



12th March 2012 - Three out of three for Abu Dhabi Netballers!

It gives me great pleasure to announce the success achieved by all three Kukri Abu Dhabi Netball Teams this weekend, at the 26th Annual Intergulf Championships, that were held in Al Ain:

Cup Winners - Abu Dhabi Eagles (A team)
Plate Winners - Abu Dhabi Oryx (B Team)
Bowl Winners - Abu Dhabi Ravens (C Team)

ABU DHABI:

Dubai regained the title last year so Abu Dhabi was all out to win it back, and we did just that! Congratulations and credit also needs to go to our B team who were victorious over another Dubai team in a thrilling final match and to our C team, who had played the second day of the competition with a handicapped system, winning their game in the final against Qatar with a whopping 18 – 8.

Abu Dhabi Netball Chairlady Kellie Pomeroy explained *“The Intergulf Championship are the most important date in the Gulf’s Netball calendar and bring together the regions elite for a weekend of fantastic Netball. For a number of years the final has always been between the two biggest regions Dubai and Abu Dhabi and this year proved no different”*

After 2 days and 9 games of netball, Abu Dhabi A met Dubai A in the final of the Intergulf tournament beating teams like Bahrain A and Al Ain A along the way. The final saw Abu Dhabi’s elite A team (Eagles) v Dubai A. Dubai applied the pressure right from the start with brilliant performances from their shooting circle. The scores were tied at half time and after an inspiring motivational team talk from Coach Sandra put the pressure back onto Dubai. It was a very exciting nail-biting final with both teams fighting it out until the bitter end. One key turn over from the Abu defence and they were in the lead. The lead continued with this until the final whistle with Abu Dhabi winning 20-18. Abu Dhabi A was unbeaten throughout the two days of play.

Jackie Coetzee Eagles Captain said *“I am extremely proud of the team. Everyone played text book netball to get us to the final. The team played their hearts out in the decider against Dubai A fighting back after being 2 goals down. They made me very proud to be the captain! The trophy is once again where it belongs, in the capital. The two months of hard work with Sandra paid off and we could not be happier about the results”.*

In the plate final, Abu Dhabi Oryx took on a young Dubai team. After a toughly contested first half, Abu Dhabi pulled away to a comfortable victory in the second with superb defense and structure through the court. Lara Ridpath (GK) led the defensive effort and was named Player of the Match, giving the Oryx a win of 16 – 8 over Dubai D.

Ravens took to the Social Bowl Competition final against an experienced Qatar side. Ravens showed no mercy with excellent shooting from Aimee Scott and tight defence from Anne-Marie De Beer.

South-African Coach Sandra Du Plessis was ecstatic after a hat trick victory and said *“We have gone from a group of talented individuals into three Champion Teams. The focus, dedication and commitment from the players during the pre-tournament training has been outstanding and I salute the teams for their courageous victories”.*

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The Abu Dhabi Netball League would like to once again like to thank Kukri Sports for their generous sponsorship of our kit and to Bauer International for assisting funding towards expenses. Well done to Al Ain for organising such a fantastic weekend of Netball. Thanks also to our Team Manager Sarah Partridge who ran around behind the scenes to ensure we were all in the right place at the right time. Thanks also to our umpires Tricia Trevaskis and Claire Shryane.

We are also pleased to announce that Abu Dhabi will host the 2013 Championships. Work will get underway, once the celebrations are over, to ensure we run a brilliant tournament here in the Capital.

Kellie Pomeroy added: *"We are delighted to bring back to the Capital the biggest Netball tournament the Gulf has to offer. Abu Dhabi has fantastic purpose built facilities at Sheikh Zayed Sports City and has a number of quality hotels we can look at for providing accommodation to travelling teams. We look forward to getting on with the organising of it!"*

The tournament will take place in March 2013. Abu Dhabi Netball is a non-profit making organization set-up to provide women of all ages and abilities to participate in the sport. The Intergulf Championship is also a non-funded competition which brings together top athletes from around the gulf including countries such as Bahrain, Oman and cities like Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al Ain. If anyone is interested in sponsoring or can offer us support for this please get in touch.

For more information on the ADNL please contact:

Kellie Pomeroy, Chairlady, Abu Dhabi Netball

T: +971 502775650

E: kpomeroy@britishschool.sch.ae

W: www.adnetball.com

Chantel De Villiers , Vice Chair, Abu Dhabi Netball League

T: +971 505166002

E: chanteldev@gmail.com

W: www.adnetball.com