



Lowestoft Netball League

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday 26th March 2013 at 7pm
Lowestoft Town Football Club, Lowestoft**

Present: Sharon Boyd– Chair
Karen Oakley – Vice Chair
Chantelle Savage - Secretary
Denise Hall – Fixtures
Melanie Sandford- Cancellations
Lyn Elvin – Umpire Rep/ acting treasurer

1. Welcome from Chairman

Hello and welcome to this years AGM. I want to thank you all for attending, it is so good to see so many of you here representing the league.

The Summer league went well this year and we had no major problems. The winter league was a different issue! We had a large amount of games that had to be cancelled due to floodlight and weather issues. Luckily the committee pulled together and special thanks goes to Lyn, Denise and Karen for managing to get most of the games rescheduled and played before the end of the season. The problems we had meant that we had to look at different venues and identified that Beccles Sports Centre had facilities to enable us to get the games played. Thank you goes to all those teams that had to travel to Beccles to play and an even bigger thank you is extended to the umpires that travelled to ensure the games were played. Please can all teams be aware that in future it may be necessary to travel to different venues to ensure that the games are played.

The committee have worked hard behind the scenes again to make sure that the rules of the league are followed and that the games are played without any incident and I believe that this has worked well. You may all have noticed the post protectors that the league have purchased this season, we obtained a grant from Norfolk netball and a discount from Harrods UK to enable us to buy these, hopefully they will make the games safer for all.

We have had a few resignations from the committee this season- they are Claire Hunter and Kelly Cousins who were our treasurers and Denise who is fixtures secretary. May I take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of the league and committee for all of their hard work to ensure the league ran smoothly. We will discuss the appointment of these posts later in the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

All teams were present. A show of hands was also done at this time to establish whether teams had the 4 players that are required for attendance of the AGM and all did.

3. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th March 2012 and matters arising from the minutes**

The minutes of the Annual General meeting held March 2012 were agreed.

4. **Reports:**
Treasurer –

**Lowestoft Netball League
Year End Accounts 12/13**

	Credit	Debit	
Income			
Balance B/F	£1,875.46		
Summer League fees 12 teams @ £40	£480.00		
Winter League fees 15 teams @ £75	£1,125.00		
NCNA Grant - Post protectors	£132.00		
	<hr/> £1,737.00		
Expenditure			
Court Fees Winter 11/12 - EPA		£702.61	
Court Fees Winter 12/13 - Beccles		£48.00	
Court Fees Winter 12/13 - EPA		£544.00	
Expenses		£107.00	
Website		£85.00	
Post Protectors		£264.00	
AGM Cash Prizes		£220.00	
AGM Room Hire 2013		£30.00	
Totals	<hr/> £3,612.46	<hr/> £2,000.61	
Balance C/F			£1,611.85
Still to be invoiced & paid for			
Court Fees Winter 12/13 (approx) 23 courts @ £8			£184.00

Fixtures, Cancellations and Publicity Secretary

The Summer League went well with all games completed on time.

We were less fortunate with the winter league with several games having to be cancelled due the very bad weather, we have been unable to play a couple of games due to a tight schedule therefore we have had to use the scores from previous games.

I haven't printed off the final tables because they are available on our website.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up and to all the fair player award winners.

I would just like to announce that I am resigning as fixture secretary after doing it for several years, but will stay on the committee as treasurer.

Publicity Report

Not had a lot to report on but the scores have been printed in the Lowestoft Journal every week.

Umpiring Secretary

There have been no major issues and all games being covered.

This is due to the increasing numbers of qualified umpires, them being willing to stand in at short notice and also being willing to cover teams that still do not have an umpire.

An umpire meeting was held in October which was well attended and feedback was good. Another one will be held later in the year.

Scorers – these have been invaluable to umpires progressing towards their C award and beyond. Without them we wouldn't be able to umpire to the best of our ability and we are looking to make these a more permanent feature – more on that from Karen.

Umpires who have passed umpiring awards since last year's AGM.

Congratulations go to -

C Award –

- **Kerri Stephenson** (Potters A)
- **Carla Smith** (Blues N Twos)
- **Teresa Gates** (Cliff Park)

Beginners -

- **Claire Robinson** (Beccles Bluebirds)
- **Deborah Smith** (Beccles Bluebirds)
- **Helen Cavill** (M&H K-os)
- **Clare Seely** (M&H K-os)
- **Gemma Wallace** (Blues n Twos)
- **Lianne Talbot** (Bungay)

Umpiring courses are always advertised on the website and the Beginner Award courses are normally held twice yearly and C courses once.

Unfortunately the C course was postponed due to lack of numbers but it is hoped to go ahead on 21st April as there will have been more Beginners passing their award enabling them to attend.

The Beginner Award lasts for 4 years and can be re-taken once after that. It is expected that umpires will progress on to their C Award within this time.

The C Umpiring Award currently does not expire.

The new style of testing is now in place for C awards and above and includes a bleep test.

It is intended that the written paper and bleep test will be taken on one night and the practical test on another.

And finally I would like to say a personal thank you to our committee, who unbeknown to me had put my name forward to Norfolk County netball for consideration of Norfolk Umpire of the Year, of which I was very pleased and proud to win.

5. **Scorers**

The subject of scorers was brought up again and was discussed with teams. It was agreed that teams now have to provide a scorer for either a 7pm or 7.50pm game depending on what your team is playing. Scorers will be expected to score on the court that they will be playing on/have played on that evening. However trainee umpires would not have a scorer due to them needing to be able to score for their umpire award. It was agreed it is the responsibility of the teams to organise the scorers and that the scorers will not get paid. Babs from Cliff Park felt that some of the scorers already in place were not loud enough and teams could not hear the score. Teams were reminded that they must announce the score clearly and loudly at a Centre so that teams knew what the score was. It was also discussed that the scorer was also able to keep the time depending on the decision of the umpire. It was agreed that three points would be deducted if your team failed to provide a scorer. Obviously certain situations would be taken into account e.g. if your match was cancelled that evening you would not be expected to turn up just to score a match. A rule regarding scoring will be added to the league rules. It was discussed whether this should start in the summer league. All teams were asked and the majority wanted the scorers and the point deduction rule to start in the summer as some of the teams have already been providing scorers throughout the winter league.

6 **Duration of games.**

Everybody was happy to carry on with the 4x10 minute quarters and did not want to go back to 2 x 20 minute halves.

7. **Commonwealth games**

Lyn and Karen are going to the commonwealth games to watch the Netball in 2014 and asked whether anybody else would like to go with them. The Commonwealth games are to be held in July/August next year in Glasgow with tickets going on sale this summer. More information can be found on the website. If anyone was interested they were asked to speak to Lyn or Karen at the end of the meeting.

8. **Results of last years questionnaire.**

Results from last years questionnaire were circulated with no further questions from teams or comments being added.

9. **Fixtures during half term**

It was suggested by the committee that depending on the format for the summer league that some matches may have to be played in school holidays. Teams were asked if anyone would have a problem with this. Connections and Cliff Park said it may be a problem to them as Connections are all predominately teachers and Cliff Park are school pupils. It was suggested that these teams matches could be organised so that they were not played in holidays as other teams were ok to play then.

10. **Fair Player Continuation**

The committee felt that some teams were not bothering to nominate a fair player from the opposition team after a game. Teams were asked if they would still like to continue with nominating a fair player and all agreed that they still thought that this was a good idea. The committee reminded teams that they must fill out the card. Also that they must find out the players name and simply not just write WD from Goldmark, as Denise does not know where everyone plays. It was suggested that umpires could check this at the end of games but it was decided that umpires have enough to deal with already. Therefore it is the responsibility of the teams.

11. **Re/election of new committee members.**

Denise no longer wanted to be in charge of fixtures but said she would be happy to be treasurer. Also Mel felt that she was not needed anymore as cancellation secretary as all the information was now on the website. Both said that they would be happy to do the treasurers jobs that were now available. Teams were asked first if there was anyone who would like to be treasurer for the committee. However no one stepped forward. Teams and the committee then all agreed that Denise and Mel would become treasurers for the committee. Teams were then asked if anyone would like to be in charge of fixtures. This is something that Denise was in charge of with help from Lyn and Karen. Karen Daniels from Goldmark said she would be more than happy to help with the fixtures. It was agreed that Karen would be part of the committee by the teams and committee present. Teams were then asked if anyone would like to be part of the committee. It was suggested the Rachel Fowler would like to be on the committee but she was not at the AGM. This will be followed up. Nicola Caswell from EMS Stars also showed an interest in joining the committee.

12. **Summer League Format.**

The committee suggested that instead of having two groups/leagues in the summer that we could have one large group so that everyone played each other once. This was put to other teams and they all agreed to try this format for the summer. Babs from Cliff Park suggested an alternative handicap system based on one she had recently experienced. The points would be organised depending on where you finished in the league with the top being -(number) and the bottom being +(number). It was agreed by all the teams that this system would be tried out in this summer.

13. **AOB**

Lyn Bullard raised concerns that she felt there was a lot of swapping between umpires and courts. Lyn Elvin said that no umpire had swapped courts because they didn't want to umpire a particular team and that any swapping was due to either umpires cancelling or taking on new trainee umpires where a lower level game was needed. The feedback was taken on board and Lyn said that if umpires were needed to swap courts she would txt ahead of the night's games.

Sharon Boyd raised concerns that there were hardly any C umpires umpiring Division 2 matches. Lyn Elvin said she was trying to put as many trainee umpires through to the C awards as quick as possible. Karen and Lyn then went on to say that games are organised with appropriate level of umpires depending on the matches being played and that Division 1 would automatically get the C award umpires due to the higher level.

Tracey Moore asked how many teams the committee thought would be moving up and down for the winter league. Lyn said if the number of teams stayed the same it would be two, but this would depend on any new teams joining.

14 **Summer and Winter League results and presentation of prizes**

Denise informed the meeting of the winners of the Summer and Winter Leagues:

Summer 2012

Group 1 Winners Goldmark
Group 1 Runners up Stewarts
Fair Player- Karen Daniels (Goldmark)

Group 2 Winners Potters B
Group 2 Runners up M & H Kos
Fair Players- Vikki Kennedy (Turmoil)

Winter 2012/13

Division 1 Winners Cliff Park Eagles
Division 1 Runners up Goldmark
Fair Player- Molly Reeves (CP Kestrels) & Louise Burrell (Solebay)

Division 2 Winners Potters A
Division 2 Runners up M & H Kos
Fair Player- Sue Futter (Potters B) & Emma Spary (Beccles Bluebirds)

Congratulations were given to the above teams. Prizes were presented.

15. **The Linda Crisp Umpire Award and Umpire of the year.**

Teams were asked to vote on the night who they felt deserved this award. Teams were only allowed to submit one name per team and could not vote for their own team umpire.

All the votes were counted and Kerri Stephenson won the Linda Crisp Umpire Award. Wendy Moore presented Kerri with flowers and the award.

Umpire of the year voted for by the Committee also went to Kerri Stephenson. Kerri had progressed from no qualification to C award in a relatively short time and had gone from not really enjoying umpiring to becoming a very confident and professional umpire.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm