

## **1. Present**

Lyn Rowe (Chairperson), Pat Arnott (Vice Chairperson/ North Staffs NC), Bernie Hancock (Schools Secretary / Newcastle Town NC), Sally Kendrick (Email Secretary/ Stafford NC ), Becky Nott (Stafford & District YLC League), Ursula Smith (President/ Tean Valley NC), Di Furnival (Newcastle Town NC), Julie Tinsley (Membership Secretary & Safeguarding Officer/ Newcastle Town NC), Sam Oliver (Officiating Secretary/ Harriers NC), Kate Woods (EN Netball Development Officer), Molly Line (Harriers NC), Angela Lickorish (Tittensor Ladies), Pete Owen (Staffs Discipline Officer), Jeanette Pointon (Vice President/ Newcastle Town NC), Nicola Coombes (KES, Lichfield), Jill Hulme (North Staffs), Chris Lowndes (Treasurer), Jess Mountford (Assistant Treasurer/ Fenton Manor NC), Deonne Nicol (Coaching Secretary) and Jayne Christopherson (St Joseph's College).

## **2. Apologies**

Julie Dolman (Stafford NC & Staffs Performance Pathway Head Coach) and Cathy Court (Minuting Secretary)

## **3. Minutes of the 2019**

Virtually agreed and signed as a true record.

## **4. Presidents Report- Ursula Smith**

*President's Remarks 2019-2020*

*I always read my remarks from the previous AGM to give me some perspective for the next one but this time the changes are stark!*

*At last year's AGM, we were looking forward to the World Cup in Liverpool and wondering if the knock-on effect would increase participation in grass roots netball in our already thriving Staffordshire community clubs. It did!*

*We were hopeful of recruiting more, and younger, volunteers to our County committee posts. We did have some limited success and we must continue to encourage our younger members to take an interest in our ever-changing netball family.*

*The Engage membership system didn't make our lives easier in 2019 but, as always, we were hopeful that in 2020 it would be better and, as ever, we hope that in 2021 season it will be better still!*

*Covid happened and the netball world as we know it stopped suddenly.*

*We had to abandon our leagues and all club training. Our Development Officers, Kirsty and now Kate, encouraged us to keep netball alive even though we couldn't meet. Clubs encouraged their players to Pass the Ball or practise their skills with the help of the internet. We held a virtual County presentation, courtesy of Julie Tinsley, and we continue to meet virtually in our clubs and sub-committees to encourage everyone to carry on.*

*Now, we are mostly back to real training and even some friendly matches. Clubs have had to work so hard to find venues and 'follow the road map' but the players are loving it!*

*I cannot thank our volunteers enough. Whether you give up one hour a week or many hours as I know some of you do, your contribution is invaluable and, I hope, appreciated by all the netballers in the County.*

*As a final note, I'd like to say that I have loved being president of Staffs County Netball Association-it is an honour. I think I've been in the role now for 5 years and I feel it is time that someone else shared that honour. If it helps, I'll continue for what is left of this season but think that we should be thinking of electing a new president next season and that the role is time-limited -otherwise you may be stuck with me forever!*

*Ursula Smith*

## **5. Annual Reports**

### **a. Treasurers Report- Chris Lowndes**

Accounts are looking healthy.

*Refunds were given to Performance Pathway athletes when we couldn't complete the program that they had paid for during 2019-20 season. They were refunded the difference between what was received and what had been proposed.*

*Junior league is fine. There is a timing difference between receipts and payments. We had paid for the presentation evening venue so this money has been transferred to next year.*

*Other expenses include:*

- *donations made to athletes to help with future aspirations.*
- *contribution to various people so that they could attend 'Make the Game' in Liverpool.*
- *refunded various coaching fees and costs of 1st aid courses.*
- *purchased rule books to be distributed across the leagues.*
- *a number of resource items for umpiring courses that have been cancelled/ postponed due to COVID-19*

*We also made a concerted effort this year to get more umpires qualified which also incurred extra costs.*

*Going forward I suggest that we do not charge for academy trials this year. We should use the county fees received via England Netball affiliations.*

*I also suggested that once this has been costed, we pass on the difference to the leagues when they recommence based on the number of teams in each league.*

*We have left the affiliation fee for 2020 at the 2019 level. I suggest that in 2021, we reduce this to zero. This can then be reviewed when and if netball returns to normal.*

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION					
Income and expenditure as at 31st March 2020					
			INCOME		EXPENDITURE
Junior League			£18,966.00	Junior League	£20,905.46
Academy			£17,444.50	Academy	£19,346.32
AENA			£5,222.28	AENA	£60.10
Umpire courses and Assessments			£4,765.00	Umpire Courses and assessments	£6,143.35
Schools			£280.00	Schools	£360.00
Other			£151.43	Other	£3,333.34
County Tournament			£510.00	County Tournament	£2,274.06
Excess expenditure over income			£5,083.42		
		TOTAL	<u>£52,422.63</u>	TOTAL	<u>£52,422.63</u>
Bank balances as at 31st March 2020					
<b>Lloyds bank</b>					
			£		
Main account			53185.43		
Schools account			82.17		
			<u>53,267.60</u>		

## b. Umpiring Report- Sam Oliver

### UMPIRING SECRETARY REPORT 2020-2021

#### TESTING

We have tested a number of C and Into candidates successfully since Sept 2019, although COVID halted our last phase of tests (we had 6 individuals who were due final assessment for both Into and C's and a couple more who requested C pre-assessment in March). The county has always been excellent in their assessments and conversion rates so we will continue to uphold this moving forwards.

We held a C Award written paper exam in January 2020 with 14 candidates successfully passing. We are now prepared to move to a more formal mentoring process with these individuals when netball returns in the county. In the future, written test will start to move online (facilitated by Netball Europe via England Netball) and will be available whole year at the official's convenience.

Thank you given to the small group of assessors who have worked tirelessly to support the county and increase the number of officials in the area – you are all fabulous.

#### COURSES

We also held three umpiring courses (2 C Awards and 1 Into) with two further course postponed due to COVID (both a C and Into were originally scheduled for June 2020). All candidates who signed up have been put on a waitlist and are prepared to attend courses when we can announce a return. A big thank you to all tutors who gave up their time to support these courses and in educating our future umpires.

All course materials were ordered pre-lockdown and before the new rules were due to be in place. I have requested support from EN to upgrade these to the new 2020 versions.

Given COVID's impact on officials, EN have confirmed that they will extend the window for course to test from 2 years to ensure no individual is adversely affected on their officiating journey. EN have confirmed that when netball testing, etc. can return, all candidates will do so with the remaining time/progress still intact. If there is a need for individuals to request additional extensions then that can and will be supported via EN (link to online form/contact available).

#### FUTURE PLANNING

We are now being encouraged to start the planning process for 2020-21 (something to pick up ASAP with the committee). However, our most pressing issue right now is a lack of availability for netball venues in the area. With heavy reliance on local schools we are not being given re-start dates for many clubs or leagues due to school's priorities not being on community hire. This is not anticipated to change any time soon and obviously has a long-term effect on all of our processes and timescales, both testing and courses.

EN tutors and assessors will be given updates and training to upskill in a post-COVID netball world.

New mentoring courses will be rolled out to formalise the role. Information will be disseminated when received.

We are now operating under the new INF/Netball Europe rules, which came into effect nationally in September 2020. I will look at scheduling some online rules updates for the county and local leagues, with the support of West Midlands and Netball Europe.

Sam Oliver

SCNA Umpiring Secretary

**c. Coaching Report- Deonne Nicol**

No report sent

**d. School Report- Bernie Hancock**

<b>Schools High Five Tournament- 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020</b>	
<b>Winners</b>	St Teresa's Catholic (A) Primary School (South Stoke)
<b>Runners Up</b>	St. Margaret's C.E. Junior School (Newcastle-under-Lyme)

<b>County Schools Tournament 2019/20</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Runners Up</b>
<b>U14</b>	Newcastle-under-Lyme School	Denstone College
<b>U16</b>	King Edwards VI, Lichfield	St Joseph's College (Stoke)
<b>U19</b>	St Joseph's College (Stoke)	Newcastle-under-Lyme School

Covid has had a huge impact on the school's tournament planning for the 20/21 season and the original intention was to make the tournament bigger.

A request from Bernie has been made for support to gather the contacts for the schools as the school ENgage contact may not always go to the netball lead at the individual schools. Suggestions were made for NDO Kate Woods to assist as well as to use social media and letters in the post.

**e. Academies Report- Julie Dolman (apologies sent, update sent via email)**

**Pre Covid 19 Lockdown Season 2019/20:**

- 79 Athletes attended Staffordshire Performance Pathway over 4 training groups
  - Under 13 Academy and Development
  - Under 15 Academy and Development

*Up until lockdown, the pathway had only entered the South Staffordshire tournament, which both age groups under 13 and under 15 won their competitions.*

*The Pathway had planned the Annual County Tournament, set to take place in April 2020 and had planned to enter another 3 tournaments; Shropshire Tournament, Thunder Tournament and Seven Stars Tournament.*

*Trials had been set for 6th and 7th of June 2020.*

*18 athletes, from within the current pathway, were selected the Hub/Academy systems within Franchises, of the 18 athletes, 5 were in age groups for their franchise.*

*Before the Lockdown there were to Franchises located within the County; Loughborough Lightning at Denstone College and Wasps at Trentham. Going into next season, there will be the addition of Seven Stars which will be located in Stafford.*

**Post Covid19 Lockdown**

*Going forward, the pathway is waiting for permission, to restart for this season. It is important to continue with the great success that has been achieved, so far. We do not want to lose, the momentum that has been created by the athletes.*

*So, if a decision can be made when this can begin, it can be published and plans can be made, for this up-and-coming season.*

*Currently there are 7 coaches across the Pathway, S&C coach and Admin/Accounts Support.*

*There is always room for more coaches and support going forward, which needs to be advertised, once there is confirmation of a restart.*

*Coaches Development was also discussed before Covid, the introduction of Super League Coaches being invited to coach the Pathway Athletes whilst coaching the coaches. Had any enquiries been done to pursue this matter?*

*Kate Woods to ask EN regarding if the lead COVID officer for PP only would not become liable for everything covid related within the county. Kate/ Jess/ Lyn to pick up discussion away from AGM*

**f. Tournament Report- Sam Oliver**

Neither of the annual tournaments took place during 2019-20 season. The Queensberry Plate was impacted by the sudden closure of Northwood Stadium which also affected Stoke on Trent League scheduled fixtures. COVID-19 prevented the Joyce Haynes tournament taking place.

Sam Oliver has advised that this is likely to be her final season as Tournament Secretary so have advised the county to recruit an assistant to support.

**g. County Junior League Report**

One of the newer clubs in the Staffordshire Junior League- Gforce won U14 Development league which is great to see a new club as well as one based in/around Lichfield is having a positive impact on netball in the south of the county.

The following clubs qualified to represent Staffordshire in the West Midlands Junior League from Spring 2020:

- U14 Fenton Manor and Newcastle Town
- U16 Fenton Manor and Stafford. Tean Valley also attended taking an extra place

Despite COVID-19 meaning an early and sudden end to the Staffordshire Junior League, all clubs agreed as to who would've won/ runners up for spring season so all teams were recognised.

A virtual presentation evening took place recognising the winning teams and player of the seasons. Thanks to Julie Tinsley for her hard work to make this happen.

#### **h. Publicity Report**

Lyn has taken active role of posting on social media. Looking to update website during the forthcoming season.

Jess created the accounts for Facebook and Twitter.

## 6. Election of Officers

Position	Member	Vote
President	Ursula Smith	Carried
Vice-President	---	---
Chair	Lyn Rowe	Carried
Vice-Chair	Pat Arnott	Carried
Secretary	Sally Kendrick	Carried
Assistant Secretary	Cathy Court	Carried
Treasurer	Jess Mountford	Nominated: Pat Arnott Seconded: Julie Tinsley
Assistant Treasurer	Chris Lowndes	Nominated: Ursula Smith Seconded: Sally Kendrick
Staffordshire Junior League Co-ordinators	Ursula Smith Julie Tinsley	Carried Nominated: Sam Oliver Seconded: Laura Colclough
Membership Secretary	Julie Tinsley	Carried
Schools Secretary and Tournament Rep	Bernie Hancock	Carried
Umpiring Secretary	Sam Oliver	Carried
Tournament Secretary	Sam Oliver	Carried
Assistant Tournament Secretary	VACANT	Nominated: Seconded:
Coaching Secretary	Deonne Nicol	Carried
Publicity Secretary	Lyn Rowe	Nominated: Jess Mountford Seconded: Sally Kendrick
Disciplinary Secretary	Peter Owen	Carried
Academy Head Coach	Julie Dolman	Carried
Lead Covid Officer	VACANT	Nominated: Seconded:
Covid Officer Performance Pathway	VACANT	Nominated: Seconded:

Covid Officer Junior League	VACANT	Nominated: Seconded:
Covid Officer Tournaments	VACANT	Nominated: Seconded:
Safeguarding Officer	Julie Tinsley	Carried
Committee Members	Kate Woods (EN) Diane Furnival Shona Thompson Laura Bevans Jill Hulme  Angela Lickorish  Molly Lines	Carried Carried Carried Carried Carried  Nominated: Ursula Smith Seconded: Lyn Rowe  Nominated: Pat Arnott Seconded: Lyn Rowe
Representative from each Staffordshire League	League Secretary (SoT) League Secretary (Stafford)	Carried Carried
Life Members	Norma Ashcroft Pat Arnott  Chris Lowndes Jeanette Pointon	   New New

## 7. Affiliations 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Despite that the Staffordshire leagues have not restarted, the membership numbers for Staffordshire for the 2020/21 season are very pleasing. England Netball offer of 30% discount on their fees, West Midlands removed their fee, but Staffordshire's fee remained the same as 2019/20 season as it was not removed from ENgage. Therefore, it has been agreed that for the 2021/22, the county fees will be reduced to £0.00.



County	Members 19/20
Staffordshire Members	1782
Members 12/08/20	% 12/08/20
143	8%
Members 19/08/20	% 19/08/20
196	11%
Members 26/08/20	% 26/08/20
355	20%
Members 02/09/20	% 02/09/20
600	33%
Members 09/09/20	% 09/09/20
811	46%
Members 15/09/20	% 15/09/20
935	52%
Members 23/09/20	% 23/09/20
999	56%
Members 30/09/20	% 30/09/20
1056	59%
Members 07/10/20	% 07/10/20
1137	64%

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2019-2020 & 2020-2021								
MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE	ENGLAND NETBALL		WEST MIDLANDS		STAFFORDSHIRE		TOTAL	
	19/20	20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20	20/21
OVER 18	36.00	36.00	3.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	43.00	40.00
UNDER 18	16.30	16.30	1.50	0.00	2.20	2.20	20.00	18.50
UNDER 14	8.55	8.55	1.00	0.00	1.45	1.45	11.00	10.00
UNDER 11	5.30	5.30	0.50	0.00	1.20	1.20	7.00	6.50
SECONDARY SCHOOL	26.50	26.50	0.00	0.00	3.50	3.50	30.00	30.00
PRIMARY SCHOOL	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY	175.90	175.90	20.00	0.00	49.10	49.10	245.00	225.00
SOCIAL & SUPPORTING	13.75	13.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.75	13.75
NB: County association fee £60.10								

**8. Constitution Changes**

Change made to the 'Management Group' section to add in the role of Lead Covid Officer.

No other changes required.

To view the approved Constitution [click here](#)

**9. Meeting Closed 20:59**