**1. Present**

Sam Oldfield, Pat Arnott, Jeanette Pointon, Ursula Smith, Sue James, Julie Tinsley, Chris Lowndes, Carolyn Owen and Shelley Gudgeon.

**2. Apologies**

Norma Ashcroft, Stacy Mound, Julie Dolman, Jess Mountford, Sophie Bridgwood and Sally Kendrick.

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Signed as a true representation of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

 **4.1 Umpiring Secretary Issues**

Appointment is needed for this position. An advert is to go out onto all local netball/sporting websites to attract someone into this position.

**5. Correspondence**

**5.1 England Netball**

A ‘Time to Listen’ course has been scheduled for Staffordshire. All teams with U18 players must attend this course by May 2015. Please contact England Netball for an application form. Details are as below:

Venue: Stafford Sport College (ST17 9DJ)

Date: Monday 27th Oct 2014

Time: 6:30-9:30pm

**5.2 Stacy Mound (Staffordshire)**

County Plan update attached.

ACCESS Across Staffordshire funding is available to encourage and support the development of new projects that target under-represented groups. Grants of up to £2000 are available but each application must provide a 30% match-fund from the club/organisation. Priority groups for this round of funding including women and girls, disabled people and black minority ethnic communities. Applications for funding close on Friday 14th Nov 2014. Please contact Naomi Bird for further information, download your form from [www.sportacrossstaffordshire.co.uk/SportsEquality/AccessFundingScheme](http://www.sportacrossstaffordshire.co.uk/SportsEquality/AccessFundingScheme).

Staffordshire University and Keele University are both looking for a coach and umpires to help support their BUCS competition from October until March. Please contact Lindsay (lindsay.tate@staffs.ac.uk) and Gemma (v8i69@students.keele.ac.uk) for further details.

**5.3 Katie O’Leary (West Midlands)**

New junior competition opportunities are available at regional level. U12 & U13 (possibly U11) competition is scheduled for Sept-Dec, and U14 & U16 Easter-July, both on Sundays from 1pm-6pm at Walsall Campus. Please contact westmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk if you are interested.

The West Midlands Regional League are looking for Junior League Administrators to help with the running and organisation of the U12, U13 and U19 league at Walsall campus. Please contact westmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk if you are interested.

CAPS assessment submission deadline is the 22nd Oct 2014.

West Midlands Regional AGM scheduled for 26th Oct 2014 at The Village Hotel, Walsall.

**5.4 Ann O’Rouke (West Midlands Regional League)**

The 2014-15 season will see some structural changes to the play-offs for places in the Senior Regional League. A third tier will be added where interested CAPS teams will compete for four or five weeks after Easter until June 2015 in a league format to give teams experience of regional competition. At the end of the five weeks, the top two teams will be given the opportunity to play the bottom two teams from the existing Div 2 for two places into the SRL for 2015-16. This replaces the traditional tournament format and county play-off system. Staffs based teams, Harriers, Fenton and Tean Valley, have registered their interest. Please be aware that the standard rules regarding eligible senior players and age banding permission must be followed.

**5.5 Lorna Rooke (North West)**

England Netball are looking for volunteers for the England vs Malawi Test Series between 14th-20th Dec 2014. If you are interested if this opportunity then please download a ‘Volunteer Application Form’ from England Netball or email volunteers@englandnetball.co.uk. Forms must be returned to England Netball by Friday 7th Nov 2014.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

No issues with the accounts. Money is now moving in and out as the academies have started to bring in their funds. Forms are required for the Junior League deposit – Staffordshire are to enter three U16 and three U14 teams for 2014-15.

We need to check what is going on with payment for UKCC Level 2 Conversion coaches as there has been no confirmation as to what funds this is to come out of. Shelley states that it has been agreed that West Midlands will pay for all conversions.

**7. Umpiring**

No report. Chris Lowndes will attend the West Midlands umpiring meetings until we appoint an umpiring secretary.

**7.1 Umpiring Courses**

 *Beginners Course*

 Staffordshire University (ST4 2DF)

Date: 8th Nov 2014

Time: 10am-4pm

Cost: £20 affiliated/£30 non-affiliated

 Must book by 31st Oct 2014, forms available from Sam Oldfield

*C Award Course*

There are still places on the following C Award course. If you are interested then please go to [www.merseysidenetball.co.uk](http://www.merseysidenetball.co.uk) and download the registration form:

Wirral Grammar School for Girls (CH63 3AF)

Date: 25th Oct 2014

Time: 10am-4pm

Cost: £35

**8. Coaching**

**8.1 Academy Coaches**

Coaches for the academies have been appointed. The positions are as follows:

U16 – Julie Dolman and Vicky (Tibberton)

U16 Development – Sally Kendrick and Laura Bevans

U14 – Tracey Turner and Andrea Horsnall

U14 Development – Carolyn Owen and three Level 1 youngsters

U12 – Pat Arnott and Tracy Round

 **8.2 Coaching Conference**

All coaches from the academies attended the EN Coaching Conference. However, the information for the course should be sent out much earlier and there should be one-day rates for coaches. The courses provided were very useful and the event was well run.

 **8.3 UKCC Coaching Courses**

 West Midlands UKCC Courses are now available:

 *Level 1*

 Telford College of Arts and Technology

Dates: 9th and 30th Nov 2014

Must book by 10th Oct 2014

Rugeley Leisure Centre (WS15 2HZ)

Dates: 1st and 22nd Feb 2015

Must book by 2nd Jan 2015

*Level 2 Conversion*

Stafford Sport College (ST17 9DJ)

Dates: 11th and 21st Jan, and 15th Feb 2015

Must book by 12th Dec 2014

 Please go to the England Netball website for further details.

 **8.4 CPD Courses**

Coaching CPD courses are available in the West Midlands and Staffordshire. Please contact westmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk for further information:

 *Getting Physical*

 Rugeley Leisure Centre (WS15 2HZ)

Date: 15th Nov 2014

Time: 1:00-5:00pm

Cost: £35 affiliated/ £45 non-affiliated

*Sharp Shooting*

Ellowes Hall Sport College (DY3 2JH)

Date: 11th Nov 2014

Time: 6:30-9:30pm

Cost £25 affiliated/ £35 non-affiliated

**9. Schools**

**9.1 County School Tournament**

The County School Tournaments are set for the following dates:

*U19* – Wednesday 5th Nov 2014

*U14/U16* – Saturday 8th Nov 2014

All affiliated schools have been sent the forms but some schools have not given email details this year – we need to get this information each year to enable the schools to get the details well in advance. Affiliations need to be in place before they can gain entry. £20 entry is required to provide trophies/medals that Pat Arnott will purchase. C Award umpires are required for all teams – schools are to contact the SCNA secretary, Sam Oldfield, who will help to find each school an umpire. A big thanks is given to Julie Tinsley and Ursula Smith for their help in getting the most up-to-date information to Jeanette and to the schools.

 **9.2 West Midlands Regional School Tournament**

The West Midlands Regional School Tournament is to be help on Saturday 31st Jan 2015 at Bromsgrove School (B61 7DU). Please contact the tournament coordinator, Mike Wilkinson – mike.wilkinson1952@googlemail.com – for further details. We need to provide seven umpires from Staffordshire – an advert is to go out on to all qualified umpires in the local leagues. Entries are to go to Judy Frost (Shropshire County Chair).

**10. Academies**

U16 Academy Report – Julie Dolman – Currently there are 17 players in the U16 academy due to three dropping out. We have seen four players per week, eight so far, who are trialling to make up the allocated 20 places. Players will be selected on quality, not quantity. There are questions about attendance to consider – at what point does attendance affect someone’s place in the academy? A decision has been made that the head coach must speak to the player to ask them to consider their attendance otherwise their position in the academy may be affected and a part refund given. Everyone has had balls, T-shirt and folders and the EN required information sheets have been returned.

Discussions are needed to consider the regional league and whether an academy team should take one of the two Staffordshire regional places, and the late trialist entries – we will put this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| \* Players reaching their full potential\* It’s part of their Academy experience\* Match play, unless we set up matches there are no set matches until Versatility, this isn’t enough! It shows when we get to the tournament.\* Players struggle with nerves on the day and don’t play at their best, if playing at such a high standard on a regular basis this can combat this problem. Increasing their confidence to understand that they can achieve more. | \* Reducing the number of places for the league to offer for a regional place\* If a players club team gets through and there in the academy they would have a choice to be made, league rule, club rule or player’s choice?\* Must be a CAPS club I think?\* Which coach would take them? |

Trials this year were very difficult, as we did not have the time to really complete the process at the time we were allotted. Maybe consider a spring trial, before/after the May versatility tournament for next year so that we select players at the peak of their performance and we avoid the issues surrounding late trialists.

Hoodies and T-shirts are to be provided for the academy coaches free of charge.

**10.1 Academy Training Complaint**

Newcastle Town are not happy that the county have moved the training nights as this now conflicts with their U14 and U16 training evenings. Can we please ensure that the county coordinate with the clubs as this is not acceptable and has a major impact on the training for club teams.

**11. Junior SCNA**

A small summary of the recent Junior SCNA outcomes is provided below:

The Junior League is ready to start and fees are set at £20, as last year. Teams are reminded that players are to play within their relevant age grouping and teams must be the same as those stated on the registration sheet.

Clubs are reminded that all parents must watch from the balcony at Northwood and at St Peters they should be on the back wall, not the team benches. No parents are to enter the court at any time, even at the end of games.

This year’s fundraiser is to be completed by Newcastle Town who will be putting together an Easter Egg Raffle.

The presentation evening is booked for 8th May 2015, Jess Mountford has booked the Moat House and just required a cheque for payment.

No U11’s are allowed in the U12 county academies – this ruling needs to be enforced.

**11.1 Junior League Complaint**

Alsager NC are disappointed that they have been unable to enter the Junior League this year as players are mostly secondary claimed to the club from other Cheshire/Staffordshire teams. Can there be a way to look at this ruling for next year?

**12. AOB**

**12.1 Thanks to Stacy Mound**

Thanks to Stacey for all her hard work – we will miss her and all that she has done for the county. Pat Arnott has given her a gift from the county as an appreciation of her hard work. Everyone wishes Stacy well in her new job and hope that she enjoys her new role at British Gymnastics.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

TBC

Meeting Closed at 9:45pm