



**Sitting Volleyball Working Group Meeting**

**Thursday 25 February 2021**

**Video Conference**

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Minutes prepared by:</b>	Janet Inman
<b>Circulation:</b>	Sitting Volleyball Working Group, Working Group Leads, Hub Team
<b>Distribution:</b>	Sam Jamieson

**Members present and apologies for absence**

**Present**

Steve Smith (SS)	Sitting Bucks SVC
John Worrall (JW)	Project Lead, Volleyball England
Stewart Thorpe (ST)	Digital and Communications Manager
David Williamson (DW)	Sitting Bucks SVC
Richard Osborne (RO)	Sitting Volleyball Lead and South Hants SVC
Janet Inman (JI)	Volleyball England Foundation
Herman Prada (HP)	Sitting Volleyball Competitions Lead

**Apologies**

The meeting commenced at 1930 and closed at 2110.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Owner
1. Introduction	RO welcomed everyone and described the recalibration in SVWG membership following the inaugural meeting in Dec 20. Gillian Harrison, Jonathan Moore and Rob Payne would no longer be standing members, although they may attend future meetings to cover specific items that fall within their respective portfolios. John Worrall has joined the group and brings with him a background of playing SV at club and national level. Dave Williamson, coach at Sitting Bucks, has also joined the group and as a SV enthusiast, player and coach of over 10 years standing will bring a great deal of experience. Both John and Dave also bring valuable perspectives as players who are disabled.	
2. Return to Play	RO updated members on the government announcement made earlier that week and summarised the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The earliest return to indoor SV would be the 17 May. ST is working on the revised guidance that will appear on the VE website early next week.</li><li>- The VE Foundation bid to Sport England has been approved and will result in 30 bespoke, impermeable nets being produced at a cost of £6,500, and PPE</li></ul>	

	<p>equipment worth £3,000. The nets have been ordered and will be available in 4 - 6 weeks. The PPE will provide face masks, disposable gloves, aprons, sanitiser and cleaning agent for the nets. These will be sent directly to clubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An announcement is expected to be made by VE next week (Tuesday 2nd March) about returning to play and there will be a webinar to support people to understand what they will need to do to ensure they are COVID compliant. The webinar will take place in advance of teams returning to training.</li> <li>- Face coverings will need to be worn on court unless individuals have an exemption. Coaches, Officials would be expected to wear face coverings as well.</li> </ul>	
3. Progression Fund	<p>RO informed members that UK Sport provides funding for elite sports over a 4-year cycle and BVF had been encouraged to apply for sitting volleyball funding. Ben Pipes had assembled the bid which makes provision for a performance director to oversee the programme and we heard at the end of September that the bid had been unsuccessful. UK Sport has a further funding pot of £3m which can be applied for by the sports that didn't get funding to support their elite programmes.</p>	
4. VE 'Big Ideas'	<p>RO described how VE had extended an invitation to attend a workshop that would focus on new and novel ideas, such as new formats of competitions and events, that could raise interest from a new generation of players while retaining existing ones. RO had represented SV at the event and suggested regional competitions to give more opportunities to play competitively. It was considered there are sufficient teams to make it viable to hold matches in North and South leagues, having a North v South winner's final. In addition to the Grand Prix. Clubs would be expected to cover their own costs if this were to go ahead. This would need to be discussed again at a future meeting.</p> <p>RO added that GB Men need to compete more regularly with a possible option to have a competition where drafted players play the national team.</p> <p>RO outlined VE plans to host a celebratory event at Kettering once lockdown had finished that would comprise indoor, beach and sitting volleyball. RO offered to deliver SV 'come and try' sessions during the celebration.</p>	
5. New Clubs	<p>The VE Foundation has agreed to fund 3 clubs to develop a sitting team, at Leeds Gorse, Hull Thunder and Manchester Marvels.</p> <p>RO thanked the Foundation for their support, and confirmed he had been in touch with the new clubs to offer support and advice. The Foundation funding window will open again after Easter.</p>	
6. 7-Point Plan	<p>RO spoke about work to refresh the <b>SV website</b> so that new coaches can have access to a one stop shop of related resources. Interested players and coaches will be invited to a workshop at Kettering that will be filmed and used as a tool on the website. Taster session plans are nearly complete but need photos to be added which can't be taken until lockdown is lifted. 35 drills have been identified to be added to a bespoke YouTube channel to give coaches ideas for their sessions. A Facebook group has been set up called "Sitting volleyball in the UK", which is principally a discussion page and a forum for coaches to ask questions and share ideas. ST is the only moderator currently but is happy to share the responsibility. The Club Finder on the VE website is in the initial stages of review and refreshment. Links have been added to the VE Foundation and 'Club Matters'. The aim is to develop a 'myth buster' which sets out the coach/player relationship and seeks to dispel misconceptions or concerns from coaches about coaching disabled people.</p>	

	<p><b>Outreach programme</b> – This piece of work aims to connect SV clubs with disability organisations to engender symbiotic relations i.e., it will enable disability organisations to signpost players to clubs and for clubs to build grow its numbers. A work placement opportunity exists and recruitment of a UEL student will follow to support the development of a database of charities etc that can support the recruitment and links to our sitting VB programme. The successful student, who will be managed by JI, is due to start next week and will undertake 10-12 hours work per week until the end of June.</p> <p><b>Sitting volleyball month</b> –a discussion took place to assess the optimum time to deliver SV Month. Thought was given to linking with the Paralympics later in the year and whether it should take place at a time when schools can get involved. It was agreed that this would be a topic for discussion at the next meeting but in the interim members were asked to share any ideas with RO.</p> <p><b>Coach Education</b> – Gillian Harrison is continuing to work on the Coach Assistant Award, which will include SV elements while the higher award, still under development, will enable coaches to specialise in SV.</p> <p><b>Working with the HEVO</b> – No update, RO to talk to Rob Payne at VE.</p> <p><b>Establish a coach mentor programme</b> – no action currently, need to have a lead for this piece of work.</p> <p><b>Sitting volleyball officiating</b> – Officials supporting sitting volleyball are being managed by our team of international sitting referees. It was agreed it would be good to have some elements of SV introduced into the grade 4 refereeing course. There was an identified need to encourage officials who have completed their qualification to officiate at the Grand Prix and other sitting competitions.</p> <p>It was suggested that as part of the return to play process we could we have a webinar for sitting volleyball around the rules relating to Sitting VB managed by Nick Heckford.</p>	
<p>7. AOB</p>	<p>DW thanked everyone for the work that is going on behind the scenes to support SV.</p> <p>HP informed members of his work with schools and the need for advice on working with schools. It was suggested he contacted Gary Beckford, Chair of London Volleyball.</p> <p>SS thanked everyone for all their efforts in keeping things moving forward.</p> <p>JI spoke about ‘Step into my Shoes’, a leadership programme that is being rolled out by the Foundation.</p> <p>ST updated everyone on a number of staff changes at VE. He further advised that ‘Volley Fit’, which was fitness programme aimed at indoor players had been expanded to provide elements for SV players.</p> <p>RO thanked everyone for their input into the meeting.</p>	
<p>8. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>RO indicated that he would canvass members’ availability out of committee.</p>	<p>RO</p>