



Grimsby and District Senior Netball League

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 4th September 2025, 7pm, The Pavillion, Butt Lane, Laceby

GDSNL Committee

Position	Name	In Attendance	Position	Name	In Attendance
Chairperson	Jackie Hewitt	Present	Secretary	Vicky Smith	Present
Vice Chair	Tracy Barford	Present	Membership Secretary	Lisa Holt	Present
Fixtures Secretary	Kirsty Charlton	Present	Press & Publicity Officer	Emily Staniforth	Present
Safeguarding Mentor	Julie Klug	Present	Fundraising Officer	Tracy Barford	Present
Treasurer	Jo Bradbury	Present	Coaching Officer	Julie Klug	Present
Umpiring Secretary		Vacant	Assistant Secretary	Lucy Collins	Apologies

1. Welcome & Apologies

Jackie opened the meeting; apologies were received from Lucy Collins from the Committee and Clubs/Teams.

2. Minutes of the last AGM meeting held Monday 2nd September 2024.

The minutes of the AGM meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024 were accepted by the attendees as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the last AGM meeting held Monday 2nd September 2024

There were no matters arising from the AGM held Monday 2nd September 2024.

4. Administration

As this was a new venue for all members Tracy Barford ran through the fire procedures and toilet facilities. Jackie informed the members that recording of the meeting was not permitted, as the Committee team had not been approached to do so.

5. Minutes silence

Sadly, last week we were informed of the sad passing of our netball Ambassador and founder Prue Whincup. The attendees paid their respects with a minutes silence. A minutes silence will be held prior to each match on the league start on 22nd and 23rd September.

6. Committee Reports

Chairperson Report – Jackie Hewitt

Jackie opened the AGM with the following report:

Jo Laird Tournament and Kristal Jackson Mixed Netball Tournament were resounding successes.

Presentation Evening was held at McMenemys and was well attended and a fantastic evening.

Our Fundraising Events have been well supported, a huge thank you to Tracy Barford who goes above and beyond organising these, enabling us to continue to raise funds for our chosen

Charity – Friendship At Home, and with organised Fundraising Evenings and The League Bonus Ball, Fundraising from Teams etc we were able to raise a whopping £5,100.

Netball Now continues to be popular, and provides a rock up and play environment for all abilities and genders.

To add to this, we Funded Three Volunteers, Ann-Marie, Janine & Fern, to attend a Walking Netball Workshop in York.

Last night, they hosted their first session, and what an amazing session it was. The Session introduced New Ladies to Netball, along with Retired Players.

The Session was delivered with Fun and was a delight to watch. It was particularly lovely to see Ladies building new friendships. Just what Netball is all about.

We are continuing to strengthen our League with more Umpires. This year we had 12 new Umpires gain their Into Officiating Award.

We have continued to hold Diversity and Inclusion Session for Foresight, which gives so much pleasure to many, especially the program deliverers, Julie, Tracy & Rach, once again a Big Thank you for everything you do to keep these sessions going.

I would like to thank all your committee for the hard work they have once again put in this year for a smooth-running platform for you all to play on.

This has been extremely challenging, as we have dealt with numerous complaints over the year.

To give you all a little insight, Complaints come to Chair and Secretary, we then forward to the rest of the Committee, unless it involves someone in office, who would be excluded from the correspondence.

We then look at:

- What specific Rules have been breached*
- We ask for further statements and information from necessary parties/witnesses*
- Then we discuss, as a Committee and conclude.*
- Chair then responds with our findings to those involved.*

This often takes an immense amount of time, depending on the nature of the complaint.

We are always impartial and look at the facts presented, R&R's & Constitution, and sometimes seek outside advice from Lincs County and even EN. We pride ourselves on due diligence.

Everyone has the right to appeal; however, appeals should only really be made should new evidence come to light, which has not been considered with our findings.

Should our R&R's be lacking, then we always address at the next AGM, or if sufficiently serious enough, we would be duty bound to hold an EGM.

We do need to inform all our members that; we received complaints from several parties after a match on 30th June at the end of the season.

The Committee then followed procedures, gaining statements and advice from Lincolnshire County etc, before beginning the long process of next steps.

We invited both Teams involved to a hearing outcome meeting, and delivered our findings, giving a formal written warning to one member, and a formal verbal warning to another member.

This was not a decision we come to lightly. The Committee informed Lincolnshire County of the decision and future proposed actions.

Following the outcome hearing, rather than accepting our decision, one member then took further steps and contacted a Solicitor, who then corresponded with us on behalf of their client.

The letter did not state that it was a letter before action, or a letter before claim, it was just a letter informing us that we are incorrect with our findings, based on the information the client had given and questioning the Committee's Competence and Fairness.

A Committee meeting was held and discussed the next steps, we also took into account everything we had held on file, including complaints from said person, complaints about said person, letters of concern regarding said person (these are letters that are of a serious nature, but persons rather than making a formal complaint, wished to place it on file, to be used should future misconduct occur)

We then looked at these against our Rules & Regs, Constitution, Code of Conduct and the EN Misconduct guide, safeguarding and discipline policies, and came to a decision to suspend the Member for 1 year. This may be extended should future misconduct be shown during this suspended year.

To ensure that we were following procedures and not leaving your league open to more legal letters/actions, we then liaised with EN safeguarding and EN Compliance.

England Netball provided further advice, and the Committee ensured this was taken on board to ensure that we are protecting the League and its members. A letter of suspension was issued, with Lincolnshire County and EN cc'd in for transparency.

We have since received a second solicitors' letter, which has been held on file and will be submitted to England Netball if required.

As Leagues are autonomous bodies with responsibility for their own rules, regulations and procedures, which means that decisions such as suspending a player can be made at league level and fall outside EN's jurisdiction.

The hours spent on this one complaint alone, goes into months!

It has not been pleasant for any of us, but unfortunately felt this was a necessary step, for the smooth running of our League and its remaining members. There are no winners in this, GDSNL members have lost a friend who they play with, and the league has lost a very good umpire.

As we are entering our 50th Year, the Committee will be welcoming new members as

Vicky Smith has decided to step down from Secretary, and Lucy Collins Assistant Secretary. Thank you both for the sterling work you have done.

Treasurer Report – Jo Bradbury

Jo provided an update on the accounts and provided a copy of the accounts; the account is in deficit from last year, this is due to the increase in court fees, the removal of Junior funds out of the GDSNL Account and the additional course fees which have been reinvested into the League. Jo stated that Oasis have not raised the court fees, but we are expecting a raise in April 2026, so these will remain the same for the current Winter season.

7. Constitution

The following proposals were presented to members, prior to the meeting and were voted on as below:

8. Meetings

Notice of any proposed alterations to the Constitution, nomination for the Committee and any other motion to be submitted to the AGM, together with names of the proposer and seconder (unless the motion is to be submitted on behalf of the Committee) shall be given, in writing, to the Secretary of the League at least 21 days before the date of the AGM. - Accepted by majority vote.

11. Discipline

There will be the right of appeal to the Committee following disciplinary action being announced, should new evidence come to light. The Committee should consider the appeal within 28 days of the Chairperson receiving the appeal. - Discussed and agreed the following wording:

There will be the right of appeal to the Committee within 10 days of the hearing following disciplinary action being announced. Further submission of new evidence shall be submitted by the appellant within 14 days to lodge evidence. The Committee will review the evidence and submit a response within 28 days of the new evidence being submitted. - Accepted by majority vote.

New constitution Rulings were agreed and accepted by majority vote:

- 14. Conflict of Interest Policy
- 15. Data Protection and Privacy
- 16. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- 17. Safeguarding Officer Role
- 18. Sub Committee Voting procedures
- 19. Virtual Meeting Provisions
- 20. England Netball Code of Conduct Enforcement

The updated Glossary of Terms has also been accepted by majority vote.

8. Rules – Proposed Changes

A copy of the proposed changes of the rules was sent to all team secretaries to send to their team members for review prior to the meeting for any comments, Jackie confirmed there have also been rule change proposed by members. All rules were amended, accepted or rejected by majority vote.

Section	2024 Version	2025 Version	Key Changes
1. Membership	Standard EN affiliation and conduct rules.	Same as 2024.	No change.
2. Player Registration	Guesting limited to 3 games; no guesting for full EN members.	Clarified guesting for voluntary EN members; added transfer fee clause.	More detailed guesting rules and financial clarity on transfers.
3. Insurance	EN insurance applies; notify Chairperson of medical conditions.	Same as 2024.	No change.
4. League Meetings	2–3 point deductions for non-attendance.	Same as 2024.	No change.
5. Registration Night	League Pack distributed at registration night.	Renamed to “Team Registration Requirement”; pack issued 1 week before season.	More structured and renamed section.

6. League Fees	Winter: via ENgage; Summer: to GDSNL.	Same as 2024.	No change.
7. Court Fees	£15 per team; late payment = 2-point deduction.	Same as 2024.	No change.
8. Venues	Matches: Mon/Tue, 7:00–9:30pm.	Time changed to 6:45–9:20pm.	Slight adjustment to match times.
9. Match Times	Centrally timed; Court 1 leads.	Same as 2024.	No change.
10. Injuries	No injury time: committee decides outcome.	Same as 2024.	No change.
11. Game Cancellation	Notify all parties or face 5-point deduction.	Same as 2024.	No change.
12. Inclement Weather	Full/partial cancellations handled by committee.	Same as 2024.	No change.
13. Umpiring & Scoring	Max 2 matches per umpire; no officiating own club.	Added: umpire training, conflict of interest clause, and clarified penalties.	Expanded expectations and accountability for umpires.
14. Pregnancy	Players: up to 12 weeks; Umpires: up to 16 weeks.	Same as 2024.	No change.
15. New Teams	Start in lowest tier.	Same as 2024.	No change.
16. Clubs/Teams	4 original players required to retain division.	Added: max 4 teams per club.	New cap on club team entries.
17. Discipline	Complaints within 2 working days.	Same, but removed “in the first instance” from committee clause.	Slight wording change.
18. Match Results	Submit by 10am Wednesday.	Deadline extended to 1pm; WhatsApp preferred.	More flexible and modern submission method.
19. Tournaments	Guesting allowed except in Handicap Tournament.	Detailed rules for each tournament; clarified insurance risks.	Expanded tournament rules and insurance disclaimers.
20. Youth Eligibility	Max 2 Year 10s per team; Age Banding required.	Same, but added safeguarding protocols.	Stronger safeguarding emphasis.
21. League Structure	Committee may restructure.	Same as 2024.	No change.
22. Promotion/Demotion	Top 2 promoted, bottom 2 demoted.	Same as 2024.	No change.
23. Late Arrivals	5-minute grace period.	Same as 2024.	No change.
24. Social media	Offensive use = permanent exclusion.	Expanded to include all digital communications; added disciplinary actions.	Broader scope and stricter enforcement.

25. Accident Reporting	EN form required; submit within 3 days.	Same, but added submission to EN insurance contact.	More formalised process.
26. Miscellaneous	No first aid provided; teams responsible.	Same as 2024.	No change.
27. Disclaimers	GDSNL not liable except for negligence.	Same as 2024.	No change.
28. Safeguarding	Not present.	New section: EN safeguarding policy, DBS checks, supervision rules.	New addition for child protection.

9. Election of committee members

- a) Chairperson- Jackie Hewitt wished to remain in post and it was RESOLVED that Jackie Hewitt would continue in this position.
- b) Vice Chairperson- Tracy Barford wished to remain in post and it was RESOLVED that Tracy Barford would continue in this position.
- c) Secretary – Vicky Smith stepped down from her position as Secretary, Nomination form had been received from Hannah Denford, and it was RESOLVED that Hannah Denford would undertake this position.
- d) Assistant Secretary – New Role Lucy Collins had resigned from her position as Assistant Secretary, the Committee have agreed to disband this position.
- e) Membership Secretary – Lisa Holt wished to remain in post, and it was RESOLVED; Lisa Holt would continue in this position.
- f) Treasurer- Jo Bradbury wished to remain in post and it was RESOLVED that Jo Bradbury would continue in this position.
- g) Fixtures Secretary- Kirsty Charlton wished to remain in post and it was RESOLVED that Kirsty Charlton would continue in this position.
- h) Umpiring Secretary- This position has become vacant. A nomination during the AGM had been put forward by Sophie Dunbar and this was seconded by Vicky Smith. All members agreed and Sophie Dunbar will proceed as Umpiring Secretary - this was RESOLVED.
- i) Press and Publicity Officer- Emily Staniforth wished to remain in post and it was RESOLVED that Emily Staniforth would continue in this position.
- j) Safeguarding Officer- Julie Klug wished to remain in post and it was RESOLVED that Julie Klug would continue in this position.
- k) Fundraising Officer- It was RESOLVED that Tracy Barford would continue in this position.
- l) Coaching Officer- Julie Klug wished to remain in post and it was RESOLVED that Julie Klug would continue in this position.
- m) Community Development Lead – A new post has been created by the Committee, for the Community Development Lead. This was advertised during August, and a nomination was received from Tracey Glover and SECONDED by Tracy Barford. It was RESOLVED that Tracey Glover would stand in post for the Community Development Lead.
- n) Youth Empowerment Lead - A new post has been created by the Committee, for the Youth Empowerment Lead. This was advertised during August and a nomination during the AGM had been put forward by Bethsy Allman and this was SECONDED by Jackie Hewitt. It was RESOLVED that Bethsy Allman would stand in post for the Youth Empowerment Lead.

10. Close

No further business was raised, and the meeting was brought to a close.

NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD
Thursday 3rd September 2026 at 7pm
Venue to be confirmed