



**Sitting Volleyball Working Group Meeting**

**Thursday 26 August 2021**

**Video Conference**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Members present and apologies for absence**

**Present**

David Williamson (DW)	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**

Steve Smith (SS)	Sitting Bucks SVC
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The meeting commenced at 1930 and closed at 2120.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action/ Owner
1. Introduction	<p>RO welcomed everyone and expressed his excitement at the prospects of a return to competition and the start of the new GP new season. Reflecting over the previous 11 months, he remarked that a lot of work had been undertaken to push forward the SV agenda, for which thanks was owed to the VE Foundation and SVWG members for their continued enthusiasm and commitment.</p> <p>The 7-point plan continues to provide the framework for delivering SV-related initiatives and RO stated that when objectives are completed it is important that new ones are identified so that things do not stagnate and we continue to build momentum. He therefore asked members to consider what more can be done to move SV forward.</p> <p>The review of competitions had been a worthwhile exercise and although nothing transformational derived from it, there were nevertheless some very useful suggestions concerning the Grand Prix that have been</p>	All

	implemented for the 21/22 season, while further work will be undertaken over the coming months to consider the SV Cup format, new competitions and finances, amongst other things.	
2. Conflict of Interest	No conflicts were declared.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 21 were accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> <p>There were a few matters arising. Firstly, RO had completed the action on him to prepare a precis about SV to support the work undertaken by Kiki, the work placement from UEL, and this was subsequently shared with Outreach partner she had engaged.</p> <p>Jl had provided links to charities and disability organisations to each club which also formed part of the Outreach work undertaken by Kiki.</p> <p>RO had discussed with James Murphy the governance arrangements around competitions, which in turn led to the review.</p> <p>ST asked that the minutes of all SVWG meetings be provided so that he could add them to the VE website. RO agreed to provide them.</p>	RO
4. Commonwealth Games 2022	<p>RO asked members how SV could capitalise on the Commonwealth Games (CWG) and whether 'SV month' which is an activity annotated in the 7 Point Plan should coincide with the Games.</p> <p>Through discussion it emerged that a 'legacy' group exists, led by Kara Griffiths, that might offer suggestions. RO asked whether there was merit in assessing what other NGBs are doing. HP suggested setting up a SV court in Birmingham to deliver an exhibition match.</p> <p>After further debate of the pros and cons, it was agreed that the preferred option was to organise SV Month at a different time, with March 2022 looking most favourable as it coincided with 2 SV competitions taking place at that time. Discussion then turned to the logistics of delivering 'SV Month', which would be a period of promotional activity to generate awareness and mobilise support for SV.</p> <p>ST undertook to assess what other events are scheduled during this period.</p> <p>RO volunteered to develop ideas of activities and events to engage clubs and schools.</p>	ST RO
5. SV competitions update and follow-on actions	<p>RO repeated that the competitions review had been worthwhile and had brought about immediate changes to the Grand Prix series. At the extraordinary meeting to discuss the results of a strawman paper and club survey, held on 29 July, a number of follow-on actions were identified, as follows:</p> <p>i) A sub-group to scope potential for teams to host SC Cup fixtures from the 2023/24 season onwards;</p>	

	<p>ii) A sub-group to consider the architecture and framework around any new competition with a view to introduction in 2022/23;</p> <p>iii) SV clubs to be encouraged to set up local friendlies to supplement NGB competitions; and,</p> <p>iv) A sub-group to consider options to drive down on costs borne by VE and to supplement income via grants, sponsorship and other income generation options.</p> <p>On i), it was averred that sub-group members should comprise Rob Payne, JW, HP and RO. Things for the group to consider are: scope for a central draw with clubs to arrange and host their own fixtures like, for example, an FA Cup draw; whether early rounds of the competition should be regionalised to minimise travel; evaluate whether clubs have facilities and equipment to participate; entry fees; and whether to use qualified officials.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be useful to canvass the SV community to see if anyone wished to be part of the sub-group.</p> <p>RO offered to draft an email to canvass interest which ST agreed to promulgate and promote <i>via</i> the 'Sitting Volleyball in the UK' group on Facebook.</p> <p>On ii), it was agreed that it made sense for members of the sub-group at i) to also consider new competitions, which would include some of the same considerations in relation to facilities and infrastructure, but also whether there are sufficient teams to substantiate North/Central and South leagues.</p> <p>RO offered to incorporate this work within the email he is preparing for i) and ST will disseminate in a similar way.</p> <p>Turning to iii), it is essential that clubs are proactive in arranging local friendlies and it is recommended they include a social element to cement good relations between clubs. RO stated that South Hants will be hosting a friendly competition on 11 September at its training facility, with Salisbury and Sitting Bucks also taking part. It had been very straightforward to arrange and will include a meal together after the competition.</p> <p>RO undertook to write to clubs signposting them to other local clubs in the hope they, too, will arrange friendly matches.</p> <p>Finally, on iv), a further sub-group is needed to consider ways to reduce the costs borne by VE for the Grand Prix and SV Cup. This is to include options for sponsorship, grants or other income streams.</p> <p>ST offered to speak to Oaks to canvass interest, while JI will speak to VEF Board members and to the newly formed VE/VEF Commercial section.</p>	<p>RO/ST</p> <p>RO/ST</p> <p>RO</p> <p>ST/JI</p>
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<p>6. New SV Clubs and future funding rounds</p>	<p>Two more clubs have come online following the second round of VE Foundation funding, at Nottingham Rockets and Salisbury.</p> <p>The third round will be announced in October for applications, with successful clubs notified in the New Year.</p> <p>RO described a meeting he had with Bob Pickens to deliver SV taster sessions at Cobham School.</p> <p>RO indicated his aspiration to create more SV in Bristol and Liverpool. JW and JI offered to provide contact details and RO will write to the clubs to introduce himself and assess whether an appetite exists to set up a sitting section.</p>	<p>JW/JI/RO</p>
<p>7. 7-Point Plan</p>	<p>RO updated on Item 1 of the 7-Point Plan as it relates to reviewing/refreshing content on the SV page of the VE website. There is already a suite of new content which is aimed to provide resources to coaches who are new to delivering SV. Plans are in place to create a 'myth buster' video which will involve disabled players speaking about the coach/player relationship, the language used and common misconceptions about what disabled players can and can't do; there is also an aspiration to use a GB training session to invite new players and coaches to observe and the train on an adjacent court. RO will video some drills at his club in South Hants and add these to a YouTube page for coaches to access as required.</p> <p>On the Outreach programme, work has completed with Kiki to follow up with clubs once they return to regular play. The committee wished to thank Kiki most sincerely for her enthusiasm in delivering this specific project to a high standard.</p> <p>SV Month had been discussed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>On coach education, the Assistant Coach Award, which replaces the UKCC Level 1 qualification, is currently being piloted and SV is embedded in it. The higher-level award is being developed and it is hoped it will be launched in early 2022.</p> <p>The objective to raise awareness of SV amongst HEVO's has been passed to Victoria Carr, who will feed back in due course. The HEVO conference is scheduled for 23/24 September and will include a SV workshop. Rob Payne has been developing a flyer to encourage more clubs and universities to take part in the Grand Prix.</p> <p>RO has started to draft a SV Coach mentoring scheme and will circulate to SVWG members for consultation shortly.</p> <p>SS was not present to update on the objective to scope the need to increase the number of SV referees and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>8. Any Other Business</p>	<p>JJ asked if she could attend the Grand Prix and share some Foundation campaigns and do a bucket collection, which members were very happy for her to do.</p>	

	<p>JW has contacted clubs about taking part in the Grand Prix, he is still waiting for conformation from several clubs.</p> <p>ST is looking forward to his first full season of Volleyball and would like more SV photos to share on the website – there will be a google portal for clubs to upload community content.</p> <p>RO advised that the parasport website can be used by clubs to promote their sessions and related activity: <a href="https://parasport.org.uk/find-an-opportunity">https://parasport.org.uk/find-an-opportunity</a></p> <p>RO/ST to promote <i>via</i> the Facebook group.</p>	RO/ST
9. Date of Next Meeting	The date of the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 25 November starting at 1930.	