

Ashtead All Stars Netball Club

Blue Cedar
142 Barnett Wood Lane
Ashtead
Surrey

KT21 2LL



4th AAS Annual General Meeting 2014 to 2015 Season

Thursday 14th May 2015

Committee Attendees:- Jane Arnett (JA), Jane Davies (JD), Natalie Marchant (NM), Jemini Tarling (JT), Cathy Calverley (CC), Lizzie Driscoll (LD), Sam Peel (SP), Sally Grimshaw (SG), Becks McRobb (BM), Kelly Durbridge (KD), Ruth Parkinson (RP)

Others in Attendance:- Lisa Laguarda (LL), Yvette Harding (YH), Carol Tubb (CT), Pip Wilford (PW)

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.

3. Amendments to the Constitution

JA explained that the Club Constitution was written when the club only had 18 members and as such it is no longer fit for purpose. There is a section on the structure of the Committee which needs to be completely rewritten. The format of the committee was then discussed with the idea being that JA would then go back and amend the Constitution according to what was agreed.

Having looked into other clubs, and talking to England Netball, JA suggested that there should be an Executive Committee of 6 (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Child Welfare Officer, Head Coach) and a Management Committee of all other committee members. Only the Executive Committee would be able to vote although all those on the Management Committee would be able to have an opinion on the decisions to be made. In practice, all committee members would be invited for comment on everything, and all committee members would be invited to all committee meetings, although depending on the subject, they might not always feel they have to or want to attend.

JA proposed that we invite Lisa Laguarda and Belinda Bryan onto the Management Committee, as they already do admin roles. LL was happy to accept. Belinda was absent, but has subsequently accepted.

Head Coach would be representing coaches and administrators on the Exec Committee.

Everyone was happy with this. Structure Agreed.

JA to amend Club Constitution.

4. Appointment of Officers

No resignations.

Everyone agreed to stand again.

The following appointments and people were voted in:

- Natalie Marchant as Vice-Chair

- Kate Dunbar as Asst Treasurer
- Emma Feltham as Asst Secretary
- U10 Admin – Kate Beuve
- AAS Adult Rep – Pip Wilford
- Coach – Vicky Topa (not present)

The resulting committee for 2015/2016 is as follows:

Executive Committee (5 members)

Chair: Jane Arnett
 Vice Chair: Natalie Marchant
 Secretary: Jemini Tarling
 Treasurer: Jane Davies
 Child Welfare Officer: Cathy Calverley
 Head Coach: Jane Arnett

Management Committee (14 members)

Events Officer: Kelly Durbridge
 Kit Secretary: Sam Peel
 Publicity Officer: Becks McRobb
 Web Manager: Sally Grimshaw
 Assistant Treasurer: Kate Dunbar
 Assistant Secretary: Emma Feltham
 Assistant Child Welfare Officer: Martina Hagley
 U15/U16 Admin: Laura Jones
 U14 Admin: Natalie Marchant
 U13 Admin: Lisa Laguarda
 U12 Admin: Liz Driscoll
 U11 Admin: Belinda Bryan
 U10 Admin: Kate Bueve
 AAS Adult Rep: Pip Wilford
 AAS Minis Rep: Kelly Durbridge
 Coaches: Jane Arnett, Natalie Marchant, Liz Driscoll, Ruth Parkinson, Vicky Topa

5. Chair's Report by JA

I started the year wondering whether we had bitten off more than we could chew, but very soon into the season I realised that there is nothing that this club can't achieve. We now have a sustainable club with a robust structure, and we should be very proud of this.

We have had to ensure that we have the manpower to support the ever increasing numbers. By the end of this year we should be in the enviable position of having four Level 2 coaches and two Level 1 coaches. We have a group of girls and mums getting more confident at umpiring, we have a strong committee of parents, and we have other parents, not on the committee, who are all doing their bit to help run the club, whether it be offering a raffle prize or selling cakes. All these things contribute to the club's success. It is particularly good to see so many dads on the sideline showing a genuine interest in our sport.

We still have plenty of work to do to keep up with the speed of growth of the club, especially with the launch of AAS Minis and AAS Adults, but I feel very confident that we can do this, and do this well. We already have volunteers to run the Minis and Adults, and we already have a volunteer to do the admin for the new year 5s who join us in September.

Our new venue at Downsend has been a huge improvement on last season's, and works well with the size of our club. We are very grateful to Downsend who have worked hard to accommodate our needs.

At the beginning of the season Natalie and I had an incident with a couple of parents who were unhappy with some aspects of the club. It was very upsetting for us both, but looking back it has actually taught us some valuable lessons. We will never be able to keep everyone happy, but as long as we do our very best, and do it as professionally, honestly and fairly as possible, then we have done all we can do.

I look forward to next season, for all that it may bring – successes, disappointments, hard work, cold weather, but most importantly, fun and friendship and teamwork.

6. Treasurers Report by JD

JD gave distributed a summary of the club's finances. RP asked if there would be more coach expenses with more qualified coaches next year. JA explained "no" as coaches only charge if coaching a team other than the one there daughter is in, and only one paid coach at a time. Costs should remain the same.

We have done very well out of the New Year and End of Season Tournament – it was asked do we continue to charge players for this? It was agreed to continue to charge as only a nominal amount, however RM suggested monies taken from the cake & coffee stall go towards a charity that supports less fortunate children to get into sport, reminding the children of the club how lucky they are. JT mentioned about taking part in the Ashtead Village Day now the club is such a large part of the community.

JA mentioned that a few people asking to be able to pay on the website. It was agreed that this would not be possible with the current structure of our web site as we would need to make safe & secure in order to take payments etc. As such it was agreed that a Payment Page would be added to the website with full instructions on fees and how to pay. **Action SG and JD.** JD raised the question on whether members of the committee who do a certain amount of work for the club would qualify for a discount off the current membership if they have a child in the club. RM explained she would feel uncomfortable taking a discount as she does not feel that past season she has done much work for the club. CT commented that this is offered at Effingham Rugby club. NM agreed that we should look at offering a discount. **JA advised that a separate meeting would be scheduled to discuss this further.**

7. Secretary's Report

JT advised that the growth of the club over the last few years has been vast & as such we need to be able to be handle the ever increasing numbers. From September the club expects to have over 200 members. The leavers are few & far between, certainly not allowing for the numbers we have on the waiting lists.

New members expected are:

20 Yr 3 Minis and 20 Yr 4 Minis (14 have joined so far)

24 new U10s (currently additional 2 on the waiting list)

Not aware at this time of numbers not returning.

JT feels that due to demand we need to determine our Terms & Conditions regarding club fees, holding places etc when there is injury or personal circumstances whereby someone is unable to play but hold their place or wishes to leave the club & fees have been paid.

It was agreed that T&Cs would be reviewed however, we would also look at each individual situation and agreement would be made by the Exec Committee.

It was also agreed that there would not be a refund of the Affiliation fee.

JA to write T&Cs and for this to be put on payment page of website.

8. Kit Secretary's Report

SP advised she has much stock from age 12 up. However, will not have stock in for the new joiners coming in for Minis & U10s. It was agreed not to offer skorts for the Minis however, hoodies & t-shirts. SP explained that we now sell kit without any subsidiary and only break even. Tops are now sold at £30.50 instead of £22.50. For taller or larger girls kit can be specially ordered at an additional charge. RM asked whether we want to get rid of the surplus stock, SP advised no that she was confident that we would sell the additional stock. It was agreed that we should certainly offer players to sell their kit. RM advised that players should be responsible for selling their own kit – take it with name & cost. SP & JT advised that the club could hold a sale inside on a Wed beginning of the season with clothes rail – players bring their kit labelled & cost. This would be advertised on the web site. SG agreed to run a banner advertising this.

SP advised that the jackets were being discontinued due to the purple colour. SP quoted the numbers of jackets they can obtain. JA advised to go ahead & purchase remaining stock. SP will ask Lester Bowdens if they can hold the stock.

9. Child Welfare Officer's Report

CC advised nothing really to report. Have not had to report any issues to England Netball which is a good thing. England netball are updating the wording of their policies. RP asked if we were ok to dismiss players without them signing out. CC advised that was fine. It was also raised about teenage & adult helpers taking players to the toilets. CC advised that she felt whilst not ideal, we were not in breach of rules & the measures we were taking were sufficient.

The ratio of Adults to children are as follows:

1:12 for over 10s

1:8 for minis

AAS adult helpers if being left unsupervised must be DBS checked by England netball.

10. Website Officer's Report

SG advised that we have set up a new website this season using GoDaddy.com, which we have subscribed to until 2017. We have tried to keep it as simple as possible with one click if possible. The danger is that it becomes too busy. New pages for the minis and adult section have been added and possibly going to add a gallery page. It will be updated over the summer for the next season and the old information kept in the archive pages. KD suggested a credits/awards/testimonials page.

11. Publicity Officer's Report

RM asked do we need results sent to the press each week. Mixed response, JA felt each week not necessary however, some felt each week would be good. RM asked which papers? It was agreed Leatherhead Advertiser & Epsom Guardian. SP suggested D of E picture. All agreed that we could cover a lot more in the paper, the girls would really like it. Need to email everyone if we are in the paper because people don't realise. Invite the press to our New Year tournament and our End of Season tournament.

12. Events Officer's Report

Tour October 2014

We kicked off the 2014-2015 season with the JCA Netball Tour, which took place at the beginning of October 2014 in Shropshire. We took 56 girls with 10 adults accompanying. It was a fabulous weekend, with the girls playing some great netball and everyone (including some coaches) enjoying the various activities on offer. The rain cleared and we had sunshine for the whole weekend. The U12's brought home Gold, being crowned Tournament winners in their Category.

New Year Tournament

Having missed last season's New Year Tournament due to the rain, it was great to go ahead with it this season. The rain did come down but it didn't stop the girls from playing. Tournament was held at Downsend School, and again enjoyed by everyone.

End of Season Tournament

The End of Season Tournament was another great success. With our outside Umpires commenting that 'the tournament was great, so well organised and the girls were happy and very polite and friendly. The atmosphere was great and the weather fabulous. Tournament was held again at Downsend.

Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped with making these events a success.

Upcoming Tour 2015

This year we have changed the date we will be attending the JCA Netball Tour. We have opted for September 18th-20th September 2015. The October date fell on the first tournament league matches for the U10&U11. We have 36 girls signed up so far. U11s-9, U12s-14, U13s-3, U14s-6, U15s-4

13. Head Coach's Report

As I see it, as coaches, we have a very important job. Not only do we need to teach the girls how to play netball, we want to ensure they have fun, we want to ensure they have plenty of exercise, we want to teach them teamwork and leadership

skills, we want to teach them how to win and lose with dignity, and we want to teach them how to manage success and how to take the knocks. It is a responsibility which I think we are all very aware of, and one which we all take very seriously.

Last year we wrote a document called "The structure of AAS 2014/2015" so that all members knew what to expect for the season ahead: how many teams we hoped to play, how we would select, what kit they would be expected to wear etc. We did this so that there would be no surprises and everyone knew what they would be signing up to. I think the idea was good, although I'm not sure everyone read it, or completely understood it.

So this year I wanted to make it even clearer. We have written a page for each age group called "What to Expect Next Season" and we have made sure that this has been sent out to all members to read, BEFORE they sign up for next season. Please make sure that you are all familiar with this document whether players, parents, administrators or coaches.

There will inevitably be disappointments, so all we can do is make sure that we have handled things as well as possible. I am particularly concerned about next season's U11s because they have all been selected for matches until now, but next season they won't be selected if they are not League standard. I am also concerned about the new season's U12s as some will be selected for squad training and some won't. This is very hard for them to accept, and sometimes even harder for the parents to accept. It will be hard for girls in other age groups who have been at squad training, but may not be selected this time round – other girls may have improved, or new girls may have joined – again very tough. And the U15s and U16s will be joining together as an age group so this will also be tricky with selection as we are merging two A teams, into an A team and a B team across 2 age groups.

As coaches we need to ensure that we deliver all news sensitively, possibly delivering the news to parents first so that they are aware of what we are about to tell their daughters. Parents have a very important role here in helping us deliver news. Please always ask your coach if you are unsure of why we have made the decisions we have, as we are always happy to explain.

We have a fabulous set of coaches, parent helpers, and D of E volunteers. I thank them all very much for all their hard work, and I look forward to working with them all again next season. I also look forward to working with our new coach Vicky Topa, and I look forward to having a new set of D of E volunteers.

14. U15 Report

We are down to 10 players in the U15 section of the club, but what a great 10 players they are. Unfortunately there was no U15 section in the Dorking League this year, so the girls only had Nonsuch fixtures.

It was tough on the girls because they had to play in the U15/U16 age group, which meant that a lot of the girls they were playing were the year above. They played in the B division, playing 9 games, they won 4 and lost 5, finishing 6th out of 10 in the division.

Star Player for the season was Faye Rainger whose commitment to the team was exceptional, always working as hard as possible, and happy to play in any position for the sake of the team performance.

Club Player nomination (and eventual winner) was Kirsty Calverley for commitment to the team, and for her voluntary help with other age groups. A very popular winner.

15. U14 Report

What a great year the girls have had. We had a number of new girls join this season, which enabled us to field a strong, competitive team. We entered the Dorking league and the B division at Nonsuch. At Nonsuch, the girls were unbeaten all season and came away worthy winners of the league. They played some really competitive and well fought matches, often starting off slowly in the first quarter, to keep me and the spectators on our toes, but then pulling away during the remainder of the match. At Dorking they were once again unbeaten until the last match of the season, where they came up against a strong Wey Valley team, narrowly missing out on the league title in a well fought match, but still finishing runners up. Once again at the Dorking Tournament the girls narrowly lost to Wey Valley, finishing with silver medals.

The girls should be extremely proud of themselves for what they have achieved this season, especially being a new team. The girls are lovely and I am very fond of them, but I have to point out that some of them don't take training very seriously. They chat far too much and are often a bit silly, even when repeatedly asked to stop. They have achieved so much already this season, so I have to wonder how much better they could be if they were more focused at training. These girls have a lot of potential and I really hope they manage to realise it.

16. U13 Report

We had a tough start to the season losing a few girls and having a number of other injuries. It has been a struggle to field two complete teams this year, but thanks to help from the U12s, we managed to avoid forfeiting any matches.

Despite this we have had a pretty successful season. The As were runners up in the Dorking League and Dorking Tournament gold medallists, which was a great result. The A division at Nonsuch was tougher, but we finished in fifth place behind four very well established clubs. All matches bar one were closely fought, only struggling against the 12 year old women of Crystal Palace who were the eventual unbeaten league winners. All in all, the girls continue to blossom into lovely netballers, continually improving tactically, and the speed at which they now play the game is a delight to see.

The Bs have had the most disrupted season but also really successful as far as their development and match results. Each match saw them play with different combinations, but all the U12s fitted in fantastically and the level of play from the U13s has gone from strength to strength. The girls finish fourth in both the Nonsuch and Dorking leagues. At Nonsuch we narrowly missed out on bronze medals, but can take comfort in the fact that we beat Dorking who came third. In the Dorking league, there is no A and B division, so the girls were playing other club's A teams (including our own), so to come fourth is a great achievement. They finished the season off in style at the Dorking Tournament, coming away worthy winners of their division, and another brilliant gold medal for the year group. I have been so impressed with their development this season. They have all worked extremely hard to master their basic skills and are now tactically progressing well.

I really hope that next season will be easier numbers wise for this year group, but we are currently working on that. Well done to all the girls.

17. U12 Report

Our under 12s had a cracking first year playing seven-a-side netball. We kicked off the season with a bang winning the competition for their age range on our netball tour in October.

Our A side competed in both the Dorking League and the Nonsuch League (Division A) and performed admirably, ending the season as champions in the Dorking League and in third place in the Nonsuch League. Our B side were in the same Nonsuch League playing in Division B and finished a very pleasing 6th out of 10 clubs, many of which were A teams.

Our C team played a number of friendlies. As the season progressed and they got to know their positions better they performed well, winning deservedly in their last few matches.

The final tournament we played was for both our A and B teams. It was arranged by the Dorking League organisers and brought a number of clubs together for an afternoon of competitive netball. Our A team emerged victorious in their division and received yet another medal for their efforts. Our B side played superbly too ending the afternoon as the much deserved winners in their division.

Star Player: Anna Stansfield

Most Improved Player: Elsa Rogers

Club Player Nomination: Sophie Youngman

18. U11 Report

The U11 group grew in size this year with everyone from the previous year returning for the new season and several new players joining too to take the group to 24 in total. We had 3 teams – the A and B teams played in the Nonsuch league and both finished an expected fourth in their respective divisions being beaten only by those teams from larger well established clubs. It was encouraging to see the gap between our team and those bigger teams is getting smaller however we still have

a lot of work to do to be able to compete well with them. The C team was made up mainly of players who were new to the game or were returning from injury. They played in several friendlies throughout the year and it was great to see their enthusiasm and progress in each game. We have spent a lot of time in training this year building on the basics learnt in the previous season and the girls are more than ready to move on to 7 a side next season.

I think that we will have a good season next year and of course we want to win trophies, however seeing the confidence that the girls have gained from being part of a team and the lovely friendships they have forged through playing netball is almost reward enough. But.....only almost! A trophy would be nice too!!

A team player of the year – Charlotte Durbridge

B team player of the year – Amelia Feltham

C team player of the year – Fern Rainger

Nomination for club player – Darcie Nash

19. U10 Report

With 30 girls in this age group, it was a big group to manage. We played 3 teams in the Nonsuch League, giving everyone who wanted a match the chance to play. We also organised some friendlies which were always popular with the girls. The improvements made across the age group were very noticeable, and lovely to see the girls new to netball beginning to catch up with those that had played before.

We played one team in the U11B Division. This team played 7, won 3 and lost 4 finishing 6th out of 8 in the Division. They did exceptionally well considering they were playing in the age group above.

We played one team in the U10A Division. This team played 9, won 1 and lost 8 finishing 10th in the Division. We played one team in the U10B Division. This team played 9, won 1, drew 1 and lost 7 finishing 9th in the Division.

Although the results weren't great, this is without selecting teams, so there should be much better results next year once we start selecting. The girls still seemed to enjoy themselves despite some heavy losses. The most disappointing thing is that many of these girls won't get to play League matches next season when we start selecting, so we have to be mindful of this, and we have to work hard to ensure they still enjoy their netball and that they are still motivated to learn.

Star Player was Gemma Teale

Most Improved Player was Ellen Whittaker

Club Player Nomination was Isla Chisholm.

Post Year Group Reports Comments:

JD asked whether the club needed a Fixtures Secretary. JA advised that the club used to have one but very difficult to schedule fixtures with other clubs around the different league games that the club is committed to play. RP asked that we commit to friendlies for the C&D teams and schedule them in at the beginning of the season so they have four matches. **JA to action.**

RP said it would be good if we could sign up to a sports website to obtain their coaching plans & drills. NM advised she has been chasing Sports Plan on numerous occasion but is still to hear from them. **NM will continue to chase.**

CT asked if we could have a Players Player for each year group. This was agreed.

20. AAS Adults – Questions and Answers

Been accepted to join the Kingston League. Yet to determine what level, JA, PW & NM to attend meeting where this will be decided.

21. AAS Minis – Questions and Answers

Being run by KD every Sat afternoon

20 x Year 3

20 x Year 4

Need to launch the Minis soon, so JA to email current year 4s at Summer Netball, and then ready to email all schools on the same day to give everyone equal opportunity.

22. Tour 2015

Less than half the club yet to sign up. JT enquired whether as the club was growing we should look at taking different ages, alternate years – is every year too much. KD felt yearly was ok and in fact is looking at putting on 2 tours a year, with one possibly to Disney Paris. Cost is around £300 which includes travel, accomm & passes to Disney. ED – felt this was too expensive, KD felt would be worth getting feedback. CT felt many not signing up as not knowing who else is going – are we trying to arrange this at the wrong time ie out of netball season. JA responded by advising that most see each other at Summer netball. JA was confident that more players would be signing up by the end of May.

23. Feedback Survey

JA explained that general results were good. Comments on the following:

Communication about right.

Website, few more No's than yes regarding usage. Those that use it felt it was pretty good. All positive re coaching.

ED advised that one parent said she had asked her child to complete as felt she would know the answers better.

Training & Squad Training – outcome was girls prefer squad training over normal training, as it is more focused.

Disappointment not being selected for squad. Everyone wants more matches & more notice for the C& D friendlies. It was explained that more notice hadn't been give last season as difficult to know what coaches were available when. JT asked whether as part of the AAS program for the U16s we could offer umpire training in order to furnish the club with more umpires that we can use for friendlies etc, easing resource.

Uniform – some felt it was pricey. JA advise if any comments from parents then to advise that they need only buy the top.

Generally all felt the club was value for money

JA felt all was constructive feedback & will be sending an email out to all encompassing all the comments

24. AOB

NM advised that she needs parent helpers for the U14s in Sept ie 6-7 Wed and 7-8 on Mon. PW advised she may be able to help.

25. Meeting Closed
