



# 13th AAS Annual General Meeting 2023 to 2024 Season

## Minutes: Thursday 16th May 2024

### Attendees

Jane Arnett, Natalie Marchant, Kelly Durbridge, Dan Beck, Sarah Tennent, Rachel Day, Sally Marsh, Amanda Harris, Caroline Matthews, Jane Davies, Tara Youngman, Zoe Manterfield, Nicola Brember, Kimberley Williams, Rebecca Cato, Jaylynn Gent, Fiona Ford, Sally Grimshaw, Sarah Little, Alison Dunseath, Leonie Miller, Helen Latham, Angela Bennett, Julie De Fries, Claire Nettle, Taryn Timperlake, Nessie Rapiar, Steph Carthy, Jo Lloyd-Aziz, Jo Duff, Emma Wakelin

### Apologies

Charlotte Durbridge, Lucy Marchant, Jason Senior, Jennie Rolfe, Alia Mirza, Amelia Moore, Sarah Hallett, Linda Shirley, John Busby

### 1. Welcome and Introduction from the Chair

Thank you to everyone for coming. There were lots of new faces so everyone introduced themselves. Jane explained the structure of the meeting, and welcomed all the new members.

### 2. Agreement of last season's AGM minutes

Minutes were agreed and signed off. There was one action from the last meeting which was not actioned, and that was the consideration of whether we should advertise trials on social media to try and stop enquiries after we have run trials. Carry action forward.

**ACTION:** by end of June 2024, to look at how many trial enquiries we have after we have run trials to see if there is better way of doing this, and whether we should advertise on social media.

### 3. Appointment of Officers

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Position	Name
Chair	Jane Arnett
Vice-Chair	Natalie Marchant
Treasurer	Jane Davies
Secretary and DPL	Tara Youngman
Head Coach	Jane Arnett
Safeguarding Officer	Zoe Manterfield (from Sarah Hallett)

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## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Health & Safety Officer	Dan Beck
Social Media Officer	Natalie Marchant
Facilities Officer	Nicola Brember
SJNL Umpiring Secretary	Jason Senior
Umpire Devt Secretary	Kimberley Williams (from Kelly Durbridge)
Events Officer	Rebecca Cato
Events Officer	Jaylyne Gent
Publicity & Comms Officer	VACANT
Equipment/Shed Officer	Fiona Ford
Website Officer	VACANT (from Sally Grimshaw)
Kit Secretary	Sarah Little
New Members Secretary	Caroline Matthews
Senior Fixtures Secretary	Alison Dunseath (from Jo Pickup)
Senior Umpire Secretary	Leonie Miller (from Jo Pickup)
Adults Player Admin	Helen Latham (from Jo Pickup)
Matchplay Admin	Angela Bennett
Walking Netball Admin	Jane Davies (from Becks McRobb)
U16 Admin	Julie De Fries (from John Busby)
U15 Admin	Sarah Tennent
U14 Admin	Rachel Day
U13 Admin	Claire Nettle (from Jo Lloyd-Aziz)
U12 Admin	Amanda Harris (from Steph Carthy)
U11 Admin	Jennie Rolfe
U10 Admin	Taryn Timperlake
U9 Admin	Vanessa Rapier
U8 Admin	Sally Marsh
Adult A/B Coach	Steph Carthy
Adult C/D Coach	Alia Mirza
Adult C/D Coach	Amelia Moore
U16 Lead Coach	Kelly Durbridge
U15 Lead Coach	Kelly Durbridge
U14 Lead Coach	Natalie Marchant
U13 Lead Coach	Jane Arnett
U12 Lead Coach	Jane Arnett
U11 Lead Coach	Jo Lloyd-Aziz
U10 Lead Coach	Natalie Marchant
U9 Lead Coach	Jo Duff
U8 Lead Coach	Emma Wakelin
Walking Netball Coach	Linda Shirley

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## 4. Chair's Report

Year 13, and another successful year at AAS. Of note this season is our amazing committee. We reached the end of the season with just two committee meetings, one in September and one in March. And that was it. Everyone works so hard, everyone knows what they have to do, and it's brilliant that the club can now pretty much run itself. We are sadly losing lots of committee members this season, but we have already filled nearly every place with all the newcomers looking genuinely delighted to be asked. Handovers are already happening, and I feel completely confident that the running of the club will be seamless. Thank you to John Busby, Jo Pickup, Sally Grimshaw, Sarah Tennent, Sarah Hallett and Becks McRobb for all their hard work over the years, and a warm welcome to our new committee members.

Also of note this year is how well the coaches cope with the demands of the SJNL, putting out more teams than any other club. This is hard work for our coaches, but fabulous for our girls who all get a chance to play in a team and all get to play competitive league matches. Sometimes this means our lower teams often have difficult matches, but we believe they would all rather play and lose than not play at all.

Our adults have once again been inspiring, with the A teams being promoted to the top divisions of the Surrey League and the Kingston District Netball Leagues. Thank you to Natalie who now steps down as adult coach having built up the adult section from scratch 9 years ago.

Also of note this season is the success of two of our girls who have been selected for Surrey Storm U19s, and 11 of our girls who have been selected for County academies. Well done to all those girls. One thing I would like to address next season is the very low number of state school girls who get into County, due to the complete lack of netball at state primary schools. If netball is offered it tends to be just a keen teacher or TA carrying out a lunch time or after school session. This makes it very difficult for state school girls to compete when County trials happen at the end of year 6. I have some ideas which I would like to discuss with the committee in a separate meeting, or at the end of this meeting if time allows.

Most importantly, it has been another happy year, concluding with a fabulously inclusive End of Season Tournament which brought the whole AAS community together.



## 5. Treasurer's Report

Last season we covered our costs and went into the 2023/24 season with a bank balance of just over £22.5k; this season with increased coaching and umpiring costs and increased court costs we are running the club at a slight loss.

The current bank balance is £18,841 and we still need to pay coaching costs for summer netball. We've also received a very generous donation of £2,000 to pay for pre-season training and the costs still need to be paid for that. The tournaments were run at a slight loss overall.

Proposal is that we don't need to increase subs / match fees this season but will keep an eye on costs and will likely need to increase / review subs going into the 2025/26 season.

### Snapshot for the Run the Club and Match costs:

FUNDS				£	
Opening bank balance 1/6/23				22,738.76	
Income 2023-24				82,348.63	
Expenditure 2023-24				-86,245.42	
Season balance 2023-24				-3,896.79	
Current bank balance as at 29/4/24				18,841.97	
<b>INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2023/24</b>				<b>1/6/23-11/05/24</b>	
<b>Run The Club</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Net 2024</b>	<b>Net 2023</b>
Subs 2023/2024		49,386.55	-600.00	48,786.55	43,004.08
Squad 2023/24		5,842.05	0.00	5,842.05	6,435.14
Equipment		0.00	-3,336.81	-3,336.81	-1,179.39
Coaches		0.00	-17,379.75	-17,379.75	-21,660.63
Courses/DBS/Affiliations		0.00	-175.86	-175.86	-737.33
Courts/Facilities		0.00	-24,974.75	-24,974.75	-23,983.25
		55,228.60	-46,467.17	8,761.43	1,878.62
<b>Match Costs</b>					
Match fees		14,035.50	0.00	14,035.50	14,621.41
Coaches/umpires		0.00	-19,765.00	-19,765.00	-13,230.50
Ligue/Tment Fees		60.00	-3,124.00	-3,064.00	-3,090.00
Courts		0.00	-1,095.00	-1,095.00	0.00
		14,095.50	-23,984.00	-9,888.50	-1,699.09
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>69,324.10</b>	<b>-70,451.17</b>	<b>-1,127.07</b>	<b>179.53</b>
<b>Tournaments / Events</b>					
Xmas 2023		504.45	-749.06	-244.610	
EoS 2024		3,070.16	-3,141.55	-71.390	
		3,574.61	-3,890.61	-316.00	

(figures do not include summer netball and misc costs that contribute towards the income/expenditure and make up the total season balance)

### ACTIONS:

JD and FF: to do a stock check for the final accounts.

Team admins : to check Teamo match fee payments and chase up players the week after every match.

All : Tighten belts a little, and make sure we cover costs in tournaments, matches etc

JD : to send out notes regarding next season's payments ensuring that we send out as few emails as possible to stop confusion, and to make them as clear as possible. All next season's payments to be received by 30/6.



## 6. Secretary and Data Protection Lead Report

### Membership update

Our membership is now 362 which is an increase of 33 from last year. Despite the number of leavers, see below, we have managed to maintain our strong membership base following successful trials last Summer. We continue to see a large number of enquiries to join our club and there are always potential new members on the waiting list. Sarah will provide more information on this.

Season	Juniors	Adults	Total
2023-2024	266 <sup>1</sup>	96 <sup>2</sup>	362
2022-2023	253	76	329
2021-2022	256	71	327
2020-2021	213	69	282
2019-2020	222	42	264
2018-2019	204	20	224
2017-2018	210	19	229
2016-2017	-	-	198

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U8	29
U9	27
U10	33
U11	29
U12	33
U13	42
U14	29
U15	19
U16	25

<sup>2</sup> 69 Adults and Matchplay plus 27 Walking netballers

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## Leavers

There were 63 leavers from the end of last season (those that did not renew, including those that have left to go to University) and those that have left during the season. This is similar to the numbers we have seen in previous years and does not show any underlying issue. The overriding reasons given for leaving are clashes with other sports or too many commitments either through other sports or academic pressures at school. Whilst it is sad to see these girls leave, we often get fantastic feedback from their parents as to the time their daughter spent at the club.

## England Netball Membership

Membership to England Netball via ENGage was completed successfully and largely problem free at the beginning of the season and credit should be given to the year group admins for doing an excellent job in getting everyone signed up before the start of the season, so a big thank you to them for a job well done.

In addition all junior teams were successfully input to ENGage with no issues for us to resolve from the League.

## Membership Documentation

All membership documentation has now been satisfactorily transferred to Teamo and has resulted in a much more streamlined sign up process for new members. I would like to give a huge thanks to Jane Davies for liaising with Teamo to get this completed before the start of the season and for her help in getting me trained up on the system. Thankfully all the paperwork is now a thing of the past!!

At the same time, we used the opportunity to get our existing members to complete updates to their membership documentation via Teamo so we now have upto date contact and medical information for them also. As a result I no longer need to provide contact lists to each age group as this information is all available to both coaches and admins via Teamo.

## Data Protection

I'm pleased to report that we have had no data protection breaches. Please continue to password protect any documents that hold personal information.

**ACTIONS: JA : to organise Teamo training sessions and circulate Teamo guidance notes**

**NOTE: To only use whatsapp for communication - NOT TEAMO**

## 7. Safeguarding Officer's Report

Those needing DBS checks, first aid certificates and safeguarding training have been informed during the year and records kept. The website is up to date with the current EN policies. I have had a handover meeting with Zoe and know she will be awesome in the role.

It has been an honour to serve on the committee and I wish the club all the best going forward.



## 8. Head Coach Report

Our coach development programme is doing well, and this season Clara Tighe, Sasha Ensoll and Anna Pickup passed their Level 1 Coaching qualification, Nikki Daly and Jayne Crockford are booked onto their Level 1 courses, and I believe Emma Flint and Maisie Dunseath will be signing up for their courses soon.

Whilst we lose a lot of our newly qualified coaches to university, we are now benefitting from the return of our young coaches. Alia Mirza, Amelia Moore and Megan Feltham are all planning to coach for us again next season.

Natalie is leaving her role as Adult coach after 9 years of dedicated service, and we are delighted that Steph Carthy is going to take over the A/B training and Alia and Amelia are going to be running the Cs and Ds.

Following on from last year's minutes, Lead Coaches need to continue to train, support and manage their assistant coaches. Some assistant coaches are qualified Level 1s, and some are DofE volunteers with little experience, but even the new and inexperienced helpers need to be able to contribute. If we are giving them the job of looking after a group of girls doing a drill, they need to have the confidence to set the drill up and to correct technique at every opportunity. We need to keep standards up and make sure basics are learned properly and well. We also need to make sure that our helpers are turning up regularly and on time, ready to help set up and put away, move the posts etc.

I think the coaching standards at AAS are second to none, and I want to ensure that this continues into the future to give our players the best chance of success.

Well done to the whole coaching team.

## 9. Kit Secretary's Report

We continue to have really good links with our kit supplier Richard at xrcise, he is a local business and has a user friendly website. He is very responsive with orders, often turning them around within a week, then delivering most Fridays to me and then I try to distribute to the girls as soon as possible.

At the beginning of the season we sold lots of second hand kit mainly to the new members and younger girls. We then held two sales at the Christmas and End of Season Tournaments, many families donated old kit which is greatly received and many bought from the stalls. We currently only have a few items available (mainly hoodies) . I am always happy to take any kit that is no longer fitting or needed, so that we can make money for the club, support families with cheaper kit and reduce landfill as well. We still have lots of AAS water bottles if anyone would like to buy one. This season the club has supplied more purple coaches jackets, bags and tops to coaches who have recently qualified which is great to see acknowledging their new position, key role within their age groups and amazing achievement.

Thank you for the support from the coaches and admins with contacting parents to distribute kit packages, it is much appreciated.



## 10. Website Officer's Report

The "Go Daddy.com" products current cost & renewals:

Website subscription (June)	£191.88 (No change)
SSL certificate to the website (October)	£74.99 (No change)
Email hosting (May)	£161.052 (emails only)

Currently set up are : [clubsecretary@ashteadallstars.com](mailto:clubsecretary@ashteadallstars.com); [treasurer@ashteadallstars.com](mailto:treasurer@ashteadallstars.com)

The aim continues to be to have the latest information on the site by Monday evening. The ticker shows if any training has been cancelled and there is a link through to the twitter feed.

The website will be updated and refreshed in the summer before the start of the season.

**ACTION ALL:** To help search for a new website officer.

## 11. Event Officer's Report

Both the Christmas tournament and the End of Season tournament were a great success thanks to the fantastic support of committee members and parents who volunteered on the day, and the format that was in place from previous years which works very well for both.

Committee members have been asked for feedback and suggestions on what can be done in future years to make the tournaments run even smoother. Suggestions so far include a longer break where we have pool matches and scores must be worked out before the next matches and a louder hooter/2nd hooter for the astro courts to ensure all can hear to ensure all matches keep to the same time.

Dates for the Christmas tournament and End of Season tournament are to be confirmed for 24/25 and facilities booked. Based on this year they would be Sunday 8th December 2024 for the Christmas Minis tournament and Sunday 27th April for End of Season (Easter Sunday is later and will be on the 20th April 2025).

**ACTION:** RC/JC/JA/NM to look into organising an Adult Versatility Tournament open to other clubs, summer 2025

**JA:** to pass on her feedback from the summer tournament to RC

## 12. Senior Umpiring Secretary's Report

There are 98 adult matches across the winter season and a further 29 in the summer leagues. All A and B team matches require a C award umpire, and C and D team matches require C award or WTC. The shortage of appropriately qualified and available umpires makes finding umpires for all matches a really difficult challenge for lots of clubs resulting in matches being cancelled at the last minute. The quality of umpires also varies significantly with some umpires mismatched and inexperienced for the high standard of play. AAS are fortunate to have really good relationships with a small number of high quality umpires however we also face difficulties particularly when all





four of our teams are playing away matches at exactly the same time meaning that we require 4 umpires. We have not had to cancel any matches this season owing to a lack of umpires however we have on occasions had to rely on 'unknown' umpires and the quality of these has varied significantly. I would like to thank Leonie Miller for taking over as Senior Umpiring Secretary for the season ahead.

**ACTION: LM to make sure that all coaches/teams are aware of their umpire's contact details**

### **13. Junior Umpiring Secretary's Report**

There were a few tricky weekends this year so a huge thank you to all at the club that helped out. It's great to see that the club is training umpires at a young age which I'm sure will help a lot in the future.

**ACTION: JS to make sure that all coaches are aware of their umpire's contact details**

### **14. Umpire Development Secretary - NEW COMMITTEE ROLE**

Welcome to Kimberley Williams, new to the committee, who will be looking after our umpire development programme.

**ACTION: KW to think about how we can introduce keen parents to this programme and how we can train them.**

### **15. Waiting List Administrator - NEW COMMITTEE ROLE**

Welcome to Caroline Matthews, new to the committee, who will be looking after waiting lists and trials.

**ACTION: CM to review our processes after the current trial season and feedback.**

### **16. Social Media Officer's Report**

Instagram is definitely the platform where we have most engagement, as the girls use this the most. Our Facebook and X (Twitter) pages still have views and are therefore still useful. It would be great if admin could encourage all their parents to link to our platforms for more exposure for our sport.

### **17. Health & Safety Officer Report**

This is my second term in role.

I have conducted this report with reference to the H&S Policy from 2023 season and the risk assessments for Downsland and Therfield netball courts. Both assessments are held locally with me and are, to the best of my understanding, relevant and appropriate for purpose.

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A new version of the H&S policy for 2024/25 season has been drafted, is now attached, and I propose this version is ratified at the AGM and uploaded to the AAS website for posterity.

First aid kit purchased throughout the season (June, August and February) at a cost of £370.57, since reimbursed.

No incidents of significant note have been brought to my attention.

Finally, I will buy an accident reporting book and put it in the shed so we can log any accidents (of note) centrally and keep a central record. I shall also print copies of our accident form and ask the teams to add blanks to their individual kits as an aide memoir for any time the First Aid kits are used.

**Action: Coaches to make sure that all incidents/accidents are logged on incident report forms**

**Action: Coaches to make sure they do risk assessments on Teamo when doing their registers.**

**Action: JD to look into putting a risk assessment on Teamo**

**Action all: to review the Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessment which were forwarded pre the AGM so that DB can make sure they are correct and updated for our website.**

## 18. Facilities Officer's Report

2023/24 season:

Downsend bookings: weekly training session bookings were made ahead of time and through the online booking system at the End June 2023. Due to Downsend breaking up early July this limited the ability to contact the Downsend admin to request help or confirmation, As such the Adult bookings were difficult to get locked in which caused a knock on effect for the Adults teams to confirm timings of courts to the league and Jo needed to step in and cross check all bookings etc at the End August.

Court conditions have been an issue all season, which a build up of Moss making them extremely slippery when just slightly damp. As such most of the adult matches were not played at Downsend and caused administration work for both Adult team coach, Bookings team, Downsend team, Treasures at both AAS and Dowsend.

Some of the Netball posts were replaced due to them being both bent or unable to be lowered Court have been treated, but still not ideal, and Downsend have agreed to continue to monitor the conditions.

Any line painting or cleaning at Downsend does not happen by the onsite maintenance teams but outside contractors, so if issues do arise this takes time to rectify. As such we need to ensure court inspections happen and are reported early.

Downsend have made further improvements to the on line bookings system in 2024. Invoices can be retrieved directly on line which means timely payments as long as there isn't the need to make alterations.

A further improvement is coming into play from Sept 2024 where payments are required at the time of booking.

As such the log on for the booking system needs to be updated to be a Generic email account which both the Bookings team and Treasure can access to retrieve bookings and invoices. (only one email account is allowed to be linked the booking account)

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As this is a school facility we are under constraints of Saturday bookings to work around that of the school requirements, and this is not released for 24/25 until late in the academic year which in turn has knock on affects to be able to book in advance and plan.

Having a direct contact at Downsend that now deals with all enquires has made it easier, especially as they also have involvement in AAS. However we need to ensure were possible all booking for the 24/25 season are made by the end of 2023/24 academic terms.

**Therfield:**

Booking continue to be made directly via email and invoices received every half term.

Therfield have been very accommodating in short term bookings with several people booking directly with them due to the short time frame.

Lee at Therfield has made it very easy to deal with them and keep the accounts correct.

The Hall conditions have been reported several times as the floor need to be cleaned prior to playing in the winter. Storage has been improved due to various vendors sharing the same cupboard.

**Requirements for 24/25 season to make bookings:**

Confirmation of weekly training sessions facility requirements and timings, Both facilities.

Confirmations of Tournament dates (Christmas and End of Season) and AGM events.

Adult league dates for bookings

Updated safeguarding Policy, (ran out in Jan 2024)

Updates Insurance Policy

Updated Risk assessment

AAS Email account to be created

Downsend booking system to be changed to AAS account log in

Bank details for bookings on system

All communications for cancellations, facility issues to be sent to the AAS email account.

Court Inspection in July, Dec and March to highlight any potential issues before the season starts.

**ACTIONS:**

**NB: To look into use of Ashtead Tennis Club for courts**

**NB: to look into use of Ashtead Squash Club for courts**

**NB: to talk to Downsend about a Slip Test, and to look into the possibility of AAS sharing the cost of court treatments**

**JA: to talk to the SJNL committee about having brooms at Manor House and The Howard to clear leaves**

## **19. Equipment Officer's Report**

Thank you to all, for your help keeping the shed tidy this year. The system to keep the size 4 balls in blue ball bags on the left and size 5 balls in black bags on the right, is working well. We now have a reasonably accurate inventory of equipment which I will keep updating. Also, thank you for returning all the bibs before the April tournament, this is a good time to check, wash and make any

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repairs to bibs. Keeping a check on equipment at Therfield is harder as this is a shared cupboard. I know I need to keep a better eye on keeping the balls pumped up, it would be great if any girls doing their D of E volunteering could help with this.

**ACTION: Coaches to use assistants and volunteers to help keep balls pumped and bibs sorted.**

## 20. AAS Ladies' Report

This year has been very busy again with our adult teams with another very successful year for some teams and tougher for others. Kelly stepped down as the C and D coach last year so I took on the coaching of all teams. I've absolutely loved coaching all of them, however, not being able to see them all play on a Saturday has been far from ideal, as it's trickier to know what needs to be worked on. We are, therefore, moving back to different coaches looking after each group which will hopefully work more efficiently next season.

Our As have had an amazing season. Every year we lose strong athletes to University and worry that the team won't be as strong as the last, which is always a concern as they have been promoted by significant margins in the last few years, but this year they have been phenomenal once again. Playing in Prem B of Surrey and Div 2 of Kingston means they were playing tough opponents each week, but out of 28 games, they only lost 5 games all season and this is whilst juggling losing players to Storm some weeks, as well as Uni visits and school commitments. This just shows the depth we have in the club, that we are still able to compete brilliantly each week, even when missing our best players.

This team has risen to the occasion and has once again won their Kingston division and come second to an unbeaten, very experienced Rosslyn Park in Surrey, only losing to them by one goal a few weeks ago (Rosslyn Park have beaten all their other opponents by huge margins). We have, therefore, been promoted once again in both leagues and will now play in the top two divisions next season, which is a massive achievement for a team made up mostly of girls who are still at school, with one of them still only 14 years old! Credit must also go to all the girls who've played in this team, moving them through the divisions over the years.

Our Bs had a much tougher season. On paper the team was really strong, however, with lots of Uni visits, injury and other absences early on, we struggled to gel and were unfortunately, losing some matches, that we could have won. However, there were still plenty of wins to celebrate, the best one being the last game of the season where they beat top of the division Reigate to secure 6th place in the Surrey league, avoiding relegation and coming a credible 5th in Kingston. This team supported the As brilliantly at training and with loaning players up when needed, so they can be pleased with their results.

The Cs had a great season showing fantastic progression throughout the year with more of our wins coming in the second half of the season. For such a young team, they competed brilliantly against strong opposition and most of their losses were by incredibly small margins, where the opposition's experience carried them through to the win. This team continually improved and with gained experience over the season were becoming more able to finish matches off successfully. They gelled well as a team and had great camaraderie. We competed fantastically well against teams at the top of the divisions, again often only losing by one or two goals, so I'm sure that next season we will be really successful. We finished in 4th place in Kingston and 5th in Surrey, which is brilliant.

The Ds are our development team and the team that changes the most each time, as we take from our larger pool of players to give everyone experience. Most of the girls in this team are totally new to adults and only play once a fortnight in the Kingston league. I couldn't be happier with the progression they've made this season and how hard they've worked at training to improve, winning four matches out of twelve and with others being really close. It's all about experience gained for

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these girls and I know they'll go from strength to strength going forward. They finished in a credible 5th place in their division and I'm super proud of them.

Huge thanks must go to Jo Pickup who has been an absolute engine and has looked after the administration of the teams brilliantly and a huge support to me. She's gone above and beyond and has worked incredibly hard to ensure everyone is in the right place at the right time each week, as well as arranging umpires and going to committee meetings etc. She's been a star and will be greatly missed, as she steps down this year. Her hand over notes are amazing!

Thank you also to Jane and Emma, who have both regularly helped coach at the weekends when matches clashed and to Charlotte and Lucy for helping with the Cs and Ds training. It's very much appreciated!

Finally, It's with mixed emotions that I hand over the reins, after nine life changing years with the adult teams. I'm going to miss them all hugely. I'm so proud of what these amazing young women have achieved, watching them grow into outstanding netballers and just great adults, building wonderful relationships with them, long after they've left for University. I hope I'm handing them over in good shape to Steph, Alia and Amelia and will watch avidly from the sidelines as they continue to grow. Working with these wonderful young people has been the biggest privilege of my life and I'm so proud to have been part of their journey.

## **21. U16 Report**

The U16 year group had another successful year in their respective divisions of the Nonsuch League; As coming second, Bs coming 6th and Cs coming 5th. There was some really talented netball progression throughout the year and especially the girls who also played in Adults this season; you could really see their development. At Christmas, I stepped down from Monday training sessions as we consistently struggled with a severe lack of focus and effort from the girls and both the other coaches and I found the behaviour to be hindering their progression. I continued with their squad sessions and matches, where they worked very hard and were more focused. This is the last year for the girls in juniors and the vast majority are continuing in the adult section full time, next season. I want to say a massive thank you to my other coaches, Jo, Lucy and Charlotte and especially Jane for helping out with the group. I wish the girls all the best and hope they continue with their netball in both adult teams and matchplay.

## **22. U15 Report**

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to be the coach for the U15s this season. Their incredible hard work in matches and effort in training is infallible.

The U15s has been the first age group that I have been Lead Coach for and what a wonderful way to start my coaching career. Their drive and willingness to learn makes delivering sessions so enjoyable. I'd like to congratulate each and everyone of them for making tremendous progress since September.

We have 19 athletes in our age group and two teams entered into the Surrey Junior Netball League. Our U15 As came 3rd out of 12 in the A Division and our U15 Bs came 10th out of 11 teams.

Well done to Charlotte M who gained a place in the U15 Surrey County Academy. A fantastic achievement.

I'd like to thank fellow coaches Lois, Lily, Issy, Lucy, Natalie, KMD and admin John, for your all support this season.

Unfortunately, I will not be coaching this age group into their final year as juniors so I'd like to say a massive good luck to them and can't wait to see how they progress in the future.



## 23. U14 Report

Another fantastic year for this talented age group. Results from the Surrey Junior Netball league were as follows: U14A - Bronze 3rd, U14B - Gold 1st, U14C - 5th U14D - 8th

The U14B team have had an incredible season having gone unbeaten in the league and obtaining 1st place (Gold) scoring an incredible 228 goals, the highest in the division by far.

Thank you to my helpers for this season for assisting at training, fixture dates and their guidance. Coaches - Issy D (at the beginning of the season), Charlotte D, Imogen C, Lily B and Lois W, and also to, parent helper Zoe M. I'd also like to extend a thank you to the parents, they are very on the ball and very supportive.

This season was a bit challenging in fielding a D team, due to continuous unavailability. Thank you to all the girls in the age group and the age group below for filling in to ensure the matches went ahead not only for our own girls but for the opposition as well.

We have a group of girls who have continued their umpiring journey, and they are committed and really work hard on the learning these skills both at AAS and at school.

Huge congratulations to Millie S for gaining a place in the U15 Surrey County programme and to Bella W for gaining a place in the U15 County and U15 Surrey Storm Academy. A fantastic achievement for both and the club.

The winners of our End of Season Awards were U14A Bella W, U14B Freya VDH, U14C Munira A, U14D Isla and U14 Most improved Annie.

I love coaching this age group, they are genuinely a lovely group, and it is has been so pleasing to see how the different friendships have formed over the past couple of years and this season, especially as they are from a variety of different schools and in different teams. They support each other and are always (apart from working hard at training) are laughing and enjoying each other's company. Really excited to see what next season brings for this age group.

## 24. U13 Report

Following trials last summer I took on an extra 13 girls, even though I already had 30 in this age group. The 13 consisted of a few talented girls who were already playing netball, and the rest were keen girls from state schools who had hardly ever played. I am so glad I took a punt on these girls who have been fabulous new additions to the club. This inevitably meant that there was a lot of movement between teams, and September was tricky, but soon all the girls settled into their respective teams and we became one big happy age group.

The As have had a fabulous season, 3rd in the A division, and I think could have won if it wasn't for a couple of weekends where our team was devastated with school trips.

The Bs have also had a fabulous season. They are a very cohesive group, who have become stronger and stronger each week, and deserve their bronze position in the B division.

The Cs and Ds have had a tough season. We need to work on their confidence because they are good netballers, but maybe could have done with being in a lower division. I will ask the League if this is possible.

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The E's have improved weekly, playing with a fantastic attitude, and with our new players they have gone from strength to strength.

This age group have always been a pleasure to coach. Sadly, due to logistical issues, I am going to have to hand them over to a new coach next season, but the girls are lucky to have Natalie taking over so the transition will be seamless.

Thank you to my fabulous captains, Amy, Macey, Rhianna, Isla and Emily. Thank you so much to Rachel who has been a brilliant Admin, and thank you to Nikki, Jayne, Anna, Josephine and Lucy who have helped me coach.

## 25. U12 Report

I have had 32 players in this age group, filling 4 League teams. This is the year where we select girls for squad training for the first time, so it is often slightly contentious and has to be handled carefully. Fortunately the girls settled into their teams very quickly, and there was a good spirit in all teams. The U12A team stormed through their B division winning every match convincingly, and I look forward to seeing them play in their rightful position in the A division next season, where they will be more challenged. In the same situation, our B team were playing in the C division. They also stormed through unbeaten and I look forward to seeing them in the B division next season. The C team and the D team both held their own in their respective divisions.

At the beginning of the season I took on 3 new girls from trial, all of whom had very little prior netball experience, and I am delighted to say that these girls have fully embraced the club and have been fabulous additions to the C and the D team. Their commitment and tenacity has meant that they are now on a par with the other players in the age group, which is ideally what we try to achieve when we take on new girls from trial.

Thank you to my captains Melissa, Edith, Amelie and Ruby. Thank you to Jo for doing the Admin, and thank you to Anna, Josephine and Sacha who have helped me coach.

## 26. U11 Report

We had 29 girls registered in the U11 age group this season, 4 of whom were new to the club in September and 1 joined at October half term. Attendance at training was pretty good. On days where I could get to Downsland a little early I took advantage of spare court space to offer 10-15 mins for additional shooting practice before training which the girls seemed to enjoy (and meant we were ready to start at 7pm prompt). Notification of availability for training, and matches, via Teamo worked well. Team details for matches benefited from email and particularly WhatsApp confirmation.

We had four U11 teams in the SJNL - in hindsight three teams would have been easier to manage. A handful of players across A to D teams had patchy availability for league matches though in the most part this was for illness/injury, family events and secondary school preparations. The pool available was between 23 and 26 girls for each match; thank you to the U10 A/B team players who stepped up to fill the gaps. Whilst unavoidable this led to some inconsistency in teams: 11 different girls played for the As; 13 for the Bs; 17 (incl U10s) for the Cs (C Purple) and 14 (incl U10s) for the Ds (C Whites). At an individual level this gave stronger players opportunities to play up a team and, with considerable juggling, matches were fulfilled with only one being declared a friendly due to illegal players. The teams could possibly have been made more consistent, but this would have led to forfeiting more matches.

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In the A Division, the U11A team won 4 of 9 matches to finish 7th (of 10). The B team won 3, drew 1 and lost 7 to finish 10<sup>th</sup> (of 12). In the C Division, the C Purples (C) won 7 of 10 to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> of 11 and the C Whites (D) won 3 to finish 9<sup>th</sup>.

I have enjoyed coaching this group for the past 2 years and will pass them on to Jane for next season. It seems the right time to select a squad for further coaching although the need for availability for matches will need to be re-iterated for those girls wanting to be considered for squad selection.

Finally, thank you to Evie Sherwin, Anna Pickup, Sasha Ensoll and Lucy Fitzgerald who assisted with Wednesday night training and Anna/Evie with Sunday matches; and thank you to Steph Carthy for admin support.

## **27. U10 Report**

I've thoroughly enjoyed coaching the under 10s this year and am looking forward to continuing with them as they move to under 11s.

Last summer, we trialled 10 players for the under 10 squad (all of whom joined) and with a couple of leavers plus a few who joined later in the season, we had 31 players in total - enough to field four teams across two divisions.

In pre pre-season, we played a friendly against Thames Ditton away, the purpose of which was to get the players back on court again and to promote teamwork. We fielded two mixed ability teams and did well. In December, we returned the favour and fielded four teams at Downsends, with junior umpires officiating three of the four matches. We played very well and, most importantly, we received lots of lovely feedback from Thames Ditton about how well our club is set up and run.

As we moved into the regular season, our first few training sessions were focused on matchplay - understanding players' ability and positions. Sessions from that point onwards were focused on specific skills and drills that were age appropriate, such as driving to the ball, defence, passing, etc. Insight from the competitive matches on Sundays was used to design the training session on the following Wednesday.

Availability for training and fixtures was very good overall but dwindled after Christmas for various reasons and meant that we often had to select players from the under 9 squad to make up numbers. While this was a little disappointing from an under 10 perspective, it was a great opportunity for the under 9s and they grabbed it with gusto! It was a joy to watch them play so confidently.

I was pleased with the performances and results in what was the girls' first taste of competitive netball for AAS. The Black team won their division, remaining undefeated throughout the season. The Purple team won bronze in their division and the Pink and White teams finished a fine 6th and 7th respectively.

None of the above would have happened without the dedication and commitment of the assistant coaches, who not only provided valuable input during training but also coached teams on Sundays. A huge thank you to Jo D, Josephine A, Lucy F and Evie S. A big thanks also to Natalie for lending us her under 9 players in our hours of need.

Thank you to Jennie Rolfe who has been a brilliant admin throughout the season. And, finally, to the parents who showed up week in, week out, in all sorts of weather conditions to support the players and the club. A special thank you to those who have done the scoring on Sundays.



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As I write, we are in the middle of summer netball and trials for next season, with last Wednesday's session being blessed with perfect weather conditions - finally! Long may it continue.

#### COMMENTS

While having two teams play at 9am followed by two teams playing at 10am meant my day at Manor House was a lot shorter than for other coaches, it also meant that I couldn't watch all the teams as often as I'd like.

The Black team were rarely challenged throughout the season in their division (B). A friendly against the team that finished second in the A division resulted in a good win for the Black team, which would suggest they would be better suited in the A division. I think the Pink, Purple and White teams are in the correct divisions. **The Black Team will be promoted next season.**

Not being able to re-register players around Christmas time was a disadvantage. Players develop at different rates and while some may not do so well pre-season, they perform consistently well over time and I feel it is unfair on them and the teams to have to keep them in the same team for the second half of the season.

**ACTION JA: to once again bring this to the attention of the SJNL committee**

## 28. U9 Report

This year we had a couple of new additions who fitted in brilliantly with the girls. They are an absolutely fabulous bunch who come to training each week with huge smiles and plenty of enthusiasm and their netball has improved immensely. We trialed 16 girls recently who were all offered places and we're planning on putting four teams into the SJNL league when they start fixtures for the first time in September.

We managed to arrange a friendly fixture for two teams against Sonic Boom in March which was a great experience and a few of the U9s have had the opportunity to play up for the U10s when they have been short of players, which they've really enjoyed.

I'm really looking forward to working with them again next season, as we move into regular fixtures. A huge thank you needs to go to Taryn who does our admin and who has agreed to continue into next year and to all my helpers: Melissa, Lily, Lucy F and Jayne, you've been brilliant! A massive thank you to our supportive parents too.

## 29. U8 Report

The U8's have been a pleasure to work with in my second season as a Lead Coach with AAS. I would like to thank all of the other Coaches, who have supported, listened and advised me during this time, especially Nathalie who listened and advised after most sessions! It would have been challenging to have run the sessions without Clara, Maisie, Emma, Jocelyn & Sophia who were assistant coaches throughout the year and thank them for helping out. Training sessions have been exceptionally well attended throughout the season, come rain or shine which has been amazing - we rarely had to use the alternative venue of Therfield indoor sports centre due to adverse weather which was a real plus, given the numbers we have attending the sessions.

With the age group I have been taking care of this season, I had three main aims. The first being to try and instill a love of netball in the girls, so they want to come back each week and sign up again in September. The other two were to work on developing ball skills and understanding footwork. I have been pleasantly surprised at how able and already capable the majority of the girls have been in both these areas and how quickly they have all developed. Following on from last year, we have



also emphasized the importance of working as a team, listening and supporting each other on the court and also at courtside. I am very grateful for the support of the parents and guardians.

I have really enjoyed working with the girls and watching their progress. It certainly has its moments with a confident and buoyant group of 30 children which has come with its challenges! It is a group with a wide range of abilities but I believe it has also helped the girls become more empathetic and aware of involving everyone in both very basic drills and matchplay.

It was great to see so many of them signed up and playing at the AAS end of year tournament, even more so as it was a real mix of abilities who were taking part. Those who played gave very positive feedback and said they really enjoyed the experience and are excited to be part of the summer netball program. I am looking forward to continuing both their and my netball journey together as they move up to the U9 group. I am also excited to have Maisie and Emma continuing with us as assistant coaches as I have little doubt they will be leading groups of their own in the not too distant future.

### **30. Walking Netball Report**

Most weeks we have had a reasonable amount of players on court. On average we get 11/12 each week. Still got room for more, if anyone knows someone who might be interested please get them to contact our admin Jane Davies. We are keeping fit and having fun.

### **31. Matchplay Report**

This continues to be a happy relaxed and fun session which seems to be enjoyed by all ages. It's lovely to see our younger players and older players playing together, ensuring that we can offer netball to our 16+ players who are not playing in adult teams.

### **32. Questions and Preparation for Next Season**

**Action all: All expenses and invoices for 2023-2024 MUST be sent to Jane D by end of May latest.**

### **33. Any Other Business**

ITEM 1: Boys will be included in the SJNL next season so how should AAS address this?

The SJNL will be allowing two boys per team, in the U10 and U11 age groups only. There will not be provision for boys in the league beyond this. AAS will need to get used to facing boys on other teams, and hence it is suggested that our club should think about taking on boys into the club and being more inclusive. This was discussed with comments for and against as shown below. JA invited everyone to provide further thought and comment over the next few days. Thoughts received have been added to the list below.

Pros

- AAS should be inclusive
- It could help develop our girls as boys tend to be more confident and more assertive in the way they play
- We need to keep up with other clubs particularly if other clubs are getting stronger due to the input the boys might have
- Our girls need to get used to playing against boys
- Processes should not need to change, as the boys would follow the same pattern as the girls, they would be on a waiting list, trialled and selected in the same way
- It is good for our sport



- Over time there will be more leagues and more opportunities for boys over U11 so it would be good to be ready for this.

#### Cons

- There are currently no opportunities for boys in netball beyond U11 so they would have to leave the club at this point as we don't offer training only places
- Even if parents accept this when they start, there will definitely be requests to provide more netball when it comes to them leaving. We have finite space and a finite number of coaches.
- We currently have a safe space for girls
- We will be spending time on coaching players who will be leaving, when we could be working on girls/teams that we will take into the future
- As we are already full, places that become available may be given to boys allowing fewer girls to join.
- Some girls are very self-conscious about their changing bodies and they may feel uncomfortable especially with the close contact nature of the game, particularly in the circle.
- There are lots of sporting opportunities for boys already, and girls have a tendency to drop out of all physical activity when they are aged 10 and above and we wouldn't want girls to be put off.

**JA: to organise an executive committee meeting so that all management committee thoughts can be considered, and so that a way forward can be agreed. The overall feeling across those attending the AGM, was that AAS should be inclusive and accept boys into the club.**

Suggestions for the way forward discussed at the meeting, and from subsequent communications:

- If boys apply they will be added to the waiting list in the same way that girls do.
- We have never advertised places before, so we would not actively advertise for boys.
- There will unlikely be any boys at AAS for the 2024-2025 season because we are currently trialling, and after the current trials the club will already be full.
- Any boys who apply from now would be added to the waiting lists and trialled next summer, May 2025.
- Depending on uptake, and depending on how the league goes, we can decide next season about how we manage the boys into the club. We could integrate the boys or run a separate section.

ITEM 2 : JA introduced an idea to try and get more AAS girls selected into Surrey Academies at the end of year 6, with the main purpose being to achieve more hours of netball to those selected

This would be achieved by giving an extra netball session to girls in year 5 and year 6 who have the potential to be selected into an Academy with a bit more training, but who attend schools where there is no netball provision at primary level. Historically this is a very under-represented group in the County programme.

County trials are first held at the end of the year 6, which means that the girls who have experienced no school netball at this stage are clearly disadvantaged and very rarely get selected. This is happening at every club throughout Surrey.

This was discussed with lots of questions but all very positive. Costs would be covered by the girls attending. This would benefit AAS as a whole, providing us with stronger players, stronger teams and age groups getting more strength in depth. This is not just about getting girls into county, but about giving some girls a kickstart when they are not getting any provision at school.

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This would have no effect on other triallists as there is no limit on the number of girls we can get into Surrey, as long as we can get enough nominations. The nominations can be done by the primary schools. JA invited everyone to provide further thought and comment over the next few days.

**JA: to collate thoughts and plan the way forward.**

ITEM 3: FF had the idea to run a training session for our D of E girls

This would give us the chance to communicate exactly what is expected of the DofE girls when they are volunteering, in terms of coaching, arriving early, helping set up and put away, and keeping the shed tidy and balls pumped.

**JA: to organise in September.**