



**HAMPSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 JULY 2017**

Attendees	Ashley Cullen Bev Cooper Richard Osborne Andy Edwards Dave Gunter Sophie Burton Mel Howard Roy Pankhurst Tamara Gibson Adam Postance Sue Fallon	Chair/Finance Officer Junior Development/Adult Participation Secretary/Sitting Volleyball Indoor Volleyball/Website Administration Coaching Adviser Energise Me – Strategic Lead NGBs and Workforce Gosport Jedi Volleyball Club Chairman, Dorset and Hampshire Investment Zone Salisbury Volleyball Club Salisbury Volleyball Club South Hants Volleyball Club
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Item 1 - Welcome and Opening Remarks	Action
<p>1. Following round the table introductions, Ashley expressed his hope for an open meeting that would firstly reflect on the HVAs activities and achievements over the last 12 months <i>via</i> the Chair's report, before focusing on what is happening to Volleyball in England, for which the inputs from Sophie and Roy would be key in understanding how the sport is likely to move forward.</p>	
<p>Item 2 – Chair's report</p> <p>1. Introducing his second report as Chair, Ashley considered the HVA had successfully delivered a suite of objectives over the past 12 months. These are summarised in the report appended to these minutes.</p> <p>2. Ashley believed the HVA is doing the right things and that its focus is on the right areas, but he was also of the view that it operates in pillars of activity, such as junior development, indoor competitions, sitting volleyball etc, and that more could be done to broaden the profile across the county.</p> <p>3. Mel asked how junior volleyball is promoted across Hampshire. Bev explained that Mark Simmons, who occupied the now ceased Volleyball Relationship Manager role, was a principal mover in promoting junior volleyball, with strong contacts in schools and colleges with whom he was able to link activity. Ashley added that 3 key areas (South Hants, Wessex and New Forest) had also led the way in developing volleyball for juniors.</p> <p>4. Mel described how Gosport Jedi VC had started as a Go Spike initiative before transforming into a club and which now delivers sessions for beginners, some of whom are juniors. She explained that the sessions are popular and attendees love playing but there were insufficient coaches with the required level of experience to ensure the sessions were meaningful in driving improved performance. Bev suggested there were things the HVA could do to advise on governance issues but agreed that finding suitable coaches was problematic.</p> <p>5. Discussion turned to the Indoor competition which had changed from a triangular format used in previous years, and which had not operated as effectively as the HVA had hoped, to a Grand Prix (GP) series which was held at Bay House in Gosport. Views around the table were that the GP had been highly successful, it was great fun with a much better format, where matches were guaranteed unlike with the</p>	

previous arrangements. The intention is to continue with a GP format next season and teams will be notified of the dates and other arrangements shortly. Bay House has become a marketable commodity and an increase in costs is inevitable. It has been a long-standing policy of the HVA not to profit from this competition and so costs for teams to participate will be kept to a minimum.

6. Tamara enquired whether there was scope to relax the rule that prohibited females from playing in the men's competition. She explained that last season Salisbury had been unable to field a full team in the men's league and the consequent forfeiture of points had acted as a disincentive for the men to play. This was a view shared by Mel who said that Gosport Jedi had wanted to enter a mixed team into the competition but were debarred from doing so, although no rationale behind the decision was purported to have been given.

7. The GP series was developed in order to provide a stepping stone between local and national league volleyball and it was the HVA's considered view that it was necessary to ensure that teams entering the competition were able to provide the required level of performance or standard of play to fulfil that overarching objective. The committee was sympathetic to Gosport Jedi and recognised the need for it to enter competition in order to improve and progress, but the GP was not considered to be an appropriate outlet for mixed teams; however, it was strongly suggested that the Portsmouth Local League would be apposite, although Mel indicated weekday competition was not ideal for many Gosport Jedi players.

8. After a lengthy debate two things were agreed: firstly, that the rule regarding females will be relaxed next season to permit one female to be on court at any time, providing the female in question is capable of competing at the standard required, to be assessed by the committee in advance of play. Secondly, that mixed teams will not be permitted to take part in the Grand Prix but attempts will be made to scope further availability when Bay House may be able to host a mixed team competitions subject to there being sufficient interest beforehand to ensure no financial loss is incurred by the HVA.

Post Meeting Note: By email dated 28 July, Bev sought availability of Bay House on Sundays between September and December. A response is awaited.

9. A further discussion ensued about the need to improve the standard of refereeing at next season's GP and while thought had been given to using paid referees it was considered doing so would drive up the cost substantially and was therefore discounted. The preferred option is for every team to have a qualified referee and Dave suggested this should take effect for the 18/19 season, although Bev's preference, which echoed the Chair's report, was to have a formal arrangement in place for the 17/18 season. She will shortly be issuing to clubs details about a Grade 4 Referee Course that is taking place at Purbrook Park School, just north of Portsmouth, on 30 September 2017. Sophie suggested that clubs that take part in the GP and who are required to have a qualified referee should think carefully about who they select as the person will need to possess the right personal attributes to stand up to the task.

Item 3 – Finance Report

1. Ashley summarised the financial position and a copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

Item 4 – Volleyball in England

1. Ashley invited Sophie to speak about how Energise Me could support volleyball

Bev

across the region. He asked, by way of example, how he could obtain referee stands and if that was something with which Energise Me could assist. Roy intervened to explain how the HVA's Development Plan is the key document for moving the volleyball agenda forward and that the strategic ambitions and priorities outlined therein should link to Sophie's priorities. He further offered to assist the HVA in identifying its priorities and future development plan.

2. Sophie provided a brief history of recent Sport England funding, explaining how this led to Volleyball England developing Investment Zones and how those interacted with County Sports Partnerships across Hants and Dorset. Bringing members up to date, Sophie described how Volleyball England's focus is now on its core markets i.e., those clubs and players who are already involved in volleyball. Energise Me's raison d'être is to drive down inactivity; hence while the focus is on the core market there will be emphasis on encouraging people into sport. The Go Spike initiative has seen an influx of players to volleyball and it will be down to local people to decide whether to continue with that, but there will be a need for volunteers to keep doing what they are doing. She anticipated that satellite club funding will continue. Ashley asked if that meant clubs like Gosport Jedi could receive funds for more volleyballs, for example. Sophie's response was 'no', but explained that had never been the case. She advised that for something like funding for volleyballs clubs should apply for grants via www.funding4sport.co.uk

3. Sophie added that Energise Me works strategically across the region and since 2013, when the satellite club initiative was introduced, some £37,056 had been invested into volleyball satellite clubs. In addition, some £1200 had been invested into coach development, and details are available on the Energise Me website about funding opportunities for females that wish to get involved in coaching (Project 500), but Sophie reminded attendees that volleyball is just one sport amongst many vying for funds, which need to be dispersed proportionately. However, when clubs apply for funding from Energise Me there will be an expectation that there will be some strategic thinking to support any application. Sophie stressed the need to manage expectations and stated that Energise Me cannot replace the VRM role but it wants to support and signpost to services where it is able.

4. Ashley thanked Sophie for a most useful insight into her role and the work undertaken by Energise Me.

Item 5 – Election of Officers

1. Ashley expressed his wish to relinquish the Finance Officer role but no volunteers stepped forward. All post holders volunteered to retain their current roles as follows:

Chair/Finance Officer – Ashley Cullen
Secretary/Sitting Volleyball Representative – Richard Osborne
Indoor League/Website Administration – Andy Edwards
Junior Development/Adult Participation – Bev Cooper
Coaching Adviser – Dave Gunter

2. Both Tamara and Mel indicated their willingness to join the committee, fwhich was welcomed by all and considered to be extremely useful in providing a further level of assurance in relation to decision-making. It was understood that it may not be possible for them to attend every meeting but that they would provide 'virtual' support as critical friends.

Item 6 – Any other business

<p>1. Dave and Andy had been assessing the possibility of arranging a coaching course, which was a legacy item that Mark Simmons had been progressing, but as new courses are due to be rolled out it was considered inappropriate to organise one at this time. The new Level 1 course is due to come online in January 2018 and will be a 2-day course over 2 separate weekends with more emphasis on practical application. It will be a Volleyball England course, not Sport4All. Dave indicated his willingness to tutor the course when it is arranged.</p> <p>2. Tamara provided feedback on her experience from a referee course that she had attended and which she stated had covered very little on how to complete the score sheet. She was encouraged to feed back her comments to Volleyball England. Dave signposted attendees to a PowerPoint presentation available on the internet which provided a free tutorial on completing score sheets. An example is provided at the link: http://slideplayer.com/slide/3188207/</p> <p>3. In closing, Ashley thanked everyone for their participation and valuable contribution throughout the meeting and described how he felt the work of all those who contributed to the Association's work was 'vibrant' and that the future looked positive despite the challenges that lay ahead.</p> <p>Item 7 – Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>1. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 10 October at the Tesco Community Room, Fareham from 1830-2030. Richard to make the necessary booking.</p>	<p>Richard</p>
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