

TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 18th July 2021
10.00am online!

Committee – in attendance

Deborah Percy – Chairperson

Sarah Jane Cross – County Secretary

Liz Wisniewski - Competitions Officer

Cat Witty – Competition Referee

Anna Kilmister – Publicity Officer

Nichola Benson – Schools Officer

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 7 four 7 | Laura Hanson | Midget Gems | Vicki Wilson |
| Beacon | Ceri Glennie | Prudhoe | Sue Henderson |
| Cobalt Vixens | Caitlin Avery | NT Unison | Liz Wisniewski |
| Denton Park | Leanne Erskine | Newcastle City | Anna Barnes |
| EY | Sophie Ashe | Newcastle Storm | Anna Barnes |
| Freeman Knights | Sophie Ashe | Novos | Jeanette Shipley |
| Fusion | Amy Kirsopp | Northumbria Police | Emma Dunbar |
| GALS | Anna Kilmister | P&G | Laura McCallan |
| Gateshead | Amy Chapman | PWC | Jenny Cousins |
| Gateshead Angels | Laura Hanson | Riverside | Deborah Percy |
| Gosforth | Kate Cowell | Ryton | Fern Coulson |
| Great Park | Sarah-Jane Cross | Sandyford | Amy McCulloch |
| Greencroft | Alison Ward | Seaton Burn | Claire Blair |
| Jesmond | Claire Hails | Seatonians | Lindsay Bradley |
| KATS | Lorna Banner | TEAM Coast | Julie Waller |
| Medics | Maya Raivadera | Tigers | Deborah Dockwray |
| | | Vixens | Hayley Tindale |

1. Apologies for Absence

Gill Mason – Novos, Claire Scragg – Beacon, Hannah Larsen – Committee, Beccy Bailey – Committee, Linda Hall - Committee

2. Minutes of 2020 AGM

Minutes agreed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by

3. Committee Reports

Reports from the following officers were distributed prior to the meeting and accepted at the meeting: Competition, Coaching, Membership, Officiating, Publicity, Performance, Chairperson. Officers were all thanked for their hard work on behalf of the County Association this last season. A summary of the reports is included at the end of this document.

Adoption of Accounts

The County Accounts for the year gone were presented. It was pointed out that the Bank Balance was particularly high as the Spring League Fees had been received in February but no monies had gone out for court costs.

Elections of Officers

Officiating – Natalie McKenna, nominated by Cat Witty, seconded by Nicola Benson

Youth – Peggy Osborn, nominated by

Coaching – Mark Scott was reappointed.

4. Appointment of an Auditor

It was agreed to appoint Val Reynolds as Auditor for the TWCNA County and Affiliation Accounts. And Val was thanked for her efforts in getting the accounts audited in time for the AGM.

5. Consideration of Proposed Resolutions

There were no resolutions proposed.

The meeting was closed.

Summary of Officer Reports submitted to AGM:

Chair Report 2020 - 2021

WHAT A YEAR!! Reading back on my report last year there was so much uncertainty around netball and were we ever going to get back on court! I am pleased that the answer was and is yes! We cannot underestimate the efforts that have been made during the last 12 months by all those involved in the netball world to enable netball to return to the Court. The main focus last year was to return to the netball court, and due to the restrictions we have been very limited regarding delivery across all areas involved in netball, I hope you have read the reports which set out the focuses for next year, particularly in respect of school netball being back up and running!

To begin, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our members, there was a real concern regarding membership and I am pleased to say that Tyne and Wear members still renewed their membership although everything was uncertain.

Secondly, a thank you to all our clubs who have had to manage restrictions, appoint covid officers, prepare risk assessments and wash bibs more times than you would ever wash them during a normal season!! Understand there has been a lot of additional work and resources compared to normal.

Although it may feel like the restrictions have been in place for a long time and at times has been frustrating, we are grateful that teams, players, officials, volunteers, scorers, timers etc have shown an excellent commitment and seriousness to the regulations and modifications to ensure we could continue playing the game we love in a safe way. The outdoor winter league was certainly interesting experiencing all 4 seasons in 1 night! Great thing was everyone was still smiling, pleased to be on Court again!

I personally and on behalf of all the members want to say a HUGE thank you to the committee members, especially those responsible for competition, Liz and Cat, and umpiring, Beccy Bailey and our Covid officers, Jade and Cat. Organising the league during Covid has not been easy, especially with the last minute changes announced by the Government. The motivation and dedication of the committee has allowed the leagues to run. There have been many whatsapp messages, last minute meetings, zoom calls with England Netball, reading of regulations, messages/emails, the list goes on. I was so proud that we were one of a very small number of Counties who were running leagues across the whole Country at the earliest point we were allowed, setting the example for the whole Country. Only possible by the work of everyone involved, amazing. We even featured in a National Newspaper, putting Tyne and Wear on the map!

Hannah Larsen has successfully run performance sessions by the power of zoom and court sessions outside when possible, so a thank you to Hannah and all those who took part and supported players during these sessions.

Looking forward to next year the focus will be to continue the momentum we have started to build and support the delivery of netball across coaching, officiating, performance and in schools. It is hoped that next season will feel "normal" whatever that may be. A focus for the Committee will be to develop the County Strategy (once the

National and Regional strategies have been announced by England Netball) and also to focus on the needs of the County to rebuild netball next season.

I would like to say a thank you to Jade Keepin, safeguarding and Covid officer, and Beccy Bailey, officiating officer, who have decided to stand down this year, thank you for your time and contribution on the committee. I would encourage any members who have suggestions or feedback for the Committee please let us know!

Finally, I have always known that netball is so much more than playing netball, and this year more than ever this has been highlighted, the support for each other and understanding across the netball community has been amazing, long may it continue.

Competition - By and large teams have followed the regulations introduced for Covid but where issues have arisen it has been down to a lack of communication and knowledge. Whether this is Club personnel failing to pass on information or players failing to check rules and regulations as asked it's hard to say. Through the specific Facebook pages the County have tried to ensure that everyone can access the information they need and contribute to making the matches run as efficiently as possible. We believe the use of the Facebook pages has proved successful and helped to improve the dissemination of information. So, we will be using the Facebook pages much more in the future to share information and relying less on emails to Club Secretaries. Please encourage all your players to access the Facebook pages if they can.

On another positive note, a number of the modifications introduced for Covid to get us back on court have helped to smooth the process on match nights and have also reduced the administrative burden on the volunteers who run the leagues so we will be retaining them for the coming season. Home and Away Fixtures will continue to designate home and away teams and allocate first centre pass, bench ends, etc.. This has removed all the time normally lost at the start of matches and reduced the need for Umpires to chivvy teams along. Online Team Sheet These have worked well, they are simpler than the paper sheets and remove all the work involved in collecting them, storing them, etc.. Like the above they remove time lost at the end of matches, finding umpires, getting team sheet's signed, etc. The one area where they don't work is in confirming the umpires of the match as many teams aren't aware of the name of their umpire on the night. An electronic solution for this will be developed over the summer.

Sanitisation - Dependent on the environment we return to in September some sanitisation rules may still be in place but it not we would like teams to consider retaining some of the hand and ball sanitisation procedures currently in place. Half and Half Duty Nights. We have used these to avoid people having to be around all night and to limit their contacts and they seem to have worked quite well. We may well retain these in the new season. On the back of the success of the Online Team Sheet we will also be introducing forms for submission of Squads at the start of the Season. And you should have used the electronic Form to submit your entries for the Winter League.

So lots of positives to come out of the lessons learned through Covid.

School netball within Tyne and Wear has come to a bit of standstill over the course of this academic year. The bubble restrictions within schools has meant that very little inter school matches have taken place this year with head teachers still very reluctant to allow students to mix with any other students outside of their bubbles. A decision was taken very early on from England Netball to cancel the Nationals Schools Competition however as we move forward to the next academic year; dates have already been scheduled for the county schools round (Saturday 13th November), the regional round and the national round. With the recent announcement on restrictions and Gavin Williamson removing the bubble systems within school; it is looking much more promising for schools from September. With this in mind, a County schools netball AGM has also been scheduled for the first week back to school in September; this will be an opportunity for staff to meet virtually and get some fixtures/ tournament and leagues matches booked into the diary. All staff are in agreement that we want to increase the participation levels-

very much at an engagement level. The girls have missed out on so much school netball over the past 18 months and will very much benefit from a Rise Again School League- a similar approach to that of the adult leagues during spring- increasing the participation and essentially getting the girls back playing netball

Officiating - Since our last AGM, it has been a strange year for officiating, continuing to enforce the modified netball rules into our game, which all umpires and mentors have taken in their stride and adapted too amazingly. The year has seen no official progression or assessments in place for movement upwards in awards. With this however, has come the opportunity for mentoring and progression for our umpires with less restrictions and this has been a welcomed opportunity. We've seen lots of our umpire's progress through the outdoor and indoor rise again leagues to umpire at a higher level, ready for preparation back to our Winter League and the opportunity to do this again. The new online Into Officiating Courses & C Written Papers have launched with the drive to move things digitally, the first UK Into Officiating Course booked up in less than 24hours with plans to launch more and we have already seen one of our T&W umpires pass the online written assessment in preparation for when practical assessments can begin again in the new season.