



Minutes of Annual General Meeting at 11.30pm on 22nd July 2023 at SportPark Loughborough.

Name	Role
Adam Walker [AW]	Independent Chair
Brendan Fogarty [BF]	Elected Director
Brian Stalker [BS]	Honorary Life President
Bulent Ates [BA]	AST Volleyball Academy
Charlie Ford [CFo]	Volleyball England CEO
Clare Francis [CF]	Senior Independent Director
Daniel Harrison [DH]	Lincoln Cannons VC
Freda Bussey [FB]	Elected Director
Guin Batten [GB]	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
James Murphy [JM]	Maidenhead VC
Jess Plumridge [JP]	Elected Director
Kevin Fletcher [KF]	Financial Consultant
Matt Halfpenny [MH]	Digital & Communications Strategic Manager
Richard Harrison [RH]	Elected Director
Richard Callicott [RC]	Outgoing British Volleyball Federation Chair
Simon Griffiths [SG]	Elected Director
Agata Sromecka [AS]	Minute taker

Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Jake Sheaf, Dave Reeve, Phil French, Andres Hernandez & Simone Turner.

Welcome

AW started the Volleyball England (VE) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023 by welcoming all in-person attendees and attendees joining via the Volleyball England YouTube channel. AW then proceeded to thank the Hub staff for all their incredible efforts and fantastic work that they had delivered over the year including CFo and GB who had stepped into their appointments successfully.

AW reported that James Murphy (JM) would be stepping down as the competitions working group lead. AW thanked JM for all his work and efforts.

Further, AW thanked Richard Callicott (RC) for his service to the sport. RC would be stepping down as Chair and President of the British Volleyball Federation (BVF).

AW informed that Simone Turner would step down as Volleyball England Foundation chair due to positive changes in her personal situation.

AW also extended his gratitude to his Board colleagues, Board subgroups, the working group leads, and the volunteers.

Minutes of 2022 AGM were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting and would be signed off by AW.

Annual Report 2022/23

AW handed over to CFo.

CFo thanked the volleyball community for welcoming him and GB into the Volleyball family. CFo highlighted the following in terms of the annual report:

- Communities of Practice (CoP) – CFo reported that through a process of consultation, the strategic vision had been realigned to ensure that everyone in the sport felt a sense of belonging. CFo reflected on the notion of belonging and its importance for the volleyball community. As an example of this, the CoP initiative had been launched for Regions and Counties in an attempt to bring people together, to share ideas and to learn from one another. There are plans to introduce more CoP's across other areas of the sport, this will begin to unfold over the coming months.
- Digital transformation - CFo reported that there were two main areas of work in relation to this: Globocol, which is a safeguarding and case management system, and the new VolleyZone, which is an integrated membership, competition, referee management as well as events platform.
- NVL growth – CFo explained that during the 2022-23 we had seen an 8% growth in the number of senior NVL teams and 9% growth in junior NVL teams. This was a testament to the hard work of member clubs. Domestic events would receive further attention in the coming months to improve and capitalise on the growth of the sport.
- Birmingham 2022 and Legacy of Commonwealth Games – CFo reflected on the success of the players and tireless effort of the volunteers during the Games providing an excellent platform to promote the sport and becoming a springboard for a number of legacy projects such as creation of new facilities (new court at Moseley Rugby Club and a new facility in development at the Alexander Stadium). A project related to creation of Beach Volleyball Development Centres had recently been announced and this was to create a supporting infrastructure around the discipline.
- Officiating review – CFo reported that a significant amount of work had been conducted as part of the review to improve the recruitment, retention, and the quality of the officials. This had led to 10 proposals and those would unfold in the coming months.
- Commercial progression – CFo reflected on the need for VE to lessen the reliance on the Sport England funding and grow the level of re-investable funds that could be used to improve and grow the sport. There have been a number of partnerships that had been moved forward including Mikasa, Universal Services, Hudl and Sportserve.

Financial Report

AW handed over to KF, who highlighted the following in terms of the VE's 2022-23 accounts:

- The turnover was £1.5m and more than 50% of this figure had been generated by VE.
- Although a breakeven budget, VE had made a £10k surplus for the year.
- KF went through individual strands in the budget explaining the position of each of them.
- KF assured all that the organisation was in a healthy financial position.

AW thanked KF for the update.

Questions from the attendees in relation to CFo's and KF's updates were as follows:

- JM asked for a quarterly update on the achievement against the targets. CFo responded that updates would be published on the website in due course. AW reflected that the organisation's impact had been taking place and it would be reported on. JM added that communicating stories was important and this would build the trust of the community. Communicating things that do not go so well was also important.
- JM asked about the officiating review, when the community would see the difference what the targets were and when this would be communicated. The community was really interested in the outcomes. SG responded that there were no targets yet but there were 10 proposals for action.
- AW reinforced that the organisation would work on comms to communicate stories more frequently and facilitate transparency. The officiating crisis would be addressed as a matter of urgency. The past learnings and expertise of volleyball community would be called upon.
- JM then commented that the financial reporting in the Annual report was good and conveyed the financial situation of the organisation well. JM enquired whether there was a reserves policy available on the website. KF responded that the reserves provision was that the organisation had enough funds to cover all liabilities (redundancies, service charges etc) should it need to be dissolved. AW reinforced that the Board was committed to ensuring that all funds were accounted for, and the financial position was as clear and transparent as possible. This situation had been achieved due to the tireless effort of the Exec and the Hub team and lessons had been learnt from the past.
- JM asked whether juniors were included in the NVL figure. KF confirmed that this was the case. JM commented that there should be more clarity about what made specific figures in financial reporting to boost the trust of the membership.
- JM asked about the growth in the commercial income and the target. KF answered that it was smaller than last year but it was level. JM again stated that transparency about this was key.
- JM asked about the available stock in the online shop and whether the older models of balls would be available for purchase. CFo responded that the feasibility of bringing such products would need to be investigated but should there be demand, this would be accommodated. The shop's growth projection is modest in year one whilst we learn about the Volleyball market and how it behaves.

Update from the Chair

AW updated the attendees with the following:

- AW explained that VE had been made aware of alleged corruption to the voting process. After seeking legal advice independent to the Board, and in the view of the available evidence, the Board had decided that all resolutions would be withdrawn from the AGM. The reappointment of the auditors would stand however as this was business critical. Sport England had been consulted with.
- A formal investigation would be scoped, undertaken and conclusions would be communicated to the membership.
- Also, AW reinforced that that 9 out of 11 Board members had extensive experience within the volleyball community this included those that have been appointed as independent directors.
- AW expressed disappointment and sadness that the AGM was not in a position to move forward with resolutions that were tabled to move the sport forward.

Questions from the attendees:

- JM reflected on the proposal of resolutions in the previous year and the recommendations that had come from that process. JM also commented on the wording of the resolutions which did not give him confidence that the resolutions were the best way forward.
- FB commented on a feeling of sadness that the resolutions could not be voted on.
- JM asked about the independent investigation of the violation of the voting process and suggested that the entire process should be looked into. AW responded that the Board wanted a democratic and connected volleyball community and would decide the best way forward to ensure that this was the case.

Appointment of Auditors

CF asked for volunteers to be the tellers. The appointed tellers were Brian Stalker and Richard Callicott. CF briefed the tellers on how to read the voting cards in the room so that they could count the votes.

CF confirmed that at the closing time for the submission of the voting forms (5pm on 20 July 2023) 50 appointment forms had been received. 8 of those forms had nominated people not present today and therefore there were 42 votes in the room.

The voting results were as follows:

Resolution	Total Votes	Votes Counted	For	Against	Abstain	Result
Ordinary resolution						
Appointment of Duncan and Toplis as auditors for 2023-24	42	42	37	2	3	42

AW thanked all for their votes.

Duncan and Toplis would be appointed auditors of the company for 2023-24.

Before closing the meeting, AW encouraged the attendees to ask questions.

Questions:

- BA asked what the future plans were to elevate the sport into the elite, international arena. CFo responded that John Forman had been appointed as Strategic Talent Manager. FB added that the funding was a challenge. RC commented that the Board of the BVF had made a decision that beach volleyball would be invested in based on the existing talent and chance to perform on the international arena. In terms of the sitting volleyball, players were also performing well. In terms of indoor volleyball, the performance was not deemed on a par with the rest of Europe and the qualifying chances for international competitions was currently low. Hopefully, subject to the continued success of the beach and sitting volleyball, UKSport would continue to invest into all formats of the sport.
- CFo reinforced that the VE strategy would aim to support elevation of the domestic talent onto the elite arena and to sustained performance success. JP added that Volley2s was being looked into to be simplified and be more fit for purpose to aid in the growth of the sport. RH reflected that Volleyball for Life group worked on how the sport could support and recognise volunteers to improve the sport.
- JM asked for an update on the National Volleyball Centre. CFo responded that conversations were ongoing, and updates would be communicated shortly.
- JM asked for an update on the independent review of the Board, sub-groups and the working groups. AW responded that the presentation had taken place the evening before

with many good recommendations that would be actioned and the report would be published in due course.

AGM close

AW thanked all for their contributions and attendance. AW expressed his gratitude for being able to chair the Volleyball England Board. He reassured the community about his desire to continue to improve the sport.

AGM closed at 1.05pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AW', located below the text of the AGM closing.