

**TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**  
**7pm at Blue Flames Sporting Club**

**Committee – in attendance**

Kerry Smith Coaching Officer

Liz Wisniewski Competitions Officer

Linda Hall Treasurer

Cat Witty County Secretary

Deborah Percy Performance Officer

Rachel Cassidy Publicity Officer

Emma Ross Officiating Officer

Charlotte Hills Youth Officer

Wendy Pinkney Committee Member

**Clubs – in attendance**

7 four 7, 7 Up, Alexandra, Astley, Beacon, Blue Flames, Bond Dickinson, Burnside, Chopwell, Cobalt Vixens, Concordia, Custom Planet, Denton Park, Durham Dodgers, Durham Palatinates, FOWS, Freeman Knights, GALS, Gateshead, Gosforth, Great Park, Greencroft, Fusion, Jesmond, KATS, NT Unison,

Newcastle City, Newcastle Storm, Novos, Panthers, Prudhoe, PWC, P&G, Riverside, Sage, Sandyford, Seaton Burn, Seatonians, Stadium, Stanley Thunder, Sunderland Predators, TEAM, Tigers, Tynemouth, Vixens, Wearside Wildcats, Westgate, Willington,

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes of 2015 AGM**

Minutes agreed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Lynne Booth, seconded by Lynn Morrison

**3. Committee Reports**

**Performance** - Deborah Percy reported on Academy and Satellite achievements and was happy to report there had been a lot of progress.

**Coaching** – Kerry Smith reported on Coaching in the county. Basically we need more coaches, there is funding available to help with costs of course so please get in touch and encourage anyone in your club to get qualified.

**Officiating** - Emma Ross (Officiating Officer) gave a brief report and pointed out we need more umpires to take C award and C award umpires to progress to B. The Umpire Seminars would take place later in the season as we were waiting for confirmation around the new regulations. Dates were also given out for the fitness tests.

**Affiliations** – Katie Davidson (Affiliations Officer) outlined that there were no changes to the affiliations fees in any of the age groups. My Net will be available from 1st August 2016 for affiliations. Be aware that fees paid using Debit Card at 25p extra and Credit Card at 4% extra. It was clarified that all first affiliations must be done via My Net and that any additional player payments were made direct to the County.

**Schools** - Kim Richardson had stepped down as Schools Secretary and she was thanked for her work on the committee. In her absence Liz W. outlined the competition this year and congratulated the T&W schools who had reached national finals. It was also confirmed that following the trial of after school events the County would return to a weekend full day event in the coming season.

**Competition** – (Liz Wisniewski) The new process of submitting club rosters and nominations at the first match of the season had worked well and would be continued. Additional Players and payments for additional players would also continue to be done at this time. There is still high demand to join the league and not enough hours in the evenings to expand. Clubs on the waiting list were encouraged to consider joining the Northumberland and North Durham leagues or the social leagues where there is space.

Over the course of the season a few issues had been raised so it is intended to do a wider review of competition next season. In terms of rule changes for the coming season then an amendment would be made to the playing up rule. Playing up wouldn't be removed but it would be reduced. It was emphasised that clubs shouldn't be relying on players playing up in order to fulfil fixtures they should make sure they had plenty of players for each squad. The

cancellation rule has worked well and won't be changed. Teams were asked to ensure they had captains and that the captain understood their role on the night.

There was one concern raised which was around the area of Respect. Everyone involved was asked to ensure they showed respect to other parties. This was specifically around dissent on court by players towards umpires, and also comments from benches about umpire's decisions. Similarly umpires were reminded to address players in a polite manner. Respect on court between players was also raised, for example playing with due respect to the safety of other players and also that verbal abuse was not acceptable. Finally it was emphasised that players must take the court with the intention of playing to the rules and in a sporting manner!

Junior League – set up by our Youth Secretaries – Charlotte and Leanne. Invited clubs from outside the direct Tyne and Wear area which has helped to increase the number of teams and provide a wider spread of competition and abilities. Will run again next year on a Sunday out of Gateshead Stadium.

#### **4. Adoption of Accounts**

Linda Hall presented the accounts which had also just been audited with no issues raised. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Cat Witty and seconded by Julie Waller.

#### **5. Elections of Officers**

Kerry Smith was appointed as Chair, proposed by Cat Witty, seconded by Liz Wisniewski.

Leanne Watson had stood down as Youth Officer but Charlotte Hills was remaining in post.

The roles of Schools Secretary and Coaching Secretary were available as no nominations had been received. Anyone interested was asked to approach a member of the committee after the meeting.

It was also mentioned that anyone interested in getting involved in the work of the Committee but who didn't want to take on a formal role would be welcomed.

#### **6. Appointment of an Auditor**

It was agreed to appoint Val Reynolds as Auditor for the TWCNA County and Affiliation Accounts.

#### **7. Consideration of Proposed Resolutions**

There were no proposed resolutions.

The Chair closed the formal part of the meeting.

Helen Emmerson the England Netball North East Regional Manager delivered a presentation on the proposed boundary changes between Tyne and Wear and North Durham. Although TWCNA are called Tyne and Wear they do not cover the boroughs of Sunderland and South Tyneside which would traditionally be considered T&W. This causes confusion both for potential players looking for clubs and for organisations who view T&W as the original 5 boroughs. Initially the changes would not have a significant effect on playing, the North Durham League would continue as is, but the governance arrangements would change. There would be a knock on effect for South Durham & Cleveland Netball Association so agreement across the region was required. At the moment discussions were still being held with all parties. A show of hands confirmed that there was agreement to continue with discussions and that any firm proposal would be brought to a future AGM before being agreed.

Entries for the Winter League were taken and confirmed.