



Netball North West

2023/24

Annual General Meeting

23rd September 2024



Agenda

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Presentation of Board Reports & Accounts**
- 4. Appointment of Auditors**
- 5. Election of Regional Management Board Members**



1. Apologies for Absence



2. Minutes of previous AGM

Proposed by: Chris McCall

Seconded by: Fiona Cummins



3. Presentation of Board Reports & Accounts



Chair's Report - Jenny Taylor



➤ **Successes**

- Standard of competition from grassroots Juniors to National Prem is growing year or year. Clubs are having a great presence in their communities about what they contribute to the netball family
- One Awards - thank you to Phil, Helen & the team who helped make this happen
- Manchester Thunder being re-awarded their Franchise Status for NSL 2.0
- Introduction of “Netball Her” Ambassador to our region

➤ **Challenges**

- Facilities - continue to be a problem
- Changes of NDO's in Lancs, Cumbria predominantly
- Legacy volunteers taking on too many roles, they need more support
- Getting people to matches (Thunder / Roses)

➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- Recruiting more volunteers to support existing RMB, County Boards and Specific TSG's
- Roll out “Netball Her” more to clubs / tournaments and netball events
- Working in partnership with Thunder, Clubs and Schools to make sure we have the right community offerings (Including Bee Netball, Para Netball) and getting people to live Netball events



Vice chair Report - *Phil Owen*



➤ **Successes**

- Delivered outstanding One Awards in Liverpool on 7th July 2024
- Obtain financial Sponsorship from Liverpool One
- Exceeded last year's unique nominations

➤ **Challenges**

- Embedding the 2-year “Working As One” Operational Plan
- Ensuring that it reflects the ‘business of the day’
- Obtaining ‘buy in’ from all board members to contribute to the plan and update actions accordingly
- How the RMB integrates with EN Staff in achieving joint objectives
- As volunteers finding sufficient time in the working week to undertake additional tasks and actions that will contribute to EN strategy of Working as one.

➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- Revisit the NW Operational Plan and ensure it reflects current priorities.
- Explore a more cost-effective option for One Awards
- How the RMB rewards and recognises the role of volunteers outside the annual One Awards.



Performance Report - Sam Longley

➤ **Successes**

- Quality of athletes in programs across all 5 Counties
- Strength of Coaches and workforce delivering in the Counties
- Successful play days and matches
- Links with Manchester Thunder

➤ **Challenges**

- Overload and demands on athletes - such a heavy competition calendar and extra unnecessary competitions being played.
- Pull off other Franchises who we don't work with - clashes, offering higher as standards are lower
- Staff, time, money, courts
- Athletes being under too much pressure from too young - increase in injuries is showing

➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- Working with Manchester Thunder in line with the new Super League contracts.
- How we retain athletes in the North West - do we need to?
- How we educate athletes, parents/carers, schools, clubs about the pressures, demands and overload being put on and how this is affectively abuse and becomes Safeguarding and Welfare concern.
- Develop the NW Performance Strategy in line with England Netball.



Communications & Marketing Report - *Richard Baxter*

➤ **Successes**

- Ongoing growth in our Social Media audiences - see attached graphs
 - SM Followers increased by 9% YOY
- Greater interaction and engagement with NW Netball Social Media audiences - building a sense of community around netball in the North West
 - Top engagement is from Photo / video content (15 % growth YOY)
- Use of Content creation software has made SM posts more engaging and eye catching
- Broader coverage of all National Competitions involving North West Clubs / Schools at both Senior & Junior level
- TOURNIFY:
 - 27 tournaments run through NW Netball Tournify Account (Regional, County, Local Leagues, Club tournaments & EN Tournaments)
 - Running Cheshire Elite, CJNL & MJNL league season through Tournify 2024/25

➤ **Challenges**

- Ongoing challenges with the efficiency of SM - legacy set up makes simplified posting impossible and therefore engagement is limited by time constraints
- Alignment with club SM remains a challenge - we need to find a way to work closer on shared interests
- Volume of SM coverage for Netball in NW means we have to work harder to drive engagement - time is the limiting factor to maintain SOV



Communications & Marketing Report – *Richard Baxter*

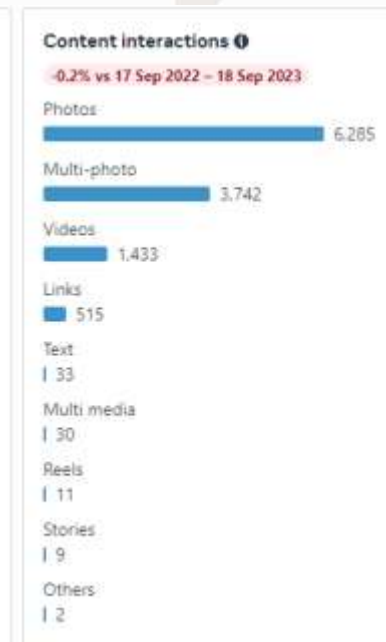
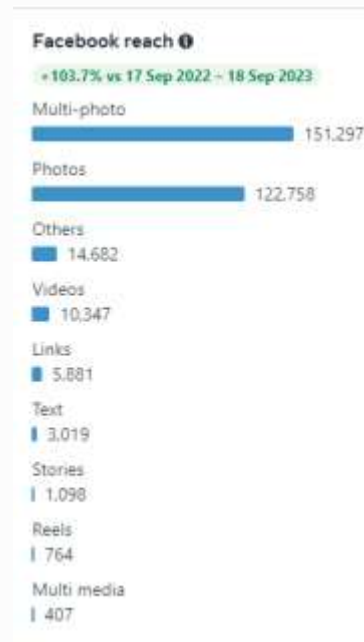
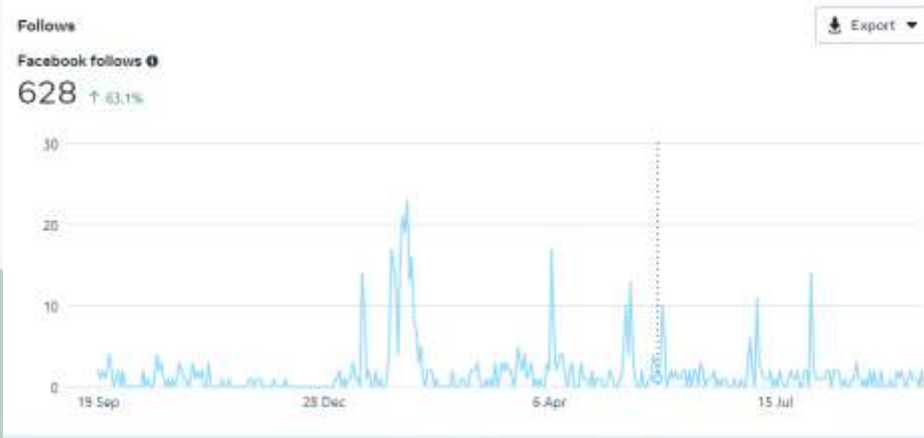
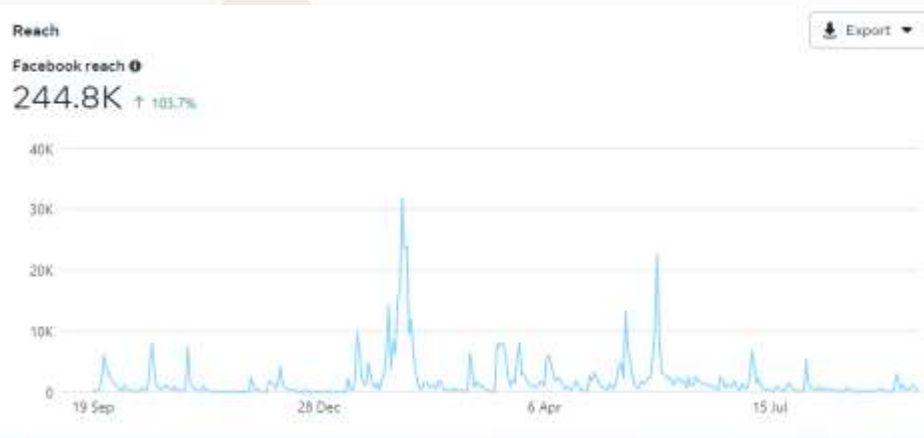
➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- Build a community and drive engagement for NETBALLHer initiative in North West through innovative Social Media and marketing
- Try to find more Efficient SM management in order to maximise time to create content
- Ongoing efforts to align with clubs and other Netball Groups
 - Focus on Senior Regional Leagues coverage to drive engagement with clubs
 - Focus on new areas for netball coverage i.e. Mixed / Men's
- Renewed focus on volunteer recruitment to support NW Region



Facebook Analytics

Note IG & X graphs unavailable





Competitions Report - Estelle Graham



➤ **Successes**

- Regional Winners 23-24:
- Deeside won Prem (unfortunately not promoted to National Prem 3)
- Champs 1 Dominoes
- Champs 2 Oldham / Macclesfield / KWP
- Oldham / Rochdale / Wyre promoted from Champs 2 playoff
- U14 Oldham Winners & KWP RU
- Nationals KWP RU & Oldham 4th
- U16 Oldham Winners & KWP RU
- Nationals Oldham RU & KWP 3rd
- Schools
- U19 Cheadle Winners (5th) & Holy Cross RU (Sir John Deanes Represented NW at Nationals - (4th)
- U16 Withington Winners (2nd) & Upton RU (8th)
- U14 Cheadle Hulme Winners (5th) & Kings Macclesfield RU (4th)



Competitions Report - Estelle Graham



➤ **Successes** Continued

- Use of Tournify @ Schools - Stonyhurst College secured for 2025
- The learning from using Tournify has now been adapted to improve its performance)
- Great working relationship with Officiating TSG to help improve umpiring standards

➤ **Challenges**

- Nationalisation of the regional regulations (including renaming of Divisions) - help open zoom meeting regards changes for 24-25
- Growth of the league (now 5 divisions with 20 new requests for entry)
- Increase in club's expectations leading to increase in 'complaints'

➤ **Areas of focus moving forward / next steps**

- Junior league - performance league in place - how do we cater for all standards?
- National standards - continue working with national team providing consistency
- Central venues - juniors is now central - can we increase use for seniors (co-working with officiating supporting growth of umpires)



Officiating Report – Chris McCall



➤ Successes

Huge congratulations to all the following umpires on passing the various officiating awards

- **9 umpires passed their B Award Practical Assessment**

Ellie Pearson, Samantha Mottershead, Heather Alexander, Kelly Drury, Jessica Taylor, Hannah Davies, Gillian Smith Alex McIntyre, Catherine Bennett

- **12 umpires passed their A/B written assessment this season, majority with an A Pass**

Ryan Cheung, Amber Tang, Leah Furlong, Michelle Jones, Tanya Burton, Jackie Kan, Niamh Hardwick, Katie Richardson, Ruth Moreno, Michelle Ainsworth, Kate Williams, Niamh Fallon

The theory revision sessions contributed to this success - many thanks to Paula Burke for her continued support in hosting these sessions.

- **B Award (TID) Umpires – 3 of our NW umpires successfully passed their A Award Practical Assessment - Netty Miles, Connor Kelly and Karen McNicholl.**

Huge congratulations to all these umpires on passing the various officiating awards. A massive thank you to the B Award Assessors for enabling this success and to Kim Burns and Sarah Watts, EN A Award Assessors from Yorkshire, who have again given our NW TID B umpires support and mentoring and also for giving some of our A Award umpires wishing to become A Assessors the opportunity to shadow them.



Officiating Report – *Chris McCall*

➤ **Challenges**

Regional and county tournaments

- It is becoming more and more difficult to source umpires for tournaments given the heavy competition calendar and clashes with club organised tournaments. Year on year the numbers of qualified umpires have increased and still we struggle to meet this demand

Umpire Expenses

- This is an ongoing challenge in the NW umpires are still requesting a fee of their own choosing. In an attempt to stop umpires negotiating higher fees, the Officiating TSG has agreed equitable umpire expenses across the region for tournaments and in particular the regional leagues. I would urge umpires to please adhere to the expenses that have been set for any league or tournament in the NW.



Officiating Report – *Chris McCall*

➤ **Areas of focus moving forward/next steps**

NW mentoring programme

- Continue developing the current trainee B umpires to complete the qualification,

B Award Assessor Workforce

- The process for becoming a B Award Assessor has been revised by EN. Increasing the workforce will be based upon “need” within the Region. An application has to be submitted to EN by the ROL for each new proposed B Award Assessor before any training/shadowing can commence.

Finally, a personal thank you to the NW County Officiating Leads for their contribution as members of the Officiating TSG, and also the endless time and effort they put in within their own counties to developing umpires.



Volunteer Lead - *Uma Ramanathan*

➤ **Successes**

- 23/24 season - culminating in the ONE awards

➤ **Challenges**

- The role
- Time / Commitment

➤ **Areas of focus moving forward / next steps**

- Regional Network of Volunteer Leads
- Regular meetings
- Socials dedicated to NW Volunteering



Treasurers report - Sarah Sutton (Fiona Cummins interim)

➤ Successes

- Ellis & Co have prepared the accounts for the seventh and final year. We are expecting the accounts imminently and a copy will be put onto the website once signed off by the Board.
- We are showing a loss for the year of c£15.5k
- Key spend related to the support for the ONE Awards - our flagship event to support volunteers across the whole of the NW. Commemorating 5 years since the World Cup took place in Liverpool.
- **Fees - Remained the same for 2023/24** (1 Sept 23 – 31 Aug 24) **& 2024/25** (1 Sept 24 – 31 Aug 25)
Over 18 =£1. Under 18 =£0.50.
- We continue to offer support to athletes via our Bursary and Hardship Fund to help those who meet the criteria. <https://www.netballnorthwest.org.uk/funding.html>
 - We have had a small number of requests this year so will continue to provide this support using the allocated funds.
- We have supported Manchester Thunder by funding the umpiring fees for their trials.

➤ Challenges

- Handover process from old treasurer has been difficult primarily due to issues with assigning the Bank account.

We would like thank Sarah Sutton for all her support in the interim period and believe we are close to reaching a conclusion.



Treasurers report - Sarah Sutton (Fiona Cummins interim)

➤ Areas of focus moving forward

- KPIs for the payment of invoices (weekly/fortnightly payment if received by cob Tuesday)
- Provide MI for RMB to track actuals expenditure v budget for each Board member's area in order to review year on year support.
- Appoint a new auditor for 24/25 season as Ellis & Co have decided not to continue. Possible solution is the auditor used by GMNCA, given their familiarity with these types of accounts.
- Create a role and responsibility schedule to ensure that handover is easier in the future.
- Ensure Bank account has sufficient signatories to avoid any future handover issues.

NW Membership Fees:

2024/25 Season (1 Sept 24 – 31 Aug 25) **Currently - Over 18 =£1.00 Under 18 =£0.50**

Potential amendment of regional fees for the (2025/26) season (1 Sept 25 – 31 Aug 26)

- **Amount to be increased will be reviewed by the RMB in line with inflation and communicated to members.**



Treasurers report - Sarah Sutton (*Fiona Cummins interim*)

Accounts Summary

***1st September 2023
to 31st August 2024***



Treasurers report - Sarah Sutton *(Fiona Cummins interim)*

To be added to the website after the AGM



4. Appointment of Auditors

New auditor for 24/25 season to be appointed.

Once appointment of new auditor has been made:

Proposed by:

Seconded by:



NETBALLHer Ambassador *Fiona Astbury*



Successes

Recognition of the importance of NETBALLHer by Regional leadership team

National Volunteer Week piece in 5th Quarter Magazine, starting conversations about NETBALLHer

Strong start to comms engagement pieces

Challenges

Need to establish a NETBALLHer Ambassador for each County to create an amplified voice across the region

No England netball funding - agree regional / county funding requirements for 24/25

Have a comms / social media plan in place for monthly focus

Build a strong relationship with NETBALLHer leadership team @England Netball

Focus Areas

Enhance awareness of the need for NETBALLHer and its value to all within the NW netball community

Prioritise, incentivize and embed the NETBALLHer learning offer

Increase the representation of women and girls from diverse backgrounds to foster belonging and inclusivity

NETBALLHer

<https://netballher.co.uk/>



Regional report

Produced by Jill Sapsford - North West Partnership & Delivery Manager

National and Regional Updates – 2023 /24

National ONE Awards

The National ONE awards in 2023 saw 2 of our regional winners Alice Turner and Nichola Lawless win at the National event for their categories Unsung Hero and Adult Coach.

This year we had a record number of ONE award nominations (over 230) we held successful event which took place on 7th July in Liverpool to commemorate 5 years since the World cup. Our regional winners have been invited to attend the National ONE awards taking place on 19th October at the Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham.

Development Department Staff Update

Katy Ryan has returned from maternity leave to resume her role as Director of Development. Imogen Greatbatch will remain as Interim Deputy Development Director providing support for the People function within the department as Katy transitions back into the business. Kelly will be staying with EN as Executive Lead for NETBALLHer and will also be supporting with the embedding of our Working as One initiative locally.

Vitality Netball Horizon Series

EN announce a brand new four-year international series called the Vitality Netball Horizon Series. This series will see the Vitality Roses play close-rivals Jamaica every year for the next four years, with two home matches to be played in England and two away matches played in Jamaica each year. Inaugural matches will take place on 16 and 17 November at Manchester's AO Arena.

Lancashire NDO awarded Preston City Council Funding

The project involves the delivery of 2 new England Netball programmes delivered in a local and accessible area of Preston for up to 12 weeks, engaging local citizens from across the city with a focus on females age 16+ and female health awareness linked to England Netball's recent NETBALLHer initiative. Stephanie Hastwell was successful, and the programme is set to start delivery in January.

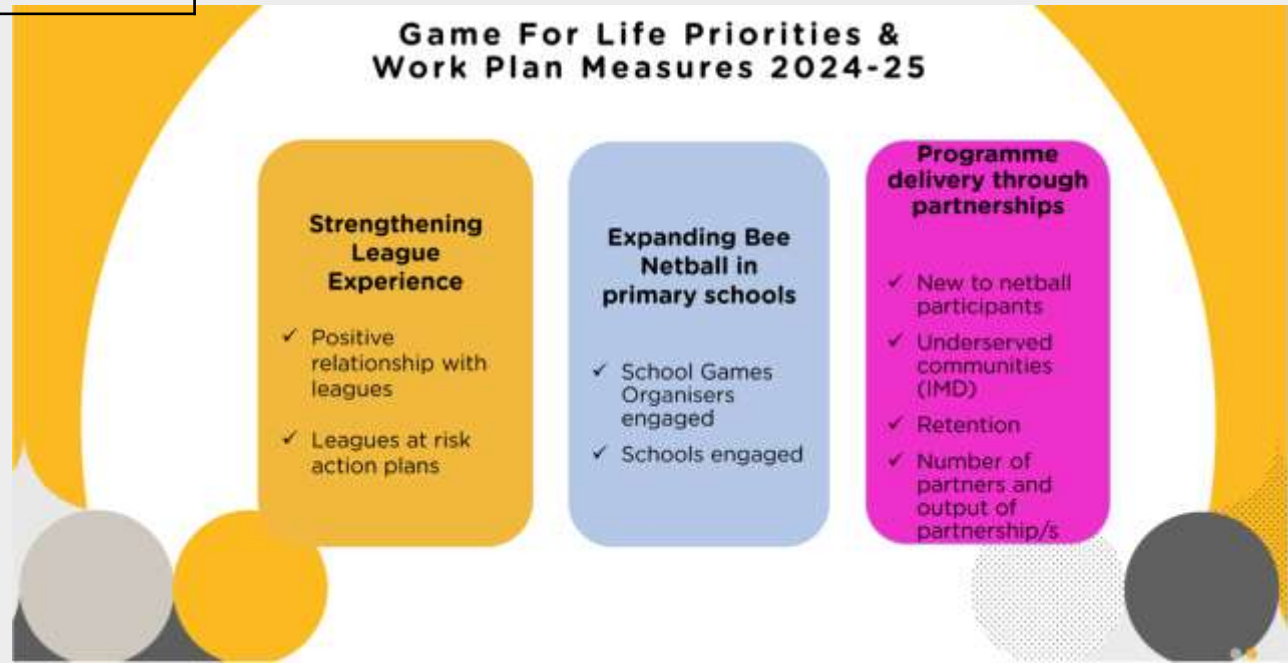
National updates - 2023 /24

○ Regional KPI's - Programmes and Participation

Below shows the annual KPI's for the Regional Development Team

During the 23-24 season (September 2023 - August 2024) the regional team has re-engaged 225 programmes which resulted in a total of 6278 participants. The table below shows the breakdown of participants engaged, per programme type and the total number of programmes during this season, please note however usual EN reporting for the regional team is financial year April to March.

Programme	No of programmes	No of participants
Back to Netball	99	2746
Walking Netball	67	1350
Netball Now	39	1063
NYC's	7	159
ParaNetball	7	147





North West Region/County Membership Data

22/23 season v 23/24 season

North West (NW) membership breakdown

22/23 figures are from 1/9-31/8/23. Date of 23/24 figures - 1.8.24

	Cheshire			Cumbria			Gtr. Man			Lancashire			Merseyside			NW			
	22/23	22/23 v 23/24	23/24	22/23	22/23 v 23/24	23/24	22/23	22/23 v 23/24	23/24	22/23	22/23 v 23/24	23/24	22/23	22/23 v 23/24	23/24	22/23	22/23 v 23/24	23/24	
Members O18	1243	106.28%	1321	449	97.10%	436	1358	108.03%	1467	827	100.24%	829	992	103.13%	1023	4755	104.35%	4962	Members O18
Members U11	1746	92.67%	1618	75	36.00%	27	911	92.43%	842	727	112.24%	816	420	128.57%	540	3702	99.76%	3693	Members U11
Members U14	1152	100.78%	1161	138	105.80%	146	803	102.12%	820	470	129.15%	607	403	101.99%	411	2823	107.33%	3030	Members U14
Members U18	613	111.09%	681	115	93.04%	107	575	113.39%	652	273	113.55%	310	242	111.98%	271	1724	112.41%	1938	Members U18
Total	4755	100.55%	4781	777	92.15%	716	3647	103.67%	3781	2297	111.54%	2562	2057	109.14%	2245	13005	104.75%	13623	Total

Number of 24/25 members on ENgage = **11148** **

**as of 23/9/24 compared to 10721 on 25/9/23

Coaching and Officiating courses – 2023 /24

Courses are now being organised and ran centrally by Learning & Development (L&D) rather than by the region.

EN Coaching courses

- Level 1's are now virtual.
- Level 2's blended* **All courses are currently fully booked**
- Walking Netball Host Training courses are Face to Face.

Next WNHT course in the NW is 19th October '24 Penwortham, Priory Acad. Preston.

Since 1st September 2023 here are the number of newly qualified coaches* in the NW:

Level 1 = 84**

Level 2 = 44**

Officiating courses

- Into officiating & C award are now being held virtually and being ran centrally (L&D) rather than by the region.
- B award umpire courses - blended*.

Since 1st September 2023 here are the number of newly qualified umpires in the NW**:

Into officiating = 107**

C Award = 48**

B Award = 9**

Contact L&D:

Coaching (courses) Officiating and CPD – qualifications@englandnetball.co.uk

If you can't find a course:
<https://engage.englandnetball.co.uk/coursefinder>,
please register your interest so that L&D can see where courses are needed in the region / county.

Using the EOI form:

EOI – Link to the Expression of interest form for courses.



*Blended = Virtual session(s) and Face to Face practical session.

** Info taken from Engage Education management of people whose account on Engage is linked to the NW 1/9/23 – 1/9/24



North West – Sept 2024

Partnership & Delivery Manager - Jill Sapsford

Regional Officer- Helen Dulson

Team Leader – Louise Moss

Netball Development Officers

Cumbria – Ashley Taylor (leaving) **Currently Recruiting**

Lancashire – Steph Hastwell (going on Mat leave) **Currently recruiting**

Gtr Manchester – Abbey Barry

Merseyside – Louise Moss

Cheshire- Georgia Williams

Netball Development Community Coaches

Gtr Manchester – Danielle Colebourne

Merseyside – Jewel Uchegbu

The region and counties saw some staffing changes during 23/24

- **Lancashire NDO** - Steph Hastwell transitioned into NDO role following Eliza Morgan leaving.
- **Cheshire NDO** - Georgia Williams started as Cheshire NDO following Nichola Foulkes leaving.
- **Team Leader** - Louise Moss took over Team Lead role in Oct 2023 from Eliza Morgan.



5. Election of Regional Board Members

Re-election

Vice Chair:

Phil Owen

Competition:

Estelle Graham

Performance:

Sam Longley

Officiating:

Chris McCall

Volunteer:

Uma Ramanathan

Proposed by: Janet Murray

Seconded by: Claire Jones

Finance:

Fiona Cummins (Sarah Sutton)

Proposed by: Janet Murray

Seconded by: Chris McCall



And finally, a

BIG!

THANK YOU!!....