



VOLLEYBALL
ENGLAND



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ENGLAND
ANNUAL REPORT 2015–16

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 16

FOR SKILLS, FITNESS, TACTICS AND A GREAT SOCIAL
BUZZ...GET INTO VOLLEYBALL!

**Volleyball is the only high
energy, zero body contact,
mixed team sport you can
play indoors and outdoors –
whatever your ability.
GET INTO VOLLEYBALL.**

Please note: The term volleyball used within this document encompasses all three forms of the game, unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

PRESIDENT REPORT - GEOFF ALLEN



It would be easy for me to write a report talking about all the wonderful things that English volleyball has achieved over the last 12 months. Huge strides have been made in many areas and Lisa has covered just some of them in her report. However I think it is important that I give you a balanced report, highlighting some good

things happening in our great game, but also talk about some of the challenges that we face now and will in the near future.

Our Strategy 2024, launched a couple of years ago, is still very relevant and guides much of our long term work. We are already making good progress towards some of our objectives, but need to improve the foundations in order to give ourselves the chance to achieve others over the next few years.

Indoor Performance

Our most visible successes have been at the top end of our sport. With England Women competing in the European Global Challenge in Croatia this month, following on from England Men competing in European Championship qualifiers, and beating Hungary, we are able to field a full set of England teams for the first time for many years. This is important, because young, aspiring players need England teams to attract and keep them in the game. After the Olympics, we lost not only most of our GB women but also many of the next generation, who moved to U.S. universities with few looking like returning, because we couldn't provide the high performance opportunities here.

Our five junior and five senior (university) academies have enabled many of our top younger players to train/play volleyball up to 6 days a week. This is being reflected in a steady improvement in standards at the top end of both our domestic junior and senior competitions, where I believe the standards are, overall, higher than they have ever been.

If we are to continue this improvement however, we need to strengthen and broaden our performance pathways. Currently, we have too few schools and clubs producing our top juniors. This needs to be addressed.

Another contributing factor to rising standards has been the influx of overseas players. This is reflected in some of our Super 8 teams, where approximately 50% of players developed their skills abroad. IBB Polonia Men challenged the recent dominance of Team Northumbria by winning both the League and Cup, and will now compete in the CEV Challenge Cup next season.

Beach Performance

The inclusion of beach volleyball in the Commonwealth Games

has given a massive boost to those athletes competing or aspiring to compete on the international stage. Richard Callicott is owed great thanks for his major part in making this happen.

Here again, standards at the top end of both juniors and seniors are improving, highlighted by Chris Gregory and Jake Sheaf qualifying for and competing at the inaugural European Games in Baku last summer.

Sitting

The challenge for our top sitting coaches is having enough talented players to choose from. The loss of our national team funding after 2012 continues to dog us, but several initiatives are being undertaken to address this. Despite this, England Women played against Canada a few weeks ago and hope to further develop their programme.

National Competitions

We had a record number of NVL teams last season, but would like to attract more junior teams to our competitions. A key target for the coming year is to complete the Competitions Review, so that we can offer a structured, well thought out range of competitions. Whilst we have a great group of staff and volunteers who run our competitions, an extremely sad loss was the recent passing of Paul Bohannon, President of Competitions Commission. He was a hugely respected and popular man who will be greatly missed.

Participation

Putting it plainly, if we're going to attract more Sport England and commercial support for volleyball, and increase the number of talented young athletes into our talent pathways, we need to get more youngsters and adults playing volleyball. That's more schools playing and our clubs having more junior teams.

We need to review all our teaching/coaching resources, even what sort of balls we use to teach beginners. However, we must also remember that many players just want to play to enjoy the game rather than to train in order to become a lot better. This needs a different mindset for the leader of the session, to be an activator not a coach and requires new forms of coach/activator education.

Two initiatives that have had excellent results are the shortening of the Level 4 Referees Award and the appointment of Volleyball Relationship Managers in five sizeable areas of the country. The Referees Award has attracted record numbers of new referees, while the VRM's, by enabling volunteers to increase participation, have exceeded all their targets. As a result, we will be pushing for an expansion of this initiative to other areas of the country.

Our submissions to Sport England for funding over the next 4 years under their new strategy will be made over the next few months. There is due to be less funding available for people already playing sport and more to get the inactive active. We will have to be innovative to meet these challenges and will

PRESIDENT REPORT - GEOFF ALLEN

undoubtedly need up our game in some areas to not only maintain our existing playing numbers, but increase them.

I would like to thank all the staff in the National Office for their great commitment to developing volleyball, to the members of the Volleyball England Board and the Commissions for your time, expertise and effort. My thanks go to Will Roberts, Delvin Lane, and Rob Cook, who are all standing down from the Board, and to Maria Bertelli, who is not seeking re-election as President of Schools and Youth Development Commission.

Finally, to the membership and thousands of volunteers – without you we have no volleyball. I know that it costs you

a lot of time and money to be involved in this great sport that we are passionate about. I will continue to do all I can to not only drive the sport forward, but to ensure we provide a good service for you. You are so important and we will continue to try to listen to what you want and to improve things for you.

TEAM – together everybody achieves more

Geoff Allen

President

RESULTS 2015-16

£590,000
New External Funding into Volleyball

**New
England
Senior
Squads
(Male and
Female)**

**102
Athletes in
Junior Academy
Programme**

**34
TASS Awards
for Young
Athletes**

**20 plus
Coaches Working in
the Talent Pathway
including 3 Coach
Developers**

**32
New
Affiliated
Clubs
(15 over target)**

**91 Young
Athletes
on AASE
Programme**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT - LISA WAINWRIGHT

What a year! I am absolutely blown away by the breadth and depth of our work in this final year of the Volleyball England Whole Sport Plan. Just reading through this annual report will illustrate the vast reach we have as a sport and the impact we have on our local communities and individuals alike. We were bold with our ambitions in Strategy 2024 and I am delighted we have driven these forward ahead of schedule, twin tracking with our current plan.

I will just reflect on few of the key moments from the year, but please do take the time to read how much we have achieved, a joint team of staff and volunteers, working together, with new and old partners to deliver our goals.

From a strategic perspective – one major outcome for us was the inclusion of beach volleyball in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. We have been working on this for more than eight years now and to gain this outcome truly demonstrates what we can achieve with a vision. I know the talent team and players are busy planning ahead in view of this and young players are starting to focus on future Commonwealth Games as a key competition for them. On the international side of things, the workforce and event teams have gone over and above to deliver the courses through the FIVB/CEV World Development Centre, with three courses well attended – Developing Young Players, Outside Hitting and Setting – some key learnings for all and my thanks go as ever to the excellent tutors for supporting us.

As well as the usually packed domestic competition calendar, we have had a full to bursting international competition calendar and indeed hosted the inaugural London Legacy Volleyball Cup. This was a major achievement this year given it was a new concept, working with a new series of partners and professional teams. To all our members and volunteers who supported the event – thank you. We learned much and look forward to hosting again in the near future – this will be the only way we can drive commercial revenues for the sport and a crucial aspect of Strategy 2024....and wasn't it just lovely to see volleyball on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park?

Our Investment Zones are now embedded into our structure and we have witnessed some innovative approaches to volleyball with new collaborations, to name but a few – Forestry Commission, Essex County Cricket, UK Active Coca Cola and the Ministry of Defence! The Volleyball Relationship Managers are a real asset to our sport being supported by the management groups – this has been a recipe for real success and long may this continue.

Student volleyball continues to thrive with the HEVO programme expanding each year, now with over 7,500 students taking part. With our support Keele University, Northumbria University and the University of Essex will all be opening new beach facilities later this year – so they can all then battle for BUCS points in beach volleyball – another first for us! And of course, not to mention the fantastic UVolleyball tournament with two of our Olympic Stars – Nathan French and Peter Bakare – a brilliant event for our HEVOs inspiring and fun for all.

From a membership perspective, our key customers – thank you so much for all your support and also for working so hard to get more people into volleyball – I know it's not easy – but you really are doing a great job! The membership section alone will smash any sport out of the water so to speak when we look at the targets and indeed the increased investment that we have managed to support you with over the last year to help your clubs, leagues, coaches, referees and volunteers grow. The team have done an amazing job and I know how much this really is welcomed by members when I see you at events or get the thank you emails from you.

We have thousands of volunteers supporting us but I was personally delighted to see Tim Godson from York Volleyball Club awarded his Long Service Award along with Keith Nicholls being awarded the Peter Wardale Trophy. This was topped only by the recent announcement that Martine Wright, GB Sitting Volleyballer was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Well done to all and again, thank you for all your support.

From an equality perspective, we were proud to be the only NGB supporting #TeamPride and we continue to support BEDSA. Our community is diverse and long may it stay that way, anyone can play, support or help volleyball.

In summary, this year has been exceptional in so many ways, with new innovative collaborations and more depth to our work, we have and continue to stretch our boundaries. To all our staff, thank you for all your commitment and dedication to volleyball – I know you all do way over and above – it is much appreciated.

Lisa Wainwright
Chief Executive



BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

DEVELOPING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF PARTICIPANTS

Our work to better understand our 'Volleyball Universe' has continued at pace this year. We are building our knowledge of how to remove barriers to participation across the sport. We formed the "Volleyball Knowledge Advisory Group, which assists with our market research and insight projects. Their advice helped structure our in-house surveys and instigate a range of research projects with the University of Bedfordshire, the results of which are guiding our work with beach court facilities, university and community activity. Key findings so far include: improving signage and communications around accessibility for beach courts is a key aspect to increasing usage; 31% of our university participants are new to volleyball; and more flexible timing of volleyball options and more facilities are important for recreational participants.

The Go Spike 4V4 version of the game has gained significant traction this year, with a 12 team outdoor league established in Hyde Park with London based charities, Birmingham City Council adopting Go Spike – rolling out in 5 parks across Birmingham, as part of the UK Active

Coca Cola Park Lives project, and Essex County Cricket piloted Go Spike activity with 4 of their community clubs last summer. These initiatives and partnerships provide a vital public shop window for our sport to raise exposure and awareness.

A relationship with Festival Republic and Latitude Festival grew in 2015 with 650 young people experiencing volleyball over two and half days, including a UVolleyball session on the Thursday night. Suffolk Volleyball Association have taken on the staffing of the volleyball activities and ensuring participants are signed posted to other local community volleyball opportunities. This relationship led to volleyball being included at the Citadel Festival in London in 2015 and 2016.

Other innovative relationships developed this year included working with Nottingham City Council and Active Nottinghamshire for a city centre take over in Nottingham's Market Square in May, where 300 people tried out the Go Spike Speed Cage, outdoor and sitting volleyball; and we attended the Vitality SportFest for the first time, taking outdoor and sitting volleyball to a youth and family festival in beautiful Wormsley Estate. Over 350 children and parents participated, culminating in an Invictus vs Legends sitting volleyball match, which included sports stars Austin Healey, Beth Tweddle and Matthew Pinsent.



Let's Play Volleyball

VOLLEYBALL IN EDUCATION SETTINGS SEES STRONG GROWTH AND FOUNDATIONS LAID FOR THE FUTURE

Our engagement with young people in the education sector continues to be one of our major success stories. We now have 67 Let's Play Volleyball (satellite) Clubs in operation across the country, creating environments for young people to play volleyball while strengthening the link between school and community sport, providing new opportunities and the pathway for young people to continue to play volleyball.

As many of you will know, the Further Education sector is under severe financial pressure. However, volleyball has

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

been able to cement and strengthen its strong roots in the sector in the past year, with 166 FE colleges playing volleyball both recreationally and competitively. The Association of Colleges Sport has recognised the strength of the relationship with our sport, stating that it is among the top three sports it partners with in terms of overall engagement and commitment to college sport.

In the Higher Education sector, volleyball continues to grow at a significant rate. We have 68 universities in the HEVO programme, engaging with over 7500 students, and 246 affiliated BUCS teams (taking volleyball to the 5th largest team sport within BUCS). In one of the most significant developments in the HE sector for many years, BUCS has confirmed beach volleyball as an official championship points sport for 2016-17. This decision, supported by extensive lobbying and data/insight by Volleyball England, should see an increase in participation and facilities in the coming years. Indeed Keele University, Northumbria University and the University of Essex are all either opening or planning beach volleyball facilities in 2016.

At schools level, we have instigated a wide ranging review of our resources and training programme for primary and secondary schools, which has included input from many of the volleyball community who are active in the education sector. These revised resources will form a major component of our Strategy 2024 activities for schools.

THE COMMUNITY CLUB NETWORK CONTINUES TO GROW

32 new community volleyball clubs (non-educational institution clubs) affiliated to Volleyball England this past year. Many of these clubs have taken advantage of national Volleyball England and local County Sport Partnership programmes to create themselves and get embedded in the local club network.

Our most proactive clubs have received local and national recognition for their activities, including New Forest VC and VK Barnett winning their County Sport Partnership Satellite Club of the Year awards. The continued adoption of the Go Spike brand and the Go Spike Big Weekend saw just on 40 events being ran in late May 2015. After feedback from the clubs, we extended the Go Spike Big Weekend to cover both the May & August Bank Holiday's in 2015, with another 42 events taking place in August. Clubs are now seeing a direct connection between Go Spike Big Weekend events and an increase in recreational participation and club membership, enhancing the clubs long-term future.

An interesting development this year has been our work with UK Army barracks. Three individual projects across the country has resulted in increased participation, new

affiliated clubs, better equipment and partnerships with existing community clubs. These projects in Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Hampshire, have captured the attention of the Army hierarchy, who now want to work on a service wide development plan.

go spike!



FOCUS IS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

EAST LONDON AND ESSEX INVESTMENT ZONE

In 2015, East London and Essex witnessed the highest levels of partnership working to date. Existing relationships with key stakeholders matured and blossomed. Emerging networks came into fruition. Experimental pilots turned into ground breaking successes. Here are some of the notable pieces of work within the investment zone that made the year so memorable.

The iconic 'Active People Active Park' project took on an unexpected but incredibly exciting seasonal identity. Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park became the UK's largest urban beach for most of the summer period. Close relationships with the London Legacy Development Corporation and local volleyball clubs ensured that beach volleyball was delivered daily throughout August and as a result over 1200+ brand new participants experienced our fantastic sport. In 2016 the beach will be back and without a doubt the project will expand and grow further links with the local volleyball community.

A pilot with Our Parks, an initiative bringing free, group exercise classes, to local parks via partnership with Councils and Local Authorities turned out into an amazing success story. The Venue – Victory Park, Newham. The Participants – local young professionals who live in around East London. The Objective – establish and grow a fun recreational volleyball session. The Result – smashed it out of the park! 30 retained and sustained local participants who have now formed their own E20 Volleyball Team. Now the aspiration is to harness this new partnership and grow the concept in other boroughs and parks across the Investment Zone.

In Essex, an overarching desire to grow casual cricket and fun social volleyball resulted in pioneering partnership working with Essex County Cricket Board. The concept was simple enough, give cricket clubs the opportunity to offer quick cricket and recreational volleyball to anyone who may visit their clubs in the evening and weekends; members, players, parents who drop off their sons and daughters. The take up was unprecedented, so much so that Loughton Cricket Club now has over 50 regular volleyball participants on a regular Friday night. Due to the fantastic success the two sports are already planning on how to roll the programme out across Essex in 2016. Exiting times!

DORSET & HAMPSHIRE INVESTMENT ZONE GO SPIKE SUCCESS IN GO SPORT

In what is a classic example of sports development from a standing start, volleyball at Gosport Leisure Centre has gone from strength to strength over the last year. Starting with a regular Go Spike recreational session, they are now on the verge of establishing their own volleyball club that will soon be competing in the local league. In January 2015 Gosport contacted their Volleyball Relationship Manager (VRM) Mark

Simmons from the Dorset & Hants Investment Zone, looking for support to introduce volleyball. Gosport were keen to establish a recreational volleyball session and had availability at their Centre on Friday evenings.

This fitted extremely well with Volleyball England's Go Spike model and Volleyball England were able to provide funding to help kick start this project including new balls and upskilling of Leisure Centre staff on a Volleyball Activator Course. The VRM was also keen to create and build a link between the Go Spike sessions and a local club so put them in touch with local Portsmouth Pumas Volleyball Club who agreed to come in and offer coaching on a voluntary basis.



Just over a year on, the Friday Go Spike sessions are still going strong. Gosport have had over 80 new participants take part in their sessions. Off the back of its success, Gosport are now in the early stages of setting up their own volleyball club with support from Volleyball England, to enable them to join the local volleyball league.

BLACK COUNTRY & STAFFORDSHIRE INVESTMENT ZONE

One of the successes within the Black Country and Staffordshire Investment Zone saw a growth in participation within the town of Stafford.

Previously a geographical void in volleyball provision, the town now boasts a brand new community volleyball club. Chairman, Tom Morris, and Secretary, Sian Williams, gained support and advice from the Investment Zone Relationship Manager to link with local partners and source £1976 of satellite club funding to set up a weekly community session.

Volleyball England brokered a link with Stafford College as the venue for the session, with the college kindly offering twelve months free hall hire to support the session's set up, which also offered an exit route for the college's volleyball activities. The satellite club funding was used to upskill Sian and Tom to become a Level 1 and 2 coaches (respectively), purchase

FOCUS IS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

appropriate equipment and to install a wall net slider system into the college sports hall, to support the delivery.

Initially, the first few months only saw a small number attending the weekly session, but Tom and Sian persevered by marketing their session locally, engaging with local partners such as the Rotary Club, Stafford Borough Council Sports Development Team and the Ministry of Defence to offer free taster sessions, and after just 9 months the club now boasts 15 regular members.

The club's successful establishment would not have been possible without Volleyball England's partnership working, support and advice of Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent County Sports Partnership (SASSOT) and Stafford Borough Council Sports Development Department.

Indeed, the continued partnership working with SASSOT has resulted in additional £1000 satellite club funding being secured to sustain the club's existing weekly session. A further £1690 has also been secured to support the club's growth by delivering a second satellite club session at Beacon Barracks (MOD Stafford), upskilling an identified member of the volleyball club and Army personnel to work together towards the club's aspirations of entering the West Midlands Volleyball Association leagues for the 2016 – 17 season.

TEES VALLEY AND TYNE & WEAR INVESTMENT ZONE

NORTH EAST VOLLEYBALL'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

This season has seen a resurgence of the North East Volleyball Association. Led by Keith Sowden and a small number of dedicated committee members, the Association has orchestrated the redevelopment of the North East junior squads and successfully marshalled three teams to the Inter Regional Championships. Sitting just below the regional association both the Tees Valley Volleyball Association and Northern Counties Volleyball Association continue to work diligently to support the thriving local leagues which have seen an influx of junior teams competing in the lower tiers of the mixed competitions in both areas.

With strategic development and participation in mind, together we have made some vital inroads into creating local area development groups with an initial focus on creating more junior competition for specific age groups. Local area groups in Darlington, North Tyneside, Sunderland & Washington, Stockton and Newcastle are attended by key stakeholder partners to discuss, plan and deliver junior volleyball activities specific to the area. In all cases the groups are built around the local hub club and this club will either already provide or have intentions of developing a junior section. In addition to club leads, the groups are attended by the local School

Games Organiser, a PE expert/head of PE, a local council representative (and in the case of Newcastle, our Premier League 4 Sport Coordinator).

The groups draw together all of the key influencers around junior volleyball participation and allow us to have detailed discussions and create succinct actions to take forward. The willingness of group members to support and deliver junior competitions has been overwhelming and the expertise within the groups has allowed these events to take place smoothly with excellent management. In many cases the competitions are officiated by young leaders from the schools taking part.

As we move into a new season, we look to progress the activities of the groups and firmly establish a monthly competition in the local area delivered out of an existing satellite club base and factored into the school games calendar.

Seamlessly linked to this development and mentioned at the start of this piece, we now have the opportunity to give our juniors the opportunity to represent the North East in the annual Inter Regional Championships. We are committed to further developing the number of players involved in our Regional squads and will provide opportunity for the most dedicated and highest performing players from clubs, schools and colleges to represent the North East and continue our legacy.

GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT ZONE

JUNIOR PROGRAMMES RAISING THE BAR AND BUILDING UPON GO SPIKE SUCCESS

Young people are the future of our sport and a coherent programme that stimulates the interest of young people is vital to our sport. Our Let's Play Volleyball satellite programme continues to go from strength to strength with 12 active satellite clubs now established and sustained through partnering with Tameside VC, Trafford Titans VC, City of Salford VC, Wigan Seahawks VC, Manchester Marvels VC, Blackley VC and Bolton VC. Over 700 young people have tried these



FOCUS IS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

programmes with 206 regularly attending each week.

Junior competitions across Greater Manchester (GM) have also played an integral part in the growth of juniors playing volleyball. Six clubs organised additional U15 matches, seventeen teams took part in the GM U14 Grand Prix, and over 80 teams competed in the Greater Manchester Lets Play Volleyball festival. In addition, the relaunch of the North West (NW) Girls Inter regionals has added value and focus to all junior programmes. The NW were rewarded with two gold and one silver at this year's championships, and GM hope this kind of success will continue for years to come. The dedication and hard work of our clubs, coaches and volunteers hasn't gone unnoticed. Congratulations to all, and thank you for continuing to raise the bar with junior development.

The Go Spike programme in 2015-16 has again expanded. Six new sessions take the total to 19 active weekly Go Spike sessions, with 185 people playing weekly. Over 1100 people have tried volleyball since the start of the Investment zone and we couldn't be happier with the progress. In 2015 the Go Spike programme helped Stockport VC launch, which means 8 of the 10 boroughs in Greater Manchester now have a Volleyball Club. There's a challenge to have a club in each borough by 2017, so work has already begun with partners in Bury and Rochdale.

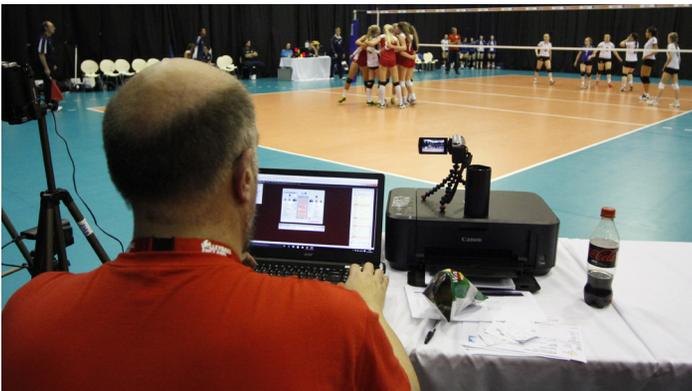
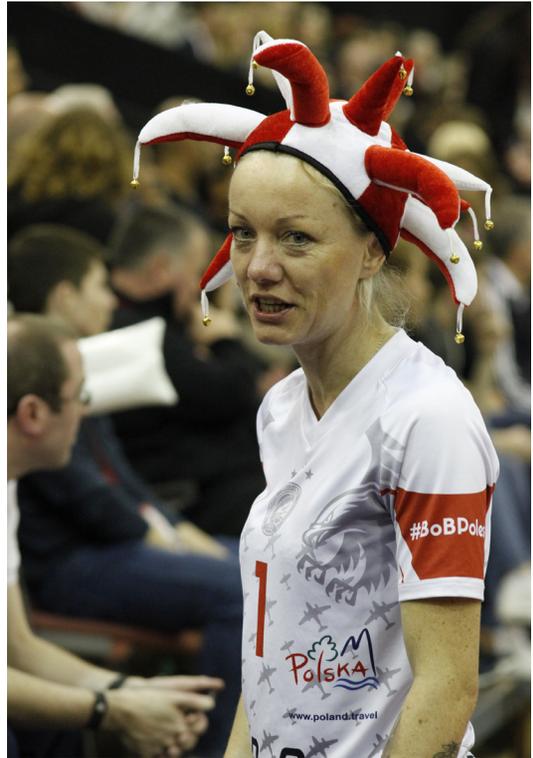
Other successes for Go Spike comes in the form of a commissioned programme from Bury Council and the 'I Will If You Will' team; work has begun to deliver sessions in Bury through Persona day care centres, the BME community and

Bury College. More work is clearly required to hit our ambitious 2017 target of 30, but GM are well underway and excited by the opportunities before us.

It's worth noting that many of our clubs have received support to achieve their own ambitions, as well as partnering with Volleyball England to deliver the Whole Sport Plan outcomes. Over £62,000 from local and national funding streams has been raised and directed into the Investment zone. This is fantastic achievement in itself, but sharing with you the following successes really helps demonstrate the value of our partnerships with clubs, sporting partners and our volleyball family.

InterVolley was awarded a Sport England small grant and promoted to the in the NVL. Stockport VC launch in 2015. Tameside VC won U15 & U16 National Championships. GM host the NW girls training who go on to win U16 Girls, U14 Girls and Runner up in U14 Girls B. Tameside win U14 Grand Prix and Trafford Titans take the Shield. Sitting Marvel achieve highest finish of 8th in the Sitting Grand Prix. 85 Teams attend the Manchester LPV festival. University Salford Women promoted in BUCS. University of Manchester Men 2nds promoted in BUCS. Manchester Metropolitan University Men 2nds promoted in BUCS. Eight colleges with volleyball programmes. 19 Go Spike weekly sessions. Seven HEVO led session across four Universities. 12 satellite club sessions linked to seven volleyball clubs. Nine new Level 1 coaches and eight level 2 coaches. 18 new grade 4 officials. Congratulations to you all.





A Huge Thank You to all of our Volunteers & Supporters



PROGRAMME 1 LET'S PLAY VOLLEYBALL

SATELLITE CLUBS

“HELPING CLUBS
TO CREATE
SUSTAINABLE
PATHWAYS
TO GROW
THEIR JUNIOR
MEMBERSHIP”

PROGRAMME 1 - LPV SATELLITE CLUBS

After the explosive growth in 2014-15, the Let's Play Volleyball Programme has seen continues steady progression during 2015-16 with a significant focus towards retention of activity within the Satellite Club Programme. These clubs aim to help young people take the step into a volleyball club by bridging the gaps between school and/or college activity and community sport. They will provide new opportunities for young people to create lifelong sporting habits.

These clubs are extensions, or outposts of volleyball clubs in a new venue, and target the 14-25 age group. Coaches and volunteers from or linked to a volleyball club work in partnership with the host venue to create a new community Let's Play Volleyball Club.

- 26 new Let's Play Volleyball Clubs set up (additional to the existing 41)
- Over 1042 young people engaged in volleyball activity
- £13,000 invested into the programme from Volleyball England Whole Sport Plan funding
- A further £74,000 external investment contributed towards the programme through Investment Zones

PREMIER LEAGUE 4 SPORT

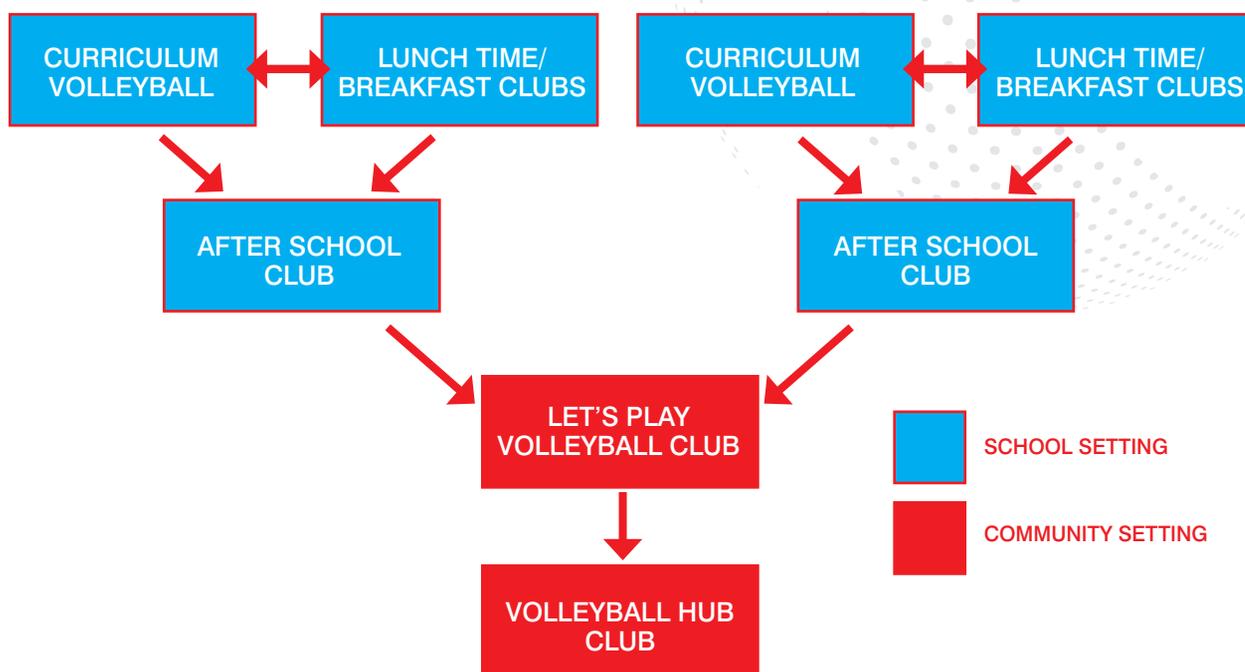
The partnership between the Premier League and Volleyball has continued this year with 16 clubs delivering activity. The volleyball programme plays a large part in the increasing female participation with over 51% of the participants attending the volleyball activity being young women, this is second only to netball.

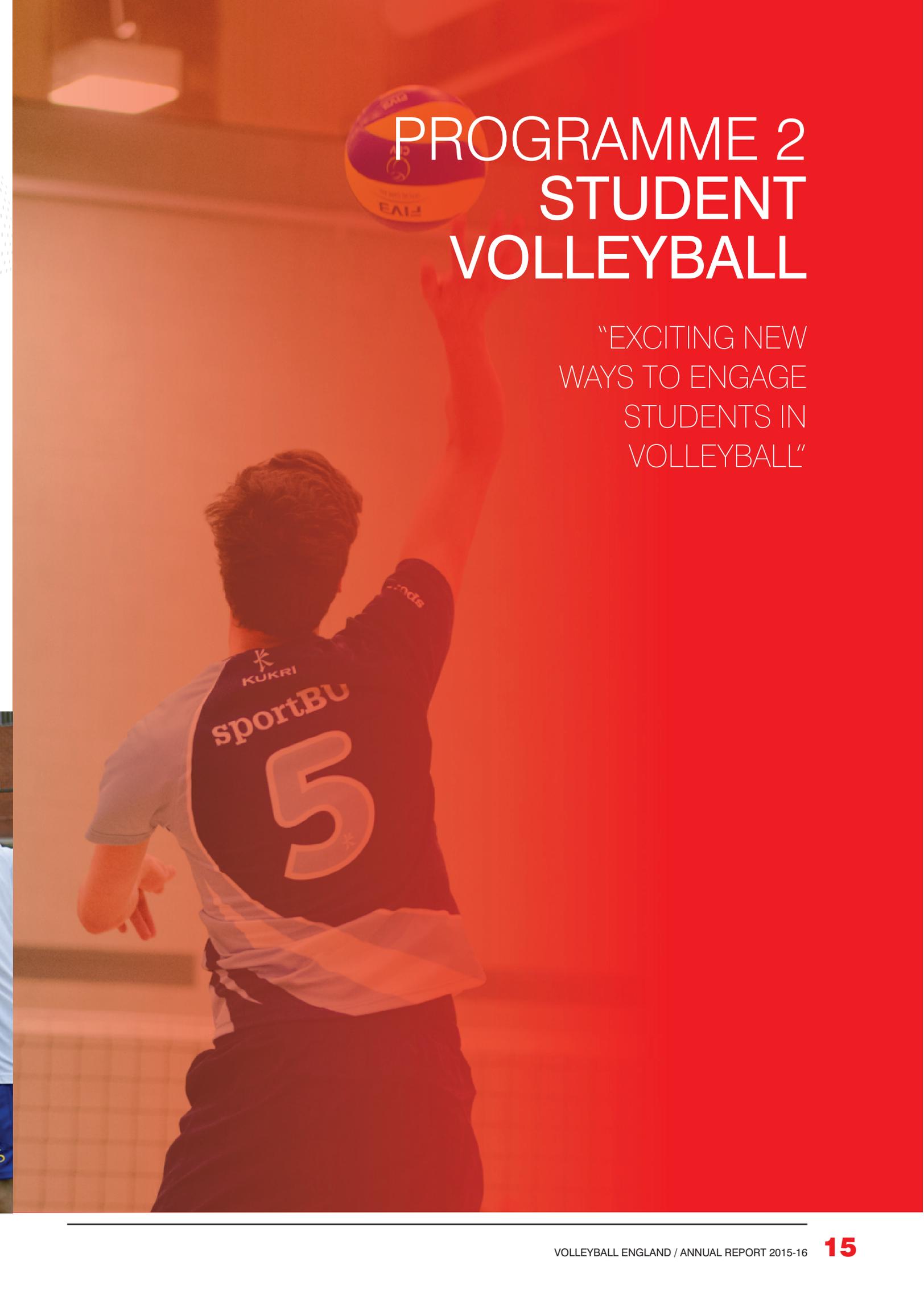
- 49 satellite clubs
- Over 2,100 new young people playing volleyball, 1060 (50%) of these regularly and 210 young people gaining volleyball coaching and activator qualifications



PROGRAMME 1 - LPV SATELLITE CLUBS

LET'S PLAY VOLLEYBALL PATHWAY





PROGRAMME 2 STUDENT VOLLEYBALL

“EXCITING NEW
WAYS TO ENGAGE
STUDENTS IN
VOLLEYBALL”

PROGRAMME 2 - STUDENT VOLLEYBALL

FURTHER EDUCATION VOLLEYBALL

The development of recreational volleyball in colleges has led to an increased number of activators and inter-college participation festivals across the country. They sit below the AoC Sport competitions, reaching out to new students wanting to try volleyball as a new sport.

- 166 FE Colleges playing volleyball
- 65 Colleges affiliated to Volleyball England
- 42 College recreational sessions established within Investment Zones
- Over 162 students gained the Go Spike Student Activator Award

(HEVO'S) PROGRAMME

The HEVO Programme continues to grow and is often highlighted as the best in sector when it comes to university student officer programmes. This year we have again seen substantial growth, exceeding our total 2013-2017 target with 68 universities engaged in the HEVO Programme. Including Senior HEVO's, this means that throughout 2015-16 there were 86 HEVO's promoting volleyball within Higher Education.

With a 68% increase from 2014, the annual HEVO Conference in September 2015 was again well received by the 76 HEVO's in attendance. Students were offered a Go Spike Student Activator Award or Sitting Volleyball Workshop to ensure they had the relevant skillset to deliver recreational volleyball, and appearances from Team GB athletes Peter Bakare and Nathan French at the UVolleyball tournament were noted as particular highlights.

This year Volleyball England has continued to work closely with BUCS, delivering at a number of conferences as a model



PROGRAMME 2 - STUDENT VOLLEYBALL

of best practice. The good news from BUCS continues, as from September 2016, beach volleyball will be a BUCS championship sport with points due to an increased demand from students. Therefore, we expect an influx of universities desiring beach courts.

We are constantly looking to improve the HEVO Programme and this year we had an enhanced offer for HEVO's who were demonstrating positive results. Select HEVO's were able to add either sitting volleyball, inter-mural volleyball or staff volleyball sessions to their existing Go Spike session.

Sitting volleyball continues to grow in popularity amongst the HEVO networks, which was demonstrated at the HEVO Conference where students were spotted playing sitting volleyball at the Holiday Inn well into the early hours of the morning.

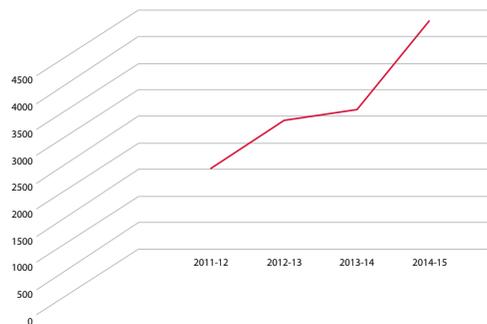
The good practice from the HEVO's was showcased at the Volleyball England Annual Awards where a number of nominations were put forward by university staff to highlight the great work the HEVO's were doing. In particular the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University continue to work extremely well collaboratively to offer a number of alternative volleyball sessions to students, including mass participation events and UVolleyball. University College London should also be commended for their positive approach, as should the University of Bradford who have just nominated five HEVO's for next year already!

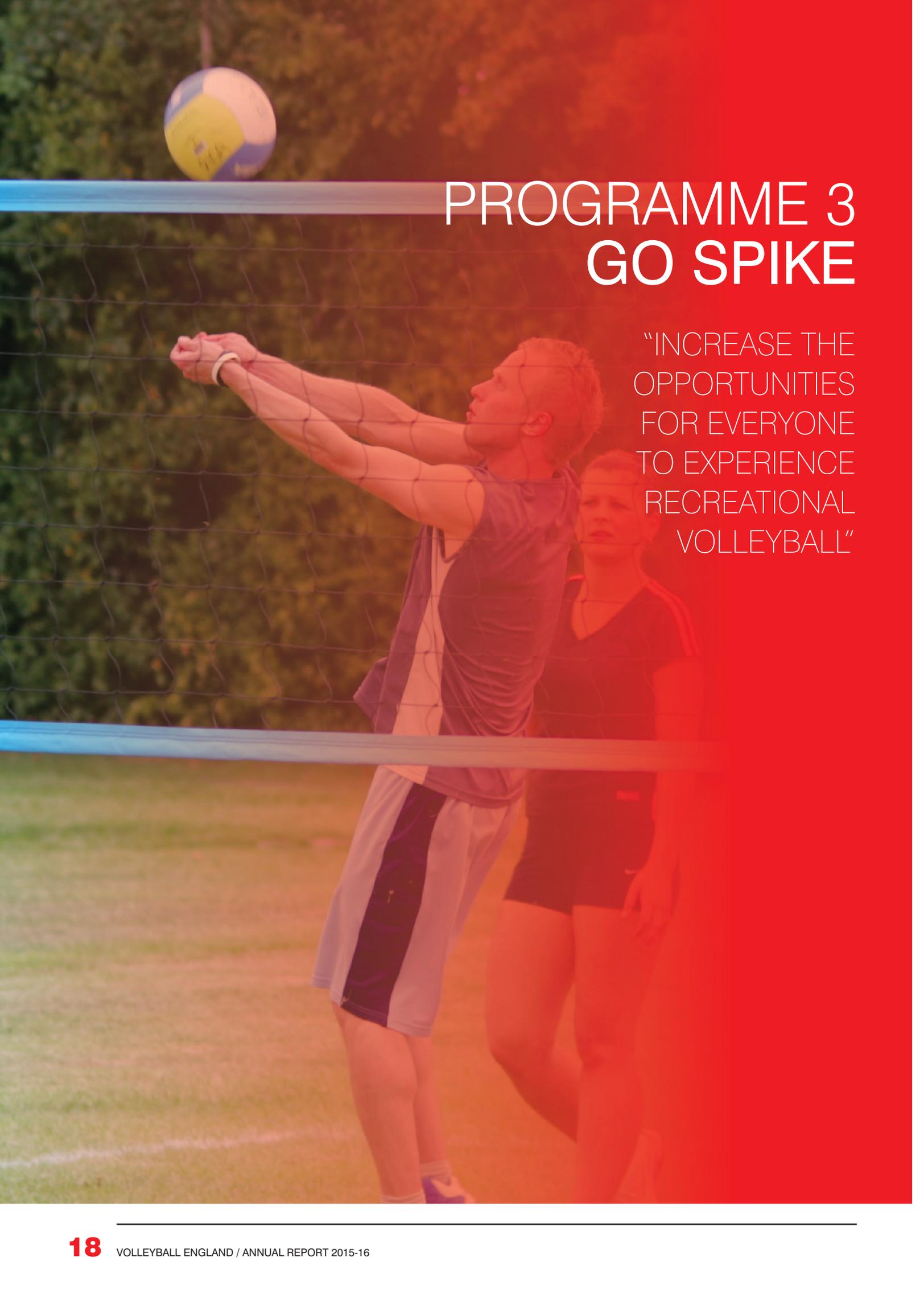
The programme has achieved:

- Total number of students engaged – 7,534 (projected figure of 8,074) – a 63% increase
- Number of new students engaged – 3,648 – a 69.5% increase
- Number of regular (attended 70% or more sessions) – 1,663 – 33.5% increase

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Volleyball (M)	95	108	120	121
Volleyball (F)	97	111	122	125

The impact of the Higher Education Volleyball Officer (HEVO) Programme has also had a continued positive effect on BUCS entries.





PROGRAMME 3 GO SPIKE

“INCREASE THE
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EVERYONE
TO EXPERIENCE
RECREATIONAL
VOLLEYBALL”

PROGRAMME 3 - GO SPIKE

“INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE TO EXPERIENCE RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL”

Headline figures recorded over the year April 2015–March 2016:

- 11,928 unique visitors to the Go Spike website, with 40,512 total page views
- 18,000 approximate users of permanent beach courts
- 16,000 approximate users of semi-permanent beach courts
- 61% growth in the number of new Go Spike Sessions over 2014-2015
- 100 Go Spike Sessions running, with over 50% of the participants retained in each session

COMMUNITY CLUB RECRUITMENT

Through the development of the Investment Zones, clubs and community partners receive direct assistance to establish Go Spike Recreational sessions, this has had an extremely positive impact leading to a 61% growth in the number of Go Spike sessions. Additionally, through the Go Spike Big Weekend clubs receive the tools, resources and marketing guidance to enable them to run recruitment drives to ensure long term sustainability of their club. In 2015, two Go Spike Big Weekends took place with over 80 clubs and partners taking part, this is the largest number of clubs to date to run come and try events.



ACTIVATING BEACH FACILITIES

The number of beach facilities across England are increasing with over 28 permanent beach facilities and over 17 Semi Permanent Beach facilities offering casual, recreational and competitive volleyball opportunities. In the last year, Keele University and Oxford Volleyball Club have both opened

new beach facilities, with enquires being receive from across England with an interest to build more. The links between the facilities and local clubs continue to improve, with the 1st Year of the FIVB Go Spike Beach Activation Programme highlighting this, some key outcomes from year 1 of the programme.

It is key to ensure facilities are being maximised to their full potential and provide as much support as possible to the organisations and partnerships looking to establish new facilities.

- 2,752 school children playing beach volleyball for the first time from 50 schools
- 5,191 adult visits to the beach volleyball facilities
- 849 hours of quality beach volleyball coaching delivered across 12 facilities
- 17 new coaches trained and deployed to support the programme
- 264 volleyballs distributed locally to encourage new players

ACTIVATING COMMERCIAL PROVIDERS

An embedded partnership with National Trust has continued with venues provide sporting activity on 10 properties. All 10 properties have an Outdoor Net System and Go Spike balls to engage their customers in informal volleyball during their visit to the property. This has been successful with approximately over 650 individuals engaged. We continue to help make the connections between clubs and their local National Trust property, in order for the clubs to hold a range of activities, including regular club sessions in the evening, offering an exit route for any visitors wishing to play regular volleyball, along with the clubs being able to play in some of the most stunning outdoor venues in the country.

The Forestry Commission relationship has become embedded with four sites across the Country offering volleyball, along a similar model to the National Trust. With over 500 people having the opportunity to experience volleyball.

A recreational Workplace Offer has continued to be rolled out alongside the County Sports Partnership Workplace Challenge Competitions. Volleyball has featured in both winter (Indoor Volleyball) and summer (Grass or Beach Volleyball) in summer games, the competitions have been extremely popular nationally with the volleyball competitions reaching capacity.

PROGRAMME 3 - GO SPIKE

With the demand for social workplace sport growing, a London Charities Volleyball League was created in July 2015. 10 charities, entered a total of 12 teams into the league, with the league running 6 weeks, culminating a final in mid-September. Developments with workplace leagues will continue going forward.

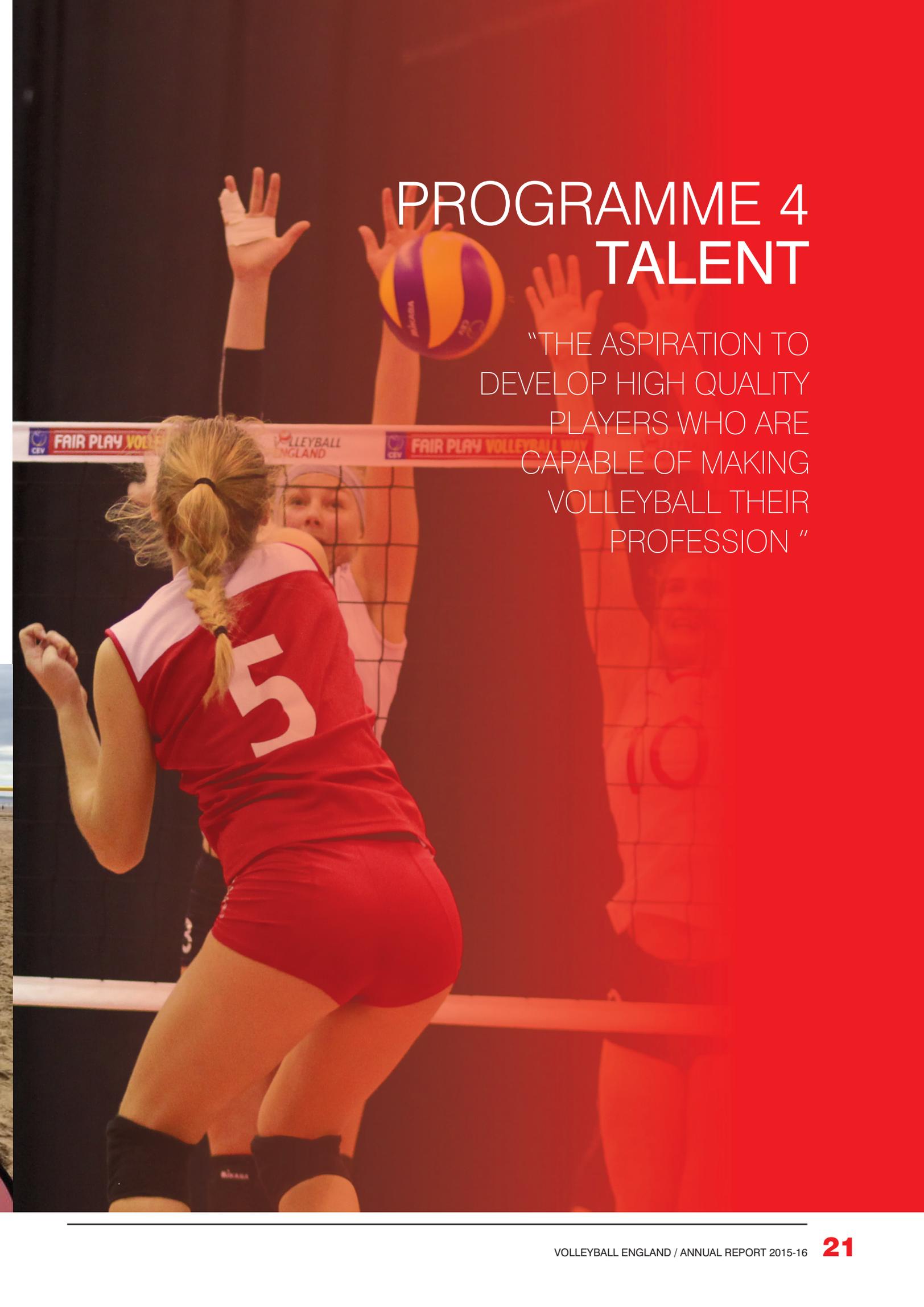
Leisure providers throughout England continue to offer opportunities to play both recreational and competitive volleyball. A formal Go Spike leisure offer is available to partners with interest being shown from People for Places Leisure and Serco.

PARTNERS

The building of new and existing partnerships to successfully implement the Go Spike offer continues. New organisations we have linked with in order to gain fresh perspectives on adult recreational sports programmes include England Squash and Table Tennis England. Alongside this we have furthered our relationships with partners such as Baseball-Softball UK. Engagement with County Sports Partnerships outside of the

Investment Zones continues to grow significantly, with them helping to ensure volleyball is a key sport in their areas. A request to run volleyball sessions have been received from Military of Defence bases, this has led to volleyball growing and new recreational clubs developing. These partnerships will continue to grow as well as new ones being developed throughout 2016-2017 to ensure recreational volleyball can grow substantially.





PROGRAMME 4 TALENT

“THE ASPIRATION TO
DEVELOP HIGH QUALITY
PLAYERS WHO ARE
CAPABLE OF MAKING
VOLLEYBALL THEIR
PROFESSION ”

PROGRAMME 4 - TALENT

TALENT PATHWAY DEVELOPMENTS

The research and development stages of the talent identification project have now been completed and we have now launched the Volleyball England Futures programme. Pilot testing has been delivered with the Cadet squads and with a school volleyball event both held at LeAF in January and May respectively. The Volleyball England Futures programme will consist of local testing and an inclusive approach to finding new talent for volleyball in England. We have revised the operation of the England Talent Pathway with the entry and exit routes becoming a more formal process through testing and education from November of 2016. This has been devised in full consultation with key stakeholders.

CADET PROGRAMME - INDOOR

Again a significant number of Cadet athletes moved up to the Junior squad this year; demonstrating the connectivity of the pathway between young and older aged athletes and they are making good progression in their development as a young athlete. During Easter 2015, both the Cadet boys and girls squads travelled to Madrid for a friendly tournament which was an extremely successful exercise and an activity we will be looking to incorporate into their annual plans. The Cadet boys won the Madrid Spring Trophy.

- 24 boys and 24 girls in the National Squad Cadet Programmes
- NEVZA U17 Championships 2015: boys finished 5th, girls finished 4th
- 70% of boys and 100% of girls progressed from the cadet squads to the junior squads this year

JUNIOR PROGRAMME - INDOOR



We currently have a 101 athletes in Year 12 and 13 at our 7 Junior Academies with 91 either completed or currently on the AASE programme. This year we are delivering AASE to more athletes who are unable to access a Junior Academy but who are on the England Talent Pathway and are currently working

with potential partners in order to introduce more academies. The Junior men's and Junior women's squads competed in the NEVZA U19 Championships in Denmark in October and also travelled to Poland (men) and Georgia (women) for the CEV U20 and CEV U19 tournaments in January. A significant addition to this programme has been the introduction of the "Challenge Series" with both junior teams taking on every Super 8s teams as part of the monthly training camps. This initiative has been a real success and will significantly support the match development of these players. We will be conducting a review with all those involved in order to improve this event into next year's training programme.

- NEVZA U19 2015: men finished 3rd, women finished 6th
- 102 athletes in our junior academy programmes, with 91 on the AASE programme
- Super 8s "Challenge Series" launched in October 2015 providing a competitive opportunity for the junior squads during camp training at the NVC, against all Super 8s teams

JUNIOR PROGRAMME – BEACH

These programmes now have a good structure through the summer months and the National Office has worked closely with Head Coaches in order to deliver more opportunities for competition and training. We have seen an increase in participation at the VEBT in part due to this becoming a formal part of the programme and being used as part of the selection criteria.

- CEV U18 European Championships – Junior Men finished 25th, Junior Women finished 17th
- CEV U20 European Championships – Junior Men finished 17th, Junior Women finished 25th
- CEV U22 European Championships – Junior Men finished 25th, Junior Women finished 25th

SENIOR PROGRAMME - INDOOR

Head Coaches were appointed to the men's and women's programmes in January 2016 in order to lead re-ignited programmes for this level of athlete. The men's programme were entered into the CEV European Championships and therefore immediately had a series of training camps leading into the competition in May. The engagement from the athletes and the coaching staff was extremely positive. The women's programme will be competing at the Global Challenge in July and again have a series of training camps leading into the competition. We are currently working with staff on programme planning going forward. The Senior Academy network is operating at a high level and providing athletes with a great opportunity to pursue at dual career. This

PROGRAMME 4 - TALENT

network is reviewed annually and we have received interest from other Universities interested in joining the programme. Our engagement with the TASS programme continues to be at the highest level as we were again awarded the highest number of TASS places. A senior academy competition including Scotland was hosted by Northumbria and we are looking to develop this next year.

- 34 TASS awards for the 2015-2016 academic year
- Young Senior training and competition delivered, coaching teams appointed



SENIOR PROGRAMME – BEACH

Chris Gregory and Jake Sheaf continue to compete on the FIVB World Tour events, CEV Tour events and in Senior NEVZA competitions with full administrative support from Head Office. We now also have a number of young seniors (both men and women) competing at Senior NEVZA events for England with full administrative support from the National Office, however, with our Sport England funding limited to talent development, no direct financial support goes to Senior Beach competition. It has been announced that beach volleyball will be at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and we will be working closely with Sport England and the Commonwealth Games in order to support teams attending with event. A bid has been written for funding towards Tokyo 2020 to be submitted to UKSport on behalf of the BVF. We have been successful in adding a BUCS beach event to the calendar which will take place from 2017, this gives us an opportunity to work with our Senior Academy network in developing beach within a higher education environment.

- UKSport Tokyo 2020 bid
- Commonwealth Games 2018
- Increased presence of senior teams at World, European and NEVZA level
- Beach Volleyball as a BUCS championship sport approved from 2017



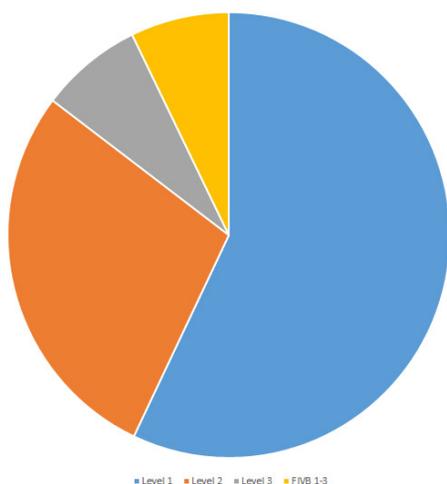
COACHING & REFEREEING

COACHING

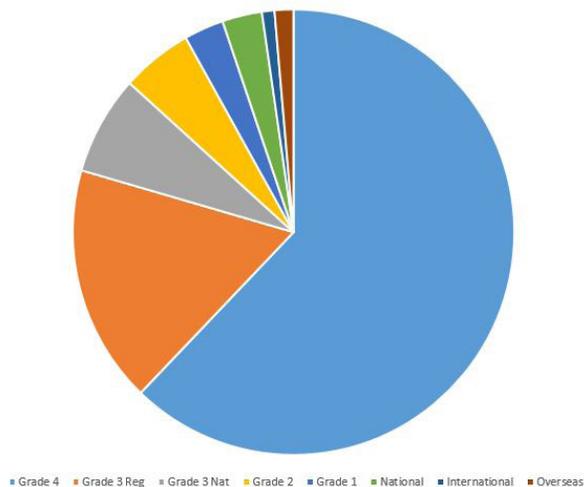
17 Level 1 Courses
5 Level 2 Courses
1 L3 Course
15 Activator Courses
6 Sitting Workshops
17 Grade 4 Referee course
3 CEV/FIVB Seminars
1 Beach Course

There were just under 750 registered coaches by the end of 2015/16.

Highest grades of coaches.



There were just over 650 referees.



Of the total, 27 were also registered as beach referees.

In 2015/16, we ran three technical seminars in partnership with the CEV & FIVB at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering. Coaches came from across Europe and from the home nations to learn more about:

- Developing Young Players
- Outside Hitting
- Setting

Scotland's Bill Stobie attended the Developing Young Players seminar:

"I really enjoyed the course and the tutors were excellent. I found the practical session most useful as we looked at two technical aspects and ways of introducing them to juniors – this was excellent and I would be interested to come to a course that had a more practical focus."



The Beach Award for coaches took place in Kettering in May 2015 with 15 delegates from across the country being taught by top beach tutors Denise Austin and Mo Glover, assisted by Audrey Cooper.

ENHANCE IS LAUNCHED

In summer 2015 we launched volleyball's Talent Coach Development Programme, Enhance. National Team and Academy coaches were invited to apply and there are now 24 coaches across all three disciplines on the programme. The coaches have all received one to one support from a coach developer and have attended two workshops on the themes of 'my coaching identity' and 'building healthy relationships.'

REFEREEING

A new strategy for refereeing was launched in November 2015 with the aim of increasing the quality and quantity of referees that are needed to drive the sport forward. During the next eight years, the strategy will focus on:

- Increasing the quality & quantity of active, appropriately qualified and skilled referees and referee 'workforce'
- Providing and promoting the referee pathways that provides continuous development and refereeing opportunities - from local to international
- Increasing the profile and perception of refereeing across the sport.

COMPETITIONS & COMMERCIAL

COMPETITIONS & COMMERCIAL



NATIONAL CUP FINALS

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 Polonia SideOut London won the men's and women's National Cups respectively. On both occasions, Team Northumbria were defeated 3-2. In the Shield Finals, Solent men were triumphant over Newcastle Staffs while Team Sunderland took home the Women's Shield by beating Team Essex Trinity.

Tameside kicked off the second day with a win in the U16 Girls' Final, defeating Beach Academy Waves 3-0 in what was a comfortable victory. There was also success for Richmond VB as their U16 Boys' team beat Greenhouse Malory Eagles also by 3-0. The U18 Girls' Final was won by Wessex LeAF who defeated another Beach Academy Waves team. The U18 double was wrapped up thanks to another Wessex LeAF win, this time over Boswells Blaze.

SUPER 8 FINALS PLAY-OFFS

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 London and Polonia SideOut London take on Team Northumbria in a bid to cause an upset. Both finals stretched the teams to their limits but ultimately it was IBB Polonia London and Team Northumbria Women who prevailed to claim well deserved titles.

UNDER 18 GRAND PRIX

The Under 18 Grand Prix was established to provide an additional competitive outlet for teams and to assist in the development of athletes. A series of events took place at the National Volleyball Centre, with the finals taking place alongside the Super 8s Finals Weekend. LeAF Wessex won both the men's and the women's

final by beating Greenhouse Malory Eagles and Graveney Malory Eagles respectively in two comfortable straight sets victories.

SITTING VOLLEYBALL GRAND PRIX FINAL AND CUP

The two best teams of the regular season took to the floor on Sunday 20th March due to player's involvement in the Invictus games. The final was a fantastic match between East London Lynx and Newcastle Staffs. East London Lynx showed their experience by winning the match 3-2 in the tightest of fashions.

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND BEACH TOUR

The Volleyball England Beach Tour was delivered in partnership with SideOut and comprised of five events in 2015. Over 240 players took part in the tour which featured a junior section. Tour locations were Skegness, Great Yarmouth, Weston-super-Mare, Weymouth and Margate. Women's Champions were Jess Grimson and Vicky Palmer and the Men's Champions Robin Miedzybrodzki and Taylor Wilson.

NORTHERN EUROPEAN VOLLEYBALL ZONAL ASSOCIATION (NEVZA) UNDER 17 CHAMPIONSHIPS



The National Volleyball Centre hosted the NEVZA Championships for the third time. The event featured seven countries - England, Denmark, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Norway, Finland and Sweden. The event is seen as a key platform for the development of junior athletes and workforce. Denmark won the boys category edging their match against Finland, with Sweden taking the bronze medal ahead of Norway. England boys finished the competition in 5th position. England girls fared much better by narrowly missing out on a medal losing (1:3) against Sweden. Finland girls retained their title by beating Iceland (3:0).

COMPETITIONS & COMMERCIAL

LONDON LEGACY VOLLEYBALL CUP 12-13 SEPTEMBER 2015 COPPER BOX ARENA

The London Legacy Volleyball Cup was the first event to take place that was driven by the vision and aims of Strategy 2024 to host Major Events on home soil with objectives of generating long term revenue, promotion, growth and development of the sport.

It was the first time an international volleyball event has taken place in England since the London 2012 Olympics and the first time a volleyball competition took place on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park at the Copper Box Arena. As a result of the Legacy Cup the Copper Box Arena is the biggest Volleyball venue in England with a capacity for 6,000 spectators. Four CEV Champions League teams, VfB Friedrichshafen (Germany), PGE Skra Belchatow (Poland), Schweriner SC (Germany) and RC Cannes (France) and four teams from the Super 8's Team Northumbria, IBB Polonia London and Polonia Sideout London, took part in a double gender event. The London Legacy Cup offered a fantastic platform for English teams to gain the experience of playing against some of the best teams in Europe. VfB Friedrichshafen and RC Cannes won the men's and women's sections respectively.



Nearly 1200 people purchased tickets for the event with another 1300 complimentary tickets distributed to schools and partners. The live streaming coverage by German based LAOLA1.TV was watched by an estimated 21,000 viewers worldwide. Total reach of all the marketing and communications activities of ourselves and partners equates to 14,690 unique users, 64,800 engagements and 2.065m impressions, BBC Sports Focus which featured 10 minutes of national coverage, with 1.1 million viewers being exposed to the sport. London Live also broadcast live from the event.

130 volunteers and 6 referees were involved in the event which is the biggest workforce established for an indoor volleyball event hosted directly by Volleyball England. 16 commercial partners were involved in the London Legacy Cup the most we have ever had and some of whom extended their relationship with us, with

others looking to develop new opportunities across some of our other commercial properties and volleyball activities.

The event did achieve many of its stated objectives and has the potential to increase commercial revenues. The main learnings from the event is to have a greater lead time to organise the event and this will also enable for a better time frame to market the event and to sell tickets.

COMMERCIAL

We have now moved into the third year of the partnership with itsu. Our partners of the beach tour have continued to raise the profile of the sport through their distribution channels across England including over 60 stores and 2000 supermarkets.

2015-16 saw the first full year of our new partnerships with Bishop Sports and Leisure and Mizuno. Bishop Sports and Leisure is one of the largest suppliers of sports equipment to the schools sector. Along with a donation from the Ruth Nicholls Volleyball Foundation, a range of sitting volleyball equipment and resources generates royalty revenue for Volleyball England. The roll out of Mizuno kit across our national squads, key volunteers, staff and some course attendees, has seen a dramatic increase in the professional presentation and look & feel of those groups. We have secured new partnerships with Sportset in relation to the sale of volleyballs and equipment, and also Maroon Print to become the official Print and Promotional Product Supplier for Volleyball England.

Recognition and thanks to all our other commercial partners across the business including Phoenix Leisure Management, Holiday Inn Express Kettering, Gerflor, UBS, UV Gear and Grange Hotels.

REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

It was another successful year for the FIVB/CEV Development Centre in Kettering. Over 28 people from Holland, Romania, French Belgium (AIF) and England attended the Setting Seminar, Outside Hitter/Serve Seminar and Developing Young Players Seminar. The Centre in England has been recognised as a key hub within Europe and is one of only 5 development centres in Europe.



PR & MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

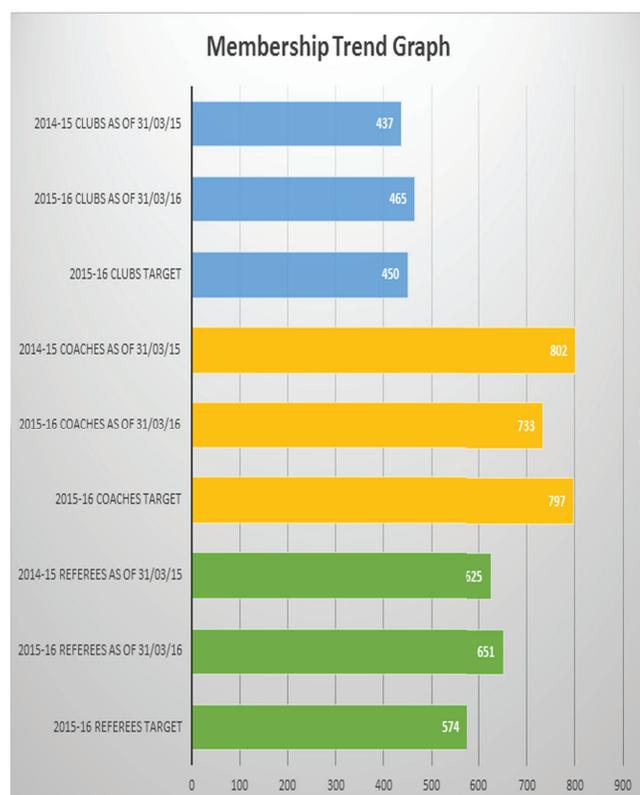
This year has seen a huge growth in registered clubs. 32 additional clubs joined the Volleyball family, which has resulted in volleyball having 15 clubs above our Sport England whole sport plan target. Coaching registrations were slightly down, when compared to last year, however more courses are looking to be scheduled to boost these numbers. Finally, referee's registrations were increased by 26, from last year. All in all, its been a fantastic year and a big thank-you goes out to all of you who have registered.

At the start of 2016 the membership team committed to reviewing and producing a new package, which is attractive and most of all useful to you. In order to do this, we have visited and talked to clubs, players, coaches and referees from Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Dorset, Norfolk, Cambridge, Suffolk, Ipswich, Bristol & Wiltshire. At the time of press, we are still due to visit Hertfordshire, London, Northern Counties, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Preston, Merseyside, Berkshire, Southampton, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Exeter and Gloucestershire. We will continue to consult during 2016-17 and develop a new and exciting membership package, for 2017-2018

FUNDING

This was again another phenomenal year for funding as £587,449 was raised to help a variety of causes for the volleyball community – to see how this money benefited Volleyball visit the website for full details.

www.volleyballengland.org



SOCIAL MEDIA - COMMUNICATIONS

Social media and media relations activity has been stepped up, especially at the latter end of the financial year. The popularity and effectiveness of Volleyball England's various channels has increased throughout 2015/16.

Twitter

The number of followers across all accounts continues to grow and further work is being done to increase engagement figures and impressions. During the year 1 April 2015 to the 31 March 2016 our follower numbers increased as follows:

- Volleyball England has increased from 7201 to 8560
- GB Sitting Volleyball has increased from 1302 to 1449
- Go Spike has increased from 1201 to 1474

Facebook

The majority of our Facebook pages also continue to grow:

- Volleyball England's likes are up from 7114 to 8676
- The GB Sitting Volleyball page has decreased from 6282 to 6185
- Go Spike's page likes are up from 667 to 793
- The Volleyball England Beach Tour page has increased from 552 to 772
- The National Volleyball Centre page has increased from 432 to 665

Website

The total number of website sessions were 370,108 with 137,313 unique visitors who viewed an average of 4.64 pages per visit. The average time they spent on the website was 3.32 minutes.

YouTube

Viewers spent around 2531 hours watching the content on the Volleyball England YouTube channel.

PR and Media Relations

PR and media relations have significantly improved with coverage being achieved in both national and regional press.

Other

Instagram and Pinterest accounts have also been opened for Volleyball England.



EQUITY & SAFEGUARDING

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY AUDIT

Volleyball England continues to make great progress with regards to equality and diversity. This year we have implemented a number of safeguarding and welfare changes to ensure we remain an example of best practice and our sport is played in a safe, comfortable environment with no barriers to participation.

- Following the success of Sport England's This Girl Can campaign, which featured volleyball as a priority sport, our gender split continues to be above average for players, coaches and officials
- As a volleyball community we know how open and accessible our sport is to participants of all nationalities and ethnicities. Volleyball England have taken steps to increase this through working with BME (Black & Ethnic Minority Groups) participants through Investment Zones, and also through the creation of the "Knowing our Neighbours" Advisory Group (KONAG)
- Volleyball England were the first National Governing Body to sign up to the LGBT+* #TeamPride pledge, committing to creating and promoting an inclusive environment both on and off the field of play, and attended the Aon #TeamPride Conference in February 2016 *LGBT+ is defined as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender; the '+' serves to include all other communities associated with the LGBT community.

Volleyball England is committed to supporting all minority groups and will continue to lead the way as an inclusive, diverse and open National Governing Body. We appreciate the support of all our members in helping us achieve this aim, and thank you for creating a community of welcoming individuals.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

- Volleyball Relationship Manager's continue to work with BME community groups in their Investment Zones, with new sessions including the UK Islamic Mission, and TS1 Tees Valley (South Asian), Walsall Warriors (Hindu) and Urbond Portsmouth (multiple ethnicities)
- External funding has been secured for volleyball clubs looking to work with BME and minority groups, included those with disabilities and women – for example Arun Volleyball Club, Belper Hammers Volleyball Club and Manchester Marvels Sitting Volleyball Club
- Volleyball England continue to, and will continue to nominate worthy individuals and groups for national awards such as the British Ethnic Diversity in Sports Awards (BEDSA) and the Be a Game Changer Awards
- Following on from the success of the This Girl Can campaign, Volleyball England continue to support programmes and initiatives which positively impact women in sport, for example the Women's Sport Week social media campaign

- Volleyball England work closely with Women in Sport to provide CPD opportunities, including mentoring, for female members of staff and to continue to learn more about legislative requirements with regards to gender diversity across the board
- A written submission was made to the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into homophobia in sport – Volleyball England offered its support to the inquiry and has had zero complaints of discriminative behaviour on the grounds of sexuality

SAFEGUARDING CHANGES

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.

From September 2016 all clubs must meet new safeguarding criteria in line with the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) recommendations. All registered volleyball clubs must now nominate a registered Club Welfare Officer (CWO) who must attend the relevant safeguarding courses:

ADULT-ONLY CLUBS

The CWO must complete Sports Coach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshops, either face to face or online. CWO's must upload course details onto their Volleyball England member profiles for authentication.

CLUBS WITH JUNIOR MEMBERS

The CWO must attend a face to face Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshop and must then attend a Time to Listen* course, or similar professional training, in addition to this.

*Time to Listen is a volleyball-specific workshop designed to support CWO's and has been developed by the CPSU of the NSPCC. Volleyball England are committed to providing regional Time to Listen courses.

SAFEGUARDING BEST PRACTICE

- 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
- As a result of the above, Volleyball England have been asked by the CPSU to present at the Lead Officers National Forum presentation
- 61 Club Welfare Officers have been trained through Volleyball England administered Time to Listen courses
- A proposal has been submitted to take Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks online. Volleyball England registered coaches, referees and volunteers are eligible for free DBS checks where applicable, and this will dramatically reduce the time taken to administer this process

EQUITY & SAFEGUARDING



SITTING VOLLEYBALL TALENT

- 2 Great Britain Sitting Volleyball teams competing internationally
- GB Women compete at Stoke Mandeville International and Pajulahti Games
- GB Men compete at Stoke Mandeville International and Dutch Cup

Both of the GB teams have been training throughout the year, utilising the excellent training facilities offered by the Ashcombe Volleyball Centre on a regular basis.

Due to funding limitations, the teams did not compete in the 2015 European Championship or 2016 Inter-Continental Cup. They did, however, have competition with the Stoke Mandeville International in June, allowing both squads to play Canada and the men to face Latvia. The men also attended the Dutch Cup in July and the women attended the Pajulahti Games in January. The continued activity for the GB squads is in no short part due to the gracious support of a Corporate Social Responsibility donation from Unum Insurance.

The priority for both teams has been talent identification and recruitment to bring new players into the squad. Following the development of a new strategy, a number of events have been attended. Further events are planned in 2016 to capitalise on the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

As part of the pathway, we have supported the UK Invictus Games Team with preparation and selection for the 2016 Games in Orlando.

The Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix once again offered teams the chance to compete on a regular basis and allowed GB coaches to identify potentially talented players.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in sitting volleyball has continued to grow.

The number of teams in the Grand Prix has remained the same (11) with community activity considerably increasing. 268 participants with a disability (up from 151) were regularly playing sitting volleyball, predominantly in pan-disability, adapted sessions.

A new 'Slide to Recovery' project has been launched to work with Personnel Recovery Centres to allow them to use sitting volleyball to support the recovery of wounded, injured and sick service personnel.



PR

In July, Sitting Volleyball featured live on Blue Peter with Great Britain players being joined by presenters to play the game outside Media City in Salford. In August, Volleyball England worked with the Invictus Games team to deliver sitting volleyball at the Vitality SportsFest 2015, a family sports festival delivered by sporting legends. During the event the team played an exhibition match against a team that included Austin Healey, John Barnes, Matthew Pinsent & Louise Hazel. In October, sitting volleyball was featured on DIY SOS: Homes For Veterans. Manchester Marvels player, Lamin, was one of the injured service personnel who benefited from the houses they developed and the programme showed how sitting volleyball has also helped his recovery.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION REPORTS



WEST MIDLANDS VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.wmva.org.uk

COMPETITIONS

National Volleyball League

Men: 7 teams

Women: 7 teams

West Midlands Competitions

Number of Clubs 20 with a total of 702 players registered (426 men and 276 women)

Men's Regional League – Three Divisions: 27 teams

Women's Regional League -Two Divisions: 16 teams

Knockout Cup and Plate Competitions for Men (17 teams entered) and Women (14 teams entered)

AFFILIATIONS/REGISTRATIONS

Clubs: 44

Coaches: 113

Referees: 90

VOLUNTEERS

Executive Committee of Six, Competition's Commission of Six. The Executive Committee meets on a regular basis and continues to attract volunteers as with a new post of communications officer.

OTHER EVENTS

Juvoto and Juvolle Junior Leagues, Junior Cup Competition at Senior Cup Finals Day. Full complement of teams entered in Inter Regional Championships, Winner U14 girls MVP Carla Hulme.

Sandwell Volleyball Tournament

Referees' Forum and Club Forums: Club Development and Club Welfare Officers. These forums led by Liz Fletcher our VRM who continues excellent development work with existing and satellite clubs.



NORTH EAST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.ncva.org.uk

TEES VALLEY VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.teesvalleyvolleyball.co.uk

COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to Team Northumbria Super 8 women on winning the league. Durham Uni women have now gained promotion to Super 8's whilst their men will compete in 2N next season. TN2 men will compete in Div 1 again next season whilst Sunderland Predators ladies won the National shield competition,

At regional level Northern Counties had 17 teams spread over 2 mens and 1 womens divisions. 2 regional leagues (men and women) ran with 7 teams in total. Blyth Valley won the Mens regional league whilst Newburn Panthers won both Mens 1 and 2. Monkseaton and Coast won the 2 womens leagues. 15 teams competed in the Tees Valley region split into 2 leagues with the Acklam and Hartlepool clubs winning the respective divisions. The area was represented at the Inter-regional competition for the first time in several years with 3 of the 4 age groups fielding teams. New satellite clubs continue to be established across the region. The popular Tynemouth Beach and White Rose grass tournaments ran successfully again and a junior beach event aired for the first time organised by the Marden club.

Level 1 and Level 2 coaching courses ran this season along with a 'Time to listen' seminar as well.



SOUTH EAST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.southeastvolleyball.co.uk

COMPETITIONS

Sussex: 3 Divisions, 30 teams

Surrey: 6 Divisions, 38 teams

Kent: 3 Divisions, 20 teams

Berkshire: 4 Divisions, 37 teams

Hampshire: 6 Divisions, 24 teams

County standard competitive teams: 140 teams

NVL: 30 teams

AFFILIATIONS/REGISTRATIONS

Clubs: 74

Coaches: 125

Referees: 139

VOLUNTEERS

5 Counties: Total 50 Volunteers

OTHER EVENTS

Ashcombe Volleyball Tournament: 1000 players

Guildford, East Grinstead, Newbury, East

Hants Tournaments: Total of 500 players

Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix

Student Cup Qualifying Events

Beach Volleyball courts and events at

Brighton Yellowwave, Worthing, Margate and Southsea

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION REPORTS



EAST MIDLANDS VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.eastmidlandsvb.com

COMPETITIONS

Regional 6 women's teams, 12 men's teams, 5 Inter County Junior Grand Prix Competitions
 Lincs 8 teams, 130 players
 Leics 10 teams, 185 players
 Notts 9 teams, 130 players, 5 junior teams, 50 players
 Derbys 6 teams, 90 players, 1 junior team, 15 players
 Northants 14 teams, 220 players, 5 Junior Grand Prix's, 100+ players
 BUCS 21 teams

AFFILIATIONS/REGISTRATIONS

Clubs: 36
 Coaches: 88
 Referrees: 59

OTHER EVENTS

Nottingham Big Weekend Participants: 110 participants
 Go Spike Sessions: 9 Go Spike Session with a total of 656 players taking part
 UKCC Level 2 Nottingham 16 learners
 UKCC Level 1 Kettering 16 learners
 New Beach initiative running every Tuesday night at Loughborough University with average 45 players registering for 5 competitions every week



LONDON VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.londonvolleyball.org.uk

COMPETITIONS

London League:

Division	Players	Teams
MP	148	8
M1A	140	8
M1B	154	8
M2A	145	8
M2B	146	9
Men Total	733	41
WP	137	8
W1	152	9
W2A	168	9
W2B	154	9
Women Total	611	35
Total	1344	76

This shows increases of 4.5% for Men, 6.6% for women.

National League:
 London Clubs entered 10 Men's teams and 6 Women's team with 253 players in total.
 Two fewer teams (cost of participation) but 20 more players.

VOLUNTEERS

We are still finding it difficult to recruit administrative volunteers.



SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.swva.org.uk

COMPETITIONS

C & G Volleyball were winners of the SW Mens League, Yeovil were runners up. In the Womens League Cardiff Falcons took top slot pipping Wiltshire Mavericks to the title. The SW Championships ran over two days in Plymouth in May, with Cardiff Celts taking the Mens title and Torexe the Womens. The Veterans Tournament took place in November - congratulations to winners Saga Louts (Torexe) with Yeovil as runners up.

AFFILIATIONS/REGISTRATIONS

Clubs: 73
 Coaches: 104
 Referees: 104

OTHER EVENTS

In junior competitions, the SW Mini Volleyball Grand Prix took place through the winter over four events. Entries were about level with last year, but we are still concerned at the lack of boys entries. The SW Junior Squads have continued with a full programme of training, subsidised by SWVA. Congratulations to the SW teams for their strong performances in the IRC. We are very sorry to lose the services of Paul Locke, Jurek Jankowski and Anthony Roberts as long standing junior squad coaches and pass on our thanks for their service.

A few coaching courses took place, but it is still too difficult for candidates to access the higher grade courses (particularly in such a geographically spread region). We are pleased to see the success of the new format for Grade 4 Referees courses – which make it so much easier to provide an introduction to refereeing for new referees.

It is good to see the Regional Commission meeting again and the recent meeting indicated the contribution that regional representatives can make to the development of volleyball in its national framework.

It has also been good to see Volleyball England staff visiting the region to meet players and listen to their views. Within the region, I am really grateful to all those who give up so much time to make volleyball in the SW such a success, there is so much excellent work going on.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION REPORTS



YORKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

www.yorkshirevolleyball.org

COMPETITIONS

National Volleyball League

National Volleyball League
Between Sheffield, Leeds and York there were teams at most levels of NVL

Yorkshire Competitions

www.yorkshire.heyva.org.uk/

Men's Yorkshire Premier League (7 teams)
Women's Yorkshire Premier League (8 teams)
Yorkshire Women's Division 1 (4 teams)
Yorkshire Mens Division 1 (6 teams)
Hull and East Yorkshire League (9 teams)

Juniors - North Yorkshire and Hull and East Yorkshire Associations held regular junior development days to develop junior volleyball in their areas. This is in addition to the regular junior volleyball in Harrogate, Barton and York.

AFFILIATIONS/REGISTRATIONS

Clubs: 33
Coaches: 46 (+1 from 15)
Referees: 30 (- 13 from 15)
At the recent AGM the Association decided to use its funds to subsidise coaching courses and referees course in the coming year.

VOLUNTEERS

The local activity is all organised by great volunteers, on top of the sterling work they also do for their individual clubs. Particular thanks go to Doug Lawson, Patrick Sprakes, Oli Gregory, Mo Bucksun, Jitka Jizerova, Roger Kittle, Helen Barker and Jo Sprakes.

OTHER EVENTS

Summer Activities Hull & East Yorkshire ran their weekly 2-a-side league through the summer months. Many clubs have offered Go Spike sessions in local parks. In the summer there were outdoor tournaments on grass, in Leeds, Cleckheaton and York.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

The 33rd Bridlington Mixed Beach Tournament was held in July 2015, masterminded as always by Dave and Penny Speers. In addition a Yorkshire 2-a-side League has been established based at the Go Spike beach courts at Bridlington. There was a successful junior Grand Prix in Whitby and funding for permanent courts in Scarborough.



NORTHWEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

<https://sites.google.com/site/nwvolleyballassociation/>

The NWVA, in its second year of resurrection, continued to develop, make progress, and also have setbacks. The component areas of the NW are reported on below, but the main highlights for the NW Region were the expansion of the NW Grass Grand Prix which saw four tournaments linked throughout the summer, and over forty different teams participate. A NW Beach Championships was created and twenty teams took part on Crosby Beach in sun, rain and a thunder storm alongside the final match of the day! NWVA continues to struggle to establish a presence and purpose as the constituent components carried on when the NWVA was defunct. It will take time, and common purpose, to establish the rationale and benefits of a Regional Association in order for it to flourish.

LANCASHIRE VA REPORT

The Lancashire League organised an outdoor tournament in Preston in July 2015 as part of the NWVA Grand Prix and attracted 33 teams from the North West Region and from Yorkshire.

The League operated for a second season - with five teams playing at a central venue in the North of the county. From a travel perspective this is not ideal but we remain unable to find an available alternative venue in a more central location.

The team from UCLan dropped out this season and was replaced by Blackburn Vipers - who had played in the Preston & District Volleyball League for the first time the previous season.

Unfortunately both Blackpool and Blackburn Vipers struggled to find 6 players on a regular basis - due to changing work shift patterns and dropped out of the league with two matches remaining.

PRESTON & DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

For the 43rd consecutive season this recreational league was able to operate with a full complement of 9 teams.

2 are school teams from one local school
1 is a junior team from Garstang VC

(affiliated to VE)

1 is from the Bolton area
the others are players from Preston Volleyball club (affiliated to VE) who field 5 teams.

Matches take place at a local high school every two weeks in term time and most of the teams simply turn up and play on the night. Each team plays two matches and officiates a third.

GREATER MANCHESTER VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Number of teams participating in your leagues:

8 Men's teams, Oldham A winners div 1, UMVC winners div 2.

10 Women's, Manchester Marvels winners div 1, Oldham Winners div 2.

4 Mixed, Bolton winners

U14 Girls GP, very successful this year with 17 teams taking part. U14 GP winners Tameside and Shield Winners Trafford Titans.

Wigan Volleyball Development Group hosted the CEV summer series LPV. 85 teams 300+ matches, 44 leaders trained and deployed.

For winners... <http://cev.lu/News.aspx?NewsID=23362&ID=12>

GMVA hosted and supported the girls NW regional training for the VE Inter Regional Championships, in partnership with clubs. NW won two gold and a silver at the IRC, a fabulous achievement.

GMVA / VE Investment Zone also ran two Level 1 UKCC Coaching award courses, one Level 2 UKCC Coaching course and one Grade IV Referees course. And saw the formation of a new club in Stockport. There was also a couple of events held in Greater Manchester. Salford Outdoor. Moss side held a successful Big Weekend event. Manchester Marvels ran a Central Venue League with 5 teams taking part in 5 weekends of matches and Marvels are now planning to run a weekend long Volleyball Festival at the beginning of August.

MERSEYSIDE VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Sixteen men's teams and fourteen women's teams in two divisions playing from November to April. Chester men won division one with Wallasey FOB topping division two. Wirral won women's division one with Warrington Wolves taking division two.

Grade IV Referee course held.

Des Jeffers memorial tournaments were held for men and women, and development work continues to look to sustain and develop growth in the League.

CHESHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Was created a year ago to look to encourage grassroots volleyball in the County. Small steps initially but managed to engage with several schools and held a County u15 Championships with ten teams participating.

Catholic High in Chester were also supported through GCSE Volleyball officiating, and were also donated a slider system by Bolton VC, enabling more volleyball in the school.

CVA also partnered UCEA Academy in Ellesmere Port and Cheshire West &

Chester Club in securing a grant for Active Cheshire (CSP) to enable volleyball to be developed in five High Schools in the Cheshire Oaks SSP, which will hopefully see the creation of a Satellite club this September.

2015 - 16 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Following one of the most successful years in the sport, Volleyball England welcomed officials, players and volunteers to the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering for the annual awards ceremony, sponsored by Welcomm Communications Limited. The 2015/16 campaign has seen more clubs and referees enter the game than ever before, and as a result Volleyball England has been able to offer further coaching opportunities across the country. To celebrate such a successful year, the evening looked to recognise some of the standout individuals within their respective fields of the game. League winners from across the country were also present to collect their awards, having achieved success in what has been a hugely-impressive season in raising the standards of volleyball.

TOWERGATE INSURANCE YOUNG COACH OF THE YEAR – ROMAN NEVEYKIN

Whilst continuing his studies, Roman has played a massive part in the running of the Loughborough University Volleyball Club. His unique idea of implementing training techniques from other sports has helped guide the men's first team to a third-place finish in the BUCS Midlands 1A division. Having taken his teaching methods beyond the court, Roman has also worked with new coaches to provide classroom sessions on leadership and analysis of play. Ideas to change training sessions on a regular basis has allowed the club to work on different styles of play, and Roman believes there's always room for improvement. *"It's great to be part of the team because it's given me lots of opportunities to develop myself," he said. "It's nice to be recognised but the work still goes on."*



MAROON PRINT CHILDREN'S COACH OF THE YEAR – IAN CLEWS

Ian has played a pivotal role in bringing the sport to young people across the East Midlands. Currently supporting the East Midlands' junior girls as their head coach, his devoted work at Ashfield School has transformed volleyball there from a non-existent sport. This huge network of players has allowed Ian to work further in the community, having set up tournaments and leagues at a junior level across the Midlands. Following the announcement, Ian said, *"We don't do the coaching for the awards but to be recognised is a*



great honour, I'm very privileged." Ian is hopeful of developing his skills as a coach at Ashfield Vipers VC, with his dedication to sport and young people being the backbone of his work.

LEGENDS SPORT PARTICIPATION COACH OF THE YEAR – ANTHONY LAFFAN

An award that recognises the extra effort that goes in to making volleyball an accessible and enjoyable sport for all, Anthony was thrilled to receive the award. Over a number of years Anthony has worked alongside disability groups to create an enjoyable atmosphere to allow people of all ages and abilities to play together. Having designed a new net that allows this to happen, Anthony now runs a regular session in a community for people with learning disabilities. Anthony, who coaches North Riding Eagles VC, was overwhelmed to receive the recognition, but paid tribute to the many people who have helped behind the scenes. *"This is a team effort, not just about me. It's nice that the people who nominated me for the award respect me and to be respected by your peers is as high an attribute as winning the award itself."*



QDOS CONSULTING PERFORMANCE COACH OF THE YEAR – DENISE AUSTIN

Denise has worked tirelessly to create a good atmosphere amongst her players, while also looking at different components of the game which can be implemented by individuals on court. As well as extensive tactical awareness, Denise has worked psychological effects into the game to ensure her coaching is personalised and meaningful. This effective use of management has helped her to create a platform for the next generation of English athletes, and raise the bar for coaching expectations in volleyball. As well as creating opportunity both on and off the court for young players, Denise's unique approach to motivational techniques has helped people get into the game having never touched a volleyball before.

FLUID CREATIVE MEDIA COACH OF THE YEAR – IAN CLEWS

After receiving recognition for the tireless work he does across the Midlands, Ian picked up a second award of the night. Not only has Ian continued to work in a coaching role across several clubs and schools, he has also been responsible for setting up multiple competitions in the community. Thanks to Ian, the

2015 - 16 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Under-15 Inter-County Championship was the first of its kind to be set up and run in the East Midlands. Following on from that, he created the Under-17 6v6 league that has been responsible for the development of young players, who have since gone on to compete at regional and national level. Ashfield School has transformed volleyball there from a non-existent sport. This huge network of players has allowed Ian to work further in the community, having set up tournaments and leagues at a junior level across the Midlands. Ian is hopeful of developing his skills as a coach at Ashfield Vipers VC, with his dedication to sport and young people being the backbone of his work.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – JOEL MATTHEWS

Since becoming a part of multiple programmes at the University of Nottingham, Joel has played a crucial role in creating interest in volleyball with young adults. As well as being an Engage Ambassador, Joel works alongside the Intra-Mural Sport programme that provides opportunities for beginner and social sport within the university. His weekly beginner session is currently the top sport on the Engage programme, which has been one of the many reasons to justify his award. Joel is now continuing his work to engage the club with local projects, including the Wollaton Park Festival that works in conjunction with the Go Spike Big Weekend.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – CLAIRE COTTRELL

Claire has played a massive part in the expansion of New Forest Volleyball Club since her arrival, and has marketed the sport across the community to drive up interest. At the start of the 2014 season just a handful of juniors were playing, and following her work the club now welcomes more than 100 players to weekly training sessions. Her work online has taken the club to a new level, after setting up an extensive club database to allow key personnel to access member details when needed. Because of this, the club is now far more accessible to anyone thinking of joining and she was thankful for the work everyone had put in to improve the club. *"I came in much later and gave it some energy when they needed it. It's terrific to be recognised but so should they, New Forest is a great club."*



SIDEOUT LONG SERVICE AWARD – TIM GODSON

Having dedicated 21 years to York Volleyball Club, Tim has been a major figure in the running of a club that caters to all levels of ability. Tim has worked as chairman for 15 years, and over the past few seasons has managed to create four new teams, each of different standards. His belief that volleyball should cater for all abilities has made him an important asset to the club, welcoming young members to come and train at whatever pace they like. *"It's excellent, I must admit it's quite unexpected," he said. "It's great to be nominated by the club members and be recognised for all of the years of work."* Tim was



also responsible for running the first Yorkshire Beach Volleyball Series, which continues to pick up interest in co-operation with Leeds VC.

HORIZON 24/7 YOUNG OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR – DAINIUS GREDELIS

As important as it is to ensure players are being brought through from a young age, just as much recognition should be shown to the people that officiate the game. Dainius has not only volunteered for refereeing through a committed and active attitude, but he has offered support to those wanting to work as an official. Dissatisfied with just refereeing on a regular basis, Dainius also attends National League matches in order to pick up vital experience and observe the techniques of some of the referees working at the top of their field. Dainius, a member of Darkstar VC, said: *"I'm really happy to have won, it means a lot because it's my first award since I came to England."* His attitude towards officiating has helped him to create a good relationship with the players, with his professionalism making him a great ambassador for aspiring officials.



ARENA SPORTS REFEREE OF THE YEAR – RICHARD BURBEDGE

Having refereed over 100 matches in the 2015/16 season, Richard has become a leading figure in officiating across all levels of volleyball. His work has taken him to matches across the country, including the NVL, BUCS, London League and being chosen to referee the Oxford v Cambridge Varsity game. Whilst conducting his officiating in a well-organised and professional manner, Richard is always looking to improve his work through feedback from players and colleagues. It's this personality that has allowed him to become a familiar face in the game and referee to a high standard whilst offering support to fellow officials. *"I can't quite believe it," he said. "I never thought I'd be referee of the year. You never do anything for awards, you do it because you love the sport and love doing the refereeing itself."*



SERVICES TO REFEREEING – BRIAN STALKER

Brian has been a valued figure in the running of the Referee Commission for several years, and is the first to provide knowledge to future international referees. Based at Cumbria Volleyball Club, Brian has been responsible for the continued development of young officials working their way into the game. *"It's quite an honour, I've won a lot of things in volleyball but if it's something to do with refereeing it means an awful lot more to me."* Having offered continued support in the streamlining of observation training in up- and-coming officials, Brian has helped referees achieve their grades in both volleyball and beach volleyball.



2015 - 16 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS



SPORTSET CLUB OF THE YEAR – TAMWORTH SPARTANS

A season that has shown just as much improvement off court as on it, Tamworth has taken huge steps to stand as an exemplary club. Having welcomed 37 new members to the club in the last year, they now have five competitive teams playing across the West Midlands. The club has taken it upon themselves to create annual objectives to ensure there is always a need to grow and develop and for volleyball to be a leading sport in their area. Projects such as the Round Table Association and raising money for the Santa Sleigh Collection has helped them to do this, whilst raising the profile of the club in the process.

MIZUNO HEVO OF THE YEAR – JOEL MATTHEWS

After joining the University of Nottingham having never touched a volleyball before, Joel is now President of the Volleyball Club. He has taken his work as a HEVO officer to the next level by providing strength and conditioning programmes to all members, something that wasn't set up before he arrived. Joel has been recognised for his commitment to beginners in volleyball, running a regular weekly session that welcomes 30 mixed ability members. In order to expand the club even further, Joel is now working with Nottingham Trent University to co-ordinate friendly matches in practice for their involvement in BUCS.

WELCOMM COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD – ALL NATIONS VOLLEYBALL

All Nations Volleyball Club has been responsible for hosting this event in London for 10 years and with an ever-increasing profile, they are beginning to attract interest from abroad. Offering a tournament for experienced players, All Nations looks to inspire the next generation of volleyballers by putting on a weekend filled with high-quality action. Families and young children are welcomed to attend the event that showcases some of the top talents representing various different countries. As well as providing an electric atmosphere for the capacity crowd, All Nations works with volunteers so they can gain vital experience working in the sport.

PETER WARDALE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - KEITH NICOLLS

Keith Nicholls scooped the most prestigious award in the sport, the Peter Wardale Trophy, which is awarded to individuals who go above and beyond with their commitment to the sport over a long period of time. Keith played for England and Great Britain more than 50 times and set up the first performance volleyball centre in Bristol. He has trained hundreds of coaches and his two books on the sport are widely used across the country by coaches, teachers and players. Keith has also coached players from local league teams to European, Commonwealth and World Championship sides.



"It's very emotional," he said. "It's not what you come into the game for. For 50 years the game has taken my life over and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. I've met lots of people including my wife so there's a lot to be thankful for. I also owe a chap at college, who I met a long time ago, who got me into the game. I've just enjoyed being involved. It's a great game to play with a great load of people and I'm really honoured to receive this trophy."

Keith is currently the Vice-President of Volleyball England and, in his previous roles at the organisation, has made significant impacts on the game, namely introducing the National League and the Student Cup. He also created a wall slider net system which is now used in more than 500 sports halls across the country.

2015 - 16 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

LEAGUE WINNERS

Women's Div 3 South West - Beach Academy
Women's Div 3 South East - Dartford Ladies
Women's Div 3 Central - Norfolk Ladies
Women's Div 3 North - Wirral Wasps
Women's Div 2 South - New Forrest Ladies
Women's Div 2 North - Birmingham Volleyball Club 2
Women's Div 1 - Team Durham

Men's Div 3 South West - New Forest
Men's Div 3 South East - Tendring VC Men 2
Men's Div 3 Central - DARKSTAR Derbyshire
Men's Div 3 North - Team Durham
Men's Div 2 South - Cardiff Celts
Men's Div 2 North - Northumbria/Middlesbrough Academy

VEBT CHAMPIONS RACE WINNERS

Womens: Melissa Coutts and Lynne Beattie
Mens: Robin Miedzybrodzki & Taylor Wilson



MVPS

Women's Div 3 South West - Yvonne Perkins – Cardiff Celts Ladies
Women's Div 3 South East - Ailsa McDonald – Ashcombe Dorking 2
Women's Div 3 Central - Amy Oke – Lincoln Cannons
Women's Div 3 North - Ashleigh Huntsman – Haughton Darlington
Women's Div 2 South - Federica Brusca – Oxford Ladies
Nicola New - Portsmouth VC
Angelika Siergiej - Dulwich Tuskers
Women's Div 2 North - Ana Petkovic - Nottingham Rockets 1
Women's Div 1 - Lisa Wendt - Team Loughborough
Women's Super 8s - Mara Matta - Team South Wales
Whitney Phillips - Team Northumbria
Kyndra Abron - Team Northumbria
Alexandra Vajdova - Polonia SideOut London

Men's Div 3 South West - Piotr Kubaty - Guildford International
Josef Antos – Wiltshire Mavericks
Men's Div 3 South East - Nuno Gouveia - Dartford Volleyball Club
Men's Div 3 Central - Lewis Messam - Nuneaton
Men's Div 3 North - Jonathan Willis - Haughton Darlington
Arkadiusz Herod - Intervolley Manchester
Men's Div 2 South - Valdis Baranous – Exeter Storm
Men's Div 2 North - Thomas Loughran - Sunderland City Predators
Men's Div 1 - Javier Daga - Solent
Men's Super 8s - Taylor Wilson - London Lynx

VEBT JUNIOR PLAYERS OF THE YEAR WINNERS

Junior Women VEBT Winners - Anaya Evans
Ellie Austin
Junior Men VEBT Winners - Javier and Joaquin Bello

SITTING GRAND PRIX SERIES MVP WINNERS

These trophies will be awarded at the first sitting Grand Prix every next season.

Mens Joint Winners - John Munro - East London Lynx
Lamin Manneh - Manchester Marvels
Womens Winner - Jess Dowdeswell - Essex Pirates



FINANCE REPORT



John Boughton
Finance Director

For the first time in my tenure, I'm not able to present audited accounts to you for the year ended 31 March 2016. That's not the fault of our auditors, BDO. It is an unfortunate circumstance arising from the replacement of our old Sage accounting system with a new Cloud-based one. I am pleased to say that we do have accounts that we are confident will pass scrutiny from BDO but that will not be in time to reach this Annual Report. Whilst I have been impressed with what I've seen from the new system, like all new-kids-on-the-block, they take time to settle down, no matter how good the pre-implementation training was. Buying a system "off the shelf" gives reliability and predictability but those worthy and desirable attributes may arise in areas of operation you don't expect, with the consequent appearance of unpredictability and unreliability. From my working experience I know that to be true, even in large companies such as Jaguar Land Rover. I am also reminded of a comment made by an IT man back in the 80s. When asked to define a "transparent change", he declared it was when people asked "where on earth did that come from?"

So although we are forward, we're also not where we thought we'd be. I'm sure that without the tireless efforts of Dirk George and Sandra Andrews, ably led by Martin Lindsey, we would be in a far worse position. My thanks go to them for another sterling year of effort.

So how did we do? Despite a few ups and downs during the year, notably the London Legacy Volleyball Cup, we achieved our Budget position overall – breakeven. That's a significant achievement and one that is down to the contribution of everyone at Head Office. However, I do have to single out Dirk George, as without him and his diligence in reviewing our VAT returns (hardly the subject of a gripping new Sunday night drama series) we would not have been able to make the budget a stretchy but attainable target.

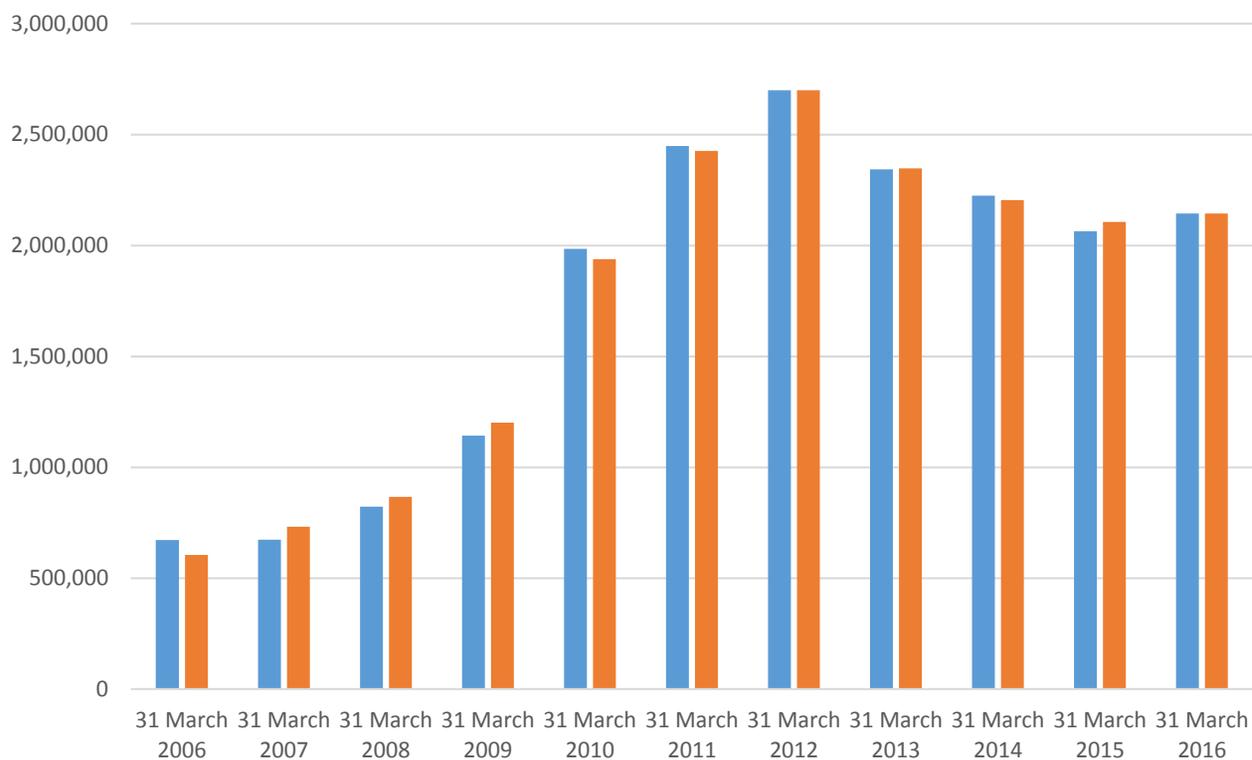
Our Reserves are slightly below where they should be but the recovery of that position is entirely achievable this financial year. We therefore continue to have a degree of flexibility that other organisations must envy.

That may be tested within the next twelve months, as the new Sport England Investment round reaches its culmination. However, the London Legacy Volleyball Cup has provided us with new sources of commercial revenue which go towards lessening our dependence on Government funding and as the ad goes "Every little helps!" Now where's my shopping basket?

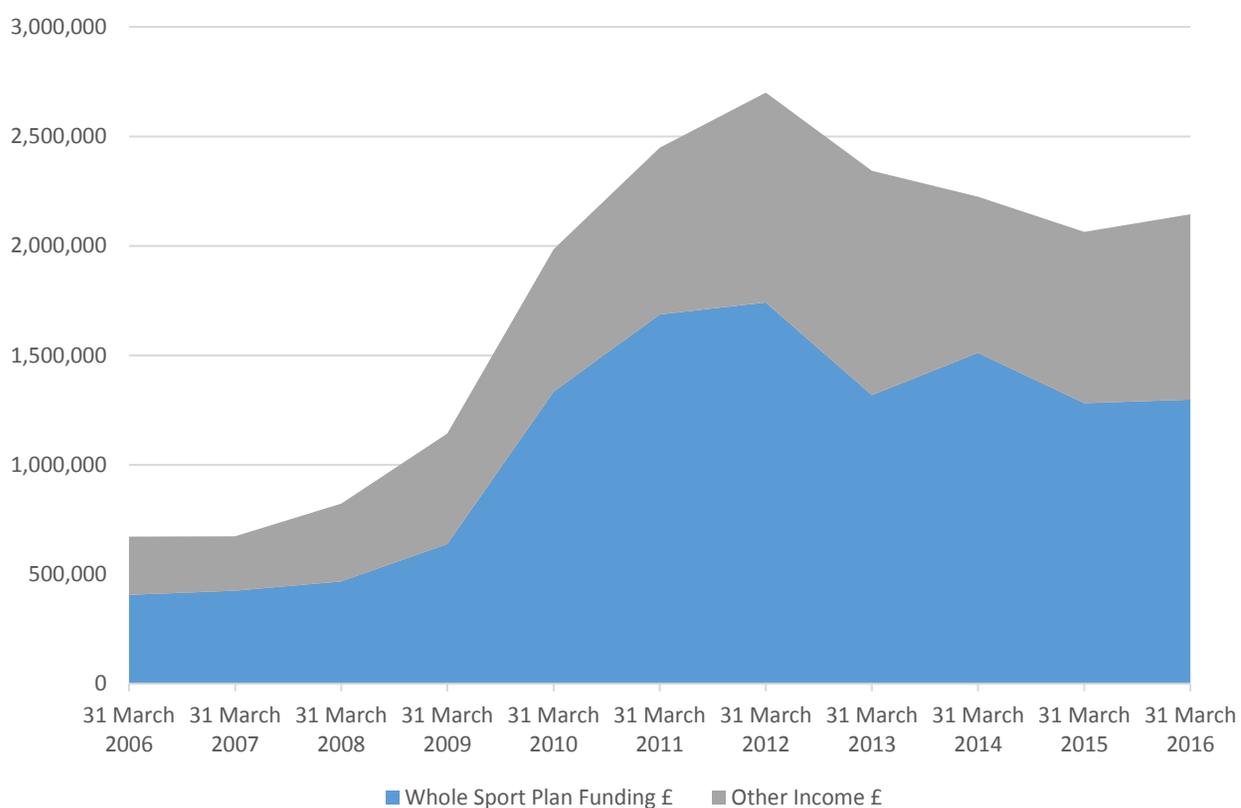
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016 (Draft subject to Audit)

	2015-16			2014-15		
	Income	Expenditure	Net F/(A)	Income	Expenditure	Net F/(A)
Activities	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Competitions & Events	184.1	281.4	(97.2)	203.0	304.8	(101.8)
Membership & Marketing	62.3	115.3	(53.1)	55.0	136.8	(81.7)
Workforce	107.9	182.0	(74.2)	148.7	160.4	(11.7)
Participation	106.0	386.5	(280.5)	83.2	433.3	(350.2)
Sitting Volleyball	18.2	45.4	(27.2)	9.5	62.4	(52.9)
Performance	147.5	351.1	(203.6)	152.3	327.7	(175.4)
National Volleyball Centre	7.5	58.0	(50.5)	6.2	58.5	(52.3)
Commercial	100.6	163.5	(63.0)	32.4	10.6	21.9
Governance & Finance	20.2	262.6	(242.4)	26.1	288.8	(262.8)
Head Office	41.1	243.7	(202.6)	18.0	260.7	(242.7)
Sport England Grant	1,289.5	-	1,289.5	1,246.4	-	1,246.4
Other Grants	4.8	0.7	4.1	21.9	-	21.9
Capital Projects	54.0	54.0	-	35.0	35.3	(0.3)
Grand Total	2,143.7	2,144.2	(0.6)	2,037.7	2,079.2	(41.5)
Profit/(Loss) before tax			(0.6)			(41.5)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE -10 YEAR SUMMARY



SOURCES OF FUNDING -10 YEAR SUMMARY



THANK YOU PAGE

Thank you to all our superb volunteers and wonderful partners.

Our thanks go to all 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.

The directors who served during the year were:

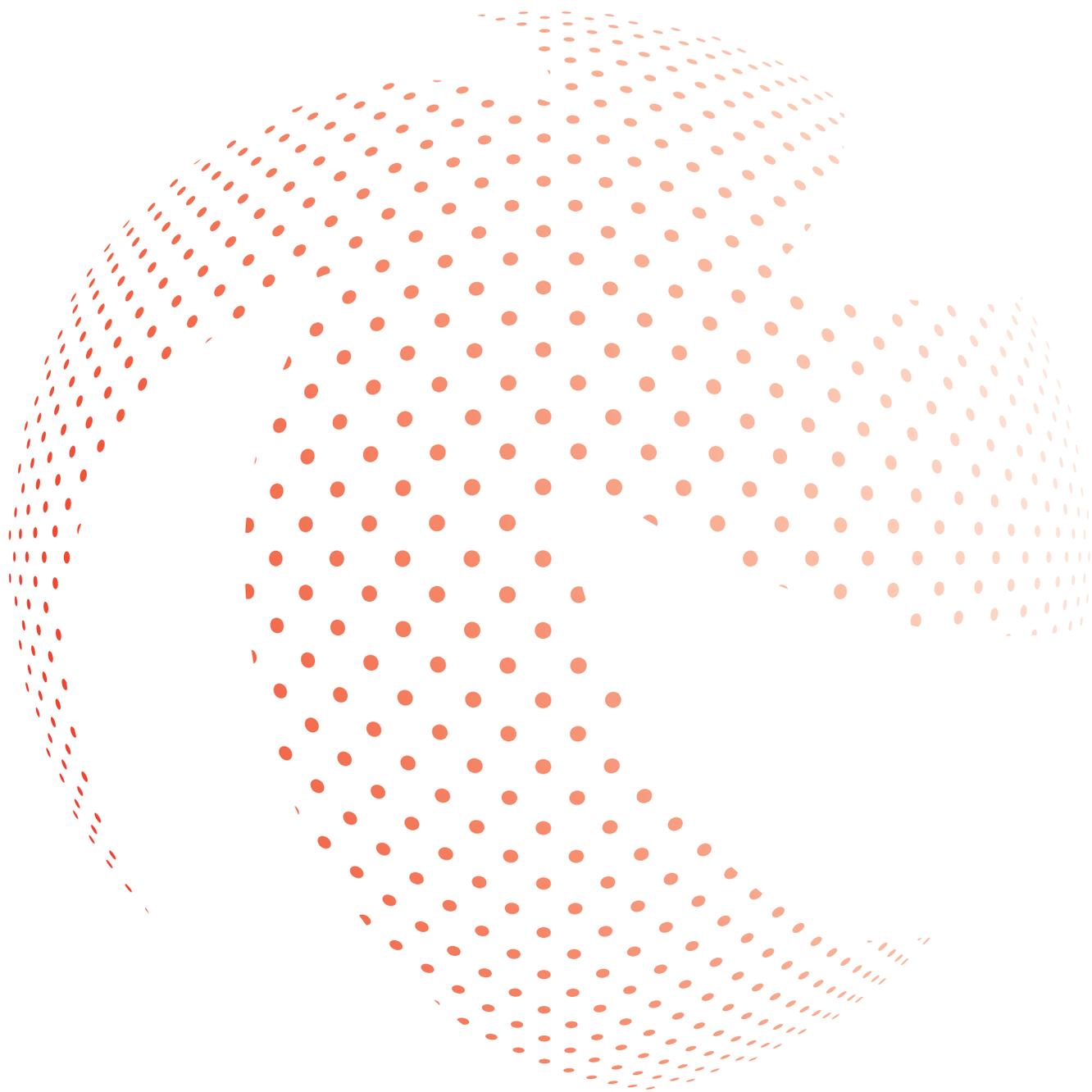
- G C A Allen
- K S Nicholls
- J A Williams
- D M Lane
- W A Roberts
- R A Cook
- A J P Boughton
- S Matthews
- J E Mutton
- B Treadwell
- T E Watkinson

Company secretary
M Lindsey



Samworth Brothers





SportPark
Loughborough University
3 Oakwood Drive
Loughborough
LE11 3QF
Tel: 01509 227722

Volleyball England Equality Statement:

Volleyball England supports the principle of equal opportunities for all participants, members, representatives and employees whilst working for, or on behalf of Volleyball England. It opposes all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, colour, race, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexuality, HIV status, or unrelated criminal convictions, or disability.

www.gospike.net
www.volleyballengland.org