



AGM

Herefordshire County Netball Association
followed by the Hereford Netball League

MINUTES

Herefordshire County Netball Association

Meeting held on Thursday 22nd May 2025, at 7.00 p.m. at Point 4, Hereford

1. Apologies

Anna Robertson, Meg Hadley

See table below for full attendee list

Helen opened the meeting and introduced the purpose of the County Association and its connection to all other netball in the County.

2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting

These were approved as circulated with request for change as raised in matters arising.

3. Matters Arising

Remove the opening which stated it had been two years from the last meeting. There was also a request that minutes from the meeting be circulated quicker after the meeting is held.

4. Summary of written reports outlining activity for the year

Helen introduced the report to the meeting and a summary was given. It was noted that it has been a challenging year, especially with some gaps in committee members and other commitments of committee members. It was noted that it has been difficult to recruit new members so some committee members are staying on for another year.

Helen outlined some of the wins from the year including 4 new Level 2 coaches who just need to take their final part of the course. These have been helping out at county academies and provide much needed additional coaching support.

Jemma Pattison has achieved her B award for umpiring and Helen is looking forward to seeing her on the TV umpiring the superleague!

Bromyard netball club are doing really well and a well done to Meg Evans for the success of this club.

It is hoped that a new club is developing in Ledbury which will give the east of the county a boost for netball.

Milly Bunston is in the Performance Development Pathway for Panthers and we have some strong girls coming through the county academies so we are hoping to get some more girls going into that pathway. Helen asked that people do take a read of the report as there is much more detail in it.



5. Election of Officers to Herefordshire County Committee

	Nominated by	Seconded	Successful committee member
Chairperson	Emily Horne	Liz Harris	Helen Bowden
Vice Chairperson	Steve	Helen	Matt Ashcroft
Secretary	Kara	Liz	Nicola Percival
Assistant secretary	Nic	Wendy	Becky Bufton
Treasurer	Nic	Emily	Elizabeth Harris
Officiating Officer	Jemma	Kara	Jane Hopkins
Welfare Officer	Liz	Lexi	Helen Booth
Coaching Officer	Helen	Matt	Lexi Rouse
Performance Pathway Player Development Lead	Louise Peruffo	Kara	Helen Bowden (supported by Co-opted County Academies Manager - Helen Booth and co-opted lead selector - Sophie Weadon)
Youth Development	Wendy	Emily	Matt Ashcroft
Media/ Communications	Matt	Laura My	Meg Hadley
Competition Officer	Lexi	Helen Booth	Sam James
Membership Officer	Kara	Jane Richards	Helen Booth

6. England Netball update

Membership is growing – we have 399 members in the county with clubs being active.

We have 417 participants in EN programmes with 237 being new to netball which is over 50%. 49 participants have come through back to netball.

College programme with 6 weeks of activity was run with 38 students (both boys and girls) attending.

7. Any other business

Request for minutes to be sent out asap after meeting.

8. Date of the next meeting – May 21st 2026

The meeting was closed at 19:35

Attendees:

Name	Team	Name	Team
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Jade Richards	Unicorns / League Vice Chair	Liz Harris	Queen Bees / County Treasurer
Tori Evans	Sirens	Savannah O'Reilly	Panthers
Emily Burgess	Tigers	Becky Bufton	Tornadoes
Wendy Preece	Tornadoes	Jo Ricketts	Painscastle
Jemma Pattison	Knights	Jane Hopkins	Nemssis
Jacky Preece		Carys Power	Geckos
Alice Delany	Geckos	Helen Booth	County Committee
Lexi Rouse	Luctonians Coach	Lindsay Davies	England Netball
Louise Penuffo	Westside Blues	Steve Penuffo	Westside Blues
Kelly Gibbons	Bull Terriers	Rachael Andrews	Jailbirds
Pin Pansang	Jailbirds	Helen Bowden	Sapphires / County Chair
Faye Roberts	Green Jays	Lauren Williams	Invicta
Amy Pullen	Ravens	Nicky Hill	Beaumonts
Jess Bunn	Jewels	Abbie Beamond	Lionesses
Bella Muirhead	Rubies	Fern Taylor-Wrighton	Jets
Sue Lee	Jades	Kara Wellings	Bull Terriers / League
Annie Eytle	Wasps	Laura Myatt	Wildcats
Matt Ashcroft	Westside / County Committee	Emily Horne	Jailbirds / League Chair
Nicola Percival	Jailbirds / County Secretary		



Meeting held on Thursday 22nd May 2025, at 7.30 p.m. at Point 4, Hereford

Apologies

Meg Hadley (St James)

See table below for full attendee list

Introduction

Emily introduced the members of the committee with those present giving a wave.

1. Structure;

Selection of Officers

Nicky Hill and Jacky Preece are honorary members

Position	Nominated by	Seconded	Successful member	committee
Events Co-ordinator	Emily	Jade	Annie	
Social media	Emily	Annie	Meg Hadley	
Social Support	Kara	Lexi	Fern	
Chair	Kara	Nicola	Emily	
Vice Chair	Annie	Laura	Kara	
Treasurer	Emily	Kara	Kelly Gibbons	
Safeguarding	Jade	Tori	Laura Myatt	

2. Change of roles:

The league committee members are enhancing the structure to try and get some support and so that they can meet the EN requirements for safeguarding. Vice positions were put in place at the last AGM but are formally in place now. Some of this support is required to help with complaints and there is a need to try to bring these down.

3. Treasurer

Nicky is stepping down and Kelly Gibbons has just been nominated in. She will continue to work with Paul. Accounts will be moving to a digital and the league will be using Xero. Invoices will go out to teams. The new system will allow a check of balances paid to be seen by each team so they can keep a track themselves of how much they have paid.

4. Fixtures been sent out

AI is being used to generate fixtures through an 'equal split'. It was becoming too difficult to accommodate requests for specific locations so the league are no longer able to accommodate all requests. At the start of the league a draft fixtures list will go out. In exceptional circumstances, a team can contact the league and make a request for a fixture to be changed. This is being trialled through summer but will continue through the winter league if all goes ok.

5. Awards evening update



An outline of last years event was given which was held at The Secret Garden and was quite successful with about 60 people attending but this is nowhere near the number of people who participate in the league so the league would like to encourage more people to come along.

This year the awards evening will be held at a more central venue , Gordon Bennetts. Saxty's will provide food and a drink on arrival. Provisional date of 20th September 2025 to allow the results of both winter 24/25 and summer 25 to be celebrated. 7pm – live bands start at 9pm.

Some surveys for recommendations / nomination for award will be coming out soon and all are encouraged to complete them.

Annie to confirm that under 18s can attend and what time they will need to leave due to the venue being a pub.

6. Charity tournament

This is to be held at the end of summer league.

The league are finalising the last dates for summer league. **The league will then circulate out a confirmed date for the tournament.**

7. Netball Now

This will run for 4 weeks from about 22nd July. Anyone can come, they don't need to be part of a team. Possibly a week later – **league to confirm start date**

8. Next meeting date

28th August - Online meeting 7PM

9. AOB:

School half term breaks

The league are keeping to no games during holidays as it results in less forfeited games.

Scorers

The league are looking to provide job descriptions for scorers as not all know how to do this. Information has being sent out to captains but it's not always getting out to those doing the scoring and complaints have been received of scorers not concentrating. The league is going to ask umpires to remind scorers not be distracted by others and to ask anyone not scoring to move away from scoring tables during games.

Umpire schedule

The league explained that they had tried a few different options over the past year. However, some teams were not filling in or providing an umpire and relying on the league to do this. There has been a good drive to increase umpire numbers with Jane organising mentors for upcoming umpires.

Umpire spreadsheet

The league has requested that if cells are highlighted yellow then you must not change it. These are confirmed umpires / mentors. Do not delete anything.

The spreadsheet is to be completed as followed:



a) Qualified umpire – put name of the umpire and the (team umpiring on behalf of) and then highlight the cell yellow

b) Training umpire who needs a mentor - put name in red and 'M' next to your name.

Jane / Kara will then update with a mentor and they will highlight the cell yellow.

If the cell is highlighted yellow and you are no longer able umpire you must make contact with the league or Kara. DO NOT DELETE ANYTHING

Q. What is the ruling with teams providing umpires?

A. We need people to come forward to start their umpiring journey but it isn't a hard and fast rule that a team MUST provide an umpire within the first year. If people do not start their umpiring journey we won't ever solve an umpiring shortage.

Umpire forum

This is being led by County because the league are still having complaints about umpiring standards.

It was highlighted that players do have a responsibility to know the rules and to abide by them and it was suggested that all players need to familiarise themselves with the rules and the game management process because umpires need to use this to control the game.

It was acknowledged that there needs to be mutual respect from the players to the umpires.

The league introduced a suggestion for a 2-3 year plan that they will be looking to implement in response to the complaints that have been coming in. There is surplus money in the league bank account so it is intended to use this to help to develop umpires. The County Officiating Officer will be providing a resource to monitor umpiring standards and the league will be looking to bring in support from Gloucester to monitor the standards. The people brought in will be assessor qualified.

Change to umpiring requirements

Two umpires must be on court at all times.

Based on the assessments, the league will have the discretion to tell umpires which level they can umpire to.

For summer league, the league and the Officiating Officer will look to allocate anyone going for a next level of assessment into the umpire schedule and try to allocate mentors where possible. Then release umpiring schedule with gaps to then be filled in by remaining teams.

Request from Officiating officer that those going for assessment will need more intense umpiring.

Q. How will the league monitor those who do not umpire very often and ensure they are being assessed?

A. Kara will monitor the frequency of umpiring to identify anyone who doesn't umpire frequently as the league want to ensure that all people umpiring are doing so to the correct level.

Baseline for Sept is that everyone will be monitored so there will be a more current and up to date list of who is assigned to the league. Monitors will have the authority to give feedback.

Suggestion that the change of rules need to go out to everyone with requests for comment before it becomes changed. The league confirmed that this is the introduction and all of this will be circulated for comment.

The league confirmed that the expectation is that teams will provide the umpire before / after their own game if no one has been allocated for mentoring.

Q. Are specific complaints about umpires fed back to them?



A. League members try to deal with complaints outside of their own teams. The opinion is sought from the other umpire and this is fed back through Jane who does speak to individuals or go back to a team with a response.

Request from the league for positivity in the notes on scorecards as well as complaints please!

A list of mentors, assessors and umpires will all be on the website. **A request was made for only initials to be used if requested by an individual.** The league confirmed they could do this.

Mentoring

The league and Officiating Officer recognise that IO is very basic so there will be a staged approach to the mentoring. Mentors will start by the side of the umpire until they are confident in the basic control of the game. Mentors will then be observing from the other side of court. The final stage will be the mentor will umpire with the IO.

Q. Other leagues have a compulsory umpiring forum so could we do the same?

A. League confirmed that they will be trying to achieve this and that it will be enforced. **Request for forum to be 1st week in Sept before league starts - EH**

Officiating Officer won't be chasing individuals to push through to assessment, individuals need to put their names down and be consistent with their dedication.

Score sheets

2 sheets per game will be required to ensure that they are in agreement. If anything is needed for the bags then anyone can make a note on the scorecard submission to identify to the league.

Scorecards have a section to be completed for game management. **The league will outline how repeats from same player will be dealt with.**

Posts in Point 4 are a little wonky. **League to report this to Point 4.**

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Wendy Preece	Tornadoes	Jo Ricketts	Paincastle
Jemma Pattison	Knights	Jane Hopkins	Nemssis
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Nicola Percival	Jailbirds / County Secretary		
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