



Annual spikers AGM held on Wednesday, 10 August at 7 PM

1. Review of the last few years by Chairwoman Emily.

Emily outlined the structure of the club from the initial starting up of the club many years ago and explained through how the club has developed and progressed from a group of people sitting around a table discussing volleyball, to a club of over 330 members. Whilst this is fantastic it brings with it a lot of challenges as we have players from the age of 11 all the way up to approximately 70. We also run sessions for all abilities from beginner up to National League.

Emily explained that in our previous AGM prior to covid we had planned to change the structure of the club and put in more coaching etc in order to provide people with better quality training and more pathways of progression and visibility throughout the club. Unfortunately then covid hit and we have had two and half years of upheaval. Coming back after covid was an extremely difficult time for everybody due to the continually changing regulations by the government, restrictions, pricing issues and dealing with the safety for all our club members. Having said all this, the club has grown enormously within the last couple of years and now that we are back from covid fully and it is time to implement the plans we had underway a couple of years ago.

One of the biggest challenges was the ability to hold a coaching course of our own. This has now been carried out and we have successfully put through 15 new coaches through the coaching course to become level I coaches. Most of these coaches are now going to coach for Spikers moving forward which is an absolutely fantastic achievement. There is an overall coaching aim that within the next 3 to 4 years as many of these coaches as possible will progress to doing the level II courses and also for the level I coaches who are already experienced to progress to take the relevant courses for them as well. Finally, there is also the aim that a couple of the more senior coaches may be able to undertake their level III qualification of the FIVB coaching course too. For the local area and for the club this will be an amazing feat.

This brings us up to the current day and we now have even more sessions than ever being carried out. We have split off some of the juniors into development squad sessions which are being hand held at Town Close school in the city. These sessions are run by Coach Joel who is keen on creating pathways through the club in order to enable us to progress players. We have received some funding by the Ruth Nicholls foundation for the first term of this session at Town Close which we are very thankful for. We wish Joel luck with these sessions for the coming year.

Also, within the junior section of the club we are continuing to split out the more advanced juniors from the beginners which means we should be able to cater in a better way for the amount of juniors that we now have in the club. This is a continuation of the plan that was put into effect towards the end of last season.

Since the AGM, we have also made a change in some of the session times in order to accommodate a change with the men's National League session and this will hopefully have had some positive knock-on effects with people being able to attend sessions much easier than they were before.

We have also created a coaching committee with all the coaches where we will meet regularly in order to discuss the progression of the players, coaches, crossover of players in sessions and any issues that we are facing.

2. Financial review by Treasurer Sarah Jane

SJ explained through the accounts (which are available if anybody would like to see them – please contact SJ).

SJ explained that we received a grant from Sport England last year in order to assist the club with costs associated with returning to volleyball after Covid. This has been used by paying increased fees, registrations, buying equipment, replacing equipment that was broken, sanitising equipment, hall hires etc. We do have some surplus funds in the account currently and a lot of this will be used to pay for new posts at Easton College.

For the first time last year, and due to the grant, we were able to make a nominal payment to our coaches in thanks for their time and support over the years. We are extremely pleased as a club to now be in a position to do this. This is something that we plan to take forward, finances allowing, as we really value all of the coaches input and also all the time anyone gives up for helping our club. Without people's generosity we would not be able to function.

We also talked about session fees. Given we have not increased the fees since prior to covid, it was decided that we now need to put the fees up slightly. The increased fees will be as follows;

National League – £5 per session

Juniors – £3.50 per session

All other sessions – £4.50 per session

The increase is necessary in order to sustain our club in payment for coaching staff, paying for hall hire and equipment etc which is all vital to our club. We hope that everybody understands why we have to increase the prices.

3. Social media update by Charlie

Charlie explained what he has been doing with social media since he has been involved in the position (January 2022). He has asked that members contact him with any news that they feel is worth putting across social media platforms. He also asked that people please interact with the posts because the more interaction we can get the more the message of Spikers will be spread around.

We do some wonderful things in our club and we want to make sure that our membership has visibility of this and knows what is happening. In our first committee meeting of the new season we will discuss social media further.

4. Changes to the club for the new season

A lot of this section has been covered previously in these notes however, Emily did explain that the biggest issue as a club we face is the issue of booking hall time. We have received a number of enquiries about why we are not allowed to or able to provide more than one training session per week for people. Unfortunately, we are one of only two clubs outside the University who are allowed to have a block booking at the Sportspark. The sportspark have their own internal rules that are set out in the agreement between themselves, the Lottery (who helped fund their initial build) and the University. They are therefore limited with what they are able to allow.

The sports Park have provided us with the maximum amount of hall time for a block booking that they are able to in any one week. We are aware and acknowledge that it is possible to call the sportspark and book a hall for

training on a week by week basis but unfortunately with over 330 members and offering 12 sessions per week it is not logistically possible to book enough extra sessions each week. It would also not be fair, or in line with our Constitution for us to pick and choose which section of the club receive an extra training session in any one week supplied by the club. In an ideal world, if we could achieve enough hall time for everybody to have extra sessions a week and then we absolutely would do this.

We explained about the plans for the teams during the coming season. There is going to be a new men's team in the local league. Lightning are being promoted to division one in the mixed and the men's National League team have been promoted to national League division two. We are very pleased with the performances of all of our team teams in the first full season back after covid. We will look forward to a good season moving forward.

5. Voting in the new committee

We explain through the committee positions and the voting was carried out in accordance with the correct process. The following encompasses the new committee for 2022/2023;

Chairperson - Emily

Treasurer – Sarah-Jane

Secretary – Ann-Marie

IT Manager - Paul

Social Media Manager - Charlie

Junior Development Coordinator - Joel

Social Secretary - Kati and Eden

Funding Team – JD, Peter and Beth

Safeguarding Officer - Emily

Deputy Safeguarding Officer – Ann-Marie

GDPR officer – Ann-Marie

Deputy GDPR Officer - Laura

Junior Representatives - Jake and Ben

Development League Co-ordinator - Wojtek

General Member - Helen

The meeting was then brought to a close