

SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

Minutes of A.G.M held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at Priory Community School, Weston Super Mare.

**1. Welcome.**

**2. Attendance and Apologies**

**Present:** G. Pearson, R. Richards, K. Hamblin, D. Williams, M. Horseman, R. Sutherland, , A Worrall, R Morten, A Conquest, L Wainwright, J Jankowski, D Austin, I Sidwell,

**Apologies:**

P Locke, J Ward, M Silvester, C Pearson, H Muller, S Brennan, S Ham, C Whittles, A Jones, K Lewis, D Robson, R Swindell, D Walkden, A Hargreaves, G Allen, Y Saker, M Stevens, S Lewis, A Smith, B Wright.

**3. Minutes & Matters arising**

Minutes of A.G.M held on 9th June 2007 were approved. Matters arising: GP said that Plymouth City Council declined to provide assistance for SW Championships as they were not organized by Plymouth VC.

Minutes of the SW Executive Meeting on January 5th, 2008 were approved. Matters arising: JJ suggested that Matt Rogers was struggling to find venues for UKSG holding camp. He was concerned at the cost for players as there appeared to be inadequate funding available. To be discussed further today under item 10. Item 15 should read GP not GS.

**4. Reports.**

GP thanked officers and area secretaries and others for very comprehensive reports. Written Reports were circulated in advance from the following officers:

**4(a) Chairman.** Apologised for saying that U17 had won the National Regional Competition when it should have been the U15. Congratulations to U15.

**4(b)Secretary.** RR referred to the comparative affiliations figures

distributed subsequent to his written report.

HM had asked for comments on the website. RS wants to have another person take over responsibility for the junior section and the junior mailing list and believes she has someone to do this. KH believes that it is now working well for competitions and that he finds it easy to upload and update (though it took time to learn this). JJ asked if it was meeting needs - both internal and external. Discussion took place on this. AW suggested that VE should establish a corporate style for all VE websites including the regional sites. IS suggested that it would be helpful if VE provided the space on their servers, rather than having separate sites. LW suggested she had done this at a previous association, though it took about 2 years to implement fully. There was support from the meeting for this and LW will take it back to VE.

DA suggested that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration should be at the Vets tournament.

**4(c)Treasurer.** Discussion took place over the funding of elite players. LW will forward to SWVA a list of those in the SW receiving TASS and Sports Aid Foundation funding. GP also suggested making contact with LAs for available grants.

RS would like to fund coach training for squad coaches, purchase some extra balls and to provide additional funding for squad training, in order to keep costs down. LW suggested that the Running Sport booklet on funding for sport is a useful guide and that there will be an article in the next edition of 3 Touch. RS suggested that central direction of RTDP had slipped back and that it would be helpful if national staff could be more proactive in the provision of such information (LW to take back). DA and RS reminded members that this needed to be expanded to take in junior beach volleyball as well. Agreed that some funding could be allocated to subsidise costs of spreading SW Squad / Development sessions across the region and purchase of balls, up to the level of SWVA profit in the recent financial year.

**4(d)Competitions.** Final tables were redistributed by RR after Annual Report was circulated, with incomplete tables.

KH commented on an excellent season, with a fully completed league programme. Number of registered players stayed high, despite there

being fewer clubs / teams. The meeting passed their congratulations to KH for an excellent competitions season.

AW suggested that referees appearing at the SW Championships should receive expenses to cover their costs. Agreed to pay expenses and to back pay for this year at level of £30 per referee.

**4(e)Coaching.** JJ wants to concentrate on coach education. RR suggested trying to establish local coaching secretary appointments to help spread the load. GP suggested a Plymouth or Devon coaches conference in order to make face to face contact with local coaches. It was suggested to JJ that a series of coaching seminars / workshops across the region, delivered by the top coaches in the region could be developed to spread the word and improve the quality / awareness of coaches.

JJ and DA suggested that anyone wanting to run a Level 1 course should try to do it before Christmas, to save cost and time.

**4(f) Referees.** The meeting noted the shortage of Beach Referees and the plans to provide courses this season. DW asked if referee registrations were still lower than previously. AW said that this was the case and was due to some referees having stopped refereeing.

**4(g)Junior Development.** The meeting agreed that we needed to involve more people in RS's team in order to spread the load. RR informed the meeting that he had been told that the National U14 competition would be an U13 competition next year. The meeting expressed concern at this and wanted clarification as soon as possible.

**4(h)Junior Squads.** RS suggested that the U17 Boys situation would be better next year with the group coming through from U15.

**4(i) Beach Volleyball.** DA provided a verbal report of her activities in the national role and the way that she saw this developing regionally. A Lets Play Volleyball beach series will be developed. Dave Reece will run an event at Exmouth. DA has also asked Dave Reece to run a SW Junior Beach Championships which could be on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**4(j) EVA Regional Commission Representative.** Will be covered as part of LW's section of the agenda.

#### **4(k)Area Associations**

**Cornwall** - report received. Coaches course went well.

**Exeter** - report received. RR suggested that the EDVA Players Survey was an excellent model for other associations to look at.

**Gloucestershire** - report received.

**North Devon** - members were asked to consider Denise Austin's Community Coach report as a North Devon report.

**Poole** - report received. Congratulations to Wessex and Lyn Allen on national successes. RS alerted the meeting to the closure of Poole Sports Centre and that this was replicated in other areas.

**Plymouth** - no report received. GP reported that there was no active local association, though there were many successes for local clubs at regional / national level and good junior programmes.

**Wiltshire** - report received.

**4l) Community Coaches** DA suggested that VE could ask for Community Coach reports to be produced by a deadline prior to regional the AGM.

**Denise Austin (North Devon)** - report received. In addition, DA reported on her beach festival earlier in the week on 8 courts with over 100 players. RS suggested that we needed to push for funding to be continued after the two year period ends. LW agreed this is important.

**Jurek Jankowski (North Somerset)** - report received

**Ian Loke - Dorset** - no report received

**Tristan Sheppard - Bristol and Bath** - no report received

A report was also received from Simone Lewis on the work at Team Bath.

#### **5. Election of Officers. 2008/9.**

Chairman: Graham Pearson

Vice Chair: Henk Muller

Secretary: Ron Richards.

Officials: Andy Worrall.

Coaching: Jurek Jankowski

Junior Dev Ros Sutherland

Treasurer: Jonathan Ward. Competitions: Kevin Hamblin.  
E.V.A.Rep.: Deryck Williams.  
Child Protection: Richard Morten (with support from Cheryl Pearson as required)  
Beach Volleyball: Denise Austin  
Exec Member: Paul Locke,

RM informed the meeting that all volunteers at the UKSG would need to have attended the Safeguarding and Protecting Sports Coach UK course.

## **6 Volleyball England Update - Lisa Wainwright, Chief Executive**

LW commented that it was a long time since she had been at a meeting where there were so many smiles and so many people willing to pick up tasks. She was trying to get to regional AGMs to meet people and share plans. A business plan has been written (and is openly available on request), budgets are confirmed, but are sensitive, so please do not circulate to external partners.

VE is in the final year of its Whole Sport Plan. This coming year will be spent drafting a new plan and seeking funding for the next multi year period. We need to look at innovative ways in which funding could be attracted. SE funding will be known by December 2008, all being well from Government.

A Governance Review is being carried out to establish the best ways to structure the association moving forward. We need to establish accurate membership figures to be able to use this commercially in order to raise revenue. There will also be a competitions review - particularly the purpose of the competitions - educational, talent development, recreational?

Staffing being developed with two staff having left and with some funding provided by SE for additional roles. New staff started on June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mark Pritchard, Marketing and Media; Phil Golding, Marketing and Events Assistant.

There will also be a Talent Officer (to support the work that currently Steve Williams is covering) and a Refereeing Development Officer. Two part time officers have been appointed to London, to make the most of opportunities re 2012 and Sport England restructuring.

It will be a challenge to attract the funding, given funding shortages, changing SE structures and policies.

VE AGM - July 5<sup>th</sup>. Annual Report will be published. Deadline for reports - June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Beach should be the tool we use to raise the profile and bring major events. Intended to run a World Tour Event next year if possible in London, then every year, but this requires funding. There are some interested potential sponsors.

An application has been submitted to NSF for partnership funding to develop beach coaching capacity.

There will be a meeting of regional reps on June 28<sup>th</sup> in Sheffield to look at developing the national strategy. Discussion took place about how the region could then be involved in the development of the strategy. The possibility of a meeting in Bath at the time of the Whitefield Tournament was discussed, but a number of officers were not available. LW will contact RR re a possible date, once the SE / VE timescales are known.

GP thanked LW for her input and commented that it helped to understand where the association was heading.

## **7 Urgent Planning Items**

- a) **Competitions.** Vets - October 5<sup>th</sup>, possibly at Hutton Moor.  
SW League - entry forms on website soon  
SW Championships - May 9/10, Plymouth unless other offers received
- b) **Junior Development.** RS to come up with dates. RS attending meeting in Weymouth in June to discuss possible events and venues.
- c) **Junior Squads.** JJ to look at dates for squads to travel to areas.
- d) **Coaching** - Level 1 at Richard Huish Oct 19 & 26. Plymouth want a Level 1 before Christmas.
- e) **Refereeing** - Beach Referee Award in North Devon to be confirmed (1 day).
- f) **Beach** - Sunday Aug 17<sup>th</sup> - SW Junior Beach Championships at Exmouth. Gill Harrison wants a year round talent development programme - indoor

and beach. DA will be planning a Regional Beach Volleyball Programme. DA asked for clarification on Data Protection. LW will seek this clarification. Beach Coach Award Course to be established. Links being established with Competitions Managers. DA wants to establish network of permanent beach courts around the SW, but is struggling to make relevant contacts (though is able to do so in the NE of England). Wants to tie in to 2010 World Surf Life Saving Championships.

## **8 Club Coach Fund -**

Suggestion that Wellington be approached to become a regional centre and that funding be allocated to setting up the venue as previously suggested (JJ & PL). Agreed.

**Regional Coach grants.** Agreed to identify 3 coaches. RS feels that anyone receiving a regional coach grant needs to have worked with the squads for at least a year before they apply otherwise we cannot be sure of their commitment to the squads. Nominated coaches are:

Paul Locke

Jurek Jankowski

Matt Stevens

**Club England Enhanced Environments.** Agreed to nominate 7 of these with Wessex working with both boys and girls:

### **Girls**

Wessex

Devizes

Academy of Beach Sports

Melksham

### **Boys**

Wessex

Kings

Eggbuckland

Ivybridge

**Club England Coach Scholarships.** Agreed to nominate:

Ruth Lovel from the Academy of Beach Sports

Simon Glenister from Devizes

Rex Palmer from Wessex and one of: who we wish to nominate and

Lynn Allen or Geoff Allen (to be agreed by RS & Wessex)

Further agreed to fund (from SW funds) Janna Rogers and Su Brennan for coach award upgrading.

**9 Report from National Governing Bodies Meeting in June - Graham Pearson.** GP reported on the meeting, with particular emphasis on talent identification across sports.

**10 Feedback from National Finals & UKSG update.** RR provided minutes from the LOC review meeting and verbal feedback. GP thanked the LOC for their efforts. UKSG - RR asked members to publicise and encourage people to volunteer.

**11 Nominations for annual awards for volunteers -**

Doreen Dingle Award (Administrator) - Ros Sutherland

Bert Williams Award (referee) - Richard Morten

At next meeting we will look at VE Criteria for Awards (supplied by LW) and consider extra awards.

**12 Development Plan.** To be discussed at the next meeting.

**13 Dates of Meetings 2008/9 (at Priory Community School)**

Executive: Saturday October 4th

Saturday February 7th

A.G.M: Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>