



BERKSHIRE NETBALL MANAGEMENT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting (via Zoom)
Tuesday 13 February 2024

Present:	Sarah Feast (SF)	Chair & Development
	Julie Arnold (JA)	Secretary
	Charlotte Maxfield (CM)	Treasurer
	Kate Maxfield (KM)	Competitions
	Mary Stanley (MS)	Umpiring
	Kerry Grundy (KG)	Coaching
	Debbie Horn (DH)	Publicity
	Debbie Spindlow (DS)	NDO

1. **Apologies for Absence**

None

2. **Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest identified at the start of the meeting.

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting – 01.12.23**

Accepted as a true account of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

8. Coaching (21.03.22) – KG/DS/SF had not met to discuss next steps when coaches have attended courses. Action ongoing. **Action: KG/DS/SF**

5. Chair Report (24.10.22) - SF had circulated to all Board members information relating to the Adventure Strategy and Governance. This matter is now becoming urgent and Toni Brunsdon (NS Vice Chair) has agreed to support the County in getting our position up to scratch. Action ongoing. **Action: SF**

5. **Chair's Report**

SF reported that the Adventure Strategy and Governance reporting is now becoming a matter of urgency within the County and that it must be submitted by 01.04.24. She has spoken to Netball South Governance Officer Lindsay Sattori who is providing a template for us to work with. It will require input from Board Members and asked that this is dealt with as soon as possible.

SF reported on the recently held Netball South Club Forum, in respect that questionnaires will be circulated asking for feedback on certain initiatives. Also NS are recruiting for a new members to the Competitions Group.

The Junior Entry Tournament is scheduled for 7/8 June at Wavell School, Farnborough.

Open Div 3/U19 Regional Play Offs are scheduled for 19 May.

6. **Competitions Report**

KM reported that the Leagues were running fine at the moment. She had received some concerns relating to umpires and what appeared to be a Game Management issue. She has asked DH/KG (as KG is Umpiring Secretary for the League) to ascertain a list of umpires and their qualifications to see what mentoring support they can give them. SF suggested that teams supply the name of their umpires in advance of the day of fixtures. KG replied that this has been requested but had fallen by the wayside. The League is so big and geographically widespread that it is difficult to control. JA asked what qualification was needed to umpire. KG replied that C Award up to U13 Div 2 and above, Into Award with Mentor U13 Div 2 and below. If an umpire is approaching an assessment, KG will evaluate as to whether then can umpire above their qualification to give them some experience. This information is provided on the result sheet. Also if they are U18 they must have a mentor and responsible adult present and this is reflected in the competition rules. KM then reported that from next season all teams will have to have a qualified Level 2 coach on the bench, which has not always been the case this season. She has allowed Clubs with Regional teams to play up an age group, i.e. U14s playing at U16s, and U16s playing at U19s. This was to allow for peripheral players to be able to play in Berkshire. It now looks like players are playing a lot and is concerned with them being overplayed. She proposed that if the County removed the opportunity of Regional players playing in the League this it would take not only the load of players but the umpires as well. However there was concern that those players who get little court time at Regional would not therefore get much opportunity to be playing netball as a whole. CM suggested a forum with Clubs for them to assist with helping what the best form of action would be to protect players welfare and also allow others to have suitable court time. An action was placed on the Competition TSG together with SF/Debbie **not sure which Debbie????** to propose a possible solution.

Action: SF/KM

KM has sent notification to clubs asking for their intentions for next season and has started work on the summer league, which looks as though it will be quite small this year.

Finally, Wellington U16s and U19s have qualified through Regional Schools to play at the National Schools Finals over the weekend of 16/17 March.

7. **Finance Report**

CM reported that the Audit report has been signed off by the Auditor. She had

received the St Neot invoices from KM and together with SF would just need to finalise some of the PDP payments.

8. **Development & Performance Report**

SF reported that Berkshire had hosted a PDP Play Day just before Xmas with squads from Surrey and Hampshire. All available U13 and U15 athletes took part and enjoyed playing against other county PDPs.

A number of our U15PDP athletes attended franchise trials in January and lots of them have been selected into U15 franchise academy programmes and one was offered a place in a Storm PDP.

Surrey Storm has invited the U15s over to Surrey Sports Park to watch the NPL fixtures on 23 March and we hope that lots of them will be able to go along.

We are planning another Play Day on 21st April which we will be hosting at Wellington again.

9. **Coaching Report**

KG did not have anything major to report.

10. **Umpiring Report**

MS reported on Assessments ;

Into Officiating Assessments 8 Newly qualified umpires, 13 more waiting, which MS will carry out with the assistance of Toni Brunson and Sue Garrett.

C Awards: 8 Newly qualified umpires, with 4 waiting, which are arranged.

We are currently awaiting guidance from EN on the Rule Changes and how to implement them during the course of the summer.

11. **Publicity/Website Report**

DH did not have anything major to report, except that the Website is out of date and needs to be updated. She asked if all Board Members please look at their respective page and notify her of any changes as soon as they could. **Action: ALL**

DS had spoken to EN regarding the Logo and it appeared they are working through the Counties, and DS would remind them that Berkshire had not heard anything as yet.

12. **NDO Report – Debbie Spindlow**

DS reported that her work programme year was coming to a close and where she was targeted with getting 275 new netballers involved, she currently had 290. Her income to raise £5 was currently at £5.3k. A netball camp recently held had been sold out. There is a Walking Netball Festival being held in the near future.

DS reported that she generally asks for support at the School Games, but they have

Decided to do something different and netball is not to be included. They want to bring people into sport generally and a netball competition would not suit that scenario. What they would like to do is some CPD training for the teachers and split it across the County with an East and West session. This would give us an opportunity to support Teachers in State Schools. She asked for ideas of what to present and who to present it. East Berks have their session on 18 June and it would be good if we can set one up in West Berks. There was concern that as a sport we do not want it to disappear from School programmes. The good news is that it is currently the most played sport by girls and we do not want to lose that accolade.

SF/DS would pick this up and discuss and report back to the Board.

Action: DS/SF/KM

13. **Bursary Applications**

a) Charlotte James – Level 2 Coaching – Laurel Park – Approved

b) Hayley Ford – Level 2 Coaching – Woodley Netball Club – Approved

c) Berkshire Premier League had not received their £1300, but this may be due to not having their bank account details. So this would be sort and forwarded to CM.

d) Tesha Aren – Level 1 Coaching – Laurel Park - Approved

CM asked if the posts provided to Reading League were being looked after as requested previously. KG agreed to find out from Su Oliver the current state of affairs.

Action: KG

14. **Any Other Business**

a) There was concerned raised that some Clubs were not supporting their Into Officiating umpires with their mentoring and SF had confirmed to them that they should be.

b) KM reported on a player who was offered Junior League and County League U16 level of playing but wanted to play U14 Regional Level, so left said Club to join another so that could happen. This meant however, that she could not be allowed to play County Level under the current Rules. Unfortunately she has not had court time at Regional and the Club have asked permission for her to play at U16 County Level. As this would contravene the League Rules the Board voted against this request.

c) KM reported on another issue where a parent has asked permission for her daughter to move Clubs as it appears that she is not getting the court time she deserves. The Club stipulate that if a player does not attend training they will not be considered for a match at the weekend and all those concerned with the club have known that from the start of the season. Also, as the League Rules state, transfers cannot occur at this time of the season, so the Board voted against permission being granted.

15. **Date of Next Meeting**

TBC

