

London Volleyball Association Executive Meeting

Sunday 25th Sep 2022

Present: Alex Pavkov, Antonella Iannuccelli, Cormac Byrne, Fiona Cotterill, Gary Beckford, Lorraine Hames, Nicolas Vecchione, Rúben Duarte, Sandra Simoes, Stuart Fullerton

Apologies: Antonio Codrington, Gloria Francalanci

Absentees: None

The chairman welcomes all

1. Welcome and introduction

Lead by GB.

- Round the table introduction of new LVA members.

2. Finance

Lead by GB and NV.

- A new bank account will be opened with NatWest bank.
- Last signatory to be reach is AP.
- NV mentioned that no one from the bank has been in contact yet.
- GB raised that Charlie Orton is to remain the main point of contact of the bank. It was mentioned that CO is requesting for **Roger** to be the main point of contact instead.

3. London League update

Lead by FC

- a) Medals and trophies
 - FC mentioned that we still don't have medals or trophies from previous years.
 - One of the companies previously contacted will be reviewed as a supplier
- b) Are we ready for the season?
 - The season starts officially on Monday 26th September
 - There is a general need of venues across the teams.
 - FC raised a dependency with the Referee system (covered during point 5 of the agenda)

4. Junior update

Lead by SF

- a) London junior data
 - The aim of this project was to understand the status of the Junior volleyball in London
 - Requests of information were sent to all London clubs, 21 responded (circa 60%)
 - As outcome of the project, the LVA will be able to understand what type of juniors are in London and what issues each London club faces.

- b) Cost to juniors on the talent pathway
 - SF mentioned that in the current situation each Junior that attends Volleyball England (VE) trials pays a £60 fee. To add, LH referred that if the player is selected there is £145 per camp (a weekend) plus circa £700 travel expenses, plus club fees and kit.
 - Concerns about D&I were raised across the board, it was agreed that these values are limitative to London's youth talent.

- c) Junior camps, Grand Prix, Nationals
 - To be structured with the main goal of encouraging young players.
 - SF mentioned that as a first idea, these camps should include more than the top tier talent, having a broader inclusion of junior players.
 - AP asked if there was an ideal of player for LVA, it was agreed across the board that there is not a definition of physical features that are looked at.

- d) Player and coach code of conduct
 - VE code of conduct and safeguarding to be reissued

- e) Training camps
 - To be structure

Actions:

- **GB** to reach out to other associations in England that face the same issues.
- **GB** to then send an email to VE stating how these costs impact London youth talent
- **SF** to reissue VE code of conduct and safeguarding across the clubs

5. Interregional update

Lead by LH

- a) Training program
 - LH mentioned that this is still being structured, following a similar approach from last year.

- A potential change is to have a monthly training session with a wider team, meaning not only the initial selected 12 players.
- b) Recruitment of players, coaches, and volunteers
- LH mentioned the need to encourage new coaches to join the program
 - LH raised the ever need of volunteers, a message will be sent to previous volunteers.
- c) Costs, subsidies, grants, and sponsorship
- For the indoor tournament LH manages a budget of £3000 from LVA, a fee of £40 is requested to each player. This value covers 1 night accommodation, food and travel.
 - For the beach tournament, LH raised concerns with the costs associated with this tournament since there is a lower number of players involved and costs regarding travel
 - SS raised the possibility of looking for sponsorship focused on tournaments to ease the costs, GB and AI raised the concern of LVA not being in a place to structure those partnerships.

Actions:

- **SS** to reach out to **GB** for partnerships needs.

6. Referee update

Lead by RD

- a) Referee portal
- RD mentioned that the portal is up and running, however the way to manage games (either creation or change) is not the easier to do.
 - RD raised concerns about the initial amount of work to input the games' list in the platform (UX viability and scalability)
- b) Referee registration
- Every referee can register themselves in the ref portal.
 - AI and AP inquire if it was clear to all the referees what is the process to sign up. RD mentioned that the portal is clear and agree to reach out to AI, NV and AP to review the platform.
- c) Referee development
- Related with the 7th point of the agenda.
 - RD mentioned that one of his goals is to work with universities to raise the number of referees across London.

Actions:

- **RD** to book a meeting with AI, NV and AP regarding platform development and growth.

- *RD to confirm that, when a game is cancelled/changed, all the parties involved receive an email.*
- *RD to send the list of this year's referees to SS and AI.*

7. Training and Courses

Lead by AI

- Scheduled courses
 - AI raised that VE certifications from last year haven't been sent yet, and this might be impacting the number of referees signed up for this year.
 - The dates for the different courses will be settled beginning of the season, AI recommend having 2 sessions per year, to start with.
 - For AI one of the goals of the season is create a referee onboarding that helps referees that just started.
- Other courses to be included ie. Safeguarding, First aid, Equity, Coach lvl 2
 - To be structure with the Coach Development review.

Actions:

- *AI to put a small working group to the review several points of improvement.*
- *SS to request a list of the London registered coaches and referees, to share with AI.*

8. IT update

Lead by AP

- Website development
- Structure of the website
 - Both points were discussed side by side.
 - AP mentioned there is a need of content to be published, being articles or other updates
 - SS proposed for all the information related with clubs to be requested at the beginning of the season, upon registration. The idea was accepted across the board.

Actions:

- *AP to follow up on what is needed from the clubs to add to the website and share with the wider group.*

9. Comms

Lead by GF

Point of discussion postponed due to apologies.

10. Season Archive

Lead by GB

- GB raised the need of keeping data from the season and define KPIs to be measured across different seasons.
- SS offered to create a track record and propose KPIs

Actions:

- **SS** to create a tracking document.

11. VE Data Access

Lead by GB

- GB raised the need of having access to all the VE data, it was agreed across the board that this should be kept with the association secretary.

Actions:

- **SS and GB** to align access and needed data.