

5th AAS Annual General Meeting 2015 to 2016 Season

Thursday 12th May 2016

Committee Attendees:- Jane Arnett (JA), Jane Davies (JD), Natalie Marchant (NM), Jemini Tarling (JT), Cathy Calverley (CC), Emma Feltham (EF), Sam Peel (SP), Sally Grimshaw (SG), Kelly Durbridge (KD), Ruth Parkinson (RP), Lisa Laguarda (LL), Pip Wilford (PW), Vicky Topa (VT), Belinda Bryan (BB), Laura Jones (LJ)

Others in Attendance:- Yvette Harding (YH), Carol Tubb (CT), Lucy Townsend (LT), Sarah Makroum (SM), Karen Nash (KN), Fiona Ford (FF)

Committee Apologies:- Liz Driscoll (LD), Becks McRobb (RM), Kate Dunbar (KD), Kate Beuve (KB), Helen Sheffield (HS), Amy Smith (AS)

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Chair

JA began the meeting thanking everyone for attending, particularly the non-committee members.

2. Agreement of last season's AGM minutes

JA reported that everything from last season's minutes had been achieved, apart from the increase in publicity. Minutes from the last AGM were agreed.

3. Appointment of Officers

JA offered her thanks and farewell to CC following her resignation as the club's child welfare officer.

Kelly Durbridge is stepping down from mini's admin and the year group mums will be asked for their help **JA to action**.

The following appointments and people were voted in:

- Karen Nash as Child Welfare Officer
- U10 Admin – Amy Smith

The resulting committee for 2016/2017 has 21 members and is as follows:

Executive Committee (5 members)

Chair: **Jane Arnett**

Vice Chair: **Natalie Marchant**

Membership Secretary: **Jemini Tarling**

Treasurer: **Jane Davies**

Child Welfare Officer: **Cathy Calverley**

Head Coach: **Jane Arnett**

Management Committee (16 members)

Events Officer: Kelly Durbridge

Kit Secretary: Sam Peel

Publicity Officer: Becks McRobb

Web Manager: Sally Grimshaw

Assistant Treasurer: Kate Dunbar

Club Administrator: Emma Feltham

Development Officer: Helen Sheffield

U15/U16 Admin: Laura Jones

U14 Admin: Lisa Laguarda

U13 Admin: Liz Driscoll

U12 Admin: Belinda Bryan

U11 Admin: Kate Beuve

U10 Admin: Amy Smith

AAS Adult Admin: Pip Wilford

AAS Minis Admin: Kelly Durbridge until position filled

Coaches: Jane Arnett, Natalie Marchant, Liz Driscoll, Ruth Parkinson, Vicky Topa

4. Chair's Report by JA

Our fifth season has seen the launch of the Adult section and the Minis section, and has meant a further 60 girls and ladies have joined the club. Due to the hard work of a lot of people on the committee, I believe we have made this transition look smooth and professional. The feedback from both Minis and Adults has been all positive, and the rest of the Junior Club also appears to be thriving, with better results than ever before. Everyone involved in the Club should feel very proud of what we have collectively achieved.

Until now, each year we have added a new age group, or entered a new League, or changed venues, or changed training times etc. and we have had to work hard to keep up with all the changes and the increase in size and complexity of the club. But now Ashted All Stars has every year group it intends to have, we have a structure which appears to work, and we now have policies and procedures in place which will take the club forward into the future. We have a very supportive "home" at Downsend, we have our new Shed which makes us even more established, and we have a good reputation in the community.

The Club, as we all know, has a fabulous atmosphere with supportive parents and happy girls. We must now ensure that we maintain this atmosphere and club spirit, looking after every single player's best interests, as well as becoming more and more competitive and improving our positions in the League. I have absolutely no doubt that this will be the case, and I look forward, as ever, to next season.

5. Treasurers Report by JD

JD proposed that subs be raised by £10 to £120 (£150 adults). This is the first increase in five years and will allow the club to pay more coaches/umpires when necessary. JA would also like to introduce the payment of coaches even when they're coaching their daughter's age group rather than the current situation of not charging them fees.

A suggestion was made that the club should put together sponsorship packages so that individuals can approach local businesses. **RP to action**

KN to approach Surrey Storm's commercial director re: sponsorship.

Accounts will be finalised by JD when the season ends on 31st May 2016.

6. Secretary's Report by JT

Well we started the club with 17 girls we now have 220!

Prior to the commencement of the season it was a very busy summer collating all the paper work and affiliating all existing members plus we introduced the Minis (Year 3 and Year4 girls) and the Adults. This affiliation process we have now decided is far too much for one person and as such have restructured this for next season. There are key areas in the Secretary role that we want to smarten and also it is the time to recheck the data we have held for some members for over 4 years.

As such Emma Feltham has come on board kindly to take on the responsibility of the Members paperwork. The contact list will be regularly updated where required and with the help of the Year Group Managers, we can ensure that all contact information eg addresses along with medical information is current.

We will also have for the summer an Affiliation secretary to action all the affiliations plus we will have new members coming into Year 3 Minis.

Meanwhile, we have a constantly increasing waiting list with approximately 35 girls on the list. The lower years i.e. Year 5, 6 & 7 are where the majority of places are in demand. Some girls have been on the list for over a year and after just emailing all parents to request confirmation that their daughter still would like a place in the club, all have come back & confirmed even those that trialled last year and were unsuccessful. I have also asked on the form for any club details and a few girls wanting places are in other clubs confirming that Ashtead All Stars is clearly the club of choice.

JT suggested the club consider the option of sibling priority on the waiting list.

7. Kit Secretary's Report (SP)

SP suggested that all customers send her a copy of their remittance advice prior to receiving their kit. This will avoid the need to keep chasing for payment.

Several voiced concerns regarding the cost of kit. **VT to get a quote for drawstring bags with a logo** that we could ask for sponsorship for, in order to reduce kit costs.

8. Child Welfare Officer's Report (CC)

This season has been quiet from a safeguarding point of view. I have had a few minor issues but no serious concerns. The older girls have been given cards with safeguarding/ helpline numbers on. I am in the process of updating the policies ready for next season.

JA thanked CC for being a great sounding board and an objective voice during her time as Child Welfare Officer.

9. Website Officer's Report (SG)

The "Go Daddy.com" subscription runs for another year until June 2017.

Over the season we have added a minis and adult team pages as well as photo gallery page. The website has been tidied up ready for the next season. Currently in the process of setting up email accounts for committee members who want them.

SG asked for any photographs that have been taken to be sent through to her for use on the web site.

JA asked committee members to check their own pages on the web site and pass feedback to SG. **Committee**

Possible sponsorship of the web site was suggested. Sponsors logo could be shown with a link to their web site.

10. Publicity Officer's Report (RM)

JA would like to see AAS appearing in the Ashtead News. **RM**

Agreed that an AAS Facebook page should be created. **VT to set up**

11. Development Officer's Report (HS)

I think it has been a very successful season for development of players. We have seen a great interest from our older girls for the umpiring course, with 14 girls and some adults signing up. Now need to help progress onto the next stage of confident independent umpires. Natalie and Jane have been instrumental and an outstanding support for this, offering mentoring umpiring hours where possible. Summer Netball is the perfect time to practise those skills. Also to mention those that have chosen to coach. This is a big commitment but Kelly and Lucy are already fantastic players so will be a credit to the netball community. Good Luck to Faye who is signed up for Sept!! Next season we will have a new batch of girls coming up through the ranks so will focus on having some of them join. I am looking to make the process more transparent so players are aware that we offer the courses and will help them to complete the training.

12. Events Officer's Report (KD)

AAS JCA Netball Tour September 18th – 20th 2015 - Shropshire

We took 59 girls, 9 Committee members and two parent helpers.

Break down as follows:

U11 – 15

U12 – 11

U13 – 19

U14 – 3

U15 – 9

U16 – 2

It was a fabulous weekend with 8 AAS teams taking part. Throughout the year groups, there was a mixed bag of results but all teams played with energy and enthusiasm and a special mention goes to the Year 6 girls who were put into a mixed group of year 7s and year 8s! The U15's made it through to the Plate Final and gave us all a wonderful display of netball. It was the last match of the tournament so the support from all the other AAS girls was deafening! It was a thrilling match and the U15 came out victorious!

Ideas for a possible tour at the end of next season to be passed to KD. JA suggested a different style of event with parents also attending and taking responsibility for their own children. **ALL**

13. Head Coach's Report (JA)

From a coaching perspective, we have always struggled to keep up with the influx of girls, with a few coaches having to cover multiple age groups. We are now in the enviable position of having four Level 2 coaches, two Level 1 coaches, and another two Level 1 coaches are soon to qualify.

What is even more exciting is to see our older girls turning up to help coach the younger girls, and doing so maturely and confidently. The Club is no longer reliant on a few individuals, and over the next couple of years, I envisage that we will start producing our own coaches and umpires, rather than Natalie and I having to rely on our old network of netball contacts.

We now need to concentrate on getting more qualified umpires. All the girls are practising this Summer and are already showing an improvement in ability and confidence. We need to continue to encourage our young umpires and give them every opportunity we can to practise their skills and get qualified, so that the club can sustain itself into the future.

RP suggested sharing coaching plans in a central Dropbox area.

JT suggested monitoring development costs separately within the budget.

VT suggested that the development policy appear on the web site.

14. AAS Ladies' Report (NM)

This was our first experience at AAS of the adult leagues and what a season it has been. We started off with a handful of U16s and a select few B2N ladies and ventured into the Kingston League playing fortnightly on a Saturday. We started training in earnest, but our first match came around very quickly and we lost to Weybridge Vandals by a large 55-20 margin.

The first half of the season resulted in only one win and a draw and a large number of injuries along the way. The squad wasn't disheartened however, and continued to work incredibly hard at training to improve their skills and match play, and the result of this hard work showed impressively on the court. The second half of the season was a different story all together. We won 5 out of the 7 matches we played, with some outstanding performances, and we only lost to the two top teams by a handful of goals.

The progress the players have made has been wonderful to watch, and it is so rewarding coaching a group of people who are so keen to learn. The girls and adults have gelled incredibly well and have a great deal of fun together. I couldn't have hoped for a better first season and have loved every minute of it. I'm very much looking forward to next season and continued improvement.

There is the possibility of a second team for next season.
NM suggested offering trials to adults.

15. U15/16 Report (NM)

It was all change for U15 and U16s this year when the two year groups had to join forces and the teams were mixed around. The girls threw themselves into their new teams, acquitting themselves well at the majority of their matches. Both teams had mixed results at Nonsuch, with some great wins and some disappointing losses, but they all seemed to enjoy themselves. It was particularly hard for the Bs not having a regular GS, but they were well supported by the shooters in the U14s throughout the season. The As finished 6th at Nonsuch and the Bs 8th, but all matches were well fought. The girls had far more success at Dorking with the Bs taking the gold medal and the As the silver.

The As finished the season at the SCNA tournament and again came up against some really accomplished teams, however I couldn't have been more proud at how hard the girls worked and never once gave up, giving most teams a real run for their money.

Overall, I've had a really enjoyable season coaching these girls and wish the U16s who are moving up to adults the very best of luck. Thanks should go to Laura Jones for all the work she puts in to being the year group manager.

16. U14 Report (NM)

The U14s have had a good season in terms of results and level of enjoyment. They all seem to love training together and are a really tight-knit unit. Both teams managed respectable 5th position out of 10 in the Nonsuch league, with their losses, in most cases, only being by a handful of goals. They had more success in the Dorking league, finishing the season with the As being awarded silver medals and the Bs bronze.

The As ended their season with the Surrey County tournament, which we knew would be tough. Lack of height in the team was a huge disadvantage when playing these teams, most of which are filled with satellite academy girls, however, it was a shame to see some of our girls looking defeated before they'd even started some matches. They need to believe in their abilities more as we have some very capable players in this year group.

Overall I've really enjoyed coaching this year group this year and look forward to next season where they will be joining the current U15s.

17. U13 Report (JA)

This year we were lucky to be able to run an U13C team. We have always had a group of girls in this age group who have been committed and keen but unfortunately not selected to play for the As and Bs, so we entered our new U13C into the new Surbiton League. They had mixed results, as sometimes they were up against U12 teams and sometimes they were up

against U13A teams, but it was enjoyed by all so definitely something to be continued next season. However, we do need to ensure that girls are committed before we enter a team as disappointingly we had availability issues for the last two fixtures.

The U13B were fantastic this year, coming 2nd in the Nonsuch B Division only losing 5-6 to Focus. It is worth mentioning that Focus were actually an A team, and indeed most of the teams in the B Division are A teams. Being able to field two very strong teams in one age group is an exceptional achievement for the U13s, and shows a strength in depth for the Club as a whole. Lovely team spirit as always, ably Captained by Sophie Youngman. Gold medals next year please girls.

The U13As also had a good season, but are always up against very tough opposition. Sometimes they displayed masterclasses of fabulous netball, and other times they looked a little sleepy and disinterested. At the level they are playing, they ALWAYS need to be completely on form, and this is what we need to work on next year, so girls will need to be ready for some tough selection if we want to progress. I have no doubt that we can win the Nonsuch League and this is my aim for next season.

Star Player: Martha McRobb

Most Improved Player: Aine Hunt

Club Player Nominations: Zoe Harding, Jessica Laguarda, Sadie Parkinson

S Makroum suggested the team play some of the older girls at training prior to going to league games.

NM said more support was needed from parents at matches to motivate the girls when the coach was unavailable as on court.

18. U12 Report (LD)

We had 27 players signed on with us this season.....27 very noisy players!! With a few exceptions, all of our players were of a good enough standard to play in competitive matches and whilst a fairly obvious A team emerged, the remaining 20 players were all of a very similar standard at the start of season making it particularly difficult to pick a B team. With this in mind we decided to have a B squad made up of most of the remaining players with the aim of giving them equal court time where possible. We also created a C team for those few players who weren't quite ready for competitive netball.

The A and B team were entered into both the Nonsuch and Dorking leagues. The A team finished 1st in the Dorking league and 4th in the Nonsuch league losing only by a handful of goals to the top teams. They were also runners up in the Surrey Youth Netball Tournament where they played outstandingly, beating several of the best teams in the area and narrowly losing in the final.

The B team finished 2nd in the Dorking league and 3rd in the Nonsuch league – a fantastic achievement bearing in mind that we were mixing and matching the players each week. They improved steadily throughout the season and thoroughly deserved their two medals.

The C team played in a handful of friendlies to give them experience of competitive matches and I am delighted to report that most of them are now ready to play in league matches. Excellent progress.

The girls have shown amazing improvement this year. We have a host of talented girls who are extremely coachable and squad training sessions have afforded us the luxury of being able to work with smaller groups of players. These girls are super keen to learn and Kelly and I are very proud every time they take something we have taught them and reproduce it during a match. We now have a solid and talented A team which is supplemented by several very good B team players who have played up and performed superbly this season. The stronger B team players have naturally emerged giving us a clearer idea of how we will structure our B squad going forward. We hope to be able to enter 3 teams into the league next year.

Star Player for the A team was Sophie Connor.

Star Player for the B team was Darcie Nash.

Most Improved Player for the B team was Holly Grimshaw.

Star Player for the C team was Charlotte Bruce.

The Club nomination went to Charlotte Cotchings and I am delighted that she won the overall award. Her enthusiasm for the game is infectious and we are lucky to have her in our team.

We are equally lucky to have her Mum, Kelly Durbridge in our Coaching Team too. She is not only a fantastic Assistant Coach, but an Umpire, Events Officer and Mum who is brilliant to have around. The girls love her (and so do I). A huge thank you should also go to the parents of the girls in this age group for their overwhelming support and enthusiasm. They are always willing to help out, never interfere with coaching decisions and are usually the loudest set of supporters at matches.

Roll on next season.....

19. U11 Report (VT)

The U11s welcomed their new coach Vicky at the start of the season, along with 3 new girls. After just a few weeks, teams had to be selected for the Nonsuch league matches which was tricky as all the girls had improved over the summer and many were now of a similar standard, and made more difficult because of the unavailability of a number of girls on the first date and the league's rules on girls changing teams. Nonetheless we headed off to Nonsuch full of enthusiasm. The A and B teams first matches were against the Wandsworth teams, who didn't seem to understand the basic rules of rotation in High 5 and let their GK remain as GK and their other players play wherever they wanted to! Despite losing both matches we were awarded the points afterwards. Next up were Richmond Ravers and again we suffered significant losses, although Richmond Ravers were eventual winners in both divisions. The C team also lost their matches that day so not the start to the season we were hoping for.

Fortunately the girls all bounced back from that first match day with the A team winning most of their next matches, the B team winning **ALL** of their matches for the rest of the season and coming a **BRILLIANT 2nd** in their division and the C team picking up a couple of convincing wins too.

20. U10 Report (JA)

The U10s started with 28 girls and finished with 28 girls, with pretty much 28 girls training every week. They are a committed and keen bunch of girls who were fun to teach.

We were lucky to be able to field 3 teams in the Nonsuch League as usually we can only get two places, and this enabled every girl the opportunity to play at least one League match if they wanted to. The girls clearly loved playing, and despite some disappointing results, the girls' effort and enthusiasm was boundless and they have all made huge improvements. By the end of the season the A team had really improved and managed to achieve 3rd place in the Nonsuch End of Season tournament. There is lots of potential for success next season and I am looking forward to seeing what these girls can do.

Next season we are only likely to be able enter two teams into the League, making selection more tricky. This inevitably means that some girls will be disappointed, but we will ensure we run as many friendlies as possible to keep the girls interested and give them match play.

Next season our challenge will be to keep all the girls happy and keen, despite some tough selection decisions. We do not want to lose any girls nor dampen their enthusiasm for the game they have clearly learned to love.

Star Player: Amelie Hartley

Most Improved Player: Lizzie Bartlett

Club Player Nomination: Amba Conway-Sparks

21. Minis Report (RP)

This was the first season that AAS has run training sessions for year 3 and 4's. At the start of the season, some of the girls had never played netball before and so it has been extremely pleasing to see how they have developed and progressed over the months. Our focus has been on establishing core netball skills so catching, passing, shooting and the required

footwork as well as other fundamental skills such as balance, agility and flexibility and making this fun for all by varying the drills and exercises. Unaware of the rules of netball in September when we kicked off, we have worked on introducing them to the principles of the game, building their knowledge of the different positions, which player goes where on the court and what each player does. We have built and broadened their skills week-by-week, enabling them to progress to regularly playing a game of High 5 netball as the end section of each training session.

The girls are a delight to teach and arrive enthusiastic and raring to go in even the most adverse of weather conditions. They have all made fabulous progress which has been a delight to see; many now regularly scoring goals in our matches and the smiles these generate say it all.

We are most grateful to the teenage and adult helpers who have supported the group throughout the season.

22. Any Other Business

Addresses aren't accurate on all England Netball membership cards. **JT to resolve.**

Next season's dates and suggested fixture list have been agreed. **Year group managers** will be emailing each year group with subs reminders.

Final list of all members to be emailed to admin on 23rd July 2016.

List of criteria to be put together for trial sessions so that feedback is available for parents if requested. **JA/NM**

RP suggested article on AAS should appear in the Netball magazine.

JA took the opportunity to thank once more the non-committee members attending for their interest and input.

23. Meeting Closed
