

DS to provide KM/SF/KG a list of County Coaches from Engage. This appears to have not been as straightforward as first thought and SF would follow up.

Action: SF

10. Umpire Report (24.10.22) – MS had emailed all League Umpiring Secretaries to advise that newly appointed Into Officiating Umpires cannot umpire League matches without Mentor support.

MS would notify those attending the new Assessors Course that the Board would be happy to fund their course fee. CM pointed out that if they wish to send a Bursary could they do it by the end of March. MS would let them know. **Action: MS**

13. Bursary Applications – Defibrillators – KG to investigate costings before Leagues approached to ascertain if they were interested in having one. KG reported that they ranged from £700 to £1000, depending on new or used. KG agreed to post on the Berkshire Leagues WhatsApp Group that the Board were keen to provide one for each League and would this be something they would welcome, and to ascertain whether the venue that they currently play at already has one. **Action: KG**

The minutes were then accepted as true record of the meeting.

5. **Chair's Report**

SF reported that work on the Governance and Adventure Strategy was a priority and she will liaise with Toni Brunsdon and get this work moving forward.

The One Awards – Closing date for nominations is 8 May 2023 so she encouraged the Board to get active in nominations or encourage others to do so. The South Awards will be held on Saturday 17 June with a Festival of Netball at Wavell School in Farnborough.

SF then reported on an issue in relation to the Regional League Play Offs and eligibility of players. Clarification has been sought on some of the rules and there is a meeting scheduled for Sunday 19 March to try and resolve some of the questions asked.

6. **Competition Report**

KM reported that the Leagues have run very smoothly this season, although a few infringements have occurred and the teams will be penalised accordingly. The medals have been ordered and hopefully will be dispatched to the relevant winners in due course and was still considering whether a Summer League would be run. Space at Newbury College has been secured for use as a venue next season. There has been an expression of interest mail has gone out to teams for next season and the response at present has been overwhelming across the age groups. SF commented that this is a testament to the strength of the League that we are getting such an interest from Clubs not only within the County but also outside of the County.

SF reported that at National School Finals, Wellington qualified in the U19 Age Group, and The Marist in the U16 Age Group. Wellington won the Cup competition (2nd tier

of the Competition) but finished 5th overall and The Marist finished 3rd in the Cup competition, but 7th overall. It was good that 2 Berkshire Schools finished so high in a competition that featured 18 teams in each age group.

7. **Finance Report**

CM reported that there was little to report, although she now had access to the Bank Account, so that was something.

CM asked KM to let her know what she needed to bill Eagles for the use of St Neots.

Action: KM

March is our Year End, but CM admitted that she had yet to have last year's Accounts Audited, but payment wise, everything was up to date.

SF asked if CM could send copies of bank statements in relation to the PDP Academy payments, as the programme was nearing completion and we needed to make sure there were no outstanding payments.

Action: CM

MS asked whether Candidates for Assessments had been making their payments.

CM asked that if names of those Candidates could be sent to her she would check.

Action: MS/CM

8. **Development & Performance Report**

SF reported 2 x U13 PDP Academies had been run at St Neots with Tina Berenger And Tina Wood leading one, and Kate Maxfield and Marina Bignell the other. There had been movement between the 2 groups to ensure athletes were training with those of a similar ability. Both groups had their full quota of athletes.

There are 2 x U15 Academies running at Wellington College with a few spaces due to the loss of athletes at the beginning of the programme when they were selected for Surrey Storm. SF, KM and Georgie Maxfield coaching both groups.

There has been success with some of the current U15 PDP athletes. 13 were nominated to attend Surrey Storm trials, 11 were offered places of which 1 decided not to accept but the remaining 10 now make up half of the 20 athletes who are currently training monthly ahead of the next step in the selection process.

As part of our agreement with EN we have provided opportunities for athletes to play against other counties. 2 more dates are organised for April and May for our U15s.

One in Bedfordshire (includes 1 x U13 team) and one at Surrey Sports Park.

SF continues to be part of Surrey Storm's Talent Management Group along with representatives from other Counties aligned to Surrey Storm. We share ideas and are kept informed of plans being put together by the franchise that will impact on County programmes.

SF is currently in discussions with Storm to arrange a screening event in June to see potential athletes for Surrey Storm U17 trials in September as well as the new U15 athletes who wish to be considered for Berkshire's U15s programme. It is hoped that this will avoid large numbers of athletes applying to Storm who would prosper better in the County programme. Regular zoom sessions are held with EN and Storm, which prove frustrating and little progress is being made on providing Counties with

resources that were promised over 18 months ago.

9. **Coaching Report**

KG had little to report, but mainly is ensuring the right level of coach is present on match days and she has regularly liaised with KM on this.

KG reported that Bracknell Sports Centre have asked if she can run some Junior sessions and she has recommended Primary School age as there appears to be a severe lack of netball played in Primary Schools in general, and this may attract those that just want to give netball a go. It is proposed that a couple of Taster sessions will be held during the Easter holidays to see what interest there might be.

10. **Umpiring Report**

MS reported that she could not report on how many umpires had attended either an Into or C Award Course as trying to get this information off Engage was proving difficult and therefore waited for the umpires to contact her. However, so far this season there have been 47 Into Officiating Assessments and 15 C Award Assessments. There are still 14 Intos and 14 C Award applications to arrange assessments for.

Congratulations to Toni Brunsdon who has passed her Assessment to become an Into Officiating Assessor. We have 3 more candidates who have started the pathway but have not qualified as yet.

We have 3 Umpires sitting the A/B Written paper on 10 June.

Congratulations to Helen Turton who was appointed to the U16 National Schools Final recently held in Peterborough.

Chris Obin as been appointed to the Superleague matches this season.

Finally, there is a new NDO employed by Surrey Sports Park called Andrea Constantino and her role is organising various events relating to netball.

11. **Publicity/Website Report**

In the absence of DH there was little to report. There was a discussion held with regards to the success of Eagles in National League Premier Division 3, where they have already secured the title. It would be good to have a report on how well it has gone and photos of their success for the Website and Social Media. CM agreed to liaise with a member of the Club to get an article put together. **Action: CM**

12. **NDO Report – Debbie Spindlow**

DS reported that she was now approaching the end of her current work programme for the year and was pleased to report that all her work targets had been achieved.

There had roughly been 500 people through the various programmes this year, of which about half had not played netball within the last 12 months. We had made about £5,000 and had managed to secure grants through Get Active for programmes in such places as Whitley in Reading.

We now need to start planning for the future. One success has been the Netball Camps, possibly due to how strong our Clubs are in the County and that people want to play netball. Another success has been the Walking Netball session set up in

Whitley. Working with their Community Development Association in the last 7 weeks we have had 16 new people who have either never or not for a long time, played netball. Kit has been provided and one attendee is now going on a Walking Netball Course, so it is great to see them all engage with these sessions. The Wokingham Walking Netball is not happening at the moment due to lack of interest, although there is one at Loddon Valley LC., which isn't too far afield. At the moment there appears to be interest in hosting an evening session, so this is something that is currently being looked at.

13. **Bursary Applications**

JA reported that there were 3 Bursary applications pending, relating to assistance for attending Coaching Courses. They were discussed and it was agreed that further information was required from each of the applicants before approving.

Action: JA

14. **Any Other Business**

None

15. **Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 12 May 2023 - 7.30pm