(cheques payable to Welsh Netball)* to:

Welsh Netball,
33 – 35 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9HB

CHECK OUT THE WELSH NETBALL WEBSITE FOR COACHING AND UMPIRING RESOURCES, NETBALL MERCHANDISE AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

www.welshnetball.co.uk