



Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of English Volleyball Association limited held on
Saturday 10th November 2012
National Volleyball Centre, Kettering commencing at 12.30 pm

Circulation	:	Membership
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Members Present:

Mr R Callicott
Mr B Stalker
Mr J Boughton
Mrs J Inman
Mr G Neale
Ms L Bellamy
Mr A Watkins
Mr B Kendall
Mr A Bell
Mr K Tann
Mr R Richards
Ms P Lambert
Ms L Clarke
Ms J Sharpe
Mr R Palluotto
Mr D Barr-Hamilton
Mr B Youlden
Miss S Stevenson
Mr S Evans
Mr C Hill
Ms R Kane
Mrs L Allen
Mr G Allen
Mr S Poole
Mr D Jenkinson
Miss H Fairclough
Mr P Lamb
Ms R Sutherland
Mr I Towers
Mr J Banks
Ms V Handley
Ms J Tapley
Mr D Hunter
Mr C Orton
Ms A Hajigeorgieva
Mr B Pickens

President (4 proxy votes)
Vice-President
Finance Director/Coventry & Warwick Riga
Development Director (1 proxy vote)
Disability Director
Newcastle Staffs VC
Berkshire Volleyball Association (7 proxy votes)
Wirral VC (12 proxy votes)
Wirral VC (3 proxy votes)
Chesterfield Cobra's VC
Regional Commission (2 proxy votes)
Stowmarket Stingers VC (4 proxy votes)
Tameside VC
Portsmouth VC (2 proxy votes)
Flaming Six VC
Lelardoux Exiles VC
Tamworth VC (6 proxy votes)
East Midlands Regional Secretary (25 proxy votes)
West Midlands Fire Service
West Midlands Fire Service
West Midlands Fire Service
Wessex VC
Poole Panthers
VK Barnet VC
Malory Eagles (14 proxy votes)
Loughborough Students VC (5 proxy votes)
Nottingham Rockets VC
Kings VC (3 proxy votes)
Portsmouth VA
LeAf Academy
Flaming Six VC (9 proxy votes)
Sandbanks VC
BU Volleyball (2 proxy votes)
Regional Commission President
Kettering VC (2 proxy votes)
ACS Cobham International School (3 proxy votes)

In **bold** – voting members

EVA Staff:

Ms L Wainwright
Mr M Lindsey
Mr R Harding
Miss A Henderson
Mrs S Andrews
Mrs K Shilton
Chief Executive Officer
Head of Operations
Head of Marketing (1 proxy vote)
PA to CEO & Board
Finance Officer
Outdoor Tournament Officer

The meeting commenced at 12.45

EGM/12/01 Welcome by the President, Richard Callicott

The meeting began at 12:45 pm with a welcome to the representatives from the President, Mr R Callicott.

EGM/12/02 Appointment of Tellers

Messrs J Tapley and A Watkins were appointed as tellers for the meeting.

EGM/12/03 Apologies for Absence

Mrs M Bogdanowicz	Marketing Director
Mr W Coyle	International Events & Competitions Director
Mr R Harrison	President of Coaches Commission
Mr C Handford	Head of Technical Development/Excel
Mr S Johnson	Head of Development

EGM/12/04 Confirmation of Eligibility to Vote

The Chief Executive reminded the audience of the requirements according to the Constitution for eligibility to vote. It was advised that all proxy votes have been accepted, even those which do not fully meet the requirements as it was felt this was the fairest way to proceed. All attendees confirmed they were happy with this approach.

It was confirmed that at the commencement of the meeting there were 118 eligible votes.

EGM/12/05 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:

- 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 Harding presented an overview of the membership proposals. Currently, 98% of the income Volleyball England receives is from a grant from Sport England. During the next funding period (2013-17) Sport England are looking for Governing Bodies to reduce the amount of grant that is spent on core activities. As a result, costs must increase or services must be reduced. Income from membership is currently £22,000 which is less than 1%. It costs £25,000 to service the current membership package and this does not include the salary of the Membership Development Officer.

Janet Inman raised the issue that Volleyball England as an organisation does not know its membership. A report was done by Syzygy in 2008 to capture details of the membership, but nothing has been done since. As a result, we are unable to answer simple questions like what is the male / female split in our sport.

The Youth Sport Trust and the School Games are working with us and people such as Premier League 4 Sport are waiting to work with us. The legacy from London 2012 and the newly created beach courts are things that are driving our sport forward. This proposal is the next step. Sports that have made this change are now doing well, for example netball. Sports that have not made this change are getting left behind, for example table tennis.

The following questions and comments recorded from the audience:

Mr A Bell stated that he believes this proposal is really about raising funding for Volleyball England. If we accept that the organisation needs more money we need to look at reductions in expenditure and not just increasing income. There has been nothing about reducing Head Office costs. We should also be looking at reducing initiatives. Change 4 Life and Go Spike cost more than they have brought back in benefits. We need a much more widespread consultation to cover expenditure. Mr A Bell also stated that if Volleyball England is asking members to pay an individual subscription, members should have a vote.

Mrs L Allen stated that it would be possible to achieve the things mentioned in Mr R Harding's presentation by introducing a voluntary membership. Membership benefits should also be improved.

Mr B Youlden advised that the change is about connecting with members. The Government are taking money away so we need to produce more money ourselves. At the moment, Volleyball England cannot engage with its members as we don't know who they are.

Ms R Sutherland advised that she is in favour of the proposal for the adult section of her club. However, it would cause an issue for junior events as it would be a huge problem getting all the juniors to affiliate.

Mr D Barr-Hamilton stated that he is unhappy with the method proposed. He mentioned Go Mammoth in London and gave some background to that initiative and stated we should not be going down that route instead. Basketball moved to individual registration and whilst they are reasonably healthy at youth level, there are only 67 registered adult teams in London.

Ms P Lambert advised that her club largely consists of social members who only want to play local games. They are down to three national league teams in the area and are not seeing any growth. This proposal will put people off joining.

Miss S Stevenson advised that an in depth questionnaire was completed by clubs in the East Midlands area and the majority are in favour of the proposal. The proposed price was also deemed to be reasonable. These are the people who are playing our sport right now.

Mr G Allen stated that he has consulted with clubs and several teams have advised they will stop playing if this proposal is successful. He is in favour of the proposal in principle, but it should be introduced on a voluntary basis and members should have a vote. If it is compulsory, the onus is on the clubs to ensure all their members are registered. Clubs will also lose income if it is compulsory.

Ms A Hajigeorgieva reported that 100 juniors across Northamptonshire have accepted the proposal. They want to affiliate to become closer to Volleyball England and receive direct communications.

Mr B Kendall stated that if we make schools pay to affiliate we will lose them. He added that if we went back to previous staffing levels the current income from membership would be more than 1%. Volleyball England are offering a good deal, but Mr B Kendall's club do not want it. A menu should be offered so you can choose whether or not you want to receive things like 3Touch and personal injury cover for an increased cost.

Mr A Watkins reported that his club is growing rapidly and he is appalled that Volleyball England is unaware of this. He is representing 2,000 players that have seen nothing from Volleyball England and as a result they are not prepared to support the proposal.

Mr C Hill stated that a voluntary membership would not work.

Mr D Jenkinson advised that he is in favour of the proposal in principle, but the members he is representing want to know what they will get in return for their fees. He also asked what Volleyball England is planning to make from this. He added that he has seen Referee cards with no details on them and asked why we are not collecting information about individuals that we currently have access to. He also stated that he has never seen price increases on AGM agendas before so how would he know that Volleyball England won't just increase the price without consultation?

Mr R Richards is also in favour of the proposal in principle but the difficulty is financially. The local leagues are already collecting money and now Volleyball England is trying to levy a national fee. If this proposal is successful there will be fewer affiliated clubs. The scheme in its current format is flawed.

Mr D Hunter advised that adding an extra charge on top of the BUCS fee for University students is not a good idea. There are other ways to save money and if players are going to pay more how will Volleyball England reduce their costs?

Mr R Harding replied that there will be no extra charge to BUCS students and Volleyball England is in the process of agreeing how this proposal will work with BUCS.

Ms V Handley stated that this proposal would cost London players £10,000. She is not completely against it but cannot see how it would be implemented. She also asked if anyone is looking into private investment. Mr R Callicott advised that he hopes raising the profile of our sport will lead to commercial and corporate sectors wanting to get involved. However, football takes a huge amount of sponsorships and then there is rugby, tennis, cricket, cycling, etc. We are pursuing private investment but the current economic climate is against us.

Mr C Orton stated that there seems to be lots of support in favour of the proposal, but not in its current form. He advised that he is unsure how Head Office will implement and administer the proposal and deal with 10,000 members when they are struggling now? He added that he hasn't seen anything on how much it will cost to implement and that it could reduce the expected income by costing more. The proposal is not ready for this meeting.

Mr B Pickens advised that generally clubs seem supportive of the proposal. He added that he is disappointed there has not been adequate effort to communicate with everyone.

Mr R Callicott stated that having run a club, been a coach, player and referee his personal experience is that club secretaries do not always pass on all information to their members, for many reasons. This proposal is trying to cut that out by communicating directly with members.

Netball has 70,000 members which generate £1.2m per annum. They receive bigger grants than we do and they are not an Olympic or Paralympic sport.

It was proposed and agreed to proceed directly to a Poll Vote.

The amendments were rejected:-

**48 for,
70 against and,
0 abstentions.**

2. Co-opted Directors

It is proposed that the Articles of Association be changed as follows:

- i. Article 11.1 changed from
"The Executive Board shall consist of a maximum of ten (10) Directors comprising the following positions:"
to
"The Executive Board shall consist of a maximum of eleven (11) Directors comprising the following positions:"
- ii. Article 11.1.3 changed from
"up to two (2) co-opted Directors."
to
"up to three (3) co-opted Directors."

Mr R Callicott stated that the reason for going up from two to three Directors is that we are advised by Sport England to make this amendment.

Mr R Callicott also advised that the meaning of independent is "someone who is not from within volleyball". He added that we have completed a skills audit to identify skills gaps on the Executive Board and that we are looking to appoint someone to support and fill those gaps.

The position does not have a salary. Only expenses will be paid. The position will have an open recruitment process and anyone can apply for this position; the Executive Board will make the appointment.

On a show of hands, the proposed amendments were accepted:-

**21 for,
2 against and,
1 abstention.**

3. Directors' term of office

It is proposed that the Articles of Association be changed as follows:

- i. Article 12.4.1 changed from
"twelve (12) consecutive years (in the case of all Portfolio Directors and the Vice President); or"
to
"eight (8) consecutive years"
- ii. Article 12.4.2 "eight (8) consecutive years (in the case of the President)." deleted

These changes will have no effect on the current Board as they are not retrospective. If accepted, they will take effect from today.

On a show of hands, the proposed amendments were accepted:-

**22 for,
1 against,
1 abstention.**

EGM/12/06 Election of President of Referees Commission

Mr R Callicott advised that the Executive Board have accepted the nomination for Mr Steve Evans to be proposed as President of the Referees Commission. Mr S Evans has the full support of the Commission.

23 votes for were received. Mr S Evans was appointed as President of the Referees Commission.

EGM/12/07 Concluding Remarks

The President thanked everyone who had attended the meeting and contributed to the debate.

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