

## 1. OPENING AND WELCOME

World Netball President extended a warm welcome to delegates and observers from Member nations, the World Netball Board and honoured guests, and particularly to those who were attending for the first time.

## 2. ROLL CALL - INCLUDING PROXIES AND APOLOGIES

### 2.1 MEMBERS PRESENT

	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Americas</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Oceania</b>	<b>Total</b>
Full Members	5	14	7	10	3	39
Associate Members	1	0	0	0	0	1

#### 2.1.2 FULL MEMBER ROLL CALL

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
Karen Joseph	Voting Delegate Antigua & Barbuda
Shirley George-Benjamin	2nd Delegate Antigua & Barbuda
Harriet Destin	Observer Antigua & Barbuda
Mabel Roca	Voting Delegate Argentina
Marina Go	Voting Delegate Australia
Kelly Ryan	2nd Delegate Australia
Wendy Archer	Observer Australia
Mrs Nisha Craigwell	Voting Delegate Barbados
Malebogo Raditladi-Nkgakile	Voting Delegate Botswana
Mary Webb	Voting Delegate Canada
Lucille Seymour BEM, JP	Voting Delegate Cayman Islands
Tina Wei-Ting Chen	Voting Delegate Chinese Taipei
H.E. Ambassador L Bannis-Roberts	Voting Delegate Dominica
Mrs. Regina Walsh	2nd Delegate Dominica
RubyAnn Sorovaki	Voting Delegate Fiji
Vivian Koster	2nd Delegate Fiji
Moira Gomez	Voting Delegate Gibraltar
Ms. Jacqueline Belfon	2nd Delegate Grenada
Krystle Edwards	Voting Delegate Hong Kong
Dr. Deepa Sharma	Voting Delegate India
Judy Aknin	Voting Delegate Israel
Tricia Robinson	Voting Delegate Jamaica
Simone Forbes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Delegate Jamaica
Jennifer Headlam	Observer Jamaica
Immaculate Wambui Kabutha	Voting Delegate Kenya
Millicent Busolo	2nd Delegate Kenya
'Mamots'abi Lekhabunyane	Voting Delegate Lesotho

Zainon Md Noh	Observer Malaysia
Joyce Vella Dean	2nd Delegate Malta
Pip Cross	Voting Delegate Manx (IOM)
Nina Moore	2nd Delegate Manx (IOM)
Kate Agnew	Voting Delegate New Zealand
Karen Rollo	Voting Delegate Northern Ireland
Helen Stirling	2nd Delegate Northern Ireland
Dr Charlie Ho	Voting Delegate Philippines
Ms Melissa Putong	2nd Delegate Philippines
Teresa Angeline Gallegos-Aquino	Observer Philippines
Lynette Wall	Voting Delegate Rep of Ireland
Rosemarie Lome	2nd Delegate Samoa
Claire Nelson	Voting Delegate Scotland
Ms Ranjani Jayakody	Voting Delegate Sri Lanka
Ms Tamara Dharmakirti-Herath	2nd Delegate Sri Lanka
Kumudini Gomes	Observer Sri Lanka
Ms. Shelagh James	2nd Delegate St Kitts & Nevis
Rufina Paul	Voting Delegate St Lucia
Reginald Willemsberg	Voting Delegate St Maarten
Doris Mc Intosh	Voting Delegate St Vincent and The Grenadines
Carol d'Alberti	Voting Delegate Switzerland
Devota Marwa	Voting Delegate Tanzania
Sherry-Ann Blackburn	Voting Delegate Trinidad and Tobago
Joel Young Strong	Observer Trinidad and Tobago
Mr Al Hashemi	Voting Delegate UAE
Mrs Susanne Skelding	2nd Delegate UAE
Ms Deborah Jones	Observer UAE
Patrick Heron	Voting Delegate USA
Keithan Superville	2nd Delegate USA
Catherine Lewis	Voting Delegate Wales
Vicki Sutton	2nd Delegate Wales
Martha Lungu-Sichone	Voting Delegate Zambia
Pritchard Ngoma	2nd Delegate Zambia

### 2.1.3 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ROLL CALL

Name	Country
Dorothy Isidore	Observer Seychelles

### 2.1.4 WORLD NETBALL DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board Members	Name
President	Liz Nicholl CBE

Vice President	Shirley Hooper
Finance Director	Ann Tod
Africa Director	Cecilia Molokwane
Americas Director	Marva Barnard OD
Asia Director	Gaby Hochbaum
Europe Director	Lyn Carpenter
Oceania Director	Wainikiti Bogidrau

### 2.1.5 WORLD NETBALL SECRETARIAT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Name	Country
Clare Briegal	CEO
Angela Sanderson	Accountant
Joan Smit	Regional Development Manager for Africa
Emily Whiteside	Digital Marketing Manager
Sophie Reynolds	Digital Marketing Executive
Cathy Hurman	EA to CEO and Board
Monica Golding	Foundation Project Manager
Andre Teixeira	Intern

### 2.1.6 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following countries:

England (F)			
Full Member (F)	Associate Member (A)	Suspended Member (S)	

## 2.2 QUORUM

A quorum was present and confirmed. The total number of Full Members in attendance was 39 (5 voting Member delegates did not join however non-voting delegates and observers from those netball associations did). Voting strength would be determined at the time of each resolution by the number of voting delegates logged in to the voting platform.

There were no proxy votes.

## 3. VOTING PROCEDURE & THE INDEPENDENT SCRUTINEER

Lumi, who were contracted by World Netball to provide the voting platform, acted as the independent scrutineer. Katie Harding, a representative from Lumi explained the voting procedure and invited voting delegates of the Full Member Countries to undertake a practice of the on-line voting system.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF CONGRESS 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021**

A copy of the minutes had been circulated to Members and a few comments were received: mainly grammar and spelling and these amendments have been made.

**Ordinary Resolution:** Do Members accept the Minutes of Congress Saturday 10th July 2021 as a true record of the meeting?

**Proposer: India**

**Seconder: Cayman Islands**

An Ordinary Resolution of the Members means that a resolution that is passed by a simple majority i.e. more than 50% of those voting.

Available vote: of the 26 Members logged in who voted, all voted in favour of the resolution, therefore **this resolution was approved by 100% of the available vote.**

#### **5. MOTIONS OR PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED**

##### **5.1 Independent Director**

The President explained how in July 2019, Congress agreed:

- to approve the amendment of the Articles so that at the end of the current term (July 2021) the 'further director' be replaced by an openly recruited and appointed Independent Non-Executive Director;
- the creation of a Nominations Committee to lead the process; and
- that a member of this newly formed Committee to be an individual elected by the Members.

The Nominations Committee was established in late 2019: initial members being WN President as Chair, one Board member (Lyn Carpenter), Kate Palmer (former INF Board member and former Chief Executive of Netball Australia and of the Australian Sports Commission) as an independent. Then in 2020 Catherine Lewis was elected by Members to complete the Committee.

The Board agreed that further commercial experience was required to assist on the Board to help work collaboratively with Members to grow our reach and revenue in line with the strategic plan. So the Nominations Committee set out to recruit an Independent Director with extensive commercial experience. There was significant interest in this position from around the world. A high percentage of applicants were male which gave opportunity for further diversity on the Board. It was critical to recommend someone aligned with our ethical values and commitment to excellence and teamwork, who has integrity and courage and someone who understands the importance of being athlete-centred in our decisions and can significantly contribute to our leadership responsibilities. At Congress the Board recommended that

Members support the appointment of Rob Mills for a 4-year term. His impressive CV had been sent to Members and this included details of his connection with netball.

Catherine Lewis, Chair Wales Netball and Chair of Europe Netball, as member nominated to the Nominations Committee then spoke. She explained the recruitment process: 22 candidates applied, 2 stage interview process, 6 candidates were interviewed and then 3 asked to return for a second interview and to give a short presentation.

Rob was an extremely strong candidate and a strict and objective methodology was followed to ensure the recruitment of Rob to the Board was done with transparency and integrity.

Rob Mills then addressed the Congress and was keen to share his motivation for applying for the role and where he can help World Netball and all the Members. His personal motivation for applying is he is at a point in his career where he can give back to sport. Netball is a sport which has been part of his life (friends, sister, family and himself playing) and one with which he has a personal strong connection.

From a professional perspective he has a strong interest in the commercialisation of women's sport and 10 years ago did some initial work with Netball Australia, NNZ and Trans-Tasman Netball Ltd. More recently his role (mainly based in London) has been working with FIFA, International Cricket Council (ICC) and Rugby as they look to further commercialise their sports. His working career (over 30 years) started with Adidas, Sydney Olympics then started his own business in sports entertainment consultancy, focussing on organisation and commercialisation strategy. He is keen to work with the Board and Secretariat team to build out the commercial programme and to look inside an International Federation which relies so heavily on volunteers. He wants to foster the opportunity for netball to grow as a sport and commercially: the tide is currently rising which presents opportunities and challenges; how do we as a sport align particularly against better resourced sports? Arguably netball is a foundation sport for women's sport globally and he finds it interesting how other sports are now talking about women's sports, but netball already has a good foundation and heritage to build on. Rob explained he's very excited about the opportunity and looking forward to working with everyone.

The President asked if there were any questions from Members:

**From the chat: What would be your priorities during your tenure?** Rob replied initially a lot of reading and listening particularly around the commercial programme and then looking into this in relation to athletes and the event calendar.

**Patrick Heron, USA: The Americas is a huge and unique region which needs a lot of commercial help, your CV does not reflect any experience in this region. How do you plan to assist in this region?** Whilst the majority of my experience is Asia and more recently Europe based, I have had some exposure to the Americas

through global commercial work. It is not necessarily a strength so need to speak to people to understand what is happening.

President thanked the Members for the questions and stated that any new Board member has a thorough induction process to ensure a good understanding of the business.

Lumi confirmed that there are now 33 voting Members logged into the system.

Ordinary Resolution: Do Members approve the appointment of Rob Mills as Independent Director for a four-year term of office effective from the end of today's Special Meeting of Congress?

**Proposer:** World Netball Board.

**Seconder:** No seconder required as Board was given authority to recruit for this position at Congress 2019.

An Ordinary Resolution of the Members means that a resolution that is passed by a simple majority i.e. more than 50% of those voting.

Available vote: 31 Members logged in and of these 30 voted in favour of the resolution and one abstention, therefore **this resolution was approved by 100% of the available vote.**

The President was delighted to welcome Rob Mills as Independent Board Director.

Rob Mills thanked the Board and Congress for the vote.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE WAS GIVEN**

### Item 1 - St. Lucia: NWC Qualification

St. Lucia has reviewed the geography of the five netball regions in the world and has proposed that the current format for qualifying for participation in a NWC does not provide scope for countries like St. Lucia, with a WN Ranking of #20, to gain qualification for the Netball World Cup. Specifically, a request is made for WN to give favourable consideration to the emergence of 3 rather than 2 qualifying countries from the Americas in the NWC2023 Qualifier to be held in Jamaica in October 2022.

Rufina Paul, President St Lucia was invited to speak. St Lucia has been looking at achieving a higher ranking for international qualifiers but because of the geography of the Americas region it is a challenge. There is some level of disparity where in a region with more than 17 full Members we have only 2 qualifiers and other regions with 6 Members also have 2 qualifiers. We are seeking parity as the reality is a lower ranked country does not present any motivation for a higher ranked country to play

them for rankings. The proposal is can we look at highly populated regions to have more qualifiers and to create parity and not distort the total for the NWC.

RubyAnn Sorovaki, President Fiji asked to comment. Thank you for allowing the Oceania family to respond. We felt that this comment was aimed at us and we found the proposal interesting. This issue does not take into account the playing population of countries versus the overall population. In Oceania the playing percentage is high with a strong performance culture. Our membership fees are high based on the number of players in the region. A number of countries in the Americas do have large populations but may have smaller playing numbers. Having a large number of counties does not necessarily equate to a level of performance. Can this forum please consider that Oceania is the highest performing region in WN against membership with 5 out of 6 being ranked in top 20 with Americas having 2 of the most populated countries but only 3 in the top 20. Given this, why should WN decrease Oceania's access to places at NWC if the goal is to have the better teams in the world playing? We note as well that St Lucia has used the ranking system to support their argument but feel somehow it does not support the notion that just because of the number of countries a region has, it does not mean they should have more qualifier places. In all tournament qualifiers, 2 of the Top 20 countries miss out, but in the Americas only one would miss out: St Lucia.

What is the issue that needs solving if one needs solving at all? If there is indeed one, we feel this would lie in the provision for more opportunities for countries to play against one another on a larger world scale. Oceania thanks the President and the Board for being given the opportunity to talk.

Response provided by Shirley Hooper, Vice President. She thanked all the Members who have made comments in the chat. To remind Members, qualification for NWC is based on the Host nation plus the top 5 teams in Netball World rankings (includes the 6th ranked team if the host is in the top 5) and then 2 countries per region based on qualifying events – making 16 teams in all, with assured representation from all regions. St Lucia are looking to increase this to 3 countries from the Americas. The current process guarantees we have teams from all regions and this was the goal the last time this was reviewed formally by the Draw Format Working Group in 2015-16 - a process involving England as hosts of the NWC2019 and Member consultation via a survey.

For NWC2023 the number of teams, qualification process and draw was determined prior to the start of the bidding process and has been finalised already with Cape Town, South Africa the successful hosts. Unfortunately, no changes can be made at this stage.

WN acknowledged there is an opportunity to review this for future Netball World Cups. The opening of the bidding process for NWC2027 was announced at Congress in 2019 and Netball Australia who were appointed as hosts have confirmed that they will work with WN and the Members to review the qualification

process and draw which could relate to how many countries in total or how the countries are made up. Please be assured that the Board will commit to work with Netball Australia and Member nations to review the format and any working group formed will be required to consult fully with Members. The analysis provided by St Lucia and comments made by other nations will be included in this process.

Comments made by Members are listed in Annex 1.

President noted some of the comments made and reiterated that this was being discussed in the Commercial Committee as well.

Rufina Paul, President St Lucia thanked the President and Board for the response.

#### Item 2 St. Lucia: Eligibility for NOC Elections

Netball is deemed ineligible for the nomination of a candidate for election to the St Lucia NOC (National Olympic Committee) as an officer; although such a nominee can be an eligible candidate for election as a director (other than an officer). St. Lucia has asked WN to advocate internationally for Netball to be afforded equal recognition and the opportunity to be of service as an NOC officer.

Rufina Paul, President St Lucia was invited to speak. This was an interesting experience from a personal standpoint. In St Lucia, netball is one of the oldest institutionalised sports established in 1954 and is the nursery of development for many female athletes especially to then go on to other sports which have Olympic inclusion. Rufina Paul has been a representative previously but this time wanted to stand as an officer and not have another sport endorse her. Rather netball should have the recognition even if not an Olympic sport and should not be denied the opportunity to be represented at a high level.

The President responded on this item:

World Netball is keen to support Members in their pursuit of full involvement of our knowledgeable and experienced people in the administration of sport at the highest level, whether nationally or globally.

The matter that you have raised is important and we have looked at the governing document for your NOC – the 'By-Law No1 of St Lucia Olympic Committee' and saw the provisions relating to the election of officers and Directors.

You have asked WN to advocate for Netball to be afforded equal recognition and the opportunity to be of service as an NOC officer.

During the discussion of this agenda item with our Board at our meeting in December we identified examples in other Member countries where no such barriers exist and concluded that that each NOC is free to determine its own Board structure.



We further concluded that as an International Federation it is not appropriate for WN to lobby individual National Olympic Committees on the contents of their bylaws. However, we would like to gather evidence from Members on the situation in each country and find evidence of good practice and see if there are compelling examples of the positive impact of enabling netball individuals engaging at high levels with NOCs which can inform a healthy debate among NOCs when considering their bylaws. Changes have to be made to Articles at a local level. WN can help build a case with strong perspective of why it is right to do this.

Comments made by Members are listed in Annex 2.

The President thanked St Lucia for the question, noted some of the comments made and reiterated will follow up in a consultation with Members. President also noted that some nations NOC is for Olympic sports only and in other nations NOC also includes Commonwealth Games' sports.

### Item 3 Gibraltar: Live Streaming

Gibraltar has asked 'Would World Netball consider setting up or providing a platform for all Members free to air live streaming for all countries, then it would just be a one stop shop for spectators irrespective of where and who is doing the live streaming and for the spectator they only have to remember one YouTube page?'

Maira Gomez, President Gibraltar was invited to speak. I brought up this question as each country has different availability either to watch or stream. Europe is unable to watch any Australian, New Zealand or African matches that are livestreamed: with a common platform all netballers all over the world will have a central platform to view matches. Income can be derived from the region or country hosting and perhaps a percentage could be given for those running the event. Can WN create a calendar of online events, provide commentators, ask Member countries to apply to have livestreaming within this link? Europe Netball cannot afford this on their own but as a global family this would allow all netball to be exposed and be seen by all Members.

Lyn Carpenter (LC), Regional Director Europe on the WN Board and member of WN Commercial Committee responded.

LC thanked Gibraltar for this question and confirmed that WN thinks this is a really exciting idea and has been looking into a solution as part of our 'GROW' strategy 'to develop our sponsorship, broadcast and digital media strategy to drive revenue growth and expand the reach, impact and profile of netball.

Members know we currently have a YouTube channel where any matches can be posted by our Digital Marketing experts – all the matches from NWC2015 and 2019 are already posted there, as are the qualifiers for NWC2019. You can click through

to this channel from the YouTube icon on the top of our website or from the footer of our Weekly World Netball Newsletter.

The downside of this is that we do not 'own the data' about the subscribers on this platform – it is owned by YouTube - and the advertising revenue we get is very low. We are unable to get a return on this and in turn share that with our Members.

Looking to the future, our Commercial Committee is working on a platform for World Netball and our Members: we can call it 'Netball TV' or something else whereby content may be loaded onto this channel from any Member or Region – domestic or international events.

A platform of our own would enable us (as a netball family) to connect more effectively with subscribers and enable all netball fans not only to view netball from their own country but to view netball from around the world. This will be the platform of choice for livestreaming the regional qualifiers outside the host nations. World Netball events (NWC, NWYC, Fast5 NWS) in countries where we have not sold broadcast deals, and allows large number of Member countries to access and stream their own livestream content if they have a domestic test series etc.

Comments made by Members are listed in Annex 3. The comments are very supportive of this.

Lyn confirmed that WN will be telling Members more about this very soon once the commercial details have been concluded.

The President thanked LC for her response.

Moira Gomez thanked the Board and LC for their response.

## **7. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

World Netball has received an application for Associate Membership from Venezuela Netball Federation. Correspondence received confirms that Venezuela Netball Federation meets the requirements for Associate Membership.

**Special Resolution: Do Members agree that Venezuela Netball Federation be accepted as an Associated Member of World Netball?**

**Proposer: Cayman Islands  
Secunder: Argentina**

Members noted that approval of the minutes would require approval by a Special Resolution requiring approval from more than 75% of the available vote.

Lumi confirmed that there are now 34 voting Members logged into the system.

Available vote: 31 Members logged in and of these 30 voted in favour of the resolution and one abstention, therefore **this resolution was approved by 100% of the available vote.**

**8. PROPOSED DATE AND LOCATION OF CONGRESS 2023**

Congress 2023: 26-27 July 2023, Cape Town, South Africa.

The President thanked all Members for attending and the special meeting of Congress ended.

**Annex 1**  
**Item 1: St Lucia**

From Catherine: can Europe respond please?

From Dr. Deepa Sharma to Hosts and panelists: I would like to suggest to develop a mid-path formula that provides due rewards to the performance in a way that the countries at lower steps of the ladder don't lose the motivation to rise

From Netball Canada VP to Hosts and panelists: the regions that have had an advantage have benefited since the regions were established.

From Netball Canada VP to Hosts and panelists: the population of Oceania is similar to the americas: 1 semi large country NZ and the other all range from 17000 to 900

From Dr. Deepa Sharma: I would like to suggest world netball to develop a mid-path formula that provides due rewards to performance in a way that the countries at lower steps of the ladder keep up the motivation to rise too

From CHARLIE HO to Hosts and panelists: I agree with Dr Deepa..

From Reginald Willemsberg, Sint Maarten NA: IN order to promote Netbal, it behooves giving the "smaller" countries also the possibility to reach higher level by expanding the amount of qualifying countries. Other sporst have done this successfully.

From Rufina Paul to Hosts and panelists: Tanks You

From Lucille Seymour: A long over due question by the Americas.. Now we have an independent director of Commercialization of Netball the frequency of ranking games can increase. The question also what is the purpose of being ranking visa vie qualifers?

From Nisha Craigwell: Barbados strongly supports St. Lucia on this point. We are in the exact position as well.

From Regina Walsh - President - Dominica Netball Association: Dominica supports St. Lucia

From Catherine: what can World Netball do in this situation? how is this a matter for Congress ?

From Lucille Seymour: The point by St Lucia must be taken up again by the World Body.

From shelagh v james: Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis SKNNA supports St. Lucia

**Annex 2  
Item 2: St Lucia**

From CHARLIE HO to Hosts and panelists: The recognition of Netball at the national level depends if they qualify based on the Constitution of the NOC.

From Mabel Roca to Hosts and panelists: Quería compartir con ustedes que soy miembro de la Mesa Directiva del Comité Olímpico Argentino y me ofrezco para ayudar con la propuesta de Rufina. (English translation: "I wanted to share with you that I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Argentine Olympic Committee and I offer to help with Rufina's proposal".)

From Catherine: no one is doubting supporting a member country but its not a matter for WN congress

From Rufina Paul to Hosts and panelists: THank You

From Lucille Seymour: The Commonwealth Association are also overseen by the NOC you are short changed both ways

**Annex 3  
Item 3: Gibraltar**

From Kiti B to Hosts and panelists: Good one Moira

From Catherine: wales supports Gibraltar with this proposal

From Lucille Seymour: Excellent motion a critical task for the director of Commercialization of Netball

From Netball Canada VP to Hosts and panelists: good idea Moira

From Catherine: spot on Lucille xx

From shelagh v james: Federation St Kitts and Nevis SKNNA supports this motion 100%

From Susanne Skelding to Hosts and panelists: UAE Netball Federation are fully behind this and also see this as a crucial move to garner commercial support for our sport

From Patrick Heron: Thanks Lynn

From Lucille Seymour: Any country who plays commercial netball could pay into it. Such as super leagues. More funds for World netball

From Mabel Roca: Quería compartir con ustedes que soy miembro de la Mesa Directiva del Comité Olímpico Argentino y me ofrezco para ayudar con la propuesta de Rufina.

From Shirley Hooper: This is one of our top priorities within the Commercial Committee at the moment, and we will be using Rob's skills to help us progress this further and faster as well. Great to see so much support everyone. Thank you.