

YATTON JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB REPORT OF ENGLAND V'S NEW ZEALAND GAME AT BATH UNIVERSITY

On Thursday 15th October 2009, twelve girls from Yatton Junior Netball Club had the exciting job of being Ball Girls for the England Netball Team. England were playing New Zealand, who are currently number two in the world, at Bath University.

Julia Wallis, the Yatton Netball Club Chairperson, had approached England Netball to see if there may be a chance that our girls could help out and was delighted when they responded and requested twelve girls.

Pictured are the girls from our current Under 16 Squad who are either in Year 10 or Year 11 and go to Backwell, Clevedon and Redland High schools. Back row left to right Rosemary Harris, Abbie Bryant, Issy Peters, Sophie Hayward, Lucy Chidzey, Annabel Semmence. Front row left to right Katherine Ware, Daisy Warneford-Thomson, Jasmine Pang, Sophie Luker, Alice Willcox, Megan Powell.

On the day they had to be at Bath University early to be shown what was expected of them. They led the England and New Zealand Teams on to the court in front of over 2000 spectators and held the flags of both countries while the national anthems were played. The atmosphere was electric and the noise levels of cheering fans were sky high. They were divided into two groups of six and covered half of the game each as Ball Girls.

At the end of a very close and exciting game the scores were level at 51-51. To the crowd's delight the decision was taken to play extra time to determine a final winning team. However, at this point, the girls had been led back to the changing rooms to return the England Netball tops that they had worn for the game and were unaware of the breaking news. The message got to them that extra time was to be played and they raced back in seconds to carry out the rest of their duties in their Yatton Netball Kits!

Unfortunately England couldn't maintain their pressure over the New Zealand team and the final score was 59-65.

After the game the girls managed to get autographs and photos with some of the England Team and were very proud to represent their club at Yatton. It was an unforgettable experience and the girls thoroughly enjoyed their time in Bath. They were inspired by the England Team and went on to win their own netball match on Sunday in the Avon Junior League 33-16 against Longwell Green 2.

It really was a night to remember and all the girls said that it was one of the best days of their lives!