

GLoucestershire COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 24th May 2023

At Oxstalls Arena (Classroom)



Gloucestershire Netball

Those present:

Management Group Attendees

Chloe Jones	Chair
Les Thomas	Hon Secretary
Jan Stephens	Hon Treasurer/Finance Working Group Lead
Nicola Parry	Adult Competition Working Group Lead
Sara Constantine	Representing Officiating Working Group on behalf of Claire Hammond
Sue Wainwright	Junior Competition Working Group Lead
Vicki Wood	Performance Working Group Lead
Emily Wilton	Media & Comms Working Group Lead
Karen Trueman	Welfare/Safeguarding Officer

Club Attendees

BISHOPS CLEEVE	Niki Clarke
CHALLENGERS	Tracie Hull, Kate Stoneman, Rob Sly
CHELTENHAM LADIES	Vicky Evans
CHURCHDOWN	Emily Jakeman
CIRENCESTER	Lucia Barton
COTSWOLD COMETS	Ems Fletcher-Sykes, Annie Weekes
FREESTYLERS	Ange Bailey
FUSION	-
GLOUCESTER LADIES	Tracey Wilson, Lorraine McNickle
HARTPURY	Lisa Green
HEWLETT	-
HUCCLECOTE	Issy Farrel, Liz Banyard
LYNDEAN	Sandra Carter, Rachel Ball
MOODY BLUES	Sam Hoad, Sarah Rattenbury
NOMADS	Sarah Smith, Kersten Connolly
OLD CHELTS	Rita Kester
RANDWICK	Lisa Harris, Sara Constantine, Misha Harris
SEVEN UP	Laura Blanch, Louise Littleton
SEVERN STARS	Leah Treherne, Emi Wedley
STEELERS	Sarah Edmondson, Leigh Trigg, Emma Lane, Alix Harvey, Natt Samuels
STROUD	Angela Tocknell, Robyn Blyth
SURVIVORS	Kirsty Wingate
TEAM NFL	Jo Wordley, Colin Wordley
TIGERS	Zoe Davis
UNITED	Laura Outhwaite, Megan Bishop
UPTON	Hannah Preston, Helen Pugh

1. Meeting Opened

The meeting was opened at 19.05 by Chloe Jones, Chair of Gloucestershire County Netball Association, who welcomed the club representatives and Management Group leads and members.

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2. Apologies for absence

Sue Bailey	President
Stella Benhania	Coaching Working Group Lead
Claire Hammond	Officiating Working Group Lead
Rachel Bussey	NDO
Fusion NC	
Hewlett NC	

3. Minutes from AGM held in 26 May 2022 and Matters Arising

The previous minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were proposed as a true record by Tracey Wilson and seconded by Jan Stephens. There were no matters arising. The minutes were adopted.

4. Reports

a. Chair – report by Chloe Jones

The full winter league had been completed with the friendly summer league having just started this week. The committee are now preparing for the awards evening on 24th June. The league continues to grow, and we will be welcoming more teams into the league.

Chloe has been working with the committee, Rachel and England Netball to produce a draft new county plan in line with the Adventure Strategy, and to ensure that our Governance is in check.

Chloe reported that as she had only been in post for 12 months, she is still learning the role of Chair, but has an incredible committee supporting her – a huge thank you to them for all their work.

The next steps are to review our county constitution and beginning to implement the county plan, putting measurements in place to make sure that we are enacting the plan. The new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Role has been advertised to the membership and its remit and strategy will need to be developed. She will be supporting the committee with new ideas and hoping to understand the role better.

b. Netball Development Officer – report presented by Les Thomas on behalf of Rachel Bussey, England Netball

Rachel reported these activities over the last 12 months:

- 302 women and girls accessed an official England Netball programme.
- 7 x Walking Netball partner programmes ran across the county.
- 4 x Netball Youth Camps ran at Rednock School for girls between 11 and 14 years old.
- 6 x clubs accessed the Netball South West new club/ section starter fund.
- A week working at the Commonwealth Games.
- Attendance at the Tri-Counties Walking Netball Festival in Avon and Wilts – our turn next!
- 7 x newly qualified level two coaches.

The following events and programmes are planned:

- Level 2 coaching course at Cheltenham Ladies College full (face to face weekend next month).
- Regional ONE Awards at Tortworth Court (02/07/23).
- Netball Youth Camp at Winchcombe School for girls aged 11 – 14 years old (24/07/23).
- Tri-Counties Walking Netball Festival at The University Arena (29/07/23).
- Vitality Netball World Cup – capitalising locally on a major event.
- Blended Netball in secondary schools (ParaNetball).
- Walking Netball host training (TBC – Nov time).
- Imbedding NetballHER in all things netball.

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c. Adult Competition Working Group – report by Nicola Parry

Nicola reported that 3 new teams were welcomed into the league at the start of the season and presented the following statistics:

- 522 Fixtures complete across 3 venues.
- 1012 hours of netball.
- Minimum of 626,400 passes.
- 52,617,600 minimum steps.

Not forgetting our umpires who covered at least 6264 miles - almost 239 marathons!!

The Bateman and Per Ardua competitions have been converted into end of season Fast 5 tournaments, which this year were used as a fund-raiser for Acorns Charity. It involved 28 teams with 21 umpires volunteering their time and raised over £3,000. A huge thanks to all who supported the event.

Summer League this year has 30 teams entered with fixtures outdoors at Bournside on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Barnwood Park on Saturday mornings.

d. Junior Competition Working Group – report by Sue Wainwright

Junior League

The Junior league started in September with seeding tournaments and County Cups (regional qualifiers) for the U14 and U16 divisions. A total of 56 teams from the 7 junior clubs played in the league on Sundays over a 14 week season.

The U12/U13 officiating pilot scheme was continued from last season which encouraged unqualified young umpires to umpire the lower age groups with support and mentoring on each court. As a result we now have 8 young umpires who have gained their Into award.

An U11 tournament was also held to give young players experience of the 7-side game before they enter senior school.

Schools

The County rounds of the National Schools competition were held September to November (U14, U16 and U19). The May Dent U15 tournament was held at the end April. Thanks go to Cheltenham Ladies College for hosting these tournaments.

To encourage more participation, especially state schools, the schools' tournament has been changed to a two-tier format with a County Cup for regional qualification and a Challenge Cup for participation level. This resulted in an increase in the number of schools entering and was well received.

Sue thanked the working group members for their hard work.

e. Performance Working Group – report by Vicki Wood

Vicki explained the current Player Development Pathway (formerly known as the Performance Pathway and Academies) which England Netball require counties to set up and support. In Gloucestershire there is one County U15 Centre and two U13s (Cheltenham and Gloucester). We also run a Development Centre which is not part of EN pathway. A total of 82 athletes are selected through a trials process and are given regular skills training and development from qualified Level 2 coaches. A Strength and Conditioning element has also been added to their regime this season.

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Highlights of the season have seen 3 U15 players selected for training with the Severn Stars U15 long Squad and 3 more selected for final trials on 6th June. New dresses have been purchased for the U15 County Squad, with T-shirts awarded as recognition for the U15 and U13 squads. The squads finished the season with match play and an U13 squad entered the Staffordshire Cup and finished 9th out of 13 in their first tournament. The U15 and U13 squads entered the Severn Stars Super County Tournament (held between 6 counties) with the U15 squad finishing as runners-up and the U13 squad finishing third.

An U13 squad also played the Warwickshire Academy at the end of the season.

Currently trials are in progress this week for current athletes to remain in the programme and registration for U13 new club nominations closes on 26th May. Trial dates are 11th June for U13 and 18th June for U15 athletes.

Vicki expressed thanks to all the coaches who have delivered the Pathway and supported at tournaments and matches against other pathway groups. The Pathway could not run without the support of this group and the GCNA Management Group.

Zoe Burke has volunteered to support Vicki next season, with a view of taking over the following season.

f. Officiating Working Group - presented by Sara Constantine on behalf of Claire Hammond

There have been various England Netball courses attended by the following numbers of Glos members:

Into Officiating – 63

C award – 11

B award – 6

Mentoring course – 4

Assessors – 4

With mentoring support after attending the courses, followed by assessments this has resulted in the following new umpires:

Into Officiating – 26

C award – 5

B award – 1, with 6 C awards progressing well towards their B awards, hopefully to be assessed in the first half of next season.

James Thomas who regularly umpires Netball Super League matches has been endorsed as an international umpire – our congratulations to him!

Thanks go to all the working group members who have given hours of time, thanks to the learners for their dedication, and thanks to the players for their understanding when trainee umpires are being supported and assessed.

g. Coaching & Development Working Group – presented by Lesley Thomas on behalf of Stella Ben Hania

There are now 119 on the *Coaching Glos* Facebook page which is regularly updated with national and local Coaching courses and workshops, including First Aid, Child Protection and Time to Listen.

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A new cost-effective venue has been secured for First Aid courses – please contact Stella if interested in attending.

UKCC Coaching Awards are organised, advertised, and delivered directly by England Netball. In Gloucestershire this season, 9 Level 1 coaches and 7 Level 2 coaches have qualified. New coaching courses are due to be launched – Level 1 Wed 24th May and Level 2 Thurs 25th May. Attendance on a Level 2 course requires candidates to have been an assistant coach for at least 2 years or have a Level 1 coaching certificate.

There are still offers from Coaches to help out clubs so if anyone would like a guest coach through the next season, please contact Stella.

h. Media/Marketing & Communications Working Group – presented by Emily Wilton

Emily explained that members and clubs are currently kept updated via the Website, mailing lists & emails, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

The new more modern-look website launched just before the start of last season has tried to integrate EN's website appearance as much as possible. Links to our own results platform have also been embedded to keep everything in one place. The web site is not intended for quick updates, but more for news stories and for information relevant to all our activities.

The social media statistics for the last 90 days are:

Instagram - 541 followers, 625 accounts reached, 90 accounts engaged with content.

Facebook - 967 likes, 1049 followers, 90 accounts engaged with content.

Twitter – 1255 followers

We are always looking for new members to join our team and if you would like to be involved in the marketing and communication of Gloucestershire Netball please get in touch.

i. Treasurer's Report – presented by Jan Stephens.

Report

Jan thanked all clubs for their prompt payments of indoor court fees. Summer league court costs had been free last summer as part of the post-Covid give-back offer.

She thanked those clubs who had made donations to the Fast5 charity event.

GCNA had approved 3 NSW grant applications to new clubs (junior and senior).

Presentation and Adoption of Accounts

Copies of the summary Balance Sheet as of 30 April 2023 were handed out to the meeting and is attached separately.

There had been a significant and unusual deficit of £20k this season for the Performance (PDP) working group. This is mostly accounted for by:

- Some coaches' expenses carried over from last season.
- Some bursary and elite funding carried over from last season (and which previously sat in the main Finance WG budget).
- Introduction of new S&C element – one-off set up costs.
- New kit (but U15 dresses to be retained by county).
- Final athlete fee payments (£5.6 k via Stripe) not included.
- Court fee increase.

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The accounts had been independently verified (audited) by Jo Molony with comments regarding the Performance WG loss.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Sara Constantine, seconded by Lisa Harris. The accounts were adopted unanimously.

Appointment of Auditors for Following Year.

Thanks were expressed to Jo Molony for auditing the accounts who has agreed to audit them again next year. Jo Molony was proposed as auditor for next season by Lisa Harris, seconded by Sara Constantine, and was unanimously appointed auditor for next season.

5. Appointment of Tellers.

Sara Constantine and Kirsty Wingate volunteered and were appointed as tellers for the following votes.

6. Proposal for amendments to constitution, major amendments to league rules etc

Proposers were invited to explain the reasoning for their proposal. Each proposal was discussed by those present before voting was carried out.

6.1 Amendment to League Rule D – 3, proposed by Lyndean NC:

Current Rule:

Any unnamed players that have played 16 or more quarters for a particular team may then only play one team below. (e.g. if an unnamed player in the 2nd team is selected to play for the 1st team for 16 or more quarters, they cannot subsequently play for the 3rd team that season). If this player is also a member of another Club (i.e. a secondary Club), they can only play 'down' as low as that for their primary Club.

Proposed amended rule:

Any unnamed player for a team that plays for a higher team for 16 or more quarters may not play for a lower team; e.g. if an unnamed player in the 2nd team plays for the 1st team for 16 or more quarters, they cannot subsequently play for the 2nd or 3rd team for the rest of the season.

Votes for: 17 Votes against: 39 Abstentions: 8

Therefore the amendment to the league rule was not adopted.

6.2 New League Rule, proposed by Lyndean NC:

No more than 2 unnamed players for a team can play for a lower team at any one time; e.g. a maximum of 2 unnamed players from the 1st team can play down for the 2nd team at a time.

Votes for: 33 Votes against: 28 Abstentions: 3

Therefore the new league rule was adopted.

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6.3 Amendment to League Rule D-1 d), proposed by Hucclecote NC

Current rule:

Any player that has played 16 or more quarters in a senior Regional League cannot play in any GCNA competition in that season.

Proposed amended rule:

Any player that has played 16 or more quarters in a senior Regional League cannot play in any GCNA competition in that season. Before reaching 16 quarters, any regional player that plays down in the Glos league can only play 1 team down.

(e.g. Reg player can play Lightning but not Storm (even though both teams are in same division).

Votes for: 54

Votes against: 6

Abstentions: 4

Therefore the amendment to the league rule was adopted

6.4 Amendment to League Rule B-6, proposed by Hucclecote NC

Current rule:

Matches may be postponed under the following exceptional circumstances:

- a) *Bad weather – games must not be postponed until a maximum of 24 hours before and the League Secretary informed.*
- b) *Higher Netball commitments involving 2 or more players from a team – permission shall be obtained from the League Secretary and shall be requested at least 14 days prior to the arranged fixture.*
- c) *Any team requesting a rearrangement will be liable for:*
 - i. *All initial venue costs are paid as usual.*
 - ii. *Costs for the new venue will be paid by the rearranging team.*
 - iii. *Umpires will be paid for by each team as usual.*
- d) *The rearranged game shall be played at a time / date / venue to be specified by the opposition.*
- e) *The League Secretary must be informed of any rearranged fixture.*

Proposed amended rule:

No requests for postponement of matches shall be allowed. Matches shall only be postponed by the Adult Competition Group in exceptional circumstances such as weather or venue issues.

(This is in line with England Netball & Netball South West where you cannot re arrange a Nat Prem or Regional game due to higher netball commitments).

Votes for: 12

Votes against: 39

Abstentions: 13

Therefore the amendment to the league rule was not adopted.

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6.4 Amendment to League Rule E-3 b), proposed by the Officiating Working Group:

Existing rule:

Umpires shall meet the minimum qualification for the division:

- i. Premier division – B Award*
- ii. Division 1,2 – C Award*
- iii. Division 3,4,5 – Into Officiating Award*
- iv. Talent-identified umpires may be given permission by the Officiating Group Lead/Umpiring Secretary to umpire in a higher division whilst in training. This includes talent-identified non-qualified umpires if they have attended a relevant course.*
- v. Umpires shall conform to the requirements for competency and physical fitness set by the Officiating Group Lead/Umpiring Secretary, to ensure that they can keep pace with the speed, variability and standard of games. Umpires not conforming to these requirements shall be withdrawn from the register of umpires.*

Proposed amended rule:

Umpires shall meet the minimum qualification for the division:

- i. Premier division – B Award (or approved C Award working towards B)
- ii. Division 1, 2, 3 – C Award (or approved Into Officiating Award working towards C)
- iii. Division 4, 5 – Into Officiating Award
- iv. Umpires shall conform to the requirements for competency and physical fitness set by the Officiating Group, to ensure that they can keep pace with the speed, variability and standard of games. Umpires not conforming to these requirements shall be withdrawn from the register of umpires.

Votes for: 63

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Therefore, the amendment to the league rule was adopted.

7. Election of Officers

All post holders were willing to stand again.

As notified on the agenda, there had been a nomination for the post of Media, Comms and Marketing Lead from Leigh Trigg of Steelers NC (proposed by Emma Lane, seconded by Alix Harvey). Leigh was given the opportunity to outline her experience to the meeting and duly did so.

Kirsty Wingate (Survivors NC) welcomed Leigh's interest in the role - it was unusual to have two willing volunteers for the same role; but because the role was wide-ranging, rather than hold a vote to determine whether either Emily or Leigh should hold the role, could we not find a way for both to be on the Management Group e.g. sharing the role?

Les Thomas highlighted the relevant clause in the Constitution¹ and explained that the constitution allows for between 6 and 10 people to be on the Management Group and that the roles are defined annually, so we could hold a vote to co-opt Leigh onto the group and define a specific role later.

¹ *The Management Group shall comprise a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and a minimum of three and a maximum of seven other members, whose roles shall be defined annually.*

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However, the consensus from the floor was that the Management Group would review the role outside the meeting and re-define it if necessary. A vote would then be held separately either by Zoom or by email agreement.

8. End of Meeting

Chloe thanked all for attending and officially closed the meeting at 21:00

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE NETBALL				
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 APRIL 2023				
	2022/2023		2021/2022	
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Current Account		10,697.02		26,515.11
Deposit Account		11,031.16		11,003.40
Cash in Hand		274.47		149.47
		22,002.65		37,667.98
REPRESENTED BY:				
Opening Fund		37,667.98		36,510.06
Adult WG	4,753.43		-1,231.06	
Comms & Marketing WG	-450.50		-224.85	
Dev & Coaching WG	-252.00		-554.00	
Finance WG	531.64		7,820.37	
Junior WG	-707.00		-1,870.48	
Officiating WG	-206.81		-3,437.95	
Performance WG	-20,365.09		-440.11	
Schools Account	1,031.00		1,096.00	
		-15,665.33		1,157.92
		22,002.65		37,667.98
FINAL BALANCE				
I have reviewed these accounts from the books and records submitted and explanations given and certify that they are in accordance therewith, showing a true and fair view of the affairs of Gloucestershire County Netball Association as at 30th April 2023.				
Signature:				
<i>J Molony</i>				
J M Molony				
FCA				
22.05.2023				