



**England Netball – East Midlands Regional
Association**

AGM

27th June 2024



**England Netball East Midlands Region AGM
27th June 2024**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Introduction of Regional Management Board
4. Appointment of Tellers
5. Voting Strength
6. Minutes of the last AGM
7. Chair's report
8. Regional Team & Regional Chair's Presentation
9. TSG reports: ROG, Competition; Officiating; Coaching; Volunteer and Club Development
10. Finance report
11. Acceptance of accounts
12. Proposed resolution changes to the constitution
13. Nominations & Election of Officers
14. Vote of Thanks
15. Close

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

| Date/Time | 14 June 2023 7pm-7:41pm | Location | | Zoom | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---|
| Attendees | Initials | Representing | Attendees | Initials | Representing |
| Sue Hunter | SH | Regional Chair | Ian Marron | IM | Charnwood Rutland NC |
| Sarah Hollidge | SHo | RMB- Appointed | Kath Gubas | KG | Cliftonettes NC |
| Carol Spencer | CS | Competition TSG | Julie Innis | JI | Dolphins NC |
| Liz Broomhead | LB | RMB-Elected (unable to vote) | Rachel Ridgill | RR | Grace Dieu NC |
| Andy Scigliano | AS | RMB-Elected | Kathy Cox | KC | Grasshoppers NC |
| Anne Henderson | AH | Nottinghamshire County | Val Kindred | VK | Knighton NC |
| Kathy Stripp | KS | Leicestershire County | Sara Bostock | SB | Mollbuzzers NC |
| Ruth Sampson | RS | Ashbourne NC | Stuart Allen | SA | N/A (non-voting) |
| Ruth Swaby | RSw | Boots NC | Christine Stewart | CS | N/A (non-voting) |
| Jenny Toner | JT | Bridgford NC | Eleanor Udall | EU | England Netball Regional Officer (non-voting) |

| Apologies | Initials | |
|-----------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Morgan Williams | MW | RMB Appointed Member |
| Sue Connor | SC | RMB Elected Member (Vice Chair) |
| Mary Yardley | MY | Volunteer and Club Development TSG |
| Pam Weatherby | PW | Nottinghamshire Chair |
| Jenny Smith | JS | Melton Marvels |
| Yvonne Blunt | YB | Northamptonshire County Chair |

| Circulation List |
|------------------|
| Attendees |
| Apologies |

| Ref | Minutes | Led by |
|-----|---|--------|
| 1.0 | Welcome | SH |
| 2.0 | Apologies – As above | SH |
| 3.0 | Introduction of the Regional Management Board (RMB) – Regional Management structure diagram displayed -Appendix 1 – Also to those present of AS and LB of RMB. AH as Regional Resolution Lead and member of Governance and Finance Technical Support Group (TSG). CS as Competitions TSG chair and Governance and Finance TSG member. KC as Governance and Finance TSG member. VK and IM of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Safeguarding TSG | SH |
| 4.0 | Appointment of Tellers – 2 tellers appointed – AH and VK | SH |
| 5.0 | Voting Strength – 16 | SH |
| 6.0 | Minutes of 2023 AGM – These minutes were accepted as a true and correct record - Proposed: VK, Seconded: AH | SH |

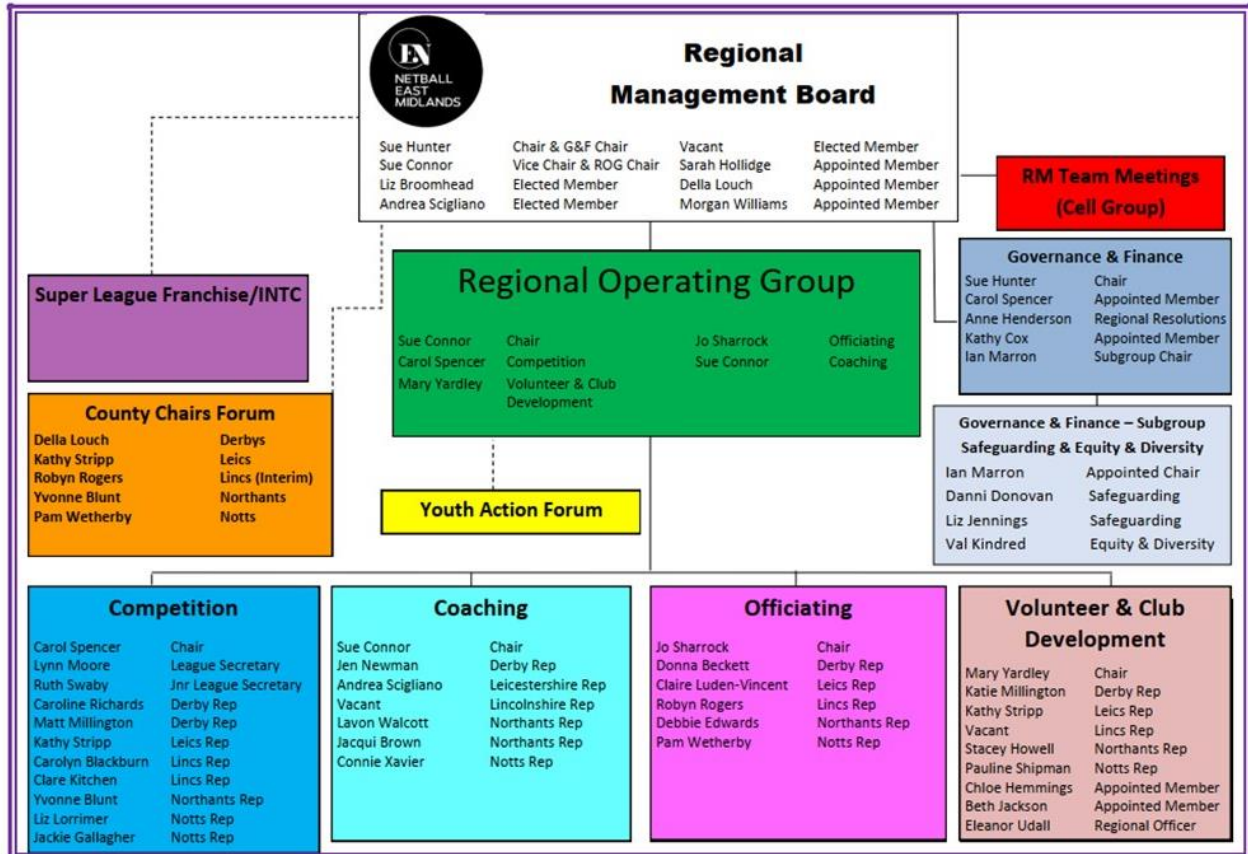
| | | |
|------|---|-------|
| 7.0 | <p>Chair's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The chair addressed the meeting and gave her report- Appendix 2. – Special thanks to RMB members, ROG, TSG Chairs and group members, coaches, officials, and all the unsung heroes for all their support and continued hard work throughout the region. – Thanks also to all past and present staff members for all you do for the region- Ruby Mahal, Louise Key, Kelly Thomson, Ruth Pickthorn, Eleanor Udall, Claire Bowen, Donna Palmer. Welcome to Claire (Nottingham & Derbyshire NDO), Ruby (Leicestershire NDO) and Donna (Partnership & Delivery Manager) that joined the Regional Team this year. – Special thanks to Della Louch who is standing down from the RMB, her contribution will be missed. – SEH asked attendees to contact her for any interest in any positions and especially Youth Action Forum and vacancies on Regional Management Board. | SH |
| 8.0 | <p>Regional Team and Regional Chair's Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional Achievements – Appendix 3 – EU presented the Regional Office report – RR asked that in future membership breakdown by age was included. – EU presented key dates coming up in 23-24 – SH thanked the work done by the England Netball Regional Team. | SH/EU |
| 9.0 | <p>TSG Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SEH explained all reports were in the AGM pack which had been distributed prior to AGM- Appendix 4 | SH |
| 10.0 | <p>Accounts Report and Acceptance of Accounts Appendix 5 (a&b)</p> | SH |
| 11.0 | <p>Acceptance of Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Floor accepted accounts true and correct. – Apologies that it was distributed late, this was due to staffing issues with the bookkeeper. – Expenditure explained regarding £5k to Loughborough Lightning. This was due to Lightning taking on 2 extra training partners when Wasps went into administration but needed funding support to do so. RMB supported this and went to cover Lauren Nicholls and Alex Johnson into Loughborough Lightning as training partners. – Agreed: 16 – Accepted as true and accept record. – JT proposed, VK seconded. | SH |
| 12.0 | <p>Constitution- Proposed Resolutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To adopt England Netball policy regarding safeguarding for Adults policy, and Equality policy update, now called Diversity and Belonging Policy. – 14 resolution changes agreed: 16. – 20 resolution changes agreed: 16. <p>Constitution proposed changes are accepted as true and correct.</p> | SH |
| 13.0 | <p>Nominations and Election of Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No applications received – Re-standing of all board members: agreed: 16/16. – Acceptance as true and correct- VK and AH agreed – SH thanks AH and VK as tellers for the meeting. | SH |

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Query from AH asking for attendance of board members at board meetings across the year. SH confirmed that all board members had attended board meetings and apologies had been given when unable to attend with reasoning. Agreed that next year attendance register could be provided. | |
| 14.0 | <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – VK on behalf of clubs and counties, thanked the RMB and TSGs on a great job and did not wish for any board members to step away. A special thanks also to SH for all her dedication and hard work, especially if she did decide to retire. – SH thanked all those in attendance. | VK |
| 15.0 | Close -7:41pm | SEH |

| Ref: | Action | Responsibility | Date Due |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 13. | Register of attendance at RMB meetings by board members requested for next year's AGM. | SH | Next AGM |

Appendix 1- Regional Management Board Structure Diagram

RMB/GF[FV-16.05.2023]



Appendix 2- Chair Report 2023

Welcome to all attendees, we have once again returned to a virtual AGM as this has proved more popular than a face-to-face meeting in that the number of members attending are greater, so we thank you for giving up your time this evening.

Writing this report, it hardly seems possible that another year has gone by since we came out of lock down due to Covid 19. I am delighted to be able to convey that as a region we thankfully have pretty much returned to pre-covid in most areas of participation. The hardest challenge for most of our members to return was due to facilities not all venues in the early part of return were available for participation. However, East Midland members showed their resilience and overcame all obstacles to return to the sport we all love.

On conclusion of the EN premiere league we currently have two teams in the league for next season, unfortunately, neither Bridgford nor TFC qualified from the play-offs. A special mention must go to following: Loughborough Lightning on winning the National Superleague 2023, Sponne School (Northant's) who won the England Mens & Mixed Netball (EMMNA) U16s schools' competition with Lutterworth High School (Leicestershire) taking the runners up place. Sponne were also awarded the "Endeavor Award" chosen by the umpires who recognised their sportsmanship and resilience amongst other things. Well done to both schools for their achievements.

On the 2nd of July at the Raddison Blu Hotel, Castle Donnington, we are celebrating the amazing contributions made by our volunteers as we host the regional "One Awards". This year we have received 122 nominations across all national and regional award categories. Quite a challenge for the selection panel each nomination was anonymised before being reviewed by the panel and all counties were invited to be represented on the selection panel. I must say many thanks to all members who agreed to undertake what turned out to be an even greater task than last year's 93 nominations and a massive thank you to all the nominators, it is great to see so many volunteers being recognised by being nominated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey special thanks to the Regional Management Board, Regional Operating Group, Technical Support Group Chairs, and group members, as well as all coaches, all officials, and all the unsung heroes for their support and continued hard work throughout the region, without these personnel and their sterling efforts we would not have the opportunity to play and participate in our beloved game. I also convey a special mention to Della Louch who has been an appointed member of the RMB, Della is standing down and her contribution to the board will be missed, thank you Della for your contribution, you will be sadly missed. We would welcome new and dare I say younger volunteers, we currently have vacancies across all disciplines within the region as well as an advert for my position as chair,

please consider offering to volunteer. Don't think you know enough, don't worry we all had to start somewhere, and we are happy to buddy up and work with new volunteers to help them settle in. If everyone does a little, then as the saying goes many hands make light work. If interested, please contact the regional office and we will arrange an informal chat.

We are delighted to advise that we have welcomed to the England Netball staff team Claire Bowen as Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire NDO and Ruby Mahal as Leicestershire NDO. Donna Palmer also joined us as our new England Netball participation & delivery manager. Kelly Thomson NDO for Northamptonshire and Louise Key NDO for Lincolnshire continue to provide us as a region with a great team who all go above and beyond their job remit. The last member of the staff team whom I have not mentioned is by no means last in the sense of the word Eleanor Udall, who as you may or may not know is our regional officer (new job title), Eleanor is the common denominator that holds us all together and without her support and great technical knowledge my job and other members of the regional management team would be so much harder. Thank you to you all past and present staff members for all you do for the region.

In conclusion, I would like to say the presentation and the TSG reports contained in the AGM pack only give a slight flavour of the amount of work and effort put in by our volunteers and the EN team highlighting our achievements and successes.

This just leaves me to reiterate, on behalf of the Regional Management Board to say thank you for your attendance and please spread the word far and wide that we are looking for new volunteers to join us. I look forward, to meeting in person those of you who are joining with us to celebrate and recognise our volunteers in July.

Sue Hunter
East Midlands
Regional Chair

Appendix 3- East Midlands Regional Office Report

➤ Regional presentation



REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Charnwood Rutland NC 3rd in National Premier League Division 1

Northants Storm 3rd in National Premier Division 3

TFC Leicester finished Top 10 in National Premier League 3

Grace Dieu won Club of the Year at the Lets Get Moving Awards (North West Leicestershire) along with Rachel Ridgill being awarded Outstanding Contribution

Fran Williams (LL) called up to Netball World Cup Roses squad with Alice Harvey, Hannah Joseph, Emma Thacker also selected as part of 23-24 programme.

Loughborough Lightning Netball Super League Champions!

Sponne School Under 16 Boys winning EMMNA Youth Cup with Lutterworth High School Runners Up

Derbyshire celebrating their 90th Anniversary with launch of Derbyshire Archive Group

Ashby Netball Club smashed Guinness World Record for most goals in 24 hours alongside raising £20,000 and subsequently being shortlisted for BBC Radio's Make a Difference Awards

REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Alex Styan awarded Level 3 Coaching

Local Bee Netballers (Bingham and Nottingham City) mascots at Vitality Roses International in Nottingham

Sara Bostock and Wendy Broad had a successful Commonwealth Games (Statistician and Bench Manager respectively)

NSL appointed umpires along with several international appointments between them: Kate Mann, Lizzie Saywell

Derby Deaf Netball pioneered a tournament with over 50 netballers attending supported by many of our regional officials

Heather Gleadall and Kate Mann appointed to Netball World Cup as Umpire Appointment Panel and umpire respectively

NSL appointed Technical Officials: Donna Fensom, Jayne Bell, Jo Ball, Robyn Rogers, Sara Bostock, Tamsin Armour and Wendy Broad

Active Lincolnshire winners: Inclusion and Diversity Award for Walking Back- Lincolnshire Walking Netball. Unsung Hero for Carolyn Blackburn. Active Community Award for Eloise Rimmer.

Rachel Start, Emily Broad and Julie Law achieved A Award Officiating. Lizzie Saywell awarded Talent Identified Umpire status.

REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Jessica Monthe (LL) selected for Roses Academy and Bella Baylis (LL) for Roses Futures.

Loughborough Lightning U17 finished 2nd in NPL North

Loughborough Lightning U21 finished 2nd in NPL

Loughborough Lightning U19 finished 6th in NPL



REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

East Midlands One Award winners 2022:

- Club of the Year- Ashby Junior Netball Club
- Coach of the Year (Adults)- Stacey Howell
- Coach of the Year (Children and Young People)- Claire Bowen
- Teacher of the Year- Katie Ewing
- Mary Bulloch Community Volunteer of the Year- Melissa Croxall
- Muriel McNally Community Volunteer of the Year- Celine Li
- Sheelagh Redpath Community Official of the Year- Donna Beckett
- Unsung Hero of the Year- Claire Bowen
- Young Volunteer of the Year- Katie Millington



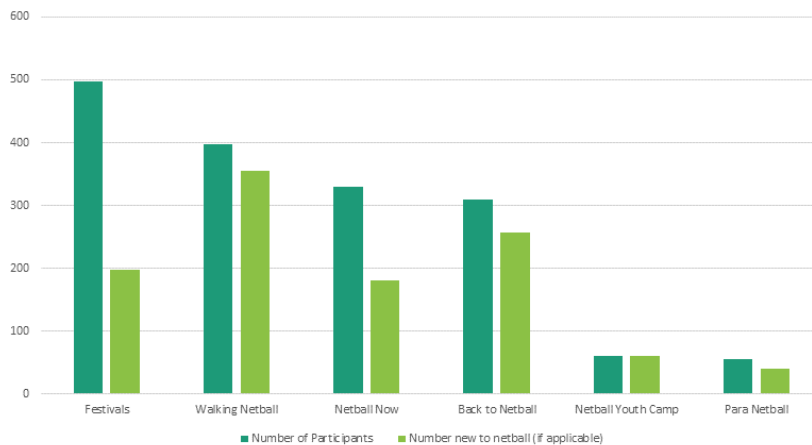
Regional Awards East Midlands

- Jean Bourne Back to Netball Award- Beka Avery
- East Midlands Long Service- Yvonne Blunt
- Additional special recognition given to Val Kindred



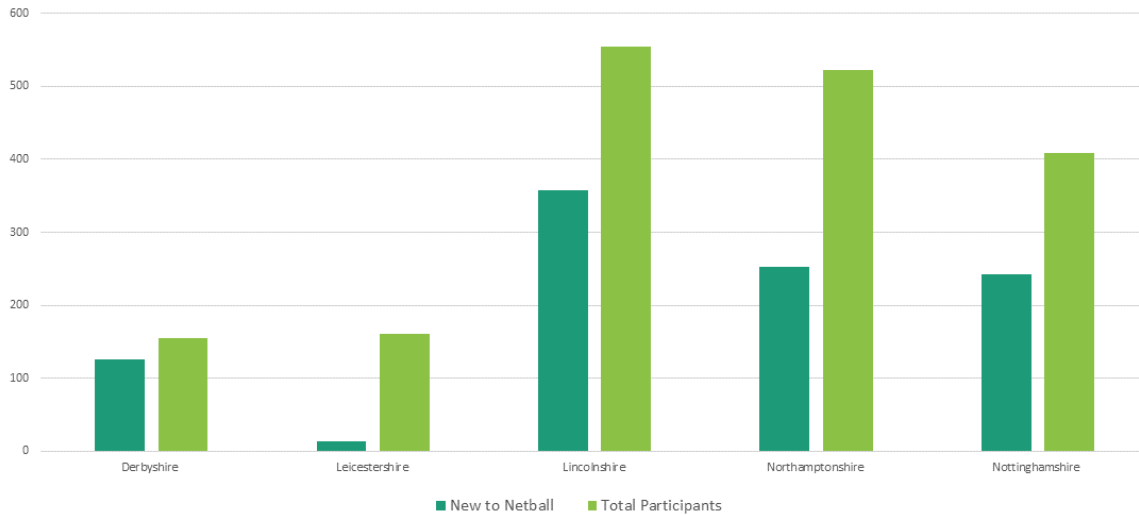
Programme Delivery

Programme delivery by programme for 22-23 financial year



County Delivery

Programme Delivery by County 22-23 financial year



Membership

104% members have renewed

| County | 22-23 Membership | 21-22 Membership | % renewal 22-23 vs 21-22 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Derbyshire | 1375 | 1394 | 99% |
| Leicestershire | 2148 | 1706 | 126% |
| Lincolnshire | 1775 | 1868 | 95% |
| Northamptonshire | 961 | 947 | 101% |
| Nottinghamshire | 1504 | 1469 | 102% |

Courses-Coaching

Level 1 Coaching has continued to go virtual.

Level 2 Coaching has continued to be a blended course of virtual and practical delivery.

England Netball Coaching Level 1- Now virtual, 30 awarded learners

England Netball Coaching Level 2- 2 courses delivered, 8 learners awarded

England Netball Coaching Level 3- 1 learner awarded

Walking Netball Host Training- 2 learners



Courses- Officiating

Into and C Award Officiating course delivery has continued to be virtual.

- 3 new A Award umpire (Rachel Start, Emily Broad and Julie Law)
- 2 new B Award umpires
- 21 new C Award umpires
- 73 Into Officiating Awards
- 2 Technical Official Awards



COMING UP IN 23-24

- 15th June –University of Lincoln L2
- 16th June- Fast5 All-Stars (Copperbox)
- 2nd July- East Midlands One Awards (Raddison Blu, East Midlands)
- 17th June- East Midlands Coach Conference (DMU, Leicester)
- 30th September- Loughborough University Level 2 Coach Course
- 28th July- 6th August- Netball World Cup (Cape Town)
- 14th October- National One Awards (Birmingham) TBC

East Midlands Netball AGM 2024
Regional Operating Group Report

The Regional Operating Group (ROG) consists of the following members:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Sue Connor | ROG Chair |
| Carol Spencer | Competition TSG Chair |
| Jo Sharrock | Officiating TSG Chair |
| Mary Yardley | Volunteering & Club TSG Chair |
| TBA | Coaching TSG Chair |

ROG performs the following roles:

- A delegated decision making group for operational issues
- Agrees the content of Key Focus Areas and other operational agenda items
- Approves grant funding requests up to £1000 on behalf of RMB
- A communications forum to ensure coherent planning and delivery
- Oversees, on behalf of RMB, the coherent implementation of an agreed Regional Strategy

The group is responsible for working towards the targets set by the Region in line with the England Netball Plans. These plans reflect the needs of the Region in relation to the development of clubs, schools, volunteers, players, coaches, officials and competition.

All counties are invited to have representatives on each of the TSG groups to help support the work of their CNA and the Region.

All TSGs have been extremely busy this year supporting their relevant work programmes. Unfortunately the number of volunteers is dwindling and the work load has been left to a few. The dedicated members on each TSG have work incredibly hard to ensure that their targets are met and that new innovations have been initiated.

More details can be found in the individual TSG chairs reports.

ROG continue to monitor and approve Grant funding requests. If you wish to apply for funding support to enhance your development then please look on the website for details or contact Eleanor Udall (EMRO).

As a group, we really do need more volunteers to support the work of the TSGs. If you would like to offer your services in any small way, please contact me. You will be supported by current members of the TSGs and we really would welcome new ideas to ensure that netball in the region meets the needs of all clubs, schools and individuals through playing, coaching and officiating.

Finally, my thanks to all TSG chairs and their committees for their hard work in enhancing the experience of netball players across the Region.

Sue Connor (ROG Chair)

COMPETITION TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP

Report loosely covers the playing period 30th May 2023 – 19th May 2024

Members of the Competition Technical Support Group

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Lead | Carol Spencer |
| Regional League Secretary | Lynn Moore |
| Junior League Secretary | Ruth Swaby |
| County Reps | Caroline Richards (Derbys) Kathy Stripp (Leics) Clare Kitchen & Carolyn Blackburn (Lincs) Yvonne Blunt (N'Hants) Liz Lorrimer, Jackie Gallagher & Linsey Haywood (Notts) |

The Competition TSG consists of the TSG Lead, the Regional League Secretary, the Junior League Secretary and up to two representative from each county carrying one vote per county.

The Competition TSG meets every other month to plan all aspects of competition including rules and regulations, procedures and protocols, budgets, eligibility, allocation of events and event management. We also appraise every event and implement changes to improve the quality of netball we provide at regional level.

Our aim is to provide a high level of competition, at a reasonable price, at quality venues and ultimately give teams a positive experience - win or lose, so I would like to thank all members of the Competition TSG and the numerous volunteers within the counties whose tireless work ensures that competition provided in the East Midlands is well organised and I hope appreciated.

Lynn and Ruth must be singled out for their season-long contribution and without them, there would be no leagues. We were sorry to lose Liz, Matt and Jackie whose contributions were invaluable.

We welcome all feedback, but unfortunately not all suggestions can be adopted as we are restricted by national regulations and limited by availability of indoor facilities, but we do take all comments on board and try to make competitions fair and equitable while providing a positive experience for all participants – players; team officials, umpires; spectators; bench officials and the rest of the volunteer work force.

Although the playing season starts in September, the preparation starts in January with booking facilities and producing the Competition Calendar. The availability of courts, national deadlines, Bank Holidays and clashes with other competitions and events are all factors we have to take into consideration when preparing the calendar which means it isn't always possible to avoid school holidays especially when the region's counties have different half terms. The calendar is usually ready for publication in July and will be available on the regional website.

We are very lucky to have the Sir David Wallace Sports Hall three-court indoor venue in addition to the two courts at the Netball Centre and the New Victory Hall, all at Loughborough University - all with excellent facilities and helpful staff, but we have to share these facilities with other sports and events as well as students, which means we don't always get the dates and times we would like. The only downside is the lack of space for participants during tournaments when they are not on court.

The Junior League moved to Ratcliffe College this season and has proved very popular. It is thankfully within reach of the University allowing team officials and spectators the opportunity to travel from the Regional League to the Junior League to support their teams in the afternoon.

We are hoping to include a second division for each age group if there is sufficient interest and fully expect most of the players to be U15 and U13. Teams will be offered places following the U16 & U14 Qualifying Tournaments

Entry into the Junior Leagues is through the Junior League Qualifying Tournaments for next season's Junior League are as follows and entry forms are available on the regional website.

U14 Junior League Qualifying Tournament will be on 16th June

U16 Junior League Qualifying Tournament will be on 30^d June

England Netball encouraged regions to adopt a Cup and Plate approach to the regional round of the National Schools Competition in 2023 to give a second opportunity of trophies and medals to those schools not qualifying for the play offs. This was repeated in 2024 and looks like to format going forward. Again the players enjoyed the excellent facilities at Oundle School which was also the venue for the National Finals.

We continue to be concerned about our junior clubs and schools teams and how they fair against stronger regions at U14, U16 and U19 national events. We discussed how competition could help improve the standard but feel it is a wider issue with such factors to consider as insufficient volunteers with an interest in junior netball and comparatively few clubs taking on junior sides. Links with schools could be improved and EN's decision to allow out of region players to join our county academies means our own home-grown players are missing out. We are also the second least populated region in the country after the North East which must have an effect on the number of young girls choosing netball as a sport.

Concern also continues about the increased number of commercial leagues and the impact they have on the availability of umpires, players and volunteers in regulated netball at all levels.

BUT, we will battle on and look forward to the challenges of another year and hope to serve the region well.

Playing Opportunities

There are regional competition opportunities available at every level. Some of the competitions are open entry and others require clubs to qualify through a county round.

Schools U14s, U16s, U19s - The top two in each age group from each county qualify for the Regional Finals which are held every February. The competition offers a Cup and Plate elements. The top two in the Cup competition in each age group from the Regional Finals go forward to the National Finals held annually in March.

Bee Stingers the successor to High 5's - Open entry for affiliated players Years 5 & 6- small clubs can combine players for the day - usually held in May

Clubs U12s - Open entry for affiliated players - small clubs can combine players for the day - usually held in May/June on a different day to the Clubs High 5's.

Junior League (U14 and U16 sections) -1 hour matches indoors at Ratcliffe College and the league ran between September and February. Entry into the league was via an open entry qualifying tournament. Next season, may include second divisions.

National U14's and U16's Clubs Qualifying Tournaments- The top two from each county qualify for the Regional Finals which are held each year held in March/April. They are one day tournaments held on separate days. The top two from the Regional Finals of each age group go forward to the National finals usually in April/May and are held over 2 days.

Regional League Qualifying Tournament - Up to two teams from each county compete alongside the bottom two teams from Division 3 to decide which teams will play in Div 3 the following season.

Regional League - Entry into the Regional League is via the Qualifying Tournament (above). The League is played on Sundays between September and April. Winners of Div 1 go forward to the National Play offs to compete for a place in the National Premier League. It is the intention that all matches are played indoors at Loughborough University.

Please check with your County Secretary or Competition Representative, the East Midlands Netball website or Carol Spencer carolspencer2@btinternet.com for details of entry into any of the above competitions.

Competition Results 30th May 2023 19th May 2024

U14 JUNIOR LEAGUE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

(Played in 2 sections with the top 3 from each section qualifying for the League and the winners of a 4th/5th place play off held to determine the other two qualifiers)

Nottm City
Charnwood Rutland
Ripley
Cliftonettes Red
Northants Storm U14's
Bingham Blue
Stamford and Rutland
Lincoln City

Reserves:-
Northants Storm U14's
Market Harborough
Market Harborough Panthers
Louth
Washingborough Imps
Bingham White

U16 JUNIOR LEAGUE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

(Played in 2 sections with the top 3 from each section qualifying for the League and the winners of a 4th/5th place play off held to determine the other two qualifiers)

Nottingham City
Lincoln City
Northants Storm
Charnwood Rutland
Allestree
Louth
Ashbourne
Stamford & Rutland

Reserves:-
Market Harborough
Long Eaton
Brigg
Bingham Comets
Northants U15
Charnwood B
Lincoln Green
Bramcote
Bingham Storm

REGIONAL SCHOOLS

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| U14 CUP | 1 st | Trent College (Derbys) |
| | 2 nd | St Martins (Leics) |
| | 3 rd | Stamford (Lincs) |
| | 4 th | Rushcliffe Spencer (Notts) |
| U14 PLATE | 1 st | Uppingham (Leics) |
| | 2 nd | Kesteven & Grantham (Lincs) |
| | 3 rd | Oundle (N'Hants) |
| | 3 rd = | Nottingham Girls High School (Notts) |
| | 5 th = | Wellingborough (N'Hants) |
| | 5 th = | Repton (Derbys) |

National Schools U14 Finals

(Top two qualifiers from each Region)

Trent College finished 14th/18

St Martins finished 15th/18

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| U16 CUP | 1 st | Stamford High School (Lincs) |
| | 2 nd | Oakham (N'Hants) |
| | 3 rd | Grantham & Kesteven (Lincs) |
| | 4 th | St Martins (Leics) |
| U16 PLATE | 1 st | Repton (Derbys) |
| | 2 nd | Oundle (N'Hants) |
| | 3 rd | Ecclesbourne (Derbys) |
| | 4 th | Nottingham Girls High School (Notts) |
| | 5 th = | Toot Hill (Notts) |
| | 5 th = | Northants High School (N'Hants) |

National Schools U16 Finals

(Top two qualifiers from each Region)

Stamford High School finished 17th/18

Oakham School finished 17th/18

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| U19 CUP | 1 st | Oakham School Leics) |
| | 2 nd | Repton School (Derbys) |
| | 3 rd | Ratcliffe College (Leics) |
| | 4 th | Stamford High School (Lincs) |
| U19 PLATE | 1 st | West Bridgford School (Notts) |
| | 2 nd | Spoone School (N'Hants) |
| | 5 th | Oundle (N'Hants) |
| | 4 th | Lincoln Priory School (Lincs) |
| | 5 th = | Ecclesbourne (Derbys) |
| | 5 th = | Rushcliffe Spencer School (Notts) |

National Schools U19 Finals

(Top two qualifiers from each Region)

Oakham School finished 12th/18

Repton School finished 17th/18

JUNIOR LEAGUE

| | | |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| U14s Section | 1 | Lincoln City |
| | 2 | Charnwood Rutland |
| | 3 | Nottingham City |
| | 4 | Stamford & Rutland |
| | 5 | Northants Storm |
| | 6 | Cliftonettes Red |
| | 7 | Bingham Blue |
| | 8 | N/A |

NATIONAL CLUBS

| | | |
|--------------------|----|---------------------|
| U16 National Clubs | 1 | Lincoln City |
| | 2 | Nottingham City |
| | 3 | Charnwood Rutland |
| | 4 | Louth |
| | 5 | Ashbourne |
| | 6 | Northants Storm |
| | 7 | Bramcote |
| | 8 | Market Harborough |
| | 9 | Long Eaton |
| | 10 | Towcester Tornadoes |

U16 National Finals - Lincoln City finished 17/18
Nottingham City finished 18/18

| | | |
|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| U14 National Clubs | 1 | Lincoln City |
| | 2 | Charnwood |
| | 3 | Allestree |
| | 4 | Bramcote |
| | 5 | Cliftonettes |
| | 6 | Market Harborough |
| | 7 | Northants Storm |
| | 8 | Louth |
| | 9 | Futureprint |
| | 10 | Stapleford |

U14 National Finals - Lincoln City finished 17th/18
25/26th May Charnwood Rutland finished 16th/18

REGIONAL LEAGUE 2023=2024

| | <u>Division 1</u> | <u>Division 2</u> | <u>Division 3</u> |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Bridgford | Nottinghamshire Sirens | Ashby Giants |
| 2 | TFC Too | Cliftonettes Scarlet | Northants Storm 2 |
| 3 | Charnwood Rutland | Hucknall Town | Charnwood Rutland 2 |
| 4 | Hinckley Hurricanes | Nottingham City | Sleaford Barge |
| 5 | Northants Storm 1 | TFC Leics Too | Ashby Titans |
| 6 | Lincoln City | Falcons Yellow | Lincoln City 2 |
| 7 | Southgate | Grasshoppers 2 | Northants JMs |
| 8 | Grasshoppers 1 | Cliftonettes Navy | Brigg Impacts 1 |

Bridgford qualified for the Premier League Play offs but did not qualify

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Promoted | Division 2 to Division1 Division 3 to Division2 | Notts Sirens & Cliftonettes Navy Ashby Giants & Northants Storm |
| Demoted | Division 1 to Division2 Division 2 to Division3 | Southgate & Grasshoppers 1 Grasshoppers 2& Cliftonettes Navy |
| Relegated | Division 3 to Re-qualify | Northants JMs & Brigg Impacts |

QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

- 1 Hawks
- 2 Derby Roses
- 3 Mollbuzzers
- 4 Bridgford
- 5 Bramcote
- 6 Fenland
- 7 KRL Jets
- 8 Allestree
- 9 Brigg & District
- 10 Northants JMs

Hawks and Derby Roses gained a place in Division 3 of the Regional League for 2024-5

BEE NETBALL TOURNAMENT

- 1 Charnwood A
- 2 Northants Storm
- 3 Lincoln Blue
- 4 Market Harborough Caracals
- 5 Hawks
- 6 Charnwood B
- 7 Corby
- 8 Charnwood C
- 9 Market Harborough Wildcats

U12 TOURNAMENT

- 1 Stamford & Rutland Titans
- 2 Charnwood Rutland
- 3 Northants Storm
- 4 Lough Netball Club
- 5 Market Harborough Servals
- 6 Allestree
- 7 Hawks
- 8 Ripley
- 9 Hucknall Town
- 10 Cliftonettes

East Midlands Annual General Meeting

Officiating Report May 2024

Once again, we have had a busy season from an officiating point of view.

We currently have the following umpires appointed to VNSL or the National Premier League:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Kate Mann (IUA) | Derbyshire | Super League |
| Lizzy Saywell (ITID) | Lincolnshire | Super League |
| Rachel Start (A Award) | Derbyshire | Premier League |
| Julie Law (A Award) | Derbyshire | Premier League |
| Teresa Hames (A Award) | Leicestershire | Premier League |
| Robyn Rogers (A Award) | Lincolnshire | Premier League |
| Emily Broad (A Award) | Lincolnshire | Premier League |

New A Awards this financial year

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Ellie Robinson | Nottinghamshire |
| Julie Law | Derbyshire |

New B Awards this financial year

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Kelly Powers | Derbyshire |
| Celine Li | Leicestershire |
| Emily Templeton | Lincolnshire |
| Alison Davies | Northamptonshire |

We also have two other umpires being assessed on Thursday 16th May.

We have had umpires at most National tournaments this year, which include:

NPL Opening and closing weekends, National Schools, National U16's and U14's and Premier League play offs.

Table Officials

We have a whole host of Table Officials, some who have been appointed to international fixtures and others appointed to Super League matches, many to both.

Wendy Broad – Lincolnshire, Sara Bostock – Leicestershire, Nicola Grant – Northamptonshire, Donna Fensom – Lincolnshire, Robyn Rogers – Lincolnshire, Jayne Bell – Derbyshire, Jo Ball – Derbyshire, Cleo Wyman – Lincolnshire, Jenny Goodwin – Lincolnshire, Tamsin Armour – Nottinghamshire, Rachel Start – Derbyshire, Jane Hadfield – Derbyshire.

Congratulations to Rachel Start, Donna Fensom, Nicola Grant, Cleo Wyman, who were all appointed to their first international fixture this season.

We really appreciate all the time and effort these volunteers put into officiating in the East Midlands.

September and October are always busy for umpires as we support the Loughborough Lightning trials for the various age groups. Umpires, either preparing for a new premier league season or working towards their next award are appointed to the appropriate matches. Our regional mentors are present for much of the time, to work and support the umpires. This is a huge commitment for all involved but is very much appreciated by Loughborough Lightning.

As a region we have provided umpires for various events including the Regional Schools tournament and the regional rounds of U16 and U14 competitions.

We have also provided umpires and TOs for Loughborough Lightning events whenever possible.

It has been difficult at times to secure enough umpires as we compete with commercial leagues and tournaments. We will try to offer more umpire support in future seasons to get firm commitment to our events early.

We currently have two assessors working towards becoming B Award assessors, which will support the work of the small number we currently have.

I would also like to thank the County Officiating Leads who form our Officiating TSG. Donna Beckett, Kate Stephenson, Robyn Rogers, Debbie Edwards, and Pam Weatherby have continued to hard to ensure officiating in the East Midlands continues to grow and flourish.

Jo Sharrock

Regional Officiating Lead

May 2024.

East Midlands Netball AGM 2024

Coaching TSG Report

The Regional Coaching TSG should consist of representatives from all counties and their role is to

- Identify appropriate coach education for coaches at all levels
- Take feedback from coaches / teachers in all environments as to their coach development needs
- Enable an appropriate coach mentoring programme across the 5 counties
- Educate teachers and coaches in the characteristics of a talented athlete
- Share good coaching practice across the region
- Alert coaches to the numerous coaching opportunities on the EN website
- Work with LL franchise to deliver coach specific workshops
- Understand the current landscape of qualified coaches in clubs against perceived need
- Identify what help is needed to develop netball in schools at all age-groups
- Support the process of identification and selection of players with potential

Unfortunately, we have not been able to address much of the above due to a lack of volunteers although we did organise a very successful Coaching Conference in June 2023. My thanks to all those who supported the event.

30 delegates attended a full day of inspirational delivery from a variety of deliverers including;

- Beth Jackson highlighting working with players with Neuro-diversity and hidden disabilities
- Kat Ratnapala and Chris Cushion from England netball
- Josie Pointon, Vick Burgess, Imogen Storey and Dylan Martins from LL franchise

The quality of delivery was exceptional and all attendees left with a greater understanding of so many aspects of good coaching practice that they were keen to deliver in their own environments.

The Coaching TSG has not met since and no-one has come forward to replace me as Chair of the group. Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Northants do not appear to have a Coaching Lead at the moment but Andrea Scigliano from Leicestershire has provided an update on the support that she has given to the clubs in the county.

Coaches are continuing to attend Level 1 and level 2 coaching courses and the Region has supported many coaches with grants of up to 50%

Recruitment of sufficient coaches to deliver in clubs / schools / County Academies and Performance Squads is essential if we are to improve the quality of our players across the Region at all levels. It is important that we all collectively encourage anyone who is keen to coach netball to take that next step and become involved. The Region does offer funding to support coaches who wish to attend training events that will enhance their learning. Please contact Eleanor Udall (EM Regional Officer) for more details.

We really do need to get the Coaching TSG to function again and if you know of anyone in your counties who would be willing to get involved, please contact me and I will organise a meeting to try to establish the group again.

Sue Connor (Coaching TSG lead)

Volunteer and Club Development Report for AGM 2024

Members of the Group

Lead – Mary Yardley
Derbyshire Rep - Vacant
Leicestershire Rep – Kathy Stripp
Lincolnshire Rep – vacant
Northamptonshire Rep – Vacant
Nottinghamshire Rep – Pauline Shipman
Appointed Member - Kimberley Durham
Appointed Member – Chloe Hemmings
Appointed Member – Beth Jackson
Appointed Member – Abi Wilcockson
Regional Officer– Eleanor Udall

This season the group was delighted to welcome two new members. Kimberley Durham from Market Harborough Netball Club and Abi Wilcockson from Mollbuzzers Netball Club. Kimberley has spent some time investigating how her club can be more environmentally friendly and this has given the TSG a new focus to look at how netball can support the ethos of sustainability. Abi joined earlier this year (2024) and offers perspectives on Deaf Netball and Men's and Mixed Netball. Now; not only is the TSG made up of volunteers and staff with diverse skills and interests, but the average age of the members has been reduced!

Unfortunately, Stacey Howell (Northamptonshire Rep) has had to stand down from her involvement with the TSG due to increasing netball, work and family commitments. Thank - you Stacey for your considerable contribution to the group and all good wishes go to you. The TSG may still tap into your expertise as an Environmental Scientist to support its aims.

The main focus for the first half 2023 was the organising of the East Midlands and One Awards Event. This was held on 2nd July at the Radisson Blu Hotel, East Midlands Airport where a buffet lunch was served. The Region was pleased that 122 nominations were received covering nearly all of the categories.

Thanks must go to Eleanor our Regional Officer, members of the TSG and the team of helpers on the day who prepared the room and sorted out niggly problems with systems.

The winners of the Awards for 2023 can be found on the East Midlands Netball website. Congratulations to them all.

Of those winners that went forward to the National One Awards, congratulations go to Donna Osborn who was awarded Contribution of the Year presented on 14th October 2023 at the Belfry Hotel.

The focus for the TSG currently is organising the 2024 Celebration and Awards Event which is on 07.07.2024. The venue is the Radisson Blu Hotel, East Midlands Airport for a buffet lunch commencing at 1pm. We are delighted that as of writing this report on 28th May, 104 nominations have been submitted for the One Awards and our own Regional Awards. The panel have met to decide upon

the winners which will be revealed on 7th July. Thank-you to all those who took the time to nominate the numerous volunteers who contribute to Netball in many and various ways.

Another focus for the group has been sustainability which has made all members thoroughly engaged. The initial raising awareness from Kimberley in a communication to Eleanor, has gathered momentum by Kimberley being invited to join the group and all members embracing the principles. We hope to continue with this initiative when; as a Region, a Sustainability Policy is put in place.

As Lead of the TSG, I am thoroughly heartened and appreciative of the members of the group, old and new. The mix of a couple of oldies, not so oldies and active players, with marketing skills, plus coaches, also people with neuro diversities as well as much younger participants brings an eclectic mix to the TSG. Also, without the huge input of our Regional Officer; Eleanor, as a Lead I am grateful that this is a designated part of her role.

Keep up the good work all you dedicated volunteers and wishing our Clubs all the best for 2024/2025.

Mary Yardley

May 2024.

EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD:

1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024

| | Note | 2023-24 This FY £ | 2022-23 Last FY £ |
|----------------------------|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bank Balances at 31 March | | | |
| Current Account | | 929.62 | 810.19 |
| Savings Account | | 61,000.00 | 68,000.00 |
| Plus Uncleared deposits | | | 75.00 |
| Less Income re 2024-25 | | -1,400.00 | -1,350.00 |
| | | 60,529.62 | 67,535.19 |
| Less unrepresented cheques | | 5,701.93 | 10,788.96 |
| Total | | 54,827.69 | 56,746.23 |

INCOME

| | | £ | £ |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Membership fees | | 18,012.35 | 16,596.67 |
| Governance/Other | 1 | 930.00 | 571.00 |
| Competition | 2 | 30,953.20 | 30,989.80 |
| Officiating | 3 | 275.00 | 325.00 |
| Coaching and Performance | 4 | 1,530.00 | 0.00 |
| EN One Awards | | 1,532.50 | 779.50 |
| Bank Interest | | 1,157.69 | 275.59 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 54,390.74 | 49,537.56 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Governance/Other | 1 | 6,675.73 | 5,695.84 |
| Competition | 2 | 31,864.60 | 26,899.46 |
| Officiating | 3 | 318.00 | 631.94 |
| Bursary payments (2023-24, includes £5,000 Performance grants to Counties) | | 7,492.50 | 4,520.00 |
| Coaching and Performance | 4 | 3,082.80 | 0.00 |
| EN One Awards | | 6,875.65 | 5,403.83 |
| Loughborough Lightning - Training Partner support | | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 56,309.28 | 48,151.07 |
| SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THIS PERIOD | | (1,918.54) | 1,386.49 |
| Balance brought forward | | 56,746.23 | 55,359.74 |
| Balance carried down | | 54,827.69 | 56,746.23 |


Prepared by Liz Alsop (ACA/ACMA)
27th May 2024

I confirm that these are a true account of the income and expenditure for the period ending 31st March 2023


Independent Validation completed by Robert Cooper (FCA)
29th May 2024

EAST MIDLANDS NETBALL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD:

1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Notes to the Accounts**Note****1 Governance**

| | £ | | | £ |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Income | | Expenditure | | |
| County affiliations | 100.00 | Meeting expenses & Zoom | | 2,493.14 |
| Raffle Proceeds | 830.00 | Book-keeping | | 1,392.00 |
| | | Gifts/Donations | | 934.00 |
| | | Website/postage etc | | 559.05 |
| | | Ad hoc Grants/Awards | | 788.00 |
| | | Insurance | | 408.34 |
| | | Bank Charges | | 63.20 |
| | | Other | | 38.00 |
| | <u>930.00</u> | | | <u>6,675.73</u> |

2 Competition

| Income | | Expenditure | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|
| Regional League | 18,848.20 | Regional League | Facilities | 15,511.50 |
| Other competitions | 12,105.00 | | Umpires | 2,166.72 |
| | | | Other | 1,280.83 |
| | | Other | Facilities | 9,435.20 |
| | | | Umpires | 1,469.20 |
| | | | Others | 2,001.15 |
| | <u>30,953.20</u> | | | <u>31,864.60</u> |

Please note the competition calendar runs from September to August.

3 Officiating

| Income | | Expenditure | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--|---------------|
| Test fees | 275.00 | Assessor fees | | 96.40 |
| | | Mentors | | 221.60 |
| | | Other | | 0.00 |
| | <u>275.00</u> | | | <u>318.00</u> |

4 Coaching & Performance

| Income | | Expenditure | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Conference | 1,530.00 | Conference | | 3082.80 |
| | <u>1,530.00</u> | | | <u>3,082.80</u> |

Junior Club Grant

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance brought forward | 2,242.00 |
| Utilised this period | 0.00 |
| Balance carried forward | <u>2,242.00</u> |



Resolution Proposal Form for AGM

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Name of Individual or Group Proposing Resolution: | <i>Sue Hunter – Regional Chair</i> | | | | |
| Please submit a separate form for each Resolution and return to: Regional Office at East Midlands Netball via email to eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk: | | | | | |
| No later than: | Thursday 30 May 2024 | | | | |
| Original Constitution Entry | | | | | |
| Ref: 7.8 | <p>The Members of the Regional Management Board will be reimbursed by the Regional Association at England Netball Travel and Subsistence Rates for travel, accommodation and other expenses incurred by them in connection with meetings of the Board or other approved business of the Board.</p> | | | | |
| Proposed Constitution Entry | | | | | |
| Ref: 7.8 7.8 | <p>The Members of the Regional Management Board will be reimbursed by the Regional Association at agreed Subsistence Rates for travel, accommodation and other expenses incurred by them in connection with meetings of the Board or other approved business of the Board. As documented in the East Midlands Regional by-laws.</p> | | | | |
| Proposed by: (Print name) | Sue Hunter | Member Number | 32797 | Date: | 30/05/2024 |
| Seconded By: (Print name) | Sue Connor | Member Number | 18300 | Date: | 30/05/2024 |



East Midlands Regional Management Board Elected Member – Application Form

Please print clearly in black ink or electronically complete and return, along with the nomination form, to the Regional Office
(eastmidlands@englandnetball.co.uk)

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Name of Nominee: | ROWENA HACKWOOD |
|------------------|------------------------|

In support of a nomination for the post (please tick):

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Chairman | x | Vice-Chairman |
| Chair of Governance & Finance | | Elected Member |

Business Skills and Experience: performance monitoring; financial monitoring; risk management; strategic thinking; legal compliance.

I have worked at board level in regulated public, private and not-for-profit organisations for the last 20 years. As CEO in my current role, I am accountable for £110m of revenue and all associated strategy, risk and performance matters. I work with my executive team and trustees on oversight and risk management, and as Accounting Officer and a public officer holder, I am accountable for the appropriate use of public funds.

I am an experienced strategic thinker with expertise in turnaround strategies across sectors including the private sector, education, charities and local government. In my current role, my strategy development work is informed by the local, national and international landscape, and I expect the same to be true if I am appointed to this role.

I have strong legal and compliance experience relating to: corporate and charity governance, employment law (as an employer of more than 2000 members of staff), charity law, contract and procurement law. Running a publicly funded organisation, I am fully aware of our duties around data security and protection, Freedom of information, GDPR and so on, and will be able to support the region in navigating through the complexities of this.

Interpersonal Skills and Experience: leadership; relationship and people management; influencing and networking; communication...

I am a well-known leader in the education sector, have created a number of peer networking groups (York Group, Northern CEOs), and regularly collaborate with and advise peers, government, stakeholders and decision-makers. Over the last 4 years, my work has influenced the tone, nature and evaluation profile of Ofsted inspections, changed government’s understanding of the post-COVID barriers to learning of disadvantaged students, and informed government’s programme for the development of the next generation of sector CEOs.

As Vice Chair of the Queen St Group, a leading education think tank, I co-chair networking meetings and CEO roundtables with ministers, permanent secretaries and directors of government departments, as well

as thought leaders, researchers and unions.

I am an effective communicator and regularly speak at events, as well as communicating face to face and via a variety of media with my own staff and stakeholders. Recent 'Grill the CEO' sessions were particularly popular with my staff!

If appointed I would want to use my networking, influencing and communications skills to support the administration and development of the East Midlands Netball whilst also contributing to national developments through the regional chairs group.

Knowledge and understanding of sporting competition and development pathways...

I have always been involved with sporting competition and pathways, whether as a parent (with junior, elite/national age group and men's hockey), as a player, coach and umpire (in netball), or in my previous employment as CEO of the David Ross Education Trust (DRET) with its strategic commitment to 'participation, competition and elite' across sports including basketball, table tennis, triathlon, athletics, netball, football and rugby. As a player and coach, I have had exposure to junior and senior competition structure and development pathways at all levels.

Knowledge, understanding and experience of Netball competition and development pathways, performance strategies, programmes, and activities...

I have a practical understanding of the structure and forms of the game from Bee Netball through Back to Netball, Walking Netball, local league, regional and national pathway and super-league structures. Within the club that I Chair, we cater for all ages and levels within adult netball, from Back to Netball to pathways into Regional through our partnership with TFC. We support players from age 14 upwards to access local league, university, regional or superleague franchises (we currently have athletes playing in NPL and PDP for Central Warriors, Loughborough Lightning and Severn Stars). We also work closely with Loughborough University as many players who were in club structures when at home struggle to access university netball because of the highly competitive nature of the BUCS structure.

I have experience of working with county and regional competition structures, age banding, grant giving, coaching and umpire development, and know my way around the structures reasonably well.

However, this is an area in which I would like to gain more understanding, particularly on the performance and elite side of the sport.

Please list any prior experience of serving as a board member for a non-profit organisation...

Professional board-level non-executive, trustee and similar roles (public, private, not for profit) include:

- Member, Department for Education (DfE) Regional Advisory Board for Yorkshire and Humber (non-executive government role)
- Member, Ofsted Advisory Board, Yorkshire/North
- Member, DfE Recovery Advisory Committee (Ministerial Advisory Committee) during COVID
- Vice Chair, Queen St Group (QSG) (leading education think-tank) (non-executive role)
- Chair and convener of QSG's Women into Leadership conference, creating pathways to address the gender imbalance in education leadership.

- Speaker & mentor, Cabinet Office's *Leading Collaborative Cultures* programme (public sector CEOs)
- Non-Executive Advisor, AQA (Exams provider)
- Member, Large Trusts Advisory Group, Confederation of Schools Trusts
- Education CEO mentor, Academicis (paid role) and on the request of the DfE (voluntary)
- Speaker: Executive Leaders Programme (Ambition Institute), Schools and Academies Show, Confederation of School Trusts conference.
- Mentor to a University Provost on the request of the Cabinet Office.
- Previously, Trustee, Reach2 Academy Trust, member of the Finance Committee, Link Trustee for the West Midlands (2016-2018).

I am keen to learn more about the governance of sports governing bodies and to work collaboratively with other regional chairs to understand how we can leverage our collective reach to advance the sport.

Understanding of equality and ethical issues in sport, including Duty of Care, Safeguarding...

In my professional capacity leading an education organisation, I undertake annual safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe In Education (KCSIE) training and work closely with the National College and the NSPCC to ensure that all staff are appropriately trained. I have an enhanced DBS check.

As a L2 qualified coach, I regularly renew my safeguarding certificate (copy available on Engage). As an example of safeguarding and ethical coaching in action, in my club roles, I work with coaches, players and where appropriate, parents, to fulfil our duty of care in relation to:

- Understanding the aspirations of players
- Supporting players in achieving their potential
- Managing player load
- Dealing with pressures from school, clubs, pathways, peers and parents
- Keeping parents informed about player progress and any successes or concerns
- Checking in with players and parents about the wellbeing of our young players
- Ensuring appropriate protocols for communication between players, parents and team captains.

Furthermore, within my clubs, we have appropriate, trained and clearly identified safeguarding officers on our committee and at all training and matches involving young players. This has enabled us to spot players that may be struggling (often nothing to do with netball) and support them within safeguarding guidelines.

Inclusion is an interesting challenge for a proudly female-led sport, and one that we have to address if we are to be truly inclusive of gender (both birth gender and gender identity). At the national and World Netball level, I have followed the current debates on gender and follow the decisions being made by different national governing bodies and am interested to see where they land this summer. On a more practical level, clubs and the region have decisions to make about where the fast-growing men's and mixed game sits in the landscape and navigate the tradition female-only profile of the sport alongside the emerging forms of the game.

Understanding and experience of voluntary sports organisations and the relationship between voluntary and paid staff

I have extensive experience of working with volunteers and managing the relationship between paid and voluntary staff. Between 2011-2014 I led a heritage and regeneration charity, The Auckland Project ([Home | The Auckland Project](#)), and the associated community volunteer spectacular 'Kynren' ([Kynren | An Epic](#)

[Tale of England \(11arches.com\)](http://11arches.com)), which relied upon over 3000 volunteers for its success. I am clear that whilst being respectful of the time and other commitments of volunteers, it is critical to train and support volunteers just as one would paid members of staff. This includes definition of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, volunteer oversight and management, safeguarding training, governance, financial accountability, data management etc. This ensures that the organisation and its staff and volunteers are appropriately protected and risk managed, as well as creating an environment for success and flourishing.

Within netball, I have been involved with sports organisations as a volunteer and as a manager of other volunteers. Starting when I was at university, I was captain and secretary of Cambridge University Netball Club and the Combined Universities team, and Secretary of the Varsity Games Committee. This commitment to organisation and administration has continued throughout my adult life.

I am currently undertaking the following voluntary committee and leadership roles:

- Chair: Moll Buzzers Netball Club (Loughborough). First team captain, coach, umpire.
- Committee Member: TFC Netball Club (Leicester), responsibility for safeguarding. First team captain, coach, selector, pathway development and parental communication.
- Committee Member: Loughborough Town Netball League (2022/3 winner: LTNL Umpire of the Year)

Moll Buzzers is also committed to supporting our U18 members in volunteering as officials and event organisers, connecting with England Netball's 'Pass on your Passion' initiative. Our young players volunteer at national men's and mixed tournaments as tournament runners and camera operators for live streams, and play an important officiating roles at local and regional league games.

A passion for the development of sport

My real passion is for supporting state school girls to develop a love of netball and pursue their talent as far as it can take them. I am extremely proud of the burgeoning partnerships that Moll Buzzers and TFC have with both Charnwood College and Loughborough College, giving girls the opportunity to access high quality coaching and advice about how they can develop as players within their communities, and stage-appropriate match play in a supported environment. The club also supports young players to develop their umpiring and coaching skills, and take on volunteer officiating and committee roles, equipping them with skills for life as well as for sport.

Over the last 8 years, Moll Buzzers has rebuilt from barely 1 team to a thriving club of 4 women's teams, a connection with Deaf Netball and for the first time, a mixed team entered into Mixed Nationals, to be held at Loughborough University in August 2024. I am passionate about the importance of a netball as a female-led sport, as well as recognising that to be fully inclusive and assure a financially viable future, we have to embrace all forms of the game.

At regional level with TFC, we have benefitted from male training partners challenging our preconceptions about the sport and its structures and norms, and I love learning new ideas and gaining new insights.

Knowledge, understanding and experience of England Netball's vision and strategic plan, systems and structures and their wider national and regional policies and opportunities for the development of the sport

I have a good understanding of England Netball's strategic and policy environment, and will just pick out a small number of aspects in which I am particularly interested or where I believe there is further scope for development.

First, I think the region has an important role to play in the NetballHER strategy, particularly in terms of improving the understanding of how the sport impacts on the female body and steps that we need to take to manage this. These discussions are not dissimilar to past discussions in Rugby about changing the scrummaging and tackling rules to address head injury risk – netball needs to consider the root cause of the disproportionate number of female athletes being affected by ACL/MCL/Ankle injuries, as well as better understanding the management of physical wellbeing through the development and aging of the female body. With Loughborough University as a leading sporting institution at the heart of the region, there is plenty of scope for the region to be a leading voice in responding to this priority.

Second, reflecting on England Netball's strategic aim of creating a lifelong love of the sport, I am interested in championing the creation of elite pathways for older players ('Masters series'), noting that comparable sports such as basketball, hockey, athletics and cricket maintain competitive pathways for women and men of all ages, rather than defaulting for older players to the more inclusion-driven forms of the game (e.g. walking netball). Whilst these are important, competitive Masters programmes are a legitimate aspect of elite sport, and could potentially be a revenue stream, as well as locking in players to sport and club leadership roles who would otherwise leave netball once their pre-veteran competitive years end.

Third, I am interested in the role that the region will play as England Netball delivers on its objective for the sport to be fully professional under new franchises. The complexity between professional/franchise structures and the regional and local competition seems an important area for further development nationally, and I would be interested in being a part of this.

Knowledge of East Midlands Regional Management structure

I have studied the management structure chart for the EM region, and will be relying on Board colleagues to help me understand how it works in practice!

Criminal convictions...

Have you ever been convicted of any criminal offence?

Yes

No

Please delete as appropriate

DECLARATION

I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, all particulars I have given are complete, true and accurate. I understand that any false declaration, information, omission, or misleading statement may lead to my being prevented from acting as a volunteer for EMRMB now or in the future.

Signed: 

Date: 17/05/2024

Print Name: ROWENA HACKWOOD