



## Minutes of AGM Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**1. Welcome** made by the Chair Debbie Sims

**2. Apologies** – Andrea Peters (Exec), Chloe Cross-Henley (Social-Media), Penny Hilton (Mendip NC), Lisa Packer (County Player Development Lead) Lynne Cornish (Sydenham NC)

**3. Attendees:**

**Committee:**

Debbie Sims (Chair) Julie McClean (Vice Chair) Michelle Clarke (Secretary) Hazel Hucker (Treasurer) Mel Reynolds (Fixtures Secretary) Cath Clark (Officiating Secretary) Mel Reynolds (Membership secretary) Rebecca Divall (County Player Development Lead) Hollie Wright (Junior Lead) Mavis Thorpe (Executive Member and President) Sue Pryor (Executive Member) Jo Templeman (EN Development Officer)



## **Clubs**

**Bridgwater NC –**

**Galmington NC –**

**Keinton NC –**

**Paulton Rovers NC-**

**Purnell NC –**

**Queens NC –**

**Robins NC –**

**Wildcatz NC –**

**Stanchester NC-**

**Sydenham NC –**

**Taunton NC –**

**Tor NC –**

**Walton NC –**

**Wells NC –**

**Yeovil NC –**

**Mendip NC – a**

**Wellington NC –**

**Frome NC –**



4. **Conflicts of Interest** - None

5. **Agreement of accuracy of last AGM meeting minutes** dated Wed 8<sup>th</sup> June (copy attached) –  
Accepted as accurate

6. **Matters Arising from the last AGM** –

- a. Hall of Fame – now established on the Website  
**SCNA Committee Action - introduce a nomination process**
- b. Performance Group – now created and established

7. **Correspondence** – None



## 8. Annual Reports

- **Chairperson – Debbie Sims**

### Positives:

1. Amazing year in terms of delivering on our main effort of increasing numbers of officials and supporting them on their journey. Thank you all for your support with this.
2. Great support from a proactive committee. Sad to say goodbye to Julie, Vice Chair after an incredible 7 years and Hazel Hucker, Treasurer, after 3 years. Also said goodbye to Hazel Davidson, who ran the Player Development Pathway very efficiently, but extremely grateful to Becky Divall and Lisa Packer for taking this on. Thank you all so much!

### Challenges:

1. Facilities, on-going concern. Separate meetings to support/put some pressure on Strobe to sort out their courts (central location, used extensively for Juniors and Tor NC).
2. Lack of support from EN for grassroots netball – ongoing.
3. How to give our local girls the best opportunities to become part of the netball community at an earlier stage, hopefully leading to greater success on the Pathways.
4. Keeping the momentum going with regards to officiating and properly embedding those newly qualified officials.



- **Treasurer – Hazel Hucker** – Senior Accounts for 2022/23 Season attached to email.  
Audited accounts for Seniors, Juniors and Performance to follow shortly.
- **Fixtures and Membership Secretary – Mel Reynolds**

I would like to start by saying a massive thank you to the Fixtures Sub Committee who without their help during the season would have made my job even harder. We might not have met up this year, but I cannot thank you all enough. I promise to meet at least once next season and not to be so controlling! I am grateful that Steph Holley, Sue Greene and Sarah Lewis have agreed to continue. We will miss Paula Isaacs (who is away) and Chloe Cross-Henley who has started a new job.

As this was the first real season back after COVID rules there were some teams who were keen to be in lower divisions as felt the lack of playing would affect the competency of the teams. This was allowed but made a couple of the divisions smaller than usual. The season started off well. During the 2022/23 season we experienced weather issues and as a result a number of cancellations. but in the end, all but a couple of matches were played. The end results were:



Premier Division winners Tone and runners up Claremont  
Division one winners Queensway and runners up Panthers  
Division two winners Queens and runners up Newbarn  
Division three winners Dolphins and runners up Pumas  
Division four winners Darts and runners up Stingrays

I had provided the promotions and relegations but this has had to change. I will send these out later this evening.

In September the first Saturday will be a type of rally for Clubs to use as their warm up. You might not play all teams but I will try to give a mix of matches. It will be held at Taunton Vale and there will be free parking!

The Divisions in September will be made up with the following number of teams:

Premier	11
Division 1	11
Division 2	11
Division 3	9 or 10
Division 4	9 or 10



The Draft Fixtures will be with you by the end of June and there will be some “central venues” included.

I hate to mention this but I am still short of a few trophies and will email out to the Clubs about these going forward. I intend to present these 2022/23 cups at the September Rally.

**Action to Clubs – Do you have any trophies??**

Finally - I would like to thank all the clubs for being supportive – my only little comment would be that if you have a query, more often than not, the answer us in the rules!!

- **Officiating Lead – Cath Clark** – Power Point Presentation attached to email



- **Performance – Rebecca Divall and Lisa Packer** – Additional Power Point Presentation attached to email

Lisa Packer and I picked up the Somerset Pathway Development Programme in April from Hazel and Paula. On behalf of all the athletes, coaches and clubs, we would like to thank Paula and Hazel for the many hours they have devoted to this programme over the past few years.

Due to circumstances that were out of our control, there was sadly not an opportunity for a robust handover. Whilst we were already coaching with the programme, it has been a (very!) steep learning curve and we would like to take this opportunity to thank athletes, parents, coaches, clubs and schools for their understanding and patience during this challenging transition. We recognise that this period will be a continual learning process, which will aid reflection to benefit the programme and improve it. We have been well supported in this, by SCNA and Natalie Roddy at Team Bath, so would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved.

### **Audit**

Our first step was to audit the success of the programme.

### **What we found out:**

- As a County in the region, we often find our teams are outplayed by their Southwest Counterparts.
- There is a drop-off of talented players in Y7 and Y9.
- Historically we do not have a wealth of players progressing to Team Bath U15s.
- Most athletes on the programme are not in clubs in Somerset.





- Many athletes only play netball at school and from January to March.
- Athletes on the programme who have the greatest trajectory, have access to weekly competitive match play. This is mostly the case for those who participate in Senior Leagues.
- Players who are able to access Senior Regional level matches and training weekly, make good progress in the pathway.
- Players' attendance at sessions has dropped off since Covid. Some players are only attending 50-60% of sessions. Some of these players are dual athletes and struggle to juggle fixtures/training in their other sport(s).
- There is no clear policy for deselection/removal from programme.
- Programmes were not full despite a wealth of talent on display at the monthly junior Strode tournaments.
- Most players were from a small number of schools and clubs.

**Our short-term goals are to:**

**Expand and fill the programme:**

1. Create development squads to 'mop up' athletes who are not quite ready for U15s/U13s in Y5/6/7 and Y9. We have set this in motion this year and have enough that have trialled to fill these academies.
2. Moving trials forward to June, to ensure selected players are not pulled into ADCs, leaving gaps in the programme.
3. Creating a 'waiting list' of unsuccessful athletes to call upon when gaps emerge.



4. Create a clear progression through development squad at U12s, U13s Satellites, U14s Development and U15s Academy.
5. Have a clear policy on commitment and attendance to the programme.
6. Create a database for ALL schools and clubs across Somerset.
7. Have a dynamic and flexible system that allows for talented players who join clubs/school post trials, to still access the programme if suitable.

#### **Create a culture of commitment and ambition.**

1. Create opportunities for match play against other County teams.
2. Ensure pathway players are able to access weekly competitive match play from September to Easter.
3. Ask Clubs to support us to help successful athletes to get the opportunity to play weekly. Ideally in a Senior team. This could involve taking on players initially as training partners, or sign posting them to another local club, who have capacity for younger players to join their senior teams.
4. Establish a Strength and Conditioning programme to dovetail training sessions.
5. Improve representation amongst our coaching team to better reflect all the clubs across Somerset.
6. Visit junior tournaments and training sessions to scour for talent.

#### **Improve communication with athletes, parents, clubs and schools.**

1. Create database of schools/clubs.
2. Visit junior tournaments and training sessions.
3. Set up programme specific social media and website



4. Improve website content

**Broaden reach of programmes into range of clubs**

1. Open sessions for coaching CPD and opportunity for development of club coaches.
2. Identify clubs that aren't putting forward players and ascertain barriers to participation, offering support and guidance.
3. Use trials as an opportunity to develop and mentor young umpires.

Our long-term objectives are:

**To make the programme financially self-sustainable**

1. Clear budgeting at start of season.
2. Move income and outgoings to monthly payments.
3. Investigate possibility of some of the Junior Affiliation money being ring fenced for the programme.

**To increase the number of athletes progressing to ADCs and Team Bath U15s/U17s**

1. Keep, develop and expand current coaching team.
2. Improve quality and quantity of match play.
3. Increase attendance on programmes.
4. Make selection and maintenance of places on programmes competitive.

**To broaden the reach of the programme beyond a few dominant clubs and schools**

1. Expand coaching team to include representatives from many clubs.
2. Liaise with and support clubs to enable players to access quality training and match play outside of the programme.



We are looking for a bank of coaches who might be able to do a few sessions a term in an assistant role. We need someone who is social media savvy to help with our online profile.

Please do come and speak to us if you are able to help

**Action for Clubs – Communicate with your members re the above request**

- Junior Chair – Hollie Wright

I wanted to start by saying thank you to all our Clubs, representatives, players, parents, coaches, umpires and committee members for their assistance this season.

### **2022/2023 Season**

We welcomed Frome NC to juniors this season and we hope that they have enjoyed the season and will continue to be a part of our league.

A huge thank you to Hazel, Jan, Sally and Cath for all their help this season and to Clubs for their co-operation, especially with our zoom meetings, Google forms and various communications. We will no doubt continue our meetings via zoom for future seasons.



We appreciate the need for more regular junior games than is currently provided for and this is an issue which we discuss every season with clubs, at the moment we do need SCNA's continued support to provide assistance with getting more coaches and umpires qualified in order to assist the current club volunteers. Often at club level the coaching/umpiring is down to the same people and we would welcome any assistance in order to look to the future and improve the current junior set up but we can only do so once clubs are properly supported. Please if you have an interest in netball coaching or umpiring contact your club (or SCNA) to point you in the right direction

We ran a Cup competition alongside our usual fixtures for U14 and U16 which has permitted more match play for those age groups – Congratulations to Galmington (U14 winners) and Bridgwater (U16 winners). We would like to see more of an uptake in the Cup fixtures and it may be that we look to include Cup fixture dates centrally in order to help facilitate more clubs being able to participate.

Whilst we have had issues with Strode courts this season, this is a county wide issue given other netball events and so SCNA, Somerset NDO and Tor are working to resolve these issues and come up with a more long-term plan. This is being reviewed regularly and particularly over the summer months so we can ensure a positive start to the 2023/24 season.

We held another very successful Bee Netball Festival in April 2022 with over 30 boys and girls across Somerset and I am hopeful that this will introduce some new players into our Somerset Clubs. This is an event we are keen to continue for future seasons.



We have also had a lot of interest in our Junior Into course which ran in November and provided support to those umpires where needed in order to get them onto a EN Into Officiating course and assessed. We will look to hold another Junior Into next season for other juniors wishing to pick up a whistle.

Thank you to all the umpires this season who have helped their clubs, and other clubs, to ensure fixtures were able to be played. Thank you also to Cath Clark for being a liaison with newly qualified umpires when clubs were struggling.

We also held a tournament in conjunction with EN and King's College in May. Thank you to Sammy and Jo for all their help with this event. We initially opened this up to Somerset clubs only, but subsequently expanded this to other local counties and schools in the area. We welcomed EN Future Rose Jayda Pechova who presented the medals and held a Q&A for all the players. Again, this is another event to be reviewed for next season.

Congratulations to all the newly qualified coaches and umpires this season and thank you for your assistance at our junior events.

League positions

Club have been sent the final League Tables, however, congratulate to the following clubs:-



U12A Winners – Gal A

U12A Runners Up – Yeovil U12B Winners – Gal B

U12B Runners Up – Sydenham

U14A Winners – Gal A

U14A Runners Up – Taunton A U14B Winners – Paulton A

Regional Update

U14B Runners Up – Keinton

U16A Winners – Galmington A U16A Runners Up – Bridgwater A U16B Winners – Keinton

U16B Runners Up – Gal B

U14 Cup Winners –Galmington U16 Cup Winners – Bridgwater

Well done to Galmington for representing Somerset at U16 level. See their report below. Unfortunately, Somerset were only able to enter 1 team this season due to constraints on clubs, I am hopeful that next season we will be able to field 2 teams at U14 and U16 level. As usual we will hold a play off early in Sept to identify the teams to represent Somerset.



### *Galmington U16s Report*

*The U16's had a fantastic season. The growth in their confidence and performance was significant each match they played. They had some close, hard-fought games with only a couple of goals in it and often the score-line did not reflect the performance. They competed well with all the teams in their league. The U16's represented Somerset with grit, determination and resilience. They demonstrated tenacity on court, with outstanding passages of play in attack and produced tips and interceptions through their hard work and pressure in defence. Well done to all those that represented Somerset this season.*

Ongoing we are looking to continue to work closely with the Umpiring Sub-Committee and Performance Committee to ensure that we are all working towards the same goals across the County.

All Committee members will officially stand down at the AGM and be voted back in (if they wish) and if no other volunteers step up. [If you would like to be involved with the junior committee, please do contact me.](#)





## **Plans 2023/24 Season**

Firstly, welcome to Wellington NC who will be joining our junior league from September.

Hopefully we will hear from Regional with their dates for next season in July and we can then review the calendar and look to provisionally set some dates for County fixtures (and extra to accommodate bad weather/Cup fixtures). I will let Clubs know as soon as we hear anything and will circulate information regarding team entries.

Next seasons' potential events:-

1. Somerset Primary School Netball festival;
2. Working with the NDO to provide support for Primary Schools with the basics of netball and potential CPD opportunity;
3. Junior Into Officiating course;
4. Cup fixtures; and
5. End of Season tournament.



If anyone has any other ideas to help progress junior netball in any way please let me know. I would also ask that Clubs continue to ensure that a representative is sent to every meeting.

One final thing, a more personal thank you to Jan, Johanna, Sammy and Debbie who have assisted me in recent months particularly at the EOS tournament and Primary School Festival – given the nature of my injury I have been unable to drive and been immobile since the end of April which has meant that I have missed out on these 2 events.

If there is anything Junior County can do to assist please do let me know

[somersetjuniornetball@gmail.com](mailto:somersetjuniornetball@gmail.com)

- NDO – Jo Templeman – Power Point Presentation attached to email



## 9. Election of Officers:

The table below shows who stood in that post for season 2022/23 and who will be standing next season 2023/24. Please note that we are still looking for a couple more volunteers for the Fixtures Sub Group. **Action to Clubs – Ask around to see if anyone is interested. Please contact myself or Mel for further information.**

Post	Current 2022/23	Standing 2023/24	Voted for & Seconded by
President	Mavis Thorpe	Mavis Thorpe	NA
<b>Exec Posts</b>			
Chair	Debbie Sims	Debbie Sims	Jo Templeman & Mavis Thorpe
Vice chair	Julie McClean	Hollie Wright	Debbie Sims & Cath Clark
Secretary	Michelle Clarke	Michelle Clarke	Jo Templeman & Hollie Wright
Membership Secretary	Mel Reynolds	Mel Reynolds	Cath Clark & Sue Pryor
Treasurer	Hazel Hucker	Tanya Contreras	Michelle Clarke & Julie McClean
Fixtures Secretary	Mel Reynolds	Mel Reynolds	Cath Clark & Sue Pryor
Officiating Lead	Cath Clark	Cath Clark	Julie McClean & Sue Pryor



Performance Lead	Hazel Davidson	Rebecca Divall & Lisa Packer	Julie McClean & Sue Pryor
Junior Chair	Hollie Wright	Hollie Wright	Julie McClean & Sue Pryor
Exec Member	Mavis Thorpe	Mavis Thorpe	Cath Clark & Debbie Sims
Exec Member	Andrea Peters	Kelly Fuller	Michelle Clarke & Julie McClean
Exec Member	Sue Pryor	Sue Pryor	Mavis Thorpe & Julie McClean
<b>Non-Executive Roles</b>			
Social Media Officer	Chloe Cross-Henley	Chloe Cross-Henley	NA
Data Protection Officer	Michelle Clarke	Michelle Clarke	NA
Website Officer	Hollie Wright	Hollie Wright	NA
<b>Officiating Sub Committee</b>	Mavis Thorpe	Mavis Thorpe	NA
	Julie McClean	Julie McClean	
	Victoria Bisgrove	Victoria Bisgrove	
	Sarah Lewis	Sarah Lewis	
	Jenny Rousell	Jenny Rousell	



<b>Fixtures Sub Committee</b>	Sue Greene	Sue Greene	NA
	Paula Isaacs	Vacant	
	Steph Holley	Steph Holley	
	Chloe Cross-Henley	Vacant	
	Sarah Lewis	Sarah Lewis	
<b>Junior Sub Committee</b>	Sally Haysham	Sally Haysham	NA
	Jan Lawes	Jan Lawes	
	Hazel Hucker	Jessie Williams	
		Tanya Contreras	
<b>Player Development Sub Committee</b>	Paula Isaacs		NA
	Hollie Wright	Hollie Wright	
	Imogen Pardoe	Imogen Pardoe	
	Kathy Potts	Kathy Potts	



10. Proposed County Priorities for next season – Power Point Presentation attached to email

11. **Please Note** – Mel Reynolds new Fixtures email address [SomersetNetballLeague@outlook.com](mailto:SomersetNetballLeague@outlook.com)

12. We do not really have an AOB section on the AGM but a note was made going forward to consider how we communicate throughout Somerset. How we can reach and engage all of our members individually whether they use social media or not.

**Action - To be discussed further by committee but any ideas from anyone else are always welcome**

**And Finally - Date of Next Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> August via Zoom at 7.30 – This is to be attended by all Club Chairs as a minimum, anyone else is also more than welcome**