



Minutes of Volleyball England AGM Board Discussion at 1pm, 20th July 2023, online via Microsoft Teams

Directors Present	Titles
Adam Walker [AW]	Independent Chair
Andreas Hernandez [AH]	Independent Director
Brendan Fogarty [BF]	Elected Director
Clare Francis [CF]	Independent Director
Freda Bussey [FB]	Elected Director
Jess Plumridge [JP]	Elected Director
Simon Griffiths [SG]	Elected Director
Dave Reeve [DR]	Elected Director
Jake Sheaf [JS]	Elected Director
Staff Present	
Charlie Ford [CFo]	Chief Executive Officer
Guin Batten [GB]	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Welcome from the Chair and apologies

Richard Harrison & Phil French submitted apologies.

Conflicts of Interest

BF declared a conflict of interest in relation to the resolution that proposed his re-election to the board.

Context

AW opened the meeting by thanking the board members for attending the meeting at such short notice.

AW explained that evidence had been received that a small group of members had not only conveyed misleading and misguided information as fact but have also produced and shared a template voting form indicating how members should vote.

After seeking legal advice independent to the board, it has been deemed that a fair outcome at the AGM cannot be achieved as the democratic process put in place for our members to exercise their right to vote has been significantly compromised.

Sport England had also been briefed and had confirmed that our pre-AGM paper processes (in particular in relation to board member re-appointment) were in line with the Sports Governance Code.

Voting implications

CFo provided board members with an update on the votes that had been received so far and how they corresponded to the above-mentioned activity.

Independent Legal Advice

The advice received was that there was agreement that it would be appropriate for the Board to

dispense with the resolutions should they choose to do that. Resolutions concern important governance aspects and to proceed with a vote knowing that the outcome may be skewed by the disinformation and inaccuracies would be an avoidable risk.

Board Discussion & Decision

In conjunction with the independent legal advice which in summary was to either proceed with a process that has, in effect, been vandalised, or to adopt a different course of action that avoids the effects of that vandalism. The board considered a number of options ranging from doing nothing to postponing the AGM.

Following debate and discussion, the board unanimously decided to withdraw all resolutions and special resolutions from the 2023 AGM, with the exception of the reappointment of the auditors, which is business critical.

Action: EB/23-24/AGM

CFo to draft member comms for board approval (included within these minutes as Appendix A).

Meeting close

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Will'.

Appendix A: **Statement regarding Volleyball England's AGM**

The Board of Volleyball England has been made aware of issues with the voting process for Saturday's (22nd July) Annual General Meeting, to be held in Loughborough.

Following an investigation, and after seeking independent legal advice, it has been deemed that a fair outcome at the AGM cannot be achieved as the democratic process put in place for our members to exercise their right to vote has been significantly compromised. A small group of Volleyball England members have not only conveyed misleading and misguided information as fact, but have also produced and shared a template voting form indicating how members should vote.

The board has today (20th July) met to discuss this situation and, after much consideration, has decided to withdraw all resolutions and special resolutions from the 2023 AGM, with the exception of the reappointment of the auditors, which is business critical.

Sport England has been notified and is fully aware of this course of action and the reasons why it is necessary.

"I am extremely disappointed that the democratic process not being observed by some members is going to adversely affect others," said Adam Walker, Chair of the Board of Volleyball England.

"The level of distraction, and the need to address this situation, has hampered the ability of the Board and Volleyball England staff from continuing with the ongoing development of the sport.

"Following on from Saturday's AGM, Volleyball England will be conducting a more extensive investigation and any relevant action will be taken."

Further information on this matter will be provided to members at the AGM.

Members can watch Saturday's meeting via the [Volleyball England YouTube Channel](#) and clicking on the 'Live' tab.