**1. Present**

Pat Arnott, Ursula Smith, Chris Lowndes, Julie Tinsley, Tracey Turner, Julie Dolman & Sam Oldfield

**2. Apologies**

Jeannette Pointon, Jessica Mountford, Kate O’Leary, Carolyn Owen, Sally Kendrick, Sophie Clarke, Ann Jeffery (De Ferrers Academy) & Amy James (Ash Green Primary School)

**3. Minutes from last AGM**

Signed as a true record

**4. President’s Report**

Report presented by Ursula Smith. Thank you once again to all the wonderful volunteers who make netball in Staffordshire possible for so many people. I hope we never take you for granted!

What a year of achievements:- congratulations to Newcastle Town for making the play-offs for the National Premier League for the second time - third time lucky perhaps! Further congratulations to the schools that represented Staffordshire in the Regional tournament: Newcastle-under-Lyme School (U14 and U19), St. Joseph’s College, Trent Vale (U14), Blessed William Howard, Stafford (U16), King Edward’s, Lichfield (U16) and Newcastle-under-Lyme College (U19), with Newcastle-under-Lyme School U14 making it through to the semi-finals of the competition. And finally, congratulations to Brogan Griffiths, who has been selected to represent and captain England U23s at Indoor Netball (Nets) in Australia in December.

This time last year we were wondering how the new County Academy structure would work out. The best U16s in the County have trained weekly throughout the season and, from all accounts, have definitely benefitted from that extra training time. We had new coaches at the U16 Development, U14 Academy and U14 Development sessions – thanks for coming on board! Even with all the changes, we seem to have come through the season well. There are also 12 players accepted at Regional level fro 2015/16, with Olivia Moore and Imogen Faulkenbridge having benefitted from this experience throughout the 2014/15 season - we hope all players do themselves justice. The U16s finished third at the Versatility Tournament on May 24th and the U14s were undefeated champions. Well done to all involved! All this success made the County presentation evening a fabulous event – what a great way to celebrate our achievements, players, organisers and our committed volunteers for the season. Without you all this would be impossible – thank you.

Preliminary trials for County places for next season have already taken place. It was decided to hold trials earlier while the girls were still in playing mode. There have been a couple of hitches but, hopefully, these will be ironed out for next season and the feedback from the new format has been very positive. We must, of course, always be looking to improve for all our members.

If we believe we can, we are half way there!

**5. Annual Reports**

**5.1 Treasurers Report**

Report presented by Chris Lowndes. No problems, the county have a healthy balance. Academy coaches are still due to be paid from the account, as well as the Junior SCNA presentation evening expenses and a few incidentals for coaching and umpiring courses/tests, tutor payments and web services. The county academy tournament made a loss but we should still encourage such competitions and use our balance to support items like this in the future.



**Figure 1: Financial Summary 2014-2015**

 **5.2 Coaching Report**

Report from Pat Arnott. Six people have had to complete their Level 2 update this year – well done for doing this after all the trouble it caused! We also have three candidates ready for their Level 2 coaching assessment. Unclear as to how many Level 1’s have qualified this year as the communication from England Netball is difficult to decipher – in the future we will use MyNet to help us gain this valuable information. Julie Dolman has started the process for her Level 3 qualification, ready for assessment in 2016. Well done everyone.

**5.3 Umpiring Report**

Vacant position, no report. Chris Lowndes has agreed to attend West Midlands TSG meetings in the interim whilst enquiries are made.

**5.4 Schools Report**

Summary provided by Jeanette Pointon. Staffordshire round of the National Schools was competed in November 2014. The following schools made it through to the West Midlands competition:

***U14***

*Winners:* Newcastle-under-Lyme School

*Runner Up:* St Joseph’s College

***U16***

*Winners:* Blessed William Howard

*Runner Up:* King Edward’s High School

***U19***

*Winners:* Newcastle-under-Lyme School

*Runners Up:* Newcastle-under-Lyme College

Unfortunately, the regional round of the competition had to be re-arranged due to poor weather(!), which significantly impacted on our entrants. No Staffordshire school made it through to the final, although Newcastle-under-Lyme School were semi-finalists in the U14 competition – well done!

Staffordshire High Five Festival was competed in February 2014, with ten schools in attendance. Results were as follows:

*Winners:* St John’s Primary School, Stafford & Stone Partnership

*Runner Up:* St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School, Stoke (South) Partnership

Sainsbury’s School Games were held at Keele in June 2014, with Y7 girls from nine Stoke and Staffordshire schools competing. Results were as follows:

*Winners:* St Joseph’s, Stoke

*Runner Up:* Newcastle-under-Lyme School

Courses were provided for schools in preparation for the High5 Festival. A Youth Umpire Award was provided for Newcastle schools, and two Young Netball Organisers courses delivered for Stafford and Stoke schools.

Whilst these are all positive steps forward in our association with local schools, generally our communication with the schools needs to be improved – there are many schools who are not involved with our competitions and we need to promote these activities further afield. Whilst we have contact information for affiliated schools, our non-affiliated schools are more difficult to trace and information for both tends to be out of date! We need schools to ensure that they regularly update emails and contacts so we can promote school competitions and opportunities to a wider audience.

**5.5 Excel Academies**

Vacant position. Julie Dolman presented an overview of the year. Trial dates were set early in the year with a two-tier system in place, which was very clear and transparent for coaches, selectors and players alike. Each player was rated on a number system, which made it much easier to make the final cuts. All non-selected players were given feedback – thanks to Ursula for this. Final trials for 2015/16 entrants are on Sunday 28th June.

Our academies had some great successes this year with the U14s and U16s teams finishing first and third respectively in the Regional Versatility Tournament. We also have 12 players selected to train with the West Midlands team for 2015/16 too. The Inter-County Academy Tournament ran for the first time and was a very successful and insightful event, with academy teams from Staffordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Shropshire in attendance. Due to the positive feedback received, we will host another competition for all academies next year on Saturday 27th Feb 2016.

Thanks to our coaches for a successful year:

U16 – Julie Dolman, Esther Rutherford and Vicky Woodman

U16 Development – Sally Kendrick and Laura Bevans

U14 – Tracey Turner and Andrea Horsnall

U14 Development – Carolyn Owen and Hannah Boast

U12 – Pat Arnott and Tracy Round

As we look towards next season, there are a few changes ahead. Training is to move to Sundays (bar U12) to enable the sessions to be less conflicting for club players. Strength & Conditioning sessions are going to be added once/twice every four weeks to align ourselves with the regional structure. England Netball/West Midlands have given these changes the green light and have told all coaches to manage the player’s commitments and ensure a balance in practical and theoretical work.

Alix McDermott came along to the final training session of the 2014/15 season and really inspired the girls. She has also offered her support to the County and would love to be involved with coaching the Staffordshire teams next season (a unanimous yes from the committee!). Anita Navin is also coming to support our coaches from September. This will help to encourage and motivate the girls, and provide further possibilities for some of them to get onto other talent pathways.

**5.6 Tournament Report**

Queensbury plate was competed on 15th December 2014 and MOTHS B were winners for the second year in a row, with runners-up Pink Panthers. Joyce Haynes was competed on 27th April 2015 where Newcastle A were victors and with runners-up, Harriers A, losing out by one goal in extra time. Joyce Hayne’s niece and great-niece were present to present the trophies. Both tournaments received a positive number of entries and a big thank you is given to Suzanne James for her organisation of both events.

**5.7 Staffordshire Junior League Group Report (Junior SCNA)**

Report presented by Ursula Smith. 31 teams competed in the three age groups in 2014/2015 and Julie Tinsley continued to sort out venues and fixtures - thank you! Thanks to all the coaches, umpires, results officers as well as the parents and, of course, the players for making it all possible.

Fenton Manor and Newcastle Town represented Staffordshire in the U14 West Midlands Regional League, whilst Fenton Manor, first time entrants North Staffs and Stafford were our U16 representatives - it would be nice to keep three teams in this competition again next year. Congratulations to all these teams for their County level success and regional endeavour! Next year the first division of the Staffordshire Junior League will emulate the regional format, with neutral qualified umpires, scorers, etc., and full one-hour matches to be competed to enable the league to develop and move forward like our academies have this year.

It is good to know that the Young Netball Organisers courses held in Stafford and Stoke, and the Youth Umpire Award at Newcastle were all well attended. They gave their participants the confidence to umpire and/or officiate at various events over the season. These youngsters will ensure netball in Staffordshire is in safe hands.

The Staffordshire County Presentation Evening was held at the Moat House, Festival Park, on Friday 8th May with 300 guests celebrating Staffordshire’s netballing successes for 2014/15 – all those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We were delighted to welcome Alix McDermott (Australian U19 captain 2011/12 and Manchester Thunder player 2013/14) to present the prizes – what an inspiration for our young Staffordshire players. Next year’s presentation evening is scheduled for Friday 6th May 2015 where we hope to have the same level of support and achievement celebrated.

**6. Constitution Changes**

No changes to the constitution this year.

**7. Election of Officers**

New committee members as below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Member** | **Vote** |
| President | Ursula Smith | Carried |
| Chair | Pat Arnott | Carried |
| Vice-Chair | Sally Kendrick | Nominate: Julie DolmanSeconded: Chris LowndesCarried |
| Secretary | Sam Oldfield | Carried |
| Treasurer | Chris Lowndes | Carried |
| Assistant Treasurer | Jessica Mountford | Carried |
| SJLG Co-ordinator | Ursula Smith | Carried |
| Affiliation Secretary | Julie Tinsley | Carried |
| Schools Secretary | Jeanette Pointon | Carried |
| Umpiring Secretary | **Vacant** | Temporary: Chris LowndesAndrea Horsnall to be approached |
| Tournament Secretary | Sue Lawton | Carried |
| Coaching Secretary | Pat Arnott | Carried |
| Publicity Secretary | **Vacant** | Enquiries to be madeAdvert for the position to be put out to Staffs Uni, Keele Uni and all O16 schools/colleges |
| Excel Academy Head Coach/Scout | Julie Dolman | Nominate: Julie TinsleySeconded: Sam OldfieldCarried |
| Academy Safeguarding Officer | Julie Tinsley | Carried |
| Committee Members | Norma AshcroftKate O’Leary (EN) | CarriedCarried |
| Representative from each Staffordshire League | Sophie ClarkeStafford League Rep | CarriedTBC |

**8. Affiliation Fees for 2015/2016 Season**

No changes to county rates this year, but there are some small increases in England Netball and West Midlands fees. See below breakdown:

|  |
| --- |
| **AFFILIATION FEES 2015-16** |
|  | **ENGLAND NETBALL** | **WEST MIDLANDS** | **COUNTY** | **TOTAL** |
| SENIOR |  | 260.00 |  | 30.00 |  | 40.00 |  | 330.00 |
| SENIOR IND. |  | 26.00 |  | 3.00 |  | 4.00 |  | 33.00 |
| Aged 18 & under |  | 163.00 |  | 15.00 |  | 15.00 |  | 193.00 |
| Aged 18 & under |  | 16.30 |  | 1.50 |  | 1.50 |  | 19.30 |
| Aged 14 & under |  | 85.50 |  | 10.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 95.50 |
| Aged 14 & under |  | 8.50 |  | 1.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 9.50 |
| Aged 11 & under |  | 53.00 |  | 5.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 58.00 |
| Aged 11 & under |  | 5.30 |  | 0.50 |  | 0.00 |  | 5.80 |
| SEC/MID |  | 26.50 |  | 0.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 26.50 |
| JUN/INF |  | Free |  | 0.00 |  | 0.00 |  | Free |
| COLLEGE/UNI |  | 175.90 |  | 20.00 |  | 40.20 |  | 236.10 |
| Social & supporting  |  | 13.75 |  | 0.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 13.75 |
| **NB:** County association fee £60.10 Second claim pay Staffordshire county fee unless already paid Staffordshire county fee through another Staffordshire affiliated club |

**9. Date of AGM 2016**

Wednesday 4th May 2016, 7:30pm at Newcastle College.

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm.