

**President's Report for HNA AGM**  
**24 October 2022**

I would firstly like to thank the 2022 Board members: Elected Directors: Tracy Goodwin (Vice President), Kerry Francis (Secretary), Sally Monteleone (Treasurer), David Hamilton (Netball SA Delegate) and Lauren Parker (Recording Officer). Tracy, Sally & Lauren were all in their first term as Elected Directors with Lauren in her first year on the Board. We met 8 times this year from February to September (often online) with everyone representing their portfolios comprehensively.

The Chairs of our Sub Committees also played an important role in Board meetings and discussions. Tracy Goodwin, David Hamilton & I doubled up in our Board roles as Delegates for the Rep Team Sub Committee, Umpiring Sub Committee & Competition Management Committee respectively and Briohny Hamilton was the Grading Sub Committee Delegate. Thank you also to the members of the Sub Committees.

We are pleased that our HNA Life Members continue to engage with & support our activities whenever possible and it was lovely to see so many of them eager to attend & present at Grand Finals. We welcomed Liz Maciunas as the newest HNA Life Member and were saddened to hear of the passing of Majorie Walker.

It has been another successful year for the HNA and we were lucky that COVID caused only minimal disruption to our 2022 season.

Our 10 Clubs fielded 134 teams, 4 less teams than 2021 but still more teams than most years in the last decade. This decrease was 1 Senior & 4 Junior teams but we gained 1 more 9 & Under team. The teams were spread across 6 Senior grades, 10 Junior grades & 3 9 & Under grades. These numbers reassure us that the efforts put in by Clubs to retain & increase participation is working. All Clubs were represented in the finals with seven Clubs having at least one team in the Grand Finals and six Clubs taking home at least one premiership.

In 2023 we need to see more teams nominate for our higher grades & divisions. The Board continues to focus on this area in an attempt to try & find ways to improve this in our Association. The Grading Sub Committee always do a great job in trying to place all teams in a grade where they will get the best level of competition & enjoyment from their season. This is a big ask! If our Clubs aren't nominating across the grades & divisions it can make the job of grading very challenging.

Our season started on 30 April for 6 & 10 draw grades and 7 May for 8 draw grades. Again, we opened the season with the Constance Bonython ANZAC Medal match, this year between Uraidla Blue & Ironbank Cherry Gardens A1 teams. The medal was won by Lauren Parker from Uraidla. This match and the accompanying formalities were a great way to kick off our season. Thank you to Uraidla Netball Club for hosting and organising much of the formalities and Tracy Goodwin for presenting on behalf of the Board.

The HNA were proud to support Heathfield Netball Club in the inaugural First Nations Round on 4 June. Heathfield did an amazing job of instigating & coordinating this event and communicating with & involving the other Clubs. The weather certainly tried to join in the celebrations on the day with torrential rain & wind! The Competition Management Committee is already discussing ways to build on First Nations Round next year, including trying to secure the Mt Lofty Sports Centre for indoor matches.

We continued to recognise our best of the best via acknowledging Best & Fairest & Runner-ups for all Senior & Junior grades, A1 Team of the Year & Best Young Talent and the Golden Whistle awards for our A1 & A2 pool umpires. Well done to Crafers Netball Club on being awarded the Maeva Vick Memorial HNA Club Achievement Award. Congratulations to Lyn Stacey from Heathfield Netball Club who was a finalist for Coach of the Year in the Netball SA awards. Also to those that were featured in other ways, recognising the contribution they make in various ways to their Clubs & HNA.

We had great numbers of players trial for our Hills Rep Teams and were excited to form an Under 17s team after a period of not having this age group. The inaugural camp was a great success and we congratulate the players & coaches on their brilliant results across the carnivals this year. Congratulations also to our Hills players, Maeve Garnett & Poppy Neilson from Heathfield Netball Club, who were selected for the Adelaide Thunderbirds Talent Academy Program.

Our Umpiring Sub Committee looked at new ways to offer development opportunities to all levels of umpires, such as the umpiring quiz nights, as well as managing the pool of umpires for A1 & A2. They coordinated the pathway for some of our umpires to embark on the process of going for their badges and congratulations to those that obtained their badge. The Umpiring Sub Committee reflected on the attire of umpires, supporting those that were not comfortable to wear white bottoms to wear black/ navy instead.

Further innovations in our uniforms saw more Clubs introducing a shorts & top option and our Regulations changed to allow long sleeved tops to be worn across all grades. These may be small changes but they demonstrate we are willing to prioritise inclusivity and look for ways to increase enjoyment of the game.

The Competition Management Sub Committee provided an important function where all Clubs can have their input regarding the ins & outs of our competition. It is a very valuable format for clubs to share information and steer the culture & direction of our Association.

Due to lack of nominations, we did not have a Coaching Sub Committee or a Promotions & Future Planning Sub Committee this year. It would be great to see interest in these Sub Committees again for 2023 to offer more development opportunities for our coaches and identify ways to promote & grow our Association. We also continue to look at ways HNA people can become involved in Netball SA working groups & similar, to keep abreast of evolving opportunities and make sure the needs of Associations such as ours are considered in future directions of our sport.

Everyone was pleased that the slippery surface issues faced over the last couple of years were resolved this season. We all rejoiced in seeing Stirling Comets regain courts they can call their home and look forward to this facility at Heathfield High School being further developed to meet the needs of The Comets by next season. Clubs continue to support each other in lending courts when the need arises. The Board welcomes Clubs to reach out for assistance with facility improvements & support for grant applications to help ensure all our members will enjoy continually improving facilities.

Thank you to The Courier for their sponsorship of the HNA and their continued interest in & coverage of netball in the hills. The Adelaide Hills Herald newspaper changed hands early in 2022 and have been very active in communicating with the HNA & covering Hills netball. Thanks also to Lofty Media radio for their interest and invitations for Hills netball to be part of their "Huddle" program. We hope to make the most of all these relationships in 2023.

Our Clubs & Association adapted to using the new PlayHQ system which included changes to our websites. As with all new systems this was not without hurdles at times but we continue to work with these platforms to try to get the most out of them to meet our needs.

Looking to 2023 our Association will be the recipient of a Netball SA "Netball on the Road" regional visit early in the year and we are already working with Netball SA & the other Associations within our Region to plan out what this opportunity will focus on.

Personally I would welcome another term on the Board should my nomination be successful. Thank you.

Kirsten Hawthorn  
President, HNA Board