



**HAMPSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION – MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017**

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

<b>Item 1 - Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. In welcoming all attendees, Ashley extended a particularly warm welcome to Caroline who was attending for the first time having agreed to take over the role of Finance Officer from him. He explained that he would shortly be issuing invoices to clubs that are participating in the Grand Prix and thereafter would hand over the reins to Caroline.</p> <p>2. Following round the table introductions, Ashley acquainted Caroline with the HVA's purpose and focus, which is on adult participation, junior development and sitting volleyball. He added that while the Association is Hampshire-based, it also embraces Wessex VC, which is based in Poole, Dorset; Salisbury in Wiltshire; and Guernsey whose ladies team are participating in this season's Grand Prix series.</p> <p>3. Ashley asked attendees whether they had taken time to complete the Sports Club Survey 2017, which is a piece of research undertaken by the Sport and Recreation Alliance in partnership with Sport England. A link to the survey (<a href="https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=150961428710">https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=150961428710</a>) has been promulgated via the HVA website and Facebook page and Ashley urged everyone to both complete it and encourage others to do so. Against a backdrop of severe financial restraint, which has resulted in the curtailment of several volleyball activities and events, the survey is considered to be a vital tool and key driver in demonstrating to Sport England the value and relevance of volleyball in England.</p> <p>4. Dave endorsed Ashley's comments adding that as junior activity reduces there is an increased risk that players will leave volleyball in order to find an alternative sport that still has a pathway to the top. Where national training or major competitions are halted, Dave considered it important to identify a replacement otherwise that, too, may result in them walking away. Ashley suggested that more focus needs to be placed on the inter-regional programme which would become the de facto net through which future talent is captured.</p>	
<p><b>Item 2 – Review of previous minutes and actions arising</b></p>	
<p>1. Richard took members through the minutes of the last meeting where two actions remained outstanding. The first centred on the need to audit club details on the 'Club Map' page of the HVA's website. With hindsight, it was agreed that it simply wasn't practicable for committee members to assess what, if anything, had changed and instead it was agreed that Richard would email clubs inviting them to review their own details and offer amendments as appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Richard</b></p>

<p><b>Post Meeting Note:</b> Richard emailed clubs on 7 Dec 17, asking those who already have information on the club map to review their details and notify him of any changes. He also invited clubs who would like to add information to the website to provide specified information which he will pass to the web author for inclusion.</p> <p>2. The second outstanding item related to the ‘Current Club Provision’ document that Mark Simmons had produced when he was the Hampshire and Dorset Investment Zone Volleyball Relationship Manager. Andy had agreed to use the document as a benchmark tool but as his priority and focus had been on the design and delivery of the Grand Prix series an opportunity had not arisen to progress the matter. It was not off his radar, however, and would be taken forward in due course.</p> <p>3. Recorded at Item 7, paragraph 6 of the previous minutes was the committee’s intent to require those clubs that compete in the 18/19 Grand Prix to have qualified referees who will officiate matches. Dave enquired whether there is a need to host another Level 4 course to assist clubs in up skilling its workforce and what safeguards would be put in place to ensure clubs do have sufficient qualified officials ahead of next year’s competition? It was agreed that further thought be given to hosting a referee’s course for this purpose.</p> <p>4. Ashley stated that he had recently revisited the Association’s constitution which is in need of review. As a first step, both he and Richard will review and refresh the document before consulting other committee members to seek their input.</p>	<p><b>Andy</b></p> <p><b>Ashley and Richard</b></p>
<p><b>Item 3 – Hampshire Grand Prix</b></p> <p>1. In tendering his apologies Andy had provided some thoughts on the Grand Prix (GP) to date, which Ashley used as a basis for discussion. By way of introduction, Ashley shared Andy’s delight at the increase in numbers of teams participating in both men’s and ladies leagues this year and recognised the logistical dilemma it had posed for Andy in accommodating them all within a limited number of competition dates.</p> <p>2. Ashley confirmed that the committee is close to finalising the match fees and bills will be sent to clubs within the next 7 days.</p> <p>3. The new score sheets that were introduced this season appear to be working well. A discussion followed about the merits of using NVL score sheets next season but it was agreed that these may be superfluous given the fact they record 5 sets whereas, for the GP, the men’s teams only play 2 sets while the ladies play 3. It was decided to either retain the shore sheets that were introduced this season or adapt them further if necessary.</p> <p>4. Andy had raised concern that New Forest had not notified him they would be unable to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> ladies GP, but instead had learned of their withdrawal <i>via</i> the Chair. He was further concerned that the junior girls team may withdraw from the 3<sup>rd</sup> GP and requested confirmation as soon as possible. Ashley underlined the need to use appropriate communication channels and undertook to contact New Forest to assess whether there is a likelihood they will not be able to participate in future GPs. Dave suggested that where a team gives notice to withdraw from a GP that efforts should be made to bridge the gap with a wildcard team. Bev stated that she and Ashley had engaged in a similar discussion and it was agreed by all to be a pragmatic solution.</p> <p>5. A short discussion took place on the net that runs through the middle of the</p>	<p><b>Ashley</b></p>

<p>sports hall but which stops a couple of feet from the floor allowing balls to run underneath and onto adjacent courts. Having now run several GPs it was assessed not to be a major problem and the need to install block-walls was deemed unnecessary.</p> <p>6. Ashley described an aspiration to purchase two referee stands, which cost approximately £600 each. He proposed that the HVA purchases one set and the costs for the other will be divided across the GP teams with each contributing around £30, which was agreed by all.</p> <p>7. Views were shared around the table about the success or otherwise of the GPs held to date with universal agreement they had been good spirited and incredibly sporting with a good standard of play. Mel indicated that Gosport Jedi had thoroughly enjoyed taking part and had learned from each GP whilst establishing a useful network that it was hoped will lead to additional friendly competitions being arranged.</p> <p>8. A mixed team competition is scheduled to take place on 14 January 2018 and following discussion it was agreed to set the entry fee at £40 per team which it was considered offered excellent value for money.</p> <p>9. Ashley raised the need to consider what would happen if Guernsey ladies win the GP as traditionally the top team is invited to go forward to represent the county at the SEVA competition. He agreed to take up the matter with Freda Bussey.</p> <p><b>Post Meeting Note:</b> By email dated 6 December, Ashley contacted Freda to broach the above issue.</p> <p><b>Item 4 – Junior Development</b></p> <p>1. Dave spoke about a Hampshire-based junior trophy competition that he would like to host if a date and approximately 8 teams could be identified. Bev offered to liaise with Dave to scope the possibility of holding a tournament.</p> <p>2. Bev reminded the committee that Bay House needs visibility of all DBS certificates for any teams fielding U18s at the GP series. She confirmed that teams have been very proactive in providing their certificates although one is awaited from one club.</p> <p>3. Ashley advised members that he is mentoring someone from Urbond VC who is trying to establish a junior section at the club.</p> <p>4. Mel explained that an after-school club at Crofton school has attracted lots of juniors and this led to a wider discussion about the availability of coaches to lead sessions. Mel stated that there are no Level 2 coaches at present and no Level 1 courses on offer. Dave mentioned a Level 1 course taking place at Southampton Solent University on 24 Mar 18 and 7 Apr 18. Mel added that the sessions delivered at Gosport Leisure Centre are led by unqualified coaches which raises a concern over insurance implications in the event of an accident. Dave advised Mel to speak to Volleyball England.</p> <p><b>Item 5 – Sitting Volleyball</b></p> <p>1. Richard provided a reflection on achievements over the past 12 months, declaring it to have been an exceptionally busy but highly productive period. The highlights had been the delivery of a SV Workshop; two successful mini-league competitions; attendance at the Hampshire School Games; hosting a SV</p>	<p><b>Ashley</b></p> <p><b>Dave and Bev</b></p>
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<p>Awareness Workshop on behalf of Energise Me; and delivery of a SV awareness programme at a number of schools/colleges in Hampshire resulting in approximately 530 students and teachers receiving a free taster session.</p> <p>2. He went on to describe his personal success at the Invictus Games where he coached Georgia to gold medal success and notified members that he had subsequently been appointed as the coach for the UK sitting volleyball team that will be competing at the fourth Invictus Games, which will be held in Sydney in October 18. Looking to the new year, Richard identified priorities to be: working with The Hub, Eastleigh to build interest in a new SV club; maintaining the mini-league but with focus on more Hampshire-based teams taking part; and working in partnership with Portsmouth in the Community to scope interest in a SV satellite club.</p> <p><b>Item 6 – Development Priorities</b></p> <p>1. With the expiration of the 3-year Development Plan in Jul 17, the committee had identified priorities for 2018. Dave assessed his top priority to run a Level 1 coaching course, which was met with support from Tammy and Mel, both of whom have players that could be loaded onto the course. The committee agreed that the most suitable time of year would be late September or early October 2018 and Dave undertook to identify a suitable venue, with Bay House and Wildern School on the radar.</p> <p>2. Dave repeated his earlier aspiration to run a junior tournament and Bev asked whether the Gosport/Fareham/Portchester area would be a good area to target as there was lots of junior activity happening there. As mentioned earlier, Bev and Dave will continue to take this item forward.</p> <p>3. Richard asked whether there was an appetite to publicise the 2018 priorities via the HVA website and Ashley said there was and undertook to send them to Richard who in turn will add them to the website.</p> <p><b>Post Meeting Note:</b> Ashley forwarded the priorities to Richard on 6 December.</p> <p><b>Item 7 – Any other business</b></p> <p>1. Ashley stated that VE’s decision to curtail activity and events has placed greater emphasis on the need for more regional activity. He observed that what is being achieved across Hampshire is superb and that the HVA has a really good profile. He asked Tammy and Mel whether they have capacity to support the committee through bespoke roles and outlined the need to consider future income streams. This led to a short discussion on how best to generate income at the end of which Ashley asked that more time be dedicated to the matter at the next meeting.</p> <p>2. Dave mentioned the Bournemouth 7s festival that is taking place over the bank holiday weekend of 25-27 May 18 and which will include volleyball. A link to the website is provided here: <a href="https://bournemouth7s.com/sports/volleyball/">https://bournemouth7s.com/sports/volleyball/</a>. Dave agreed to share the details via the HVA Facebook page.</p> <p>3. Bev reaffirmed that the mixed tournament will go ahead on 14 Jan 18 and asked Mel whether she would consider supporting Andy in preparing for the event, to which Mel agreed. Dave stated that he was content to arrange the trophies and medals but would liaise with Andy to assess what he wanted in that respect.</p> <p>4. Tammy asked whether a cost was levied for refreshments at the GP and after a brief discussion it was agreed that an honesty box would be provided in future</p>	<p><b>Dave</b></p> <p><b>Dave and Bev</b></p> <p><b>Ashley/Richard</b></p> <p><b>Dave</b></p> <p><b>Mel and Dave</b></p>
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so that anyone who wishes to have a drink or snack may make a financial contribution.

**Item 8 – Date and time of next meeting**

1. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 27 February 2018 at the Tesco Community Room, Fareham from 1830-2030. Richard to make the necessary booking and confirm in due course.

**Richard**