



## Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 19th Feb 2025 via Zoom

1. Welcome given by Chair Debbie Sims

2. Apologies -

**Attended by:** Committee

Debbie Sims (Chair) Hollie Wright (Vice Chair) Michelle Clarke (Secretary) Tanya Contreras (Treasurer) Mel Reynolds (Fixtures and Membership Secretary) Cath Clark (Officiating Lead) Hollie Wright (Junior Chair) Chloe Cross-Henley (Social Media Officer and Wellness & Safeguarding Officer) Jo Templeman (EN Development Officer)

**Clubs:**

Bridgwater NC -  
Galmington NC -  
Keinton NC -  
Midsomer Norton NC -  
Paulton Rovers NC -  
Queens NC -  
Sherborne Sirens NC -  
Stanchester NC -  
Taunton NC -  
Tor NC -  
Walton NC -  
Wells NC -  
Yeovil NC -



3. **Conflicts of Interest** - None

4. **Agreement of accuracy of minutes from last meeting** dated 12th November 2024 (attached) - Agreed

5. **Correspondence** - None

6. **Matters Arising from last meeting** dated 12th November 2024

- Can we have clarification as to whether we are enforcing the new directive of On-Court Captain wearing identification of some sort - no expectations from EN to be used at County level but lots of clubs are already using them - **At County level we are not enforcing this although a lot of the clubs are adopting this and it is very useful from both an umpiring and team perspective. So for those not wearing identification at present it is maybe something to think about.**
- Would it be worth considering the creation of a pool of umpires for junior matches? Some clubs are consistently providing umpires but some are asking for cover every match day which potentially puts the matches at risk. - **At present this is not something that is on the cards. Again the onus is on clubs who enter Junior teams to make provision within their club for umpires for these games. All umpires are encouraged to belong to 'Somerset Umpires Facebook Group' so that they can pick up games to enable them to progress.**



## 7. Officers Reports

- **Chair - Debbie Sims**

Successful continuation of the season and thank you to all Clubs in particular the Fixtures Secs for getting it off to a good start.

A few things carried over from before:

1. We now have our coaching offer in place, and those that signed up for their Elite netball resources access now have access to the website which is fab. We have some sessions with Jenna Adamson (London Pulse and Millfield) in March and April with County funding all places as we have enough money and want to spread the coaching love. The coaching Facebook page is now up and running but not being used that much at the mo.
2. From this Sept there will be a new way of collating results which will mean that league tables will be done automatically once all results are sent in (by 1 person per team via Whatsapp). This has been working really well in other counties and I'm keen to make the system less intensive for the Fixtures/Membership sec. More to follow on this in the summer. But thanks to Mel for persevering this season even though she is very busy.
3. Hollie and I had a call with the EN CEO Fran Connolly in November where we discussed lots of grass roots netball stuff. On the agenda was what our money gets spent on by EN, the relatively poor quality of the training courses EN offer and some other bits. It went well and Fran drew attention to the fact that there is a new Learning & Development team so the courses should be much improved forthwith. There is also a new Coaching lead which is great. She also mentioned the new EN Facilities position so if anyone needs any support with facilities, EN may now be in a position to help. We discussed the proliferation of social non-EN affiliated leagues and there is some work ongoing to identify what is missing in the EN offer that makes these other leagues so attractive.
4. From the NSW County Chairs meeting: There will be a new Gender policy coming from EN soon but there are holding statements in the interim if needed for websites etc. and we need to remove any mandatory instructions about wearing dresses in the move to make netball more inclusive.
5. Looking forward to the NetVets this Sunday and the rest of the league hopefully passing without incident.
6. Please start thinking about your nominations for the Hall of Fame and the One Awards.



7. AGM in June (Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>) will be in person again. If anyone can recommend a good venue please let me/Michelle know.

- **Treasurer - Tanya Contreras**

Balances as at 27 Feb 2025:

Senior bank account and savings - £11,7541.46

Junior current account and savings - £9,602.21

England Netball have now paid their contribution to the Strode sort resurfacing costs.

I've opened a 35 day notice savings account to maximise the interest we can get on our savings.

- **Fixtures & Membership - Mel Reynolds**

Not much to report on this occasion, just ticking along. Central Venue has been organised to take place at Bridgwater Canalside on the 8th March with several Umpire assessments taking place. Hoping for a successful day. Maybe thinking along the lines of smaller central venues in the future as facilities to accommodate these in Somerset are just not adequate to accommodate these.

- **Officiating Lead - Cath Clark**

Great success from last Central Venue as the Indoors games went ahead (eventually) at Taunton Vale. 4 new INTO Umpires and 6 C Award Umpires (an additional 2 umpires were NYM and these will be retested before the end of the season.

Observation games that were cancelled have either been done at another time or will take place at the next central venue.



We also have another Junior Umpire and 3 others WTINTO and will be tested before the end of the season. These Junior Umpires will continue to wear their U18 Arm Band.

We had 4 Somerset Umpires involved in the Regional Schools at Bournemouth. Lindsay Smith from Taunton NC who is working towards her Be was awarded 'Most Improved Umpire of the Tournament'.

Next Central Venue we have 2 Umpires being tested for their C Award and 6 for the INTO.

A reminder to Umpires to do all pre-match protocols and checks together and off court.

It is not an EN requirement that Umpires wear an identification tab at County level but it is really helpful for Umpires so please encourage Clubs to take this forward.

The Game Management / Sanction Ladder was posted on FB pages for players and Umpires. Can Clubs make all players aware so that they are clear what will happen if they are given instruction by the umpires. If the behaviours are not addressed then this could quickly escalate to Suspension/Ordering off which is not a consequence that any team would want.

New Junior Regional Team -

Will be established at Richard Huish College and will be called Huish Tigers. This will be a U16 County Team pulling players from all Clubs. 43 girls have currently been nominated with the majority of them coming from the Pathways.

If successful the players will not be able to play in the Somerset Junior Fixtures but will still be able to play Senior Club Netball by second claiming their Club.

The aim is to bridge the gap between Somerset and Region for the girls and have this experience at Regional level so that they can step up into Senior Regional Teams as a natural progression.



- **Performance - Becky Divall and Lisa Packer**

**Programmes:**

Our programmes are progressing well and we continue to feed the U15s and U13s from our development squads. We have been able to continue to recruit into the development squads thanks to nominations from clubs.

We were delighted to see one of our athletes, who we have worked with from U13s through to ADC, get selected for the long squad for Team Bath U15s. Her opportunity to experience a high level of match play through her club has no doubt helped contribute to her success and so thank you to YNC for supporting with this.

S&C - Huge progress in S&C this season. Steve Pertie has done a great job with setting an online offer that is both feasible and gets results. We can see the difference with athletes in terms of speed and power on court and engagement is good.

Match Play - We have used inter-hub fixtures and continue with tri-counties with West Devon and Dorset to provide match play. We also have a friendly fixture organised against Taunton School next month. If there are any clubs who would like a run out against the U15/U15 development, please do contact us. We train on Thursdays at Westfield/Wellington and can provide an indoor court and umpires.

**Finance:**

Performance accounts – February 2025

Balances as at 28.2.25

Business Account : £15,800.61

Reserve Account : £3,781.37

All participants have been making regular payments to the account by standing order with 3 exceptions that are being supported as hardcase individuals. We will not be in the position come the end of the year where funds will need to be clawed back or individuals chased. Venue payments are up to date and have been checked upon receipt to ensure they are due which highlighted a potential incorrect payment to Wellington School who charged £600 in error. A running total of expenditure has been made for each Academy which will give an accurate picture of costs come the end of the season



which will be broken down per Academy to check their ongoing viability. We have had a few dropouts but do not envisage this negatively affecting the budget as we have gained other athletes since through further trials. Since September 2024, the account has been managing all payments and the reserve fund has not been used. The accounts will be prepared early for auditing in advance of the AGM and up to the 31<sup>st</sup> May instead of the 31<sup>st</sup> March which should capture all income and expenditure for 2024/2025 to give an accurate picture of the Academy costs for all 5 ventures.

SCNA support - We are really excited about the U16 Regional Open Trials and have nominated a number of athletes. We hope this will provide the opportunity for high quality match play for those of our players who aren't able to access the County League as they age out of the programme.

- **Junior Chair - Hollie Wright**

There are only a handful of games left this season and it has not been without difficulties for all clubs. I must stress the communication between junior club reps in order to keep on top of games that are being rearranged and get dates in diaries asap.

We have a planned End of Season tournament on 4th May and the deadline for team entries is 28th Feb.

We also have a date in the diary for a Primary School festival 11th May, however, I would appreciate clubs approaching their coaches to volunteer their time for a few hours. This is usually a well attended event and a good opportunity to recruit players for the 2025-26 season.



There have been quite a few issues with a number of fixtures being rearranged due to player unavailability for various reasons, we have also experienced a few umpiring issues for our fixtures - thank you to Cath for her assistance as always.

Please can all clubs ensure they read and adhere to the Player Loading guidance for u16s. Details available on the website.

There have been some comments about our squad naming system which was introduced this season in order to ensure play is fair for all. This will be reviewed at the end of this season and I will be requesting feedback from all clubs.

We have a planned approach with NDO Jo to provide Youth Camps (3 per season during half terms) the first being Thurs 20th Feb with 26 participants due to attend. This is funded partly by SCNA and means we can offer a cheaper opportunity to netballers in the county. Please keep an eye out for future dates and circulate info to club players.

One final note - I will be stepping down as Junior Lead at the end of the season. I would appreciate a hand over period prior to the end of the season to the new Lead as there are many items which need to be properly handed over and potentially addressed. If there are any volunteers please make contact asap.

**ACTION - Clubs to make members aware that this position needs to be filled for the forthcoming season and anyone interested in finding out some more about what is involved can contact Hollie - [somersetjuniornetball@gmail.com](mailto:somersetjuniornetball@gmail.com) or myself - [somersetnetballsecretary20@gmail.com](mailto:somersetnetballsecretary20@gmail.com) ANY enquiries WELCOME**





- **Coaching Update - Paula Isaacs**

This season SCNA has invested in its County Coaches through several initiatives.

1. ELITE NETBALL ACADEMY ACCESS

SCNA offered all its affiliated clubs an opportunity to have funded access to the Elite netball Academy website that provides coaches with many ideas and practises that can be used to develop players. As well as access to on line CPD courses that Elite offer. I am pleased to report that 17 clubs across Somerset took advantage of this offer. The clubs who now have access are :

Bridgewater NC

Frome

Galmington

Keinton

Mendip Junior NC

Midsommer Norton

Paulton

Queens

Somerset PDP

Stanchester

Sydenham NC

Taunton

Tor

Wellington NC

Wells

Weston NC

Yeovil



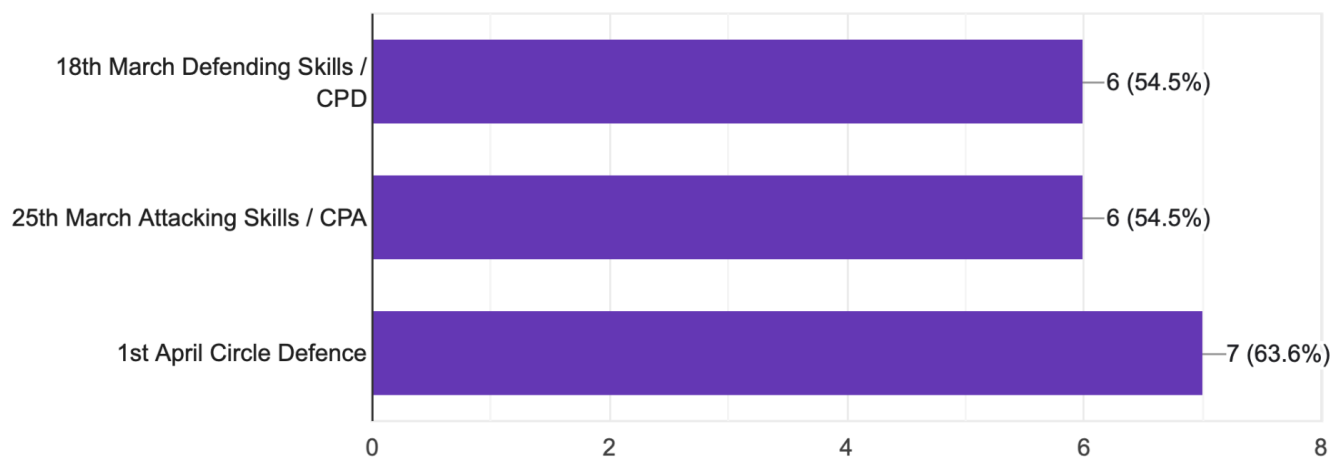
2. SCNA have set up 3 face to face coaching Courses with 10 places per course being fully funded for its member coaches. The courses will take place on the following dates : 18th March: 25th March:1st April . they will be held at Millfield School in the Jubilee Hall and run by Jenna Adamson. Jenna is a Level 3 Netball Coach and has coached at International and Superleague level.

The Sessions will focus on the following areas - Defending skills/Attacking skills/Circle Defence. These topic areas were decided on by the outcome of the coaching questionnaire I sent out to all clubs at the beginning of the season.

Currently we still have a few gaps available. See chart below:

Please choose which session you would like to attend . ( SCNA will fund one place per club per session)

11 responses





- 3) SCNA also set up a Facebook Coaching Page for coaches. My plan was to add videos with practises etc. I must admit I need to spend more time on this. I was also hoping it would become a forum for coaching discussions and sharing of ideas.

- **NDO - Jo Templeman**

Programmes: (Walking Netball, Back to Netball, Netball Now, Bee Netball, WI)

Participation numbers EOY 24/25 target 300 N2N

As we head to the end of quarter 4, we have reached 440 total participants, 299 new to netball.

Bee / SGO: 80

B2N: 29

Netball Now: 46

NYC: 31

Blended: 27

Walking Netball: 86

Numbers for NYCs in the county have struggled due to a variety of factors, one of the key barriers being cost. I wanted to try a new approach so I have worked in partnership with the county to deliver a new look NYC without the red tape.

We have offered a packed day for £25 (£15 sibling discount), delivered by local experienced coaches plus a special guest masterclass from Laura Rudland. We have 2 groups, 7-11 and 12-14 years. We sold out in January and started a waitlist which we have been able to utilise. Looking to replicate this format in Yeovil for Easter 25.

Bee Netball remained the focus for 24-25. Delivered teacher CPD event, Primary schools PE conference and we have 3 Bee netball festivals running at Castle school in March with over 180 participants over 20 schools.

Nationally the picture is exciting:



People:

NSW and EN working in partnership to deliver another Somerset based Walking Netball Festival 13<sup>th</sup> July at Taunton Vale Sports Club (outside). Booking form will be circulated in April.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February EN will be taking down the Expression of Interest link (see below) from the website.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MB87IGacQnkmvBP42T3MDDiSLwCtTwUZSXB\\_pIKDjwI/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MB87IGacQnkmvBP42T3MDDiSLwCtTwUZSXB_pIKDjwI/edit)

The information will then be used to help inform decisions about the scale of our upcoming course launches in mid-March and early April (details to follow next week!).

Moving forwards, we will still be using this process as a central 'source of truth' to capture insight on demand, but we will be doing this in slightly different format. The current form is a rolling one and only allows us to manually remove those who then actually get on a course which isn't sustainable process long term with 5000 learners a year to manage.

Other Updates:

Facility fund is currently open for applications till 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, then window 3 will open on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June. I have attached a document which will tell the league what they will require to apply.

[Information Document 2.docx](#)

This applies to leagues potentially at risk due to facility issues. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this opportunity.



## 8. AOB

### **Filming Policy**

All clubs to make their members aware that it is really important that filming/photographs of any sort during a game should only be done after consent has been obtained from both teams, coaches and umpires. The reason for the filming etc and where this is going to be used should also be made clear. If this is something that they have planned eg. to support a school project and are able to communicate with the opposition team a week in advance then even better as consent can then be obtained from all relevant people in advance of the game.

**ACTION - All clubs to make all of their member aware**

### **Dates of remaining meetings for season 2024/2025**

- *Thursday 19th June - AGM in person*  
To be discussed and a Venue and time to be communicated