



**Sitting Volleyball Working Group Meeting**

**Thursday 27 January 2022**

**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**

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

**Apologies**

Stewart Thorpe (ST)	Digital and Communications Manager, Volleyball England
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The meeting commenced at 1930 and closed at 2100.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Owner
1. Introduction	<p>Welcoming members, RO asked that the group spent a moment reflecting on the untimely passing of Sam Scott, a playing member of the UK Sitting Volleyball (SV) team that competed in the London 2012 Paralympics and who had passed away at the age of 31. The SV community had shown its respect at the latest Grand Prix by observing a minute's applause.</p> <p>There followed a brief discussion about whether Thursday evening remained the optimal day for attendance at the Working Group meeting and it was agreed that the next meeting at least will take place on a Friday evening.</p>	
2. Conflict of Interest	No conflicts were declared or identified in committee.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting and	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2021 were accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> <p>There were a few matters arising:</p>	

<p>matters arising</p>	<p>a. JI sent 2 emails to clubs, one before Christmas and one after to gauge how many would commit to participating in a 24-hour marathon, which was part of a series of planned activities to support SV Month in March 2022. There were no replies to the email sent before Christmas and just 2 to the one sent after, which was disappointing as this was an opportunity to put SV in the spotlight, with potential to generate press attention and commensurate awareness of SV across the country, which in turn would have benefited clubs, either directly via increased participation or through the introduction of more clubs. <b>Complete.</b></p> <p>b. Allied to the aspiration to host a 24-hour SV marathon, HP undertook to contact Bloo Sparrow to scope potential to use a MOD facility for the 24-hour marathon. As the Post Minute Note in the previous minutes show, HP emailed Bloo on 26 November who responded on 28 November indicating he was willing to look further into assisting, subject to a response to some initial questions he had posed. <b>Complete.</b></p> <p>c. Now that funding streams for Covid-19 support had slowed, the Finance Sub-Group will look at opportunities to generate funding to support the SV Grand Prix going forward.</p>	
<p>4. 7 Point Plan</p>	<p>Leads were invited to provide an update on progress against their respective objectives.</p> <p><b>Objective 1 – “Design, deliver and maintain a bespoke page on the VE website that provides a one stop shop for SV resources.”</b> RO mentioned that the new VE website will look and feel more user friendly and that SV will have its own page. He added that the latest addition to the suite of SV resources was ‘the myth buster’ which seeks to describe the SV player/coach relationship from a disabled athlete’s point of view. There is an aim to link in material from Activity Alliance, a charity that works specifically with disabled individuals to be more active and JI agreed to look further into this. Finally, a dozen SV practice videos have been filmed by student at Fareham College in Hampshire which are being edited and will be added to the website shortly. Once this is done Objective 1 will be complete.</p> <p><b>Objective 2 – “Develop an outreach programme to identify and engage key stakeholders.”</b> JI confirmed the objective is complete but will follow up with clubs to see how many engaged with the partners they were signposted to.</p> <p><b>Objective 3 – “Use ‘SV Month’ as a focussed campaign to reposition SV as an inclusive rather than disability sport with emphasis on encouraging indoor clubs and other sports/community groups to introduce SV sessions.”</b></p> <p>RO indicated his preference to cover this under the agenda item regarding Sub-Group activity, below.</p> <p><b>Objective 4 – “Coach education.”</b> An update from Gillian Harrison at VE is awaited on progress with the replacement for the Level 2 course.</p> <p><b>Objective 5 – “Work with HEVOs / University Disability Coordinators to offer SV sessions.”</b> This item has to a large degree been subsumed with the SV Month work and RO agreed to update separately on that in the related Sub-Group discussion, below.</p>	<p>JI</p> <p>JI</p>

	<p><b>Objective 6 – “Establish a SV coaching mentor programme.”</b> There has been no development since the last meeting when RO apprised members that work on a new mentor scheme for novice SV coaches has been developed and was passed to Gillian Harrison for review on 9 November 21.</p> <p><b>Objective 7 – “Scope the need for clubs to have a minimum number of referees in the event the GP becomes wholly self-sufficient. Consider delivery of the Grade C sitting award to coincide with a Grand Prix weekend.”</b></p> <p>It was agreed by members that beyond the scoping work already undertaken by SS, there was no longer a need to progress this objective. Through discussion, however, it was agreed that as part of the basket of initiatives underpinning SV Month, it would be very useful to deliver a webinar for indoor referees specifically, but to anyone who is interested in learning more about the rules governing SV and how they differ from the indoor rules. SS agreed to email Nick Heckford and Glynn Archibald to assess their appetite to deliver the webinar.</p> <p><b>Post Meeting Note:</b> SS emailed Nick and Glynn on 27 Jan to elicit their views on the proposal and was met with support, hence work will progress to deliver a webinar as part of SV Month</p>	
5. Sub-group updates	<p><u>Competitions Sub-Group</u></p> <p>SS is leading work to review the SV Cup and options for new competitions. He stated his intention to arrange a meeting with identified stakeholders to consider ideas for the future shape of competitions.</p> <p>He outlined how South Hants, Salisbury and Sitting Bucks had agreed to pilot an NVL-style competition based in the south where each club hosted a triangular, with self-officiation and costs falling to the host team. It has worked exceptionally well, with both South Hants and Sitting Bucks having taken turns to host, with Salisbury to follow in May 22. The event hosted by Sitting Bucks had also taken in both GB men’s and women’s teams, which added to the level of competition. Once the remaining fixture has taken place, SS and RO will assess how the competition fared with a view to using it as a model for other regions to follow.</p> <p>A question was raised about how referees would respond to the addition of SV competitions to the existing Grand Prix and SV Cup events at Kettering, and it was felt that regional competition might increase take up of SV refereeing and further supported the need for the webinar in March.</p> <p><u>Finance sub-group</u></p> <p>Jl is seeking potential funding for the 2022/23 season. The work that SS is doing as part of his competition review could have an impact on what is needed post 2023. At the moment, clubs pay a registration fee to enter VE competitions, and players pay an additional individual registration fee. It was agreed that to ensure the sustainability of the sport there is a need to look at an overarching fundraising strategy, and Jl agreed to take an action to bring the finance group together to look at this.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>Jl</p>

<p>6. SV Month</p>	<p>RO led members through plans to deliver SV Month, the first of its kind in England. He had met with ST and Darren Young (DY) to conceive ideas and plan their implementation. This included an ambitious 24-hour SV marathon, for which DY was the lead and who was searching for a suitable venue and to fix a date. Darren had identified 2 possible facilities in Kent, and it was hoped that one of them would be willing to offer their facility for free for the 24-hour period. The benefit of holding the event in Kent is that there is bespoke SV Taraflex flooring available there. The committee sensed, however, that if the facility could not be secured within the following week then there would be too little time to deliver the event on time and to the aspired standard.</p> <p><b>Post Meeting Note:</b> The 24-hour marathon has been deferred until later in 2022 and will no longer be included in SV Month.</p> <p>RO wrote to the HEVO network both before and after Christmas to outline SV Month and how they could contribute to it. Allied to this, senior HEVOs are engaged to galvanise support for events to take place at universities, including taster sessions, for which plans have been provided; and competitions; plus BUCS inclusion where possible.</p> <p>The SV skills challenge seeks to include indoor clubs, whether recreational or competitive, adult or junior etc and entails a SV challenge being set every week throughout March where individuals can try them on their own or with a family member or friend, or at their club where it is hoped other club members will also get involved creating some healthy competition. Results can be sent to VE where a weekly leader board will announce the top 10 performers. To that end, RO will provide information that will be available on the VE website to explain the challenges, including video demonstration. Those taking part will be encouraged to send photos and videos of them doing the challenge that then can be used on social media using hashtags #ASportForAll and #SittingVolleyballMonth.</p> <p>ST has sent out letters asking SV clubs to challenge a local indoor club to play a SV match and the VE Foundation will launch the next round of SV funding.</p> <p>Each of the 5 clubs that have received funding through the Foundation will be invited to provide information on setting up a new sitting volleyball team so they can be profiled during SV Month.</p>	
<p>7. AOB</p>	<p>JW apprised members that results of the most recent GP had been posted on the VE website and the teams are now being invited to enter the next GP scheduled for 6 March 2022.</p> <p>It was felt there is a need to bring additional members to the SVWG, both to improve gender representation and those with a disability. RO to approach a number of identified individuals.</p> <p>VE has a new phone system to give access to individual members of staff - <a href="http://www.volleyballengland.org/about_us/contact_us">http://www.volleyballengland.org/about us/contact us</a></p> <p>Committee members considered whether there are any people in the sitting community that could be nominate for the Queens Jubilee Baton relay.</p>	<p>RO</p>

	<p>RO had sent out the Volleyball for Life subgroup purpose and aims to members and invited their comments by Friday 4 Feb 22.</p> <p>The group thanked Richard for his support and vision in driving this group and the work to support sitting volleyball forward</p>	All
8. Date of next meeting	The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Friday 8 April 2022.	