Cambridgeshire Volleyball Association (CVA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2026

Date & Time: Thursday, 15 October 2026, 20:00 – 22:20

Venue: Queen Edith's Pub, Cambridge and Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Hamid Sanami (HS, St. Philips VC, CVA Chair), Gabriele Corliano (GC, Rhinos VC/CVC, CVA Treasurer), Jon Clarke (JC, Independent, CVA Fixture Secretary), Andres Suarez (AS, CVC, CVA Vice-Chair), Erika Lazar (EL, Bury St Edmunds VC), Frances Balaam (FB, CVC), Mark Balaam (MB, CVC), Max Noka (MN, CVC), Marian Fernandez (MF, CVC), Juan Felipe Mosquera (JM, CVC), Andrew Nightingale (AN, CVC), Kostas Kikiras (KK, CVC), Dominik Marcinak (DM, Ipswich Ravens), Paul Day (PD, Newmarket VC), Sam King (SK, Newmarket VC), Veronica Collins (VC, Rhinos VC), Mitesh Patel (MP, St Philips VC),

Apologies: Stowmarket VC

Agenda & Procedural Order

An original agenda was circulated to member clubs on 12 October 2026 (Appendix A). This included consideration of the proposed constitution and election of committee officers.

On 15 October 2026, a revised agenda (Appendix B) was presented at the AGM, proposing that consideration of the constitution and election of officers be deferred to a future Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

During Item 1, following discussion of the revised agenda, a motion from the floor was carried by majority vote to reinstate the Election of Committee Officers into the AGM business prior to Any Other Business (AOB). The minutes below reflect the actual order of business conducted by the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introduction

HS welcomed those present and thanked the representatives of member clubs for attending the Annual General Meeting.

HS reflected on the preceding volleyball season, highlighting the organisation and participation levels of competitions managed or supported by the Cambridgeshire Volleyball Association (CVA). Particular reference was made to the most recent Walton Shield competition. HS expressed disappointment that some clubs had not participated, while acknowledging that the event had been advertised at relatively short notice, which likely contributed to the lower attendance.

It was agreed that, for future editions of the Walton Shield, several potential dates should be circulated to clubs early in the season, with a final date selected following consideration of club availability.

Action: Vice-Chair to arrange an early consultation with member clubs regarding possible dates for the next Walton Shield competition.

Motion Concerning the Election of Officers

MN raised a query regarding the removal of committee elections from the revised AGM agenda. HS explained that the elections had initially been proposed for deferral until after the approval of the Association's proposed new constitution at a future EGM.

A discussion followed lasting approximately 40 minutes, during which members expressed differing views. MP emphasised the importance of due process, while MN, FB, and MB noted that the elections were separate from the constitutional changes. JC initially raised the point that club attendance at the AGM was intended for voting and questioned who would proceed with urgent operational actions, including organising league fixtures, if elections were deferred. These points were echoed during the discussion, and the question regarding fixtures ultimately led to a formal motion.

AS proposed a motion to reinstate the election of officers as an item of business at the current AGM.

Resolution: The motion was carried by majority vote, and the election of committee officers was reinstated to the agenda to be held prior to Any Other Business (AOB).

2. Apologies for Absence

GC noted that apologies had been received from the Stowmarket VC representative only.

3. Approval of the previous AGM minutes

GC presented the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. Those present reviewed the minutes and approved them as an accurate record of the meeting.

Resolution: The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

4. Matters arising from Minutes

4.1 Walton Shield

GC proposed that a designated committee officer should take responsibility for organising and coordinating the Walton Shield competition. It was suggested that this responsibility be assigned to the Vice-Chair to provide a clear point of accountability for planning, communication with clubs, and event delivery.

Resolution: The membership unanimously approved the motion for the Vice-Chair to assume responsibility for coordinating the Walton Shield.

5. Officers' reports

5.1 Chair's report

HS provided an informal review of the Association's activities during the previous season during his opening remarks. No separate formal Chair's report was presented.

5.2 Treasurer's report and annual accounts

GC presented the financial report and accounts for the 2025-26 season, outlining the CVA's income, expenditure, current financial position, and anticipated financial requirements for the forthcoming season.

Resolution: The Treasurer's report and accounts for the 2025-26 season were formally approved.

5.3 Fixture Secretary's report

JC presented the report concerning the organisation and administration of league fixtures during the previous season.

Resolution: The Fixture Secretary's report was approved.

6. League arrangements for the 2026–27 season

6.1 Application by Ipswich to join the CVA Men's League

JC led the motion regarding the acceptance of Ipswich Ravens into the CVA Men's League. Discussion focused primarily on the geographical implications and the additional travel required for existing member clubs. To address these concerns, it was proposed that Ipswich Ravens' home matches be played at a suitable neutral venue in either Bury St Edmunds or Stowupland High School, rather than requiring clubs to travel to Ipswich.

Resolution: The membership approved by majority vote the admission of Ipswich Ravens to the CVA Men's League, subject to confirmation of a suitable match venue in either Bury St Edmunds or Stowupland.

During this discussion, PD advised that it might be necessary for some of Newmarket VC's home fixtures to be played in Chatteris. EL also advised that refurbishment work at the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre was not expected to be completed before December 2026, which may temporarily affect venue availability.

Action: JC to confirm venue arrangements for Ipswich Ravens before finalising the fixture schedule.

6.2 Men's League competition format

Following the decision to admit Ipswich Ravens, the meeting considered two format proposals previously circulated by the CVA Committee:

- **Option 1 (Single initial pool followed by seeded pools):** All teams compete in one initial pool using a round-robin format. Teams are then allocated into two seeded pools for the second phase based on their initial results.
- **Option 2 (Two initial random pools followed by seeded pools):** Teams are split randomly into two initial pools. Following the first phase, teams are reorganised into two seeded pools for the second phase based on their results.

Resolution: The majority voted in favour of Option 1 as the format for the 2026-27 Men's League.

Action: JC to implement Option 1 within the Men's League fixture schedule.

7. Junior volleyball development

HS expressed the CVA's desire to increase opportunities for junior volleyball participation and competition across member clubs. The meeting discussed the potential for more regular junior matches and tournaments to encourage participation and provide young players with additional competitive experience.

It was proposed that individual clubs could organise standalone junior tournaments and invite neighbouring clubs to participate, rather than relying solely on central organisation by the CVA. This approach was discussed as an effective means of enabling clubs to take the initiative and increase the overall volume of junior events.

Resolution: Further discussion and research into junior competition development will be undertaken before any formal proposals are introduced.

Action: Junior Development Officer, to explore opportunities for junior competition development and bring recommendations back to the committee.

8. Election of committee officers

Following the earlier resolution to reinstate the election of officers to the AGM agenda, the meeting proceeded with votes for the CVA Committee positions for the 2026-27 season.

The positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair were considered first. The position of Chair was contested, with FB and HS both standing for election. Following a vote, FB was elected as Chair. The AGM then elected the Fixture Secretary, Junior Development Officer, and Vice-Chair. All positions other than Chair were elected unopposed.

The introduction of a Welfare Officer position was also discussed. Members supported the principle of introducing a Welfare Officer role, but agreed not to implement it immediately and instead include it within the committee structure under the proposed constitutional review. No appointment was made at this AGM.

Elected Officers (2026-27 Season)

- **Chair:** Frances Balaam (FB, CVC)
- **Treasurer:** Gabriele Corliano (GC, Rhinos VC/ CVC)
- **Secretary:** Mitesh Patel (MP, St. Philips VC)
- **Fixture Secretary:** Jon Clarke (JC, Independent)
- **Junior Development Officer:** Hamid Sanami (HS, St. Philips VC)
- **Vice-Chair:** Andres Suarez (AS, CVC)

Resolution: The officers listed above were formally elected to serve on the CVA Committee for the 2026-27 season. The Welfare Officer position will remain vacant pending finalisation of the new constitution at the upcoming EGM.

9. Proposed new constitution and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

HS led the motion regarding the next steps for the CVA's proposed new constitution. It was agreed by the majority that the newly elected committee will take responsibility for preparing and finalising a revised draft constitution for consideration by member clubs.

Once the draft is finalised, the committee will arrange an Extraordinary General Meeting at which the proposed constitution will be presented to the membership for formal approval.

Resolution: Responsibility for progressing the proposed new constitution was formally assigned to the newly elected committee, with final consideration and adoption deferred to a future EGM.

Actions (All New CVA Committee Members):

1. Prepare and finalise the proposed draft of the new constitution.
2. Circulate the draft to member clubs with an adequate notice period prior to proposing an EGM date.
3. Arrange, schedule, and communicate the formal date of the EGM to all member clubs.

10. Any other competent business (AOB)

No additional operational matters were formally raised or recorded under Any Other Business, noting that the constitutional discussion following the elections was captured under Section 9.

11. Date of next meeting and closure

A specific date for the next meeting was not set. The newly elected committee will determine a suitable date for the EGM and provide adequate formal notice to all member clubs once the draft constitution is ready for review.

With no further business recorded, the meeting concluded at 22:20.

Approved by: Mrs Frances Balaam

CVA Committee position: Chairperson

Date: 19 Nov 2026

Appendix A - Original AGM Agenda (circulated 12 October 2026)

1. Welcome and opening remarks by Chair
2. Apologies for Absence by Chair
3. Determine Quorum by Chair
4. Approval of Minutes from previous AGM by Chair
5. Matters arising from the Minutes by Chair
6. Chairman's Annual Report
7. Treasurer's Financial Report & Accounts Approval
8. Fixture Secretary Report
9. Presentation and Adoption of the New Club Constitution by Chair
    - **Key Actions**
        - Presentation of the renewed club constitution template to the membership.
        - Review of key updates, structural changes, or compliance updates made within the new draft.
        - Member discussion, followed by a formal voting resolution to adopt and implement the new club constitution.
10. Submitted Motions and Resolutions led by Chair
    - Accepting Ipswich to Men's League
        - If accepted - Vote on Option 1 or Option 2 League setup
        - If not accepted - Confirm setup up based on last year's system
11. My proposed comments email sent to all clubs in regard to invitation to league entry (30th September 2026) by Chair
12. Election of Committee Officers and Office Bearers by Chair
13. Any other competent business (AOB) - open to floor, chaired and time limited per topic, if over time, to defer to be discussed separately
14. Date of Next meeting and Close by Chair

Appendix B - Revised AGM Agenda (circulated on the evening of 15 October 2026)

Dear Members,

As we prepare for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) **later today**, the committee wants to provide an important update regarding the schedule.

While work on updating our constitution is underway, the committee requires additional time to thoroughly review the draft and ensure that you, our member clubs, have a fair window to review it and submit feedback.

To ensure full transparency and avoid rushing this process, **the finalisation of the new constitution will be postponed to a later date.** Because our official officer elections are tied to the structure of the new constitution, the election of incoming CVA officers will also be deferred. The current committee will remain in office in an interim capacity until an **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)** can be organised to formally vote on these items.

Today's AGM will instead focus entirely on clearing last year's business and locking in our upcoming fixtures. The updated agenda for this evening is as follows:

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairperson
2. Apologies for Absence – Chairperson
3. Approval of Minutes from the previous AGM – Chairperson
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes – Chairperson
5. Officer Reports:
    - Chairman's Report
    - Treasurer's Financial Report & Accounts Approval
    - Fixture Secretary's Report
6. Submitted Motions & Resolutions – Led by Chairperson:
    - Motion: Proposal to accept Ipswich into the Men’s League.
    - League Format Vote:
        - If the majority votes FOR Ipswich joining: Membership will vote on Option 1 vs. Option 2 for league layout.
        - If the majority votes AGAINST: The league layout will revert to last year’s setup (all 1st teams play home & away, all 2nd teams play home & away, total of 12 matches per team per season).
7. Junior Competition Proposal
8. Any Other Competent Business (AOB): Open floor, chaired and time-limited per topic. Items running over time will be deferred to a separate discussion.
9. Vacancy for secretory
10. Date of Next Meeting (EGM) & Closing Remarks – Chairperson