



Welcome to the November edition of the Volleyball England club newsletter.

In this edition of the club newsletter you will find:

- Meet the Get. Keep. Grow. team
- Final Junior Competitions entry deadline
- Funding opportunities
- Starting our digital transformation project
- What's on this month
- Inclusion guidance
- How to livestream your matches
- COVID Addendum update
- NEW Art of Coaching offer

Please do forward this email on to your committee, players, volunteers and anyone

else who you think may be interested.

The club newsletter has been created to send important information and resources to clubs in one, convenient place. Any urgent emails will still be sent separately to this newsletter.

Charlotte Lingham
Digital and Communications Assistant



Hi From Volleyball England

Hi! We are Vicki and Laura and we work in the Get. Keep. Grow. area of the business at Volleyball England. Our main focus is to help support clubs to grow and develop and to help them achieve their ambitions. This can range from helping clubs with funding bids as part of the feedback service we offer, through to helping clubs establish junior volleyball. Over the coming months we will be working closely with clubs to gain insights to help us develop the membership packages and support systems to ensure that they are club

focused.

Alongside working to support clubs Vicki also leads on Equality and Diversity and the [HEVO Programme](#) which supports University students to lead and co-ordinate the development of recreational volleyball at their host institution. Laura manages the membership inbox so will be your first contact point if you email us via the membership email and also supports on the delivery of the HEVO Programme.

Get to know Vicki and Laura

How long have you worked at Volleyball England?

Vicki: 'I have just passed the 4 year mark!'

Laura: 'I have been at VE for nearly 6 months but that doesn't include the 10 months I worked here back in 2016/17 after some time away working for England Netball- it is nice to be back!'.

Are you a sports fan?

Vicki: 'Absolutely, I love to watch all disciplines of volleyball and my appreciation for the sport has grown since working at VE but I am a football fan at heart. Leicester City are my team.'

Laura: 'Volleyball is my sport and I am also a Volleyball Level 2 coach in the South West. I also really enjoy watching a range of sports including cricket, football and you'll often find me on a Saturday morning doing a Park run!'

What's the most exciting part of your job?

Vicki: 'Speaking with the volleyball community and volunteers as I love hearing people's stories to know how they got in to the sport or how volleyball has impacted their lives. I have found that the volleyball community is a quite tight knit one with many volunteers that put such a tremendous amount of time in to supporting the sport, so I really enjoy being able to help and support where I can.'

Laura: 'Being able to help support clubs to develop their grassroots volleyball and reach wider communities.'

What's your most-used productivity hack?

Vicki: 'Without a doubt my Outlook calendar. I use it to keep track of all of my meetings, personal appointments and tasks. It keeps me organised and I love a colour coding scheme!'

Laura: 'Highlighters and a good to do list on a sturdy notepad!'

What do you enjoy outside of work?

Vicki: 'I love a bit of DIY and upcycling so I am always looking for bargains and researching new ways to do things!'

Laura: 'You can often find me in my garden looking after my plants.'

How to contact us:

Vicki Carr- Strategic Manager v.carr@volleyballengland.org

Laura Woodruff- Project Delivery Team Lead l.woodruff@volleyballengland.org

You can contact us both via membership@volleyballengland.org for any club specific support or membership enquiries.



Enter our U15s Junior Competitions

The entry deadlines for our new-look junior competitions have arrived. Back bigger and better than before, you'll want to make sure you're a part of them. If you have an U15s team, there's still time to get involved.

The entries for U18s closed last week with a record 83 teams entered, up from 40 in 2019/20. It's looking like its going to be a very exciting and busy series

of competitions. U16s entries closed yesterday and are currently being sorted, whilst the final deadline, for U15s, is on Thursday 2nd December.

The new second tier makes the junior competitions perfect for teams of all experience and skill. New and inexperienced teams can compete in Tier 2 of the competitions, whilst more established junior teams who would typically reach the last eight stage in previous editions of Volleyball England's junior competitions will play in Tier 1.

Tier 2 is focused on development and participation, it has a unique set of adapted rules to enhance the player experience. For example, the U15s competitions is played 4v4 on badminton courts and the U16s and U18s 6v6 on a short court.

The competitions will also now consist of three Grand Prix events per age group, per gender rather than a knockout-style cup. Each Grand Prix will be an isolated competition; however, the results will contribute to an overall standing.

If you've had an influx of juniors joining your club, this is the perfect opportunity to get them involved in a national competition. Get your U15s entered before Thursday to be involved in the fun.

Find out more about the junior competitions and how to enter your team [here](#).

Photo: Phil Gibbin

[Enter our U15s Junior Competitions](#)



Funding opportunities

Funding plays a big part in the development of clubs. Find out about current opportunities below.

[Tesco Community Grants](#) – Up to £1500 of funding is available to apply for. Please ensure that you read the FAQ's and eligibility criteria before applying. This grant is prioritising support for children and young people and from a sporting aspect, the funding is been awarded for equipment/kit for youth sports teams.

[The Dickie Bird Foundation](#) - To assist young people under 16 years of age to participate, to the best of their ability, in the sport of their choice irrespective of their social circumstances, culture or ethnicity and to ensure that, in doing so, they improve their chances both inside and outside sport.

[Biffa Award](#) - Biffa Award gives grants to community projects near landfill sites.

[Boost](#) – Boost awards funds of up to £750 for sports organisations, predominantly focused on supporting disadvantaged or disabled members/clubs.

If you have any questions or would like any support with an application please contact fundingsupport@volleyballengland.org.

Photo: South Hants



New platform will fix website issues by spring 2022

Stewart Thorpe, Digital and Communications Manager at Volleyball England, provides an update on the Volleyball England website as a new project gets underway to create a replacement site.

In recent weeks, many of you will come across issues accessing or using our website.

The experience has not been good enough and we are sorry that, despite our best efforts, we have not been able to completely overcome these challenges.

Energised by our new strategy, we are striving to see the services we provide to the volleyball community improve, not deteriorate, and so I wanted to update you on a new project to do just that.

Following close discussions with our developers, I'm pleased to reveal we have agreed to a cost-effective project to build a new website. This will do much more than just overcome those existing challenges.

We'll make the new site mobile compatible, introduce a smarter search function, and take the opportunity to both re-design the homepage and re-structure website content.

There is lots to do from now until the new site will go live in spring 2022, but I'm confident that by the end of it the website experience will be vastly improved.

In the meanwhile, thank you for your patience and understanding. Please rest assured we are doing everything we can to fix any lingering website issues and bring the date of the new website going live forward.

This will be the start of a wider digital transformation project that will help us to develop and grow the sport in the years ahead.





There's always lots going on in the volleyball family. From e-learning courses, to national awareness days, find out what's happening this month.

Club Matters – Volunteer Focus

We are committed to supporting, developing and celebrating volunteers, who do so much for the love of our sport. We know lots of members hold multiple roles within their club, we want to be able to support you by identifying any new volunteering opportunities, that you may have. Take a look at Club Matters guide [here](#).

Club Matters Workshops

Club Matters is running a series of free workshops across November and December, with bookings now open. The workshops are short training sessions that will develop your skills, improve your knowledge and ultimately help you develop your club. The workshops include: planning for your future, volunteer experience, a club for everyone (help your club become more welcoming, friendly, accessible and inclusive), financial sustainability, introduction to legal structures, and participant experience.

See the range of workshops, the dates available and sign up [here](#).

Top Marketing Tips

Working with our Digital and Communications Assistant, Charlotte, we have created some marketing top tips for you which will help you to expand your clubs presence both online and offline. Download the poster [here](#).

Digital Marketing Hub - Social media focus

CIMSPA's Digital Marketing Hub is a great resource for you to learn how to better market your club. Social media is a good place to start and there are lots of webinars that you can catch up on [here](#). On the 30th November, CIMSPA are holding a webinar with Google Digital Garage on Social Media Strategy. Log in or create an account, then sign up [here](#).

Volunteer Now workshops

Volunteer Now have a number of upcoming 'on demand' [courses and workshops](#) such as 'looking after your wellbeing as a volunteer' and 'adult safeguarding' to help support volunteer managers and volunteers.

Rainbow Laces Day

Stonewall's [Rainbow Laces Day](#) 2021 takes place on Wednesday 8th December. The day celebrates the impact that sport has on LGBTQ+ people, and the impact that LGBTQ+ people have on sport. As part of this years campaign, Stonewall have released top tips for LGBT inclusion in Sport. You can find the top tips [here](#).

Anti-bullying week

Anti-bullying week took place from the 15th – 19th November. The theme this year was the One Kind Word. Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons, that 'One Kind Word' was chosen for this week which many schools around the country have been getting involved in.

Check out the video here to find out more [here](#).

How can you incorporate this within your club?: Can you think of how you could add

one kind word within your club or designated session? This could be at your next committee meeting or training session to help showcase how this can make a positive impact.

Anti-Doping

UKAD and the government released new policies and framework recently that Volleyball England need to comply to. This will involve everyone involved in volleyball having a better understanding about the knowledge of anti-doping, the rules, the consequences and how to remain clean. Clubs will have an integral part in this in the near future as we are all responsible to help keep our sport a Clean Sport. In coming months, Volleyball England will provide you with more relevant information on a more regular basis. As a starting point, please refer to our [webpage](#).

Volunteers

We know that volunteers across the sport and throughout the country have had a challenging time due to effects of the coronavirus pandemic but we also know that this is a time when many volunteers have come together to support one another and a time that has all brought out the best in us. You can watch this lovely video [here](#) from Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and participants across the country say thank you to volunteers. In case you missed it, you can find out [here](#) who the Volleyball England Annual Award winners were for 2021. Once more a huge congratulations to all of the winners and runners-up and thank you to all of the volleyball family volunteers that help make our sport possible.



Inclusion Guidance

After reading about Rainbow Laces Day in our What's On Section above, you might be thinking about how you can make your club more inclusive and welcoming for LGBTQ+ players.

Pride Sports, funded by Sport England, have put together a guidance policy for non-binary inclusion in grassroots sport and physical activity. Sport, including volleyball, often operates on rigid gender binaries, which can result in amplified experiences of exclusion for non-binary participants. Supporting this marginalised group to play and enjoy sport is vital - download the document and read the recommendations [here](#).

Gendered Intelligence offer a number of Trans Awareness Training sessions that can support you in developing the awareness and practices you need in your club. As well as their pre-written sessions for all public facing organisations, they offer fully bespoke training options, tailored to your needs. Find out more [here](#).

Stonewall also have a number of resources available to help with LGBTQ+ inclusion in sport. These include tips for allies, and which sports are getting LGBTQ+ inclusion right, why trans inclusion is important, and how to make your club more inclusive. Take a look [here](#).



Livestreaming

Sports fans are increasingly turning to online streaming platforms over TV channels to get their sports fix. These platforms have given minority sports the chance to increase their visibility and, as they're easy to set up, are something to seriously consider introducing at your club if you haven't already.

Read on to find about the benefits, how to get set up, and the key things to consider.

First, let's begin with the big question – why? Aside from playing, nothing beats watching volleyball. It captures the excitement of an intense rally, those unbelievable saves, and the energy on court. It's a great way of promoting our game and why we're also upping the live coverage for Volleyball England events this season.

From a coaching perspective, that footage can also be analysed to help improve team performance.

Getting started

In terms of equipment, all you need for a simple live stream is a smartphone or tablet connected to the internet, and a sturdy tripod. You can hit 'go live' from the club Facebook or YouTube channel to produce a straightforward match stream or utilise a live streaming platform to overlay scores – more on that further down.

Using a battery pack to keep your device charged is advised. You'll also want to consider the best camera position to capture the action, the lighting of the space, the audio – please

warn spectators their voice might be picked up – and ensure parental consent is in place before any children appear on the stream. It's definitely worth having a test run before you jump in.

Streaming platforms

To take your live stream to that next level, you may want to pay for a platform that allows you to add team names, live scores, and more to your streams.

[Swish Live](#) is one solution [used by some clubs](#), as well as Volleyball England, for just that.

An app is downloaded onto the device from which live streams can be set up and controlled. There is a [freemium option and basic and pro packages](#) with additional features that start from around £25 a month. If you're unsure, you can take out a free trial too.

If you would like to sign up to Swish, we have secured a special rate for Volleyball England clubs. Please create and log in to your account, choose the membership you want to unlock, and then either enter the code PREMIUMVOLLEYENGLAND30 or PROVOLLEYENGLAND30.

An alternative is [Stat Together](#) which, as the name suggests, is focused on statistics. Building on the live score functionalities, it gives the user the ability to collect data in real time, giving you immediate insight and feedback on the game. Both the streaming and statting features are only available on IOS, but if you do feel this could be the solution for your club, it is cheaper to subscribe to (\$6 a month). Here's [a video of Stat Together in action](#).

This is a brief intro to live streaming and some of the options. If you're already live streaming – keep up the great work. And if you're looking to give it a go, good luck! If you need support or have any questions, reach out to us via communications@volleyballengland.org.



COVID Addendum

We introduced a set of measures for 2021/22 to mitigate potential Covid-19 risks to participants at Volleyball England competitions. We also advise other volleyball competition organisers to follow these measures too, which are in addition to our usual rules and regulations.

Our [Covid Addendum](#), which was produced and released at the start of the season by the Competitions Working Group, is a list of advisory, preferred and required measures .

It includes such measures as: electronic whistles are the preferred option; substitution paddles are required; there will be no technical time outs; and there will be no pre-match or post-match handshakes.

A recent update to the Covid Addendum has been issued on the following points:

- It is the responsibility of both teams to provide sanitiser for themselves.
- Please ensure that wherever possible that doors and / or air vents are open to ensure a continual airflow through the facility as this helps reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

Observance of the measures outlined in the addendum is helping, as [highlighted at an NVL match when a player tested positive afterwards](#).

If you have any questions about Volleyball England competitions or the rules, please don't hesitate to contact the Competitions Team via competitions@volleyballengland.org.

Thank you to everyone for their support so far. Let's continue to keep each other safe.



Great new offer on Art of Coaching for Volleyball England coaches

We're really pleased to announce the launch of a fantastic new offer on the Art of Coaching subscription for registered coaches. Volleyball England coaches have benefitted from the subscription for a long time, giving them access to the largest library of volleyball training videos, resources and clinics. That's why it was so important to us to renew and refresh our partnership with them.

The premium membership is available to Volleyball England registered coaches at a big discount. With an RRP of \$99, it will be available for just £50 when purchased through VolleyZone!

Coaches who have already registered for the 2021/22 season will be able to purchase their Art of Coaching subscription separately, whilst new coaches can purchase it

alongside their registration.

How to purchase your subscription

To register as a coach and buy your membership, head to [VolleyZone](#) and select Coach from the drop-down menu. You can then choose to add the Art of Coaching membership in the box below.

If you already have an active coaching registration, to purchase your Art of Coaching subscription please sign into your VolleyZone account and select manage registrations. There you will be able to purchase the subscription at the discounted rate from the drop-down menu. Once you have purchased your subscription, you will receive an email from Laura in the membership team with how to access your subscription.

If you have any questions, please email membership@volleyballengland.org.