



**MINUTES OF ONLINE CLUB FORUM – SUNDAY 4 February 2024 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm ( ended @8.15PM)**

**Notes:**

- There was a multiple log in used, meaning a number of members had the same name on entry to the meeting- The Chair (JT) advised and requested that the member changed their name and added their club where possible – a lot of participants could not amend this information, this is visible on the meeting recording.
- There was a great turn out for this meeting, with multiple clubs represented from across the Region.
- The Chair confirmed to the meeting that the meeting was being recorded for producing the minutes and capturing the information for the poll/questionnaire and .
- The purpose of the meeting was to capture all points related to the agenda items raised and the context to allow the Board to produce a questionnaire for all netball South clubs to input to. For fairness and transparency, the questionnaire will be sent to all known Netball clubs (source Engage) and there will be 1 vote per club given that the audience is targeted at club level, albeit there are some specific year group issues, as the club will have to assess versus the overall impact to the Club.
- There were the following Netball South Board members on the forum: Julie Tucker, Jeremy Pendlebury, Julie Arnold, Carolyn Davies with apologies from our Board who had personal reasons for non attendance.
- Post meeting of 4/2/2024: EN have issued guidance to Netball South that we are unable to publish the recording of this meeting due to GDPR considerations. We wish to reassure our members that Netball South has the ongoing operation of our Region as a priority, embracing the values in EN’s ‘Working as One’ initiative and will continue to strive to embrace this.

Lead	Topics	Detail	Actions agreed
Chair – Julie Tucker	<b>Welcome and objectives of NS’s Club Forum</b>	The Chair explained that Netball South wish to work with our members and create an opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share concerns, issues and ideas - on all things netball in the South Region.</li> <li>- Ask members as to what the priorities should be for the netball family in the South over the next couple of seasons.</li> <li>- Voice ideas for any specific priorities for the Netball South Regional Board to consider.</li> </ul>	



		<p>- Confirm that there was No AOB under 'other' , as the members have been asked in advance to state the query/issue to be able to add into the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair explained that NS would capture all points to form the basis of the questionnaire that would be sent out to them if items could not be resolved on the call. Emphasis was placed on questionnaire would go to ALL clubs not just Netball South competing regional leagues.</p>	
	<p><b>Player development pathway</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b>  <b>1.U19 squad members playing in senior league</b> has worked well. Will this continue?  <b>2.Are u19s overplayed</b> in the Open League now they are not tied?</p> <p><b>Comments from meeting:</b>  a.Background -U19 league was allowable as player development with a flexible approach to access this ( peer group) and development of players in Open.   b.The Region will be reviewing rules immediately after Regional school rounds   c.The Region monitors quarters played and are there concerns on overplaying</p> <p>Maria- Eagles – commented that she did not believe that athletes were overplayed as was different weekends for league- JT quarters played across all divisions and concern has been raised that the same core players are being played as starting 7 in more than one league ( example of Reg 2 and u 19 was used)..is the player being developed or is that player already a starting player at the higher level and is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exec/Comp rule and play off review</li> <li>• Anonymise data from the quarters played for the questionnaire</li> </ul>



		<p>that fair and consistent with what the rationale for development was about.</p> <p>Proposals: do we cap and tie quarters played at 12 quarters?</p> <p>Do we ask for 8 players to be named?</p> <p>Gemma- London Falcons – enjoying - U19 format – supported ongoing format ie league format.</p> <p>JT confirmed that the clubs would be asked to vote on the current format versus the play off option on U19.</p> <p>Sheila -Sussex- clarification on athletes accessing u19 with no senior section could use those players in Open – JT clarified on current regs that is correct.</p> <p>Sheila, raised concern that overplaying could then happen.</p> <p>JT confirmed that clubs would vote on this and the issue of U19 overplaying/quarters played.</p> <p><b>Specifically worded proposals on both issues would be put to all clubs.</b></p> <p>Sue Binns- MSN – entry tournament comment – difference in ability levels as they move up and out ....age is 16-19 so wider catchment for ability and playing level and how much netball has evolved and strength of clubs and competition access with higher ability access. MSN would vote for entry tournament. Didn't understand why U19 was closed book i.e. a league format rather than entry tournament.</p> <p>JT reinforced that our clubs have the voice and we work with them , all clubs including those not included in league</p>	
--	--	---	--



		<p>Lauren Brown- player comment- being able to play in U19 and Open is valuable to players to develop and be able to compete at that level and not overplaying ,more developed.</p> <p>JT clarified multiple players 5/7 accessing both U19 and open division – was this development or was it essentially the same squad holding 2 positions and was this acceptable and fair.....if a lower cap on quantity was implemented would this work</p> <p>Jan Crabtree WPB – commented on the issue of league entry or play offs , Jan wanted to keep ‘as is’ due to exams and gcse’s in the June date and the accessibility to the Regional leagues existed via the County entry route; also commented that this aided planning and trial process.</p> <p>Ash agreed with Jan Crabtree, ie aids planning for future squads...should not be about gcse availability for an entry tournament versus the performance of the squad and club during the season.</p> <p>Georgie Maxfield – questioned vote process- 1 vote per club versus members- JT commented a great question and for fairness would most likely be 1 vote per club , but the Board would consider it. Georgie confirmed agreement with MSN for entry tournament as County entries ie as is.</p> <p>Georgie queried if consideration should be given that players In play offs should in the main be the squad playing in the league or the majority of that squad to be included?</p> <p>Sonia -Swan – frustrated with certain players being starting players in Open and then visible in the U19’s as well as NPL etc questioning the</p>	
--	--	---	--



		<p>use of development model; Entry tournament agreed with Jan on timing of the tournament and requested a division 3 for U19 prem open and could this be considered.</p> <p>JT confirmed that both main issues ( ie U 19 Entry and the use of 'Development' )would be in the questionnaire specifically and clearly worded to all Regional clubs.</p> <p>JT would also consider anonymising the data on quarters played to be considered in the questionnaire to give context for the concerns on overplaying and or holding entries on multiple leagues with the majority of the same playing squad. (This could be addressed in the rules review by capping or tying quarters played).</p>	
	<p><b>Competition Rules</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b>  <b>U19 Regional League Entry Process:</b> could we revert to an annual Entry Tournament to qualify for this League?  <b>Fixtures Scheduling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (matching up teams better if playing same team home / away in different divisions)</li> <li>- Can regional match days avoid half term dates?</li> <li>- Do we consider mainland matches only to save on travel and costs on a min 2 game format?</li> <li>- Neutral umpires for U16 div 1&amp;2 – standard of some of players in npl to be considered?</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments from meeting:</b>          JT noted U19 entry already addressed and confirmed that:</p> <p>The matching up agenda topic was driven from trying to Minimise and optimising travel and costs when matching fixtures up.</p> <p>EN calendar drives our dates and we try and avoid as many clashes as we can. Noted different counties have different term dates.</p>	



Noted that the spirit of the request was across age groups and trying to match up better.

On key dates to avoid- we could include on the questionnaire with a section to advise on dates we may have missed.

County schools to coordinate and work together.

National schools – a request to see if a centralised EN date is possible.

JT advised we would use central EN calendar as the start point for planning fixtures.

**Do we look at mainland fixtures only?**

Centralised venue 2 matches on the same day across the weekend.

Sonia – commented that Back to back weekend works well and should bursary support be in place for player welfare. Do we stipulate in tournament entry that it is mainland fixtures only – there are pro's and con's with both.

Kate Maxfield – commented that off mainland there were huge costs/rescheduling/ totally supports mainland fixtures only with a tri-weekend. (note jt- clashes with 'development')

Ash – U19 div 2 commented that the addition of team late in the fixture incurred a £2.5k cost to Guernsey with only £600 reimbursed for the fixture. Guernsey supportive but costs were excessive and issues around player availability.



		<p>Proposal will be put forward as part of the rules review and could be right way to make whole process more efficient and more cost effective.</p> <p><b>Neutral umpires for U16 div 1 &amp;2 query:</b> JA explained that resourcing may be an issue, but would consider via the OTSG, but highlighted that resourcing would be the main issue.</p> <p>JT confirmed that the OTSG would consider and if it practically could not be done, then the RMB would explain why it was not practicable.</p> <p>JA confirmed it would be assessed, but highlighted the difficulty on resourcing.</p> <p>Sue Binns- MSN noted localised umpires was a huge help, but this maybe had caused the concern and maybe consider taking their own umpires if there are concerns.</p> <p>Stacey Boxhall- raised concern that if an umpire was not strong enough, could AUL be re-introduced as a way of raising the bar....also highlighted doubling up ie 2 games in a row would be breaching the current regs for 2 games back to back.</p> <p>JA actioned to consider re-introducing AUL and guidance ; JA highlighted new rules in place from Sept 2024.</p> <p>Question in chat : could a feedback process be implemented where there are concerns. JA not in favour of people reporting back on umpires?</p> <p>Sarah- in chat – raised pricing paid to umpires, this is something Netball South cannot govern but will be fed back to OTSG.( Be aware of losing umpires to commercial leagues based on price paid).</p>	
--	--	--	--



		<p>Kiana- raised concern on the neutrality on closely placed games and should anyone with a family link ie a mother daughter relationship on the court be allowable?</p> <p>Emma – asked if there could be a half way house between ‘nothing’ and a ‘complaint’ and there is nothing...Example was player welfare /safety in the game. Asked if there could be something in the middle as there is nothing? ( RMB to consider if MOC could have a category for officiating maybe to pick up any patterns).</p> <p>Carole - An umpire –stated that an umpires approach to the game should be neutral and to apply and follow the rules. Positions are key on the court- reinforced we, (umpires) approach the game as neutral. Carole highlighted the lack of mentors and acknowledged that perhaps concerns could be raised by the coach to the opposition coach on the level of umpiring on the day. (RMB comment for consideration- how could this be captured on the form/paperwork?)</p> <p>JT stated that perhaps something is needed to let clubs feel they have a voice – between nothing and something and what that vehicle would look like to offer something up.</p> <p>JT commented that the Board would capture the information and requests from our members and give consideration to all.</p>	
	<p><b>Regional Round of National Schools</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b>  <b>Tournament date:</b>  <b>Can we avoid using the same date as other Regions especially LSE.</b>  <b>Teachers doing both events.</b></p>	





		<p><b>Comments from the meeting:</b></p> <p>Rushmoor- highlighted the problem on the border of S and LSE ( Hampshire) caused problems fielding teams because teachers are on duty. Acknowledged South took priority but if it could be reviewed as part of dates to avoid.</p> <p>JT - Noted and will be picked up in dates to avoid using the EN calendar as the main driver, but could make no guarantees; NS are trying to work with our clubs and if avoidable we would consider it.</p> <p>JT confirmed that historically NS have already logged with EN to work together and do 'joined up thinking'.</p>	
	<p><b>Officiating</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b></p> <p><b>Regional League rules – can they include clear reference to Game Management to be exercised by umpires.</b></p> <p><b>Comments from the meeting:</b></p> <p>JA confirmed that rule review should not include the game management in NS rules as it is contained within the EN rulebook.</p> <p>JA noted coaches should take responsibility and or Captains to ask for clarity on the game management.</p> <p>EN to do a session on Game management prior to September and JA will meet with County counterparts. JA will ensure all umpires will have the course delivered prior to the new season.</p> <p>Alice Badcock- Coaches and officials need to have an awareness as well as umpires to enable consistency and understanding.</p>	



		<p>JT noted that it was more about consistency in the application of the game management.</p> <p>JA thinks new rules will clear up some of the game management issues.</p> <p>JT requested JA to request EN to produce material for clubs to cascade through so all parties ie umpires and bench understand the application of game management.</p> <p>Carol W advised Gary Burgess producing a video on the material. JT hoped that this would be pre-recorded rather than webinar based to ensure all relevant parties could access at their convenience.</p> <p>Stacey advised there will be a media campaign coming from EN.</p>	
<p>Helen Windward</p>	<p><b>Netball Legends Netball</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b></p> <p><b>Outline of current plans for expanding Netball Legends competition (over 45s ) and invitation for feedback</b></p> <p><b>Comments from meeting:</b> Helen Windwood outlined what their not for profit organisation are doing to promote over 45's and why- started in Sussex.</p> <p>JT took action to engage with Helen at County and participation project level at Netball South.</p>	
	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:netballsouth_governance@outlook.com">netballsouth_governance@outlook.com</a>;</p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b></p> <p>All regions and counties are stepping up to enhance their governance processes and policies to help netball run smoothly at all levels of the game. Clubs wanting to improve their own governance to impress potential funders and protect their members can find lots of help on</p>	



		<p><a href="#">England Netball   Toolkit</a></p> <p><b>Comments from meeting:</b> JT explained the Tier 1 compliance and Tier 3 relationship with EN and advised if any clubs need support, to contact our Governance Director Lindsay Sartori via our website.</p>	
	<p><b>Centenary of England Netball 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b> Planning has begun nationally and the Centenary project team spearheaded by the National Netball Heritage Group is looking for ideas to involve local netball in the celebrations, telling the story of those that have contributed so much – on and off court – to the success of our sport today 100 years on.. Contact details for these ideas to be shared will be launched soon and local volunteer Centenary champions of all ages will be recruited.</p> <p><b>Comments from meeting:</b> JT advised that there will be more information coming out on this in the future.</p>	
	<p><b>WANTED FOR NETBALL SOUTH – passionate netball volunteers</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda topics raised:</b> Young volunteers wanting to learn about how the region works and what it does? more young voices needed to work with Millie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Communication and marketing, social media TSG members</li> <li>- Equality, Diversity and inclusions action group – create and advise on para netball opportunities:</li> <li>-Increase netball participation group – schools to</li> <li>-NetballHER champion</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments from meeting:</b> JT outlined the volunteer roles Netball South were recruiting for.</p>	



Jan Johnson -CD Phoenix asked to speak and then read out a statement related to the 'disbanding of the CTSG'.

Chris Granger wanted to also speak on this matter but JT needed to respond to Jan's statement and therefore muted the whole meeting.

JT confirmed that sadly, this had been expected and then confirmed to members that the decision to 'disband', not 'dimiss' the former CTSG was a Board decision, had not been taken lightly and was unanimous.

***The statement by Jan, (as to which no notice had been given to the Board and was therefore not on the agenda) is not included in the minutes because there was content within the statement that could be defamatory and therefore we cannot publish this.***

***In addition, there was a statement made in the chat by Chris Granger, Dreams that has been removed from the appendix below, as that too contains content that could be defamatory.***

By acknowledging both items that have to be excluded above, we wish to reassure our members that the Board continues to be open and transparent and we wish to reassure our members that our decisions and rationale for those decisions were for the good of our sport and the ongoing operational benefit of our Region and progressing our sport.

JP confirmed to the membership that if any member wanted to know more about the disbanding, they could contact him personally as the Board had nothing to hide.



		JT then confirmed that the meeting was closed and thanked the attendees for joining the meeting. <b>End:</b>	
--	--	---	--

#### APPENDIX 1-CHAT BOX

Chris Granger

19:00

CG

Sorry am driving will put name and can on when I'm back ash Kinch - Rushmoor

Kiana stagg

19:22

KS

Really sorry having trouble with name and video- I'm su Hollick, Magic NC

[1 Reply](#)

Carly Reeve

19:44

CR

Same! Once baby is asleep I will turn camera on.



Chris Granger

19:45

CG

Me too - Emma from Clan

sonja Payne Swan NC

20:33

SP

Forgotten how to turn on camera!

Kerry Brown Dreams Netball Club

20:57

KB

It you click on participants you can change your name

Chris Granger

21:11

CG

I can't change my name either- Gemma Muttitt from Abbey Netball

Chris Granger

21:23

CG

I can't change my name either



Megan Walmsley

21:57

MW

Megan Walmsley - Laurel Park Netball Club

Kiana stagg

21:59

KS

I'm unable to change, I'm Tina Verlo parent from NRG and Magic

Chris Granger

22:23

CG

Hannah lambert tm for Mk netters ice - I can't see my chat name, but I've joined via the link x

Shirley Eastwoo

22:48

SE

Shirley Eastwood Swan NC

Sarah Byham -Dreams

23:28

SB

Sarah Byham parent Dreams



Kiana Stagg - Magic

41:14

KS

Sorry I have got no voice currently, but at Magic - we would prefer to keep the league set up how it is at U19. No entry tournament and retain places in divisions etc (unless top / bottom 2). However, I very much appreciate new clubs should also be given the opportunity to enter too and access the league! Entry tournament in the past has however not been representative of the team that will play in U19 in Sept. E.g. players get played who will then leave for university in Sept. So this should definitely be taken into account please. Also the timing of entry tournament if this does go back to this - lots of exams from May-July.

👍 1

Sanet De Wet

41:38

SD

Sanet de Wet - Swan Netball Club

sonja Payne Swan NC

42:11

SP

How do you raise a hand - i want to

[1 Reply](#)

sonja Payne Swan NC

45:44

SP





As U 19 Swan coach, hardly any of mine get opportunities to play up to open and we find it frustrating to see other clubs playing across seniors and U19s and getting stronger players who then come back and play us - we are just the same and it can alter the whole division with results. Also do not like entry tournament - its stressful for players and for coaches and clubs.

Carly Reeve

51:36

CR

Hi sorry baby not playing ball so need to type, think something worth noting would be if it stayed as a league structure with no tournament, if there was a team who were div 1 U19 and players aged out but the next cohort in the Club were not at the same level there's player welfare to consider.

👍 4

Given the large age group

Claire Yeoman - Royals

55:43

CY

Sorry I am unable to turn on mic at the moment but please can we avoid National Schools Finals Weekends for the future, especially for the juniors which is falls on this year.

👍 3

Chris Granger

55:49

CG

There are usually 2 weeks overlap of half terms - that's 3 weekends rather than 2

Carly Reeve

56:21

CR



Can the lead organisers for county schools rounds get together and possibly use some of the same weekends? Obviously not the neighbouring counties as the umpires might be a crossover

👍 1

Claire Yeoman - Royals

56:37

CY

That was Chris' idea mine is about National Schools 😊

sonja Payne Swan NC

57:05

SP

national schools and U19 fixture on same weekend this year

👍 1

Carly Reeve

58:07

CR

Issue previously has been that schools rounds haven't all been published by the time South fixtures distributed

Chris Granger

58:36

CG

It will never always work as totally depends on certain players being involved in NPL or Roses camps

For u16 it's almost impossible until we know the teams after the regional entry tournament for location of fixtures

Simon Stow, Weston Park Blades



01:00:57

SS

Presumably Guernsey/Jersey have the same travel issues coming to the mainland?

Alice Badcock Team Matrix

01:05:10

AB

Can qualifying dates be issued earlier please?

Emma Marsden - Clan

01:08:49

EM

I agree - Home Clubs sourcing umpires has been very helpful

Kiana Stagg - Magic

01:09:39

KS

Again sorry no voice - I am not sure we need neutral umpires arranged in U16 etc. But could we look into the rule regarding allowing what is classed as a neutral umpire when teams arrange themselves- we have had several closely matched games/ crucial matches and the opposition have used an umpire who is a coach at the club. Or have used an umpire whose daughter goes to the club or are actually in the regional team they are umpiring. There sometimes is an unconscious bias and this can impact key results. Appreciate it's tricky to get umpires in the first place!

👍 5

Sarah Feast

01:09:54

SF



The only issues with clubs organising home umpires is that they sometimes charge way over the top for what is usually paid



1

Niamh Farrell MK Dons

01:11:18

NF

if there isn't the capacity to have impartial umpires & if the problem is trusting the allocated umpire decisions- could there be a more robust feedback process to support the umpires on training or experience if needed - match feedback from both teams to get a fair picture at a higher level



1

Claire Yeoman - Royals

01:14:16

CY

Agree with Kiana's point above



1



1

sonja Payne Swan NC

01:17:34

SP

I think maybe its more game management when games are very contested and maybe becomes unsafe and some umpires don't step in or manage well. so maybe some sort of umpires ongoing support/training etc

Chris Granger

01:21:24

CG



CD Phoenix are the same as rushmoor. 5 minutes from Surrey and have players in schools as pupils/teachers in LSE. Causes problems every year.

Chris Granger

01:22:25

CG

London. Falcons same... border of Middlesex and Bucks so LSE and South

Carol Williams

01:24:28

CW

England Netball will be doing a new session on game management under the new rules for all umpires before Sept so this could help

👍1 👍1

Emma Germain MK Dons U13 TM

01:25:27

EG

Hugely supportive of umpires - which is why don't want to go "full hog" with a complaint - but currently no capacity for something in between (that isn't just general gripes!). It feels like a chasm - and even where a challenge is raised are told can't challenge an umpire. But at the point it makes playing unsafe for young girls (physically and mentally) there has to be something where this can be raised to ask for umpires to be supported for review and support and training.

Emma Germain MK Dons U13 TM

01:26:28

EG

\*not to re-raise again - just to ensure its captured from the chat

Carol Williams



01:27:58

**CW**

I am sure it will be available to all people

Stacey Boxall (5ways - Sussex)

01:28:22

**SB**

EN said they would be doing live webinars on their social media in relation to the rules

👍 1

Tracy Stubbs - SJ Thundercats

01:29:48

**TS**

I need to go now that you everyone

sonja Payne Swan NC

01:32:42

**SP**

Can we have a link to netball legends?

Chris Granger

01:33:20

**CG**

Very keen! We have a vets team but thats over 35



Emma Marsden - Clan

01:33:47

EM

Sounds great! Please can we have detai

Niamh Farrell MK Dons

01:36:05

NF

Message for helen - Legends F/B page is for Private Group - can you open this up so we can link in

Helen Windwood - Netball Legends

01:36:18

HW

Contact Netball Legends at [netballlegends@gmail.com](mailto:netballlegends@gmail.com) or look us up on Facebook Netball Legends ... keep on playing! | Facebook

[1 Reply](#)

❤️ 1

---

Kiana Stagg - Magic

01:52:12

KS

Thank you Jules and the interim NS team. We really appreciate your direction and the way you are moving NS forward!

❤️ 1 👍 2



Emma Germain MK Dons U13 TM

01:52:15

EG

Thank you for a productive meeting

cg

01:52:21

C

Are there any minutes from the meeting

Shirley Eastwo

01:52:43

SE

Thank you

hannah

01:52:44

H

Thank you

👏 1

Stacey Boxall (5ways - Sussex)

01:52:50

SB





thanks Julie (and everyone)

Ruth Claridge (Blades)

01:52:54

RC

Thank you

**End:**