

Hertfordshire Volleyball Association
Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting**,
held on Monday, 5th June 2007, 8pm, at Rudolf Steiner School

Attendees

Alan Wilkins (Chairman)	Berkhamsted
Amanda Barraclough (Treasurer)	Watford
Joe Azizollah (Fixtures Secretary)	VK Barnet
Sebastien Flesch (Secretary)	Enfield
Nigel Collins	MKVC
Richard Waters	Luton
Richard Head	Luton
Geert Alkema	RSS
Mick Warnes	Harriers
Bob Chapman	WHVC
Richard Kotulecki	MK City
Dawn Graceson	Watford
Sue Monro	VK Barnet

Absent

- Vale

Vale are fined £50 for non-attendance.

Minutes from last meeting

Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted.

Reports

Chairman: Alan reported that the season ran smoothly, no real problems were reported during the year. He thanked the Fixture Secretary, Treasurer and Secretary for their help during the year. He noted that no real issues arose during the HVA meetings. Kwok Ng was present during two meetings to present Sitting Volleyball and the EVF work.

Competition Secretary: After his first year in this position, Joe reported that it is an big job, and thanked Martin Collins for his assistance and IT skills. Joe reported that on the whole, scoresheets were correctly filled in, but there were still some issues regarding the following:

- Missing match numbers
- Totals were not reported

He also noted that was a congestion of fixtures at the end of the season, mainly due to reschedule matches.

Final league tables will be issued shortly.

Treasurer: Amanda reported supplied the P&L for the year (see attachment 1). The income has not changed but the expenditures were smaller compared to last year. This

year there were no expenses for veterans tournament and last year there was the expense for the match ball for every club.

Expectation for next year's P&L is same as this year's.

Decision was made to keep fees as they are.

Sebastien enquired whether there was an inventory of assets owned by HVA (as Enfield have an HVA outdoor net). It was noted that an inventory was performed a few years ago but it is unclear where assets are currently

Sebastien will contact the HVA clubs for an audit of the HVA assets

Secretary: After his first year in this position, Sebastien reported that he's comfortable with his responsibilities regarding the HVA clubs but has still to learn about the involvement with the EVF (Eastern Volleyball Federation).

Junior Development:

Dawn submitted a written report (see attachment 2).

Then a lengthy discussion followed on all aspect of junior development: topics such as venues, sponsorship/funds, child welfare officer, school links, etc. were discussed. It was also noted that the idea of competition between junior teams should be extended the beginners/lower level volleyballers; e.g. a friendly league.

Here are the main points of the discussion:

- Junior Development needs additional resources
- Richard is going to help out at a committee meeting to show how to apply for funds
- We will try to get some feedback from all HVA clubs regarding a friendly league / tournaments.

Herts Nomad Reports

Dawn submitted a written report (see attachment 3).

They are looking for players, and she reminded that anyone is welcomed at the Herts Nomads training session, Parmiters School at Watford.

Pre-season training starts on Thursday 26th June 2007.

Decision was made that HVA will pay for 2007/2008 league entry fees for Herts Nomads

Election of Officers

The following people were nominated and approved for the posts:

Position	Elected	Nominated	Seconded
Chairman	Alan Wilkins	DG	SM
Fixtures Secretary	Joe Azizollah	AW	SM
Treasurer	Amanda Barraclough	NC	RH
Secretary	Sebastien Flesch	AB	DG
Web Master	Mick Warmes	AW	SF
Junior Development	Dawn Graceson	GA	MW

League Structure

Harriers Men have requested to go up to Division 1. After lengthy discussion and interpretation of the rules, the committee decided that Div 1 could not accommodate for an extra team. Therefore, moving a Div2 team up meant moving a Div 1 team down. A vote was made on this proposal:

Vote: Harriers to go up to Div 1, and Welwyn to go down to Div 2: 13 votes for, 1 vote against.

Indications for next year league were as follows: Men Div 1: 8 teams, Men Div 2: 7 teams, Ladies: 7

Rule Changes

The following rule changes were voted in:

- All leagues fixtures must be completed two weeks before the KO Cup final. Any games not completed after that deadline will be declared null and void. [votes: 9 for / 1 against]
- For KO Cup matches, opposing teams will share the cost of the hall hire [votes: 10 for / 0 against]

It was reminded that all HVA clubs must be registered with the EVA and a copy of the registration should be sent to the Fixtures Secretary.

AOB

VK Barnet: proposed to pass this year's income surplus back to the clubs.

Decision was made to provide a score pad for each club¹. It will be provided at the Fixtures meeting

MKVC: requested that any matches played early in October should be confirmed at the Fixtures meeting.

Harriers: reiterated the need to avoid having all games at the end of the season.

Luton: asked why referees were paired up last season. This decision was made at last year's fixture meeting. A request for a different 'buddy' should be passed on to the Fixture Secretary and discussed at the Fixtures meeting.

RSS: Geert expressed his thanks to Dawn for her work

WHVC: - Bob expressed his concern about the fixtures 'bunching'

- wanted clarification regarding playing across/up rule (Secretary's note: an explanation was given during a committee meeting last year and minuted by Alan).

MKCity: - Richard thanked Dawn for her work regarding Juniors

- initiated rule change regarding last day of fixtures (see 'Rule Changes')

¹ one scorepad per club, not one per team

Watford: - Dawn would like to see the HVA outdoor tournament reinstated. Geert offered to use the schools ground preferably in September.

Any volunteers for organising and HVA outdoor tournament?

Berkhamsted: - Alan told all present that Berkhamsted have booked a couple of beach volleyball courts at Brighton:

SA 25th August: 1pm – 4pm

SU 25th August: 1pm – 4pm

All are welcomed.

Enfield: - Sebastien noted that Enfield contest the share of payment of the referees for their KO Cup semi-final with Luton, on the ground that Luton was the home team and Luton rescheduled.

It was agreed that Enfield should not have paid their share of the referees cost. Luton will reimburse Enfield.

- initiated the rule clarification regarding share of cost for KO cup.

Agenda for next season

- Fixtures meeting: WE 5th September 2007, 8pm (at RSS)
- Committee meeting: TH 22nd November 2007, 8pm (at RSS)
- Committee meeting: MO 3rd March 2008, 8pm (at RSS)
- KO Cup finals: SU 18th May 2008, 12pm (at RSS)
- AGM: TU 3rd June, 8pm (at RSS)

The meeting concluded at 10.55pm.

The next HVA meeting is the Fixtures meeting scheduled for Wednesday 5th September.

Attachments

1. Treasurer's report
2. Herts Nomads report
3. Junior Development report

HERTS NOMADS 2006 –2007 SEASON.

The Nomads enjoyed an excellent start to the season, remaining unbeaten for ten matches.

We were operating from a fairly small squad of 9, which meant that when one player moved abroad and one dropped out through injury, we were really up against it, both competitively and financially! We managed to get one new player registered before Feb 1st, which proved essential as for many matches we only had 6 players available.

Our first loss came when we were without our regular setter, covering absences is difficult with so few players in the squad. The team's confidence took a knock and we subsequently lost the essential match against Plymouth which cost us first place in the league and put us in the play off position.

Disaster struck again when our setter was injured and unable to finish the season. The remaining team members pulled together to compete in the play offs in Birmingham. It was an exciting day's volleyball with all the games going to 5 sets. Unfortunately we just missed out, but the team did their best in difficult circumstances with a couple of players carrying injuries and two gruelling 2 hour matches just 20 minutes apart.

We once again were extremely fortunate to have Pete Brooks continue his interest in the team by running the weekly training sessions on a Thursday. The training sessions have been very successful although a little under subscribed. Unfortunately, Pete was unable to attend any of our matches, as he remains committed to England Juniors whose training schedule is increasing yearly with 2012 Olympics in mind.

This meant match coaching was again a challenge, but we were helped towards the end of the season by Donald Deans who kindly gave up his time to coach a couple of games for us. Donald also gave up one of his Polonia training sessions to give us a friendly game; it was a real treat for the team to play against such a top quality side.

Financially it has again been expensive for the team, with the cost being shared by so few everyone has needed to pay £305 to cover the cost of the season.

In addition there has also been travel expenses and the cost of providing food at home fixtures.

However, we look forward to building on the experiences of this season to ensure success next year. I am determined to build a larger squad and avoid the frustration of not having enough players.

I plan to approach some players in the next few weeks who I have spotted in local league matches and hope to encourage them along to training.

Next seasons preparation begins on **Thursday 21st June at Parmiters School, 8pm – 10pm, and costs £5.00.**

Please take this information back to the ladies in your club – I am a little stunned that more girls are not taking advantage of the opportunity to learn from a top volleyball coach like Pete Brooks. It is not an appropriate session for beginners as most drills rely on accurate passing and consistent serving – however, it is a session appropriate for many of the ladies I have seen this season and ladies are

Junior Volleyball.

Developing junior volleyball in Herts has been a real challenge this season, as I was working full time for much of it and my main volunteers were all unable to help at all this season.

Despite the difficulties, we have continued the junior Saturday session at Rudolph Steiner and opened it up to boys as well. We did plan to run the boy's session separately, but numbers were low so it seemed more sensible to mix it up.

The girls have continued to progress well and some have been playing for Watford in the local league matches and doing really well. Several of the girls are attending the Watford training session, which shows their enthusiasm and how much their confidence has grown. There are also 2 or 3 of them attending National league training when the session is technical and able to accommodate them. The junior team has had two friendly matches this season, one against Vale ladies and one against Brighton University; they won both matches in 3 sets. The girls aren't quite ready to enter a team in the ladies league next season, but I hope to get them some match experience this season. Of course I am happy to have the girls at Watford, but if there are ladies team's who would like some extra players and are prepared to give some court time to developing junior players you are welcome to approach the girls through me or Geert and maybe invite them along to one of your training sessions.

I was approached by channel 4 to coach some after school sessions for their 'Ian Wright's fitter kids' project. I did one session for them but the schools were all in North Finchley and I couldn't get there in time with my work commitments. It was also voluntary and therefore, quite expensive in travel costs.

I have continued with the after school clubs at Watford Girls and Queens. Queens has been a very busy session as they were fast tracking some year 9's for GCSE and there were around 25 choosing the volleyball option. Watford Girls was less well attended and I have suspended it for the time being.

It continues to be a problem getting PE staff to commit to volleyball, whilst they are more than happy for me to coach the sessions for them on a weekly basis, they are too heavily committed to other sports to accommodate volleyball as well. I feel that committing to one school every week is not the best use of my time as it seriously limits the amount of schools we can get in to.

We have had more success in St Albans, with the Verelum school committing a member of staff to a volleyball club and Darren Chason has arranged to mentor the project visiting the club at monthly intervals to oversee their development.

With Heidi emigrating I have lost my child welfare officer and I am looking for a replacement. I also need some help with administration, especially with some applications for funding.

I have just attended the junior interregional tournament in Norwich, mainly accompanying my 14-year-old daughter who was playing U16 for the eastern region. She was playing U16 because there were not enough U14's to make a four a side team! However, the Eastern region team is basically made up from girls from Boswells school in Chelmsford. The standard at the tournament was really quite good; however, the Eastern team is somewhat behind the others both in skill level and squad size. The south East region is well established and attended with the juniors from Ashcombe.

We are in-between the two geographically – either one involves at least an hour drive from our area. I would really like us to develop something closer to home! It would be

really good if more of the Herts teams could follow Barnet's example and encourage a junior section for their club!

With the 2012 Olympics on every agenda at the moment, there is a big move towards school – club links. I am in regular contact with Dale Welch from Sportscoach UK. who is keen to help us move our sport forward in Herts, and would be happy to try and bring some relevant sports co-ordinators and development officers together for a meeting. It would be helpful if more volunteers would come forward so we could arrange a constructive meeting with enough people to put any plans made into action. I am so heavily committed to volleyball already that with the best will in the world, I will not be able to do it all! A meeting of this kind would be a real step forward as it would mean rather than having to approach schools individually, we could reach whole areas of schools through their sports co-ordinators.

So as ever we need people to come forward and be prepared to put something back into volleyball.