



Volleyball Ireland AGM: September 19, 2020: via ZOOM

Opening of Meeting by President Grainne Culliton at 11:05.

Apologies:

Aidan Curran, Peter McDonnell (Board)

Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Club
Mikal	O'Boyle (Mayo VC)	Mayo
Robert	Wypiorczyk	Munster Thunder
Benjamin	Bancquart	Tallaght Rockets
Kevin	Donnelly	Commission
Norma	McIntyre	Staff
Clara	Gonzalez	Ballymun
Benny	O'Regan	Kilkenny
Davnet	Dwyer	Observer
Martin	O'Connor	Newbridge
Patricia	Somers	UCD
Jorge	Rodriguez (Gardians)	Gardians
Karina	Higgins	Naas
Des	Curriuan	Aer Lingus
Denise	Tallon	Santry
Jana	Langford	DVC
Barbara	Wojcik-Jaruga (Trea)	Board
Lena	Spreckelmeyer	DVC
Fiona	Dooley	Santry
Mark	Leonard-Doyle	Staff
Clodagh	NicCanna	Board
Gerry	White	Aer Lingus
Dave	Dalton	Balbriggan
Andrei	Molnar	Squads
Colette	King	Commission
Declan	Ryan (Gardians)	Gardians
Grainne	Culliton	Board
Christina	McKeogh	Observer
Alfredo	Aloi	Board
Sara	Prodoni	Naas
Clement	Calvino	TCD
Erica MT	Fatini	Munster Thunder
Padraig (GVC)	Flanagan	Galway
conor	flood	Staff
Agnieszka	Wala	Kilkenny
Regina Halpin Secretary		UCD
Marie-Claire	Sabogal	Beach
Guillem	Hernandez	Dalkey
Chiara (Santry VC)	Italiano	Santry
Martin O'Connor (Newbridge V.C.)		Newbridge
Adrian	Pinczura	Carlow
Lee	Annand	Galway
Marta Zugaro (netforce)		Net Force
alison	o'neill	Ballymun
Miriam	Gormally	Beach
Gary	Stewart	Staff

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

- a. Proposed by Karina Higgins (Naas) and seconded by Declan Ryan (Guardians). Minutes approved.

2. President's Report & Board Activities

- a. Members welcomed by President Grainne Culliton
- b. Acknowledged year passed from the success of the Continental Cup to the challenges of Covid 19
- c. LTPD has brought new focus onto our younger members and it will be exciting to see this develop in the year ahead.
- d. Thanked Board, Commissions and all members of VI for their work over this challenging year.
 - i. Specific thanks to Denise Tallon and Aidan Curran who will be stepping down from the board this year.
- e. This will be Grainne's final year as president, she looks forward to the work ahead this year and encouraged clubs to come together and reach out for help to ensure survival of clubs and our sport over the coming year.

3. Finance Report

- a. New format for 2019/2020 presentation of finances
 - i. Direct cost comparative to 2018 €53k vs. €45k 2019
 - ii. 32% increase in income this year, €537k, which was matched accordingly by an expenditure increase, €531k. Net surplus of €6k was recorded for this year
 - iii. Sport Ireland grant of €10k requires separate disclosure e.g. Continental cup beach event
 - iv. Overall grants increased by €73k in 2019
- b. Approval of Financial Statements proposed by Karina Higgins (Naas) and seconded by Collette King (Tallaght). FS approved.

4. Election of Directors

- a. Led by President Grainne Culliton
- b. GC provided background on the Director Co-Option of the Treasurer position.
 - i. No issues raised by attendees regarding same. BW to remain on board for a new term.
- c. Vice President: Clodagh NicCanna elected unopposed.
- d. Nominations for two ordinary board members with three vacancies, Alfredo Alois and Erica Fatini elected unopposed.

5. Commissions report on activities during the season

- a. Clodagh NicCanna speaking as the board representative of the *Competitions and Development Commission*
 - i. Overview of the commissions and committee structure given by CNC
 - 1. The commission has required some work in recent time to help with restructuring in line with our strategies
 - 2. Commission made up of committees who meet monthly
 - ii. National League and Cup Competitions
 - 1. NL and Cup null and void as a result of Covid 19

2. Despite this there was an upward trend in participation in these competitions.
- iii. Youth leagues
 1. New U16 league formed
 2. Development league due in the coming year
 3. Numbers of u18 licenced participant growing quickly with increased competitions
- iv. Increased demand for recreational league
- v. Increased School competition entries
- vi. Beach tour
 1. At max capacity
 2. Jnr beach events now being run
 3. Funding Inland beach court received from Dublin City Council
- vii. Question raised by Davnet (Observer)- There is less development in boys precipitation and this is not represented in these reports
 1. Conor Flood answered same; plan to replicate the success of women's participation in the coming year. Unfortunately boy's blitz competitions that were planned were cancelled secondary to Covid 19.
 2. Further questions to be answered in AOB. Also addressed in section 6.c.
- b. Alfredo Aloï speaking as the board representative of the *Education and Training Commission*
 - i. Congratulations given to Des Currivan, Collette King and all commission members who have worked in this group prior to AA arrival as board representative
 - ii. Coaches
 1. Focus is providing learning opportunities to coaches and schools
 2. 4 teachers travelled to Slovenia this year
 3. Slight decrease in coach licence numbers
 - a. Commission plan to try to understand this reduction further
 4. Blended learning important for future learning opportunities for all members, though the commission recognises practical elements are essential.
 5. The webinars developed by our own peers and in collaboration with international players/coaches were very successful in a challenging time on lock-down.
 6. Question from Andre Molnar (Head Coach of Men's National Squad): How were the teachers chosen for the Slovenia trip?
 - a. Answered by Conor Flood: Selected by A level school teachers and one primary school teachers
 - b. Followed up by Grainne Culliton: The attendance criteria was provided to us by the CEV.
 7. Question from Sara: Were the webinars recorded, will they be disseminated/accessible to members and could webinars be recorded in the future?

- a. Answered by Mark Lenord Doyle: Most have been recorded and will be disseminated via You Tube in the coming year.
- b. Follow up from Gary Stewart: Some sessions were not recorded at the request of the guest speaker.
- 8. Question from Jana Langford (DVC): will there be more opportunities for higher level coaching courses
 - a. Answered by Alfredo Alois: Commission starting to move to webinar version (as with referee course) but in person imperative to have practical session. Format is being development. Acknowledges there is a difficulty to get coaches certified ahead of this season- but plan to ongoing, especially for Level 1 courses
 - b. Followed up question by Andrei Molnar regarding higher level training for higher level coaches. Answered by Alfredo Alois-there will be more goal setting for development of higher level coaches
 - c. Followed up by Des Currivan
 - i. Ongoing review and revision of courses.
 - ii. The commission is always working on improving workshops especially incorporating guest input and the knowledge within our organisation.
- iii. Referees
 - 1. Many courses delivered
 - 2. Vinnie Santos has achieved international referee grade
 - a. Vinnie will give insight of his experience on his training at referee boot camp next week.
 - 3. In the past season we had 94 referees- only 80 had active licence (down from 85)
 - a. Reminder that referees need to be practicing, safeguarding and vetting completed
 - 4. There was an increase on red and yellow cards this year
 - a. Commission will be following this up in referee refresher courses to ensure disciplines/sanctions are appropriate.
- iv. Call out to all on how to further develop our future learning both online and in person- ideas welcome.
- c. Gary Stewart representing the *High Performance Commission*
 - i. Women's Programme
 - 1. Following Fabio Tamborrinis relocation last year Mark Delahunty has replaced him in the role of Head Coach.
 - 2. Mark is setting out a strong structure with pathway from junior to senior
 - 3. Edyta Jozwiak McMullan appointed Assistance Coach with other supporting team members. Alex Graves as Squads Captain
 - 4. An open session hosted by Mark for the women's senior squad garnered huge interest in early March of this year with 37 participants attending.

5. Junior's successful completion in the Faeroe Islands resulting in a win over Iceland. They then continued onto Copenhagen for another u17 tournament
 6. A very successful training camp was held in Sardinia with the players getting the opportunity to play with high level club teams in the area.
 7. Unfortunately the u20 competition due to be hosted at Easter in Luxemburg was cancelled secondary to Covid 19. Though the excellent fundraising efforts for competition costs to this event should be commended.
 8. Covid dependant it is expected competitions will resume next year.
- ii. Men's Programme
1. Shows continued growth with 44 players (16 u19, 28, u15)
 2. Aiming to increase youth development to further the pathway to senior
 3. Commission recognises that there is limited playing opportunities for boys outside of school and national programme and there is ongoing work to improve same.
 4. Narboone twinning programme ongoing. Cathal Dwyer has signed for Narboone, demonstrating the high standard available here and opportunities for young players. This is very rewarding for all those involved in youth development
 5. LTPD should complement our young players development and opportunities to play and progress from school through to international level
- iii. BEACH
1. Continental Cup
 - a. Hugely success event with our number 1 seeds of each team having significant success.
 - b. Excellent support at home competition- something we wish to see grow going forward.
 - c. CEV completion in Perth
 - i. Miriam Gormally and Alex Graves finished 4th, with others finishing 5th. 7th and 9th again showing our development in beach volleyball.
- iv. Question from Christina Keogh (Observer)
1. There is clear discrepancy between boys and girls competitions- who decides what competitions teams attend?
 - a. Answered by Gary Stewart: Programmes are driven by Coaches primarily and their own contacts (e.g. Sardinia with Giannai) and CEV competitions. VI would support head coaches in entering competitions the coach deems appropriate as they are considered the experts in this area.

6. Staff report on activities over the last year & key objectives for 2020

- a. Gary Stewart presented the *Strategic Plan Progress*
 - i. 4 year plan – now end of year 2
 - ii. 32 metrics set out

- iii. 59% on track, 22% have achieved 4 year metric, 13% behind schedule
- iv. 6% significantly behind schedule
- v. Will be reviewed in the final quarter of the year to assess metrics
- b. Gary Stewart presented the *Stake Holder Survey*
 - i. 120 responses (increased from 68 last year)
 - ii. Net promoter- global benchmark tool to understand how satisfied members are
 - 1. Our score +49- just shy of the mark of excellence (internationally recognised as +50 and above).
- c. GS presented update on Anti Doping activities
 - i. Training provided for youth teams and during virtual volley camp
 - ii. All National League players uploaded Sport Ireland AD certification
 - iii. No in or out of competition testing took place
- d. Conor Flood presented *Youth Development*
 - i. U16 and u18 leagues (increased by one as age and skill was very different)
 - ii. Plan to change next year
 - 1. Adding development league aiming to bring players to national league level
 - iii. Plan to replicate the success of girls league with boys
 - 1. Aiming to start blitz and when interest is steady aim to move to league format (halted by Covid this year)
 - iv. Junior beach programme new this year and looking forward to progressing same next year.
 - v. 4 regionalised events- Fanore and Bettystown
- e. Youth Beginners sessions
 - i. Aim is exposure and fun, 3v3, 4v4.
 - ii. Moving around the country but focusing on areas with junior clubs
 - iii. Future Leader Youth Education Programme
 - 1. Aim to enable leadership in youth members
 - iv. Youth Management Group
 - 1. 5 members
 - 2. Role to help with promotion and development of youth players/competitions
 - v. CEV School Project
 - 1. Equipment funding from CEV
 - 2. Working with clubs and their feeders schools to help increase participation and drive youth players to clubs
 - vi. Regional Development centre
 - 1. Advancing younger players- national team support
 - 2. Aiming for 5 development centres
 - 3. Hopefully launch 2021
 - vii. Schools
 - 1. Moving away from Spikeball model
 - 2. 255 teams registered for last year's competitions- unfortunately later rounds were cancelled with COVID
 - 3. There will be challenges with school participation as there is currently no competitive sport ongoing in schools

- viii. LTPD
 - 1. Plan to set up follow-up session with clubs to discuss same
 - 2. Frame work for how volleyball will be developed from schools, to clubs, to players. We want anyone to be able enter our sport at any level be they players, coaches, admin, referees etc. and develop a lifelong role and relationship with the sport.
- f. Norma McIntyre presented *Club Development and Adult Participation*
 - i. Participation is a key matric we to develop further
 - ii. DIVA
 - 1. Launched last year. WIS funded programme
Recruit and train female leaders within the university setting with the aim to create or drive participation in the university and another resource for clubs to tap into. Equipment provided.
 - iii. Volleyball Activator Programme/ Social Volleyball
 - 1. Similar to DIVA but for clubs and community
 - 2. Support the volunteers who run the social sessions for clubs
 - 3. Clubs are already doing this, VI want to help clubs run this and support them further. We want to grow the reach for clubs i.e. specific website page on VI to promote same, invest in FB adds that clubs can apply for through VI etc.
 - 4. These volunteers are not coaches but are supported to encourage accessibility for all to the sport.
 - 5. Norma plans to engage further with clubs with social volleyball and the activator programme
 - iv. Challenger League
 - 1. Flexibility focused- aim to allow teams to challenge others to play anytime/anywhere
 - 2. Aimed at teams who cannot commit to national league. We don't not want to lose these teams from volleyball
 - v. Formally South East and West recreational weekend are now being rebranded Cup weekend with social volleyball league. Aiming to get clubs to run same to grow volleyball in the area and allow clubs to potentially gain some income.
 - vi. From Oct 2020, there will be topic run sessions (in association Office Solutions) to help specifically club volunteers with regular club admins issues. Norma will be contacting clubs going forward.
 - vii. Currently collating funding opportunities document for clubs to avail of especially in this challenging climate.
 - viii. Equipment grant project is ongoing
 - ix. Club development plan
 - 1. Aims to help clubs improve structure and help VI identify where clubs need more support from VI.
 - x. Norma is contact for safe guarding with VI
 - 1. Courses 1st and 6th of Oct, with workshops 1,2,3 online
 - xi. Jana Langford (DVC) thanked Norma for her work to help clubs drive forward and raise participation.
 - xii. Question from Andrei Molnar asking about how club and squads are intersecting with interests

1. Grainne Culliton indicating that notes taken on his questions and this could be followed up with High Performance Commission
 - g. Mark Leonard Doyle presented on *Operations and Marketing*
 - h. Go membership
 - i. Player's cards will be downloaded by secretaries. Will have information regarding that player i.e. player reg, referee reg/grade, coaching reg etc.
 - i. Aiming to place more emphasis on the schools finals day- creating an event for our younger players.
 - j. Women's Association Cup Final was due to be streamed with pundit- carried to 2021
 - k. New website being designed
 - l. New brand competition won this year- aiming to launch in coming months
 - m. Procurement of camera and editing tools to giving us a higher quality promotional material and pictures
 - n. Social Media
 - i. Targeting 16-30
 - ii. Increased 99% in followers over 2 years
 - iii. Live streaming matches possible though new software procured
 - iv. High profile speakers- highly successful
 - v. Monster Block going out to over 1500 subscribers
- 7. To appoint Searing Point Ltd as Auditors and fix their remuneration**
- a. Grainne Culliton asked attendees if any objections to appointing of Searing Point as Auditors
 - i. No objections. Accepted.
- 8. Members submissions and motions**
- a. Nil submitted
- 9. AOB**
- a. Davnet asking how to contact various commission/committees
 - i. GS advised following on same
 - b. Des Cullivan advised that the Education and Training Commission would be recommending an increase competitions to help grow participation, club development, player development, promotion and sponsorship. This would not be for the coming season but begin to have conversation with Competitions and Development Commission regarding same for 2021/22.

Meeting closed 13:04