

Three Abu Dhabi teams to compete in Bahrain

Capital's league will be strongly represented at the Gulf Championships

Staff Report

Abu Dhabi The Abu Dhabi Netball League (ADNL), one of the capital's oldest sports clubs, continued to grow from strength to strength during the 2008-2009 season, with a record number of new players signing up.

ADNL chairperson Erene Spies commented on the club's continued success: "This season has seen interest far beyond our expectations. Over 150 players have competed across two leagues each week since September 2008."

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Top players

The ADNL has selected three teams comprised of the emirate's top players to represent Abu Dhabi at the

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inter-Gulf Championships to be held in Bahrain from March 13-14.

The championships, acknowledged as the Gulf's premier netball competition, attracts teams from countries all across the region, including Oman, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

And Abu Dhabi has a formidable record in the event, having been overall

Erene Spies

ADNL chairperson

winner on four separate occasions and placing as runners-up in the 2008 Championship Cup and Invitational Trophy.

This year will also mark the first appearance of an Abu Dhabi men's team at the event.

Al Jaber, Beauty Spot, Finance House and others are amongst the hosts of Abu Dhabi-based businesses offering support to ADNL.

Netball is the world's most popular team sport for women, played by over seven million people in more than 70 countries across the globe. In the UAE alone, the sport is played by over 600 on a weekly basis, with numbers growing significantly every year as exposure and access to the game broaden.

Long history

Abu Dhabi's first official game of netball was played in 1976, when former England captain Linda Taylor started playing at Al Khubairat School. The ADNL was formed four years later.

Currently managed by a committee of members, the ADNL has a large following, as Abu Dhabi Netball chairperson Erene Spies summed up: "It's a fantastic opportunity to have fun, meet new people and above all, enjoy the game."