



MINUTES OF SIDMOUTH NETBALL CLUB AGM

28/7/20 at 6.30 pm

Held on zoom due to Covid-19

Apologies

None received.

Chair's Report

This is not a Chair's report that I was expecting to write 12 months ago! Back at the last AGM we were very optimistic that the 2020 season would bring us fantastic coaching sessions, a full winter and spring league at Cranbrook, a number of one-off tournaments, coaching camps and the potential for a weekend of netball with PGL and Disneyland in our sights.

Sadly, the season didn't turn out quite like this! It started with everyone doing a fantastic job of negotiating the England Netball ENgage site, which caused our membership secretary Petri some interesting challenges. She rose to them all and we ended up with 183 people assigned to the club – this is some achievement!

With the arrival of Becci Carter and Sandra Parnell onto the coaching team our sessions expanded to include more than 90 girls training at St John's on a Tuesday and Thursday across the U9 (up until December), U11, U12, U14, U16 and U18 age groups. Can I take this opportunity to thank all of our lead coaches, assistant coaches and parent helpers who put in so much time, energy and patience to this coaching endeavor – please never forget how much your efforts are appreciated by the club!

As to the East Devon Junior Netball League, rain once again got in the way of a seamless series of matches with a number of rescheduled fixtures taking place. On a positive point, we did manage to complete the Winter League with some successes, and much learning. Sadly, that's about where it ended. Covid-19 put pay to any chance of completing the Spring League and forced us to cancel our Easter Camps for years 7 and 8, our Charity tournament planned for May and the Cranbrook netball festival planned for June. Plans for the younger club member to attend a PGL weekend camp and for Disneyland 2020 were over before they began; with the former working out way too expensive in any case and the latter being difficult to staff.

A similar story can be said for the three ladies teams who play in the Honiton league. As the coaches will report, the games that were played were both competitive and enjoyable with a number of successes. For the club as a whole, these teams provide a great opportunity for some of our U16/U18 girls to get experience of ladies netball. Those who have done so have learnt a lot in the process.

With the season coming to an abrupt end we were in a position to offer everyone a rebate for the coaching sessions that were missed and I'd like to thank Mandy for her help in this regard as transferring funds back to everyone involved was quite a time consuming task. Can I also thank those of you who were kind enough to donate your refund to the club – adding valuable resources and making Mandy's job a little less daunting.

As to finances, the club remains healthy. I must report that we were not successful with the national lottery bid on the grounds that we did not represent a wide enough representation of the local community. Perhaps in the future when we can coach a walking netball session, plus allow boys in, we might be more successful!

More positively, we have been successful with another Keith Owen bid, with finances from the Waitrose token scheme and with money from the ever-popular cake stands at Cranbrook. We are also waiting to hear if we will be successful in a recent Co-op local initiatives bid. Can I thank everyone involved in these bids and successes – once again it is really appreciated by the club.

Talking of cake stands, I am happy to report that Sarah Lovell has agreed to manage these for the club going forward – thank you Sarah. She will of course need help so please do look out for emails from Sarah requesting us to bake and sell.

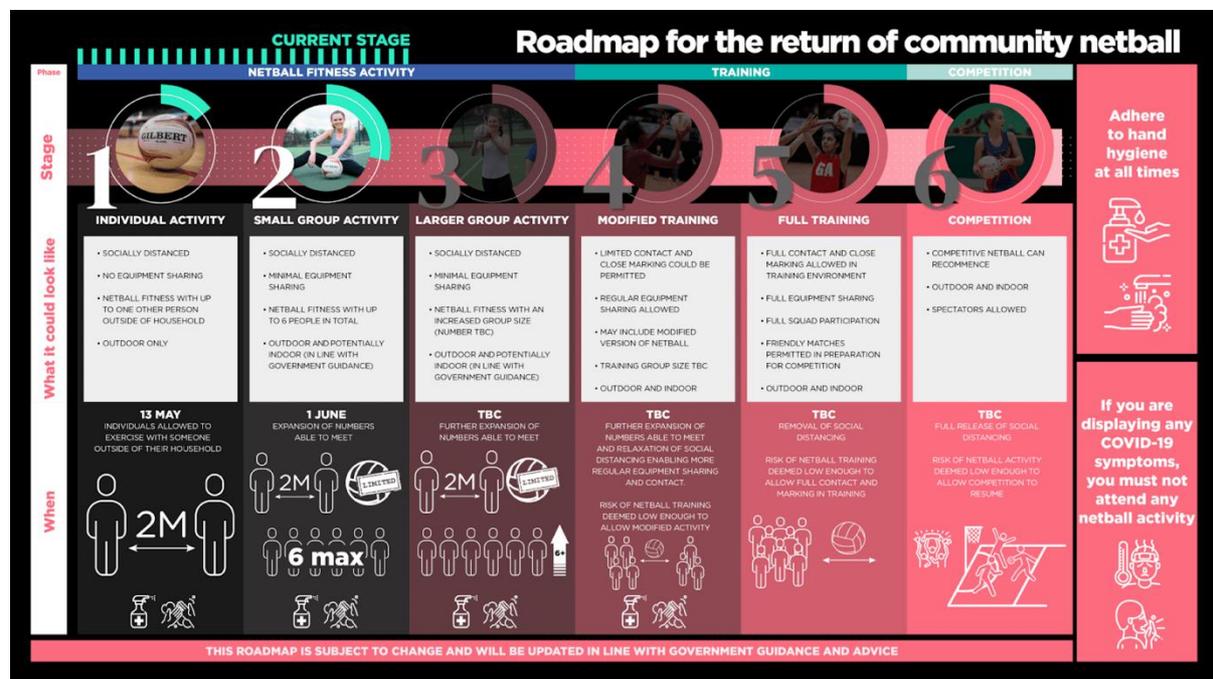
At the last AGM I mooted the idea that we could do with a website both to provide a point of reference for current members and to increase our presence more generally. I am very pleased to let you know that Helena Belcher has stepped up to the task and the site is pretty much ready to go live. As soon as we have some fixtures and netball to play we will get this up and running. Helena has also helped us with posters and flyers, all of which are highly valuable, so thank you very much.

In addition to its usefulness as a point of reference, the website will also help us in our quest to become a bronze level Club Action Planning Scheme (CAPS) recognized club. This is a Sport England Clubmark accreditation scheme that has been developed by England Netball to help clubs develop programmes and operate in line with best practices. We are very excited about this development and, hopefully, the new committee will help us embrace this challenge. We are under no illusions, however, that this will be a challenge!

As you are aware the club is searching for a home to call our own. Not only will this help in terms of facilities but it will also improve our ability to attract sponsors and generally improve our club marketing. In terms of marketing, there have been a number of articles written by our coaches in the Sidmouth Herald and I thank them for going the extra mile to do this. We have also had an article published in the Summer 2019 Sid Vale Association magazine. These are good beginnings but we are aware that more needs to be done in this regard. The new website will certainly help – anyone interested in helping us with this would be very much embraced!

As mentioned above, future-proofing our club will rely on more volunteers helping and on the development of new facilities; indeed it was the lack of facilities that caused us to suspend our U9 sessions at the turn of the year. Discussions with Sidmouth College on the development of their netball facilities are ongoing but, with Covid-19 and the new build of the College, these are at present at a standstill. There is still interest on both sides but I fear that it may take some time to see if this is a possibility. Needless to say, I will keep the club updated on any progress, or otherwise, as we get back to a 'new normality'.

What this 'new normality' might look like is unclear. England Netball is in continuous discussions with the government and have issued a roadmap of the conditions that must be met for netball to return. This consists of three phases (fitness, training, competition) made up of 6 stages. As it currently stands we remain at stage 2 of the fitness phase (See below).



As a club we are keeping a close eye on developments so that we are ready to train as soon as is possible. We have been in discussions with St John's to have access to their outdoor courts, with the potential to allow for floodlighting if allowable under planning rules etc! St John's are keen to help and are looking into how it might work. We have provisionally booked both the indoor and the outdoor courts for a September start and we will keep you informed of how things progress.

As I mentioned in the end of season newsletter there are a number of people who will be leaving their roles and the committee at the end of the year. Can I take this opportunity to offer a huge thank you to Lou Neilson who steps down as a lead coach after many years of volunteering at both the Honiton netball Club and at Sidmouth. You have been instrumental to the success of this club and we cannot thank you enough for everything

you have done. We look forward to all of your valuable input going forward as manager/coach of the U16s on a Saturday.

Needless to say losing Lou leaves a gap in our lead coaching staff, which we aim to fill with a combination of Lou Hastie, Becci Carter, Sandra Parnell and our new coach Janet Stanley. Unfortunately, Janet's level 2 coaching course has not been able to go ahead due to Covid-19 so she will not be able to run a session on her own until this can be rescheduled. This may mean that we will have to offer more limited coaching until such time as we can rectify this situation.

On the committee, we say a fond farewell to our fantastic Treasurer Mandy French, our clothing whizz Jo Pulman, our membership maestro Petri Wubs who also doubles up as our Safeguarding officer and to Becca Williams our outgoing secretary. Thank you ladies for all of your efforts, it's been great getting to know you all and watching some of you play netball!

Needless to say this leaves a number of posts to be filled at the upcoming virtual AGM and presentation evening on the 28th July, 2020. We have had offers of help so I am hoping that this will be a formality, which lends itself to interesting and exciting times ahead. In the meantime, stay safe everybody, apologies to anyone who I have failed to thank, and here's to a future where the green of Sidmouth Netball Club fills the courts of East Devon once again.

Clare Johnson

Treasurer's Report

Circulated to all players and committee in advance.

Coaches' Report

Well what a disruptive year as Clare, our chair, has expressed in her report.

With additional teams in the league this season, there was a new split of teams across divisions which meant on a number of occasions, the standard of play was quite diverse across the division, making it particularly challenging for some of our new teams and age groups. Having said that, as ever our girls played with great positive attitude and we often got great feedback from umpires saying how lovely we are as a club and how we are always smiling. As a club, and as parents, we should be extremely proud of our approach to netball.

Notable team performances across the winter and spring season are detailed below, but as a group of coaches we are particularly impressed on the whole with attitude, effort and application of all players and age groups.

Winter League

Falcons U16s finished 3rd in their division, with another year to go in the age group.

Starlings U11s finished 3rd in their division in their first season

Spring League

Ravens U11s finished 4th in Division 1, showing great promise for seasons to come
Eagles U16s were runners-up in Division 2 having improved significantly as a squad over the season

Falcons U16s finished 3rd in their division (but had a game in hand over the two teams above them that they didn't get chance to play), with a number of U14s in the squad, there is some great talent developing.

In conjunction with Axe Vale and Exmouth netball clubs we created Netball Fusion, to enter an East Devon squad into U14 and U16s regional league competition. Both age groups were successful in qualifying for the league and a number of our players were selected to play in the Fusion U14 squad – Amy Scott and Aoife Crosby were regular team members and benefitted from experiencing a higher level of competition.

Some of our u16s have also started to experience the joys and challenges of playing at senior ladies level in the Honiton Netball League on a Monday night – including sometimes playing with their coaches! This opportunity is available to progress from junior to senior netball and enables us to ensure the girls continue to be able to play some competitive netball as they get older. If any U16s are interested in playing ladies league netball, do speak to your coach.

We hope to be back playing netball soon, in the mean time keep fit, keep shooting and enjoy the summer.

Lou, Lou, Becci, Sandra, Anthony, Rachel, Sarah.

Election of Committee

Chair - Clare Johnson. Proposed Louise Neilson. Seconded S Parnell.

Covid 19 Officer - Sandra Purnell. Proposed C Johnson. Seconded R Williams

Secretary - Louise Neilson. Proposed C Johnson. Seconded R Williams

Safeguarding Officer - Jo Rousseau. Proposed C Johnson. Seconded L Hastie

Membership Secretary - Jo Cox, proposed C Johnson, Seconded L Hastie

Clothing Co-ordinator - Sarah Lovell, proposed C Johnson, Seconded L Neilson

Committee members:

Sandra Purnell

Louise Hastie

AOB

Clare thanked all coaches, team managers, players and committee members on what has been an unusual year and hoped that the club would be back playing netball in some format in September. St John's School have agreed for the club to use the outdoor courts in September.

Presentation of awards

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.