

## Crowborough Netball Club where everyone's welcome!

I took a trip down memory lane when finding out more about the local netball club. For the first time in over 25 years I was pivoting, attacking, dodging and attempting to score a goal on a netball court.

Having only held their first session a few months ago, the club now has around 115 members. I went along to the 'Back to Netball' session, held in the main sports hall at Freedom Leisure where I met club founders Laura Holmwood and Sibylla Woods.



Laura & Sibylla

Adults section (16 years and older). And in case you are wondering, netball is not just for girls and women but boys and men can also join in and are welcomed by the club.

I was struck by the enthusiasm of Laura, a lady with such a passion for the game but who readily admits she doesn't even know all the rules!

Adults pay and play for £5 per session or block book for a discount, children pay around £3.50 (indoors coaching). The club is very relaxed and there is absolutely no pressure to attend every single session. As well as beginners the club also coach league players and organise fun matches with other clubs.

Following a stint in the United States in 2009, Laura had played with a netball club out there and upon her return to the UK she couldn't let go of the idea to start one up in Crowborough. Enlisting the help of her friend Sibylla (who also happens to be a level 2 Netball Coach) they began making plans to form Crowborough Netball Club.

As you can imagine, starting a new club isn't something you can get done in a few days or even months. No, Laura and Sibylla stuck at it for 2 years and in May 2013 they received a much needed grant from Crowborough Town Council which resulted in them being able to afford balls and bibs! A must have for any aspiring netball club.

After much hard work the club finally launched and the response was fantastic with around 28 people turning up to the first session. The club has been growing at a fast pace ever since which shows there was clearly a need for netball in the area.

There is a Juniors section (9-11 years), Seniors section (12-16 years) and the

I really had a great time having a go at netball and the group were very welcoming. I was school netball captain for a couple of years so was a little rusty on the rules after such a long break. Sibylla prompted me on a few things, including the effective 'shoulder pass'. Unlike my old school sports teacher she's not scary either. Still, despite encouragement I still didn't manage to score a goal and understand why my sports teacher always positioned me at Goal Keeper (I was always a wannabe Goal Attack) as really I can't shoot for toffee.

If you want to give netball a try, re-live those netball memories from school, or just play because you're darn good, the club wants to hear from YOU! You'll find a very informative website full of everything you'd want to know and more at [www.crowboroughnetball.com](http://www.crowboroughnetball.com) or contact Sibylla on 07931 980 377 or email [hello@crowboroughnetball.com](mailto:hello@crowboroughnetball.com).



**Fun Summer Netball Games evenings for beginners and returners are starting from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May, running for 9 weeks. Enrolling now!**