



Berkshire Netball
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on Tuesday 24 June 2025
Via Zoom

Present: Sarah Feast (Chair) BNMB, Julie Arnold (Secretary) BNMB, Mary Stanley (Umpiring Secretary) BNMB, Kate Maxfield (Competitions) BNMB, Charlotte Maxfield (Treasurer) BNMB, Debbie Horm (Publicity) BNMB, Tina Berenger (Safeguarding) BNMB, Kerry Grundy (Coaching) BNMB, Debbie Spindlow (Berkshire NDO), Jane Bedwell (Charters Triple SSS), Marina Bignell (Magnet), Karen Bossom (Woodley), Tracey Carter (Wokingham/BPNL), Rebecca Cheek (Tadley), Jacqui Cossar (Rushmoor), Jane Hodgetts (Thunderbirds Juniors), Sarah Lane (Finchampstead Juniors), Ali Stamp (Newbury Juniors), Emma Sydenham (Windsor), Carmelle Textor (RNDL), Charlotte Wood (RNDL), Claire Yeoman (Royals), Denise Valentine (Tadley)

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of Last AGM (22.08.24):

The AGM minutes from 22.08.24 were accepted as a true record of proceedings.

Proposed: Marina Bignell

Seconded: Ali Stamp

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Officers Reports:

a) Chair's Report - Sarah Feast

Thank you to everyone involved in netball in Berkshire for another successful year. There is so much great work going on within the leagues, clubs and communities to provide so many different opportunities for people to get involved with netball as players, officials, coaches, team managers and other volunteering opportunities. Something for everyone! A few things to mention from the past year:-

- Following completion of the Tier 1 Governance review which we reported on last year, we are still waiting for feedback from England Netball to help us plan for the future:

- Berkshire Junior Netball League just seems to go from strength to strength which was once again a huge success with teams from across Berkshire and beyond enjoying regular matches at various venues across the county. Thank you to Kate Maxfield who, together with her sub-committee, worked tirelessly to ensure that so many young players had the opportunity to compete on a regular basis.

- In addition to the winter league, a friendly summer league is also taking place to give teams the chance to keep playing regular netball.

- Berkshire Netball continued to run 2 x U13 and 2 x U15 Player Development Programmes as part of the England Netball Player Pathway. We welcomed Katie Fisher to the coaching team who was a great addition with her experience of the Player Pathway. This year saw additional training opportunities outside of the pathway with the creation of the fortnightly U13 and U15 Academies for those players who just missed out on a place in the PDPs.

- Berkshire Netball continued to provide financial support to clubs and individuals with a number of Bursaries awarded during the year, particularly for new coaches being supported with the cost of their courses.

- Berkshire's Officiating Lead, Mary Stanley, together with her team of mentors and assessors, oversaw the development of many umpires within the county at all levels which has resulted in many new umpires gaining their qualifications this year.

- Berkshire's NDO, Debbie Spindlow, has once again provided excellent support and advice to the Board as well as delivering her own extensive work programme within the county. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work and enthusiasm and unwavering support for Netball in Berkshire.

- Berkshire clubs were well-represented in the Netball South regional leagues again this season with Eagles, Royals, Athena Bs, Woodley, Bs and Magnet all competing in various age groups. Eagles qualified in both U14 and U16 age groups and went through to the finals of the National Clubs competition with their U16s being the first Berkshire team in over ten years to lift the trophy and their U14s taking third place in their final. Berkshire Netball were delighted to provide bursaries to help with the cost of attending the finals.

- Wellington College U19s qualified through the county and regional rounds to go on to play at National Schools Finals in Sheffield to represent Berkshire and Netball South.

- Berkshire officials have once again been heavily involved with the NSL this season fulfilling roles as technical officials

- Our Safeguarding Officer, Christina Turton-Berenger, has been busy keeping everyone up to date and supporting all our teams/leagues to ensure they are compliant with EN requirements. Thank you to everyone on the Board and to everyone involved with netball in Berkshire and to all the amazing people who help to make all of this happen. The dedication and hard work of all those who help to deliver netball in the county is undoubtedly appreciated by all of those that benefit from it.

- At the recently held Netball South One Awards the President's Award was given to Eagles Netball Club and Coach of Young Players Award went to Georgie Maxfield.
- We lost a very dear friend this season – Maureen Ford, who has been a stalwart of Berkshire Netball and with her work at Bs Netball Club. She will be sadly missed.

b) **Competitions Report – Kate Maxfield**

We are proud to continue our support of the Berkshire Junior Netball League (BJNL), both in promotion and financial backing. This initiative remains central to our mission of developing grassroots netball and providing a safe, competitive environment for players aged 10–19. Despite rising venue costs, we remain committed to ensuring netball remains accessible to all.

League Highlights:

- The BJNL continues to thrive, offering regular competitive opportunities for junior teams across Berkshire.
- Laurel Park U19s represented Berkshire at the Netball South play-offs, competing for a place in the regional league, although this season it was opened to any teams that wish to take part.
- Congratulations to all medal-winning teams.

U11 Div 1	U11 Div 2	U11 Div 3	U12 Div 1	U12 Div 2	U13 Div 1	U13 Div 2
Poole A	Poole B	Woodley White	Poole	Bs Sky	Bs Sky	Bs Navy
Eagles	Laurel Park	Bs Sky	Eagles	Laurel Park	Magnet	Surrey Heath
Weston Park	Royals Navy	Laurel Park Red	Royals	Woodley	Rushmoor	Finch
U14 Div 1	U14 Div 2	U16 Div 1	U16 Div 2	U16 Div 3		U19
Woodley	Passnplay	Finch	Woodley	Finch		Laurel Park
Tadley	Magnet	Magnet	Magnet	Bs White		Royals
Finch Green	Bs Sky	Bs Sky	Laurel Park	Passnplay		Bs Sky

Acknowledgements:

- Sincere thanks to our club coaches for their dedication and countless volunteer hours.

- Special thanks to Debbie Horn for her ongoing technical support (and sounding board)
- Kerry Oliver has taken on the role of Junior League Umpiring Secretary, supporting the development of young umpires with the support of Mary Stanley.

Additional Competitions:

- A successful mid-week summer friendly league was held at St Neots, receiving positive feedback. We aim to repeat this in 2026.
- The National Schools Competition was hosted at Theale Green School in October. Thanks to the Board, Mary Stanley and her officiating team (TEAM WHITE), and Tournament Referee Julie Arnold.

National Schools Results:

- U14: Winner – Wellington | Runner-up – St Mary's Ascot
- U16: Winner – St Mary's Ascot | Runner-up – The Marist
- U19: Winner – Wellington | Runner-up – Bradfield
 - Wellington U16 and U19 teams represented Netball South at the National Finals.

Upcoming Events:

- The 2025 National Schools County Tournament (U14, U16, U19) is scheduled for Saturday 8th November at Theale Green School. Qualified "C" or above umpires will be contacted by Mary Stanley. Entry forms have been distributed to Berkshire schools.

BPNL Involvement:

- The Board continues to support the Berkshire Performance Netball League (BPNL) for the 2024–25 season.
- I serve on the BPNL committee as BMBM, coordinating venues and fixtures, and working closely with Chair Tracey Doran Carter, whose leadership deserves recognition.
- I will continue as Berkshire's representative on the BPNL committee for the 2025–26 season.
- Congratulations to Thunderbirds, who reached the NS Regional Division 3 play-offs.

Looking Ahead: We are preparing for another strong season. We remain committed to expanding opportunities for grassroots county teams. Our priorities remain:

- Delivering high-quality junior netball
- Supporting the development of players, coaches, and umpires
- Promoting the positive impact of sport on young lives

Fixtures for the 2025–26 season will be shared in July. With more clubs and teams involved, we look forward to offering even more young players the chance to engage in competitive sport. Thank you to all for your continued support and commitment.

c) **Coaching Report – Kerry Grundy**

- Level 1 and 2 courses have been released. If you haven't been able to get on one, then please register your interest on the England Netball website.
- We have had a lot of new coaches attend courses this season and remember that there are bursaries available to anyone who wishes to attend a Course.
- Debbie Spindlow commented that Get Berkshire Active have bursaries for coaching grants and leadership grants, and at present are specifically targeting women and girls to get into coaching roles.
- If there are any clubs that are struggling for coaches, then please let Kerry know.
- Please ensure all coaches have their safeguarding and first aid up to date.

- Thank you to all the coaches that help to build and develop our netballers across Berkshire.

d) **Officiating – Mary Stanley**

The 2024/2025 season has been as busy as ever. Assessments are progressing well with good systems in place for both Into and C award.

Our Assessor team now stands at 12 and this has helped when it comes to setting up assessment. All the leagues have set up excellent mentoring schemes adding support to new umpires and these are progressing to taking the assessments.

Assessor Workforce

Julie Arnold, Janice Treasure, Vanessa Clothier, Jen Luyten-Hawkins, Toni Brunsdon, Sue Garrett, Bev Goodman, Angie Farr, Margaret Deighan, Clare Van Spall, Chris Obin, Mary Stanley

Into Officiating

All the Into Officiating Courses are now virtual in two parts. Both parts must be completed before applying for the Into Assessment. This is when the leagues have picked them up and they have been mentored towards taking the Assessment.

This season 37 candidates have passed the assessment with 4 having submitted applications and will be assessed this, Summer.

Thank you to all the leagues for providing mentors for this most important part to the umpire's progress. Many congratulations to you all.

C Award

The mentoring schemes in all the leagues has been very valuable in progressing the Umpires on to the next level. The course again virtual and in two parts, plus a written paper which is valid for 2 years. This season 14 candidates have passed the assessment. 10 more candidates are going to be assessed this Summer. Many congratulations to you all. My thanks go to all the assessors and mentors who have helped and supported these umpires this season.

Progression to B Award and A Award.

The County is always keen to support any umpires wishing to progress along the umpiring pathway to a higher level. We provide mentors to them for support. All B award courses are online, plus a one-day face to face practical workshop. All courses booked online through Engage.

Many congratulations to Helen Bond who passed her A Award practical, to Diane Long, Connor Sharod-Southam, Maria Thorley and Lolly McDonald who all passed their B award.

Please make sure if you wish to attend a course that you send An Expression of Interest google form via the EN Website. That way you are more than likely to get onto the next batch of courses when announced.

SuperLeague & National Premier League Technical Officials

The County is well represented by several members as Technical Officials to London Pulse. Eagles Netball Club and Downs Netball Club:

Julie Arnold, Toni Brunsdon, Sue Garrett, Debbie Horn, Jane Chaliss and Mary Stanley.

Berkshire National Schools

The date for this season has been announced 8th November 2025 at Theale Green School. Umpires, please add this to your diary.

Congratulations to Jen Luyten-Hawkins, who became a Netball South Honorary Life Member at the recently held One Awards.

Rules Forum

The County held a Rules Forum for Umpires and Coaches after the introduction of the Amended Rules on the 24th January 2025. 40 people attended. Hopefully finding it a useful event.

My many thanks to all involved in progressing the umpires in the County and for giving me so much support.

e) Development Report – Sarah Feast

- In accordance with our agreement with England Netball, we continued to run 2 x U13 and 2 x U15 PDPs for talented young athletes at St Neot's School, Eversley (U13) and Wellington Health & Fitness Centre, Crowthorne (U15).
- The coaching team were- Kate Maxfield, Georgie Maxfield, Marina Bignell, Zoe O'Brien, Jacqui Cossar, Katie Holmes, Christina Turton-Berenger, Poppy Simpson (ad hoc) and Sarah Feast. We were also joined by Katie Fisher who was able to bring lots of experience from within the England Pathway.
- Berkshire PDP athletes enjoyed a number of match play opportunities over the course of the programme against other counties including Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, North Bucks and South Bucks.
- We also enjoyed some match play against Pulse Power's Berkshire PDP which contained several previous Berkshire PDP athletes.
- We sent 1 x U13 and 1 x U15 teams to the Bedfordshire Invitational PDP Tournament. This was an opportunity for the selected players to compete against teams from all over the country with 18 teams competing in each age group. The Berkshire squads performed well and finished 5th in both age groups.
- A number of current Berkshire athletes were selected for franchise U15 Academies for Pulse Power and Bath and are waiting to hear if they have made it into the final competition squad.
- It was great to see a significant number of former Berkshire athletes being successful at franchise trials in September and gaining places in franchise U17/U19 and PDPs at Pulse Power, London Pulse and Mavericks.
- Following the creation of the Pulse Power pathway to replace Surrey Storm after the restructuring of the NSL last summer, Berkshire's Player Pathway Lead (PPL), Sarah Feast, joined the Pulse Power Pathway Management Group together with representatives from other counties in the Surrey Storm region. This has recently merged with the London Pulse PMG as both pathways are now being administered by the same person.
- Pre-screening for U13 and U15 PDPs 2025/26 has taken place on 12th (U13) and 19th (U15) June with an unprecedented number of triallists from various counties, in particular for U15s where we have had over 135 applicants. We are looking forward to working with the new crop of athletes in 2025/26 and can't wait to help them develop their talent within the pathway.
- A number of athletes attained places in the U15 Academies at franchises and are still in contention for competition places in squads for the tournament scheduled for the end of August 2025.

f) Financial Report – Charlotte Maxfield

- This year closing cash was significantly up on prior year at £51,622. This is due to timings of invoices from suppliers coming in late and therefore you will see the accruals figure is consequently also much higher than prior year. - £19k of the accruals is represented by five of our venues for PDP and BJNL. This is also the first year with a comparative of accruals year on year following the request at the 2023 AGM. It should be reminded that the introduction of the accrual's adjustment in FY24 caused the deficit to be larger than normal.

- As always there is some overlap between the seasons and financial year not being coterminous for 24/25 season. For example, we receive all academy income up front, but PDP does not finish until May-25 and also we received £4.1k of summer BJNL and 25/26 BJNL income early.
- Debtors this year is represented by a reimbursement due from England Netball.
- We paid 15 bursaries in the year and we continue to see an uplift in applications for coaching and athlete support - bursaries are paid upon receipt of certificate. We always look to re-invest into the community so encourage applications.
- PDP is at a profit but again it should be noted that income is recognised upfront but there are still coaches and court fees to be incurred in April and May as the PDP season finishes. We also had additional athletes this year in the Development Academies (non-PDP) which generated additional income. We will look to re-invest this surplus in the athlete programmes for the next season.
- BJNL shows a profit however as noted above there is £4.1k received in advance of FY26 and therefore overall BJNL ran at a neutral position as we continue to support and subsidise grass roots netball.
- All fee summaries for 25/26 BJNL have already been issued by Kate. Thank you all for your timely payments, I believe all have been received.
- We have agreed to waive the Berkshire membership fee again for 25/26 season, however, please still ensure you affiliate with Berkshire on Engage.
This was agreed at the AGM - Proposed: Ali Stamp. Seconded: Kate Maxfield
- There were no issues with the 23/24 audit and accounts were approved. It is proposed to have the records audited again by Woodways for 24/25 season. Proposed: Tina Berenger. Seconded: Marina Bignell

g) **Publicity Report – Debbie Horn**

The **Berkshire Netball website and social media platforms** continue to serve as vital hubs for sharing information about netball across the county. Our ongoing focus is to enhance the visibility of the sport, encourage participation at all levels, and celebrate the successes of our clubs, players, umpires and volunteers.

In particular, the **Berkshire Netball Umpires Facebook group** has become an invaluable resource. It provides a central forum for clubs to connect with umpires for fixtures across all Berkshire leagues. The group also supports the sharing of information on upcoming umpiring courses, discussion of officiating queries, and acts as a noticeboard where teams can request umpiring support and where umpires can find opportunities to officiate matches.

Please follow or like our social media accounts so that information reaches as many people as possible.

www.facebook.com/BerkshireNetball - Up 9% to 630 followers

www.facebook.com/groups/berkshirennetballumpires/ - Up 21% to 622 members

www.instagram.com/berkshirennetball/ - Up 35% to 1156 followers

www.threads.net/@berkshirennetball - Up 24% to 143 followers

- I would like to thank the committee, clubs and all volunteers who contributed content, photos, and stories this year. Your support is invaluable in helping us share the passion and energy of Berkshire Netball.
- If your school, club, league has any news, forthcoming events or interesting information, along with photos that you would like us to publish on the social media sites please contact me at berkshirennetballpublicity@gmail.com.

h) **Safeguarding Officer Report – Christina Berenger**

- England Netball have been maintaining their audit checks to ensure the club safeguarding officers (CSO) in clubs with ANY junior member (under 18), have DBS checks in place. We are in a far better place now with just three teams outstanding.
- Many thanks to all the clubs and teams who have proactively put everything in place to be compliant 😊 Hopefully now most are aware with what is needed so getting things set up for the new season should be simple.
- I have had a couple enquiries from the leagues over the season in relation to support with creating safeguarding rules and regulations for leagues.
- My advice would be to use the South Region rules as guidance and try not to overcomplicate things by catering for multiple scenarios (in relation to safeguarding). This is the link to the South Region Competition Handbook: [Microsoft Word - 1. NS-Regional-Competition Handbook 2024-25 v1](#)
- My role is to support CSOs within the county in relation to **giving advice** about the Wellbeing, Safeguarding and Protection of all members, promoting good practice and Safeguarding within Clubs and Leagues and to work with others towards the safest and most inclusive environments. I do not conduct investigations myself but may support England Netball if requested by them.
- For advice and guidance on safeguarding there are useful resources on the England Netball website under Safeguarding. <https://www.englishnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding>
- If you need to get into contact with England Netball, then please use the Besafe@englishnetball.co.uk
- Here you will find new sections for clubs, players, coaches and parents as well as new guidance documents including on how to recognise and respond to abuse and poor practice and some case examples.
- **It is important to highlight that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and every volunteer should remain vigilant and challenge any concerning behaviour. Safeguarding shouldn't just be there for when something goes wrong. It should be embedded into everything the club and league does.**
- You can contact me on berkssafeguarding@gmail.com

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

- It has been a very active and successful season, and I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped, given me advice and supported me during that time.
- My main role is to get people involved in netball, whether that be with Back to Netball, Walking Netball and Netball Now. I also support Leagues with Governance and Safeguarding issues.
- I am supposed to raise income for England Netball to put back into the sport and for the last 12 months we have been tasked to targeting underserved communities and support the growth of B Netball within Schools.
- We have had 705 netballers come through the Back to Netball, Walking Netball, Netball Now and Youth Camps, of which 394 were new to netball, which means they have not played for at least 12 months. I made £12k profit, with £5249 surplus, which comes from running events, festivals, leagues, camps, coaching sessions etc. This money goes back into developing netball.
- One thing we did was to shift priority to promoting netball in primary schools, particularly Years 3 and 4. There does seem to be general participation over Years 5 and 6. B Netball is the offer to U11s and because I have a good relationship with the School Games Officers in each Local Authority we over 200 take part in Year 3 and 4 festivals, with about 90% of them not having played before. I worked with Reading League, and it was surprising to learn that the number of girls playing in that area is scarily low. Berkshire Academy Association provided some funding to help train teachers and young leaders, and we were able to provide schools with a B Netball Pack so the teachers could deliver netball a bit more confidently within their schools.

- A Walking Netball festival was set up which 10 teams entered which was very successful and have now set up a pilot Walking Netball League which had 6 teams, and this will continue next season.
- I have worked with Cosmopolitan Roses who consist of Asian and Muslim women and girls, and they have gone from strength to strength and have now set up Junior sessions and Back to Netball sessions. They were successful in winning the EN National One Awards for Inclusion in Netball. As a result of their success Reading Central Mosque got in touch as they would like to set up similar sessions in the Reading area and we have managed to find an exclusive venue for them to use.
- I have also been tasked to help support the links growth of NSL franchises in the South Region.
- England Netball have now issued their Policy on Gender Eligibility and Inclusion following a detailed review and will be effective from 1 September 2025. This link will give you the new guidance information. [Gender Eligibility and Participation Policy and Documents - EN knowledge Centre - England Netball Knowledge Centre](#). If anyone is aware of anyone who is affected by these changes then please contact Debbie so that she can offer the right support for them to continue playing.
- Debbie then highlighted the benefits of being an EN member, which apart from Insurance, discounts at Gilbert Netball, also includes Howdens Benefit Platform (as an EN Member who may receive an email back in January with a Code to be able to access it) which gives you exclusive offers and discounts on branded products.

The Reports were then accepted by all Members present – Proposed: Claire Yeomans. Seconded: Karen Bossom

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 - Proposed: Tracy D Carter. Seconded: Tina Berenger

All the above were accepted by all Members present.

6. 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
Safeguarding:	Christina Berenger

SF did comment that as part of Constitution we will have to look at the length of Service for Board Members and some positions may well become vacant for the 2025/2026 season.

All Officers were then re-elected by all Members present. Proposed: Jane Bedwell. Seconded: Denise Valentine

SF Closed the meeting at 20:48

DRAFT