



East Midlands Netball Presents:

An Evening with the Dynamic Duo! March 31st 7pm via Zoom

As part of East Midland Netball's focus on the health and wellbeing of our netball family and friends, we are hosting an event where we can virtually come together for an evening of chat, fun & inspiration.

We are delighted to announce a fantastic opportunity to hear from two former England Captains and legends of the game –

Karen Atkinson and Olivia Murphy



On Wednesday March 31st 7pm to 9pm, you are invited to join us to hear from Karen & Olivia in an informal setting as they share with us; their experiences, challenges, how they are coping in lockdown, their current roles with Vitality SuperLeague teams Strathclyde Sirens and Loughborough Lightning, juggling life as Mums and of course their time playing and captaining the England Roses.

For more on their biographies see below.

The event will be hosted by East Midlands Netball via Zoom (so please make sure that you have Zoom downloaded [Zoom Download](#) and all you need to do is join with a cuppa or your favourite tippie, listen in and enjoy. You'll have the opportunity to pre-register questions and also raise questions via the Zoom 'chat' facility on the night.

Please pre-register on the link below to receive the joining details:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlrc-6gqjMtGNE4FteB5HZAvbXPD1iK33NZ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Karen Atkinson MBE

Karen started playing club netball at Wigan Athletic Juniors and soon progressed to county level with Greater Manchester where she was coached by the fantastic Kath Edwards. Karen went on to play for the North West region and English Schools U16 & U18.

On her first trial for England U16 Karen was unsuccessful and was told that she was too small, but she persevered and was selected the following year. Karen had a fantastic career with England achieving 122 caps and held the position of England Captain from 2008-2011 when she then retired.

Karen has represented England in 4 Commonwealth Games (3 Bronze Medals) & 4 World Cups (1 Bronze Medal)

Karen has strong links with both Greater Manchester (where she was brought up) and the East Midlands through her days with Loughborough Lightning.

Karen is a qualified teacher but went into coaching after retiring from playing. She was Mavericks Head Coach 2011-2014, Loughborough Lightning Head Coach 2014-2017; then took 2 years out to live in Italy. She has also been an assistant coach for the England Roses & coached the Roses at the International Fast 5 tournament in Melbourne 2018. Since 2019 to the present, Karen is the Technical Director for Strathclyde Sirens in the Vitality Netball Super League.

Karen is a mum of 2 - Freddie (7) and Jacob (4), her husband also works in professional sport as Head of Performance at Wasps Rugby.



Olivia Murphy

Olivia lives in Burton on Trent. Her netball journey began at primary school where she loved the sport and she soon joined a local netball team. The coach of this team was Rosie Port who remained a significant influence for many years to come.

Olivia progressed well and was selected as a county player for Derbyshire. She successfully represented Derbyshire and then East Midlands at every age group.

At the age of 16, Olivia was selected for England U18's and continued on to the U21's when as she states 'under the watchful eye of Liz Broomhead' she got her first England cap at the age of 19.

Olivia has had a fantastic international netball career, achieving 95 caps for England and was England Captain from 2000 - 2006.

Playing experience- Derbyshire County, Linden, Loughborough Lightning, & England.

National Competitions: Represented England at World Youth Championship, 3 Commonwealth Games & 2 World Championships

Current role: Head of Performance Support at Loughborough University and Loughborough Lightning Netball Assistant Coach

Outside of Netball Olivia is kept busy, she has a 4-year-old son – Archie, her partner is an ex-footballing builder, and they have a German Shepherd puppy.

Olivia loves all sport and being outdoors.