

Team White become Team Green

On the evening of Monday 27th November 2017, a Team of 12 A&B Award Umpires, from Netball South West, met at Heathrow airport to fly to Dubai to officiate at the Emirates Dubai Netball 7s competition.



From Back Left :- Nicky Shard-Palmer, Tracie Hull, Nicki Hindmarch, Vanessa Taylor-Byrne, Teresa Slee, Lisa Townsend, Claire Daly, Janko Salzwedel, Jaz Flatman, Jenny Rousell, Gina Pearce & Louise Cole

Tuesday was a travel recovery day. Wednesday started early, meeting in reception, following breakfast, at 7:30am to collect our kit and our Accreditations. The Accreditation is the most important piece of equipment needed for the entire Tournament as you cannot enter or move around the Sevens Stadium and Grounds without it. Our bus picked us up at 8am to take us up to the Sevens Stadium which was approximately 30 mins drive from our hotel (Dubai traffic permitting)! At the Stadium we had a full tour of all of the facilities which included a security briefing which took over 90 minutes. We were able to watch the main pitch being "decorated" for the World Series Rugby Competition.



We then met with Jill Conlin, the Emirates Airline Invitation Tournament Manager for the Dubai Sevens – she welcomed us, thanked us for our time and did a short questions and answers session.

We then had a detailed training session with Sara Donovan, the Netball Tournament Manager, about the Rules of the competition, the scoring, working with the Marshalls and just about every aspect of this part of the Tournament to ensure it runs consistently and smoothly – "The Sevens does not stopit always runs to time and it is always done the Sevens way"

We concluded our time at the Sevens with a trip out to the courts and a physical training session lead by Louise Cole.

Tournament Information

Dates of Play: Thursday 30th November, Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd December 2017

Scheduling: Matches start at mid-day on Thursday, all day Friday and Saturday until later afternoon. Pool play concludes and Finals take place from Friday afternoon and main finals are on Saturday 2nd December.

Sections: Netball - Gulf Women and Open Youth and International Open

Tournament Size: 44 teams – 200 games.

Eligibility:

Gulf Women - only Girls 14 – 17 years with parental consent can be part of Gulf Women's team. All participants in the Gulf Women Section must be a Gulf Resident with a valid passport & resident's visa.

International Open - only Girls 14 – 17 years with parental consent can be part of an International Open team, participants can be Gulf Residents or other.

Open Youth - Girls 14 – 17 years with parental consent, participants can be Gulf Residents or other.

Format: 2 x 7 minutes halves with a 1 minute half-time break – the same as rugby
Pool matches played round-robin style leading to knock-out competition

Thursday 30th November let's get started! We were joined by a newly qualified B Award umpire, Emma Wood, who is resident in Dubai but originally from Australia. Emma was thrilled at the opportunity to umpire with our team and really enjoyed/benefitted from the mentoring she received from Claire Daly, throughout the tournament.



The days are very long, we generally leave the hotel at around 8am and do not return until 10:30pm to 11pm. Games are usually played for 8 – 10 hours per day and umpires are scheduled throughout that time with short breaks for recovery, nutrition and rehydration.

There are first class on site medical and physio services which the team have full and free access to, to ensure fitness to participate for the duration of the tournament.

The Sections were extremely competitive and the Open Youth and International Open Competitions saw teams participating from all over the UAE, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

The Open Youth Final was umpired by Claire Daly & Jaz Flatman and the Winners were Get Skilled Tigers from South Africa.



The Gulf Women's Final was umpired by Louise Cole & Nicky Shard-Palmer and the Winners were the Dubai Hurricaines.



The International Open Final was umpired by Janko Salzwedel & Vanessa Taylor-Byrne and the Winners were Sri Lanka Navy.



Janko Sazwedel, Claire Daly (Umpire of the Tournament) & Vanessa Taylor-Byrne with their Trophies.



Look out for more opportunities for C Award umpires working towards their B and above to umpire in the UAE next year.