



HAMPSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION – MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017

Attendees	Ashley Cullen Bev Cooper Richard Osborne Andy Edwards Tamara Gibson	Chair/Finance Officer Junior Development/Adult Participation Secretary/Sitting Volleyball Indoor Volleyball/Website Administration Salisbury Volleyball Club
Apologies	Dave Gunter Mel Howard	Coaching Adviser Gosport Jedi Volleyball Club

Item 1 - Welcome and Opening Remarks	Action
<p>1. Ashley welcomed attendees to the meeting and the new 2017/18 season. He reflected on the AGM held in July and restated his thanks to Sophie Burton from Energise Me and Roy Pankhurst, Chair of the Dorset and Hampshire Investment Zone, for attending.</p> <p>Item 2 – Review of previous minutes and actions arising</p> <p>1. Richard took members through the minutes of the last meeting. There was just one action arising, where Bev had agreed to assess the availability of Bay House to host a mixed team competition subject to there being sufficient interest from clubs. Bev emailed Bay House on 28 Jul 17 and in consequence 12 dates have been fixed for competition during the 17/18 season. The minutes were subsequently accepted as a true record.</p> <p>Item 3 – Invictus Games</p> <p>1. Ashley invited Richard to recount his experience at this year's Invictus Games which was held in Toronto, Canada and where the Georgian Armed Forces Sitting Volleyball team that he coached won the gold medal. Richard described the history of the games and how he came to meet the team from Georgia in 2014 and had continued to work with them. He had been invited by Volleyball England (VE) to write a diary of events in Toronto which was published daily on the VE website, attracting favourable feedback. He added that the team's success in London 2014 and its subsequent bronze medal in Orlando 2016 had generated a wave of public interest in Georgia where stigma continues to be attached to disabled people. This in turn has led to a sea change in perceptions and attitude by Georgian society and has also influenced reforms within its Armed Forces resulting in better care and support for wounded, injured and sick Service personnel and their families.</p> <p>Item 4 – HVA Grand Prix</p> <p>1. Andy updated members on the latest position concerning the number of teams that have entered the 17/18 Grand Prix series. Six teams have entered the men's competition, with the possibility of four others joining by the deadline of Sat 14 Oct. The first men's fixture is scheduled to take place on Sun 29 Oct at Bay House. There are five confirmed teams for the ladies' competition, with potential for five others to submit entries, of which two are strong prospects. Andy has produced a spread sheet that factors in a number of hypothetical situations based on the final number of teams entering both competitions and once the deadline has passed he will be able to fix the schedule and advise teams accordingly.</p>	

2. Andy added that the invitation that went out to clubs also canvassed for mixed teams, for which dates for a separate competition had been scoped, but to date there had been no take-up. In any event, given the large number of teams entering the men's and ladies' competitions, the 12 dates allocated to the Grand Prix will more than likely need to be used for both of these competitions.

3. Bev informed members that Bay House had joined a Multi Academy Trust with other local educational institutions and, as a result, was experiencing a period of adjustment in terms of governance arrangements and ways of working. Having recently contacted the school, Bev was advised that if junior players were participating in the Grand Prix then the school will require the name of the player's coach and their DBS certificate. Bev was further advised that the competition will need an appropriate level of indemnity for which it was suggested there are two options: either, all clubs obtain their own public liability insurance which they will need to provide to Bay House by way of confirmation and assurance; or, the HVA obtains its own public liability insurance which will cover all teams participating in the Grand Prix which, again, they will need to provide to Bay House. Ashley undertook to seek advice from Laurence Shenker at Volleyball England.

Ashley

Post meeting note: VE has agreed to provide a bespoke event license for the year to cover all HVA Grand Prix events.

4. Discussion turned to the cost per team for entry into the Grand Prix and Andy stated that it would be calculated once the final number of teams is known. Ashley indicated his intention to ask teams to pay within six weeks of receipt of the invoice, as he had done last year. He reminded everyone that each club must have its own first aid kit, but the HVA will provide ice packs.

5. Richard asked whether there had been any progress in purchasing referee stands and Bev replied that the Head of PE at Bay House is keen to buy one (the agreement was that if Bay House purchase one then the HVA will fund another), but he was waiting to know what budget had been allocated to sports. Bev suspected that the creation of the Multi Academy Trust alluded to above may have contributed to the uncertainty. Tamara indicated that volleyball is one of five or six mandatory sports within the GCSE curriculum and that there may be merit in suggesting to Bay House that the stands would be a useful addition to support that activity.

Item 5 – Junior Development

1. Bev described how her ambition to host a junior festival using one of the dates at Bay House had been constrained by the fact that those dates will more than likely be taken up for the Grand Prix. She outlined the challenges that had been encountered last season, which included identifying a suitable and available venue, as well as a coach, and a date that didn't conflict with other commitments. She notified attendees of the good work being undertaken by Cat Machado at New Forest VC who had organised a girl's competition between New Forest, Wessex, Oxford and South Hants at Ballard School. Cat is also the recently appointed SEVA U15 coach and, as such, has good links to schools. Bev was of the view that the HVA should support Cat in her endeavours, which attendees supported.

2. Bev added that the HVA continues to receive contacts from parents who are searching for local clubs for their child and that wherever possible she has signposted them to one. Tamara confirmed that Salisbury VC has a junior section which trains every Thursday evening, with large numbers attending regularly. There has been a big drive by Wiltshire Volleyball Association for junior

tournaments and one is being held, on average, every six weeks within the Wiltshire/Cornwall/Exeter footprint. Tamara indicated that some local schools were inclined not to take up the offer of coaching unless other schools got involved and generated competition. She added that Tom Robinson is seeking to add volleyball at the Mountbatten School in Romsey.

Item 6 – Sitting Volleyball

1. Richard described the highly successful mini-league competition that had been held at the University Technology College, Portsmouth over the weekend of 9/10 September and which had included teams from Essex, Guernsey, South Hants and GB Women, plus an international flavour with Danish team Lavia Copenhagen also taking part. The event had been very closely competed throughout but South Hants emerged victorious having won all of its matches over the two days.

2. The programme of taster sessions that Richard has delivered in schools throughout 2017 was set to continue with the next session due to take place at King's School, Winchester on 11 Oct 17. This will bring the total number of students to have received such sessions to over 500 since the beginning of the year and Richard felt they had assisted greatly in promoting awareness of the sport.

3. Finally, Richard briefed members on a broader sitting volleyball issue in which he was involved. At the request of Volleyball England a small group of enthusiasts have volunteered to undertake a review of sitting volleyball across England. The team is led by Ken Edwards, who has project oversight, while Richard is leading a work stream that is looking at securing the core market. Vicky Widdup (GB Women's SV Vice-Captain) is looking at how we can grow the sport, while Ian Legrand (GB Women SV Head Coach) is reviewing the 'Aspire' pillar which relates to the talent pathways leading to, and including, the elite level. Ken is representing the group's work at various Board meetings with Volleyball England and the outcome will be made public in due course.

Item 7 – Development Priorities

1. Ashley reminded attendees of the history of the Development Plan which was linked to the now ceased Volleyball Relationship Manager's role, and which had served as the framework for activity over a 3-year period which ended in Jul 17. Unsure whether Volleyball England required a further Development Plan to be created, the HVA agreed that it would be sensible to prepare a list of priorities spanning, 'Adult Participation', 'Junior Development', 'Sitting Volleyball' and 'Coaching and Officiating'.

2. On Adult Participation, Andy and Bev indicated that the first priority, to grow the ladies Grand Prix to six teams, was on course. The second priority, to audit the clubs on the HVA's website 'Club Map' page, would require time to review and it was agreed that all committee members would assess the details currently available and refresh where appropriate.

3. Bev reminded members that Mark Simmons had produced a document called, "Current Club Provision" which had captured a suite of information from clubs and could be used as a benchmark to measure what was in place then and now. It was agreed by all that this would provide a useful mechanism to track volleyball opportunities across the region in order to assess whether the sport is growing or shrinking. Andy agreed to take this matter forward. Richard explained that the email contact list he uses to send information to clubs has a number of expired email addresses and asked that consideration also be given to inviting clubs to supply up to date contact details to ensure they continue to receive information.

All

Andy

<p>4. Turning to Junior Development, in relation to the first priority to deliver a workshop at the PE teacher's conference to support those schools that wished to develop volleyball, an update was not forthcoming as Dave was unable to attend the meeting. On the second priority, to build on links forged between New Forest, Wessex and South Hants, Bev reiterated that there was a possibility of hosting junior festivals again, but there may be opportunities to use the days Cat Machado has planned for competitions. Ashley was keen to explore the possibility of introducing Salisbury juniors to the network of junior clubs and Tamara confirmed that the club is already on Cat's radar.</p> <p>5. The first priority for sitting volleyball is to maintain the mini-league and increase participation if possible. Richard articulated his aspiration to include more Hampshire-based clubs in the next competition, acknowledging that as there are no other established sitting volleyball clubs in the region the target audience will be indoor clubs. In Richard's view, this will be a good way to introduce the sport to existing clubs and players and may generate opportunities to develop sitting sections within those clubs which ties in nicely with the 'Grow' pillar within the SV review mentioned at Item 6, paragraph 3 above. The second priority, to support Eastleigh SV club, which has an enthusiastic workforce and equipment, but no players is a work in hand, as is the third priority, to create a junior satellite club at the Harbour School in Tipner, Portsmouth.</p> <p>6. Dave was not present and therefore unable to update on the first two priorities for Coaching and Officiating which are; firstly, to host, support and organise a Level 1 coaching course and, secondly, to run a workshop for club coaches/teachers on how to introduce junior volleyball. In relation to the third priority, to host and support a referee's course aimed at clubs competing in the Grand Prix series, Bev informed members that a course had been held at the end of September at Purbrook Park school, which was attended by 18 participants. Other than South Hants players, however, none were from HVA Grand Prix teams. It was agreed that the first Grand Prix fixtures of the 17/18 season will be used to remind teams of the need to have qualified referees in place for the start of the 18/19 Grand Prix season.</p> <p>Item 8 – Any other business</p> <p>1. Bev asked whether Crestwood College had retained any equipment owned by the HVA and Ashley confirmed that it had posts and balls. The former have been designated for use at another school and there will be a need to collect them from Crestwood College.</p> <p>2. Ashley thanked Tamara for attending and noted that no roles within the HVA have been discussed with her as she had been invited to observe. Based on the discussions held in committee, Tamara indicated that she was interested in looking more at junior development and sitting volleyball and Richard offered to support with the latter in any way he could.</p> <p>Item 9 – Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>1. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5 December at the Tesco Community Room, Fareham from 1830-2030. This will provide an opportunity to assess the Grand Prix season which by then will have had two meetings each for the men and ladies. Richard to make the necessary booking.</p>	<p>Andy/Richard/ Ashley/Bev</p> <p>Richard</p>
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