

Annual General Meeting Minutes

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST REGION NETBALL ASSOCIATION

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the London and South East Region Netball Association, held on Wednesday 18th September 2024, 6.00pm, at House of Sport, 190 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YB

Present:

Alison Bennett	Regional Chair	AB
Pat Meadows	Essex Met CNA Chair (<i>virtual</i>)	PM
Keeley Smith	Kent CNA Chair	KS
Lesley Tischler	Middlesex CNA Chair	LT

In attendance:

Marlene Wander	Regional Vice-Chair	MW
Tania Legore	Resolution Lead	TL
Laura Pawley	L&SE Competitions TSG Chair and Surrey representative	LP
Emma Black	Partnership & Delivery Manager, East and London & South East	EB
Francesca Akano	Regional Officer – London and South East	FAk
Rachel Morgan-Jones	Communications Officer	RMJ

Apologies

Christine Kelso	Surrey CNA Chair	CK
Julia Martin	Treasurer	JM
Katrina-May Kwan	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Office	KMK
Fran Atkinson	Young Volunteer Representative	FAt
Dani Mugridge	Coaching and Performance TSG Chair	DM
Jane Kelloe	Officiating TSG Chair	JK

Common Acronyms

RMB	Regional Management Board	ToR	Terms of Reference
TSG	Technical Support Group	EDI	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
WG	Working Group	EN	England Netball
C&P	Coaching & Performance	NDO	Netball Development Officer
LSE	London & South East	CNA	County Netball Association

1. Chair's welcome and opening remarks

AB welcomed everyone to the 2024 AGM and welcomed EB to the meeting, as she recently started in her role at England Netball as the Partnership & Delivery Manager for the East and London and South East regions.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted as set out above.

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (13th September 2023)

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023 were approved, with a few amendments.

- Page 1: TL did attend AGM in 2023.
- Page 5: The comment about the INTO Officiating logbooks is incorrect. (KT)

4. Finance

JM sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and asked for individuals to send her any questions they have, so they can discuss them.

KS was confused by the accounts, because they cannot be adjusted once audited. So, she was unsure about whether accounts and costs could be changed. LP responded to KS and explained that the costs were related to the previous season and time frame that are covered by the accounts JM

had submitted. So, it was not an adjustment, but an accrual that needed to be added.

ACTION: JM to confirm what she means by adjusting/moving playoff costs to season they are part of, rather than the financial year. I.E. May 2024 playoffs to be included in 2024-25 figures.

5. To approve any recommendations of the RMB

No recommendations were made.

6. To receive annual reports

i. Regional Chair's report

No questions were asked regarding the relevant report.

AB told attendees that she attended the recent EN AGM. At the EN AGM, questions were raised about the increase in fees and why regions were informed about the increased amount so late. EN explained that it was due to the rate of inflation, and they were unable to change the cost until June 1st, which is when the government released the new inflation rate.

AB informed attendees that the Regional Chairs had a meeting afterwards and discussed how the regions can potentially work alongside the new franchise structure.

ii. England Netball Regional report

AB said at the EN AGM, EN were pleased that they were already at 73% or 74% of last year's "record breaking" membership figure.

MW said ENgAge felt easier to use this year. However, some of the young players at her club were unable to affiliate until September 1st, even though they had been receiving emails to buy membership for the new season in August.

ACTION: EB or FAK to pass on the ENgAge feedback to the relevant team at EN.

AB asked EB and FAK how the new LSE interns were getting on in their roles and if anyone has discussed the Young Volunteer role with them. EB and FA confirmed that it had been briefly discussed, but nothing had been finalised.

KS added that Kent CNA have struggled with the Young Volunteer role in the past, as the county felt they could not give the individual many tasks.

MW suggested that the next Young Volunteer be given a project or something to focus on.

RMJ raised that she would like to have the opportunity to allocate some of the interns' time to complete some social media and communications related tasks.

EB told the RMB members that the Young Volunteer role was discussed during the LSE EN staff meeting on 9th September and she has discussed it separately with Emily St.John (EN Staff member).

ACTION: EB, FAK and RMJ to arrange a meeting to discuss integrating the work of the interns with the Young Volunteer role.

LT gave a reminder that we need to ensure safeguarding procedures are in place, if we are getting young volunteers involved with work via social media.

MW recommended that everyone should consider if the Young Volunteer role is an administrative role or events focused. Also, if we choose for the role to be taken on by more than one individual, it could be an easier way to get the counties involved.

AB said on behalf of JK, that the Officiating TSG's priority is 'young people'.

The BEE Netball programme is meant to be going into approximately 5000 primary schools.

ACTION: When EN provides an update, EB will give feedback to the RMB about how many schools

are in each county and if any particular schools will be the main focus.

iii. County Reports

- **Kent** – No questions were asked about the report.
KS stated that this season, the county plans to have one set of fixtures at a centralised venue. The purpose of doing that is to have all the clubs together.
- **Surrey** – No questions were asked about the report.
AB mentioned that she had spoken to CK about the governance health check, and no one appears to have received any feedback from EN about it.
KS and a few other RMB members echoed the sentiments that it is a shame to have worked so hard on putting together all the health check documents they were asked for, only to not receive any feedback about it or next steps.

TL stated that there appears to be a discrepancy between reports and the number of umpires who have obtained their qualifications. The numbers are stated differently in the Surrey report and the report from the Officiating TSG.

ACTION: EB to give feedback to EN that the Counties and Region have not received any feedback about the governance health check.

- **Middlesex** – No questions were asked about the report.
LT made the RMB aware of an incident that occurred at an event the County had organised, where a suspended member of EN who was not authorised to attend was present. LT asked for advice on what to do if an incident like this occurs again in the future.
TL asked LT if the County had considered writing to the individual explaining the sanction they have received and what it entails. LT appreciated the idea.
- **Essex Met** – No questions were asked about the report.
PM told the RMB that the work on the courts at Redbridge (venue) had been completed. Players have given many compliments about the courts and appear to be enjoying playing on them.
AB commended PM and the Essex Met CNA for their hard work to get the courts resurfaced.

iv. Technical Support Groups and Working Groups

- **Competitions TSG**
LP stated that an amendment needs to be made to the Competitions report: Division 3 should say “Comets”, not “Beacons”.

LT asked where the Prem League playoffs will be taking place. LP said that she has not received confirmation of the location.

AB asked if a date has been set for the National Schools Competition. LP said a date has not been set, because there is currently an issue with date options as it could potentially fall at the start or end of May half term.

LP said she believes the regional festival will take place in Surrey this season, instead of Kent.

KS said an issue with the venue they previously used is that 2 of the courts can no longer be used. Also, teams would travel from across the region and were required to provide their own umpires and umpires were finding the location too far to get to. So, at the last minute, teams started asking Kent County to provide Kent based umpires. KS added that they are

considering looking at Bromley High School as a venue option, because they have 6 courts. LP said that moving forward, the Competitions TSG are trying to spread events within the region, across the different counties. However, the exception is that the Qualifying Tournament for the Junior Regional League has to take place at Redbridge (Essex Met), because it is the only venue that is large enough. LP stated that Middlesex County will host the Regional Schools Competition.

KS proposed that the region considers providing prizes and/or medal for festival competitions.

ACTION: LP to have a conversation with JK and discuss organising umpires for upcoming festivals and tournaments.

PM asked if umpires' travel and expenses are paid for when they officiate at festivals and tournaments. LP said that they are. PM also suggested that a venue location should be provided when the date of an event is determined, as it could encourage more umpires to get involved if they know where an event will be taking place.

- **Communications**

RMJ told the RMB she would like the Region to allocate some funds to help support with the creation of social media content and to reach a wider audience.

RMJ thanked FAK and the LSE interns for their ongoing efforts to improve the Region's social media accounts.

RMJ recommended that the Region should focus on creating more video content.

AB asked if RMJ had an amount in mind to receive as a social media budget. RMJ responded that she would be seeking £250 to start boosting content and to potentially run a content creating competition.

RMJ asked EB and the RMB if the LSE interns could be involved with helping her in her role, especially as the current Young Volunteer (FAt) is outgoing from the role. RMJ said she and FAK have had previous conversations but was seeking some clarification on whether the LSE interns have capacity for this in their work programmes.

ACTION: EB, FAK and RMJ to have a meeting to discuss social media work and the role of the LSE interns.

RMJ said she has been in contact with the current communications staff member at London Mavericks. RMJ asked AB if she can receive contact information for the marketing and communications team at London Pulse. AB told RMJ she will speak to Sam Bird and get contact information for her.

ACTION: AB to speak to Sam Bird and ask for contact information to give to RMJ.

LT asked how can success be gaged from this? RMJ responded that she and FAK would be able to use the Meta Business Suite to track the number of people mentioning the Region's social media accounts, increases in post engagement, an increase in followers and more. RMJ said she is also hoping to see an increase in the younger demographic of social media users to follow the LSE accounts.

LT said with the professionalisation of the Netball Super League, we could benefit from sponsorship in our sport in the long term, and potentially be able to monetise our accounts. However, we may struggle with content creation if volunteers and those running our accounts are not professional or experienced content creators.

MW said regional clubs need to be engaged more with the social media content. The social media accounts should showcase them more and they could be asked to help create content for us.

LP told RMJ that if she sends her her contact details in an email, she will share it with all the regional teams.

ACTION: RMJ to send LP updated contact information to be shared with all regional teams.

KS asked for clarification about RMJ's timescale for potentially asking for an increased social media budget from the RMB, because the amount does not seem like a lot. RMJ said she

believes it will cover approximately 6 months and then she would bring her feedback and updates to a future RMB meeting.

KS proposed that the RMB authorise an initial amount to be allocated, along with authorising a second follow up amount.

AB asked if everyone agreed to authorize £250 now and an extra £250, if RMJ needs it. All voting members present at the meeting agreed. There were no objections.

ACTION: RMJ to discuss a social media and communications plan with FAK.

- **Officiating TSG** – No questions were asked about the report.
KS stated it is concerning that lots of staff members within EN appear to be leaving. Most recently, FAt left her role within the Officiating team and Emma Robinson is leaving the Learning & Development team.
Members of the RMB stated it is concerning and that the low pay offer of £23000 to £25000 is disappointing.
KS stated that anyone who would have considered applying within London may not apply, because of the low pay. LT reminded everyone that this was an issue with the Middlesex NDO role when it was initially advertised.
- **Coaching & Performance TSG** – No questions were asked about the report.
- **ED&I WG** – No report provided.

7. Any Other Business

Everyone voted to accept all reports that had been submitted ahead of the meeting.

8. Date of next Annual General meeting

It was agreed that the date for the next AGM would be Wednesday 17th September 2025, commencing at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.23pm.