

**TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 202**  
**At Blue Flames Sporting Club**

**Committee – in attendance**

Deborah Percy – Chairperson

Nichola Benson – Schools Officer

Cat Witty – Competition Referee

Liz Wisniewski - Competitions Officer

Linda Hall - Treasurer

Angels	Laura Hanson, Alison Hill	NESLC	Emma Ross, Susan Clark
Astley	Jolene Byers, Nicole Bowman	NT Unison	Liz Wisniewski, Susan Clark
Beacon	Claire Scragg, Val Reynolds	Newcastle City	Anna Barnes, Amanda Brown
Burnside	Margaret Chambers, Wendy Pinkney, Kath Robinson	Newcastle Storm	Anna Barnes, Amanda Brown
Cobalt Vixens	Caitlin Avery, Claire Pijnen	Northern Stars	Tracy Richardson, Alison Hill
Concordia	Sarah Croft, Julia Edwards	Northumbria Police	Emma Dunbar
Denton Fusion	Leanne Erskine, Amy Kirsopp	Novos	Jeanette Shipley, Rebecca Channon
EY	Claire Lillie, Nicole Pegg	P&G	Megan Butler, Jazzy King
Freeman Knights	Steph Kenyon, Kate Hallsworth	PWC	Jenny Cousins, Lorna Banner
GALS	Jodi Prosser, Imi Killen	Prudhoe	Stephanie Crozier, Kim Pearson
Gateshead	Amy Chapman, Lucy Brooks	Riverside	Deborah Percy, Lynne Booth
GEMS	Kerry McCabe, Amy Peters	Ryton	Loraine Atkinson
Gosforth	Tracy Richardson, Sarah Stephenson	Sandyford	Rebecca Watson
Great Park	Ling I Su, Katy Lowery	Seatonians	Lindsay Bradley, Eve Bradley, Rachel Cassidy
Greencroft	Alison Ward, Amy Passmoor	Stadium	Jo MacLeod, Kerry McCabe
Jesmond	Kirsty Byers, Jenny Jamieson	Tigers	Deborah Dockwray, Laura Brady
KATS	Lorna Banner, Jenny Cousins	Tynemouth	Leanne Saxton, Lyn Jamieson-Yip
Medics	Ella Devlin	Vixens	Hayley Tindale, A N Other?

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Sarah Jane Cross, Peggy Osborn, Anna Kilmister, Natalie McKenna, Mark Scott.

**2. Minutes of 2021 AGM**

Minutes agreed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Margaret Chambers, Seconded Kathryn Robinson

**3. Committee Reports**

**Chairperson Report**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly ran through some of the work undertaken by the Secretary's who couldn't attend.

**Junior Competition** – Peggy has done an amazing job this year delivering more junior competition opportunities than we've done previously and in a wider range of age groups. The Junior Competition has been really well received by the clubs and thanks are due to the Coaches and Umpires who have helped to make it such a success.

**Coaching** – courses weren't really an option with Covid so the County launched a You Tube channel where useful coaching aids will be featured. It's also hoped that Clubs will contribute content to the You Tube channel.

**Performance** – Hannah Larsen has stepped down from the role and massive thanks are due to Hannah for her work and commitment particularly during the lockdown periods. England Netball have introduced a new Pathway for performance and this is being followed by the County. So in the coming year we will have two County Academies, one for U13 and one for U15.

**Publicity** – Anna is standing down from the Publicity role and we would like to thank her for all the work she has done. During her three years we have greatly increased our presence online and increased and improved our communications through dedicated facebook pages.

**County Secretary** – finally Sarah Jane Cross will be standing down as County Secretary this year. Sarah has been an amazing Secretary and in addition has contributed to all areas of the County's work.

### **Competition Secretary Report**

So, despite everything Covid could throw at us this year we have managed to run two pretty successful and by and large problem free County Leagues. Thanks are due in large part to all the volunteers within the Clubs - Players, Coaches, Umpires, Kit washers, the person who organises the umpires, etc.. for making the leagues work.

However, at times it is easy to forget that our County Leagues are organised and staffed by volunteers who fit in this work around all their other daily netball, work and family commitments – obviously in that priority 😊. But sometimes the demands made on those volunteers particularly last minute when they are at work or on holiday can be unreasonable.

Over the last two years because of the issues that Covid has raised, a lot of time and effort has been put into helping clubs find umpires, submit team sheets on time, swap duties, etc, by the members of the Competition Group. But with the return to what we hope will be 'normal' netball that help will have to be scaled back and Clubs will have to take on the responsibility for finding Umpires, informing others of cancelled matches, sharing duties, etc.. There will always be help available but not as much as in the previous seasons. To help Clubs with these tasks we will be providing extra guidance on how to proceed in certain situations and new contact options – for example on facebook – to make it easier to contact the right person quickly.

**Organisation of the league** – during Covid we did lose a number of teams, some will hopefully return in the coming season but some sadly have gone for good. To ensure those dropping out could return at an appropriate standard we dropped down to 8 team divisions. For the coming Winter we will probably move back to 10 team divisions and this may mean we lose a division, possibly dropping to one Division 5 and one Division 6, or losing Division 6 altogether and running with two parallel Division 5's – it's all dependent on entry numbers.

**League Rules** – we will be reverting back to the league rules as they were pre-Covid next season. Club contacts have already received an email outlining the main changes but we would strongly recommend that all Coaches, Umpires and team Captains read the League Rules carefully when they are published in around 4 weeks time. One option that will definitely be removed is the ability to play players down, in future any team needing to do this will need to concede the match. We will also go back to 3 times for playing up. The provision of Scorers will be made more compulsory but there may be options for the smaller clubs in the lower divisions who struggle sometimes to field a team. There will be other minor changes but nothing that should stop a Club from entering the league.

Another rule that will return is the Active Umpire Rule. Alongside this we are currently considering introducing a rule which requires any Club playing in the League to have a qualified and Active Umpire within their ranks. Any rule along these lines will be phased in over time but Clubs who don't have qualified Umpires may want to start looking at the Into Officiating qualification and identifying candidates who could achieve this award in the near future!

To assist teams for the coming season (and because the regular sanitising and cleaning of balls didn't help) the County will be purchasing a **match ball for each league team**. The teams who won their divisions will receive a slightly better match ball as a reward for their success. The balls will be distributed at the start of the season.

**League Fee** will be £230 and all league fees must be paid by **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September**. First matches of the season will be on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Finally, **Congratulations** to all the Teams who have won their divisions in the Winter and Spring Leagues this last year. And Good Luck to all those promoted in their higher divisions next season.

## **Umpiring Secretary Report**

Seminars 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Will include the Fitness test. All Umpires including those training for awards must attend.

Anyone interested in becoming an Umpire please get in touch with Natalie. Or if you book yourself onto a course please let Natalie know so we can see how many people are training currently and how their timescales look.

The Active Umpire rule will return for next season, this means that if you have an umpire within your club they may need to do more umpiring! We do have a lot of qualified umpires on the books but many only do 3 or 4 matches a year if they could all do a few more games a year that would make a massive difference. We are looking at possibly introducing a rule requiring teams to have qualified umpires within their clubs, so not someone you regularly use!

Anyone interested in Mentoring or Assessing should contact Natalie please. Mentoring is something that can be undertaken within clubs by experienced umpires but it helps if you have an understanding of the Assessment criteria. If anyone is interested, we can provide you with information and/or maybe run a short session to help you provide better help to trainees within your club. For the coming season we will be trying to keep a better record of umpires progressing through to assessment and any Umpires being mentored in league matches.

Assessors: There is potentially a course coming up for Assessors. You do need to meet certain criteria to be a C Award assessor - basically you have to have held a B Award for two years or more. But you also need to be willing to come out on evenings when you might not be playing or umpiring and give up 2 hours of your time for minimal remuneration to formally Assess umpires. However without Mentors and Assessors we would have no new Umpires so please get in touch with Natalie if you are willing and able to help even if it's just in a small way.

Bumper Year for Umpire Assessment. Congratulations on achieving the C Award to:

Yolande Henderson  
Lucy Brooks  
Clancy Williams  
Eve Bradley  
Claire Johnston Hume  
Vicky Wilson  
Amanda Parker  
Amy Peters  
Noreena Hare  
Charlotte Simpson  
Katy Elliot-Watson

Congratulations on achieving the Into Officiating Award to:

Amy Peters  
Kat Walker  
Kirsty Robertson  
Holly Pearson  
Ella Devlin  
Jack Topham  
Claire Turner  
Nicole Atkinson

#### **4. Adoption of Accounts**

The County Accounts for the year gone were presented. These were adopted, Proposed Susan Clark, Seconded Emma Ross.

#### **5. Elections of Officers**

Performance – Sarah Jane Cross, nominated by Deborah Percy, seconded by Claire Scragg  
Publicity – Tracy Richardson, nominated by Liz Wisniewski, seconded by Kathryn Robinson  
County Secretary – remains vacant.

#### **6. Appointment of an Auditor**

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

#### **7. Consideration of Proposed Resolutions**

There were no resolutions proposed.

The meeting was closed.