



To Netball America, Members, Friends and Athletes

I want to wish you all a successful and safe National Championships. It's very exciting and you should all be proud of having a record number of States participating in this event.

As a member of the England Netball Team I cannot tell you how exciting it is to finally see some traction with Netball in the USA. The work Netball America is doing to get netball in at the grass roots level is critical if American netball has any hope of participating on the international netball stage. I have been a big supporter of Netball America from the beginning, and it is a real testament to the achievements that have been made in such a short time.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to commentate with Olympian gold medalist, Ian Thorpe, for Netball America's first showcase at LA's Staples Center. It was also an amazing experience to be a part of your recent WNBA NY Liberty exhibition and games in New Jersey.

It also gives me great pleasure to be able to work with the Netball America athletes to pass on some of my knowledge and I look forward to continuing this in the future.

Good luck everyone!

Stacey Francis

### **About Stacey Francis**

Stacey has rapidly established herself as one of England's top young netball players, featuring in the England teams that won bronze medals at both the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games and the 2011 World Championships in Singapore. Stacey was crowned Fiat Netball Superleague Player of the Year for 2011. Stacy has recently signed a contract with the Canterbury Tactix for the 2012 ANZ season.

She was a member of the Team Bath teams that won the Superleague titles in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010. She was the youngest member of the Team Bath team that won the inaugural competition in 2006 at just 17. Stacey's Netball positions are Goal Keeper, Goal Defence and Wing Defence.

Stacey has a degree in Sports Performance from the University of Bath and is completing a Masters in English and Creative Writing at UWIC, while working as a Marketing Assistant for a sport pr and media firm.