



**Referee Commission Meeting**

**10am, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Pitch, SportPark Loughborough**

<b>Attendees</b>	
Steve Evans (SE)	Debra Smart (DS)
Steve Matthews (SM)	Nick Heckford (NH)
Glynn Archibald (GA)	Martin Shakespeare (MS)
Sebastian Widlarz (SW)	Fiona Sweetman (FS)
Greg Thompson (GT)	

**Apologies:** Richard Morten, Gillian Harrison

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>SE opened the meeting</p> <p>Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:</p> <p>WTR will only hold latest grade from beach or indoor grade. SE to ask if there is a cost associated with adding extra field for peoples second grade</p> <p>Pre-match protocol to be sent onto MS</p> <p>FIVB rule updates document for beach and indoor now on website; to also go out in next newsletter</p> <p>SE to find out volleyball and beach volleyball international referee allocations for GT</p>	<p>SE</p> <p>SW</p> <p>FS</p> <p>SE</p>
<p><b>1. Volleyball England Strategy Update and V.E. Hub structure</b></p> <p>The Commission were updated on the new Volleyball England Hub structure, including the new roles and appointed personnel.</p> <p>The Commission were informed to contact the people in the office who they currently deal with until new contact details or persons are provided.</p> <p>The wider new structure outside of the VE Hub was also outlined to the Commission. It was explained that, subject to its approval by the voting members, the new structure of the Pool of Experts and Task</p>	

<p>and Finish groups will come into force following the AGM in June/July 2017.</p> <p>It was noted that the new structure will take time to work out. In practice, the new structure is to encourage cross-working both with the VE Hub and with the wider community of the Pool of Experts, Task and Finish groups and the Board.</p> <p>The Commission will exist in its current form until the next AGM in 2017. After which the commissioners will become experts in the Pool of Experts and will continue their current operational roles for officiating but the titles may change.</p> <p>The funding allocated to Volleyball England from Sport England is an interim funding for 6 months, in which time VE will need to write and have a strategy approved by Sport England to secure funding after the current 6-month allocation.</p>	
<p><b>2. E-Learning; The Rules R Learning Assistant Update SE</b></p> <p>The continuation of using the Rules R Learning Assistant beyond the trial period that ends in May 2017 was discussed.</p> <p>Currently, 214 registered referees have been invited to use the system and there are 70 active users. The activation rate is 32.7%.</p> <p>In light of these figures the question was raised as to whether the view from the last meeting still remained: that the membership fee should be increased in order to account for the cost of the e-learning package beyond the 6-month trial.</p> <p>It was agreed that NH and SE would create a survey to find out about referees' interaction or lack of interaction with the Rules R Learning Assistant, to allow the Commission to make an informed decision on how to move forward. The questions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The platform was easy to access (strongly disagree to strongly agree)</li> <li>• The platform was useful for improving my refereeing knowledge (strongly disagree to strongly agree)</li> <li>• I would continue to use the platform in the future (strongly disagree to strongly agree)</li> <li>• How could the platform be developed to be more beneficial to you as a referee?</li> </ul>	<p>NH &amp; SE</p>



<p>the conference. Another suggestion was that SportPark, Loughborough could be used as an alternative venue.</p> <p>The possibility of streaming the referee conference was raised. FS to find out the cost of streaming the conference based on AGM streaming costs. If the conference could be streamed, then another advantage could be that the conference be expanded to allow online access to other interested parties e.g. coaches, regions, clubs</p> <p>It was decided to hold the current booking at the NVC but to also check the availability of meeting rooms and areas at SportPark on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>The catering for the conference would be dependent on the venue and the decision will be made at the next meeting. FS to find out Loughborough University catering costs at SportPark</p>	<p>FS</p> <p>FS</p> <p>FS</p>
<p><b>4. Ref Com Strategy</b></p> <p>SE gave an update on the Referee Commission strategy. The key points from this were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make a targeted effort to engage new and lower qualified referees e.g. for the Student Cup start by targeting lower qualified referees for appointments</li> <li>• Ensure that the correct games are given priority for appointments e.g. NVL playoffs before junior competitions</li> <li>• The difficulties of the availability of observers meant that the ideal original target for upgrades wasn't hit but there have been Grade 4 to Grade 3R upgrades</li> <li>• A reminder and encouragement of Grade 2 and above referees to observe Grade 4 referees for upgrading to Grade 3R will go out in the next issue of the referee newsletter</li> <li>• It was recommended that observers should be appointed before referees for the upcoming schedule once the competitions schedule is known:</li> <li>• SW to appoint observers before the referee appointments for 2017/18 season</li> <li>• MS to let SW know when the fixtures have been decided</li> </ul>	<p>SE &amp; FS</p> <p>SW</p> <p>MS</p>
<p><b>Commissioner reports;</b></p> <p><b>5. Finance N.H</b></p> <p>SE expressed concerns about expenses being paid by Finance.</p>	

<p>SE asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the timeline for expense payment process being back on time?</li> <li>• What is the process for handing in expenses? Can expense claim forms be handed to office staff or must they be posted into the office?</li> <li>• When should people expect to be paid?</li> <li>• When should people contact the office if they haven't been paid?</li> </ul> <p>FS to take questions to SD and Finance</p> <p>For now, until otherwise told, don't hand expenses to staff but post them directly to VE Finance</p>	<p>FS</p>
<p><b>7. Grade 4 Courses; R.M.</b></p> <p>Report sent to commission in advance of the meeting by RM</p> <p>New Grade 4 resources update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referee handbook pdf files are now available on the referee resources section of the registered referee member profiles. This is to replace the printed handbook</li> <li>• New resource offer of whistles, lanyard and cards to total around £5.76 ex. VAT</li> <li>• FS to ask SD if 400 of each resource can be bought</li> <li>• As the handbook is out of stock, new resources would have to be purchased for Grade 4 courses regardless of the choice to change the resource offer</li> </ul>	<p>FS</p>
<p><b>8. Beach Development; D.S.</b></p> <p>DS gave an update on the VE BT review meeting that was held on 14/03/2017. The Commission were sent the minutes of the VE BT review in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>DS was due to be called into the meeting and had given her number but was never contacted. Steve Honeybun, Grade 1 Beach referee, attended the meeting. SE raised the issue that at the VE Leadership Meetings it was stated that all parties would be included and asked to contribute to reviews. If people were not required, then they would be notified in advance of the meeting. However, DS received no notice that she would not be required and was left expecting a call that never arrived. DS has not been issued with an apology.</p>	

<p>The key points of the VEBT review meeting, for referees, and the following discussion by the Referee Commission were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VE cannot continue to cover the referee fees for VEBT events; this cost would need to be covered by the event organisers</li> <li>• The majority of active beach referees are in the North but the majority of VEBT events are in the South</li> <li>• Currently, referees have been car sharing to VEBT events and contributing towards or paying for their own accommodation</li> <li>• Referees may only be appointed at 4 or 5 star events, which would reduce the number of beach referee appointments. Would this reduction in appointments still allow for sufficient development of beach referees?</li> <li>• It was suggested that beach referees could volunteer to referee at VEBT events below 4/5 stars, if they wished, to get more experience</li> </ul> <p>In sum, the VEBT needs to become self-sustaining and as part of this, at least in the short term, the reduction in beach referee appointments will have to be accepted.</p> <p>Actions following the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Honeybun to share details of the VEBT review meeting with GT and DS</li> <li>• DS to add in comments to the VEBT review meeting minutes, send to the VEBT review group and copy in SE</li> <li>• DS to send email to VE Hub listing non-active beach referees</li> </ul> <p>DS has been invited to a York VC meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March about Bridlington beach competition. DS mentioned this to SD and was advised to go to gather more information about the event.</p>	<p>DS &amp; GT</p> <p>DS</p> <p>DS</p>
<p><b>9. Sitting Volleyball Development G.A</b></p> <p>GA to review the list of sitting referees and remove non-active referees from the list.</p> <p>GA still in discussion with Maltese referee about SGP refereeing next season; he will need to register with VE before refereeing in England</p> <p>GA to appoint for SGP finals</p>	<p>GA</p> <p>GA</p>

<p>The question was asked if there was any guidance on searching for external sponsorship and grants. FS to ask SD.</p>	<p>FS</p>
<p><b>10. Regional Development R.M.</b></p> <p>Report sent in advance of the meeting to the commission</p>	
<p><b>11. Technical Issues N.H.</b></p> <p>No updates</p>	
<p><b>12. Competitions M.S.</b></p> <p>There has been no Competitions Commission meeting since 10/09/2016</p> <p>For new teams applying to join the NVL for 2017/18, MS has got the requirement that 'The Regional or Area Association must provide evidence of referee development such that two qualified referees from there not previously officiating in the National League are prepared to do so...' added to the website.</p> <p>MS put the suggestion to the commission that clubs should be fined for late payment of officials to ensure that officials are paid in a timelier manner.</p> <p>MS gave an update on bringing in e-score to the Super 8s. Its introduction may have to be postponed until the 2018/19 season due to delays in the meeting of the Competitions Commission. It was noted that e-score is more cost effective and has more functions than paper scoresheets: there would be no postage costs and no administration entry in the VE office.</p> <p>The question was raised about who would be the third member on the referee appointments panel. SE to ask Dianne Hollows.</p> <p>SE asked if the NVL regulations cover the Challenge Series? MS replied that the NVL regulations cover all VE competitions except for beach organised by the national office.</p> <p>Competitions will be discussed at a Technical and Talent sub group meeting in the next 3-4 weeks.</p>	<p>SE</p>

<p><b>13. Observation Programme S.W.</b></p> <p>MS to look into what access SW needs to view RC7 forms as SW is still unable to view some RC7s.</p> <p>If RC7s are sent in to SW as paper versions, then SW to send these onto SE</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>SW</p>
<p><b>14. V.E. Updates F.S.</b></p> <p>The next edition of the Referee Newsletter is to go out on 31<sup>st</sup> March. If there is anything to go in this newsletter, then send to FS</p> <p>For the Annual Awards, the Referee Commission were asked to provide a shortlist and vote on who would win Referee of the Year. The shortlist chosen by the Commission was Ludwik Kowalewski and Rita Grimes. The decision was put to a vote: GT, SM and FS abstained from voting. The Commissioners voted in favour of Ludwik Kowalewski by four votes to two.</p> <p>For the 2018 Annual Awards, it was decided that the Referee of the Year category would be open for nominations as in previous years. The nomination list will then go to the Referee Commission, or appropriate referees in the Pool of Experts in the new VE structure, for the nominations to be confirmed and approved. The approved list of nominees will then go to the Annual Awards nominations panel for decision.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>It was recommended that an officiating requirement be added in as a condition for Volley 123 accreditation</p> <p>Appointments for the NVL playoffs were discussed with a particular difficulty being that some referees were already committed to junior matches, so were unavailable for the NVL playoffs. MS to discuss with Laurence Shenker and the Competitions Commission about relegation from and promotion to D2S. As there are only 8 teams in D2S it was suggested that the bottom team be relegated and the three teams who would have played in the playoff are promoted. Another impact of this would be the reduced requirement of referees for the NVL playoffs.</p> <p>SW to send article link on referees international appointments to FS to go in the next issue of the referee newsletter</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>SW</p>

<p>GT sent beach resources to FS to be added to the refereeing resources section of the members area of the VE website. GT to also send FS a list of name changes for volleyball resources currently on the members area. FS to update the file names.</p> <p>The question was asked on behalf of a club if referee fees could be the same for every club. After discussion, it was decided that currently this wouldn't work as it is unlikely that clubs who's referee fees would increase in order to subsidise clubs who are further away from a large pool of local referees wouldn't agree.</p> <p>The issue was raised about the stock and supply of referee uniforms. NH to talk with kitlocker.com about supply.</p> <p>FS to ask SD what the process would be for SW being licenced to apply to VE logo and sell VE referee uniforms</p> <p>The Referee Commission would like to formally acknowledge, recognise and praise the work done by Dan Thompson at the National Volleyball Centre and Richard Stacey-Chapman for everything done during their time with Volleyball England and wish them well for the future.</p>	<p>GT &amp; FS</p> <p>NH</p> <p>FS</p>
<p><b>Date for Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Fluid until have a clearer picture of how groups will meet under the new structure</p>	