

## REGIONAL Sub-Group

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING 13 March 2018

#### Conference call/virtual meeting

**In attendance:** Bryan Youlden (Chair), Dave Reece & Ron Richards (SWest), John Biddiscombe (South East), Aneel Khanna (WMVA); Charlie Orton (London) , Tim Godson (Yorkshire), Janet Inman (Chief Executive VE), Ian Wall (Marketing Director), Rob Payne (VE)

**Apologies:** Phil Chanin (NWVA), Keith Sowden (NEVA), Elizabeth Clarke (Board Member Core Market), Samantha Jamieson

#### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting:

Minutes of the December meeting have been circulated. There were no amendments.

#### 2. Matters arising

- 2.1. Under 14 Review – Some responses have been collected about activity in the various regions. Bryan Youlden is trying to complete this and will then circulate to everyone and feed it into the review being undertaken by Freda Bussey.

#### 3. Introduction and Welcome – Bryan Youlden

#### 4. Volleyball England Hub Update – Janet Inman

##### 4.1 Finance

The biggest challenge remains finance. The 2015 -16 accounts are complete and are available on the website. The 2016 -17 accounts are also done and will be released after they are presented to the Board at the weekend. Finally, the 2017-18 set will be done in May. Additional information and details will be published to help explain the content as they have been prepared largely to Company House standards whereas the membership will probably want more information. Consultants Moore Stevens have been involved in reviewing matters and will be returning to further analyse the financial position.

##### 4.2 Staffing

Emma Coulson-Jones has joined part time as financial controller. She is a qualified accountant. Amy Dobbins has been lost to delivery. Lawrence Shenker is joining Wheelchair Basketball. Replacements will be recruited internally from the project officers with those successful being replaced by way of external adverts.

A code of governance is also in preparation.

##### 4.3 Commonwealth games

A meeting has been held with the BVF and a working group has been set up to push for the inclusion of beach volleyball in the 2022 Birmingham games.

Two teams are preparing for the Gold Coast Commonwealth games. Janet asked that everyone promotes this by way of social media.

#### 4.4 GDPR

A considerable amount of work has gone into preparing for the GDPR data protection changes that are due to be implemented in May. A paper will go out to clubs to advise them of their obligations although it is the larger organisations which are likely to be most vulnerable as the body overseeing this will be funded from fines and it is the bigger companies and bodies that are most vulnerable for such fines. Further information for clubs including their responsibilities will be available soon.

Tim Godson expressed concern at the implications of the GDPR changes.

Janet Inman explained that anyone who stores data needs to have good reason to do so or it should be destroyed.

#### 4.5 Board meeting

The Board meeting had to be rearranged due to the snow and is being held this coming Saturday. It will include consideration of Ken Edward's paper on sitting volleyball.

#### 4.6 International Fixtures

The England v Scotland men's senior fixture is planned for 20/21 May in Newcastle upon Tyne.

#### 4.7 Coaching

Ste Kerr has resigned from the children and young people lead role. It is now planned to wait until the AGM to appoint a successor.

Simon Loftus has stepped into the lead coaching role.

The Level 2 coaching course will follow implementation of the Level 1 course.

## 5. Reviews

### 5.1. Commercial Marketing - Ian Wall

5.1.1 Ian introduced himself and explained his extensive experience over 35 years as a player, coach, referee and administrator at various levels of volleyball having been instrumental in setting up Tamworth Volleyball Club some 30 plus years ago.

He explained that he had applied to an advert on the website without ever expecting to be successful. As such he is proud to join the Board and appreciates everybody's support. He is always available and if anyone wants to contact him, please do so via his Volleyball England email address.

5.1.2 The website is being reviewed but we need to decide what we want and need a clear pathway first. There is a substantial amount of information on the existing website but is the balance correct?

John Biddiscombe felt that the results page is particularly attractive on a Monday when people are looking to find the weekend's results and this should be made more accessible.

Tim Godson commented that some of the links don't work.

Janet Inman asked that any other ideas are submitted via email.

We are working with Sport England over the issue of the website as we don't have the cash to undertake a radical overhaul. A number of issues have been addressed as part of general maintenance but we don't have the money to do anything more substantial.

Aneel Khana asked if an analysis has been undertaken into which pages are most frequently accessed? Janet confirmed this has been done.

5.1.3 Ian explained that the sport has three main products namely:

1. The NVL
2. The Cup Finals
3. The Inter regionals

We are looking for commercial sponsorships. It would be appreciated if this could be circulated by Linked In accounts to help identify anyone who could be interested.

It would be particularly useful to identify potential sponsors by way of our existing membership.

John Biddiscombe – Who is the request being targeted at and how?

Ian Wall – Initially via Linked In Business contacts but a discussion is ongoing with Stewart Dunne on how to broaden this to include banks, supermarkets, etc but excluding tobacco sponsorship.

Ron Richards – We should not accept sponsorship from alcohol related sponsors given the high number of young people involved in the sport.

Ian Wall – There is a debate on this on the website and Ian asked that Ron and others with strong views should join the debate as the membership should have a voice in this. There are also meetings this coming week with sport agencies and with kit and equipment suppliers.

Janet Inman commented that the appointment of new staff should free Stewart Dunne up to focus more on the commercial arena.

Dave Reece – Explained that he has had significant success in the past approaching sponsors through teams participating in his leagues. In his considerable experience most approaches offering sponsorship are from betting and alcohol related businesses.

Janet Inman further commented that we are researching what different companies are sponsoring. Quite a few construction companies appear to be active at present. Sponsorship from a solicitor has come via a Just Giving page from someone involved in the sport. It is much easier to secure sponsorship via a personal contact

## 5.2. Coaching Review (report given by Bryan Youlden on behalf of Gillian Harrison)

- 5.2.1. Gillian Harrison had reported that she was short on resources with Amy having left and Chris on honeymoon for a month. Janet advised that a new member of the team has joined this week which will add some support.

5.2.2 Looking at the insight it was clear that the old UKCC coaching courses were considered by many as not fit for purpose. As such, the new Level 1 course is a response to what the membership have demanded.

5.2.2. We have not been able to pilot the new Level 1 course (apart for partial prison based course). Sixteen courses have been booked in already however which is more than the whole of last year. The first few are being run by Dave Gunter, Rich Harrison and Freda Bussey and include Southampton. The first course is set for 24 March.

5.2.3. Development of the Level 2 course has not yet started in any detail.

John Biddiscombe asked that the Regional Chairs are copied in when any new course is proposed in their locality. Rob Payne was asked to raise this with Gillian Harrison.

### 5.3. Talent

5.3.1. A report received from Competitions sub group lead James Murphy advised that the 2nd day of the Inter regionals will include:

1. A senior academies fair where universities will show the programmes that they are running. At the same time the Ace programme will be explained
2. Regional coaches will be offered the opportunity to get involved in player testing and tests will be offered to athletes during the day

5.3.2 Offers of help from Pete Bragg (WM), Tim Godson (Yorks), Liz Clarke (NW) and Jurek Janowski (SW) have been passed over and in due course they will be contacted.

5.3.3 Tim commented that he has regularly found out about events and activities third hand despite being centrally involved in Yorkshire's program and asked that communication be improved in this area. Improved forewarning of dates for activities and improved feedback to athletes involved were two specific areas of concern. Janet Inman asked Rob Payne to address this with Gillian Harrison.

### 5.4 Competitions Review (James Murphy)

5.4.1 Kettering is booked until May which is why the Cup finals are scheduled at this venue again this year. It was agreed however that different events need to be scheduled around the country and offers of help from regions such as that recently received from London region are welcome. Groups can then hopefully be developed in various locations who are capable of running such events.

5.4.2 The Super 8 teams were unable to come forward to offer assistance with the Super 8 finals which were seen as simply another opportunity to play the same teams and this will not therefore continue. The teams have been advised of this.

5.4.3 Under 14 Review – Bryan Youlden thanked those Regions who had responded to the request on Under 14 activity and promised to complete the collation of this and then to feed it into the review being initiated by Freda Bussey.

## 5.5 Beach

5.5.1 Bryan Youlden advised the group of correspondence from Denise Austin and anyone with an interest in beach talent development is invited to contact her again.

5.5.2 A brief outline of a proposed development plan had been received and although it is accepted that it is brief, the basic skeleton is there to start the ball rolling.

5.5.3 Denise further advised that she is organising a meeting at 18.30 on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April with the wider VE beach people on the evening of the beach coaching course in Oxford.

### Proposed Agenda

National Junior beach Tour

Junior Regional Beach Tours

Junior Inter Club Competition

Junior Inter Regional Competitions

National Junior Beach Programme and how to link and support the development.

5.5.4 On these two days Denise is running a Junior Beach Coaching clinic to be run in conjunction with the Beach Coaching Course, so she will have live people to work upon. Matt Rhymer and James Annells will be running the Junior Coaching course.

5.5.5 As a beach volleyball club the Academy of Beach Sports is working with an Erasmus project with Hungarian and Spanish NT and club coaches flying into work with the coaching course. The Erasmus project is aimed at Improving Beach Volleyball Coaching through Beach Volleyball Camps.

## 5.6. Referees Group

5.6.1. Richard Morten forwarded a written report advising that there have been 16 courses this financial year with a further 4 booked. 10 of the courses are University sponsored. The breakdown by region (including the 4 future courses) is:

EA 2

EM 3

NW 3

SE 5

SW 4

WM 1

YO 1

Military 1

5.6.2. Mentors are being used to follow up on courses although this is proving difficult with University courses. SE, SW, WM and LO have had some success with the mentoring programme but Richard is aware that time is making it difficult finding appropriate people to follow up with candidates.

5.6.3. The Hampshire League (SE) has recently made it mandatory for clubs to use qualified referees to improve the officiating. SW, SE and WM are using regional end of season tournaments for referee clinics. Yorkshire, London, West Mids and the South West advised that they insist on the use of qualified and registered referees in their leagues (although the South West don't usually enforce the rule). Some data has been analysed that show that some 61% of referees are not qualified and registered so there is considerable work to do in this area.

## **6. Regional Priorities**

6.1. Janet Inman asked what were the key priorities and areas of concern for Regions and asked that best practice was shared.

6.2 North West - Bryan Youlden commented that the key priority for the current year in the North West has been to restart the boys programme so that they can participate again in the Inter regionals. A Sport England small grant has been secured and training is progressing well with a number of coaches having come forward and given of their time. The girls programme continues to thrive with a number of successful trips to find competition.

6.3 Yorkshire – Tim Godson explained that Yorkshire has similar priorities and are also aiming to participate in the IRC. This has sucked up a lot of time which has been to the detriment of other areas of development however.

6.4 West Midlands – The preparation for the IRC is also a key focus in this region. A key objective is to give as many opportunities as possible for young athletes to play and to also develop that activity in clubs. The Juvoto junior series of 4 v 4 or 3 v 3 tournaments regularly attract 40-50 players from a variety of clubs and schools. It is also proving a useful vehicle for coach development and to identify new potential coaches. The annual Regional Cup finals was a great showpiece for the juniors and celebration of volleyball in the Region with a junior tournament/session run between the morning and afternoon cup and plate finals.

6.5 South West – Ron Richards reported that they run a series of Regional competitions with a focus on regional competitions. They are concerned at the potential threat from national activities and expressed the view that it was important to preserve the integrity of the regions as a stepping stone for players into the NVL. The juniors take up a lot of effort and a lack of funding can be a problem although Dave Reece advised that he has developed a franchise type of system with some making a profit and others less successful. The region is also lacking Treasurer and are keen to fill this position ASAP.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **7.1 Affiliations**

Ian Wall noted that the number of affiliations has fallen and asked how many Regions have it written into their constitutions that Clubs must be affiliated in order to play in Regional and Local leagues?

This was confirmed by the East and West Midlands, Yorkshire and South West (the latter senior only and also including most local leagues).

Ron Richards advised that he has found inaccurate information on the VE website and highlighted that problems can occur when club secretaries change as they are the only ones who can change details.

7.2 Janet Inman asked that the Regions send in key contacts and ensure that Regional and local minutes and accounts were submitted for entry onto the website to ensure consistency and transparency of reporting.

## 8. Actions

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Website – Any ideas on how to improve the website are submitted to the hub                                                             | All                               |
| 2. | Sponsorship – Circulate requests for sponsorship via Linked In pages                                                                   | All                               |
| 3. | Sponsorship – Any views on sponsorship are welcome and should be added to the VE website                                               | All                               |
| 4. | Coaching – Request that all courses in their areas are circulated to Regional Chairs                                                   | Gillian Harrison<br>via Rob Payne |
| 5. | Talent – Request that talent activities being undertaken in local areas are advised to Regional Chairs                                 | Gillian Harrison<br>via Rob Payne |
| 6. | Under 14 review – Complete compilation of regional activity and circulate                                                              | Bryan<br>Youlden/all Regions      |
| 7. | Beach – Anyone interested in helping the review of beach activities is encouraged to contact Denise Austin                             | All                               |
| 8. | Affiliations – Request that Regions, County and local associations consider including a provision that clubs must be affiliated to VE. | All                               |
| 9. | Local information, including minutes, accounts and lists of key contacts requested to be supplied to VE                                | All                               |

9. The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.