



Hampshire  
Volleyball  
Association

**HAMPSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2020**

Attendees	Ashley Cullen Richard Osborne Bev Cooper Andy Edwards Caroline Hancock Robyn West Ryan Gunner Samir Belaiche	Chair Secretary/Sitting Volleyball Junior Development Adult Participation Treasurer South Hants VC South Hants VC South Hants VC
Apologies	Jo Ankers	Communications Officer

<b>Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>1. Ashley welcomed attendees and tendered apologies on behalf of Jo Ankers. The fact the AGM was being held virtually was indicative of the unprecedented time we find ourselves in and which has impacted volleyball across the country.</p> <p><b>Item 2 – Chair’s remarks</b></p> <p>1. Ashley paid tribute to the committee, all of whom are volunteers giving their time and energy freely for the betterment of the sport across Hampshire, and he thanked them for their continued support. As a sport, volleyball remained in a period of transition with a new CEO at the helm within the National Governing Body, and a new ‘Game Plan’ articulated through the new Volleyball England Strategy, which has 3 focussed pillars: ‘Volleyball for life’, ‘Get, Keep, Grow; and ‘An ace service’.</p> <p>2. Reaffirming the HVA’s priorities, Ashley summarised them as: continuing to develop junior talent, which is regarded by all as the future of the sport; encouraging further participation in the Grand Prix series; and advancing Sitting Volleyball where possible. The HVA now has an established foundation and strong infrastructure in terms of finance, administration, marketing and communications and, in respect to the latter, a refreshed website thanks to Andy’s time and effort.</p> <p>3. Two members of the committee were standing down from their elected roles: Bev, as the Junior Development Officer, and Richard as Secretary. While stepping back from taking the lead on junior development, Bev indicated she would still be available to support and advise the committee and whoever took over as the lead. Similarly, while Richard would no longer be Secretary, he will continue as the Sitting Volleyball Officer. Ashley recognised the contributions both Bev and Richard have made in the past, are making to our sport now and will continue to make in the future, irrespective of their onward paths.</p> <p>4. Ashley summarised the reports generated by each lead and highlighted Jo’s arrival and drive as Communications Officer as an important step in increasing volleyball’s profile <i>via</i> various media. The financial position is strong, helped largely by a significant contribution from the winding up of the Portsmouth Volleyball Association and the prudent and robust accounting by Caroline Hancock.</p>	

5. Of particular note, when the HVA started, in 2013, it did so with a grant of just over £5K and now, some 7 years later, there is a balance of just over £4K, albeit approximately £700 was received as a donation from the Portsmouth Volleyball Association. It demonstrates that the HVA is a self-sustaining organisation. The sport is important for both physical and mental wellbeing and Ashley opined that the Association has been prudent in the past but, given the pandemic and a new Volleyball England strategy, there is a need to invest quite significantly with junior development a priority.

6. The Development Priorities have progressed despite the advent of Covid-19; however, notwithstanding their success to date, there is a need to update them and bring a new focus.

7. Lastly, Ashley explained that a number of young athletes from both New Forest and South Hants will be attending cadet and junior England trials in the next couple of weeks. On behalf of the committee, he wished them every success and thanked their parents and clubs for the support they provide. He offered a massive thank you to everyone who played a part in advancing volleyball across the region and acknowledged nothing could be delivered without them.

### **Item 3 – Junior Development**

1. A report by Bev had been circulated out of committee and is attached to the minutes as **Annex A**. The year had witnessed many positives before the coronavirus struck and brought everything to a grinding halt, although it had been disappointing to learn that Southampton junior had ceased, albeit it for entirely valid reasons. There were just two clubs offering opportunities to juniors – New Forest and South Hants, although there were pockets of smaller activity at places such as Portchester School.

2. It appears that as a result of an anime that has been broadcast on Netflix, volleyball has entered the psyche of juniors, resulting in significant demand to play. The section of South Hants that trains at Horndean Technology College has reached its capacity of 30 players and has 8 juniors on the waiting list, while South Hants Falcons, which train at Cams Hill School in Fareham, is also operating at capacity and has 26 players on the waiting list. There is a need to assess what further provision can be made to accommodate this demand and thought is being given to options.

3. The work of the HVA to develop juniors has acquired a positive reputation, with amazing feedback received after competitions. Bev suggested that the committee should turn its mind to assessing how best to use the PVA donation to best effect and she offered some thoughts in that regard.

4. Finally, Bev reaffirmed that while she is stepping back from the lead role she is keen to work with her successor in a supporting role. Ashley once again thanked Bev for all of her achievements during her tenure as Junior Development Officer.

### **Item 4 – Competitions**

1. Andy's report on Indoor Volleyball is appended to these minutes at **Annex B**. Despite best efforts, and an immense amount of thought being given to how best to adapt the GP series to make it Covid-19 compliant, and having reached a stage where we were ready to do that, the Government's more recent restrictions have essentially negated that good work. Further work is therefore in train to consider what can be offered moving forward against the backdrop of

the continuing Covid-19 landscape. Whatever it eventually looks like, Andy emphasised that it must meet two key indicators: firstly, that it provides a level of competition that fills the absence of any local league opportunities and, second, that it is competitive and serves as a natural path to the NVL.

2. Andy described the ancillary issues affecting a return to competition, including the frustrations experienced by clubs, a significant number of which are unable to train due the closure of facilities. He is keen to do whatever is reasonable, and within the guidelines to get back to competition, and attendees discussed options to achieve that and what more could be done to welcome teams back once it is safe to do so.

#### **Item 5 – Sitting Volleyball**

1. Richard's report on sitting volleyball activity is attached at **Annex C** to these minutes. He observed that, once again, his report centred on achievements by South Hants Sitting Volleyball Club because it remains the only SV club in the county. That fact, combined with the reality that very few sitting clubs exist across the country, had led Richard to apply for the Volleyball England Sitting Volleyball Lead role, to which he was duly elected at the recent VE AGM. His ambition now is to work towards creating more clubs so that SV becomes vibrant, sustainable and embedded.

2. Having performed the role of Secretary for 5 years, Richard did not consider he had capacity to continue in addition to his new role within Volleyball England, but he will remain as the SV representative for the HVA and hopes to create more clubs locally over the next 4 years.

#### **Item 6 – Communications**

1. Jo was not present to report on related activity, but Ashley gave a brief overview of the impressive outputs achieved in year, including the production of a Newsletter, which will endure; the purchase of banners and pop-ups to market the HVA at local events; and strengthened relations with local media.

#### **Item 7 - Finance**

1. Caroline took attendees through the accounts for the year, a copy of which is available at **Annex D**. The Balance at 30 June 2020 was £4,038.63 although it was observed this included some £680.00 in deposits that clubs had made to participate in the Grand Prix and which were refundable on request. That balance had been further enhanced by the donation by Portsmouth Volleyball Association of £681.66 following its cessation. Ashley offered his sincere thanks to Caroline for her assiduous custody, as well as careful management and oversight of the Association's finances.

#### **Item 8 – Election of Officers**

1. As mentioned previously, two roles had become available for election, i.e., the Junior Development Officer and Secretary. On the former, Ryan Gunner had been proposed by Ashley and following a unanimous vote in support of that nomination, Ryan was duly elected as the new Junior Development Officer. The Secretary role had attracted no applications and remains vacant; however, the committee agreed that the role did not require any knowledge of volleyball and that it may be appeal to someone outside the volleyball community. Bev undertook to research whether any volunteer organisations might have someone that is interested.

**Bev**

<p>2. The HVA Committee currently comprises the following roles and occupants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair – Ashley Cullen</li><li>• Secretary – Vacant</li><li>• Treasurer – Caroline Hancock</li><li>• Adult Participation Officer – Andy Edwards</li><li>• Sitting Volleyball Officer – Richard Osborne</li><li>• Junior Development Officer – Ryan Gunner</li><li>• Communications Officer – Jo Ankers</li><li>• Coaching Officer – Ashley Cullen</li></ul> <p><b>Item 9 – Any other business</b></p> <p>1. Samir expressed his wish to offer his coaching services for the benefit of volleyball and gave credit to the HVA for delivering the Grand Prix and to Ryan for his service to the sport and, in particular, advancing junior volleyball.</p> <p><b>Item 10 – Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>1. The next meeting, to be held virtually, is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10 December 2020.</p>	
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