



SURREY COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION



MINUTES of the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Surrey County Netball Association held on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 8.00 p.m., Purley Sports Club, The Ridge, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3PF

PRESENT:

Capital Nuns, Claygate, CMO, Cobham, Downs, Hillcrest, HS, Pleiades, Putney, Roundwood, Selsdon, Thames Ditton, Wandsworth, Wimbledon

Maureen Clark (President), Carol McGrail (Vice President), Chris Kelso (Chair), Jackie Rowland (Hon Secretary and Croydon League), Julia Martin (Treasurer and Greenacres league), Chris Stephens (Assistant Treasurer), Gill Tilly (Officiating group/mentor lead), Kath Mansfield (Volunteer Rep), Althea Allen (Inclusivity & Diversity lead), Jackie Penney (County Officiating Lead), Mandy Hiscocks (Surrey Schools rep), Patricia Balcombe (Pathway/Performance Lead), Sandie Richardson (Met League), Josie Jones (Kingston League), Jenny Stephens, June Tenwick, Alison Bennett, Jo Handley, Clare Nicholls, Grace Thornborow (NDO)

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME OPENING ADDRESS

The President Maureen Clark opened the meeting welcoming everyone to our 91st AGM and introducing Alison Bennett who is Chair of London and South East Region, and Jo Handley from CMO netball club.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mary Stanley, Rachel Folley, Blanche Smith, Eunice Smith, Laura Pawley, Barbara Taylor, Natalie Swift, Maggie Gartland, Amanda Brooker, Maggie Finch, Debbie Baker, Ellie Butler, Beth Townend, Lil Roe, Clare Baker, Lydia Turner

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING had been circulated prior to the meeting. With no amendments required, the President was asked to sign them as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

A query was raised about the progress with any new facilities mentioned in the minutes. The scheme at the former Nat West Sports Ground in Norbury has appeared to have stalled. The Downs Netball Club is still working hard with a proposal in the Epsom area.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Email correspondence had been received from Capital Nuns, Claygate, Cobham, Putney, Roundwood and Wimbledon clubs (some clubs from the County league season 2023-2024), expressing dissatisfaction with the decision following the playoffs to have 10 teams in the county league for the season 2024-2025. In summary, the concerns included lack of explanation, impact on clubs, players and umpires, longer match days, longer season, increased cost, player and umpire availability, inclusivity, player welfare,

impact on families, odds with other leagues, review of league rules, league quality. Chris Kelso read a statement to the AGM to respond. On reflection, insufficient consideration had been given to wider impacts on teams in the league. To balance all these considerations, the decision had been made to reduce the league for 24/25 to 9 teams, with the lowest place team in the playoffs dropping out. It was expected that the league for 25/26 would revert back to 8 teams. It was confirmed that the league rules were being updated to address anomalies in the current rules and to bring them in line with regional rules and those of neighbouring counties, and both clubs and the local leagues would be having the opportunity to comment on these prior to being agreed by SCNA.

Wimbledon NC speaking on behalf of the signatory clubs expressed the desire and need to keep the league at 8 teams, the need to ensure player welfare, the need to review playoff rules and who is eligible, and other points. Capital Nuns fully supported the comments made and said everyone wanted the best possible outcome for high quality matches; Cobham also supported the comments made. Wandsworth commented they had not received information about the league clubs meeting on 18th June 2024 – meeting invitation had not yet been circulated.

- ii) Email correspondence had been received from two Surrey Life Members, about the EN decision to reduce the Superleague franchises to 8 and Surrey Storm would not be one of the franchises. Various objections were raised including lack of Superleague teams representing the southern region despite some of the strongest school and club teams being in Surrey representing excellence in netball for many decades; where are the next generations of netball players, officials, volunteers and supporters coming from; with a reduction in players in the successful franchises and their pay increasing, is this a fair use of funding, or considered progress or opportunities for talent development. People are distressed, let down and ignored. Chris Kelso advised the meeting that representations had been submitted to the Regional Chair, Alison Bennett, about implications for the development pathway (ie talented junior players). Alison had requested these in advance of her upcoming meetings with several England Netball people. The heart of SCNA comments is the desire to help our talented young players achieve their dreams, with equal opportunities to progress without any disadvantage due to financial or geographical pressures. Alison Bennett responded and updated the meeting about her contacts with London Pulse and London Mavericks, the two nearest franchises, and explained that the franchises were still in the process of deciding what their plans were for pathway and other hubs. Alison said she was happy to receive comments from Surrey members. In finishing, Alison commented that statistics showed that visibility of netball on the BBC Iplayer and Sky YouTube had increased by 50%. Maureen Clark thanked Alison.

6. REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SCHOOLS SECTION & LEAGUES

CK introduced the Committee members in attendance.

Full reports had been prepared prior to the meeting and published on the website. The President commented that they demonstrate the activities conducted during the past year. Additional comments from the authors of the reports were noted. Julia Martin reported on the activities and successes of the Greenacres League. Thanks were given to the committee for all the hard work over the last year.

Proposed: Clare Nichols
Carried

Seconded: Grace Thornborow

7. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

Accounts and report had been prepared by the Treasurer, and explained by Julia Martin for the people present at the meeting. Wandsworth NC queried the large balance held by SCNA with the response given that we have built up a large reserve primarily in order to be able to contribute to a new netball facility in the county if we were to be a partner, and to have funds to support the employment of a Netball Development Officer should England Netball withdraw their funding. Julia Martin also advised she was writing to England Netball about an announced increase in EN set charges for people taking their umpire assessments for which there had been no prior announcement.

Proposed: Sandie Richardson **Seconded:** Mandy Hiscocks **Carried**

8. MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2024/25

Chris Stephens advised the meeting that England Netball had not yet published their membership fees for next season, therefore it was not possible to give our members the full cost of membership. EN had been contacted about this but no response received in time for the meeting. The Regional fee is being kept at £1.00 and this is not paid by juniors. Last season the Surrey fee had been reduced from £4 to £3, in part compensation for the EN increase. The recommendation was to keep the Surrey fee for next season at £3.00.

These are the figures for the season 2023/24 by way of example, but of course, the final figure will be higher due to the expected increase in EN part of the fee.

2023/2024 season

<i>Seniors</i>	- £43.00 (EN £39.00 + £3.00 +£1.00 LSER Fee)
<i>Junior Players</i>	
Under 18	- £20.30 (EN £16.30 + SCNA £3.00 = £19.30)
Under 14	- £12.55 (EN £ 8.55 + SCNA £3.00 = £11.55)
Under 11	- £ 9.30 (EN £ 5.30 + SCNA £3.00 = £ 8.30)

The meeting noted the absence of EN information but notwithstanding this, agreed keeping the county fee the same as the previous season.

Proposed: Althea Allen **Seconded:** Kath Mansfield **Carried**

Post AGM update

On 11 June 2024, England Netball circulated information about their membership fees for 24/25 season which for adults would increase from £39.00 to £39.90. Therefore, the full fees are:

<i>Seniors</i>	- £43.90 (EN £39.90 + £3.00 +£1.00 LSER Fee)
<i>Junior Players</i>	
Under 18	- £21.40 (EN £18.40 + SCNA £3.00)
Under 14	- £13.20 (EN £ 10.20 + SCNA £3.00)
Under 11	- £10.15 (EN £7.15 + SCNA £3.00)

9. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT & OFFICERS

The meeting was advised that Ellie Butler, current Publicity and Communications Officer was standing down, and the President thanked her for her contribution. A replacement would need to be sought and the vacancy will be advertised.

President	Maureen Clark
Proposed: Chris Kelso (SCNA Chair)	Carried
Vice President	Carol McGrail
Chairperson	Chris Kelso
Vice Chairperson	Laura Pawley
Hon. Secretary	Jackie Rowland
Treasurer	Julia Martin
Coaching Secretary	Lil Roe
Publicity/Communication Secretary	Vacant
County Performance Pathway Leader	Lydia Turner
Junior League Representative	Beth Townend
Membership Secretary	Chris Stephens
Minuting Secretary	Debbie Baker
Officiating Lead	Jackie Penney
Officiating Mentoring Manager	Gill Tilly
Assistant Officiating Lead	Mary Stanley
Resolution Lead	Laura Pawley
Schools Representative	Mandy Hiscocks
Tournament Secretary	Vacant
Volunteer Officer	Kath Mansfield
Welfare & Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Taylor
Equalities and Diversity Officer	Althea Allen

All the above willing to stand again and were accepted.

Proposed en bloc: The President **Carried**

10. PRESENTATION ON CMO CLUB

Jo Handley gave a presentation about the range of netball offered by her club CMO, which had been a community netball club for over 60 years. She focused on the BeeNetball group of young players, ages 5 upwards, the challenges of this, but also the positive outcomes including progress into the more formal junior club sessions, but also being mascots at the recent international Quad series at Wembley in January 2024. Whilst the girls had enjoyed the occasion, Jo explained that there were disappointing aspects that she had expressed to EN including that the girls had not been allowed to keep their T-shirts, that the parents had been separated from the girls and from their seats they could not see their girls. The people present at the meeting felt sorry for the girls and Wimbledon NC proposed that SCNA pay for T-shirts for the mascots. Jo went on to give the meeting information about all the other range of netball activities for all ages, but specific mention was given to the Beyond the Court group, which had been formed over the last two years. This is a project working with the Metropolitan Police, with 16 girls from the Croydon area, some of whom had progressed into the main junior section of the club. Those present at the

meeting were very impressed with all these achievements and Maureen Clark commented that CMO were inspirational.

11. COUNTY LEAGUE RULES AND PRESENTATION TO LEAGUE WINNERS

Maureen Clark presented the winner's cup to Claygate, the winners of the County League for 2023-2024, who have been successful in gaining promotion to the Regional League for next season. It was noted that the league rules were in the course of being revised and updated and will be the subject of consultation with clubs and local leagues, and agreed by SCNA, in time for the new season.

12. SURREY LIONS AWARDS PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER AWARDS

Kath Mansfield announced the nominations for the Surrey Lions Awards for 2023/24, and Maureen Clark presented the trophies to the winners:

Category	Winners		
Coach of the Year (Children and Young Adults)	Debbie Grainger		
Coach of the Year (Adults)	Charmaine Manning		
Community Official of the Year	Sam Head		
Outstanding Contribution of the Year	Clare Nicholls	Althea Allen	Bryony Huggett
Unsung Hero of the Year	Carol Woodward	Donna Rextrew	
Young Volunteer of the Year	Lily Stevens	Layla Parry	Neema Onigbogi
Inclusion Award	Amanda Kenna	Jo Handley	
Surrey County Academy Player of the Year	Emily Easton		
Pioneer of the Year (No nominations)			
Teacher of the Year (No nominations)			

Kath explained that all nominations will go forward to the South East Region One Awards next year.

No nominations had been received for **Club of the Year** but there was an overwhelming desire of the meeting to make this award to **CMO**. Kath Mansfield to arrange for a trophy to be presented to CMO.

Kath explained that the nomination forms had been made simpler so that it is now very easy to make nominations, and encouraged people to make nominations next year. There will be an opportunity for grass roots volunteers to be recognized throughout the season, and information will be on the website when its reconstruction is finished.

Surrey Life Membership was presented to Alison Bennett, June Tenwick and Mandy Hiscocks, and they were thanked for all their past and continuing contribution to netball in the county.

County Colours were presented to Althea Allen. Debbie Baker and Ellie Butler were also awarded colours and these will be presented separately as they were not present.

Flowers were presented to Jackie Penney, Patricia Balcombe, Julia Martin and Maureen Clark with thanks for their excellent work they have done.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

Maureen Clark thanked everyone for coming and for a good meeting.

Meeting closed 9.50 p.m.

.....
Mrs. M. Clark - President