



**Berkshire Netball**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 4 September 2022**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Sarah Feast (Chair) BNMB, Julie Arnold (Secretary) BNMB, Charlotte Maxfield (Treasurer) BNMB, Mary Stanley (Umpiring Secretary) BNMB, Kate Maxfield (Competitions), Debbie Spindlow (Berkshire NDO), Toni Brunsdon (Cougars), Tracey Carter (Wokingham), Ashleigh Kinch (Rushmoor/Berks Prem), Claire Yeomans (Royals), Jane Bedwell (Charters), Tina Wood (Newbury Juniors), Zoe Wright (Newbury Juniors), Andrew McKell (Eagles), Brenda Pope (Windsor), Deborah Stevens (Woodley), Debs Cooke (Finchampstead), Jane Hodgetts (Thunderbirds), Julie Larcombe (Laurel Park), Karen Bossom (Woodley), Rachael McMaster (Magnet), Samantha Bonsignore (Magnet), Debbie Baker (Waverley Vipers), Matt Smith (Pass & Play)

1. **Apologies:** Debbie Horn (BNMB Publicity), Kerry Grundy (BNMB Coaching), Pete Watts (Laurel Park), Margaret Duncan (Woodley), Vicky Bowyer (Wokingham)

2. **Minutes of Last AGM (26 July 2021):**

Proposed: Jane Bedwell  
Seconded: Toni Brunsdon

3. **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Officers Reports:**

a) **Chair's Report - Sarah Feast**

SF reported that the membership numbers for 2021/22 were 104% up on 2019/20 season and showed that COVID did not affect the numbers of netballers returning to the game.

The Junior League, which is the envy of many counties continued to be run successfully by Kate Maxfield and a summer league was also held to provide continued competition throughout the year.

Berkshire Clubs were well represented at National Finals.

Congratulations to Eagles Netball Club on gaining promotion to National Premier League Division 3

Many new Into Officiating Umpires were mentored at the Berkshire Junior League matches.

Berkshire Technical Officials were heavily involved with the Vitality Netball Superleague franchises at both Surrey Storm and London Pulse with Berkshires own Mary Stanley, Julie Arnold and Toni Brunsdon being selected for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Debbie Spindlow, Berkshire NDO returned from maternity leave in January and threw herself back into supporting Berkshire through the School Games, Back to Netball, Walking Netball and Netball Now sessions. Berkshire's Satellite and County Academy programmes for talented athletes ran successfully and Berkshire continued to be represented on the Surrey Storm Talent Management Group by SF.

Congratulations to Maidenhead Netball League in celebration of their 50 years and to Gina McGregor who was presented with a special recognition of her years of service at the Netball South One Awards.

Berkshire continued to support Bursary applications, mainly for Level 2 Coaches.

Looking forward to the new season, England Netball is currently supporting Counties to achieve Tier 1 Governance, of which we are currently conducting a review of and will be updating our policies and procedures to ensure compliance by the summer of 2023.

#### **b) Competitions Report – Kate Maxfield**

KM thanked Clubs and coaches who worked tirelessly to getting our youngsters back on court. The Junior League has continued to thrive offering competitive matches to grassroots netballers in Berkshire. The Board took the decision to subsidise the league financially this year, offering discounts from 2020-21 when matches were cancelled due to the pandemic and also a small discount to existing clubs in the league. We are very proud of all that Berkshire has to offer on a competitive platform for players between the ages of 10-16. The fact that we are able to facilitate a level of competition for young girls is very important, crucially the participation in the U14-U16 age groups is good, particularly as this is the age that has been identified as when adolescent girls drop out of netball.

This season we used 3 venues, over 24 weekends with 76 teams (from U11-16) which amounted to 400+ fixtures and 760+ players.

Over the Summer we ran a friendly league at St Georges Ascot. Despite being hampered by the early summer rain it mostly went off without any hitches and I have had received some positive feedback about the competition.

Looking ahead to the 2022/2023 we have been pleased to welcome new teams and clubs joining the league. We will play at 5 venues, over 25 weekends with 91 teams (from U11-U19).

I would like to thank Claire Yeoman (Royals) Tracey Carter (Wokingham) and Debbie Horn (Laurel Park) who have joined me as an Advisory Committee. Their help and that of Patricia Balcombe (Surrey Netball) has been invaluable. PB has worked tirelessly building the Berkshire League site on Engage to allow clubs to link their players directly thus meaning we are reducing the amount of paperwork.

We ran the National School competition at St Georges Ascot last November and as always, my thanks go to the Board who helped support the event and to Mary Stanley who with her army of Team White officiated. Congratulations to the schools who went on to represent the County at the Regional Schools event held in January.

The County round of National Schools tournament (U14, U16 & U19) will be held on Saturday 12th November at Theale Green School.

#### **c) Coaching Report – Kerry Grundy**

In the absence of KG, SF reported on her behalf.

We have various new Level 1 and Level 2 coaches across Berkshire

Level 1 coaching courses are online via EN, with Level 2 courses being a combination of online and in person. Anyone wishing to do a coaching course should register an expression of interest by completing the appropriate form located on the England Netball website. Courses may well then be allocated to a region depending on the demand.

Get Berkshire active have an exciting programme called Project 500:

Project 500 is a campaign to address the imbalance in the number of male to female coaches, creating a more diverse workforce to drive the growth of female participation within the sport.

The project has already helped Windsor Netball Club establish their junior section through funding and 3 of their coaches signing up to the programme.

We encourage anyone interested in participating to sign up:

<https://getberkshireactive.org/forms/view/2573>

They run training opportunities, there are also opportunities to volunteer and apply for funding. They also run apprenticeships and other workforce opportunities.

**d) Officiating – Mary Stanley**

MS reported that the Into Officiating and C Award Umpire courses were now being carried out online, including the C Award written paper, by England Netball. The uptake had been quick with courses filling up as soon as they had been launched. Berkshire has been well represented and mentoring programmes have been put in place.

We have Assessed 58 Into Officiating candidates since September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

Berkshire have also gained 20 new C award umpires since September 2021.

New Into Officiating Courses were announced on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and all League Umpiring Secretaries were advised to let potential candidates know.

New C award courses will be released in September 2022.

My sincere thanks to all Mentors, Assessors and leagues who have supported me this season.

Umpires will have 3 opportunities to sit the A/B Written Paper – in October, February and June.

As previously mentioned, 3 Berkshire Technical Officials were selected for the Commonwealth Games: Julie Arnold, Toni Brunsdon and Mary Stanley.

Andy Mckell asked whether contact details of all the newly qualified umpires was accessible, and SF replied at the Berkshire Netball Umpires Page, which is part of the Berkshire Netball Facebook page is a good place to source umpires from. MS advised caution on what age group you would want these umpires to officiate on, as many are youngsters, who would need a mentor and a responsible adult with them, to ensure proper safeguarding.

**e) Development Report – Sarah Feast**

SF reported on the deliverance of 2 Satellite Academies (U13) and a County Academy (U15) and a Development Academy (U15) training opportunities. This gave some of the athletes the chance to also play in friendlies against other County academy teams.

2 x U15 squads and 1 x 13 squad were invited to attend an invitational tournament in Bedfordshire in April.

The County/Academy athletes enjoyed a coaching session with Surrey Storm's Bev Bostock and were involved in recording stats analysis whilst watching A Storm U17/U19 squad exhibition match.

Several Berkshire athletes were selected to attend Surrey Storms U15 Academy trials, with 2 athletes being selected to join their long squad., with 1 being selected to join their competition squad.

I continue to be part of Surrey Storm's Talent Management Group, which shares ideas and aids planning that will impact County programmes.

The 2022/23 Academy trials will take place in September 2022 with Bev Bostock attending the U15s and she will screen those who have applied for Storm's U17 Academy.

EN have now concluded their Performance Pathway review. The player pathway has become more streamlined, although franchises can also run commercial programmes to provide opportunities for more athletes, but these sit outside the player pathway. One of the biggest changes is that athletes can now trial for any county they choose, which allows more freedom of choice.

**f) Financial Report – Charlotte Maxfield**

CM reported on the Treasurers Report. Overall we had a deficit of around E8k this season, primarily due to restart of the netball community season, subsidies for the Junior League and timing differences on receipt of invoices for the court hire of the Junior League and Academy. Also the Summer League restarted following Covid which is not reflected comparatively with the 2021 season.

CM reiterated that athletes must still affiliate to Berkshire when completing their new season membership on Engage.

No issues with the 2020/21 Accounts and they were approved by Woodways Accountancy.

**g) Publicity Report – Debbie Horn**

In the absence of DH, SF reported on her behalf. The Berkshire Netball Website is a hub of information and is kept up to date as best it can be. We also use social media a lot, promoting as much information as we can.

**h) Berkshire Netball Development Officer Report – Debbie Spindlow**

DS thanked everyone for her warm welcome back into the fold in January. Credit to all the volunteers, clubs and leagues that have kept the game going during the pandemic. Part of her role is to get new people on the netball court, which thanks to Sally Whittle, who covered DS maternity leave, managed to get 162 new players, through Walking Netball and Back to Netball programmes.

DS encouraged everyone to attend the EN Conscious Inclusion Training, which is designed to educate and support the netball family in making everyone feel comfortable. Having done it online (a link is on her report which is on the Berkshire Netball Website) it is worth attending. A question was raised as to whether it included advice/support on gender reassignment/sexual orientation. It appeared not, but SF did report that a similar question has been raised through Netball South and they are awaiting guidance from England Netball, who are themselves waiting on advice from World Netball.

Thanks to Trista Thompson and Sarah Feast who helped train the officials who attended the Year 5 and 6 School Games.

All the reports can be viewed in full on the Berkshire Netball Website.

The Reports were then accepted by all Members present.

**5. League Reports:**

All Berkshire League Reports are available on the Berkshire Netball Website for those who wish to read them.

The Reports were then accepted by all Members present.

**6. Accounts:** The Accounts were adopted. Woodways Accountancy were appointed as our Auditors. There was a proposal to leave the Berkshire County Membership Fee at Zero for the 2022/2023 season.

All the above were accepted by all Members present.

**7. Election of Officers:**

All current Officers were happy to restand:

Chair: Sarah Feast  
Secretary: Julie Arnold  
Treasurer: Charlotte Maxfield  
Competitions: Kate Maxfield  
Umpiring: Mary Stanley  
Coaching: Kerry Grundy  
Development: Sarah Feast  
Publicity: Debbie Horn

The Reports were then accepted by all Members present.

**SF Closed the meeting at 8.30pm**