<u>Derbyshire County Netball</u> Yardley League

The Yardley League was originally started with just four teams in 1993, and was created to provide a safe, none threatening environment for players returning to netball to enjoy the game and develop as players.

Over the years the league has grown and developed, and now has a senior section and a junior section, but the thinking behind the league remains the same, and Derbyshire is committed to providing a league that allows players to develop.

What makes the Yardley League different?

- We try to put teams in a division that is appropriate to their standard of play, so new teams
 will not necessarily start in the bottom division, or even their real age group in the case of
 Juniors WHY because beating teams easily doesn't challenge the winning team, and
 certainly disheartens the losing team we want all players to be able to participate.
- League or experienced umpires may not always penalise players who continually break rules, if
 it is obvious that it is because of the skill level of that player, such as footwork, foot on the
 line at a throw in WHY the player will either be taken off court, or bypassed by her own
 players, which means that she will be denied the opportunity to develop as a player the
 player needs to know, but not necessarily be penalised.
- Teams are discouraged from closing down space when defending ("blocking" for those who prefer old terminology) WHY less experienced players contact, and some players see this as an easy way of gaining possession of the ball, which is against the spirit of the league. Applying any sort of pressure as a defender is intended to delay play only we want to encourage open play to allow players to develop. Obviously players need to protect their space for rebounds in the shooting circle, but this should only be around the post area.
- The league provides an umpire WHY so that all umpires, including youth umpires that have been on a course, can develop, knowing that there is a qualified umpire on the other side of the court to give them help and feedback. Should teams take advantage of an inexperienced umpire, the league umpire may take appropriate action. Please note that Youth umpires cannot umpire above their age group.
- Whilst recognising that some teams may have been started by an experienced player, i.e. being
 someone that plays regular netball at a competitive standard, that player will not be allowed to
 participate in matches WHY because it is a grass roots league, and experienced players can
 greatly influence a match, and disadvantage the opposition
- Teams/players who play in other leagues are discouraged from entering WHY the league
 wants to provide match opportunities for teams who do not have that opportunity elsewhere,
 it is to develop teams/players.
- Registration forms and score cards need to be completed WHY to ensure that teams only
 field players registered to that team. If a team is short, they have the option of borrowing
 players, but the game is played as a friendly.

Any team that enters the league has to fully appreciate and support the above, in order to ensure an enjoyable experience for all!