

**Meeting: Referee Commission**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

**Location: Nick Heckford's Home**

**Attendees:**

Steve Evans (SE), Deb Smart via Skype(DS), Nick Heckford (NH), Richard Morten (RM), Glynn Archibald (GA), Martin Shakespeare via Skype (MS), Geoff Allen (GA)

**Circulation:** As above, plus

Roman Neveykin (RN), Louise Oreilly (LO), Audrey Cooper (AC)

**Apologies:**

Diane Hollows (DH), Roman Neveykin, Audrey Cooper, Louise Oreilly (LO) Steve Mathews (SM)

**Minutes of last Meeting**

**Matter's Arising;**

- WTR - some additional work has been completed recently that has helped with the appointments process. Additional grading information to be added as currently only Volleyball grades are shown. The introduction of a match feed back form was discussed.
- Observer Strategy; this has now been put on hold. Brian Stalker has decided not to continue in an observation role Sebastian Widlarz (SW) has agreed to take this over.
- Mentoring; to be discussed following the full survey results
- Uniform - DS has got some kit from Kit locker and sourced additional waterproof trousers. All referees have now got the beach referee uniform. DS mentioned that they have been using a copy of the badge laminated in heavy weather and a short discussion took place over the options for this. NH updated on the current situation with Mizuno and some communication with VE over the ability of Mizuno to fulfil the referee kit.
- There being no further actions the minutes were proposed by Richard and seconded by Nick

**Meeting with VE Work Force staff**

- SE gave an overview of the meeting he attended with Audrey and Louise on 14th August 2015.
- VE feel that there is an issue between VE and Referee Commission especially around the Strategy document build. The office felt that the communication was not acceptable and that some of the comments were felt to be derogatory and unprofessional. This took up the majority of the meeting.
- SE was put together a response to this.

SE

- Access to the WTR was discussed to obtain information for development from the observer reports, SE was to discuss with Mark Brown (WTR) to see if the information required could be exported from the database. SE
- Concern was expressed about the time taken to complete the Strategy document. VE requested that a small working group should be assembled and would be SE, RM and NH. The document should be completed by October and a meeting will be arranged between LOR and the working group. Unfortunately an updated Strategy document was not available.
- GA suggested that the Commission identify the real benefits of items such as E-Learning where VE were pushing back on the need for the tool.
- The meeting walked through the recent survey results of the Grade 4 and Grade 3's and what it means.
- Referee Commission need to highlight the real benefit of the work we do and the benefit that would be gained from e learning. GA suggested we put together the requirement and all the benefits for on-going development. ALL
- Challengers Series; the introduction of the England Cadets to play the in the Super 8 teams
- Organiser's Handbook; Referee Commission has been requested to provide the relevant information for the Handbook. RM

### **Finance Update**

- With no information from VE on the current position even though it is Q2 forecast time we could not discuss this. SE informed the meeting that VE has had a new Finance system imposed on them by Sports England which is not performing as well as it should. Budget codes are being changed and It would be beneficial if we could have some input into the naming of the codes. NH to approach the finance team. NH
- NH reported we underspent by £8k last year; this could have been used to purchase E-Learning.

### **Observation Strategy**

- As BS has now decided to stand down Referee Commission hope that he will support Sebastian Widlarz in training him for the position. SE will follow up with SW at UKSG. SE

### **Competitions**

- MS informed the meeting that there has not been a meeting since the end of the season.

- New Regulations were produced for next season and a note to be produced to inform the NVL Referees.
- Discussion on the Competition Structure took place
- MS to produce a disciplinary regulation in terms of instances after the match has been completed.

MS

MS

#### **G4 Courses**

- RM gave an update on the courses that are currently running.
- SE went through a proposal on the BUCS course proposal
- RM has reservations about the number of the current courses that may not happen. He expressed concerned that courses are being advertised before tutors had been identified and appointed, this is due to VE staff not following Referee Commission's course process. We should maintain the target of 20 courses as we have 10 already
- 2 Beach courses would be planned for 2015-16. It was mentioned that the course at Leaf did not run because of the cost.
- GA is proposing to run 1 sitting course attached to a GP or possibly squad weekends. GA is hoping to get to 20-24 referees from the current 14.

DS

GA

#### **Sitting**

- GA said it was better that he was able to do his appointments for Sitting Grand Prix first to ensure coverage. Some had not yet responded but with holidays it was too early to assess whether this was a problem.
- GA will look at dates for the courses
- Sitting Volleyball Cup still requires appointments to be made.

#### **Beach**

- DS reported that VEBT had gone well, Organisation was okay apart from Great Yarmouth where there were issues with the hotel bookings. In general the accommodation was provided and is better than previous years and at no cost to the referees.
- SE / DS to meet with Sanjib at the LLC with a view to getting further improvements at next year's VEBT.
- DS mentioned that the number of refereeing opportunities is not great with only 36 appointments being made in the year. The Jersey Island Games helped provide further opportunity.
- There are a few development prospects. Also DS to update the grades on WTR. DS mentioned that because the cohorts of Beach referees that do not referee volleyball are struggling to get up to speed once the summer starts. The referees are encouraged to try and referee some volleyball before the Beach season starts.

DS/SE

#### **YST**

- Potential to have some NTO development with the Talent Camp with the UKSG approaching and to use those on the course for the Challenger Series.
- SE to meet with RN at UKSG

## AOB

- Pre-Season information; With the absence of a conference this year it was felt that information needs to be sent out prior to the start of the season. Content being Rule changes and NVL regulations and also about player behaviour and responsibility. The methods of distribution were discussed, VE Website, Referee Facebook page and the reintroduction of an E-Newsletter. The name was discussed reinstate "The whistler" or "On the stand". Decided to keep it as Referee Newsletter with the option of receiving ideas.
- Referee Conference - next year to bring forward to earlier in the Summer. UKSG is on the same weekend next year. LOR asked whether the weekend of the Saturday 11th June (Sunday 12th June is the coaches conference) but will potentially clash with Skegness VEBT. LOR to coordinate with Sanjib on event clashes. Referee Commission supports this as long as it does not clash with VEBT. LOR
- DS proposed Saturday 7th May for the Beach Conference at Loughborough.
- VE have asked if we could have our Commission meetings a couple of weeks before the Board meetings. This was discussed and where possible would occur depending on availability. MS has been asked to identify which weekends would be best so as not to clash with the busiest of weekends. MS
- NH suggested that a meeting be held with all our elite referees as part of the Elite Group strategy but would cover all disciplines. All agreed NH to arrange. NH

Meeting closed at 1630.

## Next Meeting;

14<sup>th</sup> November 2015 @ NVC Kettering. 10.00

**Meeting with Referee Commission President Steve Evans**

**Date: 14 August 2015**

**Location: Sportpark**

**Attendees:**

Steve Evans  
Audrey Cooper  
Louise O'Reilly

**ACTION**

Discussed communication with office and Commission and how we can improve this.

Steve said that emailing him while on holiday was not ideal and being asked for information more than once was a frustration.

**All to make sure that holidays are communicated**

Discussion at the Commission meeting on ways to improve communication so that we have the best working relationship to drive forward a strategy for refereeing.

**SE**

Audrey asked how many referees are observed each year. Steve suggested 50 but will check.

**SE**

Discussed the request for Observer reports from WTR and why these weren't available to anyone other than Commission Members, the 12 referee observers and the individual referees. Steve said that he had spoken to a few referees and they didn't want the forms being viewed by other parties.

Steve to investigate how easy it is to interrogate the system to remove the names so that Louise and Audrey can view the documents.

**SE to discuss with Mark Brown from WTR**

**Moving the strategy forward**

Based on the comments received from the Commission, it was agreed that an updated draft would be difficult. Agreed to form a small working party to drive this forward comprising Nick, Richard, Steve, Louise and Audrey. Steve will approach and raise at the Ref Comm meeting.

**SE to raise at Ref Com meeting**

Agreed new dates for completion around the November 28 Board Meeting.

**LO to revise timeline**

Agreed to send out next two surveys for the strategy based on removing surplus questions and Di and Steve's feedback. Will also compile a report on the Grade 4 surveys so far.

**LO by 21 August**

Commission Meeting dates: Audrey explained that ideally Commissions will meet before each Board meeting and will have their dates published well in advance so that people can make sure they are available.

**SE to come back with dates of next**

few meetings  
after  
Commission  
meeting

### **New financial system**

Audrey explained that we have a new system with new codes – taking a while to bed in, hence no Q1 yet. Also new codes for budgets are developed.

LO to liaise  
with NH on  
codes and  
their accuracy  
and to liaise  
with finance  
on volunteer  
expenses

### **Steve's appointment to Supervisor**

Press release being co-ordinated by Gerard. Expected to be one or two appointments per year.

### **Challenger Series**

Ref Com have all these dates in the diary. Agreed it would be good to source NTOs for these dates. Perhaps see if YST young officials can form a large contingent.

RN to look at  
programme  
and ID NTOs.  
Also liaise  
with DT to fill  
any gaps

### **WTR System**

Steve explained that we can generate reports on the system that will judge a referee's performance. Had already looked to do this. Will talk to Mark Brown to implement.

SE to talk to  
Mark Brown  
and Comps to  
communicate  
to teams that  
we are doing  
this and why.  
Implement Jan  
2016

### **Course Organiser's Handbook**

Steve identified additional gaps to the scoring and line judging courses – beach and the tutor list.

SE will liaise  
with  
Commission  
to get  
information  
sent to RN

Non refereeing Observers are not on the database as they no longer referee. Louise to discuss with Ian to add under the NTO umbrella that he is looking to reinstate, Possible £10 fee.

LO to liaise  
with IP