

# London Volleyball Association Meeting - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020

20.00

**Present:** Gary Beckford, Fabienne Goalen, Charlie Orton, Cormac Byrne, Alex Pavkov, Val Grisenkov, Joanne Carne-Howell, Nicolas Vecchione

**Apologies:** Allan Mungroo

**Absentees:** Bartek Luszcz

---

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

**ACTION** LVA facebook page **AP** has written to Cisel to hand over control of the LVA facebook page. However, she created the page so she suggested the LVA create a new page as she will keep this one. CB believes she will see sense eventually as he has put a lot of effort in creating that group, but this is not urgent as the FB group is not majorly used now. If this is not resolved, can the LVA sanction an individual/a club? It has been done before. Can we deny LVA membership rights? Are there any tools we can use? GB agree we need to look at a proposal for sanctions if nothing happens. At the moment, EM and CB are moderators and can check what goes on that page.

**ACTION** Criteria for publications: **GB** to see with **AP/Bartek L**- ongoing

**ACTION** Publish all documents on website **AP** continuing to do so as they are approved

**ACTION** medals **GB** did not get any reply from Cisel as to the possible medals/trophies in her possession. A new message will be sent – Clubs still need to be contacted to see if they have handed over trophies (**GB/FG**)

**ACTION** Constitution Objectives: **GB/CB** New wording not agreed yet

**ACTION** LVA History **ALL**: CB has emailed all previously to ask for feedback about a document he put together. All to reply as CB will email again. CO and CB contacted Aquilatine(?????) to create an example before asking other clubs to contribute.

**ACTION** **GB** has written to Osemka informing them of our decision confirming the end of season procedure.

**ACTION** Language **ALL**: We need to be civil towards each other in writing and in conversation and if someone takes offence, we all need to be understanding and apologise/not cause further offence. If this is not happening, we may have to push for sanctions when individuals ignore what was agreed. This can be a delicate situation as a disagreement can be seen as being offensive – it's only about acknowledging and saying I didn't mean to cause offense and not trying to justify the offensive comment. Cannot be tolerated.

## 2) RETURN TO PLAY

Nicolas Vecchione has been invited to attend this meeting as he has offered to feedback on the VE webinar 'Return to volleyball' that took place Thursday, 6th August. The document produced by VE does give practical information regarding people on court and spectators; sanitary precautions; social distancing measures; bench players, officials wearing masks; equipment etc...

Main points from VE Webinar

- VE has issued an action plan, covering the four areas of volleyball play: outdoor, indoor, beach and sitting vb. Highlighted their reasoning – analyse the risk involved in the games using tapes from two cup finals and calculated that the overall risk exposure was less than 5 minutes in regard to Covid-19. Their action plan was validated as that is low exposure time.
- VE have clarified the COVID officer role: mandatory for a club to have one to cover all the sessions in the club and s.he may hold another role: coach/player/etc... as long as they take responsibility.
- If you are a club organiser, everyone participating NEEDS to opt-in, declare that they have read and understood the risk assessment and need to state they accept the risk – important for insurance. Samples of risk assessment and analysis are on the VE website.
- Every club MUST have their own risk assessment as the way the sport is played/how the club is run varies from club to club. However, we can use VE's as a basis and adapt it to the club, considering government,

VE and venue guidelines. Clubs will have to do their own analysis to come up with their own risk assessment, looking at exposure time in training sessions within controlled drills, not allowing people to be near each other for more than 3 seconds, and match situations.

- NVL: if there are fixtures but one member of a club is affected by C19, that is good reason to cancel the game. If fixtures cannot be played, no impact on the club which can also mean no promotion or relegation.
- Outdoor play: Risk is low with the wind and sun. The main issues are around cleaning and hand-sanitising
- Aware that some venues might find it hard to operate within these guidelines. How to organise match effectively

**ACTION GB** will send out the whole document rather than a summary for all to read.

**UPDATE:** VE have not produced this document but the introduction to the webinar is here:

<https://www.volleyballengland.org/news/article/6128/rewatch-our-return-to-volleyball>

the link to view it is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2UqqPYtvXs&feature=youtu.be>

and the risk assessment templates from VE are here:

<https://www.volleyballengland.org/news/article/6125/government-gives-green-light-for>

All agreed it is important for the LVA to have someone who clubs can turn to for information. If we had an inquiry, we need to have one voice, one person who understands the issues surrounding the safety measures and can provide the information needed. NV has been doing a lot of work to produce a risk assessment for outdoor sessions for his club (London Spiker Knights Volleyball Club – LSKVC) and would be more than happy to share it with us. Clubs do not need to send their risk assessment to anyone in particular. It is to disseminate information to the players/members/venues. Important to know that venues will have their own risk assessment and clubs need to be aware of these as well. JCH has done her own for her club as well.

Could Nicolas be our point of contact as LVA Covid officer? A medical background is not needed but thorough knowledge about information to play based on VE/government guidelines is essential. Clubs must also have their own Covid officer so having someone keen and meticulous is an asset. How long would the LVA have a Covid officer? Supposedly, as long as there is a need for one.

(NV leaves the meeting after being thanked)

CB: can we task NV with approaching all clubs now and let them know what the conditions are? All agreed

GB: are there any objections to **having NV on board as the LVA Covid officer** as he is very willing?

No objections from JCH, GB, VG, CB, AP, FG (CO has IT problems and is temporarily offline)

### 3) LITTLE GIANTS APPEAL

GB has written to the panellists from the initial appeal and they have clarified their decision, 4 vs 2 in favour of the game being played according to the Handbook, so the original appeal decision was communicated incorrectly.

GB: We need to investigate what happened and put things in place to make sure it doesn't happen again

**ACTION FG** to send out recent responses from panellists replying to the email from GB.

**ACTION GB** to compose an email to let Little Giants, Onyx, the chair of this first appeal and the Div admins know the outcome.

As for the appeal of Little Giants against the procedure, it is no longer relevant based on the information know now.

#### 4) FINANCE UPDATE

We are getting demands to transfer money, but we have issues with our bank account. What can we do? We cannot open another bank account for the same organisation.

CO cannot access the existing account even though he is one of the signatories because his phone number has changed and is not recognised by the bank. AH is not responding to communications from other exec members wanting to clarify the situation and find a solution. Could we download the documents to assign new signatories, fill in the paperwork and find AH to physically go to the bank with him? – passports/driving licences might be needed – to check.

Can we appoint 3 signatories now? GB, CO and FG. We need to check that we need to physically be there all three together and see the modalities of the bank to see how this can be done

**ACTION GB** will go to TSB on Friday 14 and see what they say and maybe get an account mandate form

How do we refund people who are owed money? CO offered to pay and be paid back. Not usually to be done, but this is an exceptional situation. We will refund people who are desperate and try to find arrangements with others if they agree (credit for next season) – this will be dealt with case per case.

**ACTION GB** will draft a statement letting members know that we have issues with the LVA account but if they are struggling, they can contact us.

**ACTION AH** to write down protocols about how large amounts of money are to be paid - ongoing

#### 5) AGM AND LEAGUE REGISTRATIONS

GB proposes an AGM towards the end of September – all agree – there is not much to do before that. This gives us time to sort things out. VG proposes Saturday 26 September

**ACTION GB/AP/FG** to set the date and discuss modalities of the presentation/details

It would be good to have an idea of what teams and clubs will be doing next season. At the first Chair's Open Discussion meeting, most people agreed that any league before January would not be feasible. All up in the air with venues, officials, schools, players... Members want to have trust and feel comfortable to play. Mini tournaments could be possible. (Refer to the notes on that meeting distributed by GB)

What if we have to stop the half-season? It will affect the season after... Could there then be no promotion or relegation? People would want to play competitively and maybe still get trophies so tournaments are a good idea.

**ACTION VG/CB/JCH** to put some options together to put to members, with a variety of questions: can clubs contact their venues and see if/when they are operational? When will their teams be ready to play? What is the player uptake? How many teams do they think they will have? If all clubs have access to venues, then that may change the situation with the season. Financial implications: small clubs may find it hard to pay a venue in advance for 3 months...

#### 6) EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

**ACTION ALL:** Can we sound people out for recruitment?

#### 7) CLUB LEADERS MEETINGS

After the last two Chair's Open discussion meetings, it was made clear that people want London Volleyball to be more together, for recreational purposes and more competitive. Recently, GB was made aware of three different organisations who were looking to bring international teams here. People on the LVA didn't know that. Our communication is not coordinated. The goal should be to do more events, tournaments, socials, get-togethers

and these Open Discussions are a very good start to share information with all interested parties (clubs, coaches, players, etc...)

How do we encourage people to give us that info? Get the clubs' trust and people will come to us; we need to win clubs over, but we acknowledge this might take time, certainly with the Covid situation.

## **8) WEBSITE UPDATE**

It's coming along nicely with ongoing additions.

FG: Clubs are not clearly indicated on a map or borough which makes it difficult to advise on clubs near someone's work or home when they enquire. GB encouraged AP to see if he can look into making a list of clubs in different boroughs on a document.

AP advised that the Facebook group is always a good way to post and find information about clubs, levels, venues, etc...

However, some are uncomfortable to post on the LVA FB group as the LVA does not have control of it. There is another FB group, Volleyball London, which is very often used to search for information. We have to be careful and be seen to work together with all interested London volleyballers but once again, we do not control the group but working together to better volleyball in London is a good thing and part of our goal.

**ACTION GB** to get in touch with the creators of the Volleyball London FB group and see what cooperation we can have.

## **AOB:**

One of GB's players accepted in Harvard – Great news!

Meeting closed at 21.45..... – Next exec meeting will be held at the end of the month

To be read in conjunction with :

- VE 'Return to volleyball': links within this document
- Panellists clarification on their decision on Little Giants appeal, with GB email
- Nicolas Vecchione's risk assessment produced for his club on the following link:

<https://github.com/cuisquare/ReturnToOutdoorVolleyball>