



Competitions Commission Meeting

Saturday 7th January 2012

SportPark, Loughborough University

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by	: Will Westwood
Circulation	: Competition Commission
Distribution	: From Paul Bohannan

	Commissioners present and apologies for absence
	Paul Bohannan Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner
	Bill Boagey Division 1 Commissioner
	Ian Cheesbrough Division 2 Women's Commissioner
	Keith McAdam Division 2 Men's Commissioner
	Kevin Hamblin Division 3 Men's Commissioner (Via conference call)
	Lenny Barry National Cup Commissioner
	Brian Kendal National U15 Commissioner
	Martin Shakespeare Referee Liaison
	Wayne Coyle International Events and Competitions Director
	Martin Lindsey Head of Operations
	Sanjib Sahota National Competition and Events Manager
	Jonathan Moore Competitions Officer
	Will Westwood Business Support Administrator
1.	Apologies
	Ade McGraa Student Cup Commissioner

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10.30am

	Action
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting	
Minutes of previous meeting circulated on ... December 2011.	
3. Matters Arising	
NVL Survey	

Jon arranged for 2 copies of the NVL handbook to be available to those commissioners that requested it.

No-one has contacted Sanjib regarding getting a mobile phone to use when calling premium rate phone numbers.

The competitions@volleyballengland.org email address should go live with the new website later this month.

NVL Survey was sent to the referee commission. Publishing numerical data for NVL Survey to teams still to be done. LB suggested still worthwhile doing even though the suggestion to do so was made 6 months ago. JM asked if a second survey was going to be sent out this year to hopefully demonstrate an improvement in results. IC suggested a bi-annual survey to allow time to implement changes. This was agreed upon by PB. Distribution channel will be the new website, as an encouragement for people to use it.

Minutes from 1996 had a request to put competition commission meeting minutes on the website. Agreed that this was an idea to pursue. MS made the point that we should censor or remove any confidential items on the public version.

Handbook delay caused concern, so a plan to avoid future delays will be discussed in due course. The Volleyball England address and contact details should be brought to the front of the 2012-2013 edition. Current first mention of the VE address is page 171, however it wasn't possible to amend this year as it had already been sent to printing at the time of suggestion.

PB has tried to contact Birmingham via email and phone to discuss withdrawal from the league and reasons behind, but had no response.

University team invoicing agreement should be looked at; maybe needs to be some documentation to say who will pay for the invoice should the original recipient not be able to, or refuse to? Generally agreed it's still up to the club to pay as they are the ones who have created the contract by requesting our service. Note to be put on entry forms to inform clubs of this. Club affiliation forms should have the Chair person, secretary and treasurer details

Only 2 or 3 outstanding fines (with the exception of the Birmingham invoice). Of those outstanding, all have been contacted and agreed to pay in the near future. No long standing issues. A document with all outstanding fines over the last 5 years, beginning 2010, has been produced. To be signed by PB and SS to authorise writing off the debt. The majority are £20 fines, many of which could well have been paid, however weren't coded to the correct budget at the time and therefore weren't recorded as paid. All invoices from this season onwards are being pursued to conclusion.

Player registration and club affiliation deadline wasn't being met by all clubs. Agreed there's a need to be stricter with deadlines and stop letting people off in order to change the current 'culture' whereby clubs know they can get away with not meeting the deadlines. MS suggested asking for affiliation fees earlier. Clubs should be contacting us if they know they won't be able to meet the deadlines. Need to be more assertive in communicating with teams and enforcing the rules.

League entry to be received by a specified date, perhaps with a week's grace period (unofficially) unless teams have contacted prior. Reminders of rules should be put on entry packs. Each team should have 8 players registered by 1st August otherwise they'll be fined (amount to be specified). Club affiliation should be paid by 31st August otherwise club will be fined £25. Rules state the club, players and competition fees should be paid before taking part in the competition so the rules need to be enforced.

IC suggested having a timeline for checks to see if clubs have registered, send reminders if not.

JM to distribute NVL Survey numerical data on Website

ML to look into

JM to amend

Next season, NVL entry form; try and send out earlier. If entries aren't submitted in time, you won't be allowed to enter the league. Club affiliation needs to be done by 31st August at the latest. If it's not done, the team will be fined £25, and won't be allowed to take part in the league until payment has been received. Try and allow more time for teams to complete each phase.

BK mentioned that at the Regional Commissioners meeting, they made the point that the Competitions Commission weren't scrupulous enough in invoking the rule that any new team into the league has got to have regional support. However, the rules state that it would "normally include" therefore allowing the Competitions Commission to accept Applications at their discretion.

Problems relating to team entries are caused mainly because the teams are only amateur teams and have to enter as an act of faith that they will be able to play and fulfil all the NVL requirements. Teams should be encouraged to think about whether they're acting on the assumption that they'll be able to compete, and should think carefully as to whether the national league is the right place for their team.

Communications with BUCS with regards to University affiliations has improved from last year.

PB spoke to KM about joining the commission; Keith is now Men's Division 2 Commissioner. PB also spoke with Tim Griffiths but he no longer wanted to get involved.

PB has spoken to the Regional Commission with regards to the Regional Champions Trophy. Ideas put forward to move it to the start of the season to try and increase interest as many teams/clubs have other commitments/interests at the end of the season so tend to show less interest in this trophy.

UK School games has moved their competition date to the same date that inter regional's is held on in May however that's only for this year due to the Paralympics. It'll go back to its usual September date in 2013. NE has informed us they won't be entering due to lack of funding.

Organise coaches or performance commission to come to a Competitions Commission meeting.

PB to organise

Copy of VE structure document to be emailed round.

ML to organise

Framework document states that the Competitions Commission remit only falls on national indoor events, and not international. Where do teams go should they wish to enter international competitions? E.g NEZVA. Teams should contact VE in the first instance. Regulations will be amended accordingly.

Agreed not to give a BP card to qualified coaches as they've previously used this as a way of getting out of paying the registration fee. Only registered coaches or team captains can sign the coach box on the scoresheet. There needs to be clarification on what a coach is considered to be; i.e is a coach considered to be a qualified and registered coach, or can the team captain be considered a coach? Nothing to stop a registered player handing in their registration card and being considered coach on the day. Instructions to be sent to referees and clubs for clarity that the team captain is to assume the role of the coach should a registered NVL coach not be present. BP cannot be considered the coach, and they must go in the assistant coach/trainer box, and the captain is to assume the role of coach.

MS to send instruction to JM to forward to referees and clubs

4. Birmingham VC

Situation as it stands; debt is currently £788 of which £38 (£10 fine, £28 player registration) is for 2 invoices sent for the men's team.

Birmingham requested a re-issuing of the invoice however this isn't possible, so a copy was sent. 5 players have paid the buy out fee to date.

The team players are now involved and have been informed via email of the timeline of events and why certain decisions were made. Club meeting is being arranged to discuss and reply as soon as possible.

BB & KM pointed out there now seems a willingness to try and resolve the situation, and believe there will be a conclusion now that players are involved.

IC mentioned that in the previous meeting he wanted the issue to have been resolved by the next meeting. Attempted to resolve with the Club Secretary however not possible due to lack of response.

Setting a deadline for Birmingham to give us a resolution is a possibility. LB suggested the club should be paying the debt as they have the liability, and then recover the money from the players themselves as the men's team is currently still playing while the club is in debt.

Need to have wider areas of contact (i.e not just the team secretary) as information isn't always fed through to the club.

Some clubs have teams who do not consider themselves part of that club, e.g Wessex club and Wessex 2nd team. NVL club affiliation forms need to change so that the club and team secretary sig the form. If that is the same person, then another team representative needs to sign to show that they are aware of the club they are affiliating under. Currently have a culture of team not club.

Entry into the league next season could be rejected due to outstanding debt, or at the end of the season, the men could be given a buy out fee to enable them to continue playing or transfer.

ML put forward the idea that University's should have deadlines for invoices to try and avoid similar situations in future. The reason for invoicing University's is mainly due to the respective Athletic Union's needing an invoice in order to be able to pay money out of their account.

Birmingham University have applied for a grant for sitting volleyball development. Shouldn't be agreed to while they're still in debt.

PB suggested the best way forward was to continue discussions as there was no point taking further sanctions for the good of the game.

PB to arrange to meet with Birmingham.

5. Strategic plan update – Competitions – Sanjib Sahota

2011-2012 plan; most outputs are amber and green

NVL has 107 teams this year.

U16/U18 has 129 teams currently competing, last 8's scheduled to take place in February.

U15 entries are up. Transitional year as it's going from a divisional based competition to a regional based competition. Actual figures will be recorded once all first rounds have been played.

Regional Champions Trophy would like to see an increase in numbers.

Student cup has been played over a few venues this year, 91 teams competing. Finals scheduled for 2nd weekend in February at UEA. University of East London now has an 8 court venue so that's a possibility to use for next year. Review has taken place over the Christmas period so results will be distributed in due course.

Sitting Volleyball GP originally had 6 events planned however the 1st GP didn't go ahead so there are now only 5.

KO Cup Finals is in the preparation stage, LB and SS liaising over details.

Inter-regional's date is set for 2nd/3rd June.

Commission to receive the quarterly update of the Strategic Plan.

ML to circulate

6. Divisional, Cup and Junior Competitions Commissioners Reports – All

Case book for NVL Appeals, decisions and Judicial Panel results. Would provide examples and possible guidelines on future judgements/decisions in an effort to provide consistency in decisions. Amy originally tasked with it but changed roles so didn't complete.

All to look into decisions made and forward to JM

All WS8 matches have taken place to date, with a couple of late fixture confirmations. MS8 has had a few issues with changes of venue and match times however nothing major that hasn't been sorted. Birmingham men were a little disorganised to begin with, worth keeping an eye on them to ensure no future problems.

Division 2 Women had the fall out of Birmingham 2 dropping out 3 days before the start of the season. Northampton made a claim due to costs incurred by this withdrawal which was resolved by PB. Katie Bennet transfer embargo was requested by Birmingham due to money owed. IC ruled against.

Very few issues in Men's Division 2, just a couple of late withdrawals from matches. Teams fined and deducted 1 point in accordance with rules.

Cup Report Recommendations – If you do not return your entry on time you will not be entered into the Cup.

Teams were put into the cup when they hadn't entered. Put in on the assumption they were going to send in entries.

Some teams have moved NVL fixtures onto Cup/Shield dates. Rules currently state it's down to the club whether they want to move their fixture to the same date, at their own risk.

Reports to be re-sent to WC

In one of the divisions, there is one team that has currently played 11, while another in the same division has only played 7. Arrangement/checking of fixtures was supposed to stop this from happening.

A vote was taken as to whether to make Cup dates sacrosanct. Vote was 4 *for* and 3 *against*, so no NVL matches are to be played or arranged on Cup dates in future.

Wayne yet to receive all reports other than LB and PB's.

7. KO Cup Competition (see attachment Item 7) – Lenny Barry

Email from Charlie Orton suggesting the Competitions Commission needs to be tougher on teams to stop the defaulting of cup matches.

Cup needs to continue being played over the season- if it's condensed too much, it'll lead to fixture congestion.

Small work group to be arranged/set up to discuss the cup and how to move it forwards. Perhaps invite a representative from each commission? Sometime in February TBC.

SS to organise

8. Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix Update

Sitting Volleyball advisory group is still in the process of being set up by Dan Griffin.

Recommendations are to ensure teams get into good habits; team lists to be submitted prior to competition or on arrival. Multiple copies of team lists available on the day to make it easier for scorers. Email to be sent to teams to request team sheets are filled in and handed in on arrival. Numbers seem to be declining slightly. Needs to improve over the next 9 months.

SS to email teams

Celtic Dragons haven't competed since opening GP as their GB women have been told to play for GB. Have informed us they will be playing in the next one.

9. Code of Conduct

To be circulated for comment.

PB to circulate

10. Instructions to Referees

3 sets of instructions written by MS so far this season as a result of complaints from clubs over what referees have done. Sent to Bernard Kilkenny to pass onto Burt, who then organised printing for it to be sent out with the next edition of the 'Whistler' magazine.

Content is sent to Bernard to pass to Referee Commission to agree.

Instructions are aimed to create consistency in refereeing.

Should have been sent out with the referee's newsletter. KM nor PB (both registered referees) have received it. It seems these haven't been sent to everyone.

MS to circulate

Instructions to be circulated to the competitions commission, along with the latest addition of instruction 4.

11 Changes to Regulations for 2012-13

To be discussed by email circulation

12. Minimum Operating Standards

Look to work with other commissions to enable realistic aims that are sustainable.

Referee commission will run more scorer's awareness courses to raise the level of scorers and get as many as possible to a similar standard. Possibility of creating an accreditation list available to referees to see who has taken the course discussed.

Deadline of 3 weeks to get back to PB with views/queries.

All to feedback to PB on his paper within 3 weeks.

13. Date of next two meetings

12th May 2012, NVC, Kettering 10:30
15th September 2012, SportPark, Loughborough 10:30

14. 14. Any Other Business

LB raised a point about MVP votes; more often than not, the best player is voted for rather than the most valuable player. Email discussion to be had on the purpose of MVP.

LB to initiate discussion

Promotion/relegation discussed. Currently system in place is fine.