

3 TOUCH VOLLEYBALL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

Inside: VRM Updates



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UK MILITARY GAMES

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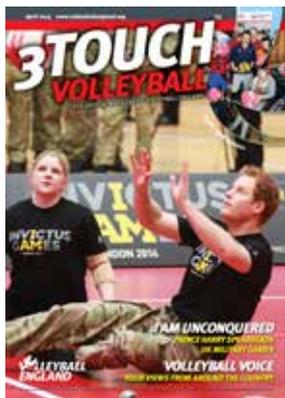
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Prince Harry at the launch of the Invictus Games (photograph courtesy: Mark Pritchard)

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Volleyball England
SportPark, Loughborough University,
No. 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 3QF
E-mail: info@volleyballengland.org
Tel: 01509 227 722
Fax: 01509 227 733
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Designed by Andy Smyth & Vivienne Ettenfield

Editorial Board:

Lisa Wainwright - Chief Executive
Gerard Van Zwieten - Membership & Marketing Manager
Mark Pritchard - Marketing and Media Officer

Kirsty Meynell - Writer

Chris Gregory - Writer

Tim Griffiths - Writer

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go
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Wayne Coyle
President



Lisa Wainwright
Chief Executive

Welcome

THE PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the latest publication of 3Touch.

This edition reports on the recent activity which has taken place in our sport over the last few months and also looks at some of the key issues that we hope will drive volleyball in England forward over the coming months and years. The Volleyball Relationship Managers (VRM's) are now all in place across our five Investment Zones and I am delighted to hear of the progress that's been made and the activities that are already being delivered in these areas. Work is taking place with a range of organisations, clubs and individuals to drive participation and establish sustainable activity, helping to achieve identified targets in the strategic plan.

Success in these zones will hopefully result in additional investment and the roll-out of Phase 2 locations. If you have the opportunity to work with the VRM's then please do so. I am sure they will appreciate your involvement and support.

This time of year is always very exciting, as many of the indoor leagues and cup competitions come to a conclusion in NVL, regional and local leagues. It goes without saying that to grow our sport we will need more teams, coaches, officials and administrators. This will only occur, however, if we provide support for each other and mutually respect the roles that all of us play in participating in and delivering these competitions.

The forthcoming National Cup Finals and Play-off Finals provide an ideal opportunity to showcase and celebrate all that is good in our sport and to demonstrate this mutual respect. If you are not already due to be in Kettering then why not come along and either support one of these events or attend the presentation evening?

Best wishes to you all.

Note from The Editor:

Due to the huge number of activities this season within all regions, some of the planned events mentioned in our reports have, in fact, already happened!

CEO NEWS

What a start to 2014!

We completed our tour around the country with The Volleyball Voice visiting North, South, East and West and we have a full staff team now in place to help support you and volleyball throughout England. Oh yes, and not to mention holding the first round of the CEV European Under 20 Men's Competition at the National Volleyball Centre, Kettering. Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered at this event, came along to support our boys or watched the matches on live stream – the result was our first ever qualification through to the second round. Well done team and good luck this month in Bulgaria, 24-27 April 2014.

So to the Volleyball Voice, what a series of events! We were blown from Newcastle to Manchester, snowed on down in Surrey and drove through torrential rain and floods on the road to Weston-Super-Mare. But it was all worth it and our sincere thanks to you all who braved the difficult weather to come out and support volleyball.

The key messages coming from Volleyball Voice: you want more time and opportunities to see us and you also want us to improve our communications – across the board. Many of you asked us to stop printing 3Touch as you'd prefer to receive it electronically – so see inside for more details on this. What we want to ensure is that we use your membership money wisely and you feel there are better ways of getting our messages across than just a hard copy magazine.

As well as communications, you told us loud and clear what you want to see for volleyball in England by 2024 – if you had a magic wand what would it be? Huge thanks to the Olympians and Paralympians for supporting this section of Volleyball Voice – your inspiration from the top was great! So what came through, well you want to see more volleyball in particular in primary schools, you want full national squads, you want to see a semi-professional league and also volleyball centres across the country. And without doubt, you want to see more volleyball - on TV, in the media and socially. So the challenge is on. We have begun analysing all your views and will be drafting our 'Vision for 2024' – but what else could it be called? Let us know – it's your sport and you are its future!

LISA DENHAM **GREAT NORTH SWIM**

There are many lovely ways to spend a Saturday afternoon in June: walking the dog, having a late lunch with friends, relaxing in the garden with a cool drink ...

But rumours around the office are that our very own Lisa Denham will certainly not be doing anything like that this year!

Lake Windermere, England's largest natural lake, is famous for its stunning location in the Lake District. It also provides the location for The Great North Swim, a gruelling one mile outdoor swim which annually attracts around 10,000 people undertaking the challenge. This year amongst the swimmers taking part will be Lisa Denham, a first time Great North Swimmer, hoping to raise money and awareness for The Volleyball England Foundation.

Lisa is taking part not only to raise money for Volleyball, but also as a personal challenge. Having been diagnosed with Epilepsy eight years ago, Lisa explained "I'd like to prove to myself and others that having a disability doesn't need to prevent you from achieving your goals and dreams." Lisa's training began in January 2014 with her partner John, who has already completed the swim on several occasions and is familiar

with all it entails. The swim is both mentally and physically tough. John will be swimming alongside Lisa on the day itself to make sure she is ok.

When asked why she selected The Volleyball England Foundation as her chosen charity Lisa said "Sport is something I feel very passionate about. Volleyball is a fantastic, fun and inclusive sport that all people should have access to playing. By raising money and awareness I hope we can obtain more grass roots opportunities for the sport to develop."

The trust aims to promote the sport in a non-discriminatory way whereby all can get involved and play. That core belief is the reason why Lisa is determined to support the work they do in so many people's lives. "The more we can raise the profile of the sport, the more potential it has to grow from a minority sport into the mainstream. Everyone should have the opportunity to have a go!"



Lisa Denham



Lisa's partner, John



Paralympic gold medalist, Josef Craig MBE, started last year's race.

Lisa's Just Giving website is www.justgiving.com/Lisa-Denham. Please visit the site to make a donation to her magnificent challenge.

Lisa's swim start time is 4.00 pm on Saturday 14th June. If you would like to support Lisa on the day, you are very welcome. The water will still be extremely cold so let's give her some much needed support and encouragement! #LisasMadMile

SPORTING SUCCESS

VOLLEYBALL'S COACHES OF THE FUTURE ATTEND NATIONAL YOUNG COACHES ACADEMY

Volleyball England selected 17 of our most promising young coaches and gave them the opportunity to learn and share valuable experiences in their pursuit of sporting success.



Professor Robert Allison, Loughborough University Vice Chancellor, presents Terrell Jordan with his award.

The volleyballers joined 200 young coaches selected from 10 governing bodies (athletics, badminton, basketball, boccia, football, hockey, rugby union, swimming, table tennis and volleyball) to attend the National Young Coaches Academy (NYCA) from 20-22 December 2013, delivered by the Youth Sport Trust to support talented young coaches to fulfil their potential.

The NYCA provides a unique opportunity to focus on the coaches of the future. It helps participants to reflect upon the type of coach they want to be, and improve and develop their personal and how-to coaching skills. Its learning programme is deeply rooted in developing the people skills and coaching skills of the young coaches. Throughout the weekend, the young coaches will attend workshops to help them develop skills

“It was such a fantastic opportunity to work with so many inspiring people, I feel privileged to be able to use what I learnt last year to help develop more young coaches.”

such as communication and organisation, adaptability and compassion, through to sessions on observation, instruction and analysis.

Amelia Hadjianastasi who attended from Bury Bobcats shared her thoughts: “The NYCA has given me a better and wider understanding of the different coaching techniques and given me more confidence to put what I have learnt into practice.”

There was also the chance for an attendee from last year’s academy to attend as a Young Coach Mentor and put into action what they

had learnt from their experience. Catherine Wright, who is now studying at the University of Bristol attended for volleyball and agrees: “It was such a fantastic opportunity to work with so many inspiring people, I feel privileged to be able to use what I learnt last year to help develop more young coaches.”

And volleyball won an award!

Terrell Jordan, 18, from Battersea, London scooped the award for Adaptability and Compassion at the National Young Coaches Academy at Loughborough University.

Terrell, who plays and coaches at Ernest Bevin College won one of only four awards given out at the NYCA. Cool, calm and collected, and always a step ahead, Terrell demonstrated that he is able to think quickly, and adapt and respond to both the environment and the people he is working with. He has consistently shown that he thinks of others first, and his desire to ensure everyone is involved and engaged shone through.

The Young Coaches were; Abigail Ball, Kasean Coe & Kaia Skillman of Polonia Junior Academy; Georgie Bedford, Nuneaton Volleyball Club; Jack Brookes & Charlie

Edwards of Cleobury Mortimer Volleyball Club; Jasmine Cannon, Daisy Kirk, Olivia Reid & Oliver Watson of Harrogate Volleyball Club; Amelia Hadjianastasi & Joel Hughes of Bury Bobcats; Kira Hambleton of Wigan Seahawks; Paige Hill & Rebecca Bagley of Redhill Stourbridge Volleyball Club; Terrel Jordan of Ernest Bevin College and Florence Owen of Newcastle Staffs Volleyball Club. Lisa Wainwright our own CEO attended the awards to show our support for such a fabulous event.

MASTERS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT **SHEFFIELD EIS** **29-31 AUGUST 2014**

Masters volleyball returns for its third year in August at its birthplace of Sheffield.

The tournament is geared towards players over a certain age with all men being over 40 and women being above 35 years of age. There is no need to find six people of a qualifying age as each player enters individually with teams being selected by the masters committee prior to the event.

With some of the biggest names in British volleyball making up team captains each squad of eight will only find out their playing mates during the Friday night team announcement at the Holiday Inn Rotherham. This is where players will be accommodated with full access to the spa and health club facilities so even if you come up early you get time to unwind before the fun starts. Non players can book spa treatments and use the pool and sauna area at any time.

Once you have played a full day's volleyball at the English Institute of Sport, a three course dinner and disco will be held in the Peter Elliott suite at the hotel where the drinks flow and the fun begins.

The cost of the event is £145 per person and there are packages for non players.

Each player will receive a team strip, accommodation, Friday night buffet, Saturday night 3 course presentation dinner and lunch on Saturday so it is great value.

This year numbers are increasing and the event is looking at doubling in size to 128 players.

Numbers are limited so if you are interested, please contact Masters Volleyball a mail at mastersvolleyball@gmail.com

Or check out the website where the list of attending players is updated regularly.

mastersvolleyball.co.uk

EUROPEAN MACCABI GAMES 2015

Next summer Maccabi GB – the UK's only Jewish sports charity and Governing Body – will be sending a delegation of 240 athletes and coaches to Berlin to take part in the European Maccabi Games 2015.

It will be the first time an International Jewish Sports Tournament will ever be held in Germany and will see participants from across Europe compete side-by-side at this historic tournament. 'Team Maccabi GB' is recruiting for athletes to represent British Jewry in a number of sports, including four Volleyball Teams – Boys & Girls (Under 16) and Open Male & Female.

If you have the skill set to compete in one of the top sporting competitions in the world and you want to experience a summer of social, cultural and religious experiences that will last a lifetime then apply at www.maccabigb.org/emg (Please note: You must be a member of Britain's Jewish Community to fit the selection criteria)

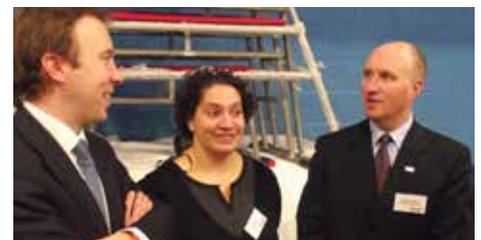
MATTHEW HANCOCK MP **ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN SPORTING EXCELLENCE**

On Friday 28 February, six Volleyball Academy athletes based at Loughborough College put on an excellent display of their skills and expertise during a visit from The Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise, Matthew Hancock MP.

The purpose of this visit was to acknowledge the importance of the Advanced

Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) and the success of the programme across a variety of sports at the college.

Alongside their training and their sixth form studies, these six volleyball players are also enrolled onto the AASE programme in order to help them develop the attributes required of a high-performing athlete. They study subjects such as nutrition, finance and tactics and have to provide evidence to display their knowledge and understanding,



Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise, Matthew Hancock MP (Left), pictured with Adi Fawcett and Rohan West of Volleyball England.

which ultimately leads to an National Vocational Qualification.

Volleyball England views this programme as an important stepping stone for players aged 16-18 as it enhances their education and experience towards becoming an elite volleyball athlete and is also developing into an integral part of the talent pathway.

EAST LONDON ESSEX **VOLLEYBALL** **RELATIONSHIP** **MANAGER UPDATE**



As most readers will know, I have been involved in volleyball for a number of years. Fifteen of these have been spent within the rectangular court markings, looking through square netting whilst concentrating on trying to prevent a blue and yellow Mikasa ball from hitting the floor. However, this year I have taken on a new daily volleyball challenge – Volleyball Relationship Manager (VRM) for East London and Essex.

My role as a VRM is to manage relationships with key internal and external stakeholders, for example local schools/colleges, universities, sports development teams, leisure operators and funding agencies. Although I have only been in the post a number of months it is clear to see that this Regional Investment Zone has fantastic potential to deliver the Volleyball England participation growth targets. Here are a couple of projects that are worthy of the spotlight:

Proactive College Sport Maker, Sue Wells, applied for and was successfully awarded Sportivate funding for a six-week sitting volleyball project at the Colchester Institute in Essex. The funding enabled specialist disability coaches, Disability 4 Sport, to work with a number of Special Educational Needs groups within the college. In addition to this, Sue was also successful in securing a Sporting Champion visit from GB Men's Sitting captain, Rob Richardson. As a result, over 25 young people are now taking part in regular volleyball activity and the aspiration is that this activity can be turned into a sustainable and successful local volleyball club in the future.

Team Essex Volleyball Club, paired with The Boswells School, and Tendring Volleyball Club, paired with Tendring Technology College, have kicked off with new Satellite Club ventures. Satellite clubs are aimed at 11-25 year olds who have not had a chance to experience volleyball before or who have not committed to a club environment. The hope is that by engaging with young people on the school site at a regular time each week the participants will consider becoming part of junior development teams. To date, over 30 young people have taken part in the sessions and it is hoped that over 50 percent will make the transition into the local junior club via the player pathway that has been created. These projects have been heavily supported by funding from Active Essex, the County Sports Partnership (CSP) in Essex.

The University of East London (UEL) and The University of Essex are leading the way with regards to Higher Education participation. UEL, through the Sport 365 programme, offers free coached sessions to university students twice a week. The University of Essex are embracing new versions of the game, such as Glow In The Dark Volleyball for their students, as

well as offering Just Play, the social sports programme. In addition to the wider student volleyball offer it is important to highlight that both universities are now providing a scholarship programme for talented volleyball players and have employed prominent and successful coaches to drive the programmes. For further details about the university scholarship opportunities at UEL please email Tomasz Morawski, t.morawski@uel.ac.uk and for the opportunities at the University of Essex please email Alex Porter, aporter@essex.ac.uk

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the London Borough of Newham is host to the Active People Active Park project. This is a sports participation outreach project in East London which will deliver a sustainable legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Go Spike volleyball sessions will be offered in the park throughout the summer months for local community groups who are yet to engage with the sport and who wish to try it for the first time in a relaxed open space. The overall target is to try and assist these new volleyball players into local clubs so they can then enjoy regular volleyball participation throughout the year. Volleyball England is incredibly excited to be included in such an iconic project and further information will be displayed on the Volleyball England website in due course.

Although I have highlighted these projects, there are many more examples of new and diverse volleyball activities across the Investment Zone and there will be plenty more to come in the months and years to come. On a parting note, I would like to thank the external partners who have welcomed the opportunity of working with Volleyball England and if any organisations or individuals would like to get in touch with future projects in mind please do not hesitate to email me

r.laybourne@volleyballengland.org



GREATER MANCHESTER VOLLEYBALL RELATIONSHIP MANAGER UPDATE



Writing an article for 3Touch was not only a surprise, but also a privilege, and I'm pleased to share with you some good news stories from around the Greater Manchester Investment Zone.



Now that I have my feet firmly under the table and I'm used to the daily drive from Wigan to East Manchester, I'm delighted to have finally kicked off 2014 with what looks like the best satellite club yet! But before I tell you more about this club, let me tell you about the end of 2013.

I took up the Volleyball Relationship Manager post in August and spent some time to ensure our insight into the area was correct. The time and effort that went into researching the current provision, our club visions for the sport, and how and who can support volleyball, was invaluable. The information collated and the huge number of meetings with clubs, members, and professional sporting organisations has helped me assess where we are as a sport and where the gaps in provision exist.

Year 1 has almost passed us by but I'm pleased with the progress and delighted to have a development plan in place for Year 2, with a Year 3 & 4 draft plan in the pipeline.

So what about this satellite club ... Well, special thanks must go to Oldham Volleyball Club and in particular Lois Best. We invested some funding with Oldham School Sports Partnership to kick-start a junior programme. The satellite club marks the first of four planned for Oldham and in the first week over 50 young people attended the 2-hour session at Crompton House High School. The session has an even mix of males and females playing social, recreational volleyball into the early

evening of Monday nights. There is huge demand in this area and I'm looking forward to seeing how Oldham VC deliver satellite clubs at Madhlo Youth Zone, Oldham Sixth Form and Waterhead Academy. If the early success is anything to go by, these sessions will be even better.

We are continuing to reach larger audiences in colleges with more young people accessing new Go Spike sessions at Winstanley College and Salford City College. Both colleges are actively involved in British Colleges Sport, but have now initiated new recreational sessions targeting semi-sporty students who have never played before. Student led activity is quite clearly the reason behind the success of these two sessions, and we are looking to replicate this model across a number of colleges.

Our HEVO's at Manchester Met, University of Manchester and University of Salford have all made great progress in reviving and starting activity. Each university is running weekly Go Spike sessions, encouraging the wider student population to come and try the sport. Giulia Fenci HEVO at the University of Salford has had over 40 people come and try recreational volleyball.

It's an exciting time for volleyball across Greater Manchester, but perhaps the most rewarding piece of work is around developing Go Spike opportunities in leisure centres and within community groups. Trying to build relationships with leisure providers

and finding workforces to initiate activity is quite challenging, but it has its rewards. I'm particularly excited to be working with Salford City College to develop inner-city beach courts at their Eccles campus. The courts will allow Go Spike activity to take place throughout the week, but also provide the college network with an opportunity to play regular beach volleyball. With nine other Go Spike sessions in the pipeline and waiting lists of people wanting to play in Manchester, we are definitely moving in the right direction.

I would like to finish this brief update with a summary of activity and a small request: Summary:

- Satellite clubs at Crompton House and Waterhead Academy in Oldham.
- Go Spike clubs at Madhlo Youth Zone and Oldham Sixth Form College.
- Three new sessions through the HEVO's at both Manchester Universities and Salford University.
- 10 Go Spike sessions on the drawing board across Manchester, including Blackley, Belle View, Stretford LC, Ardwick, Moss Side, Northern Jump VC, Marvels VC, Lucozade Sport Trafford, Urmston LC and Howe Bridge LC.
- Launched an Officials Academy with 10 young people attending a mentoring programme.
- Delivered one Level 1 Course, with three more planned in 2014, including a Level 2 Course.
- Identified site and partners to develop beach courts in Manchester.
- Identified colleges and partners to develop an England Junior Satellite Academy.
- Management group in place with 12 members attending the first session to prepare and input the delivery plans.

And now the request ... If you're reading this article and would like to get involved in any way, please contact me. I'd love to hear from you and work with you to develop future sessions anywhere across Greater Manchester.

s.kerr@volleyballengland.org

VOLLEYBALL RELATIONSHIP MANAGER UPDATE

NORTH EAST



After a brilliant first few weeks in my new post as Volleyball Relationship Manager in the North East, I must open by saying a huge thank you to all of the North East volleyball community including the County Sports Partnerships for giving me such a warm welcome and for your positivity and enthusiasm towards volleyball development in the region!



It's been great getting to know the clubs in the area and discovering the thriving local leagues running throughout the week, coupled with national league games on most weekends. There really is a hot bed of volleyball activity in the North East which is predominantly taking place in community clubs and led by dedicated volunteers. There has been a common denominator when discussing areas where support is needed for club development and they centre around junior recruitment and creating more competition opportunities for junior members to take part in. This is an area we are looking to address by developing

Volleyball England funded satellite club offers linked to existing community clubs in the region. It's fantastic to see Steve Betts and Tynedale VC leading the way and engaging with Northumberland Sport county sports partnership to fund and initiate the very first North East volleyball satellite!

I'm looking forward to attending the two level 3 school games events in the region in May and June and am currently exploring opportunities not only for signposting school volleyball participants to their local community club but the other holistic curriculum opportunities available via our Young Leaders, Young Officials and Young

Event Coordinator awards which are all available on the online shop section of the Volleyball England website.

Demand for coach and referee development has also been high on the agenda in the majority of my initial meetings with key stakeholders and I'm pleased that we've been able to confirm a UKCC Level 1 coaching award at Middlesbrough College on 10, 11 & 17 May and a Grade 4 Referees course at Northumbria University on 3 & 4 May. I would urge anyone interested to sign up for these opportunities quickly as there is a high demand for places. Myself and the Workforce Development Team at HQ will

work to ensure that demand is met as best as possible. Course applications are available online on the Volleyball England website now.

Sitting volleyball is a key area for development in the North East, with no formal provision in place at the moment. I'm fortunate to be working with the support of Volleyball England Board members Gordon Neale OBE and Steve Matthews on this and looking forward to attending the Grand Prix event at Kettering. It will be a great opportunity for me to learn more about the sport itself and also to draw on the knowledge and experience of others in setting up a new activity. We're looking to engage with disability forums and rehabilitation centres in the region in order to assess potential opportunities.

It's been a privilege to meet and work alongside the region's Higher Education Volleyball Officers (HEVO's) and to find out more about the participation programmes they are running within their institutions, balancing this alongside their academic commitments. Huge thanks to Alex who graduates from Northumbria at the end of this academic year for all his hard work and dedication to the volleyball programme at Team Northumbria. We'll be very sorry to see you move on, Alex, but best of luck for your future endeavors!

College Sport Makers are a key link in expanding and developing volleyball opportunities in our region's colleges and I'm looking forward to exploring the best way forward with this. We're incredibly

lucky in the North East to have some very experienced volleyball coaches operating within schools and colleges who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with others to help increase the provision of volleyball in curriculum time and after school or college.

Volleyball England's Go Spike adult participation programme has gained a lot of interest from the North East leisure providers and the Go Spike Big Weekend being held over the Spring Bank Holiday (24 – 26 May) provides a great opportunity for leisure centres to offer a taster session with a wide-ranging audience before implementing a regular recreational sessions.

For clubs, the Go Spike Big Weekend provides an excellent chance to use the region's expansive parks and beaches to showcase the fantastic quality of volleyball experience available and to recruit new members to regular club sessions. Register your Go Spike Big Weekend session at www.gospike.net to receive marketing support and event organiser training from Volleyball England.

The North East Volleyball Academy is up and running again on a fortnightly basis on Tuesday evenings at Middlesbrough College for 13-16 year olds. Girls' training runs from 6.00 pm until 7.30 pm and boys' training follows from 7.30 pm until 9.00 pm. These sessions are open to any aspiring 13-16 year old players in the region and are expertly coached by our Regional Talent Lead, Paul Welsh and supported by Team Northumbria Super 8 Players Lynne Beattie and Whitney Phillips. If you would like any more information please contact Paul Welsh at ps.welsh@mbro.ac.uk

I'd like to say congratulations to our outstanding Team Northumbria Super 8 men's and women's squad members and coaches on an emphatic unbeaten league season and for booking both of their places in the National Cup Finals. It's been great to see a growing number of local club members coming along to support both teams and it would be fantastic to have some travelling support at the Cup Finals on 29/30 March at Kettering National Volleyball Centre!

Keep up to date with the North East volleyball activities, including this year's summer beach events at Redcar on 28 June and at Tynemouth on 12 & 13 July at www.nvca.org.uk and www.tvva.leaguerepublic.com.

s.jamieson@volleyballengland.org



It's been a privilege to meet and work alongside the region's Higher Education Volleyball Officers (HEVO's).

BLACK COUNTRY AND STAFFS **VOLLEYBALL** **RELATIONSHIP** **MANAGER UPDATE**



Substantial volleyball growth has occurred in West Bromwich through a newly founded group called Sandwell Spikers.

The all-encompassing Asian community based at George Salter Academy has transformed attendance from five or six participants recreationally playing once a week to 20 regular players attending twice a week and embracing the sport.

A real sense of community spirit is evident throughout the group with a mixture of males and females aged from 14 to 63 years attending sessions. This has led to a joint club vision of forming an affiliated club to enter into the West Midlands Regional League for next season.

Following guidance from Volleyball England and Black Country BeActive County Sports Partnership, committee roles have been appointed and development plans drawn up. The club is in the process of creating a player

pathway including a fun, social, introductory Go Spike session accommodating all new players to the sport and a club training session, which will develop players to represent the league team.

All of this progression has been largely attributed towards the newly appointed Chairperson, Ketan Patel. He commented on the vision of the club "We only started as a very small group playing once a week and yearly at a sports festival tournament held by the local community. We managed to grow this small group of participants into a good size of committed players each week. This led to forming a club called Sandwell Spikers. The vision for the club now is to progress towards entering into the West Midlands Regional League for next

season. The next step from entering the league will be to grow as a club by increasing participants in the ladies and juniors section. This will then lead to the club having a ladies team and a junior team."

For more information on Sandwell Spikers please contact Ketan Patel on 07840 460883

ketan.jagdish@gmail.com

STAFFORDSHIRE

Five local authorities across Staffordshire are establishing Go Spike sitting volleyball sessions, aiming to introduce over 50 new players to the sport.





Rob Richardson in action

Wednesday 19 February saw the start of what could be a new phenomenon in Staffordshire - sitting volleyball! Coaches from East Staffs, Tamworth, Stoke, Lichfield and Cannock local authorities attended a workshop led by Sitting Volleyball Development Manager, Richard Stacey-Chapman, to gain an in-depth understanding of the sport. The coaches will utilise this knowledge when delivering fun, social and player-centered sessions in their localities within a recreational Go Spike environment.

The establishment of the sessions has been significantly supported by the Sport England Sportivate Innovation Fund. The joined-up bid, encompassing all five areas, includes six weekly county-wide round robin festivals for the players.

Sarah Sleight (Lichfield District Council Sport Development Officer) commented on the new projects "This has been a great opportunity for our coaching staff to learn to

deliver a new fun, inclusive sport. We are now looking forward to running sessions within the district and providing the opportunity for all to come and try sitting volleyball."

Rob Payne (Volleyball England) stated "It was great to see the enthusiasm of the coaches attending the workshop and I am confident this will be translated into the sessions they will be delivering across Staffordshire. Sitting volleyball is an exciting

sport which is growing across the country .It caters for people of all abilities, whether young or old, so come along to your local centre and give it a go."

If you are interested in getting involved with sitting volleyball in Staffordshire, please contact Rob Payne on 07595 022516.

r.payne@volleyballengland.org

DORSET AND HANTS **VOLLEYBALL** **RELATIONSHIP** **MANAGER UPDATE**



Early January saw Sophie Davis begin as the new Volleyball Relationship Manager for Dorset and Hampshire.



Since Sophie started she has been out meeting partners and trying to gain an understanding of the landscape of volleyball in the Investment Zone. Sophie has been delighted with the response she has received from local partners and this has led to a number of new projects and initiatives being planned to commence before the end of March.

The first project being delivered is a Female Only Volleyball Taster Session as part of the International Women's Day. The session is supported by Team Southampton Volleyball Club and Catch 22, Active Women's Project. It will be held at Oasis Academy Mayfield, Ashley Crescent, Southampton, SO19 9NA on Sunday 9 March from 11.30 am until 12.30 pm and is free. It is hoped that these sessions will continue at the same venue from Sunday 6 April onwards, with the intention of creating a female beginners 4v4 competition and/or a local league team to compete in the Southampton & District Volleyball Association leagues.

In the next three to four weeks, Sophie will be working with Itchen Sixth Form College in Southampton and Southampton Solent University to set up recreational sessions for their students. Both projects will be linked to local clubs, Solent Volleyball Club and Solent University Volleyball Club respectively, who will provide the exit route for participants. As part of the Itchen College

Sixth Form sessions, Sophie has been working with the college to set a date for a Dorset and Hampshire College Volleyball Tournament. It is hoped that this tournament will lead onto others, with a league being run by Hampshire College Sports Association in the not too distant future.

Sophie is also currently working with Team Southampton Volleyball Club and Wessex Volleyball Club to establish satellite clubs at Crestwood College for Business and Enterprise and Parkstone Grammar School respectively. The satellite clubs will be delivered from the named school sites but open to all those aged 14+ in the local areas. Taster sessions will be delivered at all local schools in the cluster to recruit participants to the satellite club. It is hoped that through the creation of various satellite clubs in the Investment Zone, junior teams can be formed who will then compete in regular junior competitions within each county.

In addition to new projects and initiatives, Sophie has also been planning a launch of the Investment Zone. Her aim is to publicise the sport of volleyball and inform members of the public about current and new playing opportunities. The events will be held in Farnborough, Portsmouth, Totton, Weymouth, Poole and West Dorset. These launch events will hopefully lead to regular Go Spike sessions in each area. Further information regarding these launch events

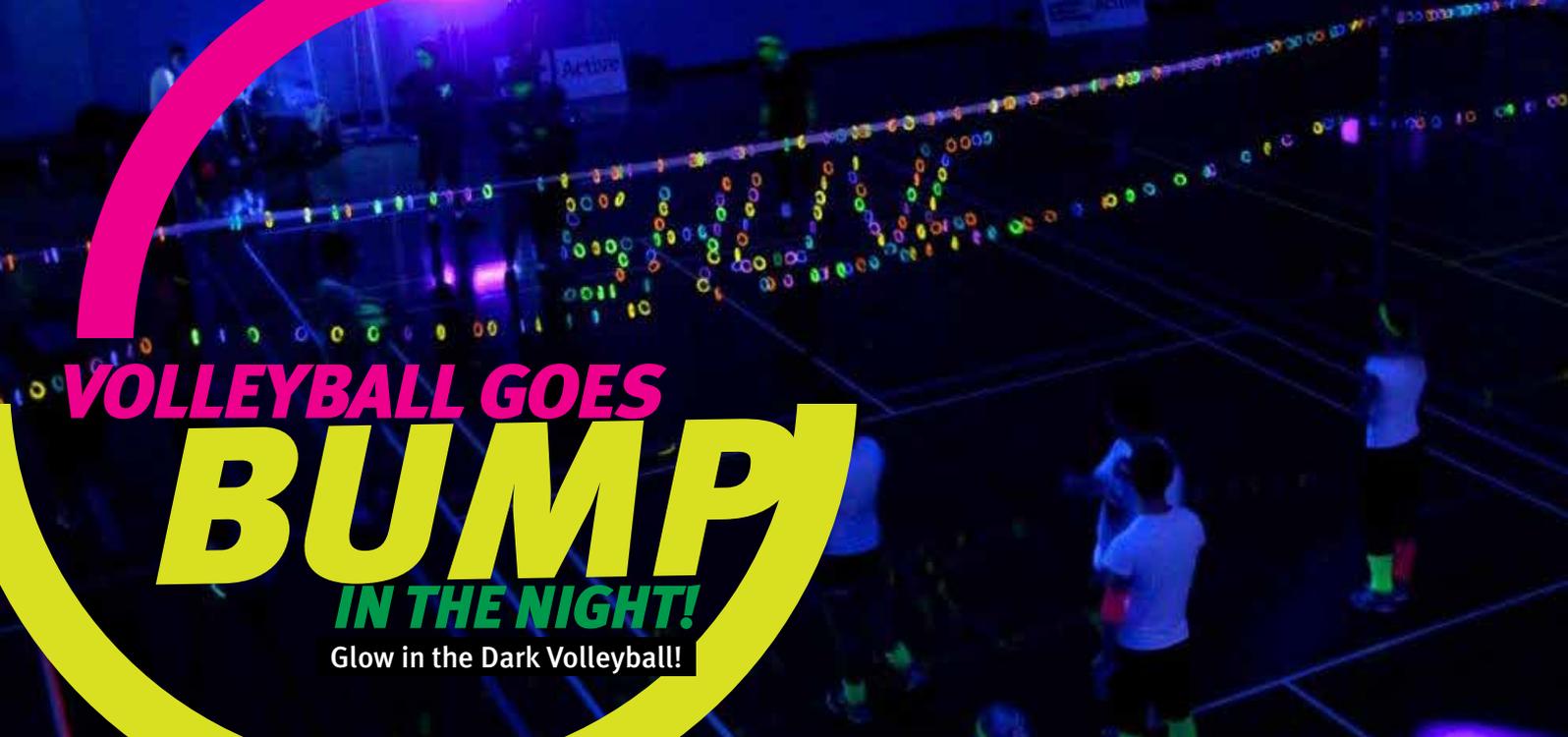
will be available through the Facebook and Twitter pages, details of which are below.

Sophie is also very keen to support local clubs. To that end, she has arranged two club presentation evenings, one in Hampshire and one in Dorset. This will allow Sophie an opportunity to meet with individual clubs and understand what their priorities are for the forthcoming months and years. Club members will also be able to find out about funding which is available to support the growth of their club through the Satellite Club and Go Spike programme. The Hampshire event is being held on Monday 10 March at 7.00 pm at Crestwood College for Business and Enterprise, while the Dorset event is planned for Friday 21 March at 6.15 pm at the LeAF Academy in Bournemouth.

Over the next 12 months, Sophie will also be focusing on growing the workforce of coaches and referees within both counties by providing regular courses. She will be offering a Teachers' Awareness Event and some CPD courses for current coaches, these will include working in schools and working with beginners. Sophie sees schools and colleges as a crucial partner in her work and will also be looking to establish educational staff competitions to develop teachers' interest in volleyball. Sophie's long term goal is to see volleyball offered in all leisure centres in the Investment Zone, as well as the introduction of junior leagues in both Dorset and Hampshire.

To keep up to date with what is happening in Dorset and Hampshire, follow us on Twitter @VballDorset or @VballHants or like us on Facebook at Volleyball - Hampshire and Volleyball - Dorset. Sophie will also be putting together and distributing an e-newsletter on a quarterly basis. If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email Sophie directly.

s.davis@volleyballengland.org



VOLLEYBALL GOES BUMP

IN THE NIGHT!

Glow in the Dark Volleyball!

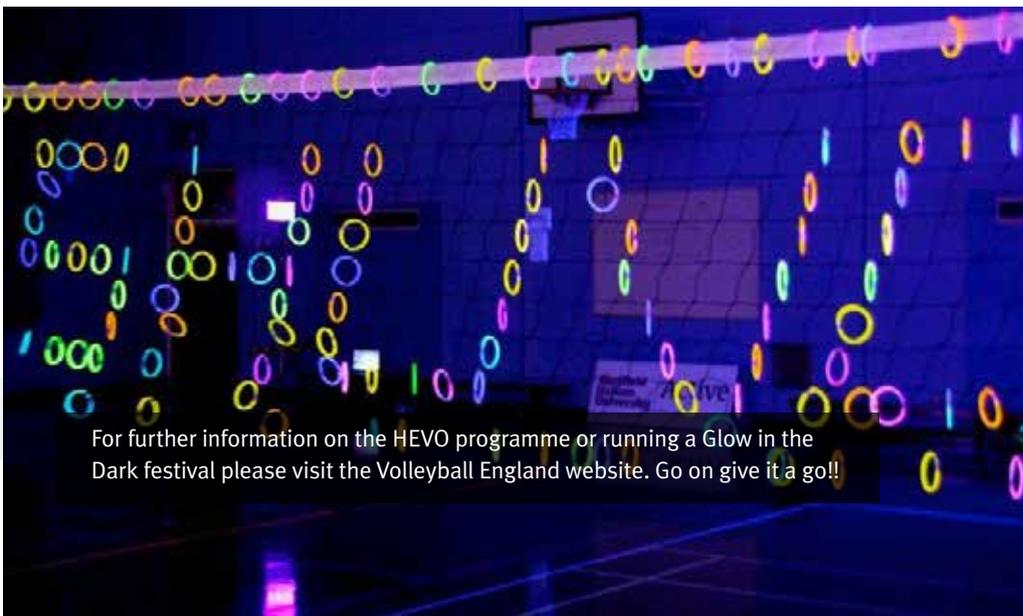
There is a new craze taking off amongst the Higher Education Volleyball Officers (HEVO's) – Glow in the Dark Volleyball! When the lights are turned out the volleyball fun begins. HEVO's across the country are hosting tournaments to raise the profile of the sport and, at the same time, money for good causes.

The University of Bedfordshire hosted their second tournament with fourteen teams in attendance, building on numbers from the previous event and strengthening links to their Luton Campus. Bedfordshire's HEVO, Laura Woodruff commented: "This was our second Glow in the Dark tournament and it was a huge success. I am very proud of how it went. The amount of people that turned up and participated in the tournament overwhelmed me."

Sheffield Hallam University have also successfully run their first Glow in the Dark Volleyball Tournament, to celebrate the sport

at the university. Organised and run by the HEVO, Hayley Bland, there were over 50 people in attendance. Teams from all across the university participated, including students and staff, as well as local rivals, the University of Sheffield. Hayley said:

"The event was a fantastic success. I wanted to run the tournament to showcase the great volleyball opportunities available at the university and attract people who may not have played before to come and have a go, everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we raised over £150 for the Raise and Give (RAG) charities."



For further information on the HEVO programme or running a Glow in the Dark festival please visit the Volleyball England website. Go on give it a go!!

Both events have boosted numbers at the university recreational sessions and showcase the continuously great work done by the HEVO's in developing volleyball.

The format is simple: The normal lights were switched off and the UV lights on, while the hall, courts, nets, people and balls were covered in florescent colours, bands and stickers. There was also a DJ to add to the atmosphere. Promotion was through the volleyball club social media sites as well as the Students' Union, gyms and associated leafleting. The event was linked to the universities' sports programmes, who assisted with volunteers on the night.

INVICTUS GAMES

LONDON 2014



“I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul.” are the final lines of the poem Invictus (Latin for unconquered) by William Ernest Henley

Taking their name from the poem, the Invictus Games are set to be just as inspiring as this great work of poetry. Launched at a press conference in March in London’s Copper Box Arena by HRH Prince Harry, the games have been formed to rival the Warrior Games which so inspired the Prince in the USA last year. The concept of the games is to provide international competition for wounded, injured and sick Service personnel.

Following the presentations at the recent launch, Prince Harry decided to try his hand at sitting volleyball again with members of the Battleback team. The Prince who is a major champion for the Invictus Games said “I have witnessed first-hand how the power of sport can positively impact the lives of wounded, injured and sick Servicemen and women in their journey of recovery. The Invictus Games will focus on what they can achieve post injury and celebrate their fighting spirit, through an inclusive sporting competition that recognises the sacrifice they have made. I am extremely proud that we are bringing an event like this to the UK

for the first time and believe it can have a long lasting impact on the well-being of those who have served their nations so bravely.”

Set to take place in London from 10-14 September 2014, the games will see over 300 athletes from the armed forces of 13 nations that have served alongside each other,

with relative newcomers to adaptive sport joining advanced athletes in an inclusive programme.

In addition to Sitting Volleyball will be Athletics, Archery, Wheelchair Basketball, Road Cycling, Indoor Rowing, Wheelchair Rugby, Swimming and a driving challenge.

“Jaguar Land Rover is immensely proud to be enabling these Invictus Games. We have been inspired by the passion with which Prince Harry has championed this visionary idea, to celebrate the commitment and achievements of wounded, injured and sick Service personnel.”



Words and pictures: Mark Pritchard



Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.



Gerard van Zwieten presents the t-shirt to Prince Harry.



A T-shirt for Prince George.

As Prince Harry was about to leave the launch, Volleyball England presented His Royal Highness with a t-shirt for Prince George.

Following the recent coverage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge playing volleyball, the shirt had been specially designed for the occasion. When receiving the shirt Prince Harry laughed and said that it may be a little small for him and should he try it on!



“I am pleased that we have been able to support the very first Invictus Games in London using the LIBOR fund. We’re using money raised from fines on those who demonstrated the very worst of values to support the very best of values - injured Service personnel from around the world.”

Funding for the games comes partly from Prince Harry’s Foundation, which he shares with The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, The Royal Foundation, which will be contributing a significant grant to the staging of the Invictus Games, as well as the creation of a legacy programme to support opportunities to make adaptive sport available to wounded veterans and also employment opportunities for transitioning Servicemen and women leaving the Armed Forces. Also, the Chancellor

of the Exchequer, George Osborne, is supporting this important cause with a £1 million donation from the LIBOR fund. The Chancellor stated “I am pleased that we have been able to support the very first Invictus Games in London using the LIBOR fund. We’re using money raised from fines on those who demonstrated the very worst of values to support the very best of values - injured Service personnel from around the world. This landmark event will be a real inspiration for future generations.

”The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, is providing use of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Mr Johnson says “In the summer of 2012 London hosted the greatest sporting spectacle on earth, an Olympic and Paralympic Games full of tears and courage, inspiration and determination, and grit and sheer guts. As a city it’s those values we hold dear and that’s why London is immensely proud to play host to the



Dr Ralf Speth, Chief Executive Officer of Jaguar Land Rover.



2014 Invictus Games. I'm delighted that the Servicemen and women of our Armed Forces and our allies will be able to compete in those same venues, in what promises to be an incredible week of sporting competition." The Invictus Games are also to be supported by Jaguar Land Rover as 'Presenting Partner'. "Jaguar Land Rover is immensely proud to be enabling these Invictus Games. We have been inspired by the passion with

which Prince Harry has championed this visionary idea, to celebrate the commitment and achievements of wounded, injured and sick Service personnel." said Dr Ralf Speth, Chief Executive Officer of Jaguar Land Rover. "In addition, we're exploring with the Royal Foundation and the Ministry of Defence innovative ways of enhancing their employment prospects and those of other Service personnel when moving into civilian life, to create a lasting legacy from the Games."

hoping to give competitors the opportunity to bring family and friends, from around the world, to share the experience.



Competitors and live audiences can look forward to enjoying the occasion in venues made famous by the London 2012 Games. These venues include the Copper Box, the Aquatic Centre and the VeloPark. Track and field disciplines will be run at Lee Valley Athletics Centre.

The event will also be broadcast by the BBC, the official broadcast partner. Live coverage, highlights packages and other programming are planned around the event.

A ceremony will be held to mark the opening, involving the competitors. A closing concert is also being planned, which will represent another celebration of adaptive sport in the UK, building on the legacy of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Organisers are also

INVICTUS

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

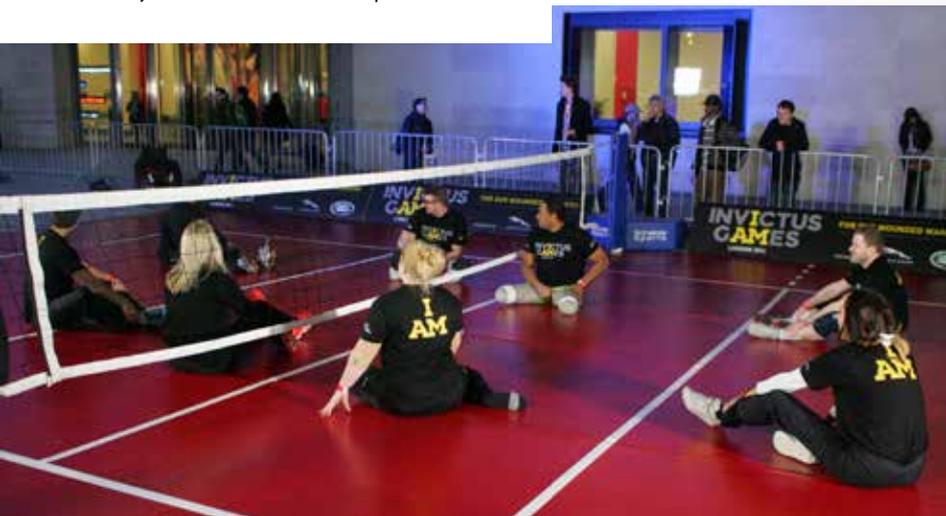
William Ernest Henley

The One Show

The launch of the Invictus Games was followed by a quick trip into Central London by members of the Volleyball England team and the Battleback players to prepare for that evening's live edition of The One Show.

The sitting court was set up under the shelter of the BBC building in Portland Street between the studios of Radio's 1 and 2. Many of The One Show's staff had a go while lighting and cameras were set up around the court. Presenters Alex Jones and Matt Baker joined the teams for a quick rehearsal

before getting ready for the live start at 7.00 pm. During the show, Alex and Matt were joined on court by X-Factor winner Sam Bailey before she sang live inside the studio with members of the sitting volleyball team invited in to watch the performance.



Membership and Communications

During our national Volleyball Voice tour from 22 January to 8 February, we consulted members and partner organisations to help shape the future of our sport, particularly in the context of the vision for 2024.

A key area covered was that of Membership and Communications. There were many views on how to take this important item forwards. The majority of people attending wanted us to proceed with the process of individual registration but to be clear about the benefits, costs and procedures involved. Here are some of the highlights of opinions expressed:

- There needs to be “more aggressively targeted and focused marketing” with “marketing locally and nationally”

- Members want “more media coverage” and “volleyball to be a sport the media wants to advertise”

- There was enormous interest in having volleyball televised. Ideas included: “all national league matches broadcast on TV”; “televised Super 8 on Sky Sport” and “a Volleyball England Freeview TV Channel (with Super 8, beach and sitting games broadcast)”. This would ensure a scenario of “people in the general population enjoying volleyball on TV”

- On the subject of communications, only a handful of attending members wanted us to continue with publishing our 3Touch magazine in hard copy format to all club members. A few of you still wanted the ability to subscribe, however most of you preferred the use of ‘apps’.

- The Board will review the communications plan for the sport, but in view of your strong feedback, we are planning to cease publication of the hard copy version of 3Touch from July 2014. We will instead be looking at alternative electronic options and potentially individual subscriptions

- By 2024, members want volleyball to be “mainstream” and “a recognised sport, up there with football and rugby”. Volleyball should be part of the English culture and heritage like it is in Poland. It needs to be “an option for young people to want to go into volleyball over football, cricket etc.” so we can “retain the ‘athletes’ within our sport and not lose them to ‘bigger’ sports”

- Attendees felt that volleyball “needs sponsorship to compete with the likes of football, rugby and tennis” and “having a nationwide commercial sponsorship is urgent”. There was a specific focus on “major sponsors for all levels of competition”. It was identified that first volleyball “needs to be recognised as a sport businesses want to sponsor” because “why would sponsors invest in an NGB with no national team?”

- From discussions at the Volleyball Voice events, there appeared to be overall support for individual registration, apart from in Manchester where there was more of a mixed response. It was felt to be essential that “clubs must be given the correct information and the reasons behind the proposal” and “important that consultations take place”. There also needed to be clarity over the membership benefits and “who pays the fee and when they would need to pay”

- It was suggested that there should be a tiered system of fees: local, regional, national, with prices potentially ranging from £5 for juniors to £10-£20 for adults. An alternative model proposed was the introduction of “a free to clubs, web-based membership system to allow Volleyball England to know about club members”. This would still allow electronic communication with members.

During the discussions, the question was raised as to the costs involved in membership and how individual registration could improve the financial picture.

Our membership income (£52,000) is roughly only 2.5% of our total income.

Our membership expenditure is currently around £98,000 (see breakdown below).

Staff Cost	Includes Administrator, 0.5 Membership Manager, Employee National Insurance Contribution	£49,050
Office Overheads	15%	£7,539
Insurance	Public Liability Personal Accident	£12,000
3 Touch Magazine	Bi-Monthly Magazine	£30,000
TOTAL	Expenditure	£98,589

During the Volleyball Voice events, we discussed that individual registration and individual data were not only key in growing our membership database but also in trying to develop a large number of points raised, including:

GAINING GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF PARTICIPANTS

TRACKING PARTICIPANTS THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE IN VOLLEYBALL

IDENTIFYING OUR HEROES IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

OFFERING INCREASED VALUE TO MEMBERS

SECURING SPONSORS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL PARTNERS

INCREASING SELF-CONTROLLED REVENUE STREAMS

On the question as to why these points are so important, we looked at the weaknesses and threats of being amongst 40+ other NGB's which are considering individual registration and then asked whether we want to be first or last in changing our registration structure.

The implications of a weak database and data capture facility mean we will always report limited statistics back to Sport England (and other governmental funding agencies) and we will never be seen as an NGB that has thorough and complete control over its data. Therefore, we won't be able to factually report against performance targets that drive funding streams.

It will also limit our direct communication to and from club members, thereby running the risk that we do not know what members want from us or what they wish to see in future. And at the same time, we cannot inform members in detail how we would like to bring ideas into practice. The result being the necessity to use time-inefficient and costly market research mechanisms, such as in-person or phone surveys and focus groups.

As volleyball is still a minor and secondary sport amongst other similar sized sports, third parties and/or sponsors are naturally looking for the strongest NGB's and for the NGB's that can show they have their databases in order.

A high percentage of our current income is reliant on public funding and therefore those stakeholders agree our targets. As a result, a number of areas of the sport that we want to invest in are not addressed and development is limited. New features, new game formats, new opportunities in coaching, new courses cannot be instigated as no funding is available.

Under the current funding model, funding for elite pathways will remain limited and it will take too many years to develop the youngsters of today.

If we do not reach our targets as set by our public funding partners, there is the risk that the funding can be reduced. Furthermore, if this remains our only source of income, we could be in great danger as we currently have no source of other income.

As stated before, over 40 NGB's are seeking the best communication platforms and sponsors. What better than to be able to work together with some of them or to be amongst the first that can show potential sponsors, TV, benefit suppliers, etc., a database with reliable and impressive numbers, thus telling those third parties that they are dealing with a healthy sport!

Please keep a keen eye on our website, e-news, and social media over the coming weeks and months. We aim to keep you informed of the plans and steps we would like to take together with you, to make Volleyball a stronger sport throughout the country.



V THE VOLLEYBALL VOICE



HEAD OFFICE & GRASSROOTS MEET ... AND DISCUSSION THRIVES!

From 22nd January to 8th February this year, a series of open meetings were held in all nine regions, under the title The Volleyball Voice. The aim of the meetings was to consult members and partner organisations to help shape the future of our sport, particularly in the context of the vision for 2024. Specifically, the meetings' attendees discussed the recent and potential changes to the governance of Volleyball England and the proposals for creating better services for members.

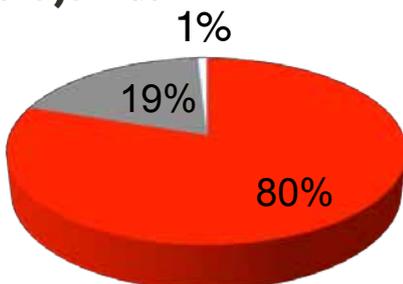
A total of 163 people from the wider volleyball community attended The Volleyball Voice sessions in Newcastle, Manchester, Dorking, London, Loughborough, Huntingdon, Wolverhampton, Sheffield and Weston-Super-Mare, respectively. The meetings were headed by the Chief Executive, Lisa Wainwright, Participation Director, Rohan West and Marketing & Membership Manager, Gerard van Zwieten, supported by other Volleyball England staff members, Board members and a selection of Olympians and Paralympians.

Sessions Highly Valued

The Volleyball Voice events received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the attendees, who greatly appreciated the opportunity to find out more about Head Office activities and plans, and to have a say in the future development of the sport. From the completed feedback forms, you can get an indication of the positive reaction:

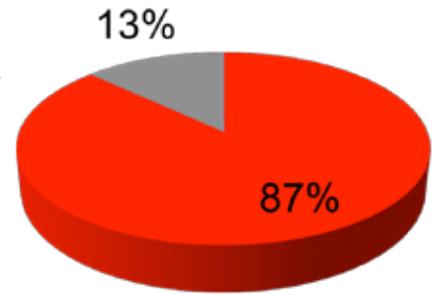
How did you find the format of the session?

- Useful & appropriate
- Average
- Unhelpful



How open & honest were your conversations?

- Very
- Okay



These charts confirm the extensively open, honest and healthy discussions and debate on many topics, vital to ensure an inclusive and progressive organisation and sport.

What Did People Say?

In the open forum on 2024 Vision and the Q&A session, the range and depth of items discussed was impressive. Outlined below is a selection of the most frequently raised points:

Participation

- Volleyball to be played in schools as often as other sports
- Get volleyball onto the PE curriculum at both primary and secondary school level
- Increase the level of funding for junior development at club level
- More structure and availability of competitions for juniors
- Volleyball to be the indoor recreational sport of choice for adults
- Raise the profile of Go Spike and increase the number of recreational participation days
- More recreational beach volleyball tournaments

Performance

- Develop England & GB senior squads for all disciplines that are stable and well funded
- A professional or semi-professional domestic league
- Ensure a fully integrated league structure and player pathway, from local to regional to national and then international

Marketing & Commercial

- As a sporting body we need to end our dependence on Sport England funding
- Secure major nationwide sponsors for all components of the sport
- Develop and market ourselves as a sport that businesses want to sponsor
- Deliver world class events in world class venues
- Provide a high-quality range of licenced merchandise
- Improve the profile of our best players
- Volleyball to be televised via multiple outlets and channels

Registration & Communications

- Provide more meetings like The Volleyball Voice and increase engagement and dialogue
- It's time for completely individual registrations
- Increase the range and scope of the benefits available
- Give clubs access to a centralised, web-based registration system to make their lives easier
- 3-Touch as a hard copy magazine needs to be phased out
- Redevelop the website to a fully mobile optimised site
- Increase the use of Facebook and Twitter
- Ensure e-communications are more targeted, specific e-zines for coaches, referees, players etc.

Governance

- Volleyball England to become a dynamic, energised and vibrant organisation from grassroots to the Board
- Ensure we have strong leadership to give consistent focus
- General agreement and support for the more streamlined governance structure presented
- Make the structure real to clubs – how does it affect the clubs and players?

General Points

- Volleyball to strive to be a mainstream, highly recognised sport
- Roll out Investment Zones across the country
- More professional and volunteer career development opportunities

- Increase the number of qualified coaches and referees
- Provide a new, dedicated and Volleyball England owned and operated national volleyball centre
- Network of regional and sub-regional volleyball centres
- Improved club facilities, including social components, acting as a hub for the local community
- More volleyball courts in public parks, beaches and caravan parks

Even if volleyball achieved half of these points, we would produce a radically transformed sport. A sport that would take its place in the upper echelons of the English sporting landscape. So let's make that happen!

One of the over-riding points of the feedback was that these types of meetings should be held much more frequently, with a significantly increased allocation of time for open discussion. In response to this, we have already blocked out three weeks in June & July for The Volleyball Voice Season 2. Keep your eyes peeled and your ear to the ground for information on the next instalment and come along to have your Volleyball Voice heard!



BIG WEEKEND IS BACK!

CALLING ALL CLUBS - MAKE IT HAPPEN

go
spike!
BIG
WEEKEND
24-26 MAY

**“PANCAKE” AND “CHICKEN WING” ARE
NORMAL EVERYDAY TERMS IN VOLLEYBALL!!**

Your volleyball friends may be used to you talking about pancakes every session but would a newcomer?

Volleyball is unique, with some unusual references that make our sport even more appealing to potential new players, so why not throw open your club doors this May to the Go Spike Big Weekend. Yes, it's back and is looking to spread the love for our sport even wider this year!

Calling all clubs!

The aim of the Go Spike Big Weekend is for clubs and facilities in England to put on a special “Come and Try” event or activity over the Bank Holiday Weekend of Saturday 24 May to Monday 26 May. Events can take all formats whether it's sitting, beach, grass, indoor or water. Why not even try a new discipline of volleyball, or just show your community what a great social, fun and friendly place your club is.

The Big Weekend provides an ideal outlet for all this and a “Come and Try” event over the Big Weekend should be low-cost and simple to run. The Volleyball England Go Spike Campaign will assist you with ideas, support and practical advice to help plan your day.



So what are the benefits of running a 'Come and Try' session?

- **More people** – Whether you wish to increase your members or recruit more volunteers, how would growing your club help you? Could you find your next star player or develop a new section of your club by introducing a new type of volleyball? The aim of the Big Weekend is to ensure as many members of the local community attend your “Come and Try” session and look to join your club.
- **Higher profile** – Clubs that host an event will benefit from marketing, social media and PR support. All Event Organisers will receive a FREE Event Organisers’ Pack which will contain Volleyball England and Big Weekend Banners that we hope can be used again to promote future club events. Go Spike Mikasa Ball, Go Spike Beach Balls, Go Spike Game In A Bag and Go Spike Big Weekend T-Shirts are also provided. Along with this an Event Organisers’ Tool Kit will

be available containing useful information on how to promote your event in the local community. The key tips can also be used to help increase your club profile following the Big Weekend.

We will ensure as many people as possible know about your event – including local and regional press. Your event will also feature on the Go Spike and Volleyball England website.

- **Think outside the box** - We all know volleyball can be played anywhere anytime so why not take your “Come and Try” event to a different location? From the feedback received at The Volleyball Voice, you wish to see recreational volleyball in every sports centre, in parks and on beaches, with volleyball being the sport of choice to get you fit! The 2014 Big Weekend can start to achieve some of these aspirations and we are here to provide support as to how you can take volleyball to your local community. The Volleyball Relationship Managers within the Investment Zones are here to offer localised support and guidance and would be more than happy to assist you to set up a Big Weekend event. Their contact details can be found at the bottom of the page.



go spike! BIG WEEKEND 24-26 MAY

Big Weekend 2013 Success Stories:

- The first national mass participation volleyball event
- 40 events took place, mostly on grass and on the beach
- Over 3000 people tried volleyball
- Over 1000 people attended St Albans Urban Beach Weekend
- Volleyball featured on BBC News!

What will be the highlights of the 2014 Big Weekend? You can be part of them!

What's Next?

OK, so you are eager to run a Big Weekend event but what comes next? Firstly, Thank You, the Big Weekend will only be a success due to your enthusiasm and drive to share the word of how great volleyball is.

To register to be part of the National Go Spike Big Weekend, please go to www.gospike.net and click 'Register Here' on the Go Spike homepage, we will then be in touch with support on how to create your event. For further advice please call Sam Harding, s.harding@volleyballengland.org or telephone 01509 227722.

**And don't forget to follow:
@Go_Spike, #GoSpikeBW14**

Volleyball Relationship Manager Contact Details:

Rachel Laybourne, East London & Essex
r.laybourne@volleyballengland.org
Rob Payne, Black Country & Staffordshire
r.payne@volleyballengland.org
Samantha Jamieson, Teeside & Tyne & Wear
s.jamieson@volleyballengland.org
Sophie Davies, Dorset & Hampshire
s.davies@volleyballengland.org
Steve Kerr, Greater Manchester
s.kerr@volleyballengland.org

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

PROFILES OF NEW TEAM MEMBERS

ROHAN WEST

Participation Director



I'm delighted to join the Volleyball England team as Participation Director and be part of a sport that I have loved and enjoyed for over 20 years, as a player and supporter.

A native New Zealander, I have lived in the UK for the past seven years, following stints in Ireland and the USA. I've been involved in the sport industry in some

way for virtually my entire working career. My start in sport came as Sponsorship Manager for the New Zealand Rugby Union in the mid 1990's, just as the sport went professional. They were interesting days indeed!

Following this, I moved to the US to complete an MBA in Sports Management at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, where I also played for the men's volleyball team. Upon graduation, I relocated to Ireland to work for the University of Limerick, firstly in the Sports Department, then moving into academia within the Physical Education & Sports Science Department. During my time there, I played for the University of Limerick Volleyball Club in the Irish National League.

My most recent role brought me to the UK, in the position of National Manager, Sports & Special Events, for Ticketmaster UK,

based in London.

At Volleyball England I have a wide-ranging brief, leading the Participation, Membership & Marketing, Competitions & Commercial teams. The overarching goal is to grow the sport: more players, coaches, referees and volunteers, improve our profile and increase our self-controlled income. I'm looking forward to working with all members of the volleyball family to achieve this.

Some would classify me as rather sport mad. I take an active interest in most sports and the business of sport, and have experienced virtually every major role in the sporting arena – player, coach, team manager, referee, volunteer, administrator and professional executive. My main loves are rugby, volleyball, golf and cricket. I'm also a keen hiker and hill walker, with a thirst for adventure travel.

ROMAN NEVEYKIN

Workforce Officer



I have recently graduated from Sheffield Hallam University with a degree in Sport and Exercise Science. In my last year of studies I specialised in Sport Business.

I have previously worked at Volleyball England as a Go Spike Officer during the exciting summer of the 2012 Olympic Games. During the games I was based at Hyde and Victoria park running come and try sessions which over 3500 people attended in 9 days.

I am a Workforce Officer responsible for national development of coaches, referees and volunteers. I am looking forward to working closely with the Relationship Managers in the key investment zones to

upskill and expand our base of workforce. As part of the strategic objectives, I am also excited to work closely with our talented coaches in the elite English volleyball programmes. This will facilitate their personal development as well as hopefully making England a household name in the later rounds of European Competitions.

I have played Volleyball for the English Senior team as well as previously being part of the GB Development squad. This year I am taking a bit off time out to get my knees better (yes I am 21) and will hopefully carry on next year. Sign me up.



SOPHIE DAVIES

Volleyball Relationship Manager

After spending many of my employment years within Local Authority roles I joined Hampshire Football Association in 2010 as the Get into Football Officer, where my main responsibility was to increase participation in football for

those aged 16+, in Southampton.

Following 3 successful years at Hampshire Football Association I am delighted to be joining the Volleyball England team where I hope to make a real difference in increasing the number of children, students and adults enjoying the sport in Dorset and Hampshire.

I have received a very warm welcome both from the team at Bournemouth University, where I am based, and from my steering group which contains key partners for Volleyball in Dorset and Hampshire. I am lucky enough to be supported by a fantastic Chairman, Roy Pankhurst who has been fully supportive of my work to date.

I am very much looking forward to starting delivery within my Investment Zone and transferring my skills, knowledge and expertise in Sports Development to make a real difference to the number of 14-25 year olds playing Volleyball, whilst also supporting local Clubs to develop and increasing the number of officials and coaches in my area.

I am a keen footballer and spent most of my career playing for Portsmouth Ladies FC. I have more recently taken a back step in playing, to concentrate on my football refereeing career, where I hope to gain promotion this season.

ADI FAWCETT

Talent Manager



Recently returned from Sydney Australia working for Rowing Australia as a High Performance Development Co-ordinator for the state of New South Wales.

This involved talent ID with athletes inside and outside rowing and then putting them in high performance clubs. Also developing the pathway for those already in the sport from school into the national teams. I was based out of the state institute and was part of the support team around junior womens gold medal and U23 womens silver medal at the Worlds in 2013.

Prior to that I worked for the GB Rowing Team for 5 years as a Talent Development Coach on the Start programme in Manchester with juniors and U23s. Using Talent ID to

find them and then coaching them from novice to elite, winning national gold medals and European gold medals.

Worked for 5 years as Head of Rowing at a school in Gloucestershire where we coached both recreational and performance rowers, again gaining national titles, European medals and World Championship Bronze medal.

I worked as a regional coaching and development officer for British Rowing based in the North East initially and then in the South West. I also coached as a volunteer at my local club.

Most of my time outside of work is taken up with my 2 kids, Eric and Oscar who are 4 and 2 years old and a handful.

LOUISE O'REILLY

Workforce Manager



I come from a marketing and communications background, working for companies such as Boots and the East Midlands Development Agency.

In recent years I have been working in sports marketing, mainly in triathlon and events. I am the new Workforce Manager, working in the Technical and Talent team. The role is to make sure that we

have the right training and development opportunities to produce a talented team of coaches and referees at all levels to drive the game forward.

Taking my passion for volleyball aside, my main sports are road cycling and squash where I compete at a local level.

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