

WORCESTER CITY NETBALL LEAGUE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Zoom 5th September 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present: All teams were represented.

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Fiona welcomed everyone to the meeting and talked through the agenda and format.

2. Donation - Worcestershire Breast Haven Unit

A donation has been made to Worcestershire Breast Haven Unit from funds raised at the Stewart Vernalls Tournament.

3. APOLOGIES

None received.

4. ADOPTION OF REPORTS AND MINUTES OF 2021 AGM

The minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting together with reports had been circulated to all teams with the agenda. It was proposed by Mel James and seconded by Becky Price and unanimously agreed that the reports should be adopted and signed by the Chairperson as a true record of that meeting.

5. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – Sue Maund

“Welcome to this year’s AGM.

Congratulations to all winners, runners up and players of the season in 2021/22.

It was great to have the Stuart Vernalls Memorial Tournament back again after 3 years, thanks to Dawn Jackson and Kirsty Evans for organising the tournament and the teams which entered to make it a successful event.

I would like to thank all the committee members for all their hard work this year. Special thanks to Lin Smith and Claire Rainbow who are resigning from the committee after many years of valuable service to the league.

WCNL rules -

These rules are local league rules for every affiliated person within our league and should be adhered to, some rules do vary between Summer and Winter seasons

- Rules are discussed by the committee prior to the AGM, the committee add or amend existing rules where appropriate, they are then sent out to all team secretaries
- Teams then have the opportunity to discuss any amendments and add any comments/suggestions before the AGM
- If we don't receive any correspondence regarding the amendments, they will stand and be voted in at the AGM and passed for the following season
- All rules are published on our website and I would encourage all Coaches, Managers, Players and Umpires to take time to read them prior the start of the Winter season.”

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Fiona Lawson

“Thank you all for attending the WCNL 2022 AGM.

Finally 2021/22, we have managed two great seasons of competitive netball as well as a tournament, it really does feel like we are back to normal. I want to thank all teams who enter our leagues to play competitive but fun netball and all umpires who make our games possible. I also want to congratulate all of the winners and runners-up of both winter and summer league, we will find out who they are in the presentation at the end. Huge thank you as always to my colleagues on the committee, as volunteers they do give up their time to do the very best for you, it may not always feel like it but we continue to make the best decisions we can for the benefit of the league as a whole. I'm going to get the negatives and issues out of the way first ...

Venues –

Venues remain a huge problem for us in Worcestershire. Indoor courts for winter are sparse, not always in the best condition and in many cases, very expensive. We want netball to be available to everyone who wants to play and will continue to work with venues to ensure that happens.

Summer courts have also become an issue; this year we had problem after problem with schools having building works done so not all of the courts were available; unfortunately, they fail to let us know, we find out when we turn up which is disappointing for teams who don't get to play and a nightmare for Sarah who has to rearrange fixtures.

If anyone has any suggestions for courts or contacts they can pass across to us, please do, all help gratefully received.

Rules –

In general we play to England Netball rules, however, we have to have a set of local rules to meet our local needs. The WCNL rules apply in the first instance, if there is not a WCNL rule, we revert to England Netball rules. It is apparent many players and even some umpires are not aware this is the case – please can you ensure all of your players and umpires are aware of the WCNL rules and policies, all of which are on the website.

Policy updates –

All of the policies have now been updated for the 2022/23 season and are available on the website. Julie Shaw will be going through a few of the policies in a little while where significant changes have been made.

Umpires

This year, we have run two umpiring forums, with the brilliant Lindsay Ganderton and Dawn Jackson as well as putting in place an umpiring buddy system for new umpires. In terms of the forums, they are fabulous, we ask umpires what they would like included and Lindsey includes lots of hints and tips and best practice around common issues. They are not always as well attended as we would like; we would urge you as team representatives to tell your umpires about them when we advertise them to ensure they can come along. Last year we introduced a new umpiring policy; to accompany the rules and ensure umpires were umpiring in divisions they felt confident to umpire in, all newly qualified umpires have to be 'assessed' by the league (this is not optional) – we know

they have achieved their qualification, however, that doesn't mean to say they have had a great deal of umpiring experience, the idea is they are assessed by the league and told which divisions they can umpire in – throwing new umpires with limited experience in at the deep end is not going to improve their skills or their confidence. They are also offered an umpiring buddy who will come along to games with them and help improve their knowledge, this is optional for new umpires but we really encourage them to take up this offer. More experienced umpires who have qualified as a C umpire but who have been umpiring for many years, the assessment does not apply to them, however, the umpiring buddy system is still available to them and any current umpire who may want some help. I'd like to thank Bev Weaver and Jenny Young who have been helping newly qualified umpires this year. If there are any other umpires who want to help others out, please email me chairwcnl@gmail.com.

Payments –

I know you have all seen the profit and loss account, I will display this after I have finished whittering on! The age old question may well be asked by one of you – why do we have so much money in the account? The best example I can give is in the winter, the courts are expensive, really expensive. We send invoices to clubs/teams with two payment terms throughout the winter season; October and January. However, we have to pay a lot of court fees up front, we will have to pay in excess of £6,000 for winter court fees before you have to pay your first instalment. In order to do this, we have to ensure we have enough money in the account.

Tournament –

The Stewart Vernalls tournament returned this year, it is great to be able to run the tournament again and be able to make a donation to a local women's charity. Huge congratulations to Zodiac Amazon, it was a great tournament, it would not have happened without the help from Dawn Jackson and Kirsty. It was slightly disappointing in terms of the number of teams who entered, hopefully we will get a better response next year. I would encourage teams to enter, it is a great competition and you get to play teams you don't normally play.

And finally, even though they may have already been mentioned, we have some thank you's ...

Dawn Jackson and Lindsey Ganderton – huge thanks to this pair, they are not on the WCNL committee but they continue to offer help and support where they can. As you know the tournament would not have happened without Dawn's help and the umpiring forums we run would not be possible without Lindsey and Dawn.

Winter League 2022/23 –

Winter league has been made up with eight divisions.

Regional teams with play each other on a number of occasions to ensure they play the same amount of times as other divisions.

Division Five play each other three times, and division six play each other four times.

Wednesday and Monday night divisions are so teams can play teams from other divisions, to fulfil the season.

To limit the number of 9pm games we secured venues:

- Worcester sixth form college outside
- King school inside at the old sports hall, parking limited
- Tudor Grange
- Perdiswell sports Centre
- St John's Sports Centre

Player of the match for winter 2022/23

As voted for by you guys will be each team chooses player for the other team. Thank you to everyone who voted.”

7. TREASURER’S REPORT – Jo Hawes

Appendix 1 – Worcester City Netball League Profit and Loss 2021/22

Appendix 1 was distributed to attendees prior to the meeting.

“We have a healthy balance but as previously mentioned, we have to pay up front for court costs and winter court costs can wipe out the balance significantly before you pay your court fees. This means that we have to keep the surplus that we have in the account to cover these costs in lieu of receiving payments for your court fees.

I ask every year but please can I ask for invoices to be paid promptly according to the terms set out on the invoices once they have been issued. You will get one invoice – half must be paid before the end of October2022 and the other half before the end of January 2023.

Thank you.”

9. POLICIES UPDATE

An update on policies was given by Safeguarding Officer Julie Shaw. Amended policies will be available on the WCNL website shortly.

8. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments by the Committee had been circulated to all teams prior to the meeting. No questions, objections or amendments had been received by the due date and therefore the proposed amendments to the constitution was approved.

Proposed – Julie Shaw
Seconded – Beccie Delord

9. RULE AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments by the Committee had been circulated to all teams prior to the meeting. No amendments were to the proposed rule changes were agreed and therefore

the proposed amendments to rules 5, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.6.2, 18, 18.1 and 18.2 will stand.

Proposed – Mel James
 Seconded – Georgina Evans

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notification of vacancies for officers had been circulated to teams with the agenda. All other committee members are happy to remain in post for this year.

Nominations for the following vacancies have been received:

Tournament Secretary – Zoe Newton-Smith
Communications Officer – Emily King
Umpiring Secretary – Maxine Rawlins
Co-Opted Member – Kitty Beech

No objections were raised at the meeting and elections stand.

No further nominations were received.

11. PROPOSED EXTRA ITEMS

None were received in advance.

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

Indoor			
Division Premier	Saracens	Redditch	Rosie Grinnell Firefox 5
Division One	KT Sports	Zodiac Supernova	Kim Simpson Zodiac 4
Division Two	Zodiac Amicae	Bluebirds	Hayley Goodyear Platinum Players 6
Division Three	Zodiac Sparkys	UBMS2	Kate McKenzie Zodiac Sparkys 6
Division Four	WNC Platinum	Platinum Pivots	Charley Walters Zodiac Meteors 5
Division Five	Fireballs	Zodiac Stars	Chloe Lakin Fireballs 6
Division Six	WNC Emeralds	WNC Crystals	Leona Dean WNC Hearts 5
Summer			
Division Premier	Zodiac Supernova	Malvern Springs Jets	Julie Round – KT Sports 5
Division One	Malvern Comets	Bluebirds	Claire Walker – Zodiac Amicae 5
Division Two	Zodiac Blacks	WNC Platinum	Kim Owen WNC Platinum 6
Division Three	Zodiac Asteriods	Fireballs	Liv Shacklock Zodiac Galaxy 6
Division Four	Raiders Rockets	Raiders Bombs	Sophie Mitchell WNC Crystals 6
Division Five	Diamonds	WNC Rubies	Mollie Higginson Scarlett Stars 8

11. CLOSE OF MEETING – 8:39pm