

Chair's Report
CJNL 2018-2019 Season

Welcome to the AGM for the CJNL for the 2018-2019 season. I hope that we feel that the season this year has been broadly successful and welcome to the new teams that joined us for the first season – we hope you had a good year! There is always room for improvement of course, but we do believe that the lessons learned from last year when we moved to the 3-venue indoor format have mostly been put in to place. At the very least we managed to keep versions of the fixtures down to single figures with two of these versions being occasioned by requests from Cheshire and a significant number of clubs attending a PGL weekend to move fixtures. I thank Bev and Becky Sidwell for their tireless efforts in getting the fixtures to such a good place despite these changes and a number of clubs withdrawing part way through the season. We are aware that the multiple matches on the same day towards the end of the season and some of the inconsistencies in the frequency of matches needs to be addressed.

We do recognise that there are still some learnings to be incorporated in the development of the fixtures but in the main a very robust system has now been developed and during the follow on meeting tonight we will highlight further improvements that we know can be made.

Talking to clubs on an ad hoc basis the feedback this year has been much more positive with the improvement for all aspect of the league including in real time results and immediately updated tables being welcomed – and I would like to thank the results secretary Richard Baxter for this

We have had to deal with a number of complaints this year related to what can only be described as aggressive and sometimes abusive behaviour between members of clubs and parents, and towards umpires. Unfortunately complaints of this nature usually descend in to a “he said she said” scenario although sanctions were applied in two cases. However, we need to make it clear that any such behaviour will not be tolerated at the CJNL. On the basis of these occurrences we do want to look at the complaints procedure for the forthcoming season and we will be proposing an update to the CJNL Handbook to allow us to take more rigorous action against offenders.

In the immediate aftermath of these incidents, an excellent umpiring course run by Emma Pike set out the ground rules and the expectations and subsequently the disrespectful attitude towards umpires and fellow members of the league appears to have been resolved. My grateful thanks also go to Paula Burke and Chris McColl for the significant efforts in raising the umpiring standard and for getting so many new umpires setting out on their umpiring journey.

May I say however going in to the 2019-2020 season that I have the full backing of the Committee that such behaviour will not be tolerated in the CJNL and I would ask you all for your support on this matter and to keep a watchful eye whenever you are at a CJNL game. I would also remind umpires that they have authority over any aspect of a game including reprimanding club officials and spectators, and are within their right to remove offenders from the courtside and make a formal complaint to the Committee.

And so on to the netball. From many of the games that I have watched, umpired or coached I think I can say without doubt that the CJNL is now very high quality competitive league. It is a league where netball of the very highest level is played, at excellent venues and with quality umpires and I think we should all be very proud of our clubs and our netball players as the league clearly is going

from strength to strength. Chris Brien would I'm sure be very proud of the standard of netball that has been in evidence this year.

My thanks too go to Pat and Jenny our vice chairs for their guidance and advice on so many issues this year and to Phil for his safeguarding role.

Cathy Benson has taken over the role of Treasurer and will in her report I'm sure cover some of the challenges she has faced in trying to get the accounts in to order. I know that we still have payments to be made for the past season so please on behalf of Cathy can I urge all clubs to get their financial commitments in as soon as possible.

I would also like to thank Debbie for her sterling work in keeping us all on track and in communication with one another. With around 100 teams entered this year it is truly a mammoth task keeping everything together, so thank you Debbie.

Finally can I extend my thanks to all clubs, officials, coaches, umpires, parents and players – the CJNL has grown massively since I first started with the league and I hope that for the forthcoming year we can iron out the few remaining issues re fixtures and results and continue to offer all ages U16 in Cheshire the opportunity to play in a highly competitive, well officiated league with the positive support of all involved.