



Sitting Volleyball Working Group Meeting

Thursday 20 May 2021

Video Conference

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by:	Janet Inman
Circulation:	Sitting Volleyball Working Group, Working Group Leads, Hub Team
Distribution:	Sam Jamieson

Members present and apologies for absence

Present

Steve Smith (SS)	Sitting Bucks SVC
John Worrall (JW)	Project Lead, Volleyball England
Stewart Thorpe (ST)	Digital and Communications Manager
Richard Osborne (RO)	Sitting Volleyball Lead and South Hants SVC
Janet Inman (JI)	Volleyball England Foundation
Herman Prada (HP)	Sitting Volleyball Competitions Lead

Apologies

David Williamson (DW)	Sitting Bucks SVC
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The meeting commenced at 1930 and closed at 2110.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Owner
1. Introduction	RO welcomed attendees and expressed his delight with the progress being made to date to progress SV, coupled with the return to training for clubs.	
2. Conflict of Interest	RO explained that a conflict of interest arises where a member or an immediate family member has a personal or financial interest that compromises or could compromise their independence of judgment in exercising their SVWG responsibilities. Members were asked to declare any conflict of interest with the items under discussion during the meeting. No conflicts were declared.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising	The minutes of the meeting held on 25 Feb 21 were accepted as an accurate reflection of the proceedings. There were two matters arising. The first concerned the progression fund where RO apprised members that the British Volleyball Federation (BVF) had been successful in securing £375k from a UK Sport allocation of £3m that has been designated to National Squad Support Funding, and which will support both GB	

	<p>men and women's teams to March 2025. Careful consideration will need to be given to which competitions the respective teams enter as there are currently additional costs because of COVID testing when travelling abroad.</p> <p>The other matter concerned the VE Big Idea event that had been discussed at the previous meeting. RO signalled that there was nothing significant to report.</p>	
4. Return to Play	<p>RO advised members that all SV clubs are able to return to playing indoors and that the bespoke impermeable nets had been sent to clubs. With the sanitisation packs also secured, clubs are now in the best possible shape to get back on court.</p> <p>Some clubs are struggling to obtain sports hall time while others have managed to get back to training this week.</p> <p>Clubs have been signposted to the VE return to play guidelines and advised to adhere to them. ST asked if the guidance that had been produced was easy to understand and both RO and SS confirmed that it was, thanking ST for his effort in producing it.</p> <p>The Return to Play Sitting volleyball webinar is still available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA6H4a7oKF8).</p>	
5. VEF Funding	<p>JI updated the SVWG on applications that had been made in the second round of funding. Nottingham Rockets VC had returned their application form, while Salisbury VC has confirmed it will be making an application. Tom Middleton (Canterbury) had requested the application form while Wessex VC has expressed an interest but will be applying in round 3.</p> <p>RO said there was a possibility for a sitting volleyball club to be developed in Northampton but through discussion it emerged that if it did not get off the ground then Sitting Bucks would be pleased to welcome any players from that area as it had moved its training base to Milton Keynes.</p>	
6. 7-Point Plan	<p>SV Website – RO alluded to a master class video that it was hoped would be produced at a future GB training camp. He was close to completing the taster session plans and outlined his idea to video some drills to be uploaded to YouTube for coaches to use as required. The Facebook group, "Sitting Volleyball in the UK" already had 61 members. The 'club finder' was available on the website, as were links to Club Matters, the VE Foundation, VolleySLIDE, an introduction to SV rule. Work was in hand to produce a 'myth busters' video and template flyers that clubs can use to advertise their sessions.</p> <p>Outreach programme – Kiki James (UEL) has been communicating with clubs to understand their capacity and needs. For each club Kiki has been looking at organisations in their location and will provide the contact information to the clubs. She has been in touch with the organisations to make them aware of the local sitting club, they have requested some information about Sitting Volleyball.</p> <p>Action - RO to provide a precis of SV rules and infrastructure to provide insight to organisations that clubs will partner with.</p> <p>Action - JI to provide the latest piece of information produced by Kiki to each club. It will then be the responsibility of clubs to contact the organisation and provide specific information in relation to where and when they are training.</p>	

	<p>Sitting volleyball month – Nothing significant to report. Currently looking at August and linking to the Paralympics. ST is to be joined by a new staff member to support communications at the VE office.</p> <p>Coach Education – Ian Legrand is overseeing this piece of work with Margaret Latchford, a UEL student operating as a work placement. The Assistant Coach Award has lots of SV content to be edited and developed. There will be a higher-level award for which the technical and tactical content is being developed and is likely to be completed early next year.</p> <p>Working with HEVOs – Vicki Carr is now leading the HEVO programme, which doesn't start again until next year.</p> <p>Establish a coach mentor programme – no action taken to date.</p> <p>Sitting volleyball officiating – There was a discussion about which working group took the lead for competitions i.e., the SVWG or Competition WG. This led to a broader discussion about what future competitions could look like and the number of officials that would be required to provide sufficient cover. It was agreed that there is a need to determine the competitions programme for the next 12 months and then 5-years. Provisional dates only were in the VE date for the Grand Prix.</p> <p>Action - RO to contact James Murphy and Rob Payne to discuss process for reviewing competitions.</p>	RO
7. AOB	<p>HP spoke about the ERASMUS proposals, and was asked if there was anything to bid for. There is a potential opportunity to bid for grassroots clubs. A discussion took place about funding for schools and colleges but when it emerged the deadline for submission of bids was only 3 weeks away it was felt there was insufficient time to produce a cogent and compelling application.</p> <p>ST thanked Mel Young for her work preparing a fitness programme for SV players. He advised the VE AGM would take place on 24 July, alongside the club conference and annual awards. He updated members on restructuring within VE and new staff who have joined i.e., Mark Garcia-Kidd and Natasha Buckland with two more due to join in the next few weeks.</p> <p>JW stated that plans were being made for the GB men's squad and that as Team Manager he was seeking to identify a training venue that was geographically more central.</p>	
8. Date of next meeting	RO advised members that the next meeting will take place at the end of August and undertook to seek availability in due course.	RO