



# Netball North West

## 2024/25

### Annual General Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> September 2025



# 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: [Phil Thomas](#)

Seconded by: [Phil Owen](#)



# **3. Presentation of Board Reports & Accounts**



# Chair's Report - *Jenny Taylor*



## ➤ **Successes**

- First ever NSL Game in Liverpool at the M&S Arena
- Growing partnership with Thunder (co-hosted an Activation Day in Liverpool ahead of the NSL game)
- Umpire Mentor programme in Merseyside
- NW ONE Awards continues to be one of the most engaging across the country

## ➤ **Challenges**

- Clashes within competition calendar - some clubs are in every level of competition which can create strain on athletes. Need to look at opportunities for “up and coming” clubs to get more exposure to the next level of competition
- Filling gaps within our board
- Reviewing & evolving our bursary schemes to make sure they are suited to our community
- EN staff changes and priorities for the year ahead

## ➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- Recruiting more volunteers to support existing RMB, County Boards and Specific TSG's
- Providing the “next level” of competition for junior athletes not currently exposed
- Training & Retaining umpires at all levels



# Vice chair Report - *Phil Owen*



## ➤ **Successes**

- Delivered outstanding One Awards on 12th July 2025. 150 of the netball family enjoyed an excellent evening of celebrating all things great about Netball NW.
- Over 100 separate nominations were received, with the 10 regional winners coming from: Merseyside (x4), Gtr Manchester (x3) Cheshire (x2) Cumbria (x1)
- In 2024, Four of our regional winners went on to win at the National ONE awards. Three of those winners presented their category win at this year's awards.
- Wish all winners the best of luck at the National ONE Awards in October.

## ➤ **Challenges**

- Working as One Document
- Recruitment of Volunteers to the RMB
- One Award planning

## ➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- One Awards 2026 to coincide with EN 100 years centenary
- To ensure One Awards is cost effective
- To align RMB Priorities with those of EN NW Staff



# Performance Report - *Sam Longley*

## ➤ **Successes**

- High quality of athletes across the County programmes in the region
- Strong quality of delivery: coaching, venues, and resources
- Positive impact of County Play Days
- Productive relationship with Manchester Thunder

## ➤ **Challenges**

- Overload and increasing demands on athletes
- Conflicting information and differing views regarding the Performance Programme
- Competition from wider franchises offering more opportunities, which can create excessive demands on athletes
- Limited time and availability for County competitions
- Ongoing changes in direction from England Netball

## ➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- Supporting athletes, clubs, and parents to understand the programme structure, ensuring athletes train and compete at the right level and age, with rest days to avoid overload
- Developing more coaches to sustain and grow the programmes
- Retaining athletes within the North West pathway
- Continuing to strengthen collaboration with Manchester Thunder
- Increasing the number of individuals trained in Talent Identification



# Competitions Report - *Estelle Graham*



## ➤ **Successes 2024**

- 62 number of teams played in the Senior Regional League with new teams joining our new Div 5 including play offs for Div 1-2
- **Winners 2024**
  - Div 1 Deeside (unsuccessful at National Prem Playoffs)
  - Div 2 Kingsway Power
  - Div 3 Kingsway Power
  - Div 4 Kingsway Power
  - Div 5 Oldside
- **Pilot** Senior Friendly league with 11 teams for those not successful in gaining a spot in Div 5 (due to popular demand)
- **Congrats** to NW teams – Oldham National Prem 1 Winners & Blackpool National Prem 3 Winners
  - (Div 1 Bury 7th; Div 2 Trafford 3rd; Div 2 Tameside 7th)
- **Congrats** to Manchester Thunder U15 National Academies Tournament Champions
- Delivered regional qualifying tournament for **U14 & U16 national clubs**
- **Successfully** delivered a league at central venues with final playoffs – national qualifiers
  - U14 Oldham Winners; KWP Runners up
  - U16 KWP Runners up; Bramhall 3rd
- **Successfully** delivered regional round of the national schools hosted by Lancashire.

### National qualifiers

- U14 Queens Chester & Scarisbrick Hall who both came 3rd in their groups at finals
- U16 Withington Girls & Fallibroome with Fallibroome finishing 3rd in country
- U19 Sir John Deans & Cheadle Hulme finishing 5th & 6th in their groups



# Competitions Report - *Estelle Graham*



## ➤ **Challenges**

- Venues – central venues are great for the junior league but a challenge for many clubs
- Regional expansion – accommodating expanding clubs as well as new clubs and meeting everyone's expectations
- Commercial leagues taking resources – venues and umpires

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

- Junior league – performance league in place but how do we cater for all standards?  
Friendly league – venues / umpires – can we work with other providers of competition such as Thunder?
- 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**

**Congratulations to the following umpires on passing the various officiating awards:**

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

- ❖ Kate Henderson and Mollie Parker – Cheshire
- ❖ Helen Johnson and Janet Sinclair – Gtr Manchester
- ❖ Jay Power and Carlie Pimlott – Merseyside

- **7 umpires passed their A/B written assessment**

- ❖ Scarlett Jobent – Cheshire
- ❖ Kiara Bray - Lancashire
- ❖ Urmila Mistry, Jennifer Carline, Steph Hughes – Gtr Manchester
- ❖ Sarah Dodd, Hannah Potter – Merseyside.

***Many thanks to Paula Burke for her continued support preparing the umpires for this assessment.***

***Thank you to the regional B award assessors:***

***Janet Murray, Ann Burt-Williams, Pauline Samson, Emma Pike & Phil Owen.***

- Phil Owen completed his training and is now a qualified B Award Assessor.
- Ann Burt-Williams was successful in accessing the A Award Assessor training programme and is currently partway through the training process



# Officiating Report – *Chris McCall*

## ➤ Challenges

### 2024 Rules update

- It took time for some umpires to get to grips with the revised rules, particularly game management. This area has now improved and will be the focus of the forthcoming rules forum.

### Mentoring Programme

- The programme hasn't been as successful during 2024/25 as in the past two years, very little paperwork was completed, and some mentees did not make contact with their allocated mentor. However, the programme will continue to support umpires on the B Award pathway and those progressing onto the A Award.

### Umpire Availability

- Due to the overload of netball activity, clashing of leagues, tournament, and in particular our umpires drifting towards social/independent leagues, is impacting on the availability of umpires despite the year-on-year increase in numbers.

**Many thanks to those mentors who continue to give their support**

*Just a reminder that the mentee(umpire) participating in the programme is responsible for their own development and must take the initiative for ensuring the paperwork is completed and submitted in liaison with their mentor.*



# Officiating Report – *Chris McCall*

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

- Our focus for the 2025/26 season is to continue to develop and increase the number of B Award umpires in the region, with particular focus on supporting those qualified B Awards who have expressed a desire to progress further. For this to succeed we will require more of our A Award umpires to support/mentor them.

***Please contact me if you are able to offer your support, the more mentors we have the less onerous the task becomes.***

***As always, thank you to the County Officiating Leads for their continued contribution as members of the Regional Officiating TSG, and the endless time and effort they put in within their own counties in developing umpires at the start of their officiating journey.***



# Treasurers report - *Fiona Cummins*

## ➤ **Successes**

- Income is growing. Region is sustainable bar one off expenses (note we are a NFP and therefore annual profitability should be limited).
- Draft position in 2025 indicates a small loss of c £3k attributable to the NW Region commitment to the One Awards celebrating our volunteers.

## ➤ **Challenges**

- Bank account transfer - which has now been resolved, and Treasurer has access.
- Bursary - not awarded. Proposed new process has been included for discussion and ratification at AGM
- Visibility on spend for individual leads
- 2024 accounts overstated income by £3795

## ➤ **Areas of focus moving forward**

- Remediation process for 2024 bursaries and new go forward model.
- Improve MI for area leads (budget and I&E analysis)
- NFP status - identify projects for 2025/6 and beyond that invests the Region's cash balances sensibly and with a view to maintaining sustainability.
- Identifying a new auditor
- Produce guidance notes for expense claims.



# Treasurers report - Fiona Cummins

## ➤ Summary of year ending 31/08/2024 accounts

- Revenue increase by 12% from membership
- Significant income received from Ticket Sales (ONE Awards)
- However, material cost increase due to cost associated with ONE Awards. Overall deficit of £7337 which was covered by NW Region as their contribution to the celebrating our Volunteers.
- Overall loss of -£2163 for the year \* improving from a deficit in 2023 of £7,869.

*\*2024 accounts overstated £3795- which I am trying to rectify with previous accountants*

## ➤ Draft accounts for year ending 31/08/2025

- Income from affiliations has fallen
- Scaled back One Awards in comparison to 2024
- Projected deficit of c£3k
- Cash balances remain healthy



# Regional report

**Produced by Jill Sapsford – North West Partnership & Delivery Manager**



# National Updates

## **National ONE Awards**

- The National ONE awards in 2024 saw 4 of our regional winners Jenny Taylor, Leanne Hobin, Ellie Taylor and Penketh Panthers win at the National event for their categories Outstanding contribution, Pioneer, Young Volunteer and Club of the Year.
- This year we held successful event which took place on 12<sup>th</sup> July in Standish. Our regional winners have been invited to attend the National ONE awards taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> October at the Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham.

## **England Netball AGM**

- The 2025 AGM was held on 13 September, notices were sent to all member regions, counties, clubs, leagues, and schools. The AGM marked the end of Joan Mills' presidency, recognising her outstanding contribution.
- Eboni Usoro-Brown was elected as the New President, a name which I'm sure will be well known to you all. Eboni delivered an inspiring speech about the potential of our sport and how she will serve the netball family in the year ahead.

## **NSL Review**

- Currently gathering feedback from key stakeholders involved in the NSL2.0 to review and shape community development plans moving forward.



# Regional Highlights

## Expanding Access:

- MMNL launched in Feb 2025 after three Liverpool clubs identified demand for more adult netball beyond the existing weekend league. Together, with the local NDO clubs established the league. The first season saw 24 teams; this season has grown to 47, many converted from Powerplay. MMNL has also delivered two tournaments, raising funds for umpire development.
- The Greater Manchester Community Netball League started as an IheartLeague in May 2023 with six teams formed from Back to Netball programmes. Over the past two years, this has grown to 13 teams, with 10 competing in the most recent Spring/Summer season. In June 2025, a league committee was set up, and the league became an affiliated England Netball league. Thanks to the support of the committee and team captains, 78 players have already joined England Netball for the first time, with another 8 in the process of completing registration.

## Developing Coaches:

- NW representation on all 3 England Netball Coaching Technical and Advisory Panels. These support the delivery of the Coaching Strategy by helping connect with our audiences, listening to those delivering netball, and working together to drive change for a world-leading future.
- Lancashire Netball Development Officer's successfully secured £3,600 in grant funding from Preston City Council to support a 12-week project. Through this funding, workforce development was strengthened with four Level 1 coaches and Level 2 coach gaining their qualifications, alongside two new Walking Netball hosts to further expand participation opportunities.
- Successful funding from Penrith Town Council for training 3 new Into Umpires.

## Community Impact:

- With funding from Sport England's Movement Fund and support from Active Cheshire, EN partnered with Cheshire charities Tomorrow's Women and Her-Place to deliver tailored programmes for women aged 16+. An 8-week WN programme combined with expert-led NETBALLHer seminars on topics of nutrition, menopause, and injury prevention. The programme with Tomorrow's Women ran May–July 2025, engaging 100% new participants to netball, with plans to repeat quarterly. Sessions with Her-Place have been postponed to October–November 2025.

## Youth Engagement:

- In Wirral, 16 schools signed a netball pledge, with a further 23 schools looking to join the network. Ten school leaders attended a Bee Netball CPD session, supporting six teams in a pilot league and 10 teams in a tournament, which engaged 60 and 80 children respectively. Higher Bebington ran a whole-school PE initiative, introducing Bee netball to over 370 pupils, while two scholarships were awarded by Jess Fowler.



# Regional KPI's - Programmes and Participation

Below shows the annual KPI's for the Regional Development Team - First table is Sept 24 – Aug 25, Second table is April 24 – March 25

Programme	No. of Participants
Back to Netball	1015
Walking Netball	652
Netball Now	344
NYC's	125
ParaNetball	132

April 2024 – March 2025 North West KPI Achievements	
New To Netball	3327
Retention (attended more than one session)	77%
IMD (1-3)	29%
Income	£46,625
Surplus	£18,264



# Staff Update

England Netball have undergone a consultation process over the past 12 months. Following a review of the feedback submitted, the below proposals have been accepted.

- Move from five to eight Partnership and Delivery Managers, with one PDM\* covering the North East and Yorkshire.
- The Netball Development Community Coach roles will sadly be removed from the structure.

## Current NW team

Partnership & Delivery Manager North (PDM):

Jill Sapsford

Merseyside NDO & Team Leader:

Louise Moss

Cheshire NDO:

Geogia Williams

Cumbria NDO:

Victoria Eames

Greater Manchester NDO:

Danielle Colebourne

Lancashire NDO:

Stephanie Hastwell

Regional Officer:

Helen Dulson

**From October** - *\*Jill is moving to be the PDM covering NE and Y*

NW Partnership & Delivery Manage (PDM):

Rachael Lomax

Cumbria NDO:

Hilary Clarke



# North West Region/County Membership Data

## 23/24 season v 24/25 season

### North West (NW) 24-25 membership breakdown

Date of 24/25 figures - 31.8.25

22/23 + 23/24 figures are from 1/9-31/8.

	NW			
	22/23	23/24	23/24 v 24/25	24/25
Members O18	4755	<b>4963</b>	97.84%	<b>4856</b>
Members U11	3702	<b>3695</b>	104.60%	<b>3865</b>
Members U14	2823	<b>3029</b>	102.51%	<b>3105</b>
Members U18	1924	<b>1938</b>	103.87%	<b>2013</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13005</b>	<b>13625</b>	101.57%	<b>13839</b>

### Counties 24/25 membership breakdown

Date of 24/25 figures - 31.8.25

22/23 + 23/24 figures are from 1/9-31/8.

	Cheshire				Cumbria				Gtr. Man				
	22/23	23/24	23/24 v 24/25	24/25	22/23	23/24	23/24 v 24/25	24/25	22/23	23/24	23/24 v 24/25	24/25	
Members O18	1243	<b>1321</b>	94.02%	<b>1242</b>	449	<b>436</b>	90.14%	<b>393</b>	1358	<b>1467</b>	99.18%	<b>1455</b>	Members O18
Members U11	1746	<b>1618</b>	99.38%	<b>1608</b>	75	<b>27</b>	85.19%	<b>23</b>	911	<b>842</b>	118.17%	<b>995</b>	Members U11
Members U14	1152	<b>1161</b>	104.22%	<b>1210</b>	138	<b>146</b>	71.92%	<b>105</b>	803	<b>820</b>	108.78%	<b>892</b>	Members U14
Members U18	613	<b>681</b>	96.48%	<b>657</b>	115	<b>107</b>	113.08%	<b>121</b>	575	<b>652</b>	113.80%	<b>742</b>	Members U18
<b>Total</b>	<b>4755</b>	<b>4781</b>	98.66%	<b>4717</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>716</b>	89.66%	<b>642</b>	<b>3647</b>	<b>3781</b>	108.01%	<b>4084</b>	<b>Total</b>

	Lancashire				Merseyside			
	22/23	23/24	23/24 v 24/25	24/25	22/23	23/24	23/24 v 24/25	24/25
Members O18	827	<b>829</b>	95.30%	<b>790</b>	892	<b>1023</b>	106.06%	<b>1085</b>
Members U11	727	<b>816</b>	97.92%	<b>799</b>	420	<b>540</b>	109.07%	<b>589</b>
Members U14	470	<b>607</b>	94.89%	<b>576</b>	403	<b>411</b>	106.57%	<b>438</b>
Members U18	273	<b>310</b>	102.58%	<b>318</b>	242	<b>271</b>	93.73%	<b>254</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2297</b>	<b>2562</b>	96.92%	<b>2483</b>	<b>2057</b>	<b>2245</b>	105.39%	<b>2366</b>

**Number of 25/26 NW members on Engage = 11487 \*\***

\*\*as of 22/9/25 compared to 11148 on 23/9/24



# Coaching and Officiating Courses

## EN Coaching courses

**Level 1 courses** are now being held virtually, and **Level 2 courses** are blended (*1 weekend face to face*) being ran centrally (L&D) rather than by the region

*\*Since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025,*

Here are the number of newly qualified coaches in the NW\*:

Level 1 = 118  
Level 2 = 87

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, here are the number of newly qualified umpires in the NW\*:*

Into officiating =	90
C Award =	32
B Award =	6

*\*Figures taken from the Education management section on Engage and includes people who are linked to the North-West*

### If you can't find a course:

Please register your interest via an **Expression of Interest form (EOI)** so that L&D can see where courses are needed in the region / county. As this insight is used to plan courses nationally.

#### **EOI forms for each course and can be :**

[Expression of Interest – Level 1 Coaching Courses](#)

[Expression of Interest – Level 2 Coaching Courses](#)

[Expression of Interest – INTO Courses](#)

[Expression of Interest – C Award Courses](#)

[Expression of Interest – B Award Courses](#)

#### **Learning & Development (L&D) Contact:**

For general enquiries for Coaching (courses)  
Officiating and CPD  
[qualifications@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:qualifications@englandnetball.co.uk)

#### **For more specific enquiries use:**

[into@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:into@englandnetball.co.uk);  
[caward@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:caward@englandnetball.co.uk);  
[levelone@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:levelone@englandnetball.co.uk);  
[leveltwo@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:leveltwo@englandnetball.co.uk).



# AO arena – 19.11.25



## Volunteers needed for Courtside Crew at the AO arena

Would you like to be a part of the “courtside crew” on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at the AO Arena in Manchester?

All volunteers need to be aged 18 and over.

Date	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November
Venue	AO Arena, Manchester
Arrival Time	4.30pm
Finish Time	9.30pm

**There is a NEW ZEALAND AND HORIZON SERIES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM to complete if you have already registered to volunteer with EN.**

*For the EOI form or would like to know how to register to volunteer at events.*

*You can email [northwest@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:northwest@englandnetball.co.uk)*

***Or contact Jo Randall - Competition and Events Support Lead directly***

***[Jo.Randall@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:Jo.Randall@englandnetball.co.uk)***



## 4. Appointment of Auditors

*New auditor for 24/25 season to be appointed.*

Will be added to the website once appointment of new auditor has been made:

Proposed by:

Seconded by:



# 5. Election of Regional Board Members

## Re-election

Chair:

*Jenny Taylor*

Proposed by:

*Phil Owen*

Seconded by:

*Phil Thomas*

## Vacant Roles

Coaching lead:

*Caswell Palmer*

To be confirmed

Comms & Marketing Lead:

*Hannah Williams*

Proposed by:

*Chris McCall*

Seconded by:

*Estelle Graham*

Safeguarding / Wellbeing Lead: *Laura Green*

Proposed by:

*Phil Thomas*

Seconded by:

*Debbie Hallas*

Volunteer:

n/a

## Tribute for Richard

NW One Awards 12th July 2025

Before we start the Awards tonight, Jen and I would like to pay tribute to Richard Baxter who very sadly and cruelly, passed away a little over 2 weeks ago, following a very short battle with pancreatic cancer.

Richard leaves behind a legacy of laughter, loyalty and unwavering love especially for his wife Vicki and his 2 daughters Madi and Lottie. Richard was also an essential part of the NW Regional Management Board; if you read a social media post over the last couple of years regarding netball in the NW, then it was probably designed, developed and delivered by Richard.

He was passionate about all things netball, especially when they involved his girls. Madi who is studying at Nottingham Uni played at Macclesfield, Tameside and Cheshire and is currently at Nottingham Forest, and Lottie plays at KWP and Manchester Thunder. But Richard wasn't just a Dad in the stands... he was a scorer, commentator, sponsor, organiser and all-round cheerleader. His support was boundless, and his presence was part of the fabric of the netball community.

It's testament to the values and work ethic that Richard imparted in his daughters, that in 2022 Madi won the One Award for Young Volunteer of the year. He was so very proud!

Richard was the kind of person you never forgot once you met him. He was charming, gregarious if not a little cheeky at times, but he certainly made the world a better place, and he will be sadly missed by us all.



A gentle soul, so kind and true,  
A dad whose love just always grew.  
He cheered the loudest from the side,  
With endless heart and endless pride.

Two daughters were his world, his light,  
He showed up early, stayed till night  
Through rain or shine, he'd stand so tall,  
The quiet hero of netball.

He gave them lifts, support and advice,  
Challenging them to reach new heights  
With every pass and every goal  
He'd love them more, the kindest soul.

His laugh still echoes in the breeze,  
His care lives on in memories.  
Though now he's gone, we feel him near,  
In every win, in every cheer.

So here's to Richard, strong and fair,  
A father's love beyond compare.  
Forever missed, forever dear,  
His legacy is always near.





And finally, a

**BIG!**

**THANK YOU!!....**