

**TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7PM on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**At Blue Flames Sporting Club**

**Committee – in attendance**

Deborah Percy – Chairperson  
 Liz Wisniewski - Competitions Officer  
 Natalie McKenna – Officiating Secretary  
 Linda Hall - Treasurer  
 Cat Witty – Competition Referee  
 Sarah Jane Cross - Performance Lead  
 Maxine Cutmore - Netball Development Officer  
 Laura Brady - Committee Secretary

Angels	Laura Hanson, Alison Hill, Beth Nicholson	NESLC	Tracy Turnin, Susan Clark
Astley	Jolene Byers, Odell Harrison	NT Unison	Liz Wisniewski, Susan Clark
Beacon	Val Reynolds, Claire Scragg, Lizzie Thompson	Newcastle City	Anna Barnes, Jade Featherstone
Burnside	Margaret Chambers, Wendy Pinkney	Newcastle Storm	Anna Barnes, Rachel Cassidy
Cobalt Vixens	Claire Pijnen, Natalie Cowan	Northern Stars	Rachel Selby, Alison Hill
Concordia	Lucy Brooks, Sarah Croft, Jade Featherstone	Northumbria Police	Beth Marden, Jennifer Donachie
DPNC	Sarah Price, Julie Miller	Novos	Jeanette Shipley, Gill Mason
EY	Claire Lillie, Sophie Ashe	PWC	Lorna Banner, Susan Briganti
Freeman Knights	Jenni Meikle, Jemma Castle	Prudhoe	Holly McLean, Kim Pearson
GALS	Sarah Smith, Kathryn Williams	Riverside	Deborah Percy, Lynne Booth, Sarah Stokle
Gateshead	Amy Chapman, Laura Taylor	Ryton	Fern Coulson
GEMS	Catherine Booth, Vicky Wailes	Sandyford	Rebecca Watson, Sarah Stokle
Gosforth	Laura Pentland, Sarah Stephenson	Seatonians	Rachel Cassidy, Kim Pearson
Great Park	Sarah Jane Cross, Cat Witty	Stadium	Jo MacLeod, Jade Keepin
Greencroft	Alison Ward, Fern Coulson	Stanley Storm	Alysa McKinney, Trudy Carlyon
Jesmond	Victoria Wailes, Lyndsay McKellow	Tigers	Deborah Dockwray, Cheryl Hanlon
KATS	Lorna Banner, Jenny Cousins	Vixens	Maxine Cutmore
Medics	Rosa Clarke		

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None given.

**2. Welcome and Thanks for Attendance**

**3. Minutes of previous AGM**

Minutes of the 2022 AGM were agreed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Cheryl Hanlon , Seconded Jolene Byers

**4. Committee Reports**

**Chairperson Report - Deborah Percy**

**Summary:**

- The chair thanked everyone for their hard work throughout the season, and gave appreciation to club members and committee members.

- Peggy and Tracey will be stepping down from their positions of Youth Secretary and Publicity Secretary. There was a call out to club representatives to share with rest of the club members to find individuals who would like the opportunity to fulfil these roles.
- Welcome to Maxine Cutmore as the recently appointed Netball Development Officer for Tyne & Wear.
- We are putting a focus on CAPS Accreditation to cement the integrity of netball in our area. Clubs should think about fulfilling the criteria for obtaining these awards. Support can be found on the EN website.
- NetballHER Campaign: wellbeing for women in sport, collective of expert professionals working to provide resources to enhance performance and efficiency of training for female athletes

### **Competition Secretary Report - Liz Wisniewski**

#### **Summary:**

- Our leagues are self-governed and self-run. It is the responsibility of clubs & individuals to be organised and to resolve any arising issues. Amount of last-minute requests over last season was almost impossible for the competition group to respond to in-time. Introduction of a 48hr response time to ease the strain on the competition group officers.
- Many issues are due to not knowing the rules; these are available online for download.
- Number of cancelled matches is increasing again.
- Please can players set their primary club on ENgage.
- Going forward, all players named on the squad list must already be a member of England Netball.

Team nomination **DEADLINE = Wednesday 20th September**

Fees for 23/24: £235

FULL REPORT:

#### **Aim/goal for season**

Our aim for the season was to deliver 3 Adult Leagues – Winter, Spring and Summer. Winter and Spring have gone well and Summer is all set to deliver. As we always say all these leagues are run by volunteers and depend on EVERYONE doing their little bit. So thank you to all the timers, scorers, umpires, coaches and players for ensuring the leagues run, overall, very successfully.

This year we introduced timers and scorers throughout the divisions and we persevered with the google Team Sheet and Squad Submission. By and large these have all worked well and have been well received so will now be permanent going forward.

Many of the issues that do arise during matches could be avoided if players, coaches, umpires, made sure they were conversant with the League Rules and match protocols available on the TWCNA website. A lot of the disagreements that arise and lead to comments on the sheets are due to one team knowing the rules and one that doesn't. So, something to take back into your clubs would be to ensure next season that your Captain and at least one other player on each team know the rules, not just of netball but those pertinent to our local league.

Also remember that common sense should be used to resolve any issues that arise and that if you don't raise issues at the pertinent time then there is very little that can be done after the event. We do receive comments regarding behaviour on court or issues that have arisen which should have been raised during the match so they can be observed and addressed. We will be considering over the summer how issues on match nights should be raised and defining a protocol which we will share with all clubs.

We also need Clubs and Teams to take more responsibility for sorting out issues before matches. Cat and I are finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the number of last minute requests we receive and for the coming season due to our other commitments we will only be able to commit to answering queries within 48 hours. We will be updating the FAQs on the website with answers to the regular queries we receive and in future this is where clubs will need to look for their answers.

### **Challenges**

Planning and scheduling the leagues is always a challenge and we are very lucky to have a venue (Blue Flames) who are committed to working with us to ensure we get the court time we need. We know the venue isn't perfect but being realistic the alternative is significantly reducing the league, the number of matches, playing at multiple venues on one night or playing outdoors. None of which are very appealing and all of which would greatly reduce the amount of netball that players in T&W could play.

Another challenge this year has been the increase back up to near capacity. We have managed to cater for all the teams who wanted to enter the league this year but any further increases may mean we have to look again at the teams and players in the league and ensure that we are sharing the court time fairly between all those who want to play and prioritising our T&W clubs and players too.

The final challenge is monitoring players and squads. We are looking at ENgage to help us do this as the workload involved is currently unmanageable. In an attempt to prepare we are asking all players to ensure they are attached to their 'first' club on ENgage and that they set that club as their primary club. Specifically for the coming season our aim is to have all Adult Players set up like this, juniors will come later. It's particularly important that you get your players to make this change as we are making a rule change for next season and only players who are current ENgland Netball members will be eligible to be nominated in squads. If you nominate someone who isn't a member they will need to be replaced. To ensure everyone has time to sort out issues the deadline for submitting squads will be brought forward to Wednesday 20th September, the Wednesday before the league starts on the Monday 25th.

Thank you to all those who have already done this – sadly they are very much in a minority – and thanks in anticipation to all those who will hopefully complete this task when they renew their memberships in August and September.

### **Thoughts/goals/focus for next season.**

Our goals for next season will be very similar – providing three adult leagues over the course of the season. But we are always looking for new forms of competition to try out and we may look again at tournaments, perhaps for Clubs and players who aren't involved in regional competitions. Maybe trying different formats rather than standard 7 a side matches.

As usual we are always keen to involve other volunteers in the competition work. Currently there is Cat and myself covering everything but it would be great if a few others could get involved. If you are interested in being involved give us a shout. Thanks again to everyone for their efforts this year and enjoy the summer.

Authors: Cat Witty, Liz Wisniewski.

No questions were raised at this time by the meeting attendees.

**Umpiring Secretary Report - Natalie McKenna**

### **Summary**

- 58 umpires for 22/23 season which is the highest for a few years
- 10 new C awards passed and lots of Into Officiating course requests. If there's enough interest there will be another umpire training night.
- Rule will soon be enforced that there needs to be at least 1 qualified umpire per club playing in the league – encourage club members to get involved.
- The assessment night for training umpires that was held in January was successful and proved a great opportunity to get all trainees and assessors together, as well as match play for clubs.
- Do not message the committee to say you can't make a match with a few hours to go – try to sort it on facebook group and get it covered, do not pass the problem to the committee.
- Umpiring schedule to be posted on website and notice board, please consult this and utilise the facebook group to find cover in the case an umpire can't make it.

#### FULL REPORT:

Since the last AGM we have done 4 Into Assessments, and 10 C Award Assessments. We have 5 new trainee B award umpires who are currently progressing through the divisions with mentoring support.

We held another assessment night in January which allowed us to track the progress of the trainee into's and C's in one evening. These nights go down well with all involved and is something I would like to keep doing in the future.

This year we have had 58 umpires officiate in tyne and wear which could be the highest number we've had which is great to see, the split has been better with most doing at least 10 games. It would be great to push the clubs again to have an active umpire, if any club needs information or guidance they can email me directly.

We allocated specific slots for mentoring to help progress the trainees by using teams who don't have an active umpire for example and dedicating them for mentoring, we have done this across all divisions. It is a lot of work and Liz was a trooper in identifying the slots when creating the fixtures.

Hopefully we will have some more B award umpires come through next year which will help in division 1 and 2, however we also still have an issue with neutral umpires as most of our Bs are from 2 clubs.

Goals for next season:

Ideally pushing clubs for an active umpire to help support a healthy number of umpires in the league, not only does this help with gaps but it also is good for the teams to not have the same umpires week in week out.

Bleep test will be in the umpiring seminars and active umpires will be required to pass the relevant levels.

Ideally some more mentors and assessors would be greatly advantageous, however previously we had very few people come forward.

Authors: Natalie McKenna

#### **Schools Report - Deborah Percy on behalf of Nikki Benson**

First year of normality after COVID. It has been the priority of Tyne & Wear to promote netball participation in schools. A plate competition was introduced which was effective at getting more and different schools involved. Coaching courses are being released on England netball website; if you are running a junior club, for safeguarding purposes coaches must be qualified.

#### **Communications & Publicity Report**

Comms Report 2023

1. Aim/goal for season: To continue to share relevant content across all social media channels and engage audiences on County and regional netball news. Support region and update website as necessary.

2. What was achieved? A steady stream of engagement on social media channels, highlighting regional and national information.

3. Any challenges (can use this to highlight any problems or gentle reminders to clubs/members re further support).

A reminder to ensure club players who are on social media channels, join all pages and groups on Facebook so they don't miss out important information. @TyneandWearCountyNetballAssociation (TWCNA) @T&WCountyLeague @TyneandWearCountyNetball(Umpiring) @T&WJuniorLeague

4. Thoughts/goals/focus for next season.

Continue to encourage County participants to engage on Social Media and share relevant information for all members.

### **Netball Development Report - Maxine Cutmore**

#### **Summary**

- EN activity across Tyne and Wear is very busy across the summer with lots of opportunities for Juniors and Seniors to take part in.
- Back 2 Netball & Walking Netball sessions can be found on England Netball session finder.
- Netball Youth Camps for ages 9-14 yrs also scheduled for 2nd, 22nd August at Kenton School.
- Next World Cup Festival already sold out (23rd July) but another one in Sunderland on 5th August at the Beacon of Light – Walking Netball/Back 2 Netball and Mixed Netball. The two matches will be shown beforehand.
- Netball Her - resources being produced by a collective of experts in the field of sports and women's health to support all aspects of female wellbeing. Lots on there about functional sportswear, pelvic floor exercises etc. New campaign of introducing the 'Court Short' kit over the summer. EN sell them or clubs can make their own and also an encouragement for the league to have their own as well.
- Really pushing walking netball now (not just for the elderly) – encourage clubs to have a walking netball section, lots of people want to take part – there is a walking netball host course – not like L2, you can be a teacher, traffic warden etc – next course is 2 September – go through ENgage site
- England netball really need more L2 coaches, get as many L1 and L2 coaches on courses as soon as possible – also encourage casual coaches to get involved as well, any L2 coaches interested in delivering England netball courses

FULL REPORT as accompanying document.

### **Treasurer Report - Linda Hall**

The County is in a very healthy financial position but is always looking for ways to help develop netball in our county. In particular we have committed quite a lot of funding to help Junior Competition this season.

50% funding available for Level 1 & Level 2 coaching courses.

Any fines collected over the season will go to charity.

**REMINDER:** please put a reference on your payments so we can track them.

### **5. Adoption of Accounts - Linda Hall**

The Tyne & Wear County accounts from the preceding year were presented. They were adopted; proposed by Clare Pijnen, seconded by Lorna Banner.

### **6. Elections of Officers**

Youth Secretary: Sarah Jane Cross nominated Isla Taylor. Rachel Cassidy seconded this nomination. Isla Taylor was appointed as Youth Secretary.

Communications & Publicity Secretary: Nobody was nominated at this time. Club representatives were asked to share the opportunity with the rest of their club members.

#### **7. Appointment of an Auditor**

Val Reynolds was thanked for her efforts in getting the accounts audited for the AGM. There was a call out for an auditor for the next season.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

##### **Q: How do schools get involved?**

Schools can obtain EN membership through the website and gain access to resources and information through there. Membership is free for primary schools and £35 for secondary schools.

The meeting was closed.