

Cheshire County Netball Association

Annual General Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Knutsford Leisure Centre, Knutsford

ATTENDEES

Andy Lowe	Imagine8 NC
Julian Whitworth	Didsbury NC
Debbie Whitworth	Didsbury NC
Estelle Graham	Warrington Town NC
Chris Brien	Alloy NC
Fiona Rose	Independent
Chris McCall	Independent
Mel Morris	Beechwood NC
Jenny Bignall	Beechwood NC
Viv Chadwick	Sandbach NC
Dave Chadwick	Sandbach NC
Tricia Sterling	Chester NC
Leanne Webster	Chester NC
Rosie Harris	Wilmslow NC
Paula McDonald	Independent
Bev Sidwell	Macclesfield NC
Wendy Nelson	Macclesfield NC
Laura Rodgers	NW Netball

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AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM
3. Annual Reports
  - Chairperson
  - Treasurer
  - Officiating Secretary

- Schools
  - 4. New Constitution and Committee Structure – Vote required
  - 5. Elections of Officers/Board members
  - 6. AOB
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### **Meeting start: 7.05pm**

1. Apologies for absence  
Phil Owen – Knutsford NC; Donna Yates - Ladyhawks,; Sue Day – Independent; Emma Jones – Boughton Belles; Nikki Kendrick - Macclesfield NC
2. Minutes of Meeting from AGM 2014
  - Estelle shared copies of the minutes of the 2014 AGM (these can also be found on the Cheshire Netball website)
  - The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the 2013 AGM  
Proposed: Chris McCall; Seconded: Julian Whitworth.
3. Annual Reports

### **Chair's report** (Estelle Graham)

The 2014/15 season has been a year of successes on and off the court, with a step up in intensity. In September we selected 150 girls from all over the county to be in the County Academies, which included one Under 19 development PODS. In addition we scouted girls into the U12 county development POD with 20 new Year 7s brought in for bi-monthly training.

### **County Squads Training**

With the new directive from EN and a signed agreement with set targets and a renewed focus on intensity and quality, the new Cheshire academies were expanded to 2x U14 Satellite training for 15 weeks and 1 x U16 Academy training for 30 weeks, both limited to 20 athletes, following a strict schedule with homework booklets and strength & conditioning – regional match play included one in county colours at Widnes and a second as individual athletes in Cumbria.

The lead coaches have then selected a number of athletes to go forward to regional selection in June. Our target is to get 2 athletes selected per academy, this will then secure our funding. We wish them well.

### **Training PODS**

The Cheshire Club player development groups aka the PODS have continued with one at U14 and U16, with U19's also having a training POD.

Assistant coach Hayley stepped up to coach the u16 with support from Fran and Nikki Bristow and Caroline Owen also with support from team Bristow, looked after the U14, whom she said were the best she had ever had. A sign of the standards our coach's hard work at the U12 & 14 age groups.

Many thanks to Caroline who after many year's as our POD coach has retired from the county team.

### **Match Play**

Outside of the EN regional training programme, in April we hosted an evening with the IOM, U16 & U19 match play – this was our traditional Play Day and a great night of netball was had.

The tour for this season for the U14 and U16's was to Jersey, where we watched the Prem 3 Jersey Jets game via Linden (great competitive adult game) and then played various teams over two days including the Jersey Jets junior & u19 team and the top club teams on the island. Coaches and athletes agreed to intensity of match play and observations was a great learning exercise for all and the girls were unbeaten.

This year we have also taken part in the 3 regional academy days, where the coaches look to get all the athletes on court throughout the fixture and girls competed against the other NW counties. This included 2 coach-loads to Cumbria which are always good fun.

### **County Trials**

We held Pre trials for U14 & 16's on 6/7 June at Wilmslow – a windy but dry weekend. We will be holding Summer Training sessions over 3 dates, mirroring the format of Regional training.

The final session is the day after the Regional Selection so we will not only have seen all the athletes over several hours but we will know exactly how many places we have for athletes' within each group. The focus is on quality not quantity so if we don't have enough players of the correct caliber, we won't be making up the numbers for the sake of it.

### **2015 Regional Trials**

19 players were nominated to attend the North West Festival run by the Regional Talent Coach Sheonah Forbes on 13<sup>th</sup> June and congratulations go to:

Ruth Hughes  
Rachel Duckers  
Amelia Veevers  
Josephine Fraser Thompson  
Jenny Wise

Mary Nelson  
Megan Perry  
Emma Fairclough  
Darcy Ross  
Elena Forde  
Georgia Ellis

These girls will train throughout the summer months and trial again in September with unsuccessful athletes falling back into the county academies where applicable.

### **County Plan**

The four year plan has kicked in. Cheshire have previously praised as a forward thinking County as we have excellent communication links with the website, facebook and twitter all of which keeps players and parents updated. Cheshire were the only county who were running academies for under 12's and Under 19s and we have a Hardship Fund so that no talented player will be denied the opportunity to play for Cheshire due to finances.

This next season we have will continue with 2 x U14 Satellites and 1 x U16 Academy and have signed and returned the agreement to EN. With the success seen in the development at U12 with intense basic training, this enables us to increase the basic intense training at the younger age ensuring the basics become a natural part of our athletes game and intensity becomes the norm.

For 2015/16 season, we will continue with U12 training, 1 x U14 and 1 x U16 POD as well as 1 x U19 POD. The U14 & U16 POD focus is Cheshire athlete development, providing skills training that they can take back to school and club. The U19's will take part in the Cheshire Elite League the focus moving strategy, match play, team work and other aspects of the sport including umpiring and coaching.

### **Cheshire Schools**

We supported the Schools helping run all the Schools Tournaments for every age group throughout the season. A special mention goes to Fallibroome School who won u16 National Schools Tournament for the second year.

### **County Junior Regional League**

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year in this format for the NW with Cheshire having 9 clubs in the new Regional Junior Leagues which saw Chester, Didsbury, Macclesfield Pink Ladies, Wilmslow, Warrington and Boughton Belles representing the county in the u14 and 16s leagues against teams from Manchester Lancashire Cumbria and Merseyside. All competed well and we have seen the standard rise with NW representatives. Special mention to pink ladies U16 who made the regional semi's and Chester U14's who were National Clubs runners ups.

### **County Junior League**

The County has again allowed the Junior league to run the qualification for the under 13 and 15 age groups. We worked with the committee to secure an indoor venue which has seen

an improvement in the quality of games. There is additional cost but I think all agree it's worth it.

### **County Elite League**

The County again supported the Elite League and it has expanded to 16 clubs playing and now into 2 divisions This League is the envy of other counties as we use this for player, club and umpire development and forms the pathway for senior clubs to qualify for the Regional league on the way to the EN Prem league. Well Done to Merseyside Police winners and Cheshire U19 runners up.

### **Manchester Thunder Superleague**

The County had a couple of Thunder training sessions one with Tracey and the other with Chelsea Pitman.

We were requested to provide only 2 girls for the tri festival with Yorkshire and North East hubs during the school holidays both of whom were under 13 (Year 8).

### **Coach Development Fund**

We have continued to help our clubs develop by providing £250 maximum to each club who applied for development of their staff ranging from level 2 to first aid to Safeguarding fees. We have sent Coaches to the national Conference and supported our A grade umpires enabling them to attend the National Conferences.

### **Planning**

Following this AGM, we will continue to plan for the next season, working with the NW Regional Board in order to access the Regional training and other opportunities, which could be available to our volunteers, officials and players.

This will mean a number of changes to the format for the season ahead with each coach being supported by team managers and not only looking at the skills of the players but their fitness and core strength which will be measured regularly. We are planning to put more focus on S&C testing as well as training.

England have also asked for all counties to ensure they have succession planning and whilst we have one of the largest and hard working committees we always welcome new members who are willing to help. I am looking to propose a review of the Cheshire Committee to bring them in line with the regional board, creating our own working groups with regular communication to the main board via monthly telecoms or meetings. I personally am looking to expand our work from the academy system to include league development as well as coach / club development at a junior level.

I would like to finish by thanking our hard working committee, coaches, umpires team managers Officials and other volunteers, including the Whitworths for their catering support, who put a lot of time and effort into making the whole season run smoothly.



**Treasurer’s report (Chris Brien)**

Chris provided a summary of the year’s accounts and reminded the clubs that there is funding available of up to £250/club per year towards the cost of training courses etc.

**Officiating Secretary’s report (Chris McCall)**



CCNA AGM -  
14.07.15 - Umpiring r

A Beginners’ umpiring course is being held at Beechwood NC on 20<sup>th</sup> August. If anyone would like to join this session they should contact Helen Dulson in the NW Netball office to book a place. Didsbury NC is organizing a course in Sept too – again contact Helen Dulson in the NW office to book.

**Schools report (Emma Jones)**



AGM Report from  
Schools Secretary.do

Fiona read out the Schools report at the meeting in Emma’s absence

We need to increase participation at schools tournaments and increase awareness in schools of these events. Laura Rodgers will contact ActiveCheshire to ask them to provide Emma with a list of contacts in Cheshire schools.

Primary schools need to be included in the plan for next season.

Emma to contact the NW Netball office if she hears of any schools who are intending to run courses, so that the office can keep track of these.

Note from Estelle: Emma is doing a great job working independently and organizing tournaments with very little input needed from Cheshire. Thanks Emma ☺



New Cheshire  
Committee format.pptf



Revised Constitution  
of CCNA agreed at A

4. **New Constitution and Committee Structure**

The proposed changes to the constitution are as follows :-

Section 6: No executive officers; instead board members will be appointed. The new board will mirror the structure of the NW Netball board, moving away from the old committee structure with board members leading active committees.

Section 7: Changes to positions (note 'Athlete Training Programme Lead' will be renamed 'Performance Lead')

Section 8: Change from 7 days to 28 days

Section 9: Change from 'committee members' to 'board members'

Section 12: Change from 'Lloyds TSB' to 'bank'

Proposed: Jenny Bignall; Seconded: Bev Sidwell

The changes were agreed unanimously by the meeting attendees.

5. Election of officers/board members

<b>County Chair</b>	Estelle Graham
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Andy Lowe
<b>Secretary/Communications</b>	Fiona Rose
• Comms sub-committee	Debbie Whitworth
<b>Finance</b>	Chris Brien
• Finance sub-committee	Clare McFarlane
<b>Competition</b>	Fiona Rose
<b>Officiating</b>	Chris McCall
<b>Performance</b>	Chris Brien
<b>Coach Development</b>	Estelle Graham

Associated members (non-voting)

Schools	Emma Jones
Logistics	Andy Lowe
Compliance and Inclusion (*)	Phil Owen
Volunteers	Paula McDonald

Proposed: Leanne Webster; Seconded: Tricia Sterling

Compliance and Inclusion (\*) – this role was previously known as 'Welfare'

6. AOB

6.1 Query regarding the set up of the Ball Halls (Bev Sidwell)

Estelle confirmed that the Ball Halls are run as a private business with their own rules and regulations. They are not part of the EN set up.

6.2 CCNA to 'focus elsewhere' – what does this mean? (Mel Morris)

Estelle said that we have put a lot of effort into supporting the Cheshire academies and going forwards we will be focussing our efforts on other aspects of netball in Cheshire, not to the detriment of the academies, but in addition to.

6.3 Is the County plan on the Cheshire website ? (Mel Morris)

The county plan is not on the website but Estelle will send Mel a copy of this.

Mel confirmed that she will have some time to go into primary schools during term time to support their netball development. Estelle asked Mel to liaise with Emma Jones on this idea.

6.4 Links with School Games Organisers (Rosie Harris)

Rosie suggested that we need to improve our links with the Schools Games Organisers. Estelle said that this would be an action for Emma Jones to follow-up, and include the NDO's too

Note of thanks from Chris to **Julian and Debbie Whitworth** for all their hard work and continued support for providing BBQ's and refreshments at tournaments and trials this season.

**Meeting Closed – 8.13pm**

Fiona Rose  
Secretary, Cheshire Netball  
July 2015