



VOLLEYBALL **ENGLAND**



2016 - 2017
Annual Report

Acting President Report – Keith Nicolls

There is no doubt this has been a challenging time for Volleyball England and everyone who works or volunteers for the organisation.

The role of the President and the Board is to provide leadership and direction to the membership and professional staff. In recent times, it became clear to us that Volleyball England needed a new culture; one that could see it working in partnership with members rather than trying to control the sport from the centre.

To make this happen, we have rebuilt and reorganised. That this has been achieved in such a short space of time is testament to the drive and resilience of everyone involved.

In over 50 years as a volleyball player, coach and administrator, I have never seen such determination across the sport to solve problems, to think creatively and to act.

We must acknowledge that Volleyball England lost its way. We lost touch with our members and became remote by centralising much of the decision-making and resources. In my short time as Acting President, I have been determined to resolve those issues and to develop a firm base from which we can build and progress. We have taken action.

Firstly, we have been fortunate to secure professional staff to lead the Hub; people who have the necessary managerial skills but who are also long-term enthusiasts who understand both the grassroots and performance sides of volleyball. That is a powerful force to take us forward.

Secondly, we have restructured so that staff work flexibly rather than in silos. I must thank all the staff who have worked diligently during this period when we regrettably had to reduce our numbers.

Thirdly, the Board has faced up to our challenges and made difficult decisions. They have done it with a commitment that demonstrates their love for the game.

Until now, we have relied almost exclusively on funding from Sport England to run our sport. That funding has now been reduced and must be focused on our “core market” of existing players. Over the next four years, we are expected to generate increased funding from within the game and seek other external funders. This is an enormous challenge that we must accept and tackle urgently.

These challenges are not the sole responsibility of the Board or the Hub staff. They rest with all of us within the game. Learning from the failed centralist policy of the past, we now propose a structure that involves the membership in the decision-making process.

Recent months have seen plenty of meetings - involving the Board, staff, Commission Presidents and other key members - to develop a structure below the Board that is fit to serve our members and grow our sport. As a condition of maintaining funding from Sport England, we will appoint an Independent Chair instead of electing a President. The Board Directors' roles have also been reviewed to meet future needs.

Reflecting all of this, our members will be asked to approve changes to the Articles affecting the governance of our game at our AGM.

We have started to change the culture of Volleyball England. We can no longer just spend money. Our limited funds must be invested in growing and developing all levels and areas of the sport. Volleyball England must be a source of support to the game rather than instructing it in what must be done.

A partnership approach is the key to our future. After all, the sport belongs to you, not the Board or the Hub staff.

As our members, the future of the sport is in your hands.

Interim Chief Executive Report – Janet Inman

Looking back over the past few months, since I returned to the Volleyball family, I must say how proud I am with what has been achieved in such a short time.

The business has been completely reshaped, we have developed a new governance structure, in line with Sport England and UK Sport's Code of Governance, and we have reviewed and introduced a new staffing structure which reflects the new governance requirements. In consultation with key volunteers and using the learning from the “Volleyball Voice”, we successfully developed a new strategic plan which we submitted to Sport England and secured funding for the first 2 years of this 4-year funding cycle. In addition, we carried out a full review of our financial processes and delivered a number of successful domestic and International events.

We know we need to continue to develop the detail of our 2017-21 strategic plan and investigate ways we can make volleyball more sustainable in the long term by understanding our membership and developing an individual offer, products and programmes that respond to their needs and aspirations of our members. We want to develop Volleyball England into a much more sustainable organization that is not dependent on grant funders for its survival.

To do this, we need to securing funding from a wide range of diverse sources and ensure that we develop a brand that will deliver quality projects, programmes and events that partners want to be associated to.

It has certainly been a challenging year but with the support of the Board, staff (both past and present) and the volleyball community, we have been able to clearly define our ambition and develop a plan that Sport England are prepared to continue to fund. The passion, commitment and dedication of our members, clubs, key volunteers and staff has been fantastic.

I look forward to another exciting year and I thank everyone for their continued support.



Core Market

Satellite Clubs

The final year of the satellite club programme was heavily focussed around the sustainability of the existing activity.

- 79 satellite clubs developed
- 3632 young people participated
- Participant target exceeded by 41%
- £125,280 additional funding sourced to support the programme

Due to the changes in strategic direction by Sport England, the investment for the satellite club programme will not continue, however the aspiration is that many of the 79 clubs have been built in a sustainable way to ensure they continue to operate successfully in the future.

Go Spike

The Go Spike programme continued to grow in 2016/17 with many projects demonstrating their sustainability and a real impact on the core market.

Headline figures recorded over the last year, April 2016 – March 2017:

- 226 Go Spike recreational sessions taking place across the country
- 103 Go Spike Big Weekend events – with 524 hours of free come-and-try volleyball
- 9 beach volleyball facilities funded through FIVB Beach Activation Fund investment
- 11,041 adult visitors to funded sites alone, with 2,034 coached hours of beach volleyball
- 80+ new Higher Education Volleyball Officers trained as Go Spike Activators

Clubs see a real benefit from hosting Go Spike sessions and events, with many participants going on to become club members and volunteers.

Beach Volleyball Activation

There continues to be a rising demand for beach volleyball activity, and permanent beach facilities. New permanent beach facilities are due to be opened in 2017/18. 2016 saw the 2nd year of the FIVB Go Spike Beach Activation fund, with beach volleyball facilities receiving investment to increase participation. Key outcomes from Year 2 are as follows:

- 3,117 school children playing beach volleyball for the first time from 30 schools
- 5,850 adult visits to funded facilities
- 1,185 hours of quality beach volleyball coaching delivered across 9 facilities

As the FIVB Beach Activation Programme is now entering its final year, it is vital to ensure the sustainability of this activity. Demand for beach activity continues to grow and as such we must ensure facilities are being maximised to their full potential.

Additional Activity

In 2016, Go Spike attended Latitude Festival for the 3rd year in a row. The success of this partnership enabled volleyball to be enjoyed by festival goers over the four days, and included another successful UVolleyball event with over 700 participants across the event. For 2017, this will be delivered by volunteers from the Suffolk Volleyball Association to strengthen the community link.

Our embedded partnerships and relationships with the National Trust and the Forestry Commission continue to grow, with Go Spike Outdoor Net Systems and Go Spike balls forming part of their sport and recreation offer at many of these properties.

Following the success of the London Charities Workplace League in 2015, a second league was established in Nottingham with volunteers from the Nottinghamshire Volleyball Association, in partnership with Sport Nottinghamshire. Our partnerships with County Sports Partnership and Regional and Local Volleyball Associations will continue to be crucial to our plans moving forward.

HEVO/Student Volleyball

The HEVO Programme continues to grow and is often highlighted as one of the best in sector when compared with other university student officer programmes. This year we have again seen substantial growth, exceeding our total 2013-2017 target with 70 universities engaged in the HEVO Programme. Including Senior HEVO's, this means that throughout 2016-17 there were 93 HEVO's promoting volleyball within Higher Education establishments.

HEVO Stats

- Total number of students engaged – 5,642
- 54% Female, 46% male gender split amongst participants
- Almost 1200 regular participants attending 70% of sessions.
- 103 weekly recreational sessions ran through the HEVO programme.

This year we have also focused on gaining insight from the students attending HEVO sessions. Through research of 970 students we can demonstrate the impact of the HEVO programme on the core market. The recruitment element of the programme is highlighted through 28% of HEVO participants having never played volleyball before university. Furthermore 38% of HEVO participants have transitioned into community clubs and 35% into BUCS teams.

Coaching & Officiating

Coaching and Officiating Conferences

The first weekend of September 2016 saw the National Volleyball Centre host the Referee and Coaching Conferences. Over 60 officials heard International Referee, Nick Heckford's views on the psychological aspects of the game and how to manage unusual situations. Steve Mathews provided insight into the application of statistic to support team development and performance.

Darren Lewis engaged 51 coaches with his ideas on developing setters. This was followed by Rachel Laybourne and Carol Gordon leading a session with the coaches learning about keeping the session relevant to the game, engaging and challenging players and developing their cognitive skills.

Young Coaches/Officials Development Program

31 young players, coaches and officials represented volleyball at the 4-day residential Youth Sport Trust National Talent Camp in December. A £3,300 grant from YST funded the follow up development program. For young officials, this included a Grade 4 refereeing course and two days at the Challenge Series. For coaches, it funded days with National Squads, a Challenge Series match and a practical coaching session.

Coach Development Programmes

26 national team and academy coaches completed the final year of the Volleyball England Talent Coach Development programme, Enhance. Kirsty Starmer, Amada Glover and Rachel Hutt successfully completed the Women into High Performance programme run by sports coach UK and Dave Goodchild graduated from the prestigious UK Sport, Aspire Talent Coach Development Programme.

Coaching & Officiating

During 2016/17 55 education and training courses were delivered covering a range of topics from entry level young leadership and officiating awards to the Volleyball England Level 3 qualification.

Volleyball England Registered Coaches	
Award	Number
Activator	2
UKCC Level 1	341
UKCC Level 2	268
Volleyball England Level 3	52

There were 663 registered volleyball coaches by the end of 2016/17 season.

Volleyball England Registers Volleyball and Beach Volleyball Officials		
Grade	Number of Volleyball Referees	Number of Beach Volleyball Referees
Grade 1	21	6
Grade 2	41	8
Grade 3N	53	4
Grade 3R	105	5
Grade 4	414	10
International	5	1
National	16	
Overseas	2	1

Volleyball England Registered Sitting Volleyball Officials	
Grade	Number of Sitting Volleyball Referees
Grade A	5
Grade B	15
Grade C	7
International	4

657 Officials registered with the organisation

Talent

Volleyball Futures

In a bid to develop more robust methods of identifying talent and talent potential across all disciplines of volleyball, Volleyball Futures and Sitting Volleyball Futures were launched in 2016. With the overall aim of finding the next generation of England Talent Pathway participants, a bespoke set of tests were developed with research support from Sheffield Hallam University and University of Essex. These tests and parameters were then delivered in partnership with local clubs and coaches. Over 1250 young people were tested in 2016/17.

Age Group Volleyball Programme

Ninety-six junior and cadet athletes selected from fifty-seven volleyball clubs across England engaged in monthly training camps at the National Volleyball Centre. The introduction of athletes from the Volleyball Futures programme gave the opportunity for fast tracked development and saw identified athletes join training sessions during 2016/17. Many athletes selected into the cadet and junior squads are also students of the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE). A career development programme designed to support athletes with the potential to reach the professional level. Fifty-one volleyball athletes based at the Volleyball England Junior Academies enrolled on the AASE in 2016/17.

Age Group Beach Volleyball Programme

England men's and women's teams competed regularly in CEV Under 22, 20, 18 events. NEVZA provided significant success for England with Javier and Joaquin Bello winning the first ever age group Under 17 NEVZA gold medal. In the Under 19 NEVZA event in Sweden Tom Allen and Ryan Poole finished third.

Senior Volleyball Programme

In Round 1 of the CEV Europe Championships the senior men beat Hungary and lost 3 – 1 to both to Norway and Israel.

In September in Boras, Sweden they won the Knallencupen.

The senior women took part in the Global Challenge in Croatia competing against teams from the United States and China finishing in fifth place.

Volleyball has 35 players on the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS). Funded by Sport England, this is a partnership between talented athletes, education institutions and Volleyball England. TASS athletes study at universities in the Volleyball England Senior Academy network; Bournemouth University, Northumbria University, Sheffield Hallam University, University of East of London and the University of Essex.

Senior Beach Volleyball Programme

Chris Gregory and Jake Sheaf secured Sport England funding to prepare for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in April 2018. They continue to compete in FIVB and CEV Tour events, as well as NEVZA competitions winning their final 2016 competition in Gothenburg, Sweden. Vicky Palmer and Jess Grimson, the top women's pair had their best result of the season with fourth place at NEVZA in Bournemouth.

Competitions & Events

National Cup Finals 2017

The National Cup Competitions were again a great showcase for the sport, with both senior and junior athletes competing over a weekend which featured the season's National Cup & Shield and U16 & U18 competitions. IBB Polonia London and Team Northumbria won the men's and women's National Cups respectively. In the Shield Finals, Black Country men were triumphant over London Aces while Birmingham Volleyball Club 2 took home the Women's Shield by beating Ashcombe Dorking 1.

A close fought final in the u16 girls saw the Beach Academy take the title over Boswell Blaze 3-1. There was also success for EBC Greenhouse A as their U16 Boys' team beat New Forest 3-2. The U18 Girls' Final was won by the Academy of Beach Sport who defeated Tameside in a 5-set thriller. The U18 boy's final was a resounding win for Boswells Blaze as they powered to a 3-0 victory over EBC Greenhouse.



Competitions & Events

Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix and Cup Finals 2017

The final of the Sitting Grand Prix was a hard-fought affair between Sheffield and East London Lynx, with Lynx eventually sealing the title 3-1. East London Lynx went on to do the double, claiming the Cup with a powerful 3-0 victory against South Hants. The Sitting Volleyball Shield was won by last year's cup runners up Lincoln Imps who beat Help4Heros Phoenix A 3-0.

Volleyball England Beach Tour 2016

The Volleyball England Beach Tour was delivered in partnership with SideOut and comprised of five events in 2016. Over 240 players took part in the tour which also featured a junior section. Tour locations were Skegness, Great Yarmouth, Weston-Super-Mare, Weymouth and Margate. The women's champions were Jess Grimson and Vicky Palmer and the men's champions were Jake Sheaf and Chris Gregory.

Super 8 Final Playoffs 2017

After another exciting regular season, IBB Polonia London finished top in the men's division while Team Northumbria finished in top spot in the women's divisions. The Finals Weekend saw IBB Polonia Men take on Sheffield Hallam and Team Northumbria women take on local rivals Team Durham. A bumper crowd turned out to cheer the teams on which saw IBB Polonia London and Team Durham prevail as winners on both legs of their respective finals.

Under 15 National Championships 2017

The u15 boys' competition was dominated by Boswell Blaze in the 'A' group beating both EBC Greenhouse and Haughton in straight sets. The 'B' group was won by Richmond VB after convincing wins over Wessex and Tettenhall Tigers. In the girls' 'A' competition Tameside cruised to victory over Ashfield Vipers and Volleyball Taunton and in the 'B' competitions Richmond VB took straight-set wins over Urmston Grammar and Boswells A.

Under 18 Grand Prix 2017

A series of events took place at the National Volleyball Centre, with the finals taking place alongside the Super 8s Finals Weekend. Boswells Blaze won the men's competition beating Richmond VB in a hard-fought contest. Academy of Beach Sports took a convincing win over Richmond VB in the women's final.

Inter Regional Championships 2016

One of the busiest events of the year, the Inter Regionals Championships see competition across four age grades. The u14 girls 'A' competition was won by the North West after a hard fought final against London. The 'B' competition won by the West Midlands who saw off the North West in a close 2-1 win. The u16 Girl's contest was won by the North West as they took a 2-1 win over East. In the boy's categories, the u15 competition was won by East who beat London 2-1 in the final. In the u17 competition London prevailed as winners of the league format with South West coming in second and East in third.

Northern European Volleyball Zonal Association (NEVZA) Under 19 Championships 2016

The National Volleyball Centre hosted the NEVZA U19 Championships featuring six countries - England, Denmark, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Norway, and Sweden. England girls finished the competition in fifth position. England boys fared a little better, narrowly missing out on a medal when

they lost to Norway in the bronze medal match. Denmark took home the gold in both competitions.

Full results can be found [here](#).

CEV Challenge Cup 2016-17

London club, IBB Polonia London made history by making it to the last 16 in the CEV Challenge Cup. With matches played in Hungary, Poland, Holland, and England, IBB Polonia London toured Europe as they first beat Hungary's Fino Kaposvar SE in a golden set victory at the home of IBB Polonia London's partner club, former CEV Champions League winners PGE Skra Belchatow.

The victory set up a last 16 match against Holland's Draisma Dynamo Apeldoorn. Having lost the first leg, IBB Polonia London welcomed their opponents to the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre with Volleyball England providing significant event support. A capacity crowd cheered on the hosts and despite the match ending with a 3-2 won IBB Polonia London, but it wasn't enough across the two legs to see them through to the next round.

Communications

Since the start of the year, Volleyball England have been committed to pursuing a new communications strategy, focused on producing more engaging content as part of the effort to improve relationships with our core market. The intention has been to deliver something more akin to a consumer magazine, containing stories which may appeal to a broad cross-section of our volleyball community.

The initial results have been encouraging. Traffic on the news section of our website is up by 28%, while time spent reading articles is up by 36%. A more diverse content offering, featuring club profiles, topical debates, NVL previews and our Women in Volleyball series, has seen engagement rates on Twitter and Facebook steadily climbing. In addition, we registered huge activity spikes because of initiatives like our Logo Wars competition and live text reporting from the end-of-season league and cup finals. Our monthly Time Out newsletter is also now well established and boasts open rates and click-through rates in excess of the industry average.

Other successes this year includes the creation of groups of volunteer writers and photographers who continue to provide their assistance to developing our content programme. It has also been hugely encouraging to see content being republished elsewhere, as a result of it being sent to all club secretaries and regional chairs on a monthly basis.

We are now committed to maintaining a pipeline of high quality content, increasing the size of our audience and further reducing the amount of extraneous communication which can frustrate our members. In a sport awash with great stories, this more editorially-focused approach represents a wonderful opportunity for all clubs and regions to be involved with raising the profile of volleyball.

Safeguarding & Equality

Safeguarding

Volleyball England is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all young people to participate in volleyball. We all have a responsibility to safeguarding the welfare of young people and protect them from poor practice, abuse and bullying.

Volleyball England continue to ensure that the measures are taken across the club network to adhere to these standards.

Safeguarding highlights:

- Volleyball England has again been awarded a green rating for safeguarding by the CPSU of the NSPCC, highlighting us as a model of best practice. Since the Duty of Care Act was released and historic safeguarding cases have been discovered this has become a much more robust assessment with few governing bodies receiving the green rating
- 118 Club Welfare Officers have been trained through Volleyball England administered Time to Listen courses.
- Since the establishment of the new online DBS process in August 2016 there have been 149 checks complete. This has significantly demonstrated a 129% increase on the previous year.

Equality and Diversity

Volleyball England is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all. We continue to make good progress in this field.

- As a volleyball community, we are aware of how open and accessible our sport is – In the 2016/17 season, 50% of players in the National Volleyball League were female;
- Thirty-two percent of registered coaches this season were female, and 40% of referees were female – This is above Sports Coach UK's national averages for National Governing Bodies
- To coincide with the relaunch of This Girl Can, Volleyball England provided regular website features profiling women and girls within the volleyball community
- Volleyball England continues to support our BME (Black & Minority Ethnic Groups) clubs, coaches, referees and volunteers, by accessing external funding to support and sustain volleyball activity within these minority communities

Last year, Volleyball became the first National Governing Body to sign up to the LGBT+* #TeamPride charter, committing to creating and promoting an inclusive environment both on and off the field of play. As a continuation of this commitment, we partnered with Stonewall UK at this year's HEVO Conference.

Volleyball England's commitment to equal opportunities extends to all areas of the business. When recruiting, Equal Opportunities Form are collected and kept on record from all candidates, to ensure fairness and consistency. Furthermore, as part of our commitment to those with a disability, Volleyball England is part of the "Two Ticks" scheme, which guarantees those with a disability an interview (should they opt in) if they meet all essential criteria within the job description.

Regional Association Reports

Affiliated Clubs and Registered Coaches & Officials

	North East	North West	West Midlands	East Midlands	Yorkshire	East	London	South East	South West
Clubs	20	47	42	34	29	51	67	84	75
Coaches	33	49	80	62	42	78	76	137	115
Referees	36	39	87	63	46	54	96	120	124

North East Volleyball Association

Season 16/17 proved a mixed one for our NVL teams with major success going to Team Durham women winning Super 8's and men gaining promotion to Division 1. Team Northumbria women won the NVL cup. The region loses two national volleyball league teams for next season but gains two in the form of Haughton men and Team Sunderland ladies 2nds.

- All our universities have performed powerfully in BUCS competitions this season including Beach Championships in Bournemouth.
- A good season for the regions junior men saw Haughton U15 and Newburn U18's reach the last eight of the national competitions. This was then eclipsed by their relative performances at the Inter Regional championships as the U15 and U17 boys both finished in highly creditable equal third places.
- Central venue junior leagues have run in the region this year at North Tyneside, Newcastle, Darlington, Stockton and Middlesbrough. Some junior competition has taken place around Newcastle with the fun Newburn grass tournament happening in late June weather permitting.
- At local league level two divisions with fourteen teams in Tees Valley were both won by the Acklam club who will seek pastures new next season by competing in the Northern Counties league. This year's Northern Counties league has seen a six team men's first division won narrowly by Concordia over Newburn. The second division and ladies league were both dominated by Newburn panthers however as neither team lost a set in their respective five and seven team leagues. The area is boosted by the knowledge that at least 4 new teams will swell the ranks next season.
- At least four competitions have run this last year in the form of the Tynemouth beach volleyball weekend, due to stage its 25th year in July, the White Rose grass competition and two new events in the form of the South Shields beach competition held in blistering heat and a regional indoor day, the Tees Valley Invitational.

The region continues to be indebted to its small band of volunteers who keep all these competitions ticking over.

North West Volleyball Association

The new NWVA committee has committed itself to make the Association more relevant to its members, to improve its presence within the area leagues and to increase its profile within Volleyball England.

The NWVA has developed a new three-year strategy document and has publicised this to its members. The NWVA has surveyed members, both online and at North West grass tournaments, to publicise and gain feedback on the strategy.

The NWVA continues to back its junior girls' development programme through the NW U14 girls Grand Prix competition and the NW girls' talent development programme. Both programmes have fed into a successful Volleyball England Inter Regionals campaign - being U16 girls and U14A girls' regional champions and U14B girls' runners-up. The NWVA has now looked to provide a similar pathway for junior boys, having received funding for a boys U14 programme.

The NWVA has also supported this summer's NW regional grass tournaments, with over 40 teams competing at the Salford and Liverpool events, where the NWVA talked to members to publicise its strategy document and engage with the volleyball community. The NWVA will also hold an inter-region club competition in September, bringing together the best teams from the within the region.

78 teams are currently entered in the 4 North West County / Area Leagues 2016/17. The leagues were:

- Greater Manchester (two men's, two women's and one mixed division);
- Merseyside (two men's and two women's divisions);
- Lancashire (one mixed division) & Preston & District (one mixed division)

NWVA would also like to pass on their congratulations to Martin Mierzwa (Head Coach of Liverpool Volleyball Club), who won the title of "2016 Liverpool Sports Coach of the Year" and then progressed to be elected "Greater Merseyside Coach of the Year".

West Midlands Volleyball Association

West Midlands competitions: 20 clubs with a total of 766 players registered (422 men and 344 women) Men's regional league - three divisions: 25 teams Women's regional league -two divisions: 19 teams Knockout Cup and Plate Competitions for men (18 teams entered) and women (14 teams entered) The Executive Committee meets on a regular basis and continues to attract volunteers with a new treasurer appointed at the AGM to fill the previously vacant post.

WMVA has hosted a range of successful events:

- Juvoto and Juvolle junior leagues
- Junior Cup competition
- Senior Cup Finals Day
- 37th Sandwell Volleyball Tournament
- A full complement of teams entered in Inter Regional Championships with u14 girls winning their category.

Referees' Forum and Club Forums: These forums continue excellent work supporting club development and volleyball progression in the area.

East Midlands Volleyball Association

At this time, EMVA would normally be reporting on a year that has been 'business as usual'. However, this could not be further from the truth. The activities of the region have expanded considerably, culminating in a range of beach events for juniors, University students and adult club players:

- Junior beach regular training & competition at Loughborough University and Kettering Leisure Village;
- University student beach regular training and competition at Loughborough University in preparation for the BUCS Beach event at Sandbanks, in which the region performed extremely well in their respective competitions;
- 'World Nations' Beach Tournament at Loughborough University
- Third year running for the Tuesday night Adult Grand Prix series at Loughborough University; and Sunday night at Kettering Leisure Village

To support this activity, we have been successful in acquiring grants from Volleyball England (FIVB) to enable us to run the beach activity and sponsorship from Samworth Brothers to support junior development in Leicestershire. We continue to support the development of our Junior Grand Prix programme across the counties in the hope that we will have full representation at EM Grand prix events in the future.

Other highlights include:-

- the introduction of an annual calendar of meetings and all events to help us promote more widely and ensure more consistent attendance at ordinary and general meetings;
- the initiation of sub-group meetings to discuss more specific issues, for example workforce development, competitions review, BUCS University Coaches development, etc.;
- a needs-led approach to workforce development across the counties, culminating in a number of Level 1 and 2 courses;
- Support for events around the counties, such as the Kettering by the Sea competition;
- no ordinary meetings have been cancelled this year.

East Volleyball Association

Following the September 2016 Volleyball Voice, a working group was set-up to re-establish the Eastern Volleyball Association. Since then, officers have successfully been appointed, a constitution has been agreed, an AGM has been held and a representative has attended the Regional Commission meeting. Work is still progressing on website options.

Local leagues have continued to operate throughout the region. Trials were held for the juniors and teams were entered into each category of the 2017 Inter Regionals.

Yorkshire Volleyball Association

The region was well represented in the NVL. Sheffield Hallam men were runners-up in both the Super 8 Play Offs and National Cup. Three additional women's team have entered Division 3 next season

Yorkshire Leagues tables are available at <http://yorkshire.heyva.org.uk/>. Eleven men's and women's teams took part across all four areas. HEYVA is the only area currently running its own league, with 9 teams, some from the same clubs that also play in the Yorkshire Leagues.

The biggest success was the re-starting of a junior programme, which played against teams from NW and NW regions and will play in the Inter-Regionals 2018.



London Volleyball Association

A good preseason meeting enabled a newly strengthened League Sub-Committee to take charge of the League and we were set for the start of games.

London League

Full details including tables and results of the London League, including the junior grand prix events are available at <http://www.londonvolleyball.org.uk/>

National League

IBB Polonia retained their League and Cup Double on the Men's Competitions. London Docklands prevailed against Richmond VB in the playoff between the Super 8 Men and Men's Division 1. London Aces won Men's Division 2 South and promotion to Men's 1 and London Baks won Men's 3 SE.

In the Super 8 Women's Division, Polonia Sideout and London Orcas finished third and fourth, with Orcas runners-up in the Cup competition. London Inter Women won Division 3 SE at the first attempt.

In the National Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix, East London Lynx retained their national title in a closely fought final against Sheffield.

Spectator Events

IBB Polonia showed that the lesson from the Legacy Challenge cup had been learnt when they entered the CEV European Challenge Cup. Playing their 'home' leg of the first round in Poland, they surprised many by winning through. Crystal Palace played host to the second round and with strong marketing, IBB Polonia amazed everyone by filling the Arena with 1,200 paying spectators.

Activity

Following a call to action in December 2016, LVA is pleased to say that some great development ideas have come forward, some that need more consultation and preparation and others where the driving personality has taken them forward. We have new facilities, new courses and new competitions.

Greenhouse Sports have been in contact with us looking to add to Ernest Bevin College, and Central Foundation school volleyball. Their future home in Marylebone will also add a Sitting Volleyball venue to our facilities.

South East Volleyball Association

County Leagues

County leagues in Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire continue to provide quality competitions for clubs throughout the region. Teams from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire are also able to join the Berkshire League for their competitive matches. There were 83 Volleyball England registered clubs in the South East for the season 2016-17. The SEVA tournament, held in May each year brings together the top teams from all the regional leagues to play in a Regional final tournament. The winning teams this year were Brighton Wolves [Men's -Sussex] and Guildford Mistral [Women's-Surrey].

For a full listing of league and competition results please visit <http://www.southeastvolleyball.co.uk/>

Sitting Volleyball

There are Sitting Volleyball clubs in Kent, Hampshire and Surrey and Ashcombe VC hosted the first Grand Prix event in 2016 at The Ashcombe Volleyball Centre, Dorking. Teams from the South East are continuing to play in the Grand Prix tournaments held throughout the year.

Recreational and Beach Volleyball

Outdoor sessions are popular over the South East during the summer, with many clubs running outdoor sessions in parks and on beaches, trying to attract new players to their clubs and using free resources during the off season. Counties and clubs are also running summer leagues in open parks.

Beach volleyball is flourishing in the South East with Yellowwave in Brighton as our flagship venue. Tournaments and training for all levels of play are held throughout the year, yes, even in the depths of winter.

South West Volleyball Association

Local Associations

Bristol, Gloucestershire, Exeter, Cornwall, Dorset, Wiltshire report regularly in writing at Executive Meetings and the AGM. Generally, there is positive news and the meetings allow valuable sharing of good practice. We are pleased to also welcome VE representatives.

Competitions

South West Volleyball Association league and championship results are available at <http://www.swva.org.uk/>

General

SWVA are incredibly grateful to all those who give up so much time to make volleyball in the South West such a success; there is so much excellent work going on.

Award Recipients 2016/17

Annual Awards Winners

Category	Winner
Young Coach of the Year	Joel Matthews
Young Official of the Year	Jake Welch
Young Volunteer of the Year	Sarah Booth
HEVO of the Year	Fred Kufa
Long Service Award	Richard Jump
Referee of the Year	Ludwik Kowalewski
Club of the Year	South Hants Volleyball Club
Volunteer of the Year	Lauren Tucker
Coach of the Year	Jon Chetham

National Volleyball League Winners

Women's Divisions	Winners
Super 8 Women	Team Durham
Women's Division 1	Birmingham Volleyball Club 1
Women's Division 2 North	Sheffield Hallam
Women's Division 2 South	Beach Academy (North Devon)
Women's Division 3 North	Leeds VC
Women's Division 3 Central	Telford Ladies
Women's Division 3 South East	London Inter Women
Women's Division 3 South West	South Hants
Men's Divisions	Winners
Super 8 Men	IBB Polonia London
Men's Division 1	Team Essex Blaze
Men's Division 2 North	Sheffield 2
Men's Division 2 South	London Aces
Men's Division 3 North	University of Nottingham Volleyball Men
Men's Division 3 Central	Cambridge VC and Anglia Ruskin University
Men's Division 3 South East	London Baks
Men's Division 3 South West	Bristol VC 1



Most Valuable Players

Division	MVP	MVP's Club
Super 8 Women	Catherine Dailey	Team Durham
Women's Division 1	Andrea Lei	Oxford Students
Women's Division 2 North (tied)	Sophie Zillman	Coventry & Warwick Riga
Women's Division 2 North (tied)	Jodie Amor	Team Sunderland
Women's Division 2 South	Tracey Cleeve	Portsmouth
Women's Division 3 North	Emily Smith	Ashfield Vipers
Women's Division 3 Central	Kerrie Stevens	Telford Ladies
Women's Division 3 South East (tied)	Charlotte Bontems	Tendring Ladies Academy
Women's Division 3 South East (tied)	Angelika Siergiej	Dulwich Tuskers
Women's Division 3 South West (tied)	Jenny Manarang	Yeovil
Women's Division 3 South West (tied)	Julia Thompson	Team Southampton
Division	MVP	MVP's Club
Super 8 Men	Alex Calpin	Sheffield Hallam
Men's Division 1	Thomas Atkinson	Manchester Marvels 1
Men's Division 2 North	Phil Harrison	DARKSTAR Derbyshire
Men's Division 2 South	Benas Sileika	London Lynx 2
Men's Division 3 North	Leif Harald Fredheim	York VC
Men's Division 3 Central	Pablo Hernandez	Cambridge VC and Anglia Ruskin University
Men's Division 3 South East	Javier Bello	Richmond VB 2
Men's Division 3 South West	Piotr Kubaty	Guildford International

Directors who served during the year were:

KS Nicholls
GCA Allen
JA Williams
DM Lane
WA Roberts
RA Cook
FK Bussey MBE

E Clarke
BW Luszcz
AJP Boughton
S Matthews
J Mutton
B Treadwell
TE Watkinson



VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

THANK YOU to all our superb volunteers and wonderful partners. Our thanks go to all the staff, stakeholders, County Sports Partnerships and sponsors for another year of support, guidance and advice, and of course funding.

Thank you also to the staff and management at the National Volleyball Centre, Kettering. May your support and commitment to Volleyball England continue.

