

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at 3.30pm
on 24 July 2021 at SportPark, 3 Oakwood
Drive, Loughborough LE11 3QF and via
Microsoft Teams.

Directors Present	Titles
Adam Walker [AW]	Chair (Independent)
Andreas Hernandez [AH]	Director (Independent)
Brendan Fogarty [BF]	Director
Clare Francis [CF]	Vice Chair (Independent)
Ian Wall [IW]	Director (Independent)
Seyram Atubra [SA]	Director
Simon Griffiths [SG]	Director
Staff Present	
Sue Storey [SS]	Chief Executive
Samantha Jamieson [SJ]	Deputy Chief Executive
Stewart Thorpe [ST]	Strategic Manager Digital & Communications
Charlotte Lingham [CL]	Digital & Communications Assistant
In attendance	
James Murphy [JM]	Competitions Delivery Lead
Jess Plumridge [JP]	Leeds Volleyball Club
Robert Pickens [RP]	VbDC VC
Deborah Pickens [DP]	VbDC VC
Becky Spencer [BS]	Academy of Beach Sports
Richard Osbourne [RO]	South Hants Volleyball Club
Jacqueline Osbourne [JO]	South Hants Volleyball Club
Agata Sromecka [AS]	Minute taking
Joined Online	
Dave Gunter [DG]	Wessex VC
Richard Callicott [RC]	Honorary President
Phil French [PF]	Independent Director
Ronu Miah [RM]	Proposed Elected Director
Claire Edginton [CE]	
Giorgio Scatigna-Gianfagna [GSG]	
Nick Shaffery [NS]	Children & Young People Delivery Lead
David Potter	

1. Welcome from the Chair

AW started by welcoming all to the Volleyball England (VE) Annual General Meeting – those that attended in person and virtually. AW then introduced attendees sitting at the top table: SS – the CEO, CF – the Vice Chair who would manage the voting at the meeting and AH who would present on the finance.

AW highlighted that it was great to see the AGM participants attend in person. On behalf of VE Board AW proceeded to thank the volleyball community including volunteers, coaches and players for keeping the sport alive during the pandemic.

AW then thanked SS and the hub team for doing an incredible job despite the challenges caused by the worldwide pandemic.

AW also mentioned the new VE strategy called the Game Plan. The strategy offered a clear direction of travel for volleyball for the next 10 years. The strategy would be revisited every two years and was complemented by the implementation plan.

1. Apologies

The apologies had been submitted by Kevin Fletcher, Richard Harrison, Jefferson Williams, Freda Bussey and Phillip French – Board Members, Ronu Miah, Jake Sheaf and Alastair Marks – candidates for the positions of Executive Directors on the VE Board, Simone Turner – Chair of Volleyball Foundation and Richard Callicott – Chair of British Volleyball Federation.

It was noted many had wanted to attend in person but to help us manage numbers given the venue restrictions had agreed to participate via the online stream on this occasion.

1. Annual Report

SS started by noting what an incredibly challenging year it had been for the volleyball family. SS extended her thanks to everyone who had continued to support the volleyball family in those unprecedented times including the staff, Board, and volunteers. SS extended special thanks to SJ – the Deputy CEO, JM – the competition's working group delivery lead, CF – the senior independent director and AW as Chair of the Board.

In terms of the annual report, the last year's account had laid the foundations for a strong future following from the period of repair and rebuild onto a state of stability and sustainability. SS added that the sport was en route to growth as guided by the Game Plan strategy. This growth would also be facilitated by working with the volleyball community. 2020/21 annual report was a great opportunity to highlight achievements and the challenges of the last year and SS encouraged all to read it.

4. AGM Business

CF reported that by the stating closing time for the receipt of appointment forms (5pm on Thursday 22 July 2021) a total of 14 appointments had been received. We would have a poll vote. All votes are Ordinary Resolution and only required a simple majority to be passed.

The resolutions were as follows:

Resolution 1 – Appointment of auditors for 2021/22

To re-appoint Duncan and Toplis as auditor of the Company to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which statement of accounts are laid and authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

Passed – Unanimous

Resolution group 2 – Appointment of Directors

- To re-appoint Simon Griffiths who is retiring by rotation in accordance with the Company's Articles of association as an Executive Director of the Company. Passed – 1 abstain all remaining voted in favour
- To appoint Jake Sheaf in accordance with the Company's articles of association as an Executive Director of the Company. Passed – 1 abstain all remaining voted in favour
- To appoint Alastair Marks in accordance with the Company's articles of association as an Executive Director of the Company. Passed – 2 abstain all remaining voted in favour
- To appoint Jess Plumridge in accordance with the Company's articles of association as an Executive Director of the Company. Passed – 2 abstain all remaining voted in favour
- To appoint Ronu Miah in accordance with the Company's articles of association as an Executive Director of the Company. Passed – 2 abstain all remaining voted in favour

Resolution group 3 – Appointment of Delivery Leads

- To re-appoint James Murphy who is retiring by rotation in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as the Competitions Delivery Lead of the Company. Passed – Unanimous.
- To re-appoint Carol Gordon who is retiring by rotation in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as Technical Delivery Lead of the Company. Passed – Unanimous.

CF informed all that Phil French had been appointed by Board prior to the AGM as an Independent Director.

Three Delivery Leads (Regional, Beach and Coaching) positions remained vacant and would be re-advertised. CF encouraged anyone interested in those positions to get in touch with the hub team.

5. Finance Update

AH updated the meeting on the financial situation of the organisation and the audit for the financial year 2020-21.

AH highlighted the following:

- The draft accounts had been presented to the meeting and they were awaiting a final sign off on 6 August 2021
- the audit had concluded ahead of projected time
- the auditors' recommendations were minor and regarded controls
- the summary profit and loss report was presented to the meeting which confirmed that the year ended in profit of £38k. AH explained that the comparison to previous years was now absent from this report as a consequence of the changes in the accounting system used.
- AH read out the auditors' statement from Niall Kingsley, Duncan & Toplis.

"I'm happy to confirm that no major issues have arisen with the audit with only some minor control recommendations being made. The only point referred to in our audit report is the fact that at the time of signing the next round of Sports England funding is not expected to have been confirmed so we have drawn attention to this fact as it obviously forms a large part of Volleyball England's funding and therefore, we have to consider this from a going concern perspective. We note though that discussions/bids for funding are under way and expected to be confirmed in Autumn 2021.

AW confirmed that the future funding from Sport England was expected to be of the same level and would be confirmed in Autumn 2021. VE would be required to enter into a consultative process to obtain funding, which was different from previous years as there would be no requirement to submit a bid.

6. AOB

The following questions were asked at the meeting as part of AOB:

- Were there any lessons learnt following the London 2012 Olympic Games that could prevent the same challenges from happening at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022?
 - CF, Chair of the Commonwealth Group legacy planning group, responded that the learning was being factored into the planning. Some of this related to capitalising on participation and the benefits of the Games but also maximising the legacy and the use of the equipment. AW believed that the volleyball family should be ambitious about the legacy within specific parameters. SS added that VE was collaborating closely with the organising committee of the Games. One of the initiatives was to encourage the Games volunteers to become engaged with volunteering specifically for volleyball post Games. AW and SS added that Sport England provided funding to prepare volleyball teams for the Games. AW asked to record special thanks to BVF chaired by Richard Callicott in relation to the Games and the team's performance.
- Would there be any help provided to clubs in relation to encouraging participation in sport also in connection to CG?
 - SG commented that there would be a comms campaign that would be aimed at encouraging new members to join volleyball clubs. This would be shaped in due course. CF encouraged clubs to contact the hub.
 - AW stressed that ideas from clubs were welcome as well Volleyball England would like to hear about any challenges that clubs were facing.
- Had there been any follow up to the recent webinar Big Ideas?
 - SG responded that the ideas that had come through the webinar would inform the future thinking including competitions, scoring as well as how the junior competitions would work. JM confirmed that this format had been converted from the cup format to a two-tier system for both new and existing junior players starting from January 2022.
 - AW highlighted that the ideas were important for the innovation of the sport.

AW thanked SA, IW and JW, who were stepping down as Directors, for their valuable contributions, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge and their work on the Volleyball England Board.

There being no other business, AW concluded the meeting at 4.15pm and thanked all for attending both in person and virtually.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AW Walker'.

Adam Walker