



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
SportPark, Loughborough commencing at 12.30 pm

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**Members Present:**

Mr R Callicott	President
Mr J Boughton	Finance Director
Mr G Neale	Disability
<b>Ms M Bogdanowicz</b>	<b>Marketing Director/ Malory Eagles VC</b>
<b>Mrs J Inman</b>	<b>Development Director/ Lincoln Sitting VC</b>
<b>Mr L Barry</b>	<b>BUCS/ Southampton Solent/ University of Surrey/ Durham University/ University of Warwick/ Wigan Seahawks VC</b>
<b>Mr P Bohannan</b>	<b>President Competitions Commission/ Chelmsford VC</b>
<b>Ms M Baldwin</b>	<b>Portsmouth VC</b>
<b>Ms V Skillen</b>	<b>Chester/ Cheshire West VC</b>
<b>Mr B Youlden</b>	<b>Tamworth VC</b>
<b>Mr P Lamb</b>	<b>Nottingham Rockets VC</b>

In **bold** – voting members

**EVA Staff:**

Ms L Wainwright	Chief Executive
Mr C Handford	Head of Technical Development/Excel
Mr R Harding	Head of Marketing
Mr S Johnson	Head of Development
Miss A Henderson	PA to CEO & Board
Mrs Sandra Andrews	Finance Officer
<b>Miss P Billyeald</b>	<b>Business Support Officer/ Loughborough Lions VC</b>
<b>Miss H Fairclough</b>	<b>Referee Development Officer/ Loughborough Students VC</b>

The meeting commenced at 12.30

**AGM/12/01 Welcome by the President, Richard Callicott**

The meeting began at 12.30 pm with a welcome to the representatives from the President, Mr R Callicott. The President then informed the AGM that Dr D Anthony MBE had passed away last month and a round of applause followed for Don's many contributions to sport as a whole. He will be sadly missed and a memorial will be held in late October to celebrate his life where a book will be published about Don and the history of Volleyball England at this event.

**AGM/12/02 Appointment of Tellers**

Messrs R. Harding and S Andrews were appointed as tellers for the meeting.

## **AGM/12/03 Apologies for Absence**

Mr B Stalker	Vice-President
Mr R Dobell	Playing Director – Malory Eagles
Mr K Nicholls	Technical Director
Mr W Coyle	International Events and Competitions Director
Mr M Lindsey	Head of Operations
Mr R Harrison	President of Coaches Commission
Mr W Roberts	President, Schools & Youth Commission
Mr C Orton	London VA
Mrs D Austin	Coach/Academy of Beach Sports VC
Mr R Richards	City of Bristol
Mr T Godson	
Mr P Heads	Wootton Bassett VC
Ms K Bohmova	Friends Hastings VC
RAF Harriers	
RAF Hawks	
Lelardoux Exiles VC	

## **AGM/12/04 Confirmation of Eligibility to Vote**

The President reminded the audience of the requirements according to the Constitution for eligibility to vote. It was confirmed that at the commencement of the meeting 10 persons in total were eligible to vote.

## **AGM/12/05 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2011**

(To approve the Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting held in Kettering)

The acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Mr John Boughton and seconded by Mrs Janet Inman.

## **AGM/12/06 To receive the Annual Report 2011/2012**

The Annual Report was placed on the Volleyball England website on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in accordance with the regulations. The President congratulated Rob Harding and everyone else involved in compiling the Report.

The contents of the Annual Report were proposed by Mr Richard Callicott and seconded by Ms Marzena Bogdanowicz.

From the voting audience there were 10 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

## **AGM/12/07 To receive the Financial Report 2011/12**

Mr John Boughton advised that we have made a very small loss of £300, which as a non-profit organisation is what we should be doing.

To conserve the future of the sport Volleyball England must increase the reserves next year. The professional staff have been very adept at securing grants outside of Sport England funding. The current forecast going forward for the year is very challenging but Mr John Boughton remarked that he is confident staff can deliver the increased reserves along with the KPIs.

Mr John Boughton added that the money we generate from within the sport is very low which does make us more dependent upon funding bodies therefore it is entirely appropriate that we are looking to become more self funding. Participants in the sport should therefore start to contribute more and need to recognise the role they have in continuing the sport they know and love.

Ms M Baldwin asked what we have done to counteract a drop in the level of Government funding and to demonstrate if we have tried to secure funding from elsewhere. Mr John Boughton responded that we have not made any ongoing financial commitments that we will struggle to deliver. Mr Richard Callicott added that the Government funding we receive is on a four year cycle but we are looking to put together an 8 year cycle to better prepare for the future. Mr John Boughton advised that as Sport England provide the majority of our funding they want to tell us where to focus our spending. We should therefore try to increase our funds that are not tied to specific outcomes.

Ms M Baldwin then asked what successes we have had in securing funding elsewhere and is the membership proposal a last resort? Ms Lisa Wainwright responded that UK Sport have given us funding for "International Influence" and County Sports Partnerships have also provided some funding along with some sponsorships, but all of this funding is being reduced. The challenge is that we are an English sport, not British, so more challenges seeking sponsorship.

Ms Lisa Wainwright added that we are unable to get communications out to all individual members as the current system only allows us to contact clubs. Ms V Skillen asked why we are unable to contact all individuals as clubs provide e-mail addresses of all their members. Ms Lisa Wainwright responded that not all clubs provide the information they are asked for.

The Financial Report was accepted.

**AGM/12/08 To confirm the re-appointment of auditors and confirm the ability for the Board to fix their remuneration**

The Board proposed that PKF (UK) LLP be retained as auditors. This proposal was accepted at the meeting. Emma Fielding, Financial Manager has now left the organisation and the new Financial Manager will be starting next month and will carry out an auditor review.

**AGM/12/09 The following resolutions be passed as special resolutions:**

**1. Membership**

Following feedback from the Volleyball England membership and to improve the services to individual members of Volleyball England, it is proposed that the Articles of Association be changed as follows:

Mr R Harding presented an overview of the membership changes with the following questions and comments recorded from the audience:

Mr B Youlden stated that he is fundamentally in favour of the changes but asked how the new system would be administered, enforced and policed. He added that it could place an administrative burden on clubs, specifically the club Treasurer. Mr R Harding responded that it is possible for the individual to register on the website.

There was some confusion over the figures. Mr S Johnson clarified that the club minimum of £120 is made up from 12 individual fees of £10, it is not an additional charge.

Mr B Youlden asked if the change is just to increase income generation. Mr R Callicott responded that the fundamental principle behind this change is to get to know our members better. Information is currently sent to club Secretaries for them to send it out to individuals. We therefore have no way of knowing if all individuals are receiving the information. Mrs J Inman added that the core professional team and the members and the volunteers are all Volleyball England. We are not two entities. Sport England provide 80% of our funding. If they decide to cut funding we have no robust data to argue otherwise. This change will allow us to collect this data and to be in a position to provide evidence to Sport England, if required.

- i. Article 37.2 changed from  
"It is a condition of membership for Affiliated Individuals (other than Club Members) that they each be fully paid-up in respect of the Individual Subscription payable pursuant to Article 39. Club Members must be fully paid up in respect of the membership fee or joining fee payable to their Club."  
to  
"It is a condition of membership for Affiliated Individuals that they each be fully paid-up in respect of the Individual Subscription payable pursuant to Article 39. Club Members must also be fully paid up in respect of the membership fee or joining fee payable to their Club."
- ii. Article 39.1 changed from  
"Affiliated Individuals other than Club Members (and not, for the avoidance of doubt, Honorary Life Members) shall pay an annual subscription ("Individual Subscription") to the Association."  
to  
"Affiliated Individuals (and not, for the avoidance of doubt, Honorary Life Members) shall pay an annual subscription ("Individual Subscription") to the Association."
- iii. Defined Term 1.12 "Club Member(s)" changed from  
"those individuals who are members of Clubs and who have paid the relevant membership or joining fee to their Club;"  
to  
"those individuals who are members of Clubs and who have paid the relevant membership or joining fee to Volleyball England and their Club;"

Mr R Callicott advised that this change will not be implemented this year. Mr B Youlden advised that if more detailed communications had been received the clubs could have ensured a better attendance.

**On a show of hands, the proposed amendments were accepted 8 for, 2 against.**

**Mr L Barry requested a Poll Vote. On such a vote, the amendments were rejected 7 for, 7 against and with 1 abstention. The Chair has no casting vote.**

Mr L Barry stated a general acceptance of the proposal but added that there is not enough detail at the moment. Mr R Callicott advised that he will have to call an EGM to further consider this proposal.

**2. Beach Commission**

It is recommended that the Beach Commission is dissolved and a Beach Advisory Group established, it is proposed that the Articles of Association be changed as follows:

- i. Article 31.1.1 deleted and Articles 31.1.2 to 31.1.7 renumbered 31.1.1 to 31.1.6  
Beach Commission removed from Defined Term 1.14 "Commission(s)"

Mr L Barry stated that he did not have enough information to accept this proposal. Mr R Callicott responded that the Board have only asked members to vote on removing the Beach Commission but assured that we will continue to promote beach via a different route. Mr L Barry remarked that he could not find the framework on the website. Mr R Callicott and Ms L Wainwright responded that the framework will be published online.

Ms M Bogdanowicz stated that the key role of the Beach Commission was to deliver the Volleyball England Beach Tour and advised that the Commission was not working as well as other Commissions to develop the sport. By bringing in a Beach Advisory Group, to include a professional member of staff, it will bring it closer and make it more effective. Mr R Callicott added that he attended the last two VEFT finals and 90% of the players are not eligible to play for England and Great Britain. The role of the Advisory Group will be to analyse the sport and advise the organisation how best to promote and develop the sport.

Ms M Bogdanowicz advised that one of the key elements from the review was that there is no strategy for beach volleyball. To develop as a sport it must have a stronger focus within the professional staff.

Mr L Barry asked why the Advisory Group could not still report to a Commission. Mr R Callicott responded that the Commission was not working so the best thing to do is to change things. This format will make it far more accountable to members. Ms L Wainwright added that the world of beach volleyball has changed substantially since the Articles were approved many years ago. The profile of beach volleyball is increasing and the Advisory Group allows us to respond to issues much quicker than a Commission.

**The proposed amendment was accepted by a vote of 6 with 9 abstentions. The motion was carried.**

### **3. Executive Board**

- i. It is proposed that the Articles of Association be changed as follows:  
Addition of Article 14.1.5 the Portfolio Director with the International events and competition portfolio

**The proposed amendment was accepted by a vote of 15. The motion was carried.**

#### **AGM/12/10 Election of Officers**

The President referred to the nominations which had been received for posts up for election.

The following posts were elected and uncontested:

Vice-President	Mr Brian Stalker
Marketing Director	Ms Marzena Bogdanowicz
Development Director	Mrs Janet Inman
Technical Director	Mr Keith Nicholls
International Events and Competitions Director	Mr Wayne Coyle
Competitions Commission	Mr Paul Bohannon
Regional Commission President	Mr Charlie Orton

**15 Votes for were received. All nominations are elected.**

Mr R Callicott advised that Mr Bernard Kilkenny did not stand for election as President of the Referee Commission. The Board will make an appointment as soon as possible. AGM agreed. Mr R Callicott and the Board expressed their appreciation to Mr B Kilkenny for all his work over the years.

#### **AGM/12/11 Concluding Remarks**

The President thanked everyone who had attended the meeting and contributed to the debate. The President also concluded that he is grateful the membership debate has been held and although the proposal was not accepted he sees a general acceptance of the principle but accepts the requirement for further information.

The President announced that Volleyball will showcase on the greatest floor ever seen by the sport and it is up to us to cater for any increased demand. It is a challenge for us as a sport.

The President thanked the elected officers for their continued support, drive and passion for the sport and for their time freely given.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.20 pm**