



Sitting Volleyball Working Group Meeting

Thursday 25 November 2021

Video Conference

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by:	Janet Inman
Circulation:	Sitting Volleyball Working Group, Working Group Leads, Hub Team
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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, Volleyball England
Richard Osborne (RO)	Sitting Volleyball Lead and South Hants SVC
Janet Inman (JI)	Volleyball England Foundation
Herman Prada (HP)	Sitting Volleyball Competitions Lead
Apologies	
David Williamson (DW)	Sitting Bucks SVC

The meeting commenced at 1930 and closed at 2110.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action/Owner
1. Introduction	<p>In welcoming attendees, RO tendered apologies on behalf of Dave Williamson who had also decided to step away from the Working Group. Members expressed their best wishes to Dave and Jules as they prepare for the birth of their child and thanked him for his contribution to the SVWG.</p> <p>ST provided an update on The Game Plan and the interplay between the three key pillars: 'Volleyball for life'; 'Get Keep Grow'; and 'An Ace Service' and the new reporting structures. The VE Board is linked to these pillars through respective sub-groups, plus a further sub-group for Finance, Strategy and Risk. Each sub-group will be an agenda item for discussion at VE Board meetings and will have the following Chairs:</p> <p>Volleyball for Life - Richard Harrison Get Keep Grow – Jess Plumridge An Ace Service – Simon Griffiths Finance, Strategy and Risk – Andres Hernandez</p>	

	The Sub-groups will link to Working Groups, each with their own Chair who will bring a group together to deliver Game Plan priorities. Other proposed Working Groups include: Commercial, IT, Insight & Data, Infrastructure, and Innovation.	
2. Conflict of Interest	No conflicts were declared.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 21 were accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> <p>There were several matters arising:</p> <p>a. Attendees had been asked to consider further initiatives to advance sitting volleyball that could be included in the 7 Point Plan. RO highlighted that as actions in the plan are delivered there is a need to identify new ones and repeated the message for anyone who has an idea to forward it to him in the first instance.</p> <p>b. RO had undertaken to provide copies of previous minutes to ST so they can be uploaded to the website. Complete.</p> <p>c. ST agreed to identify any other events that are taking place in March 2022 and which may clash with the planned 'SV Month'. Complete.</p> <p>d. RO had volunteered to develop a list of initiatives for SV month which were subsequently cascaded to sub-group members on 6 Oct prior to its meeting to discuss the subject on 15 Oct. Complete.</p> <p>e. RO had offered to write to clubs to canvass interest in taking part in the Competitions Working Group, which he did. Following publishing by ST several people come forward to get involved. Complete.</p> <p>f. In an effort to get more SV clubs playing against each other locally, RO agreed to write to clubs to link them with others in their vicinity. This initiative has subsequently been subsumed within SV Month activity.</p> <p>g. ST agreed to speak to Oaks to assess interest in taking part in a finance sub-group. Oaks stated that they will be working to support Commercial Partnerships for VE.</p> <p>h. John and Janet provided contact details for clubs in Bristol, Everton and Liverpool to whom RO then wrote to assess their appetite to arrange SV sessions. Complete.</p> <p>i. RO took an action to promote the Parasport website via Facebook page which was achieved on 30 Aug 21. Complete.</p>	

<p>4. 7 Point Plan</p>	<p>Leads were invited to provide an update on progress against their respective objectives.</p> <p>Objective 1 – “Design, deliver and maintain a bespoke page on the VE website that provides a one stop shop for SV resources.” RO indicated that work to review, refresh and resource the SV webpage was near completion. Recently, template flyers had been added, thanks to Charlotte Lingham’s good work, and these can be used by new or existing clubs to advertise their sessions: https://www.volleyballengland.org/getintovolleyball/play/sitting_volleyball</p> <p>ST is progressing the ‘mythbuster’ video and RO would be hosting students from Fareham College at his training venue on 27 November to film some SV drills that will be uploaded to the website for use by novice SV coaches.</p> <p>Objective 2 – “Develop an outreach programme to identify and engage key stakeholders.” JI confirmed the objective is complete but undertook to follow up with clubs to see how many engaged with the partners they were signposted to. JI agreed to report her findings at the next SVWG.</p> <p>Objective 3 – “Use ‘SV Month’ as a focussed campaign to reposition SV as an inclusive rather than disability sport with emphasis on encouraging indoor clubs and other sports/community groups to introduce SV sessions.”</p> <p>RO explained that there are 6 key initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>A 24-hour SV Marathon</u> – led by Darren Young, this ambitious idea has a lot of moving parts, at present the key one is to find a suitable venue that is accessible, both geographically and in terms of disability; can accommodate media; provide a rest area for players plus somewhere to socialise/eat. The hope is to include celebrities and sports personalities so that media outlets take up coverage which will put a national spotlight on SV. <p>HP offered to contact Bloo Sparrow about any military sites that might be available to host the event.</p> <p>POST MEETING NOTE: HP emailed Bloo on 26 November and a response was received on 28 November indicating he is willing to look further into providing assistance, subject to a response to initial questions he has posed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>University engagement</u> – HEVOs are to be encouraged to deliver SV activity over the month and RO met with Vicki Carr on 1 November to scope the art of the possible. Subsequently, RO drafted a note that Vicki will disseminate across the HEVO network in early December to ask that they give thought to the type of activities they can arrange. RO will write to HEVOs again in January 2022 to further information. 3. <u>SV Challenge</u> – The aim is to get individuals, indoor clubs, schools etc engaged in a weekly volleyball challenge that they must complete sitting on the floor. Anyone taking part can submit their score for that week’s challenge and the top 10 scores will be published on a leader board via social media. 	<p>JI</p> <p>HP</p>
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4. Increasing clubs' social media presence – Resources will be produced to demonstrate how a SV club might start, or improve, its social media presence.

5. Sitting v Indoor Challenge – Sitting clubs will throw down the gauntlet to neighbouring indoor clubs to play a SV match.

6. National cadet/junior teams – will have a chance to play SV during their down-time at a national training camp.

Objective 4 – “Coach education.” The Previous UKCC Level 1 course has been replaced by the Assistant Coach Award which, for the first time, includes aspects of SV. As an aside, RO mentioned the new Award was being delivered in Hampshire currently and that 3 members of South Hants SVC were attending, as well as one person from Salisbury SVC. This heralds a huge step forward in terms of increasing workforce resource and it is particularly pleasing to see two females attending, a commodity that is sadly lacking in SV at present.

Objective 5 – “Work with HEVOs / University Disability Coordinators to offer SV sessions.” This item has to a large degree been subsumed with the SV Month work.

Objective 6 – “Establish a SV coaching mentor programme.” Work on a new mentor scheme for novice SV coaches has been developed and was passed to Gillian Harrison on 9 November 21 for review.

Objective 7 – “Scope the need for clubs to have a minimum number of referees in the event the GP becomes wholly self-sufficient. Consider delivery of the Grade C sitting award to coincide with a Grand Prix weekend.”

SS updated members, stating that while in theory it makes sense for clubs to have their own referees, it may not be practical given that some teams attend the GP with a threadbare squad that can scarcely cover line and scoring duties; it will be untenable to expect them to provide a 2nd referee too. He added that including SV to the Grade 4 referees' course would prove challenging and that online training might be a better option. Having canvassed colleagues, SS suggested there is very little appetite amongst referees to forego their expenses and accept only travel costs. This had been a suggestion made by the SVWG when considering how it might assist VE in driving down the overall cost of delivering the GP season. Other options are available to the group which are also under active consideration.

<p>5. Sub-group updates</p>	<p><u>Competitions Sub-Group</u></p> <p>SS, who is leading work to review the SV Cup and options for new competitions, led members through the work conducted to date. His first step was to write to all those who has expressed an interest in participating in the sub-group, which included current and former SV players and those involved with the sport of a significant number of years. In an introductory email, SS asked contributors to outline their background with SV and offer their observations on the issues under consideration by the group i.e., to scope potential for teams to host SV Cup fixtures from the 2023/24 season onwards; and, consider the architecture and framework around any new competition with a view to introduction in 2022/23.</p> <p>Members have replied to SS's email and the next steps in terms of the SV Cup is to devise a survey around competitions to assess whether clubs are capable of hosting matches, how officials will be sourced etc.</p> <p>On new competitions, thought will be given to assessing how the NVL format might be accommodated in a SV competition. If a club is unable to host a match then perhaps another club can host both home and away fixtures. Any additional competition would need to be managed by clubs to reduce dependency on VE. One sub-group member asked whether there is scope to host a ParaVolley Europe event in due course. This is something that is under consideration at national team level.</p> <p><u>Finance sub-group</u></p> <p>As the lead for this sub-group, JI led members through the latest position. She said that there are options available for grant funding for the 2022/23 season, although it won't make the competition sustainable. The sub-group suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An incremental increase to GP entry fees over a longer period; • Not to remove / reduce the cost of referees; • To look at other fund-raising activities; and, • Looking at other venues and costs. <p>Currently most grant funding is focused on COVID recovery; however, in the New Year it is hoped that grant funding for development will be once again available. JI agreed to look at potential funding in the New Year.</p>	<p>JI</p>
<p>6. VE Foundation funding for new clubs</p>	<p>JI stated that following a discussion at the VEF Board meeting it was agreed not to fund any applications in Round 3 and the Foundation is planning to re-open bidding in March 2022, to coincide with SV Month.</p> <p>Most community clubs are focused on getting their indoor and junior activity restarted and that for many these were the priority at present.</p> <p>JI Spoke to Sheffield VC and Sheffield Uni about the potential to combine effort and resources to rebuild sitting in Sheffield and, separately, suggested to Nottingham Rockets and Notting Casualties that they look to work together to develop a sustainable sitting club in Nottingham.</p>	

<p>7. AOB</p>	<p>JW confirmed that all teams that committed to GP2 have signed up to return for GP3 which is scheduled to take place on 5 December.</p> <p>HP suggested clubs may be more proactive in helping to get the GP set up so things can be completed earlier.</p> <p>ST apprised attendees that VE is developing a new website, with the current content under review to ensure the information is up to date and relevant. He asked whether the historical results from previous GPs could be distilled into a single document which the WG agreed would be a sensible way to retain the information.</p> <p>Jl reminded everyone that the VE Foundation Board members would be attending the Sitting Grand Prix on 5 December.</p>	
<p>8. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27 January 2022.</p>	