



Minutes for meeting dated Tuesday 12th November 2024

1. **Welcome** - given by Debbie Sims

2. **Attendees** -

Committee

Debbie Sims (Chair) Hollie Wright (Vice Chair and Junior Chair) Michelle Clarke (Secretary) Mel Reynolds (Fixtures and Membership Secretary) Cath Clark (Officiating Lead) Kelly Fuller (Executive Member) Sue Pryor (Executive Member) Chloe Cross-Henley (Social Media Officer and Wellness & Safeguarding Officer)

Clubs

Bridgwater NC -
Frome 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 -



Apologies - Tanya Contreras (Treasurer) , Rebecca Divall and Lisa Packer (County Player Development Leads), Jo Templeman (EN Development Officer)

3.Conflicts of Interest - None

4.Agreement of accuracy of minutes from last meeting dated 21st Feb 2024 (attached) - Agreed

5. Correspondence - None

6.Matters Arising from last meeting dated 21/2/2024

- **Facilities Update**

(Previously) We are waiting for a date to book in for discussions. An agreement is drafted, yet to be signed by all parties with regard to short term plan and long term plan actions. Strode courts are in a much better condition now they have been cleaned and the cost came in cheaper than anticipated. Applied for Sport England funding which was declined but now looking at other options and possibility of appealing EN decision in the future.

(as at meeting dated 21/2/24) An Interim package has been executed involving cleaning of the courts and the longer term plan involves communication between SCNA, Netball SW and Strode college. We have put in a request for EN funding and will find out in March if successful. In addition to this we may need to look at other forms of fundraising going forward.

(Now) Courts are all done. Funding from EN to be confirmed by Tanya when received. Thanks to Tor, Walton and County.

ACTION All Clubs - Hollie will welcome any feedback over this season re the courts (good and bad and in between) as she will need to complete evaluation forms for EN and Netball South West.



- **Future Fixtures Rep / Future committee reps** - ideally it would be good if we have a volunteer to shadow Mel for the second half of the season to take over for the following season - **Complete - Sue Greene has kindly agreed to take this on**
- There have been lots of social media posts about the new rules coming in September which are already being used at Superleague and International level - **Complete - we are up and running. If any club comes across an umpire who they feel is not in touch with the new rules report back to Cath and we will look to support them.**
- It was raised that at times this season there are long periods where a team does not have a game. Maybe we could re-introduce the cup/plate again so we have more continuity throughout the year. It has been agreed that this be discussed for implementation next season - **This will be put on the agenda for Fixtures sub group 2025/26. Next year it should be easier as we will probably have another division which will free up some dates. To fit in more fixtures at present would be very difficult.**



7. Officers Reports

- **Chair - Debbie Sims -**

Successful start to the season. Thank you to the Clubs and in particular the Fixtures Secs for getting it off to a good start.

A few things have been happening behind the scenes:

- We now have our coaching offer in place and those that signed up for their Elite netball resources access should have had an email with instructions on how to sign up. This is a great website for coaches for sure and logins can be shared between club coaches too. We are hoping to organise some sessions with Jenna Adamson (London Pulse and Millfield) in the New Year, with County paying 50% of all places – more on this to follow. The coaching Facebook page is now up and running but not many have signed up as yet so please communicate the Facebook page with your coaches. [Somerset county netball coaches page](#)
- Work on the strode courts has been done to improve the surfaces – any feedback welcome on this.
- NetballHER – info now on our website and we will be posting on socials once a month for clubs to share the info. Current topics on the website incl periods and body image
- From next year 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 shortly.
- I have a call with the EN CEO Fran Connolly on Friday 22nd November to discuss grass-roots netball. On my agenda is what our money gets spent on by EN, the relatively poor quality of the training courses EN offers and some other bits.



- EN have simplified the process by which you can contact them – there is a new ‘contact us’ form which will enable your queries to get picked up by the right people quicker. There is also a refreshed online help center and knowledge hub which is easy to find.
- Finally a huge well done to our new Hall of Fame ladies Lynne Cornish and Gill Newton – what an amazing legacy you have left within Somerset netball, a big thank you!

- **Treasurer - Tanya Contreras -**
Bank balances as at 30 October:

Senior - £8,329.99

Junior - £272.32

Joint savings - £8,167.34

We paid for the Strode court costs up front from the Junior account and are awaiting the contribution from England Netball (due in November). Once that is received I will move more funds into the savings account. We have been earning interest of about £20 per month from the savings account.

- **Fixtures & Membership - Mel Reynolds -**

Somerset Netball League is up and running and so far, mostly good!

Well done Club Fixtures Secretaries everything seems to be working well.

Central Venues on 23/11/2024 was changed to Taunton Vale based on the number of teams participating.



Happy for teams that have had matches changed to 14/12/2024 to rearrange these matches.

Membership 12/11/2024

Nothing to report

- **Officiating Lead - Cath Clark**

Increase in Written and Assessment Fees – the implication of this on our County umpires.



Officiating Learner and Workforce Fees

Learner Assessment Fees

Item	Fee	Payable to
A Award – Practical Assessment	£150	England Netball
A Award – Written Assessment	£50	England Netball
B Award – Practical Assessment	£80	Region
B Award – Written Assessment	£50	England Netball
C Award – Practical Assessment	£70	County
C Award – Written Assessment*	£10	Europe Netball
Into Officiating Award Practical Assessment	£33	County

*The first sitting of your C Award Written Assessment is covered within your course fee, however, if additional sitting is required you will need to pay Europe Netball £10.

Review of County Mentoring at the U14 & U16 County Schools Tournament.

10 Umpires (5 WTC 5 WTC B) received mentoring from 5 of the County Mentoring Workforce and Officiating Sub Committee. Thank you to the 4 other umpires who also umpired on the day and supported Team White.



- Mentoring Opportunity at the Somerset U13 & U15 Performance Tournament Day with Devon and Dorset. 6 Umpires (all WTC C) received mentoring. Praised by County Coaches.
- 4 INTO Assessments completed – all successful.
- AOC South West Tournament hosted at Richard Huish Colleges 6 County Umpires (2 WTC C)
- Junior Umpiring Course – 11 Junior umpires attended (22 were booked on!) Currently have 8 U18's actively working towards their INTO Award and 2 working towards their C Award.

Inside Sports Hall				Umpire Assessment		Assessors		Tranieer Assesso	C Assessment
09:00	Spears	v	Queens	Lizi	Eve	Mavis	Sarah	Victoria	D1
10:45	Bishops	v	Newbarn	Denise	Jess	Mavis	Cath	Julie	D1
12:30	Chalice	v	Queensway	Rachael	Tyler	Becky	Sarah	Ali Holmes	D1
14:15	Wyndham	v	Saturn	Chloe	Claudia	Div 1 Obs for Allowances		Mentor - Becky	D1

Court 1				Umpire		Mentor		
09:00	Thorns	v	Comeytrove					D2
10:30	Jesters	v	Hearts					D2
12:00	Hendford	v	Dolphins	Katy		Jenny		D2
13:30	Kestrels	v	Walton	Crissy	Molly	Amy		D2

Court 2				Umpire Assessment		Assessor		
09:00	Frome All Stars	v	Venus					D3
10:30	Stingrays	v	Darts	Lorna	Chloe	Victoria		D3
12:00	Minstrels	v	Neptune					D2
13:30	Canons	v	Reckleford	Tanya	Jo	Cath		D3

Court 3				Umpires	Umpires	Mentor		
09:00	Deacons	v	Manor					D4
10:30	Abbey	v	Monmouth	Kerry	Jade	Jenny		Prem
12:00	Avalon	v	Tudor					D4
13:30	Muskateers	v	Sirens					D4

Court 4				Umpire	Umpire	Mentor		
09:00	Swans	v	Parkfield	Lindsay	Hayley	Julie		Prem
10:30	Summerhouse	v	Deane					D4
12:00	Arrows	v	Diamonds					D4
13:30	Vipers	v	Tone					Prem

● Central Venue – Mentoring / Assessment Day - NB updates on the central venue day have been communicated since this due to predicted inclement weather conditions



- EN Courses and Expression of Interest Form

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

Programmes:

Programme is up and running and most of our centres are now full. We still have spaces in the U13 Development group, 5-6.30pm in Yeovil and are asking for clubs to nominate athletes.

Once again, the flexibility in the programme has paid dividends, with a player moving to Bath ADC and some athletes not taking up their places, we have been able to draw through talented athletes from the U15 Development programme.

S&C

This year we have moved over to a new online S&C programme and having completed testing with athletes, the athletes are now completing their first week of training.

Match Play



We are delighted to be able to offer more opportunities for competitive fixtures this year; our U15s and U13s Yeovil have had a tri-county tournament and there will inter-squad fixtures before Xmas as well as some match play against the Bath ADC and a Southwest Tournament for U15s.

In the meantime we are appealing to clubs to support the athletes in the pathway, giving them the opportunity to participate in weekly match play at a good level. Those players that have this support are making good progress and are the ones who are progressing to ADC in the long term.

Finance:

SCNA support

Thanks to Hollie for her good work in cross checking affiliation to EN (much appreciated) and to Cath and her team of umpires who did such fantastic officiating at our recent tri-counties fixture. We had some lovely feedback from the other counties and it made us feel very proud of the support we have from the SCNA.

Business C/A Balance - £11,181.798

Business Reserve Balance - £8,178.02

After last season where we found over £5000.00 was owed in fees, we have been more vigilant this year.(Most of the outstanding fees have since been recovered). The total fees for each Academy is £320.00 per player for 25+ sessions and match play/tournaments and this has been requested by standing order over 8 months of £40.00 a month. Out of the 109 participants, we now have only 5 athletes where we have yet to receive payment and these are still being chased. Thanks to Fee Grammar who has been brilliant in helping us with this. An actual budget is running alongside the projected budget so by the end of the Academy season we will have an accurate picture of how much the Academies have cost to run this year which the bank account doesn't always reflect correctly. We



have received 3 requests for financial support and allowed £500.00 per academy so have been able to support hardship cases which has allowed certain athletes to continue in the programme.

- **Junior Chair - Hollie Wright -**

New court surface at strode - request any feedback from clubs.

Coffee van available at junior fixtures

Taunton Vale as secondary venue for overflow of games for local clubs for juniors

Reminder for clubs to enforce and remind all club members/parents of CoC/photography policy - all on the website

Remind clubs of player loading guidance - on website

New youth camp structure - discussing with Jo on how to progress for the County. Request for coaches across the County to assist at various locations during half terms. First is Feb 2025 - in Taunton. This will be paid. Maybe one in Yeovil but this is under discussion

Junior officiating course - 10th (11 out of 20 booked on attended). Cath had followed up with details of next steps.



Junior Lead - I will be stepping down in the new season. Anyone interested in taking on the role, I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

- **NDO - Jo Templeman** - I am now working full time as EN Development Officer for Devon - Monday to Wednesday and Somerset - Thursday and Friday

Programmes:

Total Participants through programmes: 301

New to Netball: 172 (57% of total from Walking Netball alone)

Although Walking Netball at Haygrove, Bridgwater was not sustainable for EN to continue supporting the Host Christina Martin will continue with the session for the core group and welcomes newcomers.

Successful NYC delivered at Westfield, October Half term with the support of Hollie. A capacity camp with two age groups, a format we will consider again for future camps.

Continued support of the Walking Netball sessions running across the county, planning a taster session for WI in Taunton to re-engage them post Covid.



Bee Netball focus for 24-25 will be supporting schools to deliver Bee Netball by working with the network of SGOs and supporting the school games. CPD Event at Taunton Vale for Teachers FREE Wednesday 20th November 4-6pm

https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?origin=NeoPortalPage&subpage=design&id=80hxa8F0ezDQkKlzwkig572UzleaBGgZahIEDbH_JUQ0IJUU1WNVk5TEU5M1FUVUtRVjZVUUK1WC4u

Currently have 14 teachers, across 11 schools with the potential to reach an excess of 400 children with Bee.

People:

Working on a joint project with SCNA on a partnership camp with EN, part funded by the county but delivered by EN. Allows us to offer reduced rate free space, help reduce the barriers for anyone who wants to be involved in netball activity. This required the support from local club coaches / volunteers in Taunton / Yeovil for February Half term.

NSW and EN working in partnership to deliver another Walking Netball Festival 2nd February in Bristol. To book use the link:

[Walking Netball Festival Google Form](#)

Into course – Please ensure an expression of interest form is completed for the individual, those who have expressed will get priority for the next release

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejT-VrjW6t7_oFE3aPuXsVPWtacAOedismTkUZgZiOx09DDg/viewform



Other Updates:

As of 4th November 24, I will be NDO for Somerset and Devon East/West working across a full time week 9-5.

To enable me to offer the best of myself across both I have fixed my days as follows:

Devon – Monday-Wednesday

Somerset – Thursday-Friday

However, if anything that needs urgent attention happens on a Devon day please do still get in touch.

8. AOB



Mel Reynolds - Unhappy about the **Regional Umpiring invoice of £780** for Netball South West to allocate regional umpires, previously paying nowhere near this amount. Understands the reasons behind it but not happy about the size of the increase to cover umpires that travel a lot further to cover the games. It appears to be badly organised and allocations of umpires are not much in advance of the games. She may find a way to follow this up.

Can we have clarification as to whether we are enforcing the new directive of **On-Court Captain wearing identification** of some sort

Action- Cath Clark

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.

Action - Junior Committee / Officiating Lead potentially to discuss

Net Vets - Will take place on 23rd Feb 2025 at Strode college. The structure of the competition and further details to follow. Age criteria - Must be over 40 on the date of the competition.

Dates of meetings for season 2024/2025

- Wednesday 19th February via Zoom
- Thursday 19th June - AGM in person

