

COSTA BLANCA SCORES FIRST

Javea Netball Club hosts five days of tournaments and matches from March 30th and an expected 120 players are expected to descend on the Marina Alta Town. Seven international teams - including one from Malaysia - will join five teams from Javea, Torrevieja and Alfas del Pi in the competition. Anita Grayson, of the Javea Netball Club, told Round Town News that the sport had always been regarded as a 'girly game' yet in the UK it was recognised as the leading women's sport. "Mixed netball is now a fast growing sport which has progressed from men having watched their wives and girlfriends play to deciding they would like to join in and play social mixed games," she said.



FIRST

"Javea Netball Club is sponsored by Dragon Insurance and in conjunction with Sports Europe is bringing the first ever mixed netball competition to the Costa Blanca." She said as well as the Malaysian team, six UK-based sides would take part - an all-Jamaican team, two Australian and New Zealand sides, and three from London's Mixed Netball Association. Anita said the growth in netball's popularity meant Sky Sports 2 now screened a super league. She said Javea planned to field two teams but needed to recruit men prepared to train and learn the skills and rules of the fast moving and physically demanding game. "We are hoping this will appeal to rugby and basketball players - you have to be fit. This is a serious competition rather than mucking about and we expect the men to come to training," added Anita.

APPROACH

She explained that Sports Europe, based in Kent, approached her about organising tours to Javea. "They put netball on their website and someone went back and asked about mixed netball. They said 'yes' and it snowballed from there," she said. "The guy who runs Sports Europe used to live here as a child and thought it was a great place for sport - there's also golf, tennis and rugby at Denia." Anita said the Javea Netball Club trained on Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm to 9.30pm at L'Ancora Playa Club de Tennis, in Avenida de Paris, Arenal. "We have had lots of promises from men about playing but now they have to turn up and train," she added.