



## Cheshire County Netball Association – AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### ATTENDEES

Estelle Graham	Ange Kandeh	Victoria Lewis
Phil Owen	Chris McCall	Nichola Foulkes
Nikki Kendrick	Sarah Gough	Fiona Astbury
Cathy Benson	Helen Walsh	Sue Campbell
Amanda Gladwin		

*(Clubs represented Warrington, Macclesfield, Cheshire Stars, Altrincham, Northwich)*

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### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2022
3. Reports
4. Elections of Officers/Board members
5. AOB

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### **Meeting start: 8.00pm**

1. Apologies for absence  
None.
2. Minutes of Meeting from AGM 2022  
Minutes agreed.
3. Annual Reports
  - Chairperson (see Appendix 1)
  - Performance Lead (see Appendix 2)
  - Treasurer (see Appendix 3)
    - Single payment for season. Payment plans if requested.
  - Competition
    - CNJL has own sub-committee and AGM – minutes to be submitted to website when available.
    - Elite League will continue next season. 3 venues worked well, good representation of clubs. Funded as £30 team. Approx. 150 athletes took part.
  - Officiating Secretary (see Appendix 4)
  - Schools
    - Forms sent out for next season
    - Dates agreed
    - Grange, Winsford and Kings Macc. venues booked
  - NDO
    - Membership up 104% on last year. Very close to 5000 members, which includes 3000 U18s.
    - Cheshire one of the most successful in establishing Bee Netball nationally

- NETBALLHer – education programme to make netball world aware of what it is to be a female in sport (periods, pregnancy, menopause). Topics: injury, menopause support, sports bras, pelvic floor, menstrual cycle. 4 CPD courses coming this summer; 3 hr long – 10-15 minutes modules available to anyone with EN membership; Female body, Puberty, pre & Post Natal, Menopause 101. NETBALLHer committee member to be recruited for Cheshire.

4. Election of officers/board members

<b>County Chair / Communications</b>	Estelle Graham
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Ange Kandeh
<b>Secretary</b>	Amanda Gladwin
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cathy Benson
<b>Competition</b>	Estelle Graham
<b>Officiating</b>	Chris McCall
<b>Performance Lead</b>	Nikki Kendrick

Appointed persons

Schools	Helen Walsh
Welfare and Safeguarding	Phil Owen
CJNL Chair	Nikki Kendrick*
Communications and Socials	Sarah Gough
Support	Fiona Astbury
NETBALLHer	TBA

\*May change for next season after CJNL AGM

Proposed: Victoria Lewis; Seconded: Sue Campbell

5. AOB

National ONE awards 14<sup>th</sup> October (evening) at the Belfry

Phil has had to deal with a number of complaints where individuals have been asked not to attend training whilst investigations ongoing, sometimes this decision is a time critical one and clubs not always able to get the County or region support in time. If breach Code of Conduct rules Clubs not having clear rules/constitution of what happens. Phil to send reminder of what is needed to clubs. A Cheshire policy or template that Cheshire clubs could use was suggested.

Cheshire health check to be completed.

There are 7 trailblazer clubs for Bee Netball. Agreement of £500 donation (out of next year's budget) for next season support. Clubs need to agree to be part of a review/feedback project on Bee Netball. Clubs are: Alsager Netball Club, Beechwood Netball Club, Cheshire Stars Netball Club, Knutsford Juniors Netball Club, Nellies Netball Club, Northwich Sapphires, Warrington Town Juniors Netball Club.

Meeting close.



## **Appendix 1: Chairs report 4/7/2023 Estelle Graham Cheshire County Netball Association**

Once again, I did not think I could be surrounded by better volunteers doing more with less and working tirelessly for the love of our sport, but 2023 proved me wrong yet again.

The details of the academies, schools, clubs and leagues successes will be detailed on others reports but I have to say a massive thank you to all the committee members from 2022-2023 – all are very special and the county academy and other work such as mentoring and officiating could not go without you all.

Can I also thank the academy volunteers including team managers and ‘taxi’ family members for ensure our players get to training and are provided with the best opportunities our county can offer within our academy set up.

A special mention this year to Niki for her first year as performance lead and also resurrecting the Elite league; Phil for the amazing tours and prep for next year already; Amanda for your fantastic skills in organising and managing; Chris McCall and Paula Burke for your tireless work with umpires and officials; Sarah for amazing socials; Helen and Fiona for stepping in wherever and Helen picking up schools; to Cathy Benson for picking up finances.

Special thank you to Jess Fowler for her many years running schools and thanks for the smooth handover to Helen.

Ange Kandeh has also had a 1<sup>st</sup> year as Vice Chair – thank you for your support.

Challenges:

**Using our development fund** we have supported some athletes and last year were are looking to support a facility we use for national schools and tournaments with new posts. This didn’t happen as we have moved around schools and away from Winsford. In the 23-24 season we will look an initiative ways to benefit our members with strategic funding.

**ENGAGE is** Engage and still has some issues but membership can now be made up from a menu to provide all EN members with the ‘affiliation’ that suits their individual playing needs. We still have some work to do on the latest guidance so we can ensure we are compliant and using best practice alongside EN guidelines.

**Our aim remains to increase the standards of Cheshire county clubs and schools** and be able to compete on the regional and national stage. Providing athletes with the tools to take their skills to the performance stage along side supporting grass roots athletes and members.

**Volunteering is still the backbone** of Cheshire had an amazing number of nominations at the NW’s One Awards

Locally the Chris Brien Inspiration award was last year won by Wilmslow’s Emma Sayed for her outstanding contribution to the development of coaching at her club. We had 3 nominees this year.

**Netball in Cheshire** is thriving with clubs bursting at the seams. Our NDO Nichola Foulkes has found her feet and is a great support for clubs and committee alike.

As ever, we looking to grow our committee, share the workload to provide a platform for our county academies and other affiliated members to ‘grow’ within our sport – be that as a coach, official, club volunteer OR as a walking netballer, dad who fancies playing in a mixed league or school needing kit to get started. I look forward to working with you all – old and new- Cheshire netball volunteers.

By working together and using our strengths to our advantage, **Cheshire continues to be a county of volunteers to be envied and I thank you all.**



## **Appendix 2: Performance Lead Report Nikki Kendrick**

I would like to start by thanking all the coaching team who have helped to deliver such a successful programme for Cheshire Netball this year. In particular Phil who led brilliantly on the Academy sessions but also co-coached with me at the PDP and U17 sessions, Rosie who I was delighted to welcome back into the Cheshire fold and who, together with Ange, did such a sterling job with our new u12s, and Jenny who took the U13s to new heights delivering an excellent well rounded programme even though at times she had her own personal challenges. Grateful thanks also to all our assistant coaches as well – many of them new to the Cheshire set up. I and the girls thank you because without you we would not have a programme. Thanks also to Claire for picking up on our S&C programme.

It was a challenging year personally for me taking over the role of Cheshire Player Development Lead – new role, new set up, new process, new rules and I had big boots to fill – thank you Sue for all you have done for Cheshire over the many years you have been with us and as Performance Lead. And I must say that I could not have done it without the organisation skills of Amanda who kept me on the straight and narrow – well mostly I escaped a couple of times! Thanks also to all our team managers who also do such a fantastic job allowing the coaches to do what they do best – coach.

We have had a very successful year this year in terms of players into Thunder from the PDP – 3 out of 4 recommendations were moved across. This allowed us to review a number of players and again move 3 Academy players into the PDP. 2 of these were nominated to trial at franchises and both were successful either being invited to join as training partners or long squads, joining 2 other successful trialists from the original squad. Some girls are still waiting to hear but currently there were 4 successful outcomes from 10 nominations.

Cheshire hosted a very successful play day trialling out a new tournament app. The day and the app received rave reviews - the medals less so.

There were some significant successes at other county play days and generally we were able to provide all girls across all squad the opportunity for match play so that they could show case all the hard work they had put into the season. We also had extremely successful tours to the IOM and to Scotland with the U17s. We didn't win there but as the saying goes, we gave them a damn good run for their money, in both games.

We did however have some availability issues relating to clubs entering non-EN-affiliated leagues and players therefore not available for county fixtures. This will be addressed in the expectations for accepting a Cheshire place this year.

Thanks also to Chris McColl and all the umpires who did such a fabulous job for Cheshire this season from trials to playdays. Congratulations also to those who achieved their qualifications from into officiating to the recent B awards

We have already had our initial planning meeting for the forthcoming season and have all trial dates and a draft schedule in place. Concerns remain about players - particularly U12 and U13 - being overloaded and this is currently under review at the NW level as well.

We have big plans afoot already for next season including external coach invitations and zoom sessions on nutrition, mental health and wellbeing.

Thank you to Estelle and Cathy for sorting out the boring administration side - thank heaven I'm not involved in that, but many thanks once again to the awesome coaching and S&C team that makes Cheshire the great netball county it is today.

**Appendix 3: Treasurers Report Cathy Benson 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Having taken over the treasurer's role mid-season and not having access to the bank for a number of months- it was a challenge to start! But now we are on track again!

I have split all the income and expenses into categories so we can identify where there the revenue in terms of cost is generated and the costs involved to run a successful Academy within Cheshire- (see attached)

In terms of athlete's subscriptions, we ask for full payment or split into two, as you can see we are still outstanding approximately £1,004- TMs are aware of this and are chasing the outstanding monies.

School payments have proved to be difficult in terms of what is owed, and this is still being pursued.

One payment outstanding from Regional currently being chased- £200.

All expenses we are aware of have been paid.

Only one club took advantage of the £250 contribution towards coaches developments.

New County Dresses and a revamp to the website this year with a cost £1362 which was an extra cost this season.

County Tours and Play days have continued throughout the season and the county once again has subsidised some of these costs to try and keep the costs reasonable for athletes to participate.

Payments to clubs who are now running the "All England Bees" sessions is currently under discussion as to whether a contribution will be made from County to support clubs in the setup of these new age groups.

The bank balance from the previous season was showing a healthy £35,289 once all expenses had been paid.

The bank balance at the moment is showing £19248 but payments of £14166 have already been made for the February 2024 Tour with no income received as yet until next season.

Therefore, the current situation as of the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 stands at a loss of £671 this includes any outstanding income apart from the outstanding income from schools.

Once again, we can say we have a delivered a successful season for athletes within our Cheshire County.

#### Appendix 4: 2022/23 OFFICIATING REPORT Chris McCall

##### ➤ **Successes**

**Huge congratulations to all the following umpires on passing the various stages of the officiating awards**

##### ○ **23 umpires achieved the Into Officiating**

Kate Williams, Jaymee-Leigh Stocker, Lucy Clark, Nadia Ivanova, Eva Howitt, Olivia Beauchamp, Alicia Dixon, Yasmin Morgan, Ella Hims, Freya Beard, Suzanne Wilkinson, Alicia Johnson, Nya Hampson, Mollie Gillibrand, Harriet Wheeler, Niamh Fallon, Megan Banner, Ruby Bignall, Kayleigh Brown, Trinity Jobent, Sian Fitzsimons, Nina Myers, Annabelle Parker

##### ○ **8 umpires passed their C Award Practical Assessment**

Scarlett Jobent, Rachel Middlebrook, Donna Draper, Kate Williams, Rubie McDonald, Holly Wilson, Rebecca Beauchamp, Suzanne Wilkinson

##### ○ **2 umpires attended the Trainee Assessors course and are currently working towards their qualification: Paula Burke & Estelle Graham**

Ann Burt-Williams completed her training and is an EN qualified C and B Award Assessor

#### **A/B AWARD PATHWAY**

- 4 umpires passed their B Award Practical Assessment
- 11 achieved the A/B Written Assessment
- 12 umpires are participating in the NW mentoring programme
- 10 umpires attended a B Award Course

With another 18 Cheshire umpires expressed an interest to attend the next B course

All these achievements would not have been possible without our great officiating team of Assessors and Mentors.

**A massive thank you to Emma Pike, Phil Owen, Ann Burt-Williams, Paula Burke, Michelle Clunie and Pat Arnott for the tremendous support they have given this year to me and the umpire learners within Cheshire.**

##### ➤ **Next steps**

Following the implementation of the NW Mentoring Programme this year for B and A awards, the NW Officiating TSG (which consists of the NW County Officiating Leads), will be working together to adapt the programme for Counties to use for developing Into and C Award learners.

There will be challenges along the way given the large geographical area of Cheshire but hopefully before the programme is launched we will be able to recruit Mentors in key areas/leagues to support the development of learner umpires and also the ongoing development of qualified umpires.