

**TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**  
**7pm at Blue Flames Sporting Club**

**Committee – in attendance**

Kerry Smith - Chair

Liz Wisniewski - Competitions Officer

Linda Hall - Treasurer

Cat Witty - County Secretary

Deborah Percy - Performance Officer

Rachel Cassidy - Publicity Officer

Emma Ross - Officiating Officer

Liz Dark - Coaching Officer

Katie Woodward - Affiliations Officer

7 four 7	Kelly Galloway, Anita Hopper	NT Unison	Susan Clark, Helen Emmerson
Alexandra	Zena Henderson, Linda Thompson	Newcastle City	Anna Barnes, Cat Witty
Astley	Rachel Hannah, Rachel Lisle	Newcastle Storm	Anna Barnes, Rachel Cassidy
Beacon	Claire Scragg, Rachael Coady	Novos	Gill Mason, Heather Peacock
Blue Flames	Andrea Cummings, Veronica Hetherington	Panthers	Melissa Spackman,
Bond Dickinson	Kelly Beattie, Lynne Barclay	Prudhoe	Chris Little, Sue Henderson
Burnside	Margaret Chambers, Kath Robinson, Emily Brock	PWC	Jenny Cousins, Susan Briganti, Sophie Marchbanks
Chopwell	Val Reynolds	P&G	Sarah Nicholson, Emma Connolly
Cobalt Vixens	Caitlin Avery, Emma Bell	Riverside	Lynne Booth, Deborah Percy, Rachel Barrett
Concordia	Claire Thornton, Sarah Spence	Sage	Julie Baughman
Custom Planet	Liz Dark, Tracey Richardson	Sandyford	Karen Hallett, Emma Patterson
Denton Park	Amy Kirsopp, Jess Brough	Seaton Burn	Sue Gutteridge, Claire Blair
Durham Palatinates	Michaela Sheavils	Seatonians	Michelle Longstaff, Lindsay Bradley
EY	Claire Lillie, Sarah Conlon	Stadium	Kerry Lessels, Jo MacLeod
Freeman Knights	Claire Lillie, Susan Robinson	Stanley Thunder	Louise Hurst,
Fusion	Amy Kirsopp, Jess Brough	Sunderland Predators	Victoria Sunicoll
GALS	Sarah Churlish	TEAM	Liz Wisniewski, Melissa Spackman
Gateshead	Lucy Brooks, Amy Chapman	Tigers	Gail Sherwood, Lauren Markham
Gateshead Angels	Katie Twinn, Laura Hunter	Tynemouth	Rachel Cleary, Lyn Jamieson-Yip
Gosforth	Tracey Richardson, Sarah Philips	Vixens	Hayley Tindale, Kaisha Walton
Great Park	Sarah-Jane Cross,	Wearside Wildcats	Abbie Taylor, Megan McNarry
Greencroft	Katie Woodward, Linda Tyman	Westgate	Karen Carnaffin, ANO
Jesmond	Alice Caisley, Kate Bridges	Willington	Lynn Morrison, Andrea Tillmouth, Emma Dawson
KATS	Claire Tilton, Lorna Banner		

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes of 2016 AGM**

Minutes agreed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Liz Wisniewski, seconded by Linda Hall

**3. Committee Reports**

**Chair** – Kerry outlined how netball in T&W works and that it is dependent upon a small group of unpaid volunteers who give their time and energy to ensure that netball happens. She encouraged all clubs to consider how they and their members could contribute to this process by getting involved with the committee, no matter how small their contribution. She also talked about the self-management of the leagues and confirmed that without each club doing their bit the leagues would not happen and run as successfully as they do.

Kerry presented gifts to Liz Thompson and Sarah Jane Cross who had been named Volunteer of the Month by England Netball recently. She also talked about our North East Golden Globe winners and encouraged everyone to go on line and vote for them to win the national prize.

**Junior Competition** – Charlotte had run junior leagues at Gateshead Stadium on a Sunday morning and these had been very well received. It was planned to run these again in the coming season but this would be subject to availability of courts and venues. Anyone with views on junior competition or who would like to help was encouraged to get in touch with Charlotte.

**Adult Competition** – Everyone present was thanked for their input to ensure the leagues ran as smoothly as they did. Liz emphasised the role of Captains in organising their teams, getting them on court, liaising with umpires, etc.. There hadn't been a great number of issues this year so previous messages about dissent and respect had hopefully filtered down. Following feedback from the League Review issues like Injury Time application would be discussed at the Umpiring Seminars to try and improve consistency. The provision of Coaching Sessions will also be considered as this rated highly in the review.

**League Review** – the results of the league review were circulated and will be published on the website. The results were briefly discussed with key messages outlined. A number of issues which will be considered by the committee were highlighted. Clubs were also encouraged to ensure their players read the league rules. It was clear from some of the comments received that players were unaware of some of the league rules. It was also pointed out that on match nights this lack of knowledge often caused aggravation and annoyance and led to issues arising that were unnecessary.

**Affiliations** – Katie explained the rationale behind the decision of England Netball to increase adult affiliations by £10. But this would be the only increase for four years. There were no increases in any other age groups or in the county and regional levies. Katie offered to help any clubs who were struggling with affiliations. She also confirmed that My Net would open for input early August.

**Officiating** – Clubs were again encouraged to organise their umpires early and to ensure they paid them promptly. They were also reminded that we needed more umpires and they should encourage anyone in their club who was interested to consider training. It is the intention to introduce a rule which requires each club to have active umpires attached to them in order to qualify to play in the league.

**Performance** – Deborah outlined the squads and satellites that are delivered by the County. The quality has improved over the last few years and increasing numbers of young players are qualifying for regional academies and progressing through into the Team Northumbria Academy programmes.

**Coaching** – the County are keen to increase the number of qualified Coaches and offer financial support for anyone attending a Coaching course.

#### **Adoption of Accounts**

Linda Hall presented the accounts which had also just been audited with no issues raised. The Accounts were adopted.

#### **4. Elections of Officers**

There had been no nominations for the posts which were up for re-election so the officers in post were duly re-elected. This still left a couple of posts vacant. These will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and anyone interested in being involved with the committee was asked to speak to Kerry after the meeting.

#### **5. Appointment of an Auditor**

It was agreed to appoint Val Reynolds as Auditor for the TWCNA County and Affiliation Accounts.

#### **6. Consideration of Proposed Resolutions**

There were no proposed resolutions.

The Chair closed the formal part of the meeting.

Helen Emmerson the England Netball North East Regional Manager outlined the changes to England Netball funding which had led to the affiliation changes. She also outlined the new structure which would see the Regional Manager posts replaced by a Manager who would cover the whole of the northern area (NE, NW, Y&H) and would be focussed on governance and the running of the sport. She also reiterated the message of the Chair, explaining that in future there would be stricter guidelines around membership of the county committee with elected members having to step down after 2 years and not being eligible for re-election. She asked all clubs to encourage their players to get involved with volunteering and helping to run and administer their county netball.

Helen also outlined her future role as NDO for T&W whilst Fiona Holden was on maternity leave.

Kerry thanked Helen for all her hard work during her many years as Regional Manager and in particular the work she has done for T&W. She has offered great support and help to all of the committee members at various times and will be very badly missed in our county – although we do get to keep her for a little longer. A small gift was presented to Helen to thank her for everything she has done.

Entries for the Winter League were taken and confirmed.