

NORTH LONDON NETBALL LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 JUNE 2007

at Our Lady of St George & Mount Carmel, the Parish Centre, Enfield

Present: A representative from each team in the league except those who are withdrawing next season and a representative of Britannia Royals B (new team)

Apologies: From committee members Carole Pennery, Sharon Downie, Thesla Breban

1. President's Opening Remarks

Louise Foy, secretary of the league, opened the meeting in Carole's absence and thanked all representatives for coming along and all clubs for helping to make the 2006/07 season a successful one.

Winners and runners up of each were announced as follows and trophies were presented.

Division	Winner	Runner Up
Premier	Cumberland A	Hyde Park A
First	Cumberland B	Inglis A
Second	Cumberland C	Asco
Third	Oakwood B	Palmers Green D
Fourth	Hyde Legends	Minchenden E
Fifth	Inglis B	Cumberland E

2. Minutes of last year's AGM on 8 June 2006 and Matters arising

Matters arising from the minutes of the last year's AGM

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last committee meeting.

Louise Foy, secretary of the league asked for teams to propose and second the minutes as an accurate record of the last committee meeting. The minutes were proposed by Palmers Green and seconded by Minchenden.

3. Secretary's report

Louise Foy thanked everyone for coming to the AGM and for making this season such a success. She also thanked everyone on the committee for all their hard work in making sure that the league ran smoothly. Louise explained that instead of introducing lots of separate reports at the AGM the committee is experimenting with a new practice of sending all AGM information round in advance and asking for questions from the floor at the meeting. There were no questions from the floor about the secretary's report, below.

The 2006/07 season was the first season under the new league structure and it is thanks to the cooperation of clubs that the new structure was implemented so smoothly. The introduction of scorers for the premier and first divisions has helped to improve the speed of umpiring in these divisions a little and we hope the system will continue to be a success as the scorers are more confident with their role.

Following on from the success of the Umpire rules forum we held last year, we will be holding another one in October and we strongly recommend that all umpires and scorers attend the forum to learn more about the rules, some tips for effective scoring and how to handle discipline issues etc. You'll hear more about the rules forum at the beginning of next season.

Versatility rally

We didn't hold the versatility rally at the beginning of the season due to a low level of interest in previous years. Instead, the committee and, in particular, Maria Mitchell put a great deal of thought into an alternative competition. Maria organised a questionnaire for clubs to find out exactly what they wanted and as a result, we arranged a President's Cup competition to be held at the end of the season. However, only 3 teams signed up to take part in the rally and the idea was scrapped. The committee is now considering running a competition in the early part of next season – perhaps on a Sunday in October and would be keen to find out if clubs would be interested in taking part in this.

Coaching

This season has been a transitional stage for netball coaching courses, as many of you will be aware that the old structure was phased out, and has been replaced by the new Netball UKCC Coaching Qualifications scheme, as part of the new England Netball structure.

The best source for all UKCC netball information is the England Netball website <http://www.england-netball.co.uk/game> where there is a full explanation of the new courses, prices and structure.

The courses can only be booked through England Netball or through the Regional Administrators.

Ruth Shields, Coaching secretary, has continued this season to distribute details of all courses to all League teams through their Club Secretaries via e-mail.

Unfortunately, there have not been many courses to publicise as the first UKCC courses (for Level 1 coaches) were only launched in November 2006. The Level 2 courses were launched in March 2007.

The courses have changed considerably from the old qualifications. One of the first changes clubs will notice is the cost and the length of each course:

- The Level 1 course (a 3 day programme) costs £170
- The Level 2 course (a 5 day programme) costs £360
- The Level 3 course (a 3 day weekend) costs £1,200

Other netball coaching courses are available, and this season Ruth distributed details of 6 coaching courses and workshops organised by Spring Coaching (www.springcoaching.co.uk) which were held across Greater London.

Ruth relies on Club Secretaries to pass these details on to their players, however you will be able to check for course details on the League website from next season.

Ruth has not received ANY feedback from League members who have attended courses this season, but if you do attend one of the new courses it would be great to receive feedback of any kind.

So please keep checking the website for more details on coaching courses, and if you have any questions please contact a member of the committee.

Umpiring

You will hear more about the committee's plans to develop the standard of umpiring in the league at the AGM. Again this year, there have been a number of courses – both c and b award – held and some testing has taken place.

We're hoping the new plans, and subsequent, changes to the rules will help to get many more qualified umpires within the league over the next three seasons.

Junior League

For the first time this year the junior league will be holding it's own AGM with member clubs signing up to a junior league constitution and rules. For this reason we will no longer be giving a junior league update at the senior AGM. For more information on the junior league please contact Julie Brown.

End of season rally

The summer rally held on Saturday 5 May went very well. In the upper rally Minchenden beat Cumberland by one goal in the final to win. In the lower rally, Britannia Royals also beat Cumberland by one point to win.

Thanks to all those who helped out with the organisation of the rally.

Summer League

The Summer League is again proving popular and is currently under way. Thanks to Kathy Newman who has organised it again this year.

Youth Umpiring Mentor scheme

More information on the Umpire Mentoring scheme is available in the information about Umpire development plans. The mentoring scheme will begin properly in September at the start of the new season. Some mentoring will happen in summer league and Maria Mitchell and Kathy Newman have been working very hard to get the scheme up and running. Thanks to them for their hard work on this.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

The financial statement and report (attached) were circulated and discussed. Claire Darling made reported on the accounts and suggested that Subscription fees for next season remain the same as this season at £110 per team.

Claire announced that the League reserves are still very healthy. This leaves the League in a strong position to go forward,

The reserves are split between general reserves and 50th General Reserves.

Clare asked the representatives at the meeting if they had any ideas for how the remainder of the 50th anniversary fund should be spent to contact a member of the committee.

5. Proposed Changes to the constitution and rules.

Louise, once again explained that the committee would not be going into detail about the proposed changes to the constitution and rules (as detailed in attached paper) but that they would be accepting questions from the floor. There were no initial questions so Louise asked a team to nominate the proposed changes which xxxx did and xxx seconded so the motion to change the constitution and rules was carried. Following this there were a number of questions from the floor about the new rule about dormant players which states:

1.8.3 If a player hasn't played for 4 consecutive fixtures, they will be considered a dormant player and deemed to have been withdrawn. A replacement registration must be made immediately to maintain the minimum registration of seven active players per team.

Old Fincunians said that they were opposed to the new rule and so the committee allowed a vote on this rule alone (because the changes had already been accepted by the meeting). Three representatives voted against the rule and the rest voted in favour so the rule will stay the same. The committee did agree to reword the rule so that it is easier to understand as follows:

“If a player hasn't played for 4 consecutive fixtures, they will be considered a dormant player. A replacement registration must be made immediately to maintain the minimum registration of seven active players per team.”

6. Umpire Development Plans

Louise introduced the umpire development plans as circulated to teams before the AGM and asked for questions from the floor about the plans. There was a question about umpire record cards and the committee assured the meeting that everyone who has attended an umpiring course in the last two seasons and from now on will receive an umpire record card. Maria Mitchell suggested that the committee would also try to find mentors for those trainee umpires that wanted one.

Louise thanked the sub-group of the committee who had been responsible for putting the umpire development plans together.

7. Election of Officers for 2003/04 Season

Louise explained that because the proposed changes to the constitution and rules had been accepted, the election of officers would be for a new committee structure as detailed in the papers circulated before the AGM. There had been several nominations from clubs before the AGM and these were nominations were seconded by Sparks, as follows:

The officers are:

President	Carole Pennery
Chair	Cathy Gallagher
Secretary	Louise Foy
Treasurer	Clare Darling
Registration Secretary	Kathy Newman
Fixtures and Results Secretary	May Isolda
Umpiring and Coaching Secretary	Maria Mitchell

There were no nominations for the positions of Publicity Secretary and Welfare Officer although there were several comments and questions from the floor about the roles. Oakwood suggested that they might have someone who was willing to volunteer for the role of publicity secretary and this will be followed up.

8. Election of New Teams

The committee proposed that Britannia Royals enter a B team into the league for the next season space permitting. Islington seconded the motion.

9. Dates for Winter Season and Registration evening.

Louise Foy read out the dates for the next season and there was some discussion about the fixtures dates around the Christmas holidays. Inglis proposed that the 15 December became a date for a proper fixture with 5 January used as a spare date. The committee agreed and Cumberland seconded the motion. The dates for the 2007/08 season are as follows:

8 and 22 September 2007

6 and 20 October 2007

3 and 17 November 2007

1 and 15 December 2007

5 January 2008 – First spare date

19 January 2008

2 and 16 February 2008

1 and 15 March 2008

5 April 2008

19 April 2008 – second spare date or play-off date if spare date isn't needed

20 April 2008 – alternative play-off date

3 May 2008 – Summer Rally

Registration Evening

All clubs must send a representative to the registration evening for the 2007/08 season to pay the balance of the registration fees and pick up fixtures lists etc. This drop-in meeting will be held this year on Thursday 23rd August at Winchmore Hill Cricket Club on Fords Grove, N21 from 7 – 8pm. The committee will be sending out details and forms nearer the time, but please make sure this is in a club diary and that someone from each club can attend to register the teams.

Louise also told the meeting that the committee had organised an Umpires Forum on Monday 1 October to be held at the same venue as the AGM. The forum has been designed to help umpires become more familiar with EN rules as well as to provide suggestions for best practice. Sheelagh Redpath from England Netball is the facilitator for the course and the committee would strongly encourage all umpires and some players to attend. More details will be sent out in due course.

AGM for next year will be held in June 2008 on a date and in a venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm