



Minutes of Annual General Meeting at 12.30pm on 25 June 2022 at SportPark Loughborough.

Name	Role
Adam Walker	Independent Chair
Adam Walker	Independent Chair
Andres Hernandez	Independent Director
Brendan Fogarty	Elected Director
Clare Francis	Senior Independent Director & Vice Chair
David Reeve	Co-opted Director
Graham Arthur	Independent Solicitor
Ian Wall	Volleyball England Foundation Board Member
James Murphy	Reading Aces VC
Janet Inman	Volleyball England Foundation Secretary
Kevin Fletcher	Financial Consultant
Manni Sehmbi	Volleyball England Foundation Board Member
Richard Harrison	Elected Director
Rob Payne	Interim Deputy CEO
Sam Jamieson	Interim CEO
Simon Griffiths	Elected Director
Simone Turner	Volleyball England Foundation Board Member
Steve Williams	Volleyball England Foundation Board Member
Stewart Thorpe	Strategic Manager Digital & Communications
Agata Sromecka	Minute taker

Welcome

AW started the Volleyball England (VE) Annual General Meeting (AGM) by welcoming all in-person attendees and attendees joining via the live YouTube channel. AW then proceeded to thank the hub staff for all their incredible efforts and fantastic work that they had done over the year including SJ and RP who had stepped into interim senior positions. AW also extended his gratitude to his Board colleagues, Board subgroups, the working group Delivery Leads, the volunteers with special thanks to ST and JI, who were present at the meeting on behalf of the Volleyball England Foundation (VEF), Richard Callicott, and others who sat on British Volleyball Federation. Finally, AW thanked all who were working on VE's behalf as part of the preparations for the Commonwealth Games.

Apologies and Minutes of 2021 AGM

Apologies had been received from Freda Bussey, Phil French, Jake Sheaf, Jess Plumridge, Richard Callicott, Andy Jones, Bob Pickins and Charlie Orton.

Minutes of 2021 AGM were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting and would be signed off by AW.

Annual Report 2021/22

AW handed over to SJ, who highlighted the following in relation to the report:

- SJ thanked all volunteers and clubs for getting the sport back up and running after the pandemic.
- SJ thanked JM and the return to play working group for continuing to work at the beginning of this season, particularly in the run up to Christmas, when the sport had still been dealing with the challenges created by the Covid pandemic.
- Junior volleyball had recorded an unprecedented rise in the number of junior participants. The Competitions working group helped to facilitate competitions to get those young athletes into the sport. 290 teams had taken part across the tiered competition through the season culminating in finals with 112 teams taking part with the podium dominated by the Richmond team who had won seven out of 11 of the titles available at the National Cup Finals. SJ thanked all who had made this event possible.
- The new website offered an improved customer experience. SJ encouraged all to provide their feedback on their user experience.
- There had been some great moments in sport in the last year including the World Tour performance from the Bello brothers as well as from other athletes at the Commonwealth Games qualifying event.
- In terms of the club support:
 - clubs remained at the heart of the VE strategy and a big focal area of work including conducting club health checks, development club toolkits, working in a more bespoke way with clubs helping them on the journey to achieve their aspirations.
 - the new club newsletter had been also launched as part of this work.
 - more partner discounts and benefits would be brought in for the members.
 - linked to the club support and club development was coach education which had been in great demand in the last year, facilitating around 320 learners through the assistant coach award.
- VE had secured funding from Sport England including i) system partner funding for the next five years; ii) innovation and digital funding; and iii) funding for medal preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

AW thanked SJ for delivering the update. Annual Report was received by the meeting.

Draft financial statements

AW handed over to KF, who highlighted the following in terms of the VE's 2021-22 accounts:

- the auditors were coming on Monday 18 July to audit the accounts. KF was presenting management accounts instead of draft accounts to provide more granular detail
- the revenue for the year was ca £1.1 million pounds and was larger than the last year's figure. KF went through individual strands in the budget explaining the position of each of them
- the surplus in the budget would be used towards some of the digital transformation work
- the funding from Sport England had been secured including the system partner funding for the next five years spread equally across the years
- the numbers were showing the sports growth
- the digital transformation was a major project with already allocated funds
- reserves were in line with the Volleyball England reserve's policy

AW thanked KF for the update. The meeting received the update.

Appointments and Voting

AW handed over to CF, who informed the meeting of the following in relation to voting on resolutions as presented in the AGM pack:

- the stated closing time for appointment forms was 5pm on 23 June 2022
- 62 appointment forms had been received with 4 appointing people absent from the meeting to vote which meant that there would be a maximum of 58 votes in total for each of the resolutions. 58 of those votes had been submitted to appointed representatives or proxies that were in the room on the day of the meeting.
- The Chair had received 49 proxy votes, appointing the chair to vote on relevant person's behalf in 41 instances and 8 of them were instructing the Chair to vote at his discretion.
- CF asked for two volunteers to be tellers to count the votes as part of the voting process. SW and JI volunteered and were duly appointed as the tellers.
- There were 7 ordinary resolutions requiring simple majority to pass and 1 special resolution requiring 75% or higher to be passed:

The voting results were as follows:

Resolution	Total Votes	Votes Counted	For	Against	Abstain	Result
Appointment of Duncan and Toplis as auditors for 2022/23	58	54	54	0	4	Pass
Appointment of David Reeve as Elected Director	58	51	36	15	7	Pass
Re-appointment by rotation of Richard Harrison as Elected Director	58	47	42	5	11	Pass
Appointment of Nick Heckford as Officials Delivery Lead	58	56	55	1	2	Pass
Appointment of Nick Shaffery as Children and Young People Delivery Lead	58	53	53	0	5	Pass
Appointment of Luke Thomas as Coaches Lead	58	54	54	0	4	Pass
Appointment of Steve Matthews as Sitting Volleyball Lead	58	55	55	0	3	Pass
Implementation of proposed changes to the Articles of Association	58	52	34	18	6	Not Passed

AW thanked all for their votes.

Chair's update

AW highlighted the following in relation to this agenda item

- CEO recruitment was ongoing. There had been an incredible response in terms of applications as part of the recruitment process. The recruiter had provided the Nominations Committee with a shortlist of 10 people and further 10 people as a peripheral list. All 20 applications had been considered with a final shortlist of 12 people. An assessment centre had been run in Loughborough which presented a great opportunity for the candidates to meet the hub team and interact with one another. AW thanked AH, RH, CF, SJ and RP for their help on the day. As a result of the assessment, five candidates would be put forward to the next stage which involved a panel interview consisting of the Board colleagues and a Sport England representative. The Nominations

Committee was hoping to recommend an appointment of the new CEO before the end of July 2022,

- At the 2021 AGM, new directors had been appointed to the VE Board. At that point in time, those two Elected Directors were not club members. The Board was not aware that the appointed directors were not members making them ineligible for appointment. A complaint had then been received about appointment of ineligible candidates. An internal investigation had shown that this had been factually correct. Subsequently, those two appointed directors had decided to leave the board (one for totally unconnected reasons in any event). At that point in time, David Reeve was co-opted to the VE Board. VE Board had admitted the error which had also been publicised on the website. Further on, the complainant reached out to claim that the Code for Sports Governance had been breached by the Board and therefore Sport England should review the VE Board's performance. Sport England had stepped in and having investigated, concluded that the Board had not breached the Code. The complainant at that point, had proceeded to ask VE to take an independent legal assessment of the Board's performance. GA as an independent lawyer, had been appointed to assess the Board's performance. GA had concluded that the two directors had not been eligible for election at the time, because of a technical oversight. The complainant had laid another complaint stating that AW, CF, and Sue Storey (as the chief executive at the time) had operated in an unethical, inappropriate, malicious way for their own advantage. The rest of the Board had concurred (in the absence of AW, CF and SS) that they had been very satisfied with the performance of those mentioned and they would not investigate this complaint further. This resulted in the complainant attempting to put forward resolutions under the Companies Act for the removal of those two directors as well as proposing a vote of no confidence in AW and CF at the AGM. That resolution was reviewed by the Company Secretary but had not been validly submitted for a number of reasons so was not heard today. AW highlighted that VE Board had and will continue to ensure their behaviour was ethical, honourable, and transparent at all times which is why the events related to multiple complaints of the same individual were presented at the meeting. There were no questions from the attendees.

Volleyball England Foundation update

AW handed over to ST, who provided an update on the Foundation's work:

- Previously secured Sitting Volleyball funding had been activated
- The Foundation had secured more return to play funding for the officiating working group
- The Foundation's very first partnership had been formed. This would be to run a disadvantaged youth programme in partnership with Aston Villa.
- Two sitting clubs had received awards
- More Return to play funding of £250k had been secured on behalf of clubs across the country, with 48 applications that benefited 120 clubs.
- The Foundation would organise a Christmas auction again this year to reinforce its fundraising presence as well as to establish regular income generating events
- The Foundation would be organising initiatives around LGBTQ producing and delivering new resources for the volleyball community and beyond.

Commonwealth Games update

AW handed over to CF who spoke of key highlights in relation to Commonwealth Games:

- There were 33 days left until the Games would begin
- There were four pillars in the Our Time to Shine legacy project: venue and equipment, participation, volunteer, profile and performance. CF summarised what each meant.

- There were some exciting events planned around the Beach volleyball games during the Games. CF encouraged all to participate as those events would be free to all.

Questions:

- JI asked how the quality of service in relation to the sport would be maintained in the light of the increased inflation. AW responded that the VEF was a great income generator. VE would need to investigate and increase its income diversification which was a challenge considering limited resources. CF encouraged anyone interested in taking a delivery lead role on the Commercial working group to come forward.

AGM close

AW thanked all for their contributions and encouraged the volleyball community to maintain the momentum.

DRAFT