



**Minutes of Bedfordshire County Netball Association
Annual General Meeting Held at Bedford Academy
Wednesday 20 July 2022**

Present: 75 attendees and Committee Members (attendance sheet held on record). Committee Members: Gloria Keech, Louise Harwood, Louise Brown, Kay Smith, Juliet Jones, Sandra Howlett, Heather Nolan, Lian Howlett, Sandra Howlett

Gloria welcomed everyone to the 2022 Bedfordshire County Netball Association Annual General Meeting. As our last two AGMs have been virtual meetings, Gloria was delighted that this could be held 'live. Gloria also welcome Kendra Slawinski, Bedfordshire County President, League Chairs, Louise Brown, the Heritage Netball League; Louise Harwood, the Luton, Dunstable and District Netball League, Heather Nolan, Bedford and District League and Lian Howlett, the Leighton Buzzard League.

Gloria also welcomed our special guest, Gary Burgess.

A few housekeeping points first. Many of you have been to this venue before but please note where the fire exits signs are in case we hear an alarm and the toilets are located through the doors behind you and down the corridor to the main entrance.

We have 33 members attending who have pre-registered and are eligible to vote. Just a reminder that in any voting situation, it is only 1 vote per Club and not per team, and a further 42 members pre-registered in a non-voting capacity.

1. Apologies

Maggie Jackson Performance Lead, Heather Nolan Chair of Bedford League
Melissa Barnes – Red Stripes
Sheran Lobleby – County Treasurer
Julie Bassett – School representative
Nas Khan – Luton Tornadoes
Nicky Stracey – Team Crystal
Rachel Lewis – Schools representative
Laura Thurlow

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 14th July 2021

The minutes of the last AGM were agreed as a true record, and duly signed by the Chair.

Proposed: Tracey Petrie

Seconded: Linda Smith

Matters arising:

- Gloria confirmed that the deferred County Awards event covering 2021/21 in November 2021.
- The items contained in the agreed 'Re-ignite our game' package to Members has been progressed. The contribution from the County to teams subsidise the cost of entry fees to their relevant leagues was paid at the beginning of the season. As already reported the County awards Event will be an annual event going forward. The one outstanding item from the package is the hosting of a Bedford Netball Festival. A working group has been formed and plans commenced for this to go ahead in the coming season.

➤ Under chairman's remarks – The details and plans for The Heather Crouch Legacy have been progressed, we are hopefully on track to commence this programme in the forthcoming season. The monies provided by the Trustees of the Heather Crouch Legacy Fund have still not been used and are ring fenced for the programme.

3. Chairman's Remarks

As I write this forward for the Annual Report, I am delighted that we will be able to host the County Annual General Meeting this year properly, face to face.

We encountered two years like no other and although we moved towards September 2021 and the start of a new season with enthusiasm and high expectations, there was still a certain amount of nervousness to overcome after the experiences of the previous 18 months. That said, it is encouraging to know that netball in Bedfordshire has survived, everyone has pulled together, as things started to get back to some normality, I am pleased to say that our return to the courts back in January showed 88% membership return, 96% of Clubs returning and 100% of Leagues up and running.

So all four of our Leagues began their competitions in September/October, with some restrictions in place, but COVID still impacted and a high number of games were affected. However, netball has triumphed and as we come to the end of our season, our Leagues finish with their cup/plate finals, and all have plans in place now for the summer and for the forthcoming season.

Recognition of the amount of time and effort our volunteers give to netball is paramount, without their contribution Clubs, Leagues and the County would not be able to function, this is one particular area that the County will continue to focus on for the forthcoming season, we have introduced a new appointment to the County Committee, a Volunteer Recognition Lead role, this is a dedicated post to lead on development and recognition programmes which acknowledge the invaluable service provided by volunteers. We will continue with our annual County Awards Celebration Event, and our County Award nominees and winners will be acknowledged during the AGM.

You will be able to see from the individual reports contained in the Annual Report details of the activities that have taken place around the County, so I will leave you to please read the Report at your leisure. However, I would like to mention a couple of items. One highlight of the season was the successful Academy Invitational Tournament held on 30 April 2022, in Bedford. 11 visiting Counties sent their Academy Squads in the U13 and U15 age groups to take part. The feedback from this event from the participating Counties was outstanding. The other item, is our Coach Education programme, Year 1 of the programme ended in May and Year 2 is now been planned and has been advertised, the development of Coaches within the County is a high priority for us. The Coaching TSG is to be commended on this programme.

The County finances continue to be in a healthy position, thus enabling us to maintain the Development Fund, where resource is available to assist Members who wish to improve their knowledge and skills and pursue personal development. Full details of the Development Fund criteria and application forms are available on the website, www.bedfordshire-netball.com.

Going forward and looking ahead to next season, it is great to see the plans for netball within the County and I am sure whatever challenges come our way, our dedicated netball volunteers will see us through. Looking back over the past 12 months I am again proud of all those across Bedfordshire who have worked so hard in the background within the County and Leagues to ensure that netball has really returned to the County.

I must thank the County Committee Members for their hard work throughout the season and for their significant contribution to netball in the County; and a personal thank you to them all for their support to me throughout the season.

4. Presentation of the Annual Report 2019-20

The Bedfordshire Annual Report is a record of activities that have taken place across the County over the season, as reported by the County Committee Technical Support Group Leads, the Netball Development Officer and the Schools reps, four league Chairs is also included in the report.

Performance TSG presented by Michelle Power

Coaching TSG presented by Hayley Mackeller

Competition TSG presented by Juliet Jones

Netball Development Officer presented by Jo Brewster

Gloria thanked Juliet Jones who is stepping down from the competition role and Julie Bassett and Helen Cuthbert for their efforts over the past three years as Schools reps.

The last reports in the Annual Report are provided by the four Leagues, so will not be read out as they are taken from their reports from their own AGMs.

Proposer: The County Committee would like to propose this document as a record of activities across the County for the 21-22 season

Seconded: Anna Roberts

5. Treasurer report

I see my role as being a custodian of your money and by presenting the Finances to you each year I hope to be able to reassure you that it is looked after well. My fellow members on the County Committee have the hard job of spending the money and keeping within the Budgets set and I thank them for all that they do.

Last year we agreed from a County perspective that every team receive 50% of their League entry fee paid for out of our Cash Reserves – The cost to the County for this was £4,520

In addition we held a County Presentation Evening to reward and say thankyou to individuals/teams that have served the Netball community in Bedfordshire - The cost to the County was £965

All this was spent out of Cash Reserves, ie money we have 'saved up'.

This Financial year we have made a surplus and so our Reserves have been bolstered again.

In summary we did not spend all the money received and budgeted to spend so have a surplus of £3925, we also had additional affiliation fee income of £883 as affiliation numbers grow back to pre-Covid levels and surplus Development Fund income of £697. So with the money we spent from 'savings' and the surplus we achieved this year the Net spend by us was only £206.

The money that is held by the County and the Leagues is your money and you should always challenge, question why and what we do with your money. We are always looking for new and exciting ways of giving something back to you in a netballing capacity – so take part , be a part of the committees and help give us new ideas as we can only do so much with our time.

I therefore present the Financial Statements to you and am happy to answer any questions you may have - albeit I will have to come back to you when someone passes on the questions to me !!

6. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2022

Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2022. You have received a set of accounts in your AGM paperwork.

As you can see our accounts show a healthy balance and Sheran does an excellent job in keeping us in check with any spending, so thank you to Sheran.

The accounts have been duly audited by Ralinson Pryde and Partners Chartered Certified Accountants. I would like to ask that we adopt the Accounts for the 2021-22 season.

Proposed: County Treasurer

Seconded: Aimee McGrath

7. Appointment of Auditor

The Treasurer would like to recommend that Rawlinson Pryde & Partners, Chartered Accountants be appointed to audit the Accounts again for the coming 2021/22 season.

Proposed: County Treasurer Seconded: Jo Hilditch

8. Affiliation fees 22-23

EN have increased their affiliation fees for this season to £37.50 per member
East Region have reinstated their regional membership fee of £1.20
County again will not be increasing their fee.

9. Election of Officers

Existing Officers Standing for Re-election
Chairman

: Gloria Keech

Vice Chairman	: Louise Harwood
County Secretary	: Juliet Jones
County Treasurer	: Sheran Lobley
Performance TSG Co Lead	: Maggie Jackson
Officiating TSG Lead	: Kay Smith
Co-opted Member	: Sandra Howlett
Coaching TSG Lead	: Hayley Mackeller

No other nominations received for these positions; therefore I would like to ask for a proposal that all the above Officers/Members be elected on Bloc.

Seconded by Alison Brightman

Competition TSG Lead
Nomination Jo Randall

The nomination has been duly proposed. No other nominations for this post.

Co-opted Member

Nominations received: Julie Bassett, Victoria Topa, Julie Wilkinson
All nominations were duly proposed and elected en bloc.

Seconded by Jess Wallis

Confirmation of Appointed Members:

Schools Rep (Appointed): Rachel Lewis and Leah Funge

Heritage League Chair (Appointed): Louise Brown

Bedford League Chair (Appointed): Heather Nolan

Luton League Chair (Appointed): Louise Harwood

Leighton Buzzard League (Appointed): Lian Howlett

We are seeking to make the following appointments to meet the challenges that the County will face going forward and to maintain our achievement of criteria to meet the Code for Sports Governance - Tier 1:

Safeguarding Officer (Appointed): Vacant

Volunteer Recognition Lead (Appointed): Natascha Kelly nominated and duly proposed. Seconded by Rachel Stocker

Communications Lead (Appointed): Vacant

Gloria thanked all the new members who stepped forward to join the County Committee – welcome

There are still some vacancies we would like to fill, please ask a committee member for further details.

10. County Volunteer Awards - Recognition

As already reported, The County awards were presented during an afternoon tea and prosecco celebration at Bedford Athletic Stadium on Sunday 10th July. Images of all the winners/nominees can be seen on the website. However, we must acknowledge and record the names of the volunteers in the county records.

Nominations for the EAST ONE Awards were recognised by the East Regional at a celebration held in Cambridge on Sunday 3 July and the County would like to officially recognise Bedfordshire County nominees as follows:

Hayley Mackeller	Coach of the Year Children and Young People
Alison Brightman	Mary Bullock Award
Louise Brown	Sheelagh Redpath Community Officials Award
Bern Palmer	Muriel McNally Award
Juliet Jones	Unsung Hero Award
Nas Khan	Muriel McNally Award
Mary Hull	Unsung Hero Award

County Long Service Awards:

Michelle Drakes, Vicky Norman, Julie Wilkinson, Joy Champion, Angela Beattie and Jeanette Johnson

County Awards:

Bedfordshire Administrator Award:	Jackie Stigwood
Bedfordshire Grassroots Coach Award	Hayley Mackeller
Bedfordshire Outstanding Netball Club	Bedford Community NC
Bedfordshire officials Award	Jeanette Johnson
Nancy Morris Trophy Award	Vanessa Girvan
Nancy Morris nominees	Juliet Jones and Jennie Reed

Mary won the Unsung Hero East ONE award, she now goes forward to the National EN Awards.

Gloria thanked Kendra Slawinski for her term as President of BCNA for 19 years and announced her successor is Alison Brightman.

‘It’s been honour to have you as our President, I’m sure this is not goodbye for ever as I know we will see you at some around the courts or at some netball events’

Sylvia Eastley Award

Gloria explained to attendees who Sylvia Eastley was and her engagement with the county for many, many years. It was decided that sadly after her passing recently, a trophy would be awarded in her memory. This was the criteria and the trophy was awarded to Hayley Mackeller.

The Sylvia Eastley Trophy is a new Award we have introduced to honour a long standing member of Bedfordshire Netball, Sylvia Eastley. Netball meant so much to Sylvia, especially netball in Bedfordshire. She was involved in both Coaching and Officiating. Her knowledge and expertise were greatly respected both as a Coach and an International Umpire. An exceptional volunteer, Sylvia was so generous with her time and sharing her expertise with all.

This award will be presented annually to a person who has made a significant impact in developing individuals to reach their full potential either as an Umpire or a Coach, by generously giving their time; knowledge and experience.

10. Date of next AGM1 2th July 2023

The Chair advised that this now concludes the AGM and thanked everyone for attending.