



**Competitions Commission Meeting**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013**

**NVC, Kettering**

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	: Will Westwood
<b>Circulation</b>	: Competition Commission
<b>Distribution</b>	: From Paul Bohannan

<b>Commissioners present and apologies for absence</b>	
<b>Paul Bohannan</b>	Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner
<b>Bill Boagey</b>	Division 1 Commissioner
<b>Keith McAdam</b>	Division 2 Men's Commissioner
<b>Lenny Barry</b>	National Cup Commissioner
Jonathan Moore	Competitions Manager
Will Westwood	Competitions Officer
Wayne Coyle	President
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
<b>Kevin Hamblin</b>	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
Sanjib Sahota	Major Events & Commercial Manager
Martin Lindsey	Business Director
<b>Ade McGraa</b>	Student Cup Commissioner
<b>Brian Kendall</b>	National U15 Commissioner
Martin Shakespeare	Referee Liaison
<b>Ian Cheesbrough</b>	Division 2 Women's Commissioner
<b>Sarah Hill</b>	Division 3 Women's Commissioner
<b>Ade McGraa</b>	Student Cup Commissioner

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10.45am. Wayne Coyle gave a brief update on staffing and structure before the agenda began.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
	LB queried whether discussions have taken place yet with Referee Commission with regards to the number of referees. PB has spoken with them and updated them on the Competitions Commission view that referee appointments should be done with parity across division. They are of the opinion that appointments should be done from the top divisions down. JM updated all on current head office staff positions with regards to workforce.	

	<p>Commission weren't informed that City of Salford 2 had been put into W3N in place of RAF Hawks who had withdrawn. LB opposed the idea that no contact had gone to the Commission based on accountability, however agreed with the idea of adding City of Salford 2.</p> <p>Awaiting response from Martin Shakespeare about referees receiving a fee if matches are cancelled.</p> <p>LB queried a line stating that a team <b>may not</b> enter the NVL if they are still in debt at the end of the season. The point was discussed however no agreement was made with regards to amending the original terminology.</p> <p>JM updated the Commission on the changes in the competitions team. Sanjib is now Major Events &amp; Commercial Manager, JM has been promoted to Competitions Manager, WW has been promoted Competitions Officer, a Competitions Administrator is being advertised for and Alex Hajigeorgieva has been put in post as the National Volleyball Centre Coordinator.</p> <p>PB informed all present about the Molten ball sponsor deal that had been proposed. The deal was declined, as it was not beneficial enough to VE or its members.</p> <p>Discussion to be had with the Talent team with regards to the U18 Grand Prix to confirm the format and how the GP is approached and moved forward. PB was of the opinion that we should have some budget assigned for it, however JM didn't think he'd seen a budget line previously.</p> <p>Decisions were made via email regarding the 3 proposals put forward at the previous Commission meeting. Further details on the proposals can be found in at the end of these minutes</p> <p>Super 8s Proposal: No U18 Grand Prix: Yes National Cup to move to pre-Christmas: No</p> <p>The competitions review is a continuing process.</p>	JM
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Communication needs to go to teams with regards to the increase in goodwill deposits (£75 to £100)</p> <p>LB requested a list of players who had been registered to teams in the last two years to be added to the website so teams can check whether a player needs a transfer. Online system isn't currently as accurate as we would like it.</p>	JM/WW  WW
4.	<p><b>2013/14 Handbook</b></p> <p>The handbook draft has come back from the printer. A few changes have been requested however the order for the print run should have been sent by the end of September with a view to distribute it to teams by mid-October.</p> <p>PDF booklet print to be added online.</p>	WW
5.	<p><b>International Transfers</b></p> <p>VE have had communication with CEV, they've agreed that we could have a staged approach to implementation. This year the regulations only apply to the Super 8s. We're in the process of working with the players and teams to get them done. Some of the federations are allowing free transfers, others are requesting substantial fees. Current list stands at around 80 players. The transfer 'resets' each season, so this process will need to be undertaken each season.</p>	

	<p>We are currently well behind schedule, which could lead to players not being allowed to play, based on a Competitions Commission decision. The CEV regulations state that international transfers do not become valid until 16<sup>th</sup> October, however our season begins well before that date. The rules are written for professional leagues hence why the date is after the beginning of our leagues.</p> <p>Brian Treadwell's (Independent Non Executive Director – Legal) advice was to challenge the CEV as to whether the regulations are legal with regards to being against human rights and freedom of movement. The board decided not to pursue this route and to comply with the regulations.</p> <p>In the final week building up to the start of the Super 8s first weekend, no transfers have been completed to date. This isn't necessarily down to the lack of information from players- some of it is down to the other federations taking their time to process the transfers. There is no timeline given by the CEV in order to complete a transfer so we are limited in terms of what we can do to push transfers through. JM suggested that we needed to take a strict line in order to avoid Volleyball England receiving fines from the CEV for playing illegal players. Teams have been made aware of the fees and the processes involved, albeit not as early as we would have liked.</p> <p>PB and LB agreed that they wouldn't have any issue with a team receiving their NVL entry fee back if they are unable to compete this season based on substantial fees.</p> <p>Transfers do not become 'live' until 16<sup>th</sup> October. CEV have given their agreement that our league can start before then. WC suggested we could allow players to play until 16<sup>th</sup> October in order to facilitate the playing of the matches in the early part of the season.</p> <p>WC and Lisa Wainwright are attending a CEV Congress meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September. WC suggested he'd try and speak with some of the other Presidents of the countries who are charging a substantial fee and try and negotiate an agreement to reduce the fee, hopefully to zero.</p> <p>Various discussions took place with regards to differing scenarios. An agreement was reached to inform teams that players have until 16<sup>th</sup> October to complete their international transfer. Players who have played in matches before said date must have their international transfer in progress and be registered with Volleyball England. If the transfer is not finalised by 16<sup>th</sup> October, the player then becomes illegal until the transfer is finalised. No retrospective action will be taken against players who played before the deadline but then didn't want to continue after the deadline due to the fees. JM will distribute official wording to teams to clarify the situation. (it will be sent to all present to confirm before going out to teams)</p> <p>It was agreed that the players requiring an ITC will not be registered/shown on the website until their ITC is complete. An email from head office will be sent each week to teams confirming eligibility, also requesting players bring photo ID.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>WW</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Competitions Update</b></p> <p><b>Competitions Review (WC)</b>  Currently in 'phase 3', where consultation has taken place with various stakeholders. Some competitions are in phase 4 with the implementation already taking place. E.g. regional champions trophy has been withdrawn from the competitions calendar, U18 GP has been added to the calendar. General response to the U18 GP idea has been positive.</p> <p><b>Super 8s</b>  International Transfer regulations are having a big impact on the league, not only from a head office point of view but also from a team's perspective. A few clubs are heavily reliant on foreign players so they are struggling for numbers to be able to fulfil their current fixtures.</p>	

	<p>There was a proposal to create a Super 8s weekend in January however the NVC isn't available and we've not been able to have appropriate dialogue with teams.</p> <p><b>NVL</b> The league has started across a few divisions as of last week.</p> <p><b>K/O Cup &amp; Shield</b> Cup numbers are down on previous years. LB suggested contacting teams who didn't enter the cup to find out why they didn't enter in order to improve it for next season.</p> <p>The timeline wasn't kept to with regards to creating and sending out the draw. This was down to not asking for cup entries on the original entry form, however PB and JM confirmed it was done this way as they wanted to be able to tell teams what cup format they were entering.</p> <p>A few people/members have mentioned changing the cup draw, however it has been done as an open draw previously and caused major problems.</p> <p><b>Student Cup</b> Venues are booked, similar to previous years. Entries are now open. The finals have been booked in Norwich this year however a couple of other teams/venues have put forward interest in hosting next year. Currently Norwich is still the best all round venue.</p> <p>UEL has been put forward as a venue however the free space on some of the courts is not sufficient. Wessex have said they're interested in hosting the finals however they only have 5 courts. It could be a possible venue for them to host a qualifying round.</p> <p><b>U15 National Championships</b> Dates have been released, Leeds and Kettering have been booked, Reading needs to be booked. Entry forms will go out in November.</p> <p>Issue with one of the coaches from the Final last season is still on going. Coaches Commission sent a response to the coach involved however one of the other clubs involved has requested the situation and outcome be reviewed as they didn't feel the response was sufficient.</p> <p><b>U16 National Championships</b> Entries are currently open; the competition will follow the same format as previous year.</p> <p><b>U18 National Championships</b> Round 1 is due to take place in October, with Round 2 in November and the Last 8s in December. Entries currently slightly down on last year.</p> <p><b>Inter Regional Championships</b> Competitions is booked and advertised in the calendar. Discussions will take place with regional commission with regards to the continuation of the competition.</p>	WW
7.	<p><b>Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix</b> First Grand Prix is set to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> September. There is great concern at the number of teams entered, alongside what work is being done to encourage/produce more teams to enter. Currently, there aren't enough teams entered to represent good value for money.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Calendar</b> KM suggested Super 8s should start after the international transfer date closes. It will be looked at to see if it's possible in terms of number of weekends available.</p>	

9.	<p><b>Date of next two meetings</b>  11<sup>th</sup> January 2014 SportPark, Loughborough  10<sup>th</sup> May 2014, NVC, Kettering</p>	
10.	<p><b>Any other business</b>  BB approached to find out what would happen if a team's driver couldn't make a match but both teams agreed on a change of date. He said he'd stick to the regulations.</p> <p>Birmingham are scheduled to travel down to Bristol on Saturday and Northumbria on a Sunday. Neither opposition were prepared to change the dates, however Birmingham didn't raise it as an issue until well after the deadline.</p> <p>LB brought up the email sent by Ian Cheesbrough re: accountability and decision-making.</p> <p>Alan Bell sent a complaint with regards to the withdrawal of one team in W3N. He wasn't aware, through no fault of VE that a team had been found to fill the spot vacated by RAF Hawks.</p> <p>LB queried whether there were any recommendations from Portas on the structure of the Commissions. Nobody present was too sure, however JM explained that if we hadn't accepted their recommendations, the additional £500,000 available from Sport England may have been withheld.</p> <p>Meeting finished at 4pm</p> <p><b>Competitions Review proposals from the previous meeting:</b></p> <p><b>U18's - Proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on Participation and Talent Pathway.</li> <li>- That the U18 structure through to identification of the finalist remains as per previous years.</li> <li>- That the top 2 teams play off in a cup final.</li> <li>- That the cup final takes place in January alongside the Super 8s final in January (see Super 8s below).</li> <li>- That the timescale to produce the finalists is scheduled before the end of December.</li> <li>- That the final 8 teams qualify for a Grand Prix style competition (series of Last 8s Competitions) that take place between January and the end of March.</li> <li>- That the Grand Prix finalists take part in the Cup Final Weekend.</li> <li>- Context and Consultation; The above meets the requirement of the Junior competitions review. Consultation should take place with U18 teams asap.</li> </ul> <p><b>NVL Cup - Proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on Participation in the NVL Cup. (Super 8s Cup benefit for the rest of the Teams rather than the Super 8s Teams).</li> <li>- Over the last Few years the NVL Cup has been affected by teams withdrawing (including S8 teams) and games not taking place.</li> <li>- The NVL Cup Final has been a key showcase event as part of the 'Cup finals' weekend.</li> <li>- The recommendation is that S8 teams are removed from the cup leaving the competition as a VE Cup Competition.</li> <li>- It is hoped that this will result in increased competition for the remaining NVL teams and also encourage more none national team entries hence increasing participation opportunities.</li> <li>- The 'carrot' will be to play in the VE Cup Finals at Kettering.</li> <li>- The Shield competition will remain however the Final will take place at either a neutral venue or that of one of the home teams (a draw).</li> <li>- The competition will run on the same timescale as previously with finals in April / May.</li> </ul> <p><b>Super 8s - Proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on Profile, Visuality and Performance Pathway.</li> </ul>	

- The Super 8s was deemed as not fit for purpose in the review sessions that have taken place so far.
- The key concern seems to be the profile and commerciality that should be provided through the Super 8s.
- It is recognised that whilst a step change may be required to accelerate opportunities, there is a need to respect timescales and the impact on the remainder of the NVL.
- As such the proposal outlined encompasses the existing Super 8s teams;
- It provides a Super 8s League Cup Competition that starts at the beginning of the season and is finalised in a Cup Final in January (this provides a mid season profile event). Teams are drawn in 2 pools of 4 (regionalised), play each other once, play cross over semis and then the finalist play in a central venue cup competition (not necessarily Kettering – let's put it out to the Market).
- The Super 8s then starts after the completion of the Cup Semi Finals and is delivered on the traditional home and away league.
- That there are 2 identified central venue weekend for male and female teams. The first will be in November and the second in February.
- That these games will be televised under controlled conditions for release through Jan to April (gaining significant profile for the sport).
- That the season will complete with a playoff system with the top 4 teams playing semis (home and away) and a Cup Final style event as part of the Cup Final weekend.
- Teams will also be expected to capitalize on TV coverage to build home based events.
- The format presented provides the opportunity for the sport to achieve profile and visuality through the January Cup Final plus the central venue events released to TV in 1-hour highlight programmes on a weekly basis.