

SUFFOLK VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Monday 5th August 2024 - Minutes

The meeting was held via Google Meet @ 8pm

Reports available via <http://www.suffolkvolleyballassoc.onesuffolk.net/home/reports/>

Attendees: Andrew Whitefield (SVA Chairman, Stowmarket), Steve Hicks (SVA Treasurer, Seagulls, Stowmarket), Amy Scrivener (SVA Committee Member, Ipswich Ravens), Nathan Derbyshire (SVA Committee Member, Team Suffolk, Newmarket), Kylan Close (Ipswich Ravens), Sam Langley (SVA Committee Member, Bury Bobcats), Eric Negus (Ipswich), Cristian Tatu (Ipswich)

Apologies: Tom Miller (Stowmarket), Zoe Verow (Ipswich)

Review minutes of 2023 AGM – accepted

Assistant Coach course organised by Ipswich Ravens – Amy

Course now full with 16 attendees (Volleyball England have since confirmed that 7 are linked to clubs in Suffolk). Bury / Ipswich Ravens / Stowmarket all have players attending this course for certain. Discussed that SVA will offer a third of course fees upon completion of the course. Nathan asked if possible to have a list of names for those attending course to gauge if any are interested in assisting with coaching for Team Suffolk.

Treasurer's report – Steve

See full Treasurer's report for details. Fees for 2024- 2025 to be agreed once financial position following Assistant Coach bursaries is known.

Team Suffolk – Nathan

Nathan reported attendance was similar compared with 2022-23 - around 40 members with sessions roughly every three weeks for beginners and intermediate. The performance squad had fewer training sessions but had regular competition at adult Eastern Region Series.

Team Suffolk's 2022-23 activities returned a healthy surplus around £200, whereas 2023-24 resulted in a deficit of around £500. Their balance, held in a separate account from Suffolk VA is £5,000. Much of this originates from a Sport England grant awarded prior to the pandemic. A chunk of this was earmarked for coach development but has not yet been spent. Whilst Sport England have signed-off on the project so there is no restriction on how the balance is spent, Nathan is keen to support people in Suffolk to gain coaching qualifications and will discuss with Steve what to offer.

The majority of intermediate and performance squads are reaching adulthood. Focus for 2024-25 may therefore be on those currently in the beginner group.

Coaches Mark Emsley and Ann-Marie Matthews are stepping back. Team Suffolk are seeking to recruit new members to their coaching team.

Nathan & Chris Watson plan to meet before start of season to discuss plans - sessions might be monthly rather than every three weeks in 2024-25.

Since Team Suffolk operates almost independently of Suffolk VA, and the insurance picture was unclear, at last year's AGM Nathan was encouraged to explore affiliating with Volleyball England as a separate club. Nathan reported this had been achieved. Nathan and Andrew to work to ensure clean split, e.g. with regards to constitution and bank account if this needs to be finalised.

Mixed Intermediate League – First season report – Steve

Positive feedback from all. Request for away teams to have first game by default but Steve pointed out this is fine when complete travelling teams expect to be available for first match.

Asked how many teams are likely to be entered by each club and was decided this would need to be confirmed later Sept once clubs can gauge player interest.

League meeting Mon 23rd Sept – all clubs to confirm entries prior/ during call.

Update on schools volleyball – Andrew

Attendance down from previous year but hoping that being reintroduced to the Suffolk PE & Sports Network calendar next school year will encourage higher participation again. See full details attached to Chairmans report.

Chairmans report – Andrew

See full report for details.

Key points which were discussed as follows:

- Andrew spoke about the importance of Safeguarding and that a Safeguarding Adults policy needs to be in place (in addition to Safeguarding Children) for clubs to complete their affiliation for the year. There's a Sport Welfare Officer attached to Active Suffolk who can provide support in addition to that provided by Volleyball England.
- National League – Eric reminded that IVC ladies NVL team pulled out prior to last season. Andrew explained NVL now full so much harder to register a new team. Post padding now required and club / region/ area must provide a written report evidencing development of officials and have an additional Grade 3R Referee willing to officiate in NVL. Nathan asked if potential supporting hosting a referee course in the new year for clubs considering reentering NVL in the new year. Andrew advised must have enough interest from participants to be worthwhile. Cambridge / Norwich have hosted courses in recent years but no Suffolk participants that we are aware of.
- **Reports from other committee members:** None offered. Amy mentioned Ravens are increasing their training time but 1 hour on a Saturday morning to offer equal court time to each group. Amy / Nathan discussed other options for mens team wanting to enter competitions as Chelmsford league full. Eastern Region another option.
- **Governance Review:** Andrew mentioned the self-assessment tool which clubs/ areas can use to gauge their structure and organization and highlight gaps / areas to work on to improve Club Governance. Suffolk Volleyball scored 29 ½ out of 40. See full Chairmans report for more details.

Andrew gave a reminder that as an unincorporated association' the committee is liable for activities / events we put on and any incident that may lead to court case. Risk assessment is key. Suffolk VA and its clubs should be covered by VE Insurance granted after affiliating.

Mentioned that if there was no interest in running Suffolk Volleyball due to the personal liability, then option for having a dotted line into Volleyball England Foundation could be considered. Any surplus to be paid to them to be used for grants.

➤ **Election of officers:**

Andrew advised the recommended maximum term is 8 years, but unless anyone else is interested (with support with Andrew) he is happy to continue.

Following positions as voted in by those attending the call:

Chairperson – Andrew Whitfield

Vice Chairperson – vacant

Secretary – Amy Scrivener

Treasurer – Steve Hicks

Referee Officer – Steve Hicks

Welfare Officer – Kylan Close

Social Media Officer – Kylan Close

Website Officer – Kylan Close / Steve Hicks

Data Protection Officer – Andrew Whitfield

Committee members – Eric Negus / Nathan Derbyshire

Agreed Andrew to confirm whether Sam Langley / Rob Dovaston would like to continue in their roles. Andrew to invite Chris Watson to join committee. Cristian Tatu to consider joining committee.

Goal Setting

New committee may refer to “Topics for new committee to consider” from chairman’s report

Set date for committee / fixtures meetings

Men’s fixtures meeting penciled in for Mon 16th September. Since the AGM we are now looking at Sun 15th Sept, 8pm via Google Meets.

Any other business

Steve enquired whether any interest in repeating officiating workshop. Discussion to continue via WhatsApp