



Grimsby and District Senior Netball League

League Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 13th November 2019, 7.30pm, Lucarlys Wilton Road, Humberston DN36 4AW

GDSNL Committee

Position	Name	In Attendance	Position	Name	In Attendance
Chairperson	Jackie Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Vicky Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice Chair	Tracy Barford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Registrations/Affiliations Secretary	Tracey Glover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Jo Bradbury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fixtures Secretary	Louise Burton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Umpiring Secretary	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Press & Publicity Officer	Louise Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding Mentor	Julie Klug	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising Officer	Tracy Barford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coaching Officer	Julie Klug	<input type="checkbox"/>	Divisional Representative (Div. 1)	Lydia White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Divisional Representative (Div. 2)	Leanne Rowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divisional Representative (Div. 3)	Tracey Glover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Louise Burton and Julie Klug.

2) Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record and formally signed by Jackie Hewitt.

3) Matters arising

EN Affiliation

At the last meeting it had been raised why do we affiliate to EN. Jackie stated that the cost is less than £1 per week per person which includes personal sport injury insurance. The affiliation fee is divided into 3 – EN, East Midlands, Lincs. It supplements development of our future netballers from Primary upwards, develops county players of all ages.

Without EN Membership, GDSNL loses resources to courses, umpiring development and Lincs, East Midlands, EN Guidance and support.

4) Umpiring

a) *Into-Officiating Course*

We held the Course on Sunday 10th November and we had 12 members of our league and 4 outside attendants. Jo Stevenson delivered the course expertly.

The next Into-Officiating Courses in our area are:

- 9th February 2020 - Boston
- 15th March 2020 - Grimsby

Please let Jackie Hewitt or Vicky Smith know if you would like to attend the course on 15th March.

b) *C Award:*

The next C Award officiating courses are being held in Lincolnshire on the following dates:

- 23rd February – Boston
- 21st/28th April (eve) – Grantham

GDSNL must ask for our 2020/21 course requirements by end of April 2020, so we would like to ask for an Into Officiating course and also a C Award Course.

After speaking to Jo Stevenson who assesses Into Officiating Umpires, we would need to get enough candidates to be tested and preferably on a Sunday.

Jackie Hewitt will speak to Lizzie Saywell to see if there is scope for candidates willing to travel i.e. to the county league. However, Jackie will need to check that there is no C Award and above restriction for umpiring this league.

C Award candidates are required to be tested outside of their area of play.

5) Behaviour

Some Behaviour still needs to be addressed on Court. It was highlighted on the Into Officiating Course held on Sunday that often players cannot comprehend that their perception can be different to the Umpires Perception especially with obstruction, replay and contact. Please remember that it is the Umpires perception NOT the players. Cautions can be given for persistent offenders, then warnings then 2 min standoff. (Chair then went on to explain Jo Stevenson's take by starting with louder whistle and sharper voice, then a quiet word then if behaviour is not modified then a caution. Paperwork does need to be filled in on official warnings and standoffs and sent to Lincs, but it is a Committee goal to encourage Game Management improvement. Links below may be very useful for Game management

https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/app/uploads/2018/06/INFMatchProtocols_January_2018.pdf

<https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/app/uploads/2016/04/A-Guide-to-Game-Management-Summer-2018.pdf>

6) Loss of Points for Non-Providing of an Umpire:

There has been an increased number of teams which have failed to supply an umpire this season. It has been reiterated to you that it is your responsibility as a team to ensure you have an Umpire to cover your allocated Umpiring slot. Teams without Umpires have been advised constantly that they need to know who is covering their Umpiring and check on the day to ensure your Umpire is still ok to officiate. Failure will result in a loss of 5 points. You have the right to appeal, but you must provide evidence that the above has been carried out. Should your appeal be upheld, then points will be reverted to the team, and points deducted from the team that the covering Umpire plays for. The appeal can continue from this team. Should a third party be found to be at fault, then the Third Parties team will have the points deducted. Extenuating circumstances must be validated.

7) Results/ Fixtures

At present Jackie is still covering for the Fixtures Secretary, please send all results to Jackie Hewitt and ensure that you inform her if you cancel a game.

8) Affiliations/Guesting

Tracey asked that all teams keep a check on their guesting, and also, should a game be cancelled, that teams notify Tracey so that she can cancel the guest. Tracey reminded teams that each time a guest plays, they must inform her and write this on the guest sheet (a copy is available on the website).

Tracey asked that all members ensure that they are attached to GDSNL on Engage, not just their club. This will enable members to be informed of all matters via the GDSNL Secretary via email.

9) Netball Now

Tracey welcomed all ladies over the age of 16 can play at the Netball Now sessions which are being held at the Beacon Academy Sports Hall (inside). Please ask friends and family members to come along. The sessions are held on a Wednesday evening from 7pm to 8.30pm for a fantastic relaxed session and are for all abilities.

10) Fundraising

a) Charity Letter (YMCA)

Jackie read a thank you letter from the YMCA for the monies raised last year.

b) Charity Nominations for 2019/2020

Several charity nominations has been received for 2019/2020. The following charities were nominated:

- Guide Dogs for the blind – It was raised that although this charity has a close connection with GDSNL for Jo Laird Reynolds that unfortunately it does not have a local charity base and GDSNL has always supported local charities.
- Not Home Alone
- RNLI
- Women's Refuge

Votes were counted from the attendees and the nominated charity for 2019/2020 is Not Home Alone nominated by Holly Dickinson, Marrowbone Cleaver.

Tracy Barford said that she would be in contact with Holly to discuss fundraising for this year's charity and would encourage all teams to begin raising monies for the Karen Arnold Charity Trophy.

c) Bingo Night 29th November 2019

Tracy Barford invited all teams, players, family and friends of GDSNL to Bingo Night on 29th November 2019. Doors will open at 7pm and eyes down at 7.30pm. Raffle, Play your cards right, name cards etc will all be available on the night. Tickets are £1 and can be bought from any of the committee members or bought on the door.

11) Safeguarding

A reminder to all team secretaries that for any U18 players a safeguarding form must be completed and send to safeguard@grimsbynetball.com or given to Julie Klug. No further issues were raised.

12) Coaching update

Many Congratulations to Janine Syborn, Ann-Marie Tuplin and Jackie Hewitt on achieving their UKCC Level 1 Coaching award.

13) Press & Publicity

Louise Johnson asked for teams to get involved with match reports and to email them to pressandpublicity@grimsbynetball.com or text, WhatsApp or messenger them to her directly at 07913 116442. Louise has also published a form on the website which can be downloaded that can help with writing reports

14) AOB

a) Court Conditions

Last week we encountered a situation of which GDSNL had not encountered before in its 45+ years. A team did not feel it was safe to continue play on the court. The Umpires agreed, so the game was abandoned, and that court was not played on the rest of the evening. The game will be replayed later in the season; however, it has highlighted that we need more clarification written into our Rules and Regulations.

Following on from this, on the same night Jackie received a scorecard, on which a team had written "We felt the courts were too slippery to play". Jackie stated that we really need you all to know that your safety is paramount, and if at any time you genuinely do feel there is a safety issue, you must address this. It clearly states on EN Website under Insurance FAQs:

How do I ensure the recognised and authorised activity is delivered in a safe environment?

A Risk Assessment Checklist should be completed before any game (where an umpire or competition official has not been required to complete a risk assessment) and this should become part of the overall risk management culture of your netball club or group.

Individuals should also make themselves aware of their environment and activity and scan it for risk prior to participating. Participation in an environment deemed inappropriate or unsafe may result in any potential insurance claim being invalid.

In the case of mixed netball, individuals are encouraged to take into account the physical differences between men and women when assessing a safe environment.

Who should complete a Risk Assessment Checklist?

A Risk Assessment Checklist should be completed before any game (where an umpire or competition official has not been required to complete a risk assessment) and this should become part of the overall risk management culture of your Netball Club or group. All clubs competing should take part in the completion of the checklist and two representatives should sign the form once they are satisfied with the conditions.

If the club is responsible for proceeding on game day (i.e. shared common ground), then a club representative may take responsibility for the completion of the form. However, the participating clubs should still review the questions and sign the form to ensure that they are satisfied with the conditions prior to commencement of play.

All clubs should choose a suitable person that will be responsible for this activity (and a backup if he/she is not available).

When should the Risk Assessment Checklist be completed?

The checklist should be completed prior to the commencement of play of the first game on game day.

What if the conditions change after the Risk Assessment Checklist has been completed?

If the conditions change during a game or at another time during the day, the checklist process should be revisited. The earlier completion of the form should not result in play continuing where it

is acknowledged that it is potentially unsafe. However, the full extent of the checklist process would probably not be required.

In the event that the conditions do change significantly enough for this to be revisited, the situation should either be rectified (e.g. glass removed) or the competing clubs should meet to decide whether conditions are too dangerous to continue with play (e.g. extreme storm conditions). Ultimately, the responsibility for these situations will rest with the clubs, but the safety of the players, spectators etc. should be the overriding factor.

Will I be held responsible if I sign the Risk Assessment Checklist?

The intention of the checklist is not to hold Club officials responsible should someone get injured. It is simply a form that facilitates a discussion between the clubs and officials about the overall state of the playing condition. By signing the form there is a sense of formalising the process. However, the programme of insurance does protect clubs and officials in the case of wrongful acts or errors, although they still have a duty of care to provide safe conditions for participants. Cover will not be provided for officials who show wilful negligence or disregard for these responsibilities.

The Committee received a letter of concern which was distributed at the meeting. This was to validate the points within the letter, however Lydia White did highlight that some of the details in the letter were not factually correct. Should members require a copy then a request can be made to secretary@grimsbynetball.com.

Following the letter of concern, the committee investigated further and received complete agreement from both Umpires that they felt the game could not be continued on CT 1, we have also had correspondence from the opposing team, but are awaiting clarification the team secretary.

The committee have clarified the situation with Lincolnshire County and East Midlands, and they are 100% that correct procedures have been followed. Safety is in your hands, and not just in the workplace. In line with the EN Insurance and Code of Conduct GDSNL are introducing a Risk Assessment sheet, which was also disseminated at the meeting. The risk assessment should be completed by both team captains at the 7pm match to assess the court conditions. The assessment should be then passed onto the 7.55pm match for reassessment and then to the 8.40pm match for any changes in conditions before the match commences. This assists in protecting members who have an injury and need to claim through EN insurance. The risk assessment will be uploaded to the website for available download and emailed to all team secretaries.

Action: All team captains

During the meeting the EN Code of Conduct was also handed out as per GDSNL rules and regulations. This was to remind members who play in the GDSNL that you have agreed to abide by them and breach of the rules will be dealt with accordingly.

The court conditions were discussed, and members were informed that the GDSNL were working with Oasis, who were trying their utmost to get the courts in a better condition. It was reported to the members that the Fire Brigade had been approached to hose the courts, and we are in discussion with them. However, Louise Johnson, who has knowledge of cleaning court surfaces, feels that such powerful hoses will dislodge the surface. Further Investigation is needed.

Tracy B mentioned that Steve Broderick has suggested digging trenches around the court, so Tracy will be liaising with regard to this good suggestion. Rosie Clark suggested putting sandbags around the court, and Tracy B will liaise with Oasis with regards to this.

Action: Tracy Barford.

b) Social Media

We try to post to keep you informed, and on the back of what was written on the scorecard re slippery court conditions, The committee felt it prudent to remind everyone that should you not feel you are in a safe environment, then the onus is on you to approach the Umpires with your concerns. Unfortunately, a minority of members posted comments with regards to Oasis Wintringham. Please be extremely mindful that it is not just members of the GDSNL League that read our posts, but Lincs, East Mids., Yorkshire etc in the Netball Community, but so do the Oasis Academy staff, who do their utmost to help, much more than other Academies, and this could be classed as abusive. Please discuss this with your team members.

c) Dates for the diary - League Meetings /AGM

To enable Netball Now, League Meetings will now be rescheduled to a Thursday Evening

- League Meeting - 13th February 2020 – 7.30pm
- League Meeting - 11th June 2020 – 7.30pm
- League Meeting – 7th September 2020 – 7.30pm
- AGM – 7th September 2020 – 7pm

Date and Time of next meeting: 13th February 2019 – 7.30pm

Lucarlys Wilton Road Humberston