

MINUTES of the Tyne & Wear County Netball Association
Annual General Meeting
held on 16th July 1998, at Wallsend Town Hall

AGM

Present

Astley – Julie Patterson, Sylvia MacArthur
Bainbridge – Julie Whitfield
Barclays – Julie Carr, Alyson Brandon
Beacon – Pat Percy
Birtley – J Hulie, L Clough
Blaydon – G Anderson, N Marks
Blue Flames – Mandy Thompson, C Mulvie
Burnside – W Pinkney, N King
Coast – Christine McAvelia, Liz Wisniewski
Concordia – Julia Pearson
Denton Park – Cath Scorer, Joan Purvis
Gateshead – Jan Adams, Vicki Young, Christine Kings
Greencroft – L Tyman, S Walford
Gosforth – Michelle Oddy, Karen Muir
Howdon – J Austin
I. Paints – Sue Borthwick, Sam Wheale
Kenton – J Croudace
Killingworth – L Foster, J Campbell
NECOE – K Reay, D Proom, A Horsbrough
NCC – G Troop, L Gardiner
Novos – Kerry Jones, Gill Mason, Betty Burke, Pat Scott
Riverside – Lynne Booth, Liz Barton, J Moody
Sage – Glynn Errington, Ericka Johansen
Seaton Burn – L Netherton, G Spedding
Seatonians – Karen Foster, Jackie Buller, Liz Vuyk
Springs – G Dugdale, Monen McAlindon
Taxes – Christine Rodda, Sharon Mavin
Telewest – Gayna Fawcett, Lynne Moyse
Tynemouth – D Bryson, L Jamieson-Yip
Wallsend – Janice Boyack-Short, Tanya Seddon, Liz Thompson
Whickham – Julie High, Helen Barnard
Willington – Sylvia Pankhurst, Claire Toner, Yvonne Welsh,
Lyn Morrison, Dawn White, Susan Clark
Winlaton – E Cuthbertson, Carole McMaster

Apologies

Iris Ritson, Margaret Pearson, Helen Blair, Margaret Chambers, Val Trainor, Karen Percy.

Minutes of 1997 AGM - these were agreed.

Matters Arising - None

Reports

Honorary Secretary – Pat Scott

According to the figures submitted by our Affiliations Secretary we have 37 schools, an increase of 2 but 3 clubs fewer than last year, but neither of the universities in our county affiliated – a result of their severely curtailed budgets they told us. Membership of adult players was 546 as opposed to 557 last year. The steady growth in Under 16 membership continues up to 79 this year. This is encouraging for the future health of the Association.

The committee met on 9 occasions with representatives from 12 clubs and a players' representative has also attended 3 meetings. For the first time in a number of years the post of Publicity Secretary was filled and I'm sure most of you are aware of the heightened profile of Netball at least in the local press. However the post of Disability Secretary remained unfilled. 3 sub-committee's were formed for Development, Coaching and Umpiring, they have met as and when needed. In addition committee members have attended Regional meetings, Regional Working Groups and Schools Meetings.

On the County front thanks are due to Senior County Coach Gill Mason who in the light of the resignation of the U21 coach and the lack of a replacement took overall responsibility for both squads – a huge undertaking. In the coming year a County Under16 team will participate in the ECL.

Regionally we have been active, Wallsend, Novos and Seatonians participated in the Regional Super-League and all 3 maintain their place for the coming season. The 3 above plus Riverside also joined the new Northern Clubs League and congratulations are due to Wallsend and Seatonians on gaining promotion to Division 1. Tyne and Wear schools participated in the Northern Counties League and tournaments and competed for the Alex Barlass Trophy in Southampton this year. Central High Schools Under14 team after success locally, won through to the National Schools Trials.

The third test match in the England v New Zealand series was staged at the Newcastle Arena. Although it meant a break from Gateshead it did allow by far the largest crowd for a netball match in the region to attend. The European Under17 Netball festival was staged at Gateshead in February with teams from England, Scotland, Wales, N Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Malta and Gibraltar. T&W provided most of the volunteers for this event and tributes have been paid to the warmth of the welcome and the hospitality shown to visitors to our County. Thanks due to all those who were involved in this event for their time and hard work.

AENA's AGM was also held in the region this year in Gateshead. Unfortunately this did not lead to greater attendance, however the presentation by Liz Nicholl on the radical restructuring of the Association and the impact of the various Lottery grants was interesting and informative.

At the English Sports Council's Annual Award ceremony the North Region as a whole achieved the Award for Coach of the Year – so well done all the T&W coaches. Seatonians Netball Club received a highly commended Plaque at the Volunteer Investment Programme Award Ceremony sponsored by Barclaycard. Two T&W players were invited to join the Under 21 Regional Squad, Vicky Percy from Wallsend and Leanne Hamilton from Riverside, in addition this squad was coached by Yvonne Hoyland from Wallsend. Vicky Percy was also a member of the Under 19 England Squad this year and Leanne Hamilton was noted for the future by the selectors. Also noted were Under 16 players, Claire Goatman and Jessica Ross from Riverside as well as 3 players from Central High School, Katherine Cook, Joanne Boan and Carly Kane. Wallsend Under16 player Deborah Percy was invited to Loughborough for further training this summer. Congratulations to all these young players.

Facilities have again proved problematic. Despite many proposals no actual improvements have been seen. Leagues and Tournaments were held at John Spence High School, Lightfoot Leisure Centre, Gateshead Leisure Centre and Westgate Community College. The latter's staff are to be commended for their helpful and friendly attitude at all times. To give you some idea of costs, the Lightfoot and Gateshead venues for the winter season costs £5472.50 in total, whilst the summer season at Killingworth last year cost £1480.

Finally a special thank you is in order. Eileen Cuthbertson our Chairwoman has decided to step down from the position after many years' service. Under her stewardship the association has been steered to a position where it has a sound financial basis and she has made people more aware of the need for prudent management and careful scrutiny of our funds. Tyne and Wear has benefitted from Eileen's good business sense, her energy, her expertise and her commitment. Thank you Eileen.

Honorary Treasurer - Karen Muir

The County has a fairly healthy balance at the bank at the moment. We have had a surplus of income over expenditure this year which can be attributed to several things, the efforts of the County Squad in their fund-raising. There has also been a surplus on league fees. Last year because of timing of invoices received from 1996 and 1997, summer league hire charges were both paid out of the entrance fees received from clubs for entry into the 1997 leagues. This hasn't happened this year and also, because of the change of venue it has actually cost less to hire outside courts this summer. Our major item of expenditure has been the new photocopied. Overall funds in the bank at the current time therefore can be seen to be £11,124.72.

Coaches Report – Gill Mason

In September 1997, 19 players were selected for the Senior County Squad. At initial trials, the Under 21 squad looked far less healthy with only a handful of players appearing for the first trial. Rather than withdraw from the U21 section of Division 6 of the English Counties League, in the absence of sufficient U21 players, it was decided to invite a group of much younger players to make up the squad. These

youngsters proved to be an extremely enthusiastic and willing bunch, and thrown in at the deep end as they were, they did remarkably well in their matches. The only sadness was that some of them were in fact too young to represent the county in the Inter County Championships in April. The squads played 5 matches in the ECL Division 6 with the following results:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Senior A	5	2	2	1
Senior B	5	3	0	2
Under 21	5	1	0	4

These results would have meant Tyne and Wear staying in Division 6 next season but due to reorganisation T&W has in fact been promoted to Division 5 for next season. In addition to these matches, very enjoyable friendlies were played against the Scottish Squads.

The North East Inter Counties Tournament was held in South Shields and we were delighted that the Senior Squad won this Tournament with victories over all our local rivals! As usual this tournament provided us with a good warm up for the All England Inter County Championships and a real morale booster.

The Inter County Championships provided a real challenge for the teams. The Senior Squad did extremely well on the first day winning several matches, drawing one and losing the other by very narrow margins. Nevertheless we still found ourselves in the bottom quarter of the draw for the second day. However the team rose to the challenge and played some very good netball to finish in ?? position. The U21 squad found the going rather tougher and although they had some very close matches they did not win any and finished in last position.

All in all I feel that the 1997-98 season has been very successful from both the playing and the social aspect. Morale has been high throughout the season and I think everyone has enjoyed their netball and the bus journeys to away matches! The players have worked well together, have shown a very good sporting attitude and have been a credit to TWCNA. Hopefully we shall see many of them back at County Trials again next season.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who have worked hard to make the season a success. The Team Manager, Mary Robson and the Team Captain, Kerry Jones. Liz Thompson who has helped a great deal with the coaching as have Jayne Straker, Lynn Russell and Kate Hallam. The match and umpiring secretaries who have organised our fixtures and officials. The Umpires who have given so willingly of their time and last not least the players themselves who have given of their best to produce another season of exciting netball for the rest of us to enjoy.

Reports from Section Secretaries

League Secretary - Gill Mason

		Teams	Total Teams	
Senior Winter League			62	Increase of 1 team
Junior Winter League	Under 14	13		
	Under 12	7		
	Under 11	6	26	Increase of 1 team
Senior Summer League			60	Increase of 1 team
Junior Summer League	Under 14	14		
	Under 12	9		
	Under 11	8	31	Decrease of 1 team

The Winter League ran relatively smoothly this season, although in the lower divisions there were still too many instances of last minute cancellation of matches. These are unacceptable. Firstly all teams have paid a substantial league fee and thus are entitled and can expect to play a full fixture list. During the winter season fixtures are few and far between as it is, to have one cancelled may result in a long gap between matches. If a team finds itself unable to fulfil a fixture, rather than cancel the match altogether, it would be preferable to invite some other players to make up the numbers to play the match, then at least their opponents would get a game! Secondly the TWCNA Leagues are the showcase of netball within the county. It does our image no good to see valuable court time left

unused. Thirdly matches should not be conceded as this has an impact on the balance of points within the division, if points are 'given away' to teams which under normal circumstances would probably have lost that match. On occasions this can have a significant effect upon relegation issues. So please, try to avoid cancellations.

Re the winter league the lower divisions ran much more smoothly this year, largely because committee members worked duty in 10 week blocks, rather than a different person each week. My sincere thanks go to Jan Adams, Liz Vuyk and Liz Wisniewski for their supervision work and for feeding the results back quickly for publication in the Evening Chronicle each week.

The Summer League dogged by bad weather more than ever this year has gone reasonably smoothly otherwise. The location of the fifth court has been somewhat less than convenient for teams and umpires but hopefully this problem will be resolved next season. All in all the new venue has the potential to enhance both the playing and social side of netball in Tyne and Wear and the personnel at Westgate have been exceedingly helpful and accommodating which is a huge bonus!

Once again the Junior Leagues have gone very well thanks to Liz Vuyk and Sylvia Panhurst who have done much to ensure the smooth running of these leagues. My thanks also go to two youngsters from Willington Club, Lindsey Rathbone and Victoria Taylor who acted as Junior League reporters during the winter, providing me with information for the newspaper each week. Although the number of junior teams has increased, it is very sad that we had insufficient Under 16 teams to run a viable league this season. However, plans are afoot to rectify this situation next season.

Before finishing may I say a very big thank you to all committee members who have helped out by doing duties on league nights, to Michelle Oddy who has been out come hail or shine to report on matches for the newspaper articles, to all the umpires who have made the league possible and also to the players who in the vast majority of matches turn out to play enjoyable, competitive and sporting netball. Well done everybody.

Umpiring Secretary - Margaret Chambers

Firstly many thanks must go to those who have helped by umpiring at County Coaching this year, Kath Noble, Pat Heylock, Carole Patterson, Dorothy Bryson, Margaret Chambers, Iris Ritson, Rachael Selby and Lynn Williams.

An Umpiring Seminar held in September raised a number of issues relating to umpires. This evening was well attended and it was agreed that an Umpiring Seminar would be held every September to allow Umpires, Coaches and Players an opportunity to voice their opinion or bring forth ideas to raise the profile of Umpiring in our County.

During the winter months two presentations on the New Rules were given by Sylvia Pankhurst and Eileen Cuthbertson which our County Players put into practice at the Inter County Tournament in April. New Rules Books were received and sold quickly.

During the winter months 6 umpires attended a B Award course; 14 people attended a course for trainee umpires with some experience, 3 of whom Susan Talbot, Yvonne Evans and Rhian Williams took their C test and passed both written and practical. Thanks must also go to our Testers and Tutors, Margaret Chambers, Kath Noble, Wendy Pinkney and Lynn Williams.

The response to the Draft Umpiring Strategy was very good but unfortunately too diverse and with too many comments to be dealt with at the AGM. I therefore propose to discuss the results at this years Umpiring Seminar.

Coaching Secretary - Pat Percy

At the beginning of the season we organised a number of coaching courses and produced a leaflet which was widely distributed to encourage people to attend courses and become qualified. Unfortunately a number of these courses had to be cancelled as there was not the demand. Those courses that went ahead were well attended and with good results.

- An NCF Course, The Coach in Action went ahead with approximately 5 attending.

- A Level 1 Coaching Course was held at Tynemouth College where all students who attended were successful and recently the same course was held at the University of Northumbria where a further 5 students passed.
- A Level 2 Coaching Course was held at the end of January, 10 candidates successfully achieved the Award. (Lynne Booth, Christine Wilson, Judith Dobson, Val Reynolds, Michelle Munro, Tina Jamieson, Lynsey McDonald, Lesley Forrest, Victoria Small, Iris Ritson).
- A Preliminary Upgrade Course was held for coaches to upgrade to Level 2. All 6 who attended are now Level 2 coaches (Jan Adams, Angela Millen, Chris King, Margaret Chambers, Margaret Barrett).
- Liz Thompson recently obtained her Intermediate Coaching Award and Yvonne Hoyland passed her Advanced Coaching written test and is now waiting for a date for her practical test.

Tournament Secretary – Lorna Foster, Joan Campbell

Winter Tournament was held at John Spence. The 13 teams that entered were split into 2 sections – higher and lower divisions. This proved popular especially with Gateshead who won both sections. Congratulations to them. Summer Tournament – due to lack of interest this tournament was cancelled. Noble Trophy – this year it was T&W's turn to host. Invitations went out to 5 regions. 8 teams entered but 1 didn't turn up on the day. Overall this was a disappointing turn out. Despite the rain the tournament went well with good sportsmanship all round. The event was won by Boldon with Seatonians close runners up. Congratulation to them. I think at this stage we should also congratulate Blue Flames who won the wooden spoon but fought as much as any team on the day. Tyne and Wear should be proud of them for participating.

Development Secretary – Liz Vuyk

Efforts have been concentrated on junior netball. The Winter Open Tournament at John Spence High School had 60 entrants in 4 age groups. No U18s though. Unfortunately Tyne and Wear did not lit any of the trophies and the results were: Primary Sunderland, runners up Spring Gardens. U12 Sunderland Soltaires, RU Oaksway; U14 Sundale, RU Oaksway, U16 Oaksway, Ru Sundale. Results indicate that T&W Junior development is between 1 and 2 years behind North Durham.

For the second year Gateshead MBC provided staff and finance for the tournament in October half term. Unfortunately Gateshead were let down by 3 primary schools and 1 T&W club who did not turn up for the day which caused problems. Results U14 Willington, RU Seatonians; U16 Seatonians RU Concordia.

The Winter Junior League ran at Willington with 2 mini tournaments at the end of the winter season for U11's and U12's. Results, U11 Seatonians, RU Beacon; U12 Beacon, Ru Seatonians. All 18 teams or approximately 90 players were given personalised participation certificates which were produced on the spot by Willington Netball Clubs. Many thanks for that hard work.

This week England held a training camp for 20 scouted youngsters in the 13 – 19 age group at Claremont Sports Hall. On Tuesday night T&W provided an U16 and U14 team to play against these select players. The squads did T&W credit, U16 lost 15-19, U14 8-19. Our thanks to Sylvia and Lynn from Willington for organising and umpiring.

The Junior Summer League continues to grow with outside team wanting to join. I am disappointed that so many matches have been cancelled at short notice and that ill-informed comments from spectators are being made about umpiring decisions.

Finally a grant of £500 from Newcastle City Council has been secured for 6 weeks of coaching for Springs, Blue Flames and Kenton Netball Clubs.

Publicity Secretary – Michelle Oddy

Since October 1997 we have been attempting to get Netball into the media. To date this has involved weekly league results in the Evening Chronicle on a Wednesday. In addition I have attempted to write the match reports as non-judgmental as possible and in a positive manner to reflect the spirit of the game only. I would appreciate any information from clubs which is interesting and informative. Teams do take part in activities external to the leagues which I am not aware of but may be of interest to others, so please send anything to me. Obviously if anyone is interested in writing their own match report this would be more than welcome, as long as they reach me by the Friday or Saturday.

Election of Officers

Resignations were received from the following: Eileen Cuthbertson, Liz Vuyk, Carol Forster, Anne Smith.

Nominations were received for the vacant posts as follows:

Chairperson – Liz Vuyk

Disability Secretary – Susan Talbot

Development Secretary – Liz Barton/Karen Foster

Affiliations Secretary – Carole McMaster

Committee Member – Lynda Tyman, Julie Whitfield

All nominations were agreed.