

London Volleyball Association Meeting - Wednesday 1st July 2020

20.00

Present: Gary Beckford, Fabienne Goalen, Charlie Orton, Cormac Byrne, Alex Pavkov, Val Grisenkov, Lorenzo Peponi, Allan Mungroo, Bartek Luszcz, Joanne Carne-Howell

Apologies: Elsa Meserlian

1) MATTERS ARISING - Approval of last minutes – outstanding actions

ACTION VG – to put VE guidance on Facebook as they change and GB to check with Douglas BH if all that is advertised on LVA website is following the VE guidelines – VG and GB confirmed this has been done.

All other outstanding matters are dealt as agenda items below.

2) GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Mostly all have been updated as discussed and voted at the previous meetings. Referees code of conduct and role description still need to be updated. We need to look at the long term for this role to ensure volunteers can feasibly do it (can it be split?) as ChO has probably been doing the equivalent workload of 3 or 4 people at times.

ACTION GB to meet up with **ChO** to see what the job entails and how best to split the duties: appointments, courses, development, ...

3) WEBSITE UPDATE

It's an ongoing process – AP is extremely busy now at work as is Diane, so slowly moving. Accounts are being continuously created for clubs to update their information and add content. They can tell their stories on their dedicated page and put links to their website/Facebook, etc. Emails are sent to them asking them to update their page. Content is being added but we need SEO (Search Engine Optimisation)– digital marketing and knowledge - ensuring we are more visible online. This is not something BL can do so do we need to look into advertising for this role in the long term?

Who and how do we put up articles, for example as ref coordinator? At the moment, this is done by Diane and AP, but Douglas BH can continue as with the previous website (marketing or media) for league and match reporting if he is willing. AP said that it's possible to train someone in a couple of hours to do that task. That person putting up the articles will check and approve the content delivered by others. (marketing/social media officer). In the meantime, please send an email if you think something should be added. But this needs to be regularly checked as a lot of published articles may be quickly out of date as the Covid situation is evolving – ie, VE have had to postpone their AGM which will have an impact on our registrations.

ACTION GB to go through website to see what would need updating

ACTION GB to see with **AP/BL/?** Needs to set up a discussion, at some point in the future, to come up with criteria for publications – use of Twitter/Facebook/website – different platforms fulfil different purposes: for match reports; stories; about personalities,...?

ACTION FG to send all documents approved at the previous executive meetings to AP

ACTION AP to publish these documents as drafts on the website.

One other feature for the website – we can create a calendar on which to put all meetings (clubs, exec, events, etc) This will be discussed with Diane. The template bought for the website has its limitations but if anyone has a suggestion, it's worth sending an email to AP/Diane to see if it's feasible.

4) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ONYX APPEAL

Following the hearing named above, Douglas BH who chaired that hearing, made two recommendations:

- Clarification of the official document used for fixtures: handbook or LR? That is a matter for the League Subcommittee to decide, including the content that needs to be published, and on which medium.

- Transfer of information should be checked more formally

These have been incorporated into the draft document for the new league rules discussed at the Div Admin meeting last week. See point 9 below.

5) CLUB LEADERS MEETING

GB: thought that in these uncertain times, it's important for the exec to connect a lot more to clubs as we all share similar interests, go through the same thought processes, fears or anxieties. An idea is to set up a couple of meetings once a week for the next 4 weeks or so with club leaders, to discuss volleyball going forward. Usually, the AGM is the only opportunity clubs have to voice their opinions, which can be rushed.

The ideas discussed:

- Set up meetings with loose topics – proposing five and clubs can propose their own maybe?
- Dates set and published beforehand, and clubs asked to join.
- Purpose is to devise what clubs can do now
- Discuss how to overcome fears, discuss problems in a constructive way
- 12 to 15 people to represent clubs. Maybe limit number of people so that there is a consistent number at all these meetings.
- BL can discuss the business side of things: marketing/running a club/venue management
- Other topics: player retention (in light of Covid19)/ how to move forward/share good practice/season preparation/venues/best use of LVA website/use of school halls (JCH: this seems to be unlikely as schools need the extra space for teaching and are cautious – awaiting the education report due out on July 2)/use of leisure centres (JCH: no dates set allowing community groups to use them)
- The topics can dictate which exec member would be best to attend
- GB would aim to attend all of them
- A brief record can be taken at the meetings, making notes of the most salient points. These can then be checked with the relevant exec officer present at the meeting.

All members approved of these meetings.

ACTION GB can set them up.

6) CONSTITUTION - MEMBERSHIP - (options sent prior to the meeting are attached here – three from CB /one from GB)

To know who our members should be, we need to know who we are servicing and why the LVA is here.

All to share their thoughts. The LVA should be able to:

- Oversee and promote all the volleyball played in London (all leagues, mainly the London League, beach vb, sitting vb, junior, BUCs, social competitions) but not to get involved in minute detail of one particular aspect. Leave that to the committees themselves. We can appoint a member to look after them but that exec member is accountable and takes responsibility
- Promote volleyball within London and ensure people are doing it in a way aligned with the LVA values
- Have more juniors playing, raising awareness within families through events and leagues, motivating juniors to achieve their best, promoting role models
- Be a hub for all activities evolving around volleyball – to provide information to all players, whether a junior beginner, a social or competitive player, to find events near them
- Offer junior development and grow the sport.
- Share information and good practice, with respectable and good management
- Provide referees

Discussion on types of membership:

(NOTE: if a change is introduced and voted on at the AGM, it would be implemented in a year's time)

CB presented three scenarios depending on who would like their interests to be represented. Proxy is also a prickly subject as seen at the last AGM.

1 member, 1 vote (except juniors) with canvassing for candidates, voting online – no proxies – most engaged people would vote. Exec comments:

- possibility to call up friends to vote so opens to manipulation – rules would need to be put in place: registration of all members - big job. How about juniors? We would need to find a system maybe for parents to vote?
- Take note of VE : a venue belonging to a club will see many members of that club voting (if done on the day in the venue)– unfairly weighted – so they were careful to say one club, one vote, as seen below.

1 team 1 vote – only LL teams – representing 14 players each on average. Simplistic, possible high turnout, but no representations from coaches, or referees, or BUCS. Exec comments:

- in effect, this is just about the league and no other interests are considered. Not being able to grow as we all agreed earlier.
- Broaden the players, not just LL: tie this into the refereeing system – to be able to use that system, you need to be a member. Let the BUCs clubs have a vote, and Go Mammoth as they use our referees.
- Broaden the clubs: if you are a registered club, you can become a member. You can still use the resource of the LVA if you pay a membership fee.
- To include the referees and coaches, these groups can vote for one person to represent them and be a member.

Adding this to the second scenario brings us to the third scenario:

Weighted voting - More complicated but addresses the concerns above: weighted voting depending on the role of the member. A junior representative can be designated. All have a vote with a certain weight, including the referees and the coaches, including non-playing volunteers. Could be done electronically? Add a column in a spreadsheet. So potentially, all can have a say. Exec comments:

- Generally accepted as the best of the three options so far
- The weight coefficient can be altered as CB only gave a figure to illustrate the voting system.

Another option, similar to the one proposed by GB, giving one vote to each club (including BUCs, sitting and beach clubs) and to each team in the London League. Exec comments:

- Votes for different sections inside the club as well – 1 per LL team, 1 per Junior team and to tackle the problem of coaches and referees voting: 1 per group of coaches in that club, 1 per group of referees
- We should be able to generate income not only from LL but from clubs, coaches, referees as they would all pay to become members as for the moment, the main income comes from the LL.
- Should there be votes for coaches and referees? Knowing that often the people sent to the AGM to vote and represent the team would most likely be a coach or a referee already?

ACTION GB to take on board the comments and preferences and come up with two options to discuss at the next meeting.

7) TREASURER REPORT / OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS

Some payments need to be done and AH should be able to sort these out next week.

8) CHALLENGE TO THE PROCESS OF THE APPEAL HEARING PANEL

To be discussed at the next meeting as we haven't had 14 days since the appeal from Cisel Ormanci.

9) LEAGUE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT - (following subcommittee meeting)

The League Sub committee meeting, very positive and productive, was held on Friday 26 July. The new League rules were discussed, and one set of rules has been agreed upon.

ACTION GB to update the proposed league rules, check these with the sub-committee and present these to the exec at the next meeting.

AOB

- VE is having a **Regional Volleyball meeting** on Tuesday 7th July. Are there any points that exec members would like to raise at that meeting?
 - o ChO: Is Volleyzone going to provide a list of referees, coaches and clubs we can use? VE are putting together data and need to ensure it will be used appropriately. Also, worth noting that actually, VE does not have to provide members details to regional associations.
 - o BL: Worth reminding them about the ongoing campaign for Earls Court as it is being redone. The new owners and the architects need to be made aware of the legacy of the 2012 Olympics for volleyball, to make it into a multi-sport facility, to be used in the short and the long term.
<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/all-new-team-brought-in-to-masterplan-10ha-earls-court-site/10047397.article>
 - o AP: If some regions are organising online courses, maybe they can share these with other regions and maybe some people in the LVA could get involved.

ACTION GB to bring these to the table at the VE meeting.

- **MiVoice** is an organisation that can facilitate and help set up to enable remote AGMs (registrations, proxy voting etc...) – could make our lives easier.

ACTION GB to discuss this further with **AP** and **CB** and check this option with MiVoice

- AP Usually, clubs get **medals and trophies** at the AGM/League meeting. Can these be sent to clubs now as a positive gesture? GB is intending to distribute these. Medals have not been ordered (as far as GB knows) and an email has been sent to Cisel on 15 June to ask about the trophies and medals. Have Little Giants paid for the booking for the playoffs? No monies have come out of the LVA accounts. LVA cannot be paying Little Giants.

ACTION AH to write down protocols, before leaving the LVA, about how large amounts of money are to be paid (not to be paid by individuals even if a budget is approved).

- AP: **Facebook account** is still controlled by Cisel who hasn't passed on the admin rights despite repeated emails. ChO will try to contact her.

ACTION GB to forward to ChO the email written to Cisel asking for passwords and the like

- FG will probably not be able to attend the meeting next week as travelling to France so someone will need to fill in and take the minutes – suggested Douglas BH? Or another exec member. All ok with this.

No other AOB

Meeting closed at 21:35 – Next exec meeting scheduled for Wednesday 8th July @7:30.