

Ashtead All Stars Netball Club

Blue Cedar
142 Barnett Wood Lane
Ashtead
Surrey

KT21 2LL



3rd AAS Annual General Meeting 2013 to 2014 Season

Monday 12th May 2014

Committee Attendees:- Jane Arnett (JA), Jane Davies (JD), Natalie Marchant (NM), Jemini Tarling (JT), Cathy Calverley (CC), Lizzie Driscoll (LD), Laura Jones (LJ), Sam Peel (SP)

Committee Apologies:- Ruth Parkinson (RP)

Others in Attendance:- Martina Hagley, Becks McRobb (BM), Sandra Campbell, Yvette Harding, Carol Tubb, Katie Elphick (KE)

Apologies:- Tessa Davies, Lisa Gadsby (LG), Trisha Wadey, Rachel Tribe, Sheena Finlayson.

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Chair

JA started the meeting thanking those for attending.

2. Agreement of last season's AGM minutes

Minutes from the last AGM were agreed. All actions were completed apart from the update of New Members Booklets. It was decided that these were not needed as all information was available on the website, and girls tended not to refer to them anyway.

3. Appointment of Officers

All members of the committee were nominated, seconded and re-instated.

JA advised the meeting that the club required an Events Officer and a job description had been distributed asking for volunteers. Kelly Durbridge had already volunteered, nominated by JA, and then voted onto the committee. Becks McRobb and Yvette Harding offered to help Kelly in this role where necessary.

JA advised the meeting that the club also required a Web Manager and Publicity Officer. It was discussed whether we should continue to use Pitchero or invest in a new website. Feelings were unanimous in agreement to look into a new website which would be similar to the NonsuchNetball website which everyone found very user friendly and very helpful. Sally Grimshaw agreed to take on the role of Web Manager.

Becks McRobb agreed to be Club Publicity Officer.

JA advised the meeting that a Year Group Manager was required for the new Year 5s and that she was currently working on this.

Cathy Calverley advised that she needed an assistant in her role as Child Welfare Officer due to the size of the club. Martina Hagley volunteered to take on this role.

4. Chair's Report by JA

Welcome to our 3rd Annual General Meeting, and therefore the 3rd birthday of Ashted All Stars. I believe there is a lot to celebrate. We now have 100 members, and this season we have run 8 teams in the Nonsuch League and in the Dorking League, across 5 year groups. To support these girls, we have 4 qualified coaches, and lots of willing parent helpers, and some of these parents are currently learning how to umpire.

Our challenge has always been to keep up with the club's rapid growth, and I think we are managing to do this quite successfully by looking to the future for court space and coaches. Next season we will be moving to our new home ground, Downsend School. This is a much bigger and better ground for us, and was very much enjoyed by all at the End of Season tournament in April.

We have had lots of success this season. AAS has won its first piece of silverware. Congratulations to the U12 team who won the Dorking League and the Dorking Tournament. We have had one girl being awarded a school netball scholarship, and one girl getting into a Surrey Netball Academy. The schools' district netball tournament ended in a close fought final between St Peters and The Greville, and it was noted that all the girls playing were AAS girls. It was also commented on at the time that the standard of netball had never been higher.

We took 3 netball teams on tour to Condover Hall back in October. Not terribly successful in terms of results, but a fabulous weekend had by all.

On the downside, we have one broken elbow, one broken wrist, one concussion, dislocated knees, some very bruised fingers, and plenty of grazes. We have got very wet, very cold, and we have been flooded out of training many times. However, it doesn't appear to have put anyone off.

"Winning" is great, but participation is also important. It is lovely to see so many girls enjoying regular exercise with their friends, giving them confidence and giving them a sense of achievement.

I am eternally grateful to the committee who have helped me this year. There is so much work that goes on in the background which is not seen by the rest of the club. And I am also very grateful for the external help we have received from local sponsors. Jez Tarling from Profile is still sponsoring our End of Season trophies, and we have a new sponsor, Chris Enston from CJE who very generously gave us £1000 to buy waterproofs for the senior section of the club. We also want to thank Kelly Durbridge who has been volunteering as a parent helper, and her company ExxonMobile have given us £500 in recognition of the time she has given up for us.

I very much look forward to our 4th season, although happy to have the summer off!

5. Treasurers Report by JD

JD advised that Lisa Gadsby will be auditing the bank sheet. Subs will stay the same next season (ie. £110 plus extra for squad training).

6. Secretary's Report

JT ran through the Club Secretary report. Huge increase in numbers for 2013/2014. The membership and affiliation process was messy and laborious last September and therefore, positive changes have been put in place for next season to ensure a more efficient process. New membership and affiliation form to be completed and returned to JD, in order for the affiliation process to be completed and necessary invoices raised.

7. Kit Secretary's Report

SP ran through the Club kit report. There have been issues with the new match kit with the transfer lettering coming off. Sam has been communicating with the supplier and kit is being returned and kit wording will be embroidered. Cost for future kit using just embroidery to be agreed. Sam will be ordering kit for next season and it was agreed she will order 50 sets. It was also agreed that Sam will send all new members requesting kit an order form electronically.

8. Child Welfare Officer's Report

Cathy reported that there had been no issues from a Child Welfare point of view. There were no complaints from parents/guardians or members last season. England Netball sent out guidelines that CC has read through and is confident that we are adhering to. However, the Club must ensure all coaches hold an Accident Report form booklet and complete an Accident Report form after any incident. Any completed forms must be sent to CC and CC will action and file. CC advised that all coaches and parent helpers must be DBS checked, and kept up to date.

9. Head Coach's Report

As the club gets bigger I am finding it harder to coach every team, all the time, so we are trying to train up new coaches and get some of the older girls helping the younger ones. I will be bringing in some external coaches now and again when help is needed. Where possible we will always strive for consistency from coaches, but all external coaches brought in will always be known to me, and will always be experienced and good. Outside coaches can bring in new ideas and new drills, so this is actually good for the girls, rather than getting used to the same way of playing.

There have been huge improvements across all ages so as coaches we should be pleased with ourselves. I believe the Wednesday night indoor squad training has been invaluable as it enables us to work on team play. Discipline amongst the girls is the trickiest bit. The girls are not naughty, but their ability to talk is quite something. There will definitely be a crackdown on behaviour next season, and girls will be asked to sit out, or even miss a match, if they continue to mess about.

The new structure at Downsend should definitely help with the coaching system, and I look forward to getting even more out of the girls next year.

10. U14 YGM's Report

This year we moved the girls from the Nonsuch A division to the Nonsuch B division as we lost far too many matches last year and this was demoralising. This proved to be a good decision and the matches were much more equally fought. The team came 6th out of 10. They played 9 matches of which they won 4 and lost 5. Although this may not sound great, the matches we lost were all close and could have gone either way. I think self belief could have won us these matches; it is not lack of talent or ability.

We also played in the brand new Dorking League. There were only 3 teams in the League so we had to play each time twice. We came second in the League and won silver medals.

3 of the U14s were selected for Surrey Development Workshops. At the end of the Workshops, all 3 were selected for Academy trials, and one was selected for a Surrey Academy, so we should be very proud of the girls' achievements.

Star Player: Megan Lewis

Most Improved Player: Julia Wadey

Nomination for Club Player: Kirsty Calverley

I am hoping that these girls will start volunteering to help with the younger age groups, and start learning to umpire, and this is one of my aims for the girls for next season.

11. U13 YGM's Report

After having only a handful of dedicated players last season who had to play up a year in matches with the then U13 B team, this season was quite different. New players joined which meant a squad of 11. All 11 players were invited to squad training on Wednesdays which was very helpful for them as they trained with the U14s who were more experienced.

The U13s were entered into two leagues. The Nonsuch Junior League in the B Division which was still quite challenging for them. They came 8th in the league out of ten teams winning only 2 of their 9 matches. The girls always played their best and always battled hard. Being a new squad various changes were made in selection and positions.

The Dorking Junior League was also entered where they came 3rd in the league winning 3 out of their 5 matches. Although, the end of season Dorking League tournament was not such a success but the girls battled on and were always in good spirits. Infact the commeraderie within the squad is excellent.

In the latter part of the season two new players have joined which has brought the total to 13. As the U13s are now growing in numbers they will have to prove themselves for a place in the squad as, unlike this season, not all of the girls will be picked. Let's hope that the girls can improve even more next season!

12. U12 YGM's Report

The U12s started the season with the selection of our squads with seven girls selected into an A team, Team Vega and a squad of nine into our B team, Team Polaris. Although the selection had initially, inevitably caused disappointment to some, the girls rallied round and began training in earnest. We also have a number of girls who, although not quite ready for league play, have joined in brilliantly at training on a Monday night, and are progressing well.

This year we introduced an additional fortnightly indoor squad training session at Downsend, which has proved incredibly popular with the girls, and offers a great opportunity to work on set pieces and team play. These sessions have been extremely well attended, and this has been evident in the improvement shown in the team play over the season. I'm really glad that these sessions will continue for the forthcoming season.

Both teams played in the Nonsuch League, with Vega representing Ashtead in the A division and Polaris in the B division. Team Vega had some wonderful games, beating some opposition by over 25 goals, however, they also came across some really difficult opponents, which made for some very tough and exciting matches. In all of these matches the girls put up a valiant fight. A pattern of panic began to emerge at the start of these matches, with the girls often not playing to their best ability until they settled down after the first quarter, unfortunately which was usually a little too late. This is something we will be consciously working on in training, as the girls proved that from the second quarter on, they were usually matching the opposition. The team finished a credible 6th in the division. Team Polaris has shown the most unbelievable development over the course of the season. The start of the season saw them still trying to gel as a team, but with a huge amount of determination, hard work and great team spirit, by the middle of the season, huge improvements were being seen. Individually the girls were getting stronger, passing more accurately and really beginning to understand the game and positioning. As a result of their increased confidence in their individual abilities, the team play has gone from strength to strength, leading to them winning a large number of their matches later on in the season. I couldn't be more proud of how far they have developed this year. Polaris also finished in a fantastic 6th place in their division.

We also entered one team into the new Dorking league this season, and what a season it proved to be. The girls demonstrated the most wonderful netball in this league and played with huge confidence, winning most matches by almost 20 goals. Going into the last match of the season, the girls were unbeaten, and needed a win against Dorking Netball Club to secure the League win. They played this last match with supreme confidence winning by 25 goals to 7, giving Ashtead All Stars their first ever league title. Following on from that a couple of weeks later, the girls took part in the Dorking League End of Season Tournament, which although tougher than the league matches, proved to be a fantastic day, with the girls taking that title too!! I'm so proud of them all.

I am so looking forward to the new season, continuing to watch the girls develop, succeed and love their netball.

13. U11 YGM's Report

As one of the largest year groups, the girls returned rested and enthusiastic last September. We were delighted to welcome a number of new starters, expanding our group yet further. The weather was not kind to us for a significant part of the season and the incessant rain and flooding not only disrupted out training sessions on a Monday but also meant that

matches had to be cancelled. Regardless though, the girls were a delight to coach their boundless energy and enthusiasm making up for the dismal weather conditions being faced.

With one season behind them, many of the girls have a good grounding in the core netball skills and were ready to boost their capabilities in new areas. As U11s, we still play High 5 which means rotating positions during a game. Given the size of the year group, the coaching was split to ensure that all the girls progressed and developed. Time was dedicated to building a good grounding in the basic skills across the entire group including the new members, with small groups used as a means to develop and reinforce capabilities. A huge thank you goes to parent helpers Lisa Laguarda and Helen Sheffield and Pip Wilford, who provided invaluable support each week in this regard.

We entered two teams into the Nonsuch League, Draco and Orion. The Nonsuch League is a High 5 league, with matches played on four separate Sundays across the season. Having played one season, the girls were accustomed to the way these mornings work. Our teams played in separate divisions, with Orion ending the season in third place out of a group of seven teams and Draco coming fourth out of seven teams. Orion played some lovely games; fast paced, good passing, strong defensive skills and quick in attack. Orion played 12 matches, winning 8 and losing 4. Draco faced some pretty formidable opponents and fought bravely to win 5 matches out of the total 12 they played. Given the size of the year group, we also arranged a number of friendly matches across the season to enable those girls not in Orion or Draco to have the opportunity to play one or two matches.

In some ways this is an interesting transition year with many girls starting to show signs of having a preference for certain positions. Thus, although High 5 netball requires the players to rotate, some have a more natural affinity to certain positions on the court., Next year as U12s, the girls will play seven-a-side netball and indeed we organised one or two friendlies with clubs who regularly play this style of game. So, looking forward to next season, some exciting changes will take place. As coaches, we will be making selections as to the positions the girls plays and the teams they play for. Players will be placed into positions based upon their skills and abilities and a whole series of new teams developed.

Our end of year Star player was Lucy Hagley.

Our most improved player was Lily Moustafa.

Our club player nominees included Kaitlyn Sheffield, Zoe Harding and Olivia Hodson.

14. U10 YGM's Report

We started the season with a small but extremely enthusiastic and lively group of girls many of whom had played little or no netball at all before. With only 14 girls signed on we had the benefit of small numbers at training but were relying on everyone being fit, available and at league standard for our Nonsuch league games.

On the whole the girls progressed quickly getting the hang of the high five rules and mastering the basics of footwork, catching and passing. Borrowing two year 4 girls to boost numbers, we entered two mixed ability teams into the Nonsuch high 5 league, giving the girls their first taste of competitive netball.

Scorpio put in a valiant effort in their division unfortunately losing more matches than they won and finishing 6th. The girls tried extremely hard and were disappointed not to have done better, however they were competing with some strong teams from bigger clubs and put up a good fight in all of their matches.

Pegasus fared better in their division which consisted mostly of teams that were arguably not as competent as those in Scorpio's division. Nevertheless, the girls played really well as a team, winning 6 matches and losing 4 and finishing a credible 3rd.

With a later training time and new venue scheduled for September, and with the enthusiasm that some of the current year 5 girls are showing at Jane's summer netball sessions, we are hopeful that a few more players join for next season to enable us to have two teams again next year.

Overall, it was a good first season and a good introduction to competitive sport for many of the girls. Star player was Gemma Argyle, most improved player was Jess Monteiro and players nominated for club player were Sophie Connor and

Charlotte Durbridge. In addition, Maya Mirza received the player of the tournament award at the end of season tournament despite probably being the smallest player at the club.

Thanks to Jane for organising and coaching the team this year and to Kelly Durbridge for helping at training sessions and matches.

15. Club Structure

JA ran through the Club Structure.

It was discussed that not many Clubs have friendly matches especially for Year 5s and Year 6s, so not all girls can expect to get matches if they are not selected for the Leagues.

In addition, we have a lot of unavailability due to other sports. It was agreed that girls must make themselves available for all League matches if they want to be selected into the A team (although this will depend on the year group, and how many girls are in the group etc.). Copy of revised Club Structure can be found on the website. JA asked each Year Group Manager to send out the relevant Club Structure to their group.

This year "Squad letters" would be written and sent out to girls after selection, to tell them whether or not they have been selected.

16. Communication/Emails/Weekly Updates

Weekly Updates – it was unanimously agreed that the weekly update was useful and this will continue. However, the structure of the update was agreed that the email front page will be important information and the match reports will be an attachment to the email.

17. Fixture List/Club Calendar

The fixture list was discussed. Everyone agreed it was very helpful and JA agreed to send out at the beginning of the season.

18. Tour 2015

JT explained about the ground work she and JD had put in looking at tour options for 2014 or early 2015. Suitability of dates and various venues were discussed. Concerns were raised with regard to a May tour due to Year 6 Sats and Year 10 mocks. It was agreed that Oct was the preferred month if availability for this year, it was also agreed that JCA in Shropshire remained the most appropriate venue for the Club, allowing all age groups to be included. JT to contact JCA and advise availability. JA to speak with Kelly Durbridge to see if she would be happy to organise the tour.

19. Coaching/Umpiring Qualifications

JA asked if there were any Parents/guardians willing to take a Coaching or Umpiring qualification to let her know. JA explained how some of the U14s are helping with JA's summer netball as a stepping stone towards coaching and umpiring.

20. AOB

Flowers were given to the parent helpers, Katie, Helen, Lisa and Kelly.

21. Meeting Closed