

# NORTH LONDON NETBALL LEAGUE

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 June 2008

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 representatives from Monkfrith Ladies and Weston Park (new teams)

**Apologies:** From committee member Clare Darling

### 1. President's Opening Remarks

League Chair, Cathy Gallagher opened the meeting and thanked all representatives for coming along and congratulated all clubs for helping to make the 2007/08 season a successful one.

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

Division	Winner	Runner Up
Premier	Poly A	Minchenden B
First	Oakwood A	Old Fincunians A
Second	Minchenden C	Islington
Third	Minchenden E	Minchenden D
Fourth	Poly B	Inglis B
Fifth	Brittania A	Arbour

Trophies were also presented to the winners of the Summer Rally as follows:

Upper Rally Winner – Cumberland A

Lower Rally Winner – Minchenden D

### 2. Minutes of last year's AGM on 20 June 2007 and Matters arising

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

The only matter arising from the minutes of the previous AGM was a discrepancy with a date and this has since been changed.

The club representatives were asked to propose and second the minutes as an accurate record of the last committee meeting. The minutes were proposed by the committee and seconded by Hyde Park.

### 3. Committee Reports

The secretary's report and other committee reports had been circulated to league members in advance of the meeting. They are included here for future reference. Questions arising about the reports were invited from the floor but there were none.

#### ***Secretary's report***

We've come to the end of another successful season for North London Netball League - the streamlined structure of the league is now embedded and working well. The standard of umpiring has improved, particularly in the upper divisions, and we have received fewer complaints from teams and fewer problems with registrations etc.

There are more details about our plans to continue to improve the standard of umpiring in the Umpiring Report and accompanying development plan.

This year, we have had many more cancellations of games than usual – a number of teams have cancelled more than three games and therefore have suffered relegation at the end of the season. As a result, we are introducing a bond for each team (payable at the registration evening) which will be returned to teams at the end of the season if no games have been cancelled. This will be discussed in more detail at the AGM, but is designed to act as a deterrent to those teams who cancel fixtures without hesitation.

### **Further changes to rules**

As last year, the committee is continuing to amend the league rules where necessary. As the league develops and changes shape, we need to change some rules and introduce others. This will, we believe, help to make the administration of the league more robust, fairer and easier for clubs to understand. All clubs will be issued with final copies of the rules and constitution

### **End of season rally**

The summer rally held on Saturday 3 May went very well. The upper rally was won by Cumberland A and the lower rally by Minchenden D. Well done to these teams and all who took part. Thanks to all those who helped out with the organisation of the rally.

### **Summer League**

The Summer League again proved popular and was still underway when the meeting took place. Thanks to Kathy Newman who has organised it again this year.

### **Registrations**

The registrations process has generally run quite smoothly this season with very few penalty points deducted for breaches of the rules. Where penalty points were deducted this was mainly for teams playing unregistered players.

Gathering player signatures appeared to be a problem at the start of the season with some clubs not supplying a complete list (although we do appreciate that some people are still on holiday). Some clubs were then very slow to send through the outstanding or additional signatures. As a result, we are making an amendment to the rules and providing a new form for additional players including all the information that is required.

### **MAR forms**

As the majority of clubs are now registering on line they are not issued with a MAR form. However, these clubs are still able to download an up to date list of their registered players, including their EN id number which should be provided to the league (Kathy Newman) for our records. Those clubs who do register via Middlesex County (Brenda Horn) should still receive the MAR form, a copy of which must be supplied to the league.

### ***Umpiring Report***

The continued use of scorers in the Premier and First Divisions has contributed towards the greater speed and standard of those matches. We have had no formal complaints and generally it has been a good season for umpires throughout the league.

Middlesex University held a C Award course in October. The League held a B Award course in November. Both courses fully subscribed. Unfortunately subsequent C and B Award courses in organised for January and March had to be cancelled. We have realised that people want courses in the early part of the season. We have begun planning courses for 2008/9 now – dates will be announced at the AGM.

Some of the objectives set out in the ambitious 3 year plan unveiled at last year's AGM have not been met due to a variety of factors. A major obstacle was the delay in getting C Award testers re-accredited. This has now been overcome and we hope to start testing in September, if not sooner.

It has proved very difficult to get B Award testing done because this is done through the London and South East Region. We have been fortunate that Jane Kelloe (Essex Met) has been very helpful, both as a tutor and mentor. It has become apparent that we need to facilitate mentoring for prospective B Awards. We have set up a small Saturday morning league at Broomfield Park for teams in the Premier Division North London, Middlesex, Poly and Regional Leagues, to provide umpiring and mentoring opportunities for prospective B Award umpires.

Another factor resolved this season has been the County's responsibility to fund umpire development. Several meetings have taken place with the County committee during the last season. As a result, the County are developing an umpiring plan along the lines of the NL model. They will assume responsibility for meeting the extra expense incurred by the implementation of the plan. Details of the plan will be outlined at the County AGM. NLNL will be responsible for delivering courses and testing in this side of the county.

Despite the setbacks, we intend to continue with Year 2 of the plan. Even at this early stage, we have partially completed Objective 8 - 2 new A Award umpires from League. Congratulations to Lucy Mitchell (Palmers Green) who passed her A Award at the Under 17 European Championships in Cardiff in March. Good luck to Kim North (Cumberland), who is working towards her A Award. Congratulations also to Zoey Dowell (Palmers Green) and Rose McCarter (Cumberland) who passed their B Award this season. Good luck to Cathy Gallagher (Hyde Park), Sophie Scott (Hyde Park), Shona Button (Hyde Park) and Lisa Sumpter (Poly) who have passed their B Award assessments and are waiting to be tested.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement**

The financial statement and report (attached) were circulated in advance of the meeting and the report is attached here. Claire Darling, Treasurer, suggested that due to the level of reserves in the club accounts, subscription fees for next season remain the same as this season at £110 per team.

The accounts were proposed by the committee as an accurate record of league finances and seconded by Southgate.

##### ***Treasurer's Report***

This year I have prepared two separate Income and Expenditure Accounts, one for costs and receipts for the Senior League and the other for those of the Junior League. This is to clearly show the separate costs of each league.

The accounts for the 2007/08 season show a loss of £1,274.33 for the senior league and a loss of £353.60 for the junior league. The accounts' are missing some invoices for trophies and medals for the current season but as this year's expenditure includes some that relate to the 2006/07 season, this is consistent with previous year's accounts.

The League reserves will be at approximately £6,150. This leaves the League in a strong position to go forward.

Please remember that the League Committee will consider proposals for spending the reserves, so please contact a member if you have any suggestions or ideas.

There has been some expenditure on the hut this season following the fire over the summer months. The council redecorated and refitted some of the hut, and the league also made a

contribution to its improvement. We have also spent some money on a banner to advertise the league to our players and visitors to the park.

The statements still include a Grant received funding from the London Active Partnership for the training of young umpires. Maria Mitchell and Kathy Newman have continued to work on this scheme in the 07/08 season and will continue to work on it next season.

I suggest that the league fees remain the same for this year for the Senior League due to the level of Reserves. The income from fees will just cover court hire – all the other expenditure of the league will come from the reserves. The committee have also decided not to increase the fees as one of the proposed changes is to charge a bond of £50 per club to help provide an extra deterrent of cancelling games. I suggest that the junior league fees are increased to £40 to stop the league running at a loss next season.

(These accounts have been verified by an independent Accountant.)

## **5. Proposed Changes to the constitution and rules.**

Cathy explained to the meeting that the proposed changes to the rules had been circulated in advance of the meeting and explained that the committee would not be going into detail about the proposed changes to the constitution and rules but that questions were invited from the floor.

The first question was raised by Hyde Park about why there had been a change to the number of play-ups allowed. The committee stated that this rule had been changed to make the league more egalitarian for small clubs (whilst acknowledging the effort larger clubs put in to develop their teams etc.) and to stop the small number of clubs who abused the play up system. Furthermore, with a reduction in the number of fixtures in a season there was little need for more play-ups.

Cumberland also asked for clarification on the rule which was given.

The subject of a bond being introduced to stop clubs cancelling games raised a number of questions. Some small clubs felt that the bond would be prohibitive in terms of them remaining in the league.

There was a suggestion that the rule could be adapted so that the deduction of money from the bond was at the committee's discretion but this caused some discussion amongst the clubs and there was no unanimous agreement.

There were a number of suggestions and some strong feelings about the bond. After some lengthy discussions a vote was held to find out how clubs felt about the principle of the bond. 12 clubs were in favour of the bond in principle, 5 were against it and 1 club abstained from the voting.

As a result the committee promised to discuss the administration of the bond in more detail and to inform clubs of their decision before the start of the season.

Further comments / questions about the rules were as follows:

1.9.7 – the rule needs further clarification that if a game is cancelled / forfeited it does not count as a game for either team in terms of the dormant player rule.

Rules 3 – Umpires – need clarification that prelim qualifications are suitable for umpires umpiring games from division 1 down but only for this year. Next season (09/10) these qualifications will become obsolete.

## **6. Umpire Development Plans**

Maria briefly talked about the umpire development action plan that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She confirmed that the mentoring scheme was under review but would be operational by the start of the season.

## **7. Election of Officers for 2008/09 Season**

The election of restanding officers on the committee was proposed by Southgate and seconded by Mill Hill.

There were two remaining vacant positions - League Secretary and Web and Publicity Secretary.

Lucy Mitchell from Palmers Green and Sue Brown from Mill Hill agreed to stand jointly as League Secretary. Lesley Tischler from Poly volunteered to stand as Web and Publicity Secretary. The committee proposed the positions be filled in this way and the motion was unanimously seconded by the entire league.

The officers of the league for the season 08/09 are as follows:

President – Carol Pennery

Chair – Cathy Gallagher

Secretary – Lucy Mitchell / Sue Brown

Treasurer – Clare Darling

Registration Secretary – Kath Newman

Umpiring Secretary – Maria Mitchell

Fixtures and Results Secretary – May Isolda

Web and Publicity Officer – Lesley Tischler

Welfare Officer – Julia Holloway

## **8. Election of New Teams**

Cathy Gallagher announced that there would be space for four new teams at the start of the next season due to teams withdrawing. Representatives from two new teams – Monkfrith Ladies and Weston Park – were in attendance.

The committee proposed that these two teams be allowed entry to the league. This motion was seconded by Poly.

## **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:

6 and 20 September 2008

4 and 18 October 2008

1, 15 and 29 November 2008

6 December 2008

**13 December 2008 – First spare date**

**3 January 2009 – Second spare date**

17 and 31 January 2009

14 and 28 February 2009

14 and 28 March 2009

**4 April 2009 – Final spare date**

**Registration Evening**

All clubs must send a representative to the registration evening for the 2008/09 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 21st August at the Refreshment Hut at Broomfield Park from 7 – 7:45pm. 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.

**AGM for next year will be held in June 2009 on a date and in a venue to be advised.**

**The meeting closed at 8:30pm**