

KENT NETBALL ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8 OCTOBER 2020
ZOOM

Attendance

Kent Netball Committee

Roger Perham – President (RP)
Dawn Cox – County Secretary (DC), Ashford NL
Marlene Wander – Chairman (MW)
Helen Telfer – Treasurer (HT)
Keeley Smith – Officiating (KSM)
Anita Hollman – Performance, Telstars (AH)
Rhys David – Affiliated Leagues (RD)
Katie Southam- Coaching (KSO)
David Roche – Competitions (DR)
Natalie Beckett – Welfare (NB)

Phill Harvey (PH) England netball Development Officer

Life Members

Joan Mills (JM)
Ann West (AW)

Other

KCSNL D1

Sue Moon – Comets
Liz Roche – KCNC
Sam Pembroke – Steel
Anita Hollman – Telstars
Rachael Jarman - Wealden

KCSNL D2

Mel Hammil – Hornets
Natalie Beckett – Instead Rise
Michelle Ray – Macklins
Joy Ellis – Raiders
Candice Laidley – Sabina
Lisa Westerman - Saracens

Barbara Taylor (Tonbridge NL)
Tracey Marshall (Tunbridge Wells NL)
Christine Lander (Swanley NC)
Vicki Gibbons (Malling & Maidstone NL)
Pauline Pearson (KCNC)
Stephanie Brivio (Medway NL)
Pauline Geoffrey (Stittingboune NL & Falcons)
Carol Baker (Pilgrims NC)
Jo Houlker (Comets)
Jenny Davis

30 participants

1. Practical arrangements of Zoom meeting.

DC explained how the Zoom call would work.

2. Apologies

Joyce Crust
Tina Head
Jenny Fissenden (Media)

3. President – Roger Perham

Mr Perham said that it was the first time that he had had to chair a meeting on Zoom. He foresaw a dismal winter was approaching but that the county would be trying to run the county league and he hoped for a positive discussion on this later.

4. Agree the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2019

Proposed: Joan Mills
Seconded: Sam Pembroke

Correction to attendance in 2019 AGM minutes, Megan Fox should have read Megan Gough.

5. Matters Arising

- Stephanie Brivio had observed that safeguarding was absent from the agenda - this item was added to the 2020 agenda.
- NK College had been in discussion for a number of years. Had hoped that over this period we would be finally able to achieve our goal, but that there was a hiatus on this at the present time.

6. Appointment of Tellers

As it was difficult to appoint tellers on Zoom, votes would be dealt with as the need arises.

7. Chairman – Marlene Wander (MW)

A report from Marlene Wander was circulated in advance and is copied here:

With the abrupt end to our season through the extraordinary events brought about by COVID-19, this season finale of final games, and play offs have not happened. This has been a great shame for us all.

The senior county league ran smoothly until lockdown due to the coronavirus, which left us unable to complete the league with just one fixture left to play. In August it was decided that the league positions would be closed where they stood. This left us with Steel and Raiders winning their divisions. It was also agreed that there would not be play-offs for entry into the league in the coming season, but that the usual promotion/relegation should take place.

Congratulations to Steel who should have qualified for the Regional League play offs for 20/21 had they taken place.

It is true that most important currently is that everyone within our netball family and those close to us are all safe and well and I sincerely do hope this is the case with you all.

- *On the subject of the AGM clearly a physical meeting of the Association will not be possible as normal this year and therefore we will be making history by hosting our first virtual AGM on the 8th of October.*
- *Our development Officer also had an exceptional season and not only covered Kent but supported other counties in the Region which was recognised by all, and we all thank him for his support and continual engagement with all our members.*
- *On a financial footing the accounts for the year show a small surplus which we have set aside as discussed at last year's AGM to look at supporting development of facilities in our County for our membership.*
- *I have been encouraged by the number of learners looking to progress to their C award and our course conversion rate has been on the increase. In addition to those that have already passed their pre-assessments, there is currently a further 20 learners to C award and 3 to B award currently being mentored. Sadly, all Kent officiating courses scheduled between April to July were cancelled and these have not been able to be re-arranged.*

We have taken the time to review our Governance and have therefore circulated previously our amended Constitution together with Byelaws and Terms of Reference to ensure we continue to be compliant and can support our members in line with our policies and procedures.

May I pay tribute to everyone that gives their time to support our County there really are too many to mention, so to all of you, Thank You.

Special thanks go to my ever-hardworking committee for their support and guidance to ensure Kent can in turn support you. Their hard work can be evidenced in their individual reports, so please take time to read these.

We continue to welcome new members to the board and any interested parties, please do get in touch.

Finally, at the time of writing this report, there is uncertainty about the new season. The County is preparing for business as normal but in the event that guidance given means we must make changes we will of course keep you fully updated on the County's website.

Keep well.

Kind regards,

*Marlene Wander
Kent Netball Chairman*

MW highlighted that two amendments to her report were required:

- "Small surplus" should read small "deficit".
- Constitution was no longer to be voted on today in order to present the Terms of Reference and Byelaws at the same time for completeness. She explained that there would be an extraordinary meeting put in place when the documents were ready and had been circulated.

8. Development Reports

PH explained that the pandemic had only affected him for 1 month and he had already met his targets at that point. He referred the meeting to his report for further information but said that it had been a positive year. PH offered that although he was inundated with ENGage queries, he promised to get back to anyone who wanted to contact him about the system.

9. Committee members' reports

JM asked why (possibly for the second year running) there weren't any colleges or universities affiliated. Given that netball was played in all those organisations she wondered why - was it because affiliation was expensive? PH said that the University of Kent was a member university in order to engage a University Netball Officer, but that JM was correct that there weren't any colleges or any other FE organisations affiliated. He explained he did

engage with the KCSSA (a charitable organisation for FE colleges) and the BUCS set-up (a commercial organisation for the HE sector which operates outside of EN) in an advisory capacity and this engagement was included in his reporting figures. PH observed that EN's offer to universities and colleges could be considered expensive without any tangible member benefits.

JM said that Kent was very good with its school tournaments and this was causing a gap to be created. As there were so many other sports for young women to take up, were we missing out? PH said that any benefit that could be offered would be through competition and that the administration of that would fall to Kent Netball. He also highlighted the differences between school and university membership and how it impacted the individual. He felt it would be a whole new undertaking to offer the competitive structure but agreed that it was an opportunity.

JM congratulated AH on the number of young people Kent had in the EN development system, but asked how well the SuperLeague taking over the responsibility of developing the young people was working. AH said that it was a "bottle-neck" with the U19s/U21 athletes from the Kent hubs facing massively reduced capacity in the SuperLeague. She said that it was the same in the trials, with the athletes relying on the coach and video analysis to get into the Roses Academy. JM's concerns were that accessing London Pulse, Mavericks & Storm was difficult and expensive, what happens to those who don't make it? AH said that very few make it and so they have to revert back to a club a Premier League club or university. Storm has taken training to Reading, so that wasn't a feasible option for Kent athletes any longer.

The reports were adopted, no objections.

10. Treasurer – Helen Telfer

HT introduced the accounts, £63,000 had been spent, with £93,000 remaining in reserve. She explained that the deficit was for 2 reasons: 1. Mentoring has really taken off and referred meeting to KSM's report for more information on this. 2. More grants awarded.

JM observed that the accounts only covered one page rather than the usual 3 or 4 pages with the detail behind the expenditure. HT said that she fitted it onto one page. DR agreed that it had been summarised, but JM asked for more detail - for example an explanation of the additional expenditure on affiliations. HT said that the difference was because of LM affiliation. In the example of grants HT explained that there were grants for Bee Netball, a compulsory weekend course or tutors as well as for academy athletes to attend a tournament. Performance grants for Premier and Regional clubs as usual. RP reminded that it was identified at previous AGMs that KN had the financial "clout" to help leagues and so had set up a system where leagues could apply for funding. He accepted the point that there wasn't the detail JM might have liked but that it could be provided upon request. HT said that there would be no problem to provide this. MW said that the county had been challenged to create more grants to support the membership. On the back of that, KN had launched a personal development grant to cover education (incorporating a payback supporting Kent).

DR commented that he was pleased that KN was doing a lot more to support "all sorts of things" shown in the deficit. He felt it wasn't a vast amount to have overspent in a busy year. RP said that there were projects KN wished to advance which will be present in next year's accounts.

Action: HT to expand the detail. (See Appendix 1)

The accounts were accepted with no objections.

11. Notification of Registration Fees 2020/21

RP said that the discount had been extended until Christmas, Kent Netball had not made an increase this year. PH said that Kent had achieved 68% renewal membership by the same time last year. 1:3 had adopted the full rate.

MW highlighted a challenge in that individuals who had chosen to affiliate early using EN's link were not automatically linked to their club/county. PH said that it was possible to affiliate with the discount through the

login which would maintain the link, but he recognised that using the link did mean that the club/county link was lost. PH offered to help any club/league to rectify this and offered to hold a forum about FAQ if required.

12. Appointment of auditor

RP said that Chris Thompson the Auditor for the past 10 years or so had decided to retire. As the accounts wouldn't need to be reviewed until May next year, HT would like to defer the decision. HT confirmed that she had has some 'feelers out' for a replacement and has proposed that the decision be postponed until the EGM in the New Year.

There was no objection to this.

13. County Leagues/Competition Update

RP said that the county was trying to run county league despite problems with the coronavirus. At the present time KN had invited the clubs to keep playing, the matches would take place outside but that no decision had been made whether this arrangement would last the whole season. Liz Roche observed that a move indoors would need to be at the mid-point, or not move indoors at all. RP asked whether clubs would prefer 4 x 15 or 4 x 10 Minutes matches? LR confirmed that 60 minutes of match play was allowed. NB clarified that contest would not be permitted in warm up if there was 60 minutes of match play. Therefore, the warm-up activities would need to be socially distanced. LR felt the matches should be an hour. PH said that 6 x 10 minutes could also be considered with the emphasis on encouraging some netball rather than none for their mental and physical health. Competitive season discouraged. Sue Moon asked whether the matches could be run at a central venue? LR said that at a central venue someone would have to manage the arrangements, in and out etc. with the disadvantage being that there would be a lot of people at the same place. AH agreed that it was easier for a Covid-19 Officer to monitor two teams and suggested that several games might touch on being a tournament which wasn't permitted. MW said that a central venue would be an issue with safeguarding, the fewer people on site the better for bookings. PH said that if the central venue was used there would be a greater responsibility on the shoulders of the competition organiser, that it would be possible but logistically more difficult. RP summarised that clubs would stay with their own courts and 4 x 15 minutes' matches. MW said that teams needed to build in sufficient time for cleaning and entrance and exit. DC said about extra time in intervals for cleaning. NB confirmed that the advice from region would stand, no contest in warm up would be possible.

KCJNL. LR had spoken to the JL club coaches at the recent academy meeting and the general thought was to wait until January before starting. LR said that she would keep an eye on the local leagues. LR will send out some sort of communique/questionnaire in the coming weeks to ask: a) Who would want to enter? How many teams would there be? b) what is the best way to deal with this? Central venue? PH said that the activity could be run indoors. LR said that it was a struggle to book indoor venues at the moment.

14. Election of Committee Members

Position	Name	Status
President	Roger Perham	Standing again
Chairman	Marlene Wander	Standing again
Vice Chairman	Michelle Ray	Standing again
Treasurer	Helen Telfer	Standing again
Secretary	Dawn Cox	Standing again
Membership Secretary	Dot Bryan	Standing again
Academies Manager	Anita Hollman	Standing again
Affiliated Leagues	Rhys David	Standing again
Coaching	Katie Southam	Standing again
Competition	David Roche	Standing again
Clubs' tournaments	Caroline Duggan	Resigned
Marketing	Jenny Fissenden	Standing again
Schools	Vacant	
Umpiring	Keeley Smith	Standing again
Member	Rebecca Stannard	Resigned earlier in the year

Member	Vacant	
Safeguarding	Natalie Beckett	Standing again

Positions vacant

Schools	Vacant	
Clubs' tournaments	Vacant	
Member	Vacant	
Member	Vacant	

Nominations received

None		
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DC elaborated briefly on the 'Member' role. MW highlighted the benefit of the role and explained that the county always wants new fresh ideas and people, and that the open role was ideal for this.

JM suggested that the committee might target people and asked whether anyone was undertaking the role of targeting people? MW confirmed that KN did try to champion that role but recognized that KN needed to expand the Terms of Reference in the coming year to help further promote the roles this coming year. MW took that point on board and said that KN would be considering how best to market the roles and capture the skillsets.

DC said that precedent was usual that the committee members might be voted as either the DC asked for a vote to re-elect the honorary officers. Those standing again were unopposed. Abstentions = 0 All in Favour.

MW then asked that DC introduce the committee members, which she did. DC asked for a vote to re-elect the remainder of committee. Those standing again were unopposed. Abstentions = 0. All in Favour.

DC confirmed that there were no official nominations for the remaining positions and that it would be lovely to see some new faces. Carol Baker proposed Hannah Hyams (Pilgrims/Ashford School) in the schools' role. Katie Southam seconded. DC explained that she had been in contact with Hannah following an enquiry and had suggested that she involved Hannah behind the scenes during the year. MW said that now the position had been formally nominated and seconded, Hannah would be taken into the role and it was the responsibility of the committee how she would be mentored in it.

RP invited nominations from the meeting. No further nominations were forthcoming.

15. Presentation of awards

RP proposed a vote of thanks to DC for her sterling work.

RP said that due to the pandemic, the decision was taken not to present the awards at the AGM, but that they would be presented at a later time if at all possible. Those awards not presented this time were:

- a) The Joyce Crust Salver for, "Services to Kent Netball"
- b) The Needham Rider Salver for, "Services to Kent Youth Netball".
- c) The Marge Millar Award for, "Organisations promoting the development of Netball in Kent".
- d) The Kent Netball Young Netballer Award
- e) The Kent Netball Coach Award
- f) The Kent Netball, Netball Teacher Award
- g) Kent Netball Officials Award
- h) The Kent Netball Team of the Year Award
- i) The Kent Netball Young Volunteer Award

j) Kent County Senior Netball League

RP both congratulated and commiserated with Steel who had won the Division 1 but who were unable to take up their opportunity for playing off for the regional league. DC was due to have the shield engraved and arrange to have it delivered to Steel.

RP congratulated Raiders who won Division 2 and DC would also send the trophy to them.

Junior League

U14 congratulations to Kent Club

U16 congratulations to Telstars

Development U14 Beacons B

Development U16 Kent Club

DR said that the Development League was new for 2019-20 and that new trophies had been obtained and would be passed to the clubs when they next saw them.

k) Life Membership

Was awarded to Natale Beckett.

Natalie Beckett

County

- *Joined the Kent Netball Committee as NDO in 2007.*
- *Organised the county schools' tournaments when the volunteers left.*
- *Became a member of the Management Committee in 2013 when she became the assistant.*
- *Continued to regularly assist at the schools' tournaments for the next few years.*
- *In 2015 she became the county's welfare officer*
- *Throughout she was Anita's 'right-hand woman' on the performance group:*
 - *Administration of trials*
 - *Ordering kit*
 - *Booking venues*
 - *Coaching*
 - *Etc.*
- *2020 took on role of Covid-19 Lead for the county*

DC said that she had not mentioned the various other achievements with her club.

16. Future issues

A few years ago, as Treasurer, RP had started some inroads into developing an exciting site for Kent netball with NK College. The work had been continued by AH and HT and although the work had stalled for the coming season due to the pandemic, he was hopeful that the negotiations could be restarted soon. He said that KN hoped to find a way to financially support the clubs to use the venue and invited comments. AH confirmed that she and HT had recently met with Wendy (the contact at NK College) who also was frustrated at having to postpone the project. AH reiterated that the project was promising but had been put on the back burner whilst the safety of the students was the priority.

MW said that as vice-chair to the region one of her remit was to ensure that governance was in place. She said that there had been a lot of issues in regard to equity and diversity. The region had recently established an equality, diversity and inclusive representative on the board with a representative from each county invited to support the diversity agenda. MW said that KN needs to replicate this at county and actively deliver it. MW advised that the county would be looking at it.

The regional board had also established a young volunteer role, looking to the future as a role the county would like to also replicate. Nominations were requested on the remit of this role. JM said that she had a meeting with the regional young volunteer and was very impressed on what she could offer from a youth perspective and definitely see it as something similar to be done in Kent.

DR asked to record in the minutes of this meeting how proud we are and congratulations to Joan for her appointment to President of EN. MW also offered her thanks to Joan.

Carol Baker asked if any junior clubs had gone back to training and would anyone like any matches? Kent Club were interested, as were Telstars.

RP hoped that when we next met that it could be done in person.

The meeting ended at 21:35



Appendix 1 January 2021

The Treasurer, Helen Telfer, provided the expenditure detail of the accounts requested during the Minutes:

Affiliations		Expenditure
Life Members	11 out of 40	467.5
Committee		225.5
EN		60.1
		£753.1
Grants		
Grant to clubs		1770
Bee Netball Swanley		200
NK College laying of court		1000
Grant to players in the super league teams		450
Bursary	Tutors' course	180
Use of NK College netball courts		1067.5
Coach	level 2	140
Premier teams help for travel for away fixture		644
		£2860