

AGM 2025 Minutes
Volleyball Association of Ireland t/a Volleyball Ireland 317399
Annual General Meeting 2025
Glenroyal, Maynooth. Saturday the 7th of June 2025

1. Welcome & Apologies

Summary:

The meeting was opened by President, Clodagh Nic Canna (CNC), at 15:04. Housekeeping was completed, and a quorum was reached with 17 clubs represented.

The clubs present included Aer Lingus VC, Kildare VC, Galway VC, Net Force VC, Munster Thunder, UCD, Dalkey Devils, Impact Macroom, Longford Smashers VC, Carrick Crows, Guardians, Balbriggan, Tallaght Rockets, Ballymun Patriots, Newbridge VC, Spartans VC, and Santry.

Full details of attendees and name acronyms are in Appendix 1.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Summary:

CNC presented the minutes for approval to the members. Jennifer Fitzgerald from Ballymun Patriots noted that the minutes were unclear regarding whether a vote was cast or not during last year's motions. It was clarified that in the end a vote was taken which meant the motion was rejected.

Decisions:

- The 2023 AGM and EGM minutes were approved. They were proposed for approval by Denise Tallon from Santry and seconded by Dave Dalton from Balbriggan. All attendees voted in favour with no abstentions.

Actions:

- VI to update AGM 2024 minutes to clarify the voting on the Senior/Junior clubs voting per Jennifer's request.

2. Board Activities and Governance (CNC)

Summary:

A brief overview of the Board's activities and governance was provided, the detail of which is in the published annual report. The setup of the new Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) was covered, and the

President covered how the CEV Championship was a great success and came in on budget. Plans for hosting a Beach Championship in Ireland in August were highlighted, along with a breakdown of each Board Member's role. CNC gave an overview of the hiring process for a new CEO which is being run by an agency and has Sport Ireland and Board Member's input to ensure transparency and fairness. This section was completed with an overview of the new Commission Presidents and members application and appointment process which is targeted to be in place from August. Meanwhile all existing commission members and structures remain active.

Discussion and Actions:

- There was no notable discussion or actions from this section.

3. Strategy Report GS

Summary:

The Strategy Report section provided an overview of the goals and achievements of the strategy report. GS highlighted the successful hosting of the CEV final championship, the introduction of an AI Chatbot, the acquisition of the first big commercial sponsor Searing Point, and the return of the Beach Intervarsity's. GS also mentioned the introduction of E-scoring, the appointment of a new national Beach Coach (Melissa) and Beach Referee (Aurelian), and the increase in participation numbers. Additionally, GS covered the initiative to save water bottles, the KPI scorecard, the focus on having an agreement for an indoor arena, and the key results and targets, including some that are at risk. The section concluded with a summary of the stats on the CEV Championship and noting that the survey on facility survey would be resent.

GC from Ballymun Patriots asked if Volleyball Ireland can introduce a recycling bin for the VLY events, championships etc. GS confirmed they usually are in place and will ensure they are going forward.

Discussion:

- MOC from Newbridge asked how many of the new coaches in the increased coaching numbers are active. A conclusive answer was not available on the day but can be checked subsequently. It is thought that most of the new coaches are active.
- GC from Ballymun Patriots suggested contacting coaches that were previously licensed to get them back involved? GS confirmed this was an initiative we should try.
- DT from Santry noted that if we could track the numbers involved in schools Volleyball, we could easily hit our targets. This is a takeaway for VI to attempt to capture.
- DD from Balbriggan asked if a list of Volleyball suitable venues could be provided. VI action required here but also a reference was made to the Guardians club link who have mapped out all of those in Dublin and the surrounding areas.

- BO'R from Spartans enquired about the locations for the new beach volleyball clubs VI is promoting and if there was a support package available for the clubs. GS replied that there is no exact area location, it will be up to clubs to find them and ideally be facility based. Packages already exist and will be resent.
- GC from Ballymun Patriots stated that there needs to be renewed focus on increasing the level of referees as there is still a huge struggle to find suitable grade referees for Premier matches. She and DT from Santry also noted that there should be a Fastrack for experienced players wanting to referee. CNC confirmed that referee's development is still hot on the agenda and suitable ways to progress referees as fast as possible are in discussion.
- DD from Balbriggan suggested having real time feedback for referees while being mentored/assessed, especially the developing ones to avoid the result of games being impacted. All agreed this would be a good idea.

Actions:

1. VI to ensure adequate signage is provided for recycle bins and provide guidance to clubs where possible on this.
2. VI to review and assess if the number of active coaches can be provided to clubs.
3. VI to investigate contacting previous coaches to see if we can loop them back into the community
4. VI to pursue further initiatives to capture school memberships
5. VI to assist in publishing suitable Volleyball halls across the country
6. VI to discuss further with RMC about the referee's level increase initiatives and referee assessment feedback during the games.

4. Finance Report (ER)

Summary:

Board Member Elisabeth Rae (ER) who is Chair of the ARC presented the December 31, 2024 Audited Financial Statements for approval. It was noted that Woods, Delaney and Partners Limited, the Company's Auditors, reported a clean audit opinion and there were no going concern issues. ER then went on to present the financial highlights of the year.

Volleyball Ireland achieved record growth in 2024, with revenues rising by over €400k to €1.396m, more than double and triple the figures from two and three years ago, respectively. This growth was driven primarily by hosting international events, including the U20 Women's European Championship.

Strategic efforts to diversify income have reduced reliance on public funding. Non-public income grew by €500k, including €200k from international team fees, a 20% increase in shop revenue, and €40k in new sponsorships.

Expenditure increased in line with revenue, resulting in a modest deficit of €21k, up €8k from 2023. This loss, slightly above budget, was due to a change in accounting treatment for staff bonuses, aligning with

accrual principles.

Volleyball Ireland also acquired a €32k GerFloor court from CEV/FIVB, adding long-term value to the balance sheet. Cash reserves declined as previously awarded grants were drawn down to support ongoing projects.

Discussion:

- Jennifer Fitzgerald from Ballymun Patriots enquired if Sport Ireland have any concerns that there is a deficit in the last 2 years running. BR addressed that there are no concerns as there are no current cash flow problems.
- Grainne Culliton from Ballymun Patriots requested further explanation on the deficits. BR explained this was due to the timing on some of the bonuses and the accruals thereof. Grainne also suggested there could be a breakdown of the competition expenses.
- Jennifer Fitzgerald from Ballymun Patriots noted that the 'registered office' was missing from page 6 of the financial statements.
- The Financial Statements were proposed by Martin O'Connor from Newbridge and Seconded by Maria Jimenez from Netforce. All voted in favour with no abstentions

Actions:

- VI to correct page 6.

5. Appointing Auditor

Summary:

ER presented Woods, Delaney and Partners Limited, to be appointed as the auditor

Decisions:

- Woods, Delaney and Partners Limited proposed by Dennis Tallon from Santry and seconded by Martin O'Connor from Newbridge. All Approved no abstentions.

Actions:

- None

6. Members Motions (CNC)

Summary:

The President explained the process for motions. Detailing that in these cases the Board are 'moving' the motions. There can be some discussion/questions from the floor and that then a club from the floor will need to second the motion. At that stage the motion can be voted on. CNC clarified there is scope to amend

the motion, but it would only be acceptable to make minor changes/tweaks. If any major reword is needed, then the motion can be withdrawn or not seconded.

Motion 1 (voting rights of clubs) was presented and explained, some discussion took place as noted below but in summary the motion was passed.

For Motion 2 (Board terms limits) CNC and RH left the room due to a potential conflict of interest in the outcome and to ensure that all members felt comfortable discussing freely the proposal. CNC and RH are the most impacted by this change as their terms are up at the end of this term and passing this motion would allow them to stay on for an additional year whereas all other Board members are able to stay on for longer. There was some discussion also around this motion, however due to wording issues raised it did not get put to a vote.

Discussion Motion 1:

- Grainne Culliton from Ballymun Patriots reminded that the current way the voting rights was to encourage clubs to have junior sections and wondered if changing this would diminish the importance of that. CNC responded that the lack of junior sections is no longer an issue and that these changes would support the further growth of the support and more clubs having a voice.
- Patricia Sommer from UCD welcomed the change because as a University Club they can never have a junior section.
- Gerry White from Aer Lingus supported the motion because it won't penalize some clubs from not being able to facilitate a junior section.
- Martin O'Connor from Newbridge suggested that 2 votes for National League clubs may not enough and fears that non-National league clubs could end up out voting NL clubs. CNC stated that we can monitor for this in the coming years and if we need to revisit it, we may do so as all agreed this is not the intention of the change.
- Denise Tallon from Santry asked about the difference between Volleyball bodies and Affiliated clubs. GS clarified.
- Erica Fatini from VI staff asked if a club that registered only for the championship be considered a competitive club. CNC confirmed it would not be the case.
- Jennifer Fitzgerald from Ballymun Patriots noted that there was another section in the constitution that needed to be amended inline with this motion. The wording for this was changed also and the motion was voted on and approved by all. (Note for clarity, an initial vote took place without the wording correction and Ballymun voted against. The forum corrected the wording and did a new vote which is what is recorded here).

Discussion Motion 2 (CNC and RH not present):

- Motion was explained which in summary changes term lengths to be 4 years (from 3) and for Board members to serve 2 terms maximum but if a Board member was to run for President they could do 1 additional term as President.
- Grainne Culliton from Ballymun Patriots sought clarification on whether this allowed the President to serve 1 term or 2.
- Martin O'Connor from Newbridge highlighted that there was a conflict in the wording regarding reelection of the President.
- Kevin Donnolly from the NLMC requested that the wording is clarified.
- The motion was therefore not seconded from the floor and was withdrawn.
- Following the completion of the discussion CNC and RH rejoined the meeting.

7. Election of Directors

Summary:

There was 1 position open for election. This was for Ordinary Board member and there was only 1 candidate for the position.

Decision:

- Jennifer Fitzgerald of Ballymun Patriots was proposed by Ballymun and seconded by Santry prior to the AGM in line with the deadlines set. This was voted on and all approved. The vote result was that Jennifer was elected with 16 approvals and 1 abstention from Netforce.
- CNC informed the members that the Independent Board Member position would be re-advertised as we need to ensure gender balance. Following the departure of Lochlann and the election of Jennifer we need to revisit.

8. Closing

- Denise Tallon from Santry asked about the development of the app to help track fun sessions. GS replied that a prototype was developed but not progressed or ready for club release.
- Martin O'Connor from Newbridge suggested leaving the EGM until September due to holidays. CNC suggested we may need it sooner, but we will find a date that ensures we have a quorum, and it will be short as it would be 1 motion and 1 election.
- Dennis Tallon from Santry wished Gary Stewart the very best of luck in his new role and thanked him on behalf of the Santry and the community for everything he has done for Volleyball Ireland.

The President/Chair then moved to close the meeting. With this she thanked all present for their input and contribution to a very long but very fruitful day.

CNC thanked all the staff for their continued hard work and dedication. In particular highlighting the new staff members (Erica and Melissa) and welcoming them to the team and wishing every success in their roles.

CNC thanked the Commissions and Volunteers especially the incredible job done with the Euros which saw a huge number of volunteers helping us with this. All year round we have the usual suspects working very hard to keep this ship afloat, dedicating their time and energy free of charge for the love of the sport. Thanks to the RMC, NLMC, E&T, HPC, HR & Remuneration, ARC and the Board.

CNC paid tribute to Lochlann Walsh who has completed his tenure with VI today. She noted that:

Today, we see the end of Lochlann Walsh's Term with us. Lochlann joined the Board soon after I became President in 2021. He has played a crucial role in Volleyball Ireland's development and has brought enthusiasm and experience to the Board from Triathlon Ireland that we did not have before. This really helped us to believe in ourselves and push to achieve greater things. He did not just attend Board meetings; he contributed and was actively trying to help Volleyball with our commercial strategy and even attended a few events.

Lochlann is a huge advocate for Volleyball Ireland. He is not here today but has wished us well and his parting words reiterating his belief in our future success and how much he enjoyed being on our Board. I would like on behalf of the Board and Volleyball Ireland membership to thank Lochlann for his time with us and to wish him the very best of luck in his continued sport leadership journey as President of the OFI.

Finally, CNC noted that fond words of farewell for Gary Stewart were already shared at the Annual Awards night but that it was fitting that today we formally thank Gary for the outstanding job that he has done for us and the Board. CNC told GS that all of Volleyball Ireland wish him the very best of luck in his new role and please asked that he is not a stranger and reminded GS that he would be missed.

The meeting was then closed at 16: 55.

Appendix 1

Attendance List		
Club	Attendee 1	Attendee 2
Aer Lingus VC	Gerry White	
Kildare VC	Rocelo Bandoniu	Bherdelle Mae Conol
Galway VC	Maya Vybornybli	
Net Force VC	Amayo Cote	Maria Jimenez
Munster Thunder	TJ Sweeney	
UCD	Patricia Somers	
Dalkey Devils	Sebastian Skomra	Breda Eardey
Impact Macroom	Magdalena Smolen	Daria Byrdziak
Longford Smashers VC	Dorota Zydek	Inga Gaismina
Carrick Crows	Shammah Garrido	
Guardians	Radha Nadud	
Balbriggan	Dorota Pykosz	David Dalton
Tallaght Rockets	Rafal Kesik	Janis Aleksans
Ballymun Patriots	Grainne Culliton	Jennifer Fitzgerald
Newbridge VC	Martin O'Connor	
Spartans VC	Benny O'Regan	
Santry	Denise Tallon	Heloise Montigny

Other Attendees	
Gary Stewart (GS)	VLV CEO
Clodagh Nic Canna (CNC)	President/Chair
Jordan Donnelly (JD)	Board
Gavin Dredge (GD)	Board
Regina Halpin (RH)	Vice President
Elisabeth Rae (ER)	Board
Simon Dyke (SD)	VLV Staff
Graham Bell (GB)	VLV Staff
Melissa Cupples (MC)	VLV Staff
Erica Fatini (EF)	VLV Staff
Kevin Donnelly (KD)	National League Management Committee (NLMC)
Jeff King (JK)	High Performance Commission (HPC)