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England Netball announced as host for 2019 Netball World Cup

England Netball and Liverpool are delighted to have been awarded the rights to host the 2019 Netball World Cup following an announcement from the International Netball Federation earlier today.

The tournament will be staged at ACC Liverpool, a venue which has warmly welcomed England at international level on several occasions, the most famous of which saw the host nation lift their first ever major silverware following a World Netball Series victory in 2011.

CEO of England Netball Joanna Adams, commented “We’re absolutely thrilled to have been awarded the right to stage the World Cup, the biggest competition in netball. With participation increasing in the sport, this will provide a welcome incentive to build upon our momentum and increase the visibility of netball in our country.

“This is a massive tribute to the wonderful army of volunteers who have helped us to grow the game in our country. Without their support we would never have been in a position to bid for, let alone win, the rights to host a Netball World Cup.

“Having worked with Liverpool to host major global tournaments previously, we have a proven track record of being able to stage such a prestigious event and we look forward to welcoming the netball world to the North-West. On behalf of England Netball, I would like to thank all parties who worked with us on securing this bid.”

This will be only the third time that England has hosted the competition in its 56-year history. Previous locations include Birmingham in 1995 and the very first staging of the tournament in Eastbourne, 1963.

INF President, the Hon. Molly Rhone, OJ, CD, said: “On behalf of the Board of the International Netball Federation, I am delighted to announce that England Netball has been awarded the rights to host the 2019 Netball World Cup. England put in a strong bid and we are confident that they will deliver an outstanding event in an excellent venue in the city of Liverpool.

“It is an exciting time for netball right now, which is growing at an unprecedented rate throughout the world. We look forward to seeing this growth continue to soar and to working with the Organising Committee in bringing the INF’s most important event to England in 2019.”

Minister for Sport Helen Grant said: “I’m delighted that the 2019 Netball World Cup will be held in Liverpool. Not only is it a major coup for the city, but for the country as a whole. I have no doubt

that by hosting this major event on home soil we will raise the profile of this great sport even further and boost women's sport generally."

The 2019 Netball World Cup forms part of UK Sport's Gold Event Series, which is investing around £40million of National Lottery funding to bring up to 100 world-class events to Great Britain to help build a strong legacy from London 2012 and the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

Liz Nicholl, Chief Executive of UK Sport and a former Chief Executive of England Netball, added: "UK Sport is delighted England Netball's outstanding bid for the 2019 World Cup has been successful.

"Netball is thriving with unprecedented growth in participation, support from sponsors and exposure in the media. Add to this the Government's strong commitment to promoting women's sport, and I really do believe that Liverpool offers the perfect platform to help the International Netball Federation develop and grow this fantastic sport, not just in England but globally. "

"Through the Gold Event Series the UK is building an international reputation for staging world class major sporting events with its compelling mix of state-of-the-art facilities, great infrastructure and technical know-how as well as its army of experienced volunteers.

"I am convinced we can help deliver a remarkable tournament in Liverpool in 2019 that will promote the growth of netball and once again demonstrate the considerable value we place on women's sport in the UK."

Located at the heart of the England's North West, Liverpool is a city with vision, ambition, confidence and momentum. The region's passion for sport is world famous and it will provide an enthusiastic and supportive audience during the competition.

Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson, said: "I am thrilled that Liverpool has been chosen to stage the Netball World Cup in 2019. It is a huge honour and vote of confidence, and demonstrates our track record in delivering major quality events.

"Sport is hugely important in Liverpool and we have committed to a 10 year partnership with England Netball to build participation and grow the audience up to and beyond the event through a series of top internationals. Our aim is to inspire people to participate in the sport and develop the next generation of netballers.

"The stunning ACC Liverpool will be the perfect stage for the event and we are looking forward to welcoming a global audience of competing nations and putting on a show the sport can be truly proud of."

ACC Liverpool, located on a World Heritage waterfront site, includes the Echo Arena [competition venue], Exhibition Centre [athlete training venue], and BT Convention Centre [INF Congress venue]. The new four-star Pullman hotel, also located on the ACC Liverpool site, will be the official INF event hotel helping to deliver the most seamless and athlete-centred Netball World Cup ever.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

INF

The INF is the global governing body of netball, the world's leading women's team sport. Over 20 million people play netball around the world. The INF has 73 national netball association members, grouped into five regions – Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe and Oceania – each with a Regional Federation.

The INF mission is for netball to become one of the world's most popular and exciting team sports through increased participation, outstanding events, and the pursuit of organisational excellence.

For further information and to organise any interviews please contact – Nikki Richardson, Media and Communications, 07780 600 061, nikki.richardson@netball.org

England Netball

England Netball is working hard to modernise the image of the game in this country and we will continue to innovate to keep netball at the forefront of women's sport. Thanks to our partnership with Sky Sports, netball is still the only women's team sport which enjoys weekly television coverage.

Levels of participation are growing fast, too. We have 92,000 affiliated members, and we know that at least one million women and girls play netball every week. Our aim is to provide our members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

For further information and to organise any interviews please contact – Alex Sexton, Communications Manager, 07872 400 740, alex.sexton@englandnetball.co.uk

UK Sport

UK Sport is the nation's high performance sports agency responsible for the strategic investment of around £350million of National Lottery and Exchequer funding in Olympic and Paralympic sports preparing for Rio 2016 and beyond.

The Gold Event Series will invest up to £40m of National Lottery income with the aim of bringing up to 100 of the world's most prestigious sporting events to the UK, including 50 World and European Championships. This ambitious programme will support British athletes' preparation and qualification for Rio 2016 and beyond, while generating approximately £400 million of additional expenditure in host cities and regions and bringing over 400,000 overseas visitors to the UK. Events already secured include the 2017 World Athletics and IPC Athletics Championships to be staged in the London Olympic Stadium and the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup at Olympic Park, London.

For further information and to organise any interviews please contact – Paul Cox, Head of Communications, 07803 178 212, paul.cox@uksport.gov.uk

ACC Liverpool

ACC Liverpool currently comprises BT Convention Centre and Echo Arena. Construction is underway on Exhibition Centre Liverpool and integrated Pullman hotel. Opening is due September 2015 with bookings being taken for the hotel from January 2016

Since opening in 2008, ACC Liverpool has contributed £860m to the local economy
BT Convention Centre has held more than 770 conferences and hosted over 550,000 delegates
Awards include Winner of Best UK Conference Centre at the M & IT Awards 2013 and 2014.

Echo Arena has a capacity of 11,000 and has hosted a range of high profile events including the European MTV awards, BBC Sports Personality of the Year, the Davis Cup and Sir Paul McCartney
Echo Arena has hosted more than 770 events and has welcomed 3.8 million visitors.
The arrival of the £40 million Exhibition Centre Liverpool will increase the existing 7,125 sqm of exhibition space at ACC Liverpool to 15,225 sqm of integrated and flexible event space

For further information and to organise any interviews please contact – Nicky Hunter, PR and Communications Manager, 0151 239 6039; 07713 321440, nicky.hunter@accliverpool.com

Liverpool City Council

Liverpool City Council is one of the largest local authorities in the UK serving a population of 465,000. For more information visit www.liverpool.gov.uk