



Sitting Volleyball Working Group Meeting

Friday 8th April 2022

Video Conference

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by:	Stewart Thorpe
Circulation:	Sitting Volleyball Working Group (SVWG), Working Group Leads, Hub Team
Distribution:	Sam Jamieson

Members present and apologies for absence	
Present	
Janet Inman (JI)	Secretary, Volleyball England Foundation; Interim Co-chair of SVWG
Stewart Thorpe (ST)	Digital and Communications Manager, Volleyball England; Interim Co-chair of SVWG
John Worrall (JW)	Project Lead, Volleyball England
Richard Osborne (RO)	Head Coach of South Hants, the UK's Invictus Games SV Team and the GB SV Team
Apologies	
Herman Prada (HP)	Sitting Volleyball Competitions Lead
Steve Smith (SS)	Chair, Sitting Bucks Volleyball

The meeting commenced at 1930 and closed at 2110.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Owner
1. Introduction	<p>Welcome from JI who has, with ST, agreed to lead the SVWG meetings until a successor has been appointed. RO officially stepped down from the position in February but has played a supporting role in the interim to support Sitting Volleyball Month (SVM) and provide a handover to the SVWG.</p> <p>JI thanked RO for everything he has done as SV Lead. Having his experience, expertise and drive has been a huge asset to the group</p> <p>JI led a discussion on 'where do we go from here'? Not wanting to lose the great momentum RO has established in organising initiatives to help grow the game. Talk centred not only on recruiting a new SV Lead, but SVWG members. ST raised idea of holding a 'SV Summit' with representatives from each SV team to discuss collective aspirations and priorities for the sport and potentially recruiting new members through that. JI and ST agreed to work together on a plan and communications with teams.</p>	JI/ST

	Before the meeting SS informed the SVWG that he had stepped down from the group and JI took a moment to put on record our thanks for all his work and support.	
2. Conflict of Interest	No conflicts were declared.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 22 were accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> <p>There were several matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) JI followed up with clubs to see how many engaged with the partners they were signposted to as part of the outreach programme. As part of this information was shared with newly created sides for the first time. Complete b) 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. c) JI spoke to Rob Payne, Strategic Manager (An Ace Service) at Volleyball England to discuss the funding for SV for 22/23. Funding is actually in budget for 22/23. 23/24 could be different matter. Gives SVWG breathing space to be able to look at again. Complete. d) 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. e) RO had sent out the Volleyball for Life subgroup purpose and aims to members and invited their comments by Friday 4 Feb 22. Complete 	
4. 7 Point Plan	<p>RO led through an update on the 7 Point Plan. 6 of the objectives have now been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SV web page: Fairham College filmed South Hants doing SV drills. Finished product is very good. Videos are ready for ST to upload onto website. SVWG has received good feedback on the quality of resources on the SV 'one-drop-shop' web page. 2. Outreach programme: Completed some time ago by JI and work experience student Kiki. JI has since asked teams if they have been able to make the most of resource, 3 have. 3. Sitting Volleyball Month (SVM) – touched on later in meeting. 4. Coach education: Gillian Harrison (GH), Strategic Manager (Volleyball for Live) is working on level 2 equivalent which RO, Sean Poole and Ian Legrand have support from SV perspective. 5. Working with HEVOs and disability coordinators to encourage SV activity – initiative was subsumed into SVM. 6. Establish a SV mentor scheme: waiting on feedback from GH. 	ST

	<p>7. Scope need for clubs to have a minimum number of referees: decided a webinar was the best way forward to upskill coaches – Glynn Archibald organised a webinar during SVM. Webinar recording to be added to SV web page.</p> <p>Question posed as to what the SVWG’s next priorities should be. A question for the SV Summit.</p> <p>Jl thanked RO for not only leading work on the SVWG’s 7 Point Plan over last few years, but taking on a lot of it too. Initiatives have had a far reaching impact on SV and resulted in some major steps forward. Jl encouraged group to think of more stretch targets for future projects.</p>	
<p>5. SVM wrap-up</p>	<p>Organised by the Sitting Volleyball Working Group (SVWG), Sitting Volleyball Month (SVM) was the first month-long campaign to raise awareness of, and participation in, sitting volleyball.</p> <p>ST provided an overview of impact of each initiative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HEVO activity: Aware of at least four universities that engaged with SVM. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. University of York: organised a 4-hour tournament, raising funds for the club and charity in the process. b. University of Bradford: some 20 people participated in a taster session. c. Imperial College London: held a tournament. d. Edinburgh University, in collaboration with the Low Intensity Inclusive Tour held a tournament with 5 teams taking part 2. SV Skills Challenge: Across the 4 challenges, 198 participants submitted 370 scores, with videos accumulating 4,300 views. Majority of engagement came from existing sitting clubs/teams South Hants, Salisbury, Sitting Bucks. Telford. But it was fantastic to see Coventry & Warwick Riga and MK City, two clubs with no sitting volleyball offering, give it a go – especially their juniors – as well as Edinburgh University. 3. Taster session: Held at Leeds Gorse, Hull and East Yorkshire Volleyball and London Lynx. 4. SV referee webinar: Attendance was low, but thanks to SS and Glynn we now have an excellent resource to hand. 5. Volleyball England Foundation SV Fund: Thanks to the Foundation, 5 new sitting volleyball team have come online since late 2020. We hoped to be able to set up more following SVM but sadly no applications were received. Some teams did feed back that they were interested but the timing wasn’t good for them. Jl agreed to email MK City and Coventry & Warwick Riga to see if interested in future application. 6. Social media: Sitting volleyball content featured more frequently on Volleyball England channels through SVM. The most successful were the series of ‘Fast Facts’, which showcased fascinating stories from the sport in recent times. 7. ‘Get involved’ form: For those who liked what they saw and wanted to start playing sitting volleyball, we encouraged them to complete a short form with some basic information so we could connect them to opportunities near them. In total 6 people registered their interest and are in the process of being referred to teams. 	

	<p>Evaluation: With the resource at hand, we should be pleased with what we've been able to achieve with the first ever Sitting Volleyball Month. Awareness has certainly been raised and in the likes of Coventry & Warwick Riga, MK City and the universities, we have encouraged new participants to give sitting volleyball a go. If SVM is run again, which group welcomed, the focus should be narrowed to a shorted period or focus (disability groups for example).</p> <p>However, from small beginnings come great things, and hope we can work with the contacts we have established to encourage sustained sitting volleyball activity.</p>	
6. SV competitions review	<p>JW provided an overview of SV competitions during 21/22. 12 teams entered at least one SVGP this season, with each attracting at least 7 teams. The most popular GP welcomed 11. Throughout season, 101 SV players registered on VolleyZone. Unfortunately, due to lack of team entries, SV Cup and Shield was cancelled. JW looking at possibility of re-organising at a team venue in the summer and also work with Dan Ward, Project Lead for Data at Volleyball England, on collecting feedback on why entries were low.</p> <p>JW congratulated South Hants and Sitting Bucks on reaching their first SVGP final.</p> <p>JW was keen to work with teams to improve registration process for each SVGP as entries are often chased. A potential question for the SV Summit.</p> <p>Jl and RO thanked JW for role in helping to support SV competitions, as well as everything else he has done, this season.</p>	JW
6. AOB	<p>ST provided an update to group on Volleyball England staffing.</p> <p>SVWG wished RO and the UK's Invictus Games Sitting Volleyball Team the best of luck at the upcoming games in The Hague. ST and RO to discuss potential for sharing content through competition.</p>	ST/RO
7. Date of next meeting	Not decided.	