**OPA AGM MEETING**

**SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2018 @ 4.30PM – REDBRIDGE**

**ATTENDEES: BISI OWOLABI (BO) (CHAIR)**

**SONIA ADAMS (SO) (VICE CHAIR)**

**COLETTE CORBIN (CC) (SECRETARY)**

**AMANDA NEWTON (AN)**

**BRENDA BLANC (BB) (COACH/UMP SEC)**

**ROXANNE SAVOURY (RS) (UMPIRING SEC)**

**RASLIN FREEMAN (RF) (TOURNAMENT ORG)**

**RASHEEL BHOPLA (REB) (PUBLICITY SEC)**

**RASHMI BHOPLA (RMB (ASST TREASURER)**

**LOUISE FRANCIS (LF) (SOCIAL SECRETARY)**

**LAURA TAYLOR-BURGE (LTB) (CLUB CAPTAIN)**

**SHARON BOYCE (SS) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**SUE COLLINS (SC) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**STACEY COLLINS (SC) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**VERENA MITSCHELEN VM) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**WENDY (DORVIS) (WD) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**STEPH TURNER (ST) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**KAREN TURNER (KT) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**SKYE LYNCH (SL) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**CHELSY HONEYGHAN (CH) (CLUB MEMBER)**

**APOLOGIES: JENNY McLEOD**

**RENAE CORBIN**

**JANET CAMPBELL**

**DELPHINA THOMAS**

**V J DAVIDSON**

**HANNAH GILLOT**

1. **WELCOME**

BO welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged the apologies.

1. **REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS**

*AP1* – REB advised that she had not received any article ideas for the England Netball Magazine. It was acknowledged that what she is doing with the social media stuff is sufficient.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

BO pointed out that we have regularly struggled with putting 2 teams out this season so the question is how many teams we are going to enter next season because if we enter the 3 teams again, we will be faced with the same situation. CC suggested provisionally entering the 3 teams and then possibly reducing the number of teams at the point when the second form and the payment need to be sent in. A discussion ensued and BO pointed out that she is struggling to understand what the ethos of the Club is because it is not the same as it was before. BO stressed that if we want to go out and have fun then we can put the 3 teams in but in order for us to progress, we’d need to put decent teams out. RS raised her concerns that whilst 2 teams may be beneficial, she can envisage situations such as players saying they are not going to come because there is enough players available for the game, everyone turning up for a game and some being upset that they didn’t get to play or the captain having to keep swapping players in and out during a game to accommodate everyone and these issues alone will lead to problems. After further discussion, it was agreed that CC will enter the 3 teams and when the actual numbers are known a final decision will be made.

BO advised that there will be 2 dates in June – 5th and 19th – for training and the trials will be held on 3rd, 10th and 17th July, which will include the B2N players. Anyone joining the Club after the trials will be assessed and placed in a team.

BO pointed out that at present all emails that need to be issued are sent to her and she sends out one email to the Club. It was suggested that a Club WhatsApp group be created to include the B2N players.

BO advised that the fees for the 2018/19 season will remain at £230 and will not increase. There is a good bank balance and the funding and the Les Jones’ tournament supports this.

1. **CHAIR’S REPORT**

Another season has come to an end for us, which feels like it’s gone by really fast.This season, for me in particular, has felt very different to the other seasons especially as this was my first full season as Chair with Sonia in support as Vice. I’ve also got more involved with coaching the weekly sessions, providing great insight for me into where we are as a club.

The season started off with the Les Jones’ Tournament at Barking Abbey School, which was another well organised and exciting warm up of netball ahead of the League for local clubs; many thanks to Raslin for leading the brigade and thanks to the numerous other volunteers in support. This was followed by the start of the Essex Met League where we entered 3 teams. We were unable to conduct trials this season due to the low uptake of players joining the Club and players’ ability to commit to playing in the League. Therefore, we kept the teams the same as the 16/17 season. I believe that this was a sensible solution. We also kept the affiliation fee the same this season, even though England Netball increased the fee by £10; the club absolved this and didn’t charge members the extra. We plan to forgive this fee again and keep the membership fee the same.

It is important that we all reflect as a Club on how challenging it has been this season with simply not having enough players at training and players to fulfil the match obligations. The lack of full members attending training and being available to play matches has had a negative impact on our experience this season. I know for me as one of the coaches, it’s been frustrating not being able to work with a set squad. With all that said, the players that have attended training have given it 100% every week. In addition, and more positively, we have an increasing Back2Netball cohort of players as this section of our Club continues to grow from strength to strength.

Christmas was a great event once again, thanks to the Social Team. We hooted and hollered throughout the evening, it was truly a fun evening. For those that were unable to attend, I do hope we can encourage you to join in next season.

The 2018/19 season will be one of our most challenging I believe as we will inevitably lose and perhaps gain players. As a group we really need to think hard and be honest with ourselves on how we want to move forward given the number of players we’re likely to have. How many teams is it viable for us to enter into the League? I’d also like to encourage some of our Back2Netball players to consider playing more competitively in the league.

The targets and initiatives for the 2018/19 season that I will be focusing on include the continuation of offering Back2Netball sessions mixed with the Club training sessions. I also want to continue developing our Green/White team to ensure they have enough players and we can enjoy our netball. For true sustainability, an emphasis on juniors is a key priority; I welcome suggestions from members in support of this; any ideas you have, please let me know.

I have already begun work with the London Borough of Waltham Forest to meet this aim. They have approached OPA to support them in developing junior netball in the Borough; this may sound counterintuitive to develop juniors in another Borough, however at this stage, I’m happy to accept support from whoever is able to provide it. Before admitting defeat; I’m willing to try everything within my control. Moreover, having a junior section delivered separately to the adults’ session isn’t particularly ground-breaking or unique with many Clubs training their juniors at different session to the adults.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their continued efforts and support for OPA NC. If you’re able to lend a hand to the club, please speak up and let us know.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART.

1. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

We started the season with a very healthy balance of £8,745.27 and as at 23.04.18, the balance remains around £8,967.06. However we do still need to deduct expenses for remaining coaching fees, Lister School hire and Satellite school sessions.

Again, massive thanks go to Bisi for continuing to source funding from London Sport for OPA to provide sessions to school girls in the community at Lister school and most recently in Waltham Forest as well as including adults with disabilities. The hope is that the Club can retain the girls to join OPA junior sessions which will be vital for the Club to grow in the future.

A big thank you goes to the Ras and the team that helped to organise the Les Jones Memorial Tournament hosted by OPA for the third year running last September. Another enjoyable day for all and a lovely way to keep Les’ name alive adding £725 to our fundraising.

Thank you to all Club members that have contributed towards the success of keeping the Club running financially by transferring your Club fees directly into the bank account once again this year. This is proving to make life and record keeping a lot easier, so thank you.

We still have £550.00 owing from club members for their fees (the individuals have been notified). Please arrange to clear this before the end of the season. Other Club members are paying their way to contribute to Club so it is not fair on others when fees are left outstanding. Members with outstanding fees will not be permitted to play in rallies; tournaments or additional Leagues until full payments are received.

Just a note to the Club coaches – the current arrangement of whoever is leading the session if you could continue to collect the training fees and hand to Rashmi at the end who will then email to finance to record the details. ALL coaches will be included in the email chain for continuity.

We would like to discourage advance/missing payments where possible on training nights so please ensure you have the correct cash to pay for your session where applicable.

Thank you to all!

1. **OFFICERS’ REPORTS**

**Secretary**

Get write up from Colette

**Umpiring**

Myself and Rox worked hard this year finding umpires. We found most of the umpires with no problem except for some. We had stressed last year that the Captain, if not delegated out to another player in that team, should be contacting the umpire allocated for that match on the Tuesday of that week so that if there was any problems it would give Rox and myself a chance to find another umpire, or if there was no umpire on the list we gave you, we can try again to find one. This also includes umpires who had been found a week before the game.

What we found was that if there was a problem with the umpires, we were not being notified until the Friday or the Saturday, which doesn’t give us much time to find one. Although we have been lucky, we have had a few games in which umpires were booked and had double booked themselves leaving us not being able to play the game or if played, not getting our full points for winning. The other issue was a pre-booked umpire, after having found she was unable to do the game, finding us another umpire who was not eligible to umpire in our League. In future if this happens again, myself and Rox should be informed so we can check with Jane to confirm the umpire’s eligibility. Also, if you do turn up and there is a problem with the umpire, the umpires not umpiring normally congregate in the Jean Brown building so we need to react and go and check as standing around will not bring us an umpire. Next season we will not be using Chantel to umpire any of our games. Overall, we had a great working partnership so we made each other’s work easier.

BO pointed out that Essex Met has changed a rule in that if an umpire don’t turn up for the game and the club can prove they had arranged it and have the evidence that it was confirmed, then that umpire will be fined £25 and they would not be able to umpire in Essex Met until the fine has been paid.

**Coaching**

This was my first season back coaching at OPA since my hiatus in 2011. A thoroughly enjoyable experience and it definitely reinvigorated my passion for the Club. I also learned a great deal from the players that attended and from those that didn’t attend when speaking with them. As with all clubs, players come and go throughout the season however, thanks to the Back2Netball players we have been able to deliver full sessions because we didn’t have enough full members to make up two teams attending training.

I believe that our current positions in the League are a true reflection of our Club and training commitment. Put quite simply, if we want to challenge other teams and move up in Divisions, we need to start training as a team and learn to understand how to play with each other, rather than relying on our pure netball knowledge and ability. I understand that this isn’t always possible therefore, we need to be realistic of our chances every time we step onto the court and just enjoy playing netball and support one another during the game.

I hope the Club have enjoyed the sessions. The sessions are always planned in advance with the players in mind. It’s my objective of every session for the players to leave having learned something about netball or about themselves.

The Assistant Coach would like to thank Bisi and the Club for supporting her in her coaching award.

**Club Captain – White**

The White Team have enjoyed another successful season in Division 10 and by the time of the AGM should know if they have been promoted to Division 9. The Team is much the same as last year but has been boosted by the arrival of Jess in defence. The regular coaching from Brenda and Bisi has helped us improve our ability to work the ball down court and it has been particularly helpful having coaches who also often see us play. We have, however, had issues around players becoming angry at being subbed off during matches. It is my feeling as Captain that training is to keep fit but matches are to win and team members should be prepared to give up their bibs as necessary to ensure the strongest combination is on court at any time. This should not, however, deter from the fact that in our first season in Division 10 we have continued to win matches and compete for promotion, and I would like to thank all those - both regular players, fillers-in and coaches - who have contributed towards this.

**Club Captain – Green**

The duel coaching is working really well and the team is happy with it. It has been suggested that training should be done with other teams.

**Back to Netball**

OPA Freshers continues to grow in numbers and we have been re-joined by several ladies who started in the 2016/17 season.   We have created a warm and welcoming atmosphere amongst all new members, providing support and encouragement with a WhatsApp group sharing tips and video clips as well as sharing Club information.

It was decided with the new coaching team that the B2N ladies would have their training session fully integrated with the more established players. This has provided an opportunity for both sets of players to mix and develop best practice when learning new training skills. It is still necessary that newer players are given basic position rules BEFORE they start match play at the end of a session, rather than assuming they know the rules already.

Several ladies found the Club through local online searches and social media which was encouraging.   Many of the ladies as well as enjoying the training sessions by way of keeping fit and reigniting a passion for the game, have also improved their skill set.

Future aspirations is to find even more opportunities for Club players and Freshers to integrate.   Although we have had many new faces join, the challenge has been to get  everyone at a training session at the same time. This is predominantly down to a myriad of life circumstances (e.g. shift work, travel, child care, injury etc.). It was felt that until more time had been spent on the training court, it would not be as productive for Freshers to make it onto the match court.   We encourage training sessions to continue during the summer months and to ultimately play more competitive matches against local teams in the area.   We would like to establish a seasonal Programme with some take away sheets, so that players can work towards building up skills and techniques in order to try out for Club teams if they desire to.   We would like to organise a new Freshers kit for training and match play in line with OPA Club colours.

**CAPS/Marketing/Social**

Facebook and Twitter accounts are updated with information about the Club and games. The website is also updated but this more so when Bisi asks to put information up, but through the social media platform we have recruited more members. I am still writing reports for the Newham Recorder but I haven't taken that many pictures which they would like to see. If they continue to do this for next season I will make a conscious effort to take more pictures. I was recently talking to someone from the Gym who is doing a summer project about women and wants to do a summer video showcasing what they do whether it be make-up artists or women in the gym and she would be very much interested in videoing us playing or training. This will be shared on Instagram so I wonder if we can start raising our Instagram profile as well now. I am also thinking of doing a weekly Club Member of the Week and have a picture of them on the website, Facebook and Twitter and ask them a series of questions. I want to do people from all diverse backgrounds and also the recent Gold win from the Roses should hopefully see more women get back into Netball and I wonder if we can use this to further recruit members.

It’s been a year since we have achieved the Bronze Cap and I’m now working toward the Silver Caps but need to do a health check which is required for the Bronze so I have spoken to Jodie our NDO who will advise me if I need to complete this if I’m applying for the Silver. The health check will be checking that the information I have provided last year is up to date such as the Club Action Plan.

It was suggested that the proposed Club Member of the Week be done on a quarterly basis instead of weekly. It was pointed out that the fixture list is also shown on the OPA website.

**Tournaments**

The Beamers’ Annual Tournament taking place on Sunday 13th May and it would be good to put an OPA team into it so if anyone is interested in taking part, they should let Raslin know. At this juncture, BO reminded all that she had previously advised that OPA will pay for members to enter tournaments but to date, no-one had taken up the offer.

The Les Jones Tournament was successful last year and when the date for this year’s is released, preparations will commence. RF expressed her thanks to everyone who supported her last year with the arrangements.

**Volunteering**

This post is vacant at present.

**Development**

BO advised that £5,000 worth of funding came into the Club but this has gone back out. There will be no fundraising done next year as this will be dependent on the number of teams we have.

1. **PRESENTATION**

Most Valued Player was nominated from within the teams and these were presented as follows:

* Hannah from the White Team
* Rasheel from the Green Team
* Skye from the Vets.

BO pointed out that Amanda will be leaving to go to Dubai for a period of 3 years but she will be coming back in April next year for a brief visit. Amanda will be missed as the President of OPA and was thus presented with gifts as a show of appreciation for everything she has done for the Club. Amanda expressed her thanks to all.

1. **AOB**

* SS pointed out that the Club has been going a long time and it would be good to see new players like SL progress.
* CC asked all to give some thought as to what we can do to recruit players.

With nothing else to add, BO thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 5.35pm.