



HAMPSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2016

Attendees	Bev Cooper Ashley Cullen Mark Simmons Richard Osborne Andy Edwards Mark Thacker James Kemp	Junior Development/Adult Participation Chair/Finance Officer VRM Hampshire and Dorset Investment Zone Secretary/Sitting Volleyball Website Administration Guest – for Item 3 Guest – for Item 3
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Item 1 - Welcome and Opening Remarks	Action
<p>1. Ashley thanked members for attending and extended a warm welcome to Mark T and James from New Forest VC who were attending principally for the open discussion on junior development. Ashley explained that the meeting would focus on that subject as well as the Development Plan.</p> <p>2. Apologies were tendered on behalf of Dave Gunter.</p>	
Item 2 – Review of previous minutes and actions arising	
<p>1. Richard took the committee through the actions from the last meeting. Good progress had been made and a large proportion of actions are complete; however, a volunteer is still needed to oversee the planning and delivery of next season's Indoor League and Ashley asked that he, Bev and Andy discuss how best to take the matter forward.</p>	Ashley, Bev, Andy
<p>2. Serial 2.6 in Year 2 of the Junior Development section of the Development Plan still refers to the need to 'maintain' a junior tournament, despite no previous tournaments having taken place. Richard stated that he will circulate the plan amongst members in the next few days and invite their updates/amendments which will then be distilled into the online version on the HVA website.</p>	Richard/All
<p>3. The 'Gallery' section of the HVA website was still lacking photographs and members were urged to offer images to Richard so that he can liaise with Roy Goring (the web author) to ensure they are uploaded accordingly.</p>	All
<p>Post meeting note: Photos offered by South Hants and Portsmouth Sitting Volleyball Club have been added to the website gallery.</p>	
<p>4. Following the previous meeting, which had focused on better utilisation of social media, there had been an immediate increase in the number of posts, blogs etc but this has started to wane. Bev reminded members of the need to use social media and, importantly, to 'share' information posted by others onto their own timelines or group pages.</p>	All
Item 3 – Open Discussion – Junior Development	
<p>1. Ashley described the 'incredible work' undertaken by Bev and Mark T at South Hants and New Forest respectively which he considered placed them at the vanguard of promoting and growing junior volleyball across Hants and Dorset. He explained that he is very keen to scope how best to combine that effort and to assess what is happening in other parts of Hampshire and how that can be used to</p>	

best effect, including utilising the coaching expertise and delivering competitions.

2. An open discussion ensued where James and Mark T outlined the arrangements at New Forest VC and the focus on identifying progression pathways to ensure each player maximises their potential *via* an appropriate competitive outlet. James reinforced Bev's message that social media is crucial in cascading messages and stated that New Forest benefits from a large workforce (in the region of 20 people), not all of whom are connected to volleyball, but who have specialist skills, such as marketing and accountancy that can be used for the club's benefit.

3. Mark T emphasised the importance that satellite clubs play in growing junior talent and how players can then be signposted to NL, SEVA etc. Networking was also considered to be of fundamental importance i.e., finding the right people to connect with, 'selling the dream' and enthusing them to get on board e.g., using Level 1 coaches who are passionate. Mark T further mentioned that bids had been successfully made to Sport Hampshire and IOW (SHIOW) for paid coaching for up to 20 weeks.

4. It was agreed that there is little visibility of activity across other areas in Hampshire and the associated difficulty in then establishing relations, but Mark T suggested that Mark S could use his extensive contacts to make the connections. Mark S described a forthcoming event - the Hampshire PE Conference, to be held at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton on 12 July 16 - at which Dave Gunter is delivering a 2-hour workshop to teachers. It is anticipated that Mark S will accrue a number of contacts through this event that he can use to promote volleyball opportunities, satellite clubs etc. Some members had reservations about the utility of getting teachers to try the sport and suggested it would be better to deliver demonstrations using highly capable players who can show the sport, while Dave provided a commentary about technique, tactics etc.

5. James stated that volleyball is largely invisible because, in the main, it takes place in sports halls away from the public eye. He wondered what could be done to bridge the gap between club and regional players and how more players can be drawn to the game. Richard declared that in his experience getting into the community tended to yield the best results. He has delivered sitting volleyball 'come and try' sessions at the Rural and Seaside Show, in Southsea, and drew in more than 150 people over a few hours, some of whom joined the club as a result.

6. Mark T suggested the HVA organise an event or competition and cited how the New Forest had used New Milton Rugby Club for a sports taster day where a range of sports were offered, including volleyball. He suggested that if HVA hosted the event it could invite other sports to attend and could use it to generate some revenue by including, for example, a BBQ, raffle etc.

7. A general discussion took place that centred on members' views of SADVA, SEVA and NL outlets and how best to map player ability to them. Mark S said that from the end of June 16 there will be nothing for juniors to look forward to until next June. James said he is interested to see how the HVA develops over the next 12 months and that it is an exciting time with great opportunities on offer. Bev expressed her interest in the 'pathways' concept and how it could be used at South Hants. Both James and Mark T voiced their admiration for SADVA, which they value highly but stated that although competition is important so, too, is training as it also provides opportunities for coaches to hone their skills.

8. In drawing the discussion to a close, Ashley considered it to have been useful with a variety of issues considered. He aired his aspiration to get South Hants and New Forest together for a one-day event in the autumn, perhaps with coaches from

both clubs running drills and some 6v6 matches. He was pleased to have connected Bev with Mark T and James and urged them to continue the dialogue.

Item 4 – Development Plan – discussion on points arising from progress reports

1. Progress reports had been circulated out of committee covering: junior development; adult participation; sitting volleyball; indoor league; and finances.

Note: These reports are available *via* the HVA website. Members were invited to ask questions on any of the issues raised in the reports. Ashley asked Mark S how the Hampshire Investment Zone compares with equivalents in other counties. Mark S stated that he was very much on target in terms of the Volleyball England targets set for Dorset & Hants IZ for 2013-2017. He added that he has been extremely busy working in Hampshire principally because of his close link with the HVA which has often supplied him with new contacts from which he could pick up links and engage existing as well as new people, groups and organisations. Ashley indicated his wish to engage Geoff Allen in Dorset and Mark S said he would happily connect him *via* the Dorset and Hants Investment Zone Steering Group.

2. Ashley was pleased to note the Go Spike Big Weekend had been embraced across Hampshire and Mark S stated that Hampshire had delivered more sessions than any other county. He went on to speak about the status of Go Spike clubs and how it is anticipated they will move forward next season, including some taking part in the Portsmouth League.

3. Ashley asked what was happening with the Hampshire School Games and Mark S described his work with New Forest VC and SHIOW to arrange the Yr 9/10 boys and girls county volleyball final in Aldershot on 30 June. Nine schools and 19 teams are participating, and many of the schools are volleyball satellite clubs from across the county. In addition there will be a special visit from Zara Dampney. Mark S added that it has been a significant effort planning and organising the event, which would normally be undertaken by a club or NGB and it is his preference that one or the other takes on the task next year.

4. Mark S then spoke about the success of the satellite clubs and all agreed that they are really valid and worthwhile as a means of nurturing future talent. There was concern amongst members that the future of Mark S's role was uncertain as this is the last year of Volleyball England's 4-year Strategic Plan (2013-2017). Ashley undertook to write to Volleyball England to emphasise the indelible impact Mark S has made on volleyball across Hampshire and Dorset and that the HVA's strong wish is for him to continue in his role.

5. Turning to the financial position, Ashley aired concern about the lack of income stream to the HVA and suggested this be the topic for discussion at the next committee meeting.

6. On sitting volleyball, Mark T said that New Forest VC has been asked to be more involved in work at Noadswood School to run a SV club. Mark T further indicated that the New Forest VC has a longer term ambition to develop its own SV club and Richard offered to help and support when they are in a position to move forward.

7. Finally, Ashley asked that further thought be given to next season's indoor league and said that he would email some thoughts to Bev and Andy in advance of a meeting to discuss in further detail.

Item 5 – Any Other Business

Mark

Ashley

Richard

Ashley

<p>1. Mark S described a Beach Olympics event taking place on the 4th July on Southsea Front. He has approached a few clubs in the Portsmouth area and Kathy Green from Portsmouth Volleyball Club came forward and is going to support with some volleyball delivery on the day. Hundreds of Primary School Children will be present and will rotate around various sporting activities.</p> <p>2. Mark S further described how LEAF Academy in Bournemouth held a talent identification on the indoor beach courts where coaches from Volleyball England assessed approximately 150 pupils, giving each of them feedback on their performance. He asked that if any committee member has a large pool of players to let him know so that he can notify VE with a view to getting a talent identification event near them.</p> <p>3. Ashley asked if Richard would bring his portable sitting volleyball system to the IBM tournament on 3 August and Andy requested the same for the Roke tournament on 4 September.</p> <p>Item 6 – Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>1. The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 29 July. The time and venue is to be confirmed but will be promulgated <i>via</i> the HVA website and social media.</p>	<p>Richard</p>
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