

# 3 TOUCH VOLLEYBALL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND



**£1 Million  
New Funding**  
*Who benefitted  
and how*

**University  
Challenge**  
*Setting up our new  
Senior Academies*

**International Beach**  
*Round-up from our athletes  
competing overseas*

  
**VOLLEYBALL  
ENGLAND**



**Sainsburys UK School Games**

Photo: Trophies for the U17 NEVZA Championships Pic: Mark Pritchard  
volleyballphotos.co.uk

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# Welcome



**Geoff Allen**  
President

## **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

**The indoor season is now well underway and the high-performing teams are appearing at the top of each league.**

However, if you play in a team that isn't one of the early pace-setters, remember the Sheffield men's team in the Super 8's last season.

After a slow start, they were at the bottom of the Super 8's. Their form picked up about this time of year and a late run saw them into the Super 8 play-offs. They then proceeded to beat Malory, Wessex BU and Northumbria, to become National Champions. The moral being: Don't give up trying to improve as a team!

I'm excited by a lot of the new developments in English volleyball. The overall standard of play in the Super 8's is better than I've ever seen before and this is filtering down through all divisions. There are some good initiatives being rolled out to increase both the numbers playing volleyball and our future playing standards.

I'm even more excited by our new 2024 Strategy, which we are due to roll out to everyone in the New Year. I believe this excellent strategy is really achievable. A tremendous amount of research has gone into its preparation, combined with a series of wide-ranging consultations throughout English volleyball, thus enhancing its content. Whilst the strategy identifies where we think English volleyball can get to in 10 years time, it also highlights the short and medium-term steps that we need to take in order to get there.

Finally, I would like to talk about data collection. I have found it difficult talking to Sport England, the FIVB etc to obtain more support for English volleyball when I cannot tell them how much volleyball is played here! There are two ways your club/school can help overcome this:

- We are currently conducting a survey of how many leagues, cup matches and tournaments are run in England for each of indoor, beach, grass and sitting volleyball. Please ensure your regional secretary has this information for your club and area so they can forward it to the National Office.

- Secondly, please make sure that your club/school forwards its list of members to the National Office, which will give us a more accurate figure of how many people play volleyball.

These statistics will ensure that we have sound, accurate data to work with in all future negotiations.

**Have a good season,  
Geoff Allen**



**Maria Bertelli**  
GB Olympian and Schools  
and Youth Commission President

## **NEW FEATURE**

**Hello volleyball players, coaches, referees, volunteers, staff and supporters!**

You may be wondering why it's me here and not the Chief Executive, Lisa Wainwright. Well, it's a new feature for 3Touch – Lisa's 'welcome' is to be handed over to members of the volleyball family. I think it's a fab idea and it's a pleasure to get the ball rolling.

For me the Olympics will be one of the best moments of my life due to the journey it took to get there: outdoor tournaments at Pontins, junior national cup finals at Crystal Palace, playing professionally, competing for GB around the world and then the Olympics. Whilst I can't go back and do it all again (I would in a flash), I am now stepping into the new world of project management, mentoring and as President of the Schools and Youth Commission.

I fundamentally believe that if volleyball is to grow to where we want it to be, we have to get it right at schools level. Working with the office staff in both the Participation and Talent Departments, along with many volunteers, we are determined to drive volleyball from the ground upwards.

At present our focus is on a number of projects, including:

- **Developing a schools engagement plan**
- **Resources**
- **Opportunities for young coaches**
- **Junior competitions review**

I look forward to updating you on these projects in future issues of 3Touch. We have a big challenge ahead to grow our sport and I love the fact that I can have an impact on it. Whatever your involvement in volleyball you can also have an impact. As Richard Branson tweeted this week:

*"Leaders think and talk about the solutions.*

*Followers think and talk about the problems."*

Get in touch via twitter @mariabertelli. It will be great to hear from you!

**Best Regards,  
Maria Bertelli**

# Volleynews

## Mole Valley Sporting Achievements 2014 Awards **ASHCOMBE VOLLEYBALL CLUB DOUBLE WIN**

### Ashcombe Volleyball Club Celebrate Double Win at Mole Valley Sporting Achievements 2014 Awards

**Ashcombe Volleyball club picked up two awards in this month's Mole Valley Sporting Achievements 2014. The Ashcombe Under 16 team from 2013-14 were named as Young Team of the Year and Freya McDonald was named as Young Volunteer of the Year.**

The Ashcombe Under 16 team had an excellent season last year, making it to the final stages of the Volleyball England National Under 16 Cup as one of the top eight sides in the country. The team also formed Ashcombe Dorking 1, competing in the Adult Surrey Volleyball League, where they finished in second place behind Dorking Volleyball Club. The majority of the squad represented the South East at the inter-regional championships. Additionally, three players from the squad, Rachel Higgins, Katy Begley and Lydia Goodwin, represented the England Cadets in various competitions. This season the team have graduated to the Ashcombe senior squads, with the majority now plying their trade in the two Ashcombe National Volleyball League teams.

Ashcombe School student Freya, 15, won her award for the tireless dedication she has shown to volleyball both on and off the court. Freya is the scorer for many of Ashcombe's National League matches, gaining praise from referees and opposing teams for her accuracy in performing a tricky task which many adults find daunting. Additionally, Freya has provided support at many Ashcombe events including the Ashcombe Volleyball Tournament. On court Freya played for Ashcombe at Under 15 and 16 level last season and was co-captain of Ashcombe Dorking II in the Surrey Volleyball League. She described her award as 'Amazing'.

Both winners will now go through to the Active Surrey Sports Awards. If short-listed for the county awards they will be invited to attend the awards show on 2 December 2014 at Kempton Park Racecourse.

Ashcombe Volleyball Club Chair Carol Fogarty was equally delighted at the news. She commented "I'm very proud of both our deserved winners, recognising their efforts over the past year. Freya is one of a

unique band of individuals who dedicates a huge part of her spare time to the pursuit of helping others within our club and sport. We send very best wishes from the club to Freya and the girls as they go through to the Active Surrey Sports Awards. We continue to pride ourselves as a club which provides and promotes playing, officiating, coaching and volunteering opportunities."

**A special presentation was held by the club after Ashcombe's National Volleyball League Division One fixture against Sheffield on 16 November to mark the awards.**



2013-14 U16's L-R. Rachel Higgins, Lydia Goodwin, Asia Perkins, Ailsa McDonald, Maddy Nutt, Freya McDonald.



Left Carol Fogarty, (Ashcombe Chair), Freya McDonald and Freda Bussey.

# National **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK**

A big thank you to all our clubs who took part in our National Anti-Bullying Week campaign. Here are a selection of the best photos. We can announce that the winning team is RHUL Bears, who will receive a MULTISPORTBASE, courtesy of the Ruth Nicholls Volleyball Foundation. Congratulations! #BlockItOut #BeatBullying



#StopBullying4All



NEW WORLD

# **ANTI-DOPING CODE 2015**

Are you an athlete, coach, member of support staff or family? Did you know there is a new World Anti-Doping Code beginning on 1 January 2015? What this means for you:

- 1) 4 year ban for deliberate cheating
  - 2) 2 year ban for inadvertent use  
e.g. supplements
  - 3) Complicity - e.g. covering for someone else
  - 4) Prohibited association  
e.g. banned for being linked with a coach
- Check out the microsite from UK Anti-Doping.
  - Update yourself and protect yourself.
  - Keep volleyball clean.

# UKAD

protecting sport



[www.ukad.org.uk/2015-code](http://www.ukad.org.uk/2015-code)

Follow UKAD on Twitter @  
ukantidoping

[www.fivb.org/EN/Medical/  
AntiDopingEducation.asp](http://www.fivb.org/EN/Medical/AntiDopingEducation.asp)

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



**Team Essex Volleyball Club (TEVC) has formed a new volleyball club for 9-11 year olds called “Mini Diggers”. Paul French, Club Treasurer tells us how they did it**

The club began in September this year, meeting each Monday evening for an hour and is well supported, with over 50 enthusiastic members.

To encourage regular attendance and create an identity TEVC invested in “Mini Digger” t-shirts which the young players can access and wear after attending five times. Attendance levels have remained strong, even after the autumn half term facility closure, which is incredibly pleasing. The Treasurer of our club, Paul French, manages the front of house throughout the session to ensure the children are playing in a secure and safe environment.

Coaching is led by two experienced player/coaches, Darren Lewis and Rachel Laybourne, our local Volleyball Relationship Manager. Essentially, however, they are assisted by five (male and female) teenage prospective assistant coaches who are gaining valuable coaching and life skills experience. This formula has worked well as it ensures that the players get feedback from multiple sources and receive regular reminders of the key coaching points. As the general ability of the group improves, players will be streamed into mini

they can look up to.

Three universal volleyball nets are strung between four fixed volleyball posts across the length of the four badminton court sports hall (33m). This provides multiple opportunities for the children to get used to a high net when playing 1v1 and facilitates at least six mini courts when they progress to small sided games.

For host school, the Boswells Academy (a key partner for TEVC), they are able to provide an open and welcoming junior community club on their own doorstep. By offering the club within their sports hall, it provides an onsite introduction into the successful volleyball programme for any local budding volleyball players. For TEVC, it forms part of our Junior Development Programme which also incorporates a Satellite Club (predominantly 11-14 year olds) and a Junior Development Squad which plays in the National League (15+ years old). The long term aim for our club is to help grow the number and quality of both male and female players transitioning into TEVC but also to try and improve the level of volleyball played across Essex.

**Setting up “Mini Diggers” was relatively simple:**

1. *The key ingredient is the commitment of the coaches. We are lucky at TEVC to have two great coaches in Darren and Rachel.*
2. *We then needed to get Boswells’ buy in and court time. The school have a good relationship with the club and were pleased to offer support.*
3. *The timing of the session is 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm. Many of the children attending enjoy other after-school activities. The timing of our session allows them to attend more than one activity. Moreover, one of our first team sessions follows straight afterwards so children can stay and watch if they wish to.*
4. *Promoting “Mini Diggers” in nearby schools constituted a simple flyer piggy-backing on other activities being promoted by Boswells Academy.*
5. *A new page on our website provides a source of information for parents and gives contact numbers for the club.*
6. *All administration is undertaken by the club, leaving the coaches to coach.*



groups to progress their skills and importantly keep them engaged and on task for the whole hour. This high ratio of coaches to players has been an important aspect of developing rapport with the children but also provides them with young volleyball role models who

In the 10 weeks it has been running it is evident that all of the players are improving their dynamic movement and coordination skills, their confidence when performing volleyball skills/practices is increasing and they are developing a sound knowledge of the game. It is impressive to see so many young players engaged and having fun in volleyball. It really bodes well for the future.

**If anyone would like further information feel free to visit the website:  
[www.teamessexvolleyball.com/mini-diggers/](http://www.teamessexvolleyball.com/mini-diggers/)  
or please get in touch with the club and one of our coaches will respond:  
[www.teamessexvolleyball.com/contact](http://www.teamessexvolleyball.com/contact).**



# BLACK COUNTRY AND STAFFS VOLLEYBALL RELATIONSHIP MANAGER UPDATE

## Wombourne Volleyball Club Development

After merging with another local West Midlands team, Coseley, last year, Wombourne Volleyball club has grown from strength to strength. Amalgamating two existing men's teams, whilst introducing a new ladies' team for the 2013-14 season, the merger proved successful and has been the driving force behind the club's development.

Through a lot of hard work, the WVC's committee also developed strategic partnerships with Dudley College to see their team numbers grow, from two men's and a ladies' team, to an additional team for both, entered into the West Midlands Volleyball League. Wombourne Volleyball's coaches are supporting a college programme and coach staff and students are forming the core of the third men's team. Their joint vision is to increase participation in volleyball throughout the local areas and offer opportunities to play recreational and competitive volleyball for all abilities and ages. A Go Spike recreational session proved so successful that 77 players participated! These numbers clearly show the progress the club has made from a total that had dwindled down to 7 to consistently training 70 plus players.

Fundamentally this has been helped by the club's recent small grants bid funded through the Small Grants Programme run by Sport England. This financial boost enabled the club to buy much-needed equipment such as additional nets and training balls to accommodate growing numbers whilst also funding training for additional coaches and referees. The club now boasts 11 Level One coaches with 7 of these moving on to their Level Two training. They also have 16 qualified Grade 4 referees alongside numerous other volunteers. Having seen one of their men's teams promoted last season to Division 1, the club has high hopes for success this season with their other teams.



Volleyball Relationship Manager, Rob Payne, commented on Wombourne Volleyball Club's progress over the last 6 months: "The success of the club can be largely attributed to the dedication of the volunteers and the strong link with Dudley College. From its infancy we knew the partnership would prove invaluable to the club, with high quality facilities and a pool of players feeding into the teams. Wombourne have capitalised upon the opportunity and demonstrated excellent club development".



**For any support with club development or funding please contact Rob Payne (Volleyball Relationship Manager) on 07595 022516 or [r.payne@volleyballengland.org](mailto:r.payne@volleyballengland.org)**

### Awarded £10,000 from Sport England Small Grants

#### Funded

- 6 x Level 1 and 8 x Level 2 coaches
- Brand new court, posts, referee stand, wall-net slider
- Volleyballs and ball carts

#### New sessions

- 14-16 years Satellite Club
- 16+ Go Spike session
- Dudley College student session
- Planned new WMVA teams





STEVE KERR

# GREATER MANCHESTER VOLLEYBALL RELATIONSHIP MANAGER UPDATE



Blackley Volleyball Club Manchester (BVCM) was founded by volleyball enthusiasts of mixed nationalities in January 2014. Due to the perseverance of BVCM, a full sized volleyball court has been installed in North Manchester.

Four people, Angie Palisoc who is acting as the Chairperson, Beth Gibson as the Secretary, Paul Gibson as the Treasurer, and Melvin Palisoc as the Fund Raiser founded the club with the participation of Ben Tanner, Sport Centre Manager at Our Lady's RC High School in Higher Blackley, Manchester.

Special thanks also go to Pete Koss (who led Moss Side Volleyball Club in South Manchester). Pete is responsible for part of the success of BVCM's foundation as he introduced the above officers to Steve Kerr of Volleyball England.

The club was originally intended for recreational volleyball every Sunday, to facilitate the bonding of families who enjoy playing sport and enabling them to meet and socialise with others in the community. During the period of January to September, the club attracted many such members and became more competitive. BVCM Tigers Roar...

Within less than 12 months, BVCM successfully hosted its first friendly tournament in March 2014, which consisted of four teams in the Women's Division and four teams in the Men's Division. This has encouraged other recreational volleyball clubs in South Manchester to participate in leagues within Manchester. Two more successful friendly tournaments followed in June and September 2014.

BVCM also participated in Filipino organised Volleyball tournaments in Whiston, Oldham, Leeds and London. Furthermore, during October BVCM joined the Greater Manchester Volleyball Association local league for the first time and has started introducing volleyball to young people under 16.

### In the community

BVCM conducted a two days Summer Volleyball Camp in August 2014 at Our Lady's RC High School and more than 30 kids participated. It was an exciting event and every kid enjoyed it, which gave the team an idea to start a Junior Session.

### The Challenge

A Junior Satellite Club will be starting mid November 2014 and will be facilitated by Our Lady's RC High School in Higher Blackley Manchester and Blackley Volleyball Club Manchester (BVCM). The School will have Volleyball as part of PE curriculum. As this is the first time within the North Manchester area, BVCM team is greatly encouraged by its vision to start shaping future volleyball players (BVCM Cubs) by encouraging more kids to participate in volleyball within the area.

BVCM will continue to run a recreational and training session every Sunday for players over 16 and at the same time will be playing local league within the Greater Manchester. This means the club has to have few more qualified coaches and referees.

BVCM and the School have been finding ways to fund these activities and so far Volleyball England has been very supportive. A new set of volleyball post has been installed in Our Lady's RC Sport Centre. Also Manchester City Council has approved funds to be able to facilitate the Satellite clubs

which at the moment still being processed. Another Major Sponsor are Triline Pumps Ltd who has sponsored the starting volleyball kits of the BVCM players and has subsidized part of the court hire to facilitate recreational and training sessions since the launched of the Club, and Jubangie.Design who helped promote the club by designing the club's logo and t-shirts, and supplying fliers, posters and other promotional materials.

**The Club is so young but has achieved more than expected and its team is continually recruiting members and encouraging more members to take special roles in running the club.**



## Charity

BVCM supports plenty of charities. For the first time, the club is running a mini tournament on November 23, 2014 to raise money for Against Breast Cancer.



## Where to find us...

Our website: <http://bvcm2014.co.uk>  
Email: [bvcm2014@gmail.com](mailto:bvcm2014@gmail.com)

## We play Volleyball at:

Our Lady's RC High School Sports Centre  
Alworth Road

Higher Blackley, Manchester  
M9 0RP

Our Lady's RC High School Sports Centre is situated in North Manchester.

## By Car

If you are travelling from the South on M60 take the Middleton exit and turn left onto Middleton Road towards Manchester City Centre. After passing the gate to Heaton Park on your right, turn left onto Victoria Avenue and follow the road up the hill. At the mini roundabout (Co-op) go straight on and then immediately left. At the next mini roundabout turn right and at the end of the road turn left. The school is in front of you.

If you are travelling from the North on M60 take the exit marked Blackley. Turn right and back over the motorway. At the main traffic lights, turn right onto Victoria Avenue. Just before the mini roundabout with the co-op on your left, turn right. At the mini roundabout turn right and at the end of the road turn left. The school is in front of you.

There is parking available in the school sports centre car park. We would be grateful if you could please park with consideration.

## By Bus

Number 156 Middleton – Manchester  
Numbers 88 & 89 Blackley Circular  
Numbers 64,165,164 From Manchester  
The nearest bus stops are Plant Hill Road (Victoria Avenue) and Boothroyden Road (Victoria Avenue).

[http://www.tfgm.com/journey\\_planning](http://www.tfgm.com/journey_planning)



Age: Under 16 years  
Cost: First session free then £2 per session thereafter  
Venue: Our Lady's RC High School Sports Centre  
Alworth Road Higher Blackley, Manchester M9 0RP  
Time: 1-2PM every Sunday

Volleyball is an entertaining and a non contact sports for boys and girls.

Blackley Volleyball Club Manchester now offers to teach Volleyball to youngsters under 16 years of age. We aim to:

- make it fun and exciting to ensure that everyone has a great time.
- develop confidence, encourage participation, create team spirit and improve social skills as this will be their opportunity to make more friends.
- keep them active, increase mobility and strength.

Our website: <http://bvcm2014.co.uk/>  
Email: [bvcm2014@gmail.com](mailto:bvcm2014@gmail.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlackleyVolleyballClubManchester/>  
JOIN NOW! JUST COMPLETE THE FORM AT THE BACK

# VOLLEYBALL

## NORTH EAST

### RELATIONSHIP

#### MANAGER UPDATE



#### Coach in focus...

**Name:** Steven Anderson  
**Plays at:** Team Northumbria Super 8's  
**Coaches at:** Sunderland City Predators (women)  
**Works at:** Whitley Bay High School  
**Qualification:** FIVB Level 2



One of the highest qualified coaches in the North East, Steven Anderson, a PE teacher at Whitley Bay High School has achieved his Federation of International Volleyball Level 2 Coaching Qualification with the help of bursaries from Tyne & Wear Sport and Sunderland University. The qualification means that Steven is now knowledgeable about the most modern trends of the game and able to coach advanced level teams in both indoor and beach volleyball!

Commenting on his achievement Steven said, "I'm thrilled to have completed my coaching qualification. I'm keen to support the development of volleyball in the North East by encouraging as many young people to try the sport as possible. I'm therefore hugely grateful for the support of both Sunderland City Predators and Tyne & Wear Sport, who both contributed to the funding of my course.

"Completing the course has given me a great insight into the workings of a professional team. At the moment I am coaching the ladies team at Sunderland City Predators, with aspirations to take them to the highest level in this country."

Steven got his start in the sport quite by chance, beginning with a local team in Middlesbrough before becoming a member of Team Northumbria Super 8's at Sport Central on the university campus.

Steven was then selected for the England Senior team where he gained six caps over two years. He continues to play with Team Northumbria and has just started his sixth season with them.

Steven attended the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering for the gruelling 13 days of coaching and assessment. The course was led by renowned US tutor, Sue Gozansky and she was supported by a number of Volleyball England experts in areas such as refereeing, physical training & conditioning, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball.

Steven was able to access the award by applying for financial support from Tyne & Wear Sport's coaching bursary and a contribution from Sunderland City Predators.

Ruth Nicholson, Coaching Development Manager for Tyne & Wear Sport said, "We're very pleased to have been able to support Steven to gain this qualification. Our Coaching Bursary aims to create new or better qualified coaches in Tyne & Wear, which helps to ensure the quality of community sport remains high in clubs across our area."

If you're looking to undertake a sporting qualification of any kind, please check with your local County Sports Partnership (CSP) whether you are eligible for financial support. In many cases 50% to 75% of costs (up to a maximum amount) can be covered!

**This is a fantastic achievement for Steven and we're very lucky to have such a highly qualified coach working in the area, not only with Sunderland City Predators but also in his role as a PE teacher at Whitley Bay High School. Steven is a brilliant role model as both player and coach and we look forward to supporting his future progress!**



**MARK SIMMONS**

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

## **Volleyball Coaching Course proves a real hit on the South Coast!**

In November LeAF Academy in Bournemouth hosted the first UKCC Level 1 Volleyball Coaching Course since the introduction of the Dorset and Hants Volleyball Investment Zone. LeAF, with its superb indoor and outdoor volleyball facilities proved the perfect venue for this coaching course which ran over three days on the South Coast.

A total of 17 participants registered for this course from Dorset, Hampshire and as far afield as Berkshire. However, the majority of applicants were from the Dorset area, which had received local funding support

The main tutor on the course was Steve Jones, who has a wealth of volleyball expertise, and he commented: "It was great to see such an excellent mix of experience with youthful enthusiasm that led to lots of reflection and debate amongst the group."

I am pleased to say that all candidates successfully passed the course and many of these new coaches will now be supporting the delivery of current and new Satellite Clubs delivered by Wessex Volleyball Club. These new coaches will also be supporting the delivery of GO Spike activity which Poole Panthers VC, Spike Monkeys VC and

me to demonstrate my skills as a coach and show what I had learnt on the course." Following this course, Jack will now be delivering a weekly FE Volleyball session at Eastleigh College in Hants.

Geoff Allen, President of Volleyball England and Chairman of local Wessex VC, also tutored on the course and added: "This was a very high caliber course, due to the quality of the candidates and Steve Jones' inspiring tutelage. Hopefully, most of the new coaches will now start actively coaching."



through a £1,000 coaching bursary from Active Dorset County Sports Partnership (CSP).

Active Dorset CSP were able to use this bursary to fund 75% of the applicants on the course, who were currently supporting and/or lined up to deliver volleyball projects in the local community through either a club, school, college or university environment.

Sandbanks VC have recently introduced.

One of the candidates, Jack Medhurst, from Hampshire had this to say about the course: "It was a friendly course with great support from tutors and peers. I hold UKCC Level 2 coaching awards in two other sports and found the contact days on this course both engaging and appropriately challenging. The assessment day enabled

**If you are interested in taking that first step on the volleyball coaching pathway to develop your skills further with a Level 1 or higher award please do not hesitate to get in contact with me at: [m.simmons@volleyballengland.org](mailto:m.simmons@volleyballengland.org) or 07850 938280. I look forward to hearing from you!**

# NEVZA U17 AND U19 COMPETITIONS

Competing at the NEVZA U17 and U19 events is a fantastic opportunity for our England squads at Cadet and Junior level to experience a high level of competition against unfamiliar opponents.

The U17 competition has been hosted superbly by England, at the National Volleyball Centre, Kettering, for the last two years and is an excellent platform for our cadet boys and girls to gain valuable international experience with the advantage of playing at home, where friends and family can easily watch them in action.

The Junior Men and Junior Women compete in the U19 competition, which for the last two years has been hosted by Denmark. Playing abroad presents an opportunity for the older athletes to experience other aspects of international

competition, such as travelling and training and competing in unfamiliar surroundings.

The vision of the England Talent Pathway is not only to develop a high standard of training at all levels from cadet through to senior athletes, but also to provide appropriate and challenging competition opportunities both at home and abroad, in indoor and beach volleyball.

NEVZA is the first step on the international stage for many of our young athletes on their journey along the pathway. Therefore it is vital to developing our age group programme. It also enables us to provide development opportunities for our national team staff, from coaches to team managers to physios and support staff. We are pleased with the progress our squads are making at the NEVZA level. Year on year we are becoming more competitive within both NEVZA competitions.

Below are comments from some of our England Head Coaches on the importance of NEVZA.

“For me, NEVZA is an important step for our young players to experience the international level and measure the gap between their usual competitions and environment and the requirements for international competition.” Darren Lewis, Head Coach, England Junior Men

“Playing on a regular basis against the other countries of NEVZA helps us to identify the areas of competitiveness of the English players and the areas that require the most improvement. Measuring us (England) against those teams will be key to the development of young players.” Bertrand Olie, Head Coach England Junior Women



## Round-up of NEVZA U-17 competition

### Day 1

#### Boys' Competition

England boys started a little better in their first set, staying in touch with Finland until the latter half. Like the girls, they also came close to winning the second set, only losing out following a run of points from the Finnish who then managed to pounce on any uncertainty in the England ranks as they stormed the third set 25-11.

#### Girl's' Competition

England girls struggled to find their passing game, as Finland ran away with the first set 25-12. A solid second set followed, as England found themselves in a promising position at 20-19 after some big hitting from Yasmin Kaashoek. They were unable to capitalise though, with Finland seeing out the set 25-19. The momentum had truly swung in the third, with Finland dominating all aspects of the game, closing out the match 25-11. In the closest match of the evening, Iceland girls narrowly lost to

Denmark 3-0 but on another day the match could have gone the other way. A comeback from Iceland saw them just miss out on the first set 25-23. A lapse in concentration allowed the Danish to build a big lead in the second set and they never looked back as they took a two set lead 25-16. A nail-biting final set followed, with Iceland desperate to take the match into a third. They couldn't quite find the points they needed though, as Denmark notched up their first win 25-23 in the third.

### Day 2

#### Boys' Competition

England v Finland was the second match on the boys' court, following Sweden's 3-1 victory over Iceland. It was Finland who hit the ground running, taking the first set 25-16. England fared a little better in the second, but were unable to find the extra gear they needed towards the end of the set. Finland closed out the match 25-9 in the third, leaving England needing a win against

Denmark to progress to the semi-finals.

The crunch match couldn't have started better, as England won a tough opening set 25-20 and followed it up with the second 25-19. A place in the semi-finals was beckoning and, as the third set drew to a close, it looked as though England would see the match out. It wasn't to be though, as Denmark rallied and won the third set... and the fourth...and the fifth! A remarkable comeback that left the England boys distraught, but also gave them a glimpse of what they're capable of when it all comes together. It was a fantastic effort which all the players could draw upon during the quarter-final the following day. Denmark had another gruelling five set match against Finland, however this time they were on the losing side, meaning Finland earned a place in the semi-finals by topping Group C. They were joined in the semis by Sweden who, like Denmark, had an epic five set match that finished just after 10.00 pm. This time it was Norway who were the unfortunate team to miss out, with Iceland finishing Group D in third place..

## Girls' Competition

The Faroe Islands were first on the show court against reigning champions Norway. After losing one and winning two extremely close sets, The Faroes managed to secure three points with a nail-biting 30-28 win in the fourth. England girls matched the boys' start, winning an extremely close set 26-24. The second set was there for the taking, but the Danes pulled it back and stole it 25-23. Another close set followed and again the Danes took it 25-19. Unfortunately it wasn't to be England's day as Denmark won the decisive fourth set 25-15. England's next opportunity for points was against Iceland. A cagey opening set ended with England finishing on the right side of the 25-23 score line. However, just as they had done in their previous match, their form began to stutter and Iceland capitalised, winning three sets in a row to consign England to another defeat. Finland topped the group and progressed straight to the semi-finals, with Denmark second and Iceland third. In the other group, Sweden finished on top despite losing two players (sisters no less!) to ankle injuries in consecutive matches. The Faroe Islands came second, with Norway finishing third.

## Day 3

### Boys' Competition

Denmark despatched Iceland in straight sets in the first of two quarter-finals, which left England and Norway to battle it out for the last of the semi-final berths. After gaining an advantage at 2-1 up, memories of the previous day's five-set defeat may have been lingering as Norway looked to be heading towards levelling the match. A nerve-jangling end to the set saw England clinch it 26-24, earning a semi-final spot against Finland. Unfortunately the semi-final went the same way as the group stage, with Finland coming out on top in straight sets (25-19, 25-17, 25-19). In the other semi-final, Denmark rolled over group winners Sweden in three somewhat surprisingly comfortable sets (14-25, 20-25, 13-25).

### Girls' Competition

The first quarter-final of the day saw Denmark play Norway in a match that went down to the wire. After sharing the first four sets, the fifth set looked to be heading in Norway's direction as they held match point at 14-13 but a run of three straight points from Denmark stole it at the last, setting up a semi-final against Sweden. The second quarter-final was another five set affair, with

The Faroe Islands holding their nerve at the end to seal a 15-11 victory in the fifth over Iceland.

England's girls were third on court in the first of their two fifth-seventh place triangular play-off matches. With nothing to lose, the girls started to play with a freedom that had sometimes eluded them during the first two days of the competition, and it made all the difference as they ran out winners in three straight sets (21-25, 19-25, 14-25). Their next match was a replay against Iceland who had beaten them in the group stage. Despite clawing back a 16-12 deficit to 16-15 in the fourth set, it wasn't enough to take the match to a fifth as they lost 25-18, 13-25, 25-18, 25-21.

A good start in the first semi-final saw Denmark trade point for point with Sweden, who boasted one of the Super Six from last year's event. Isabelle Haak once again made the difference as her hitting at times was unstoppable, helping Sweden into the final with a 3-0 win. In the other semi-final, Finland produced a dominant display against The Faroe Islands, winning 25-11, 25-10, 25-8.

## Day 4

### Boys' Competition

Finals day was the one everyone was waiting for and it didn't disappoint. Big individual performances paired with some great teamwork made for a high quality and adrenaline filled day's play.

Norway emerged victorious in the fifth-sixth play-off match after a comfortable straight sets victory over Iceland (11-25, 16-25, 20-25). The bronze medal match between England and Sweden was the best supported match in the competition, with team-mates, parents and friends making plenty of noise for both teams. After losing the first set, England produced one of their best displays of the competitions, winning the second with relative ease 25-9. A crucial third set followed which saw Sweden up their game, allowing them to take a 2-1 advantage. A quick start from Sweden gave them a small lead which England were unable to claw back, losing the fourth set 25-17.

The boys' final was full of drama, with Finland eventually coming out on top after the momentum swung from one side to the other. The win looked to be in the bag in the fourth set until Denmark staged a comeback which seemed to knock the Finnish

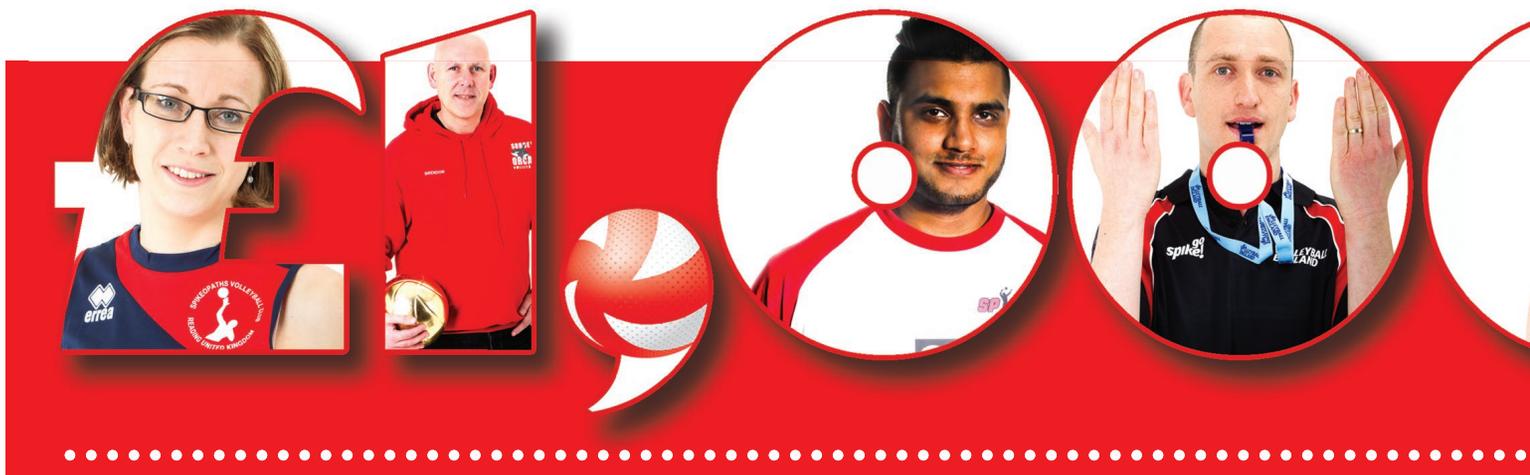
confidence. At 26-26 a let was called after a Finnish player was wrongly called for an illegal hit. This seemed to knock the Danish off their stride. The Fins didn't need a second invitation and took the Championship 3-1 (24-26, 27-25, 19-25, 26-28).

### Girls' Competition

The first match of the morning saw Iceland claim fifth place despite a 3-2 defeat by Norway. The three points gained over England the previous night meant they finished the fifth-seventh pool in fifth place, ahead of England in sixth and Norway in seventh. In the bronze medal play-off, Denmark recorded a 3-1 victory over The Faroe Islands although the latter made a vast improvement on their performance last year and on another day could have gone away with a medal.

The last match of the girls' competition pitched Finland and Sweden against each other, with neither team dropping a set on the way to the final. Finland's hitters dominated the front court, with Sweden's MVP Isabelle Haak unable to get into the match. Finland won gold in three straight sets 15-25, 18-25, 19-25, managing to go through the entire competition without dropping a set. A brilliant effort which is going to take something special to match in years to come.





Following up on every phone call, speaking to many clubs, holding meetings with lots of members, keeping track of numerous applications and talking on a regular basis to our funding partners, the perseverance of our staff, including Membership and Funding Officer Ian Poynton, Talent Manager Adi Fawcett and our Volleyball Relationship Managers has paid off!

We have secured £1,000,000 in new external funding for clubs, members and the wider volleyball community! Yes, that's ONE MILLION POUNDS in new money. With determination and persistence; writing robust funding applications; looking at local, regional, national and international funding opportunities; collaborating with a range of partners and with assistance from our Volleyball Relationship Managers, we can proudly say to all members: Volleyball has received a funding injection of One Million Pounds over the past 18 months.

To achieve this, you need partners. Partners who can assist you with the funding,

who help you to understand the funding process and that in the end, have the authority to grant funding to you.

The biggest of those partners is Sport England. They certainly understand funding! Sport England is focused on helping people and communities across the country create a sporting habit for life, investing over £1 billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding between 2012 and 2017. Their key funding grants are Small Grants and Inspired Facilities which are distributed through County Sport Partnership programmes like Sportivate.

Clubs, members, coaches, referees, area and regional associations have all secured new money via a wide range of funding streams. There are several key conditions to funding but overall when you consider making an application, ensure it fits within the 14-25+ age bracket and that it is a new activity, i.e. you are not requesting funding for an existing project

Our Volleyball Relationship Managers work closely with our Membership & Funding

Officer, Ian Poynton, who is probably the most knowledgeable person within the volleyball community when it comes to writing a successful application as he used to do this in his previous job with Sport England!

Writing a strong application and getting it granted is a challenge but is certainly achievable. It just needs dedicated volunteers to plan the project, as well as consultation with partners and expertise to execute the bid.

Over the past 18 months, we measured the success rate of grant applications we were involved with and found that a remarkable 98% of all bids were successful. This is an enormous accomplishment. It also shows the extent to which partners are willing to look favourably on volleyball as a sport and to contribute to the progress of volleyball. It proves that external funding can be the basis for growing volleyball much faster in England.



Oxford Volleyball Club



## OF NEW EXTERNAL FUNDING

We spoke to several members of the Volleyball England community who have received grants and here's some of their feedback:

### Spikeopaths Volleyball Club

“The grant we received has helped us to create a junior section for the Spikeopaths Volleyball Club. We are based in Maiden Erlegh School and following a discussion with the PE teacher, there was quite an interest for students to be involved in a new sport. The grant helped us obtain new equipment such as volleyballs, pay for a coach and hire a facility for the new sessions. This is fantastic news for our club!”



Marketa Chrabatinova/Judit Meszaros

### Berkshire Volleyball Association:

“Following a meeting, our association concluded that we had a shortage of referees for our clubs. After consultation with the clubs and Volleyball England we worked jointly to put a grant together, which will now see up to approximately 36 new referees trained and qualified. This is great news for our clubs and will ensure that games are refereed by qualified personnel.”

### Sandwell Spikers Volleyball Club:

“By working in conjunction with Rob Payne (Volleyball England Volleyball Relationship Manager) and with help from Sport England, our Small Grant has made a considerable difference to the club. Firstly, the borrowed net we had been using before was the wrong size and members were coming along unimpressed. Our new net has provided a positive experience for our players! The volleyballs we had before the grant were replicas and were very hard. The new ones are softer and as a result we have fewer injuries. The link we have made with the school due to the grant has helped to bring along new players, in particular females – which is great!”



Ketan Patel

### Hermitage Volleyball Club:

“Having worked with Volleyball England and Leicestershire and Rutland Sport, we received two strands of funding which has significantly raised the profile of the club. We have welcomed new juniors into the club by running a “Let’s Play” Satellite Club at the nearby Castle Rock School. The funding helped us to secure new posts and equipment, which could be kept at the school, thus offering us an extension of the club beyond our home in Whitwick. We also received help with funding for the Go Spike programme,



Gary Cross

which allowed us to set up a recreational session on Sundays. This ultimately fed new members into our thriving club!”

### Surrey Orcas

Only in their 4th season and already successful:

“Surrey Orcas entered National League in 2011 and we have won promotion every year to reach the highest level of Super 8’s in what will be only our 4th season in NVL. We have never had any sponsorship or external funding, with all costs thus far having been divided equally between the players and paid as monthly fees.



Brendon Hollands

Surrey Orcas is actually the competing name of the Ladies 1st team of Spelthorne Volleyball Club and we had been searching for a different training venue for the new season in central London. Although the Spelthorne club is based out near Staines, we have Orcas players from all over London. We had been unable to train regularly before as we didn’t have a central training location that everyone could get to on a mid-week evening.

Thanks to the grant and the work we did with Volleyball England, we not only managed to get funding for a new training venue, we also had help towards paying for the coach to run these latest sessions and some new equipment and volleyballs for the venue as well!”

**Sarah Edwards, England Junior Player and an athlete in our AASE programme:**

“The AASE programme at Loughborough College is helping me to achieve my ambition to become an elite volleyball player. Without the funding that AASE provides, I wouldn’t have access to the nutritional and sports psychologist specialists that can help me make the most of my course. The AASE programme also helps me to understand what is required to be a successful athlete with regard to lifestyle, commitment to training and health. Furthermore, it’s helping me to understand how life after education works, with information and advice on employment law and managing my finances.”

TASS is a unique programme, funded and administered by Sport England which represents the partnership between talented young athletes, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB’s) and the Higher Education sector (university). TASS aims to help athletes to balance academic life with training and competition as a performance athlete at a critical point in transition through the talent pathway.



Sarah Edwards



Jordan Dalrymple

**Jordan Dalrymple is one of the TASS athletes at Sheffield Hallam University, and we asked him about funding:**

“The Sport England TASS support that I will be receiving for the 2014-2015 year will be absolutely invaluable. It’s great to be supported by a programme which has evolved over time and puts me alongside so many success stories from British sport and also somewhat humbling to be recognised as having the potential worthy of such support.”

**Freddie Fairbairn, volleyball coach:**

“I really wanted to broaden my coaching expertise and, as such, be enrolled on the FIVB Level II course. However, the course fee was rather a lot of money for me to provide personally. With the help of Volleyball England and the funding we secured together I can now say I have passed my FIVB Level II and am very happy!”

**Oxford Volleyball Club.**

One of the biggest grants to a single organisation went to Oxford Volleyball Club. They gained £57,890 of National Lottery funding from Sport England’s Inspired Facilities fund to build Oxford’s first two beach volleyball courts. They hope the courts will be ready for action by summer 2015! The courts will provide a much-needed training facility for the nationally ranked players in the Oxford area (three ladies in the top 30 and one man in the top six UK beach volleyball players, and a total of 15 players in the top 200), contributing to the London 2012 Olympic legacy for beach volleyball and raising standards in the sport in England. In addition, the courts, which will be built to Volleyball England specifications, will be accessible to the general public, making beach volleyball available to the Oxford community. The club anticipates being able to provide coaching and structured play for those interested in developing their skills further. In addition, they are in discussion with other local sports clubs regarding how best to maximise the benefit of these new sand-based facilities across a range of sports.



Freddie Fairbairn

**Club Chairman, Jonathan Williams:**

“We are delighted to have secured this investment, which means we can now bring beach volleyball to Oxford. This project, which will take a small area of Council-owned land and turn it into a beach volleyball facility, promises to make beach volleyball accessible to the Oxfordshire community. We hope to attract new players to this exciting sport, fulfilling the potential of the London 2012 Olympic legacy”.

It is Volleyball England’s aim to continue on the external funding path and help clubs, communities and the whole volleyball family where possible.

**Our next target?**

“Obviously we would love to achieve £2 Million, aiming for more clubs to come to us, more members to make use of the available funding and to assist all clubs that have a need for development, growth, investment, equipment,



Izzik Goldfarb

beach courts or whatever the project may be.”

says Ian Poynton, Membership & Funding Officer at Volleyball England.

And 3Touch wouldn’t be surprised if at some point we see a centre-fold photo again with faces of more happy members having received funding for their organisation.

We celebrated these funding achievements with all the successful members of the volleyball family in this centre-fold spread.

We would like to thank them for coming to the studio for these fabulous pictures!

Volleyball England would like to sincerely thank all external funding partners who have generously contributed grant funding to this MILLION POUND MILESTONE. They include:

Sport England, Skills Active,  
The CSP Network, BUCS,  
London Legacy Development Corporation  
NE1 Ltd  
Youth Sport Trust  
FIVB/CEV

You can reach Ian by phone on 01509 227711 or via email [i.poynton@volleyballengland.org](mailto:i.poynton@volleyballengland.org)



# VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

## Senior Academy

Developing our Future Talent

The Volleyball England Senior Academy Programme has been established to extend the England Talent Pathway, allowing talented athletes to continue to develop as volleyball athletes whilst continuing with their education.

The Senior Academy network is the natural next step along the talent pathway from the established Junior Academy Network (see image below) and will be hosted by a network of partner Higher Education institutions (universities) that provide volleyball programmes for talented English athletes.

The university partnerships mark a key milestone in Volleyball England's ambition to provide a pathway that will ultimately develop talented volleyball athletes beyond the junior level. Partnering with universities will provide the opportunity of a dual career of academics and performance volleyball.

The introduction of Senior Academies extends the existing England Talent Pathway and will be the springboard for athletes who could go on to represent England in senior competitions as well as preparing them to play professional volleyball abroad, be that indoor in a club environment or on the beach in European and world tour events.

Volleyball England has been awarded 40 places by the Sport England TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) programme. These awards are specifically given to athletes on the talent pathway in university education who have proven themselves on the performance pathway. The award provides access to: strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, a medical scheme, performance lifestyle

support (managing sporting ambition alongside achieving academically) and financial help towards training and competing. Our five Senior Academies have all been awarded the status of TASS Accredited Centre (TAC), meaning they have been able to demonstrate and evidence a high level in all the services mentioned, including high quality, qualified staff.

### Process & Accreditation:

Each university has been part of a robust and lengthy process set out by Volleyball England, evidencing high levels of support to athlete development alongside provision of a high quality education with the focus on athlete development. The process has resulted in Volleyball England being able to confidently provide information on the universities (outlined below) to talented aspiring athletes looking to make their next step beyond junior volleyball.

A number of higher education institutions were invited to express an interest. The process involved seven steps from initial expression of interest to application, review, site visit, assessment and final selection. Five universities emerged as leading providers of high performance volleyball programmes. Each university has been assessed against a set of performance programme criteria and awarded an accreditation of Gold, Silver or Bronze. Their accreditation level is a reflection of their volleyball offer to athletes and covers a wide range of areas including: facilities, individual athlete support, provision of core services such as strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, sports psychology and performance lifestyle (managing their sporting ambitions whilst achieving their



education aspirations), scholarships, coaching, competition and academic courses.

The geographical spread of the senior academies nationally offers the opportunity for athletes to study at a number of high quality higher education providers.

Each of the five Senior Academies offers a wide range of academic options alongside providing a fantastic opportunity for aspiring athletes to continue to develop within a performance environment.

**Senior Academy Prospectus:**

As one of Volleyball England's main objectives is to provide relevant guidance and information to athletes during key moments of their journey through the England Talent Pathway, Volleyball England has produced their Senior Academy Prospectus. This A5 document includes key information from each of the five senior academies as well as useful information regarding the talent pathway and the UCAS application process.

This will be provided to all athletes on the England talent pathway attending national squads and part of the Junior Academy Programme. There will also be an online version made available on the Volleyball England Senior Academy page: [http://volleyballengland.org/performance/talent\\_programmes/senior\\_academy\\_programme](http://volleyballengland.org/performance/talent_programmes/senior_academy_programme)

**November National Squad Camp**

As part of the ongoing partnerships between Volleyball England and each of the Senior Academies, each university was invited to attend the recent November National Squad training camp, held at the National Volleyball centre in Kettering.

A total of 100 athletes attended the camp from across the four squads: Junior Women, Cadet Girls, Junior Men and Cadet Boys. Presentations were made to the squads on the Senior Academy Programme on the Saturday, alongside performance education sessions, with parents also attending on the Sunday as part of a Senior Academy forum.

Each of the Senior Academies was in attendance on the Sunday as part of the "Senior Academy Fair" (see left).

This provided athletes with the opportunity to engage with university coaches and athletes from the five universities, gaining some valuable contacts and information on the day which they can utilise when considering their university options. This also provided the universities with the opportunity to meet junior national athletes to discuss their ambitions and options as they look to continue their development as volleyball athletes alongside attaining a high quality education. The universities also invited athletes to sport specific open days at their university.

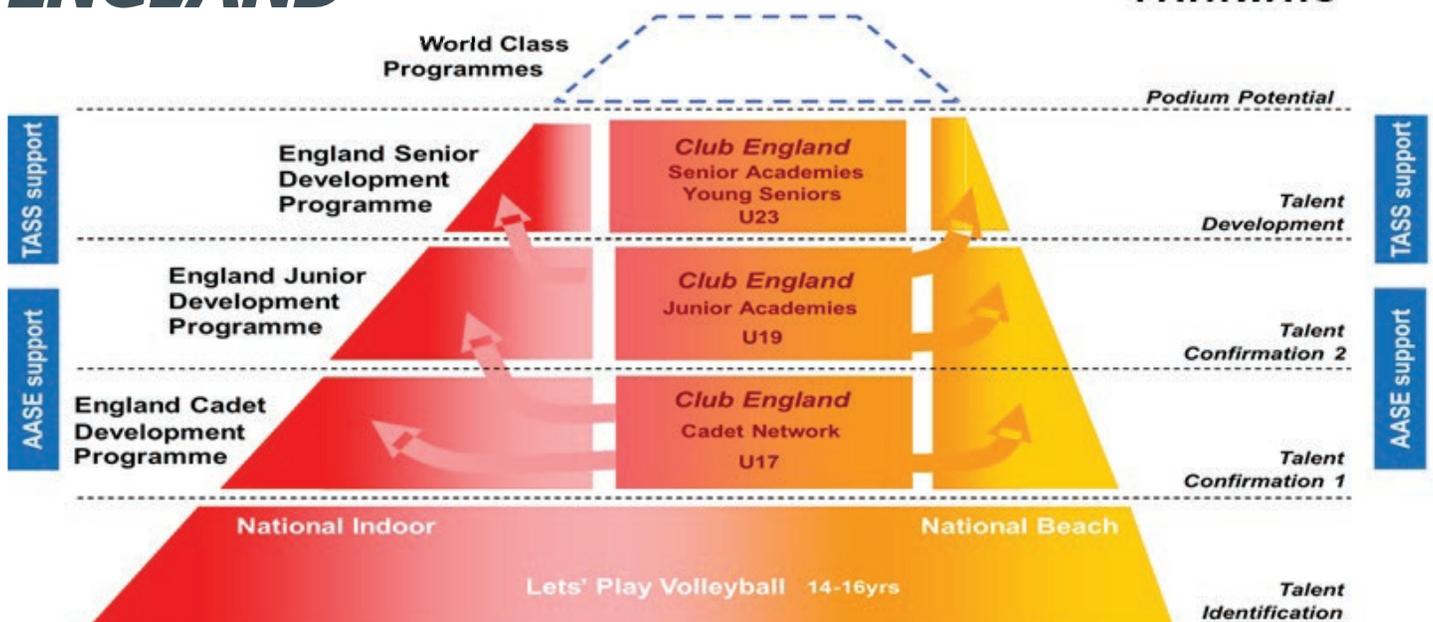
Frazer Johnson, Sport Development Manager at Sheffield Hallam said "It was a useful and enjoyable day and I was surprised by the confidence, maturity and knowledge of the young players."

**University contacts**

For Further information, please contact James Abbott, Talent Pathways officer:  
E: [j.abbott@volleyballengland.org](mailto:j.abbott@volleyballengland.org) T: 01509 227722



**ENGLAND TALENT PATHWAYS**



# HEVO CONFERENCE

## What is a HEVO?

Higher Education Volleyball Officers (HEVO's) are responsible for leading and co-ordinating the development of recreational volleyball within their universities. They are tasked with encouraging new participants into the sport and ensuring a quality experience for all players, regardless of ability.

The HEVO's work with Volleyball England, their university staff, and external partners such as their local County Sports Partnership, BUCS and Sport England to achieve these goals.

## The Conference

The last weekend in September saw the return of the annual Higher Education Volleyball Officer (HEVO) Conference. A record number of HEVO's and Senior HEVO's flocked to Kettering for a weekend of learning, networking and, of course, volleyball!

Over 50 HEVO's and Senior HEVO's descended on the National Volleyball Centre, an increase on previous years. There was a mixture of practical and theoretical workshops aimed at developing the skills and understanding needed to succeed in the role.

As part of the weekend, the HEVO's became the first fully trained Go Spike Student Activators, and left with a wide range of fun games, activities, and challenges to take back to their recreational volleyball sessions. They also received training on how to use the Go Spike Speed Cage. Both proved to be very popular sessions. Other workshops the HEVO's attended included Funding & Club Accreditation, Reporting, Setting up Activities and Building Networks.

The highlight of the weekend was definitely an evening with Team GB stars Pete Bakare and Nathan French, who offered a motivational talk, many laughs, and even a spot of volleyball after dinner, playing alongside and against our HEVO's in what turned out to be a highly competitive game!

One recurring theme of the weekend was the #HEVGoSpike selfie competition. This became almost as heated as the volleyball game on the Saturday night, with HEVO's from 50 institutions sharing their experiences on social media. It was a difficult ask, but four selfies were eventually crowned triumphant and received their prizes with only a little gloating!

Feedback on the HEVO Conference was fantastic, with 100% of attendees saying they would recommend the conference to future HEVO's, and 100% indicating they felt

their skills had improved as a result of the conference. When the HEVO's were asked to sum up their HEVO Conference experience in one word, the results were hugely positive, as you can see on the next page.

## What Happened Next?

Since the conference, the HEVO's have been hard at work promoting volleyball at their universities, and trying to drive participation in the sport. Here are some great success stories from the HEVO's themselves:

## Loughborough University – UVolleyball Event:

Another popular idea has been UVolleyball, where UV lights and volleyball combine to create a uniquely fun atmosphere. Loughborough University set up an UVolleyball event which saw over 100 people take part in what proved to be one of the most popular freshers' week events! Loughborough University also had a court playing "Glow in the Dark" sitting volleyball, to promote the sport and cater to the huge demand of the students!



## The University of Bradford Net Project:

The University of Bradford received funding to install new practice nets in their Sports Hall, doubling their court space and improving their facilities'. HEVO Jonny Jenkins said "The two courts have been brilliant in helping to increase participation in our sessions. We've doubled the amount of court space so we've doubled the amount of people playing at one time. Everyone is getting more playing time, everyone is enjoying themselves, and everyone is keen to come back and play more volleyball!"

## The University of Warwick – Freshers' Fair:

At the University of Warwick, Senior HEVO for the West Midlands, Manu Leonelli, and HEVO Preslava Pencheva, put their HEVO Conference training to good use, hiring the Go Spike Speed Cage for a fun-filled day of volleyball at the freshers' fair. Manu and Preslava gave out information on the club and recreational sessions. This proved to be a successful way of attracting new students to volleyball as the Club Day the following day was incredibly popular!



**INTERESTING** EDUCATIONAL  
 HELPFUL EXHAUSTING **ENTHUSIASM**  
 INSPIRATIONAL **USEFUL**  
 INSIGHTFUL INSPIRING **SOCIAL FRIENDS**  
 INTENSE **FUN**  
**INFORMATIVE**  
 SHARING SUPPORTIVE  
 CHALLENGING PRODUCTIVE  
**ENTERTAINING**



# INTERNATIONAL BEACH SEASON ROUND UP

2014 has seen high levels of representation at international beach volleyball events, from the junior age group to seniors and in NEVZA, CEV and FIVB tournaments.

## Junior Beach Volleyball

The England junior national beach volleyball programme, now in its second year, has grown from strength to strength. The domestic Junior VEBT has provided the ideal backdrop for athletes to develop their skills ready to compete at European and world events.

### Boys Result

		Player 1	Player 2
FIVB U21	38th	Matt Hunter	Ryan Stout
FIVB U19	47th	Harry Jones	Ryan Poole
CEV U18	9th	Harry Jones	Ryan Poole
CEV U20	25th	Sam Walrond	Sam Allen

### Girls Result

		Player 1	Player 2
FIVB U17 European Qualification	10th	Yasmin Kaashoek	Anaya Evans
CEV U18	17th	Yasmin Kaashoek	Anaya Evans
FIVB U17	9th	Yasmin Kaashoek	Anaya Evans



There were some outstanding results from a successful season for the England Junior squads. For the girls, a 9th place finish in the first ever FIVB world U17 championships held in Mexico in July. In testing conditions of extreme heat and humidity, Yasmin Kaashoek and Anaya Evans showed determination and skill to overcome strong opposition and achieve England's most successful result at a world junior event, making history in the process.

For the boys, there were some strong performances throughout the season and the 9th place achieved at the CEV U18 European championships marks a key milestone in the junior programme's development. With Harry Jones and Ryan Poole winning all 3 of their pool matches against Norway, Finland and Switzerland, the team achieved a record 9th place finish which is England's best result in the CEV U18 competition.



## Senior Beach Competitions

England's involvement in the 2014-2016 CEV Continental Cup has led to some excellent results across the men's and women's competitions. After the 1st round held in Bournemouth in June, England's men qualified through to the 3rd round (due to take place in 2015). The women secured their place in the 2nd round and travelled up to Edinburgh in September to face Scotland, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. England's Women were able to overcome a strong field and in a tense showdown with hosts Scotland were able to win the group, therefore booking their place in the 3rd round of the continental cup, where England will be represented in both the Men and Women's categories.

### Competition Position

Continental Cup	1
Continental Cup	3
Continental Cup	1
Competition Position	
NEVZA	25
FIVB Grand Slam	41

### Team 1

Sheaf - Gregory
Dampney - Leaf
Grimson - Palmer
Player 1
Ollie Kimber
Gregg Weaver

### Team 2

Weaver - Smith
Lazard - Grimson
Lazard - Kaashoek
Player 2
Phil Smith
Phil Smith



Team Gregory & Sheaf have been flying the flag for England on the FIVB World Tour and CEV European Tour during 2014. As the season draws to a close, we speak to Chris and Jake as they reflect on what has been a successful first year in their bid to qualify for Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

**What have been some of the biggest highlights of the year so far?**

“There are probably two standout moments for us this season. One of the biggest highlights of the year has to be the Continental Cup! Competing on home soil in front of friends and family was a great experience. It was also the first time we had our stellar team around us during competition. The knowledge and calming effect of Dr Emma Kavanagh, Sports Psychologist, combined with the tactical genius of Coach, Lewie Lett, supported and inspired us to produce some of our best performances this season. Particularly in the gold medal match against a Swiss side which is one of the top teams in the world. A gruelling battle, ending 21-19, 24-22, was a memorable victory that propels us into Round 3 of the competition, and of course,

closer to Olympic qualification!”

“The second highlight would be our recent Main Draw Qualification in the World Tour Open in Doha, Qatar. The first Main Draw is a big one. It’s a real benchmark in our progression and we were proud to take England into the Main Draw of a World Tour for the first time in a while!”

**How are you guys feeling heading into 2015, with the beginning of Olympic Qualification?**

“What we’ve built in 2014 in terms of experience and ranking points puts us in a strong position heading into next year. The 12 best results from 1 January 2015 to 22 June 2016 will contribute to Olympic qualification for Rio, so next year will be a crucial one. The top 15 teams in the World at that time will make it no easy feat but we are gunning for it. We also have the CEV Continental Cup Round 3 which offers another route for Olympic qualification. For us, the pre-season preparation will be the most crucial element of being successful in 2015.”

**Baku 2015, The First European Games - What does this mean for you two?**

“It would be a significant milestone for us and for volleyball nationally. This is a European Olympic Committee (EOC) regulated event where we would compete as Team GB. It replicates Olympic format, which would provide valuable experience. It would be the first time since London 2012 that Team GB is represented in a major beach volleyball competition. We are aiming to give British volleyball a strong presence internationally again, and have a positive impact on the sport at home, so this would be a huge opportunity to do that. Qualifying requires being in the top 30 in the European Rankings with two teams per nation. Heading into the last NEVZA of the year in Bournemouth and then the FIVB Open in South Africa we are currently sitting at 29th, so we know we need at least one very good performance to secure our place. It’s not over yet!”



### How has the funding situation affected you?

“We are not UK Sport funded and we knew that would be the case before we embarked on this together. However, our aim is to find a way to keep going so we can demonstrate through our performances that Beach Volleyball deserves the investment. We have worked really hard to find great sponsors who have allowed us to do this. Without them, we would have no chance. Balfour Beatty, our main partner for 2014, gave us £20,000 which covered the majority of our flights and accommodation. Nurishment Active has also been an amazing partner to work with. They have supported us with some funding and their line of recovery-based protein drink. The rest of the budget we needed was covered by smaller donations and our own income. We are actively looking for new partners to join us through the Olympic qualification period beginning in 2015.”

### Have you guys anything you'd like to mention before we sign-out?

“Really we'd like to say a massive thank you to friends, family, sponsors and the volleyball community at home. We've been overwhelmed by the amount of support we've had, especially during competition, and more so when we have lost, rather than won! It makes a massive difference to morale in the camp and knowing people are behind us only boosts our desire for what we are doing. We don't forget that we are representing England and British volleyball as well as ourselves when we are out there so having the backing of so many is really inspiring.

Lastly, we've been working with Lewie Lett as our coach, Dr. Emma Kavanagh as our psychologist, and Sophia Busfield and Ian Wood as our physiotherapist and conditioning coach. Again, the team extends to far beyond what you see on the court,

and without each one of these people we would not be where we are now. They are talented, dedicated and a god-send to this Olympic campaign.”

Jake and Chris can now look toward what will be a busy 2015 season with the valuable experiences and ranking points they have gained from the past 12 months. Remember to keep checking our website and social media for updates and results for the team.



#### Update

Since submitting this article Chris and Jake finished 3rd at the NEVZA Beach Championships in Bournemouth and 17th at the Manguang Open in South Africa.



## **DATES FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY**



### **2015 STUDENT CUP FINALS**

Saturday 7th February &  
Sunday 8th February

### **NATIONAL CUP FINALS**

Saturday 28th March &  
Sunday 29th March

### **SUPER 8 PLAYOFF WEEKEND**

Saturday 25th April &  
Sunday 26th April

### **SITTING GP FINAL**

Saturday 25th April

### **BEACH STUDENT CUP FINALS**

Saturday 6th June &  
Sunday 7th June

### **VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND BEACH TOUR FINALS**

Saturday 15th August &  
Sunday 16th August

### **U17 NEVZA**

Thursday 29th October  
Sunday 1st November

# UNsung HEROES

Celebrating some of the people who make our sport tick

“Someone who inspires people to get involved in playing sport in their community. A person who gives up their time to encourage others to take part in sport. Someone who is helping to unearth a champion of the future. The ones who keep a local team or club going.”

This is what the BBC defines as a contender for their Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero Award, and we at Volleyball England feel very strongly that we have a number of people who meet these criteria. Within the volleyball community, we are very lucky to have such a committed and valued team of voluntary coaches, referees, administrators and facilitators who drive the sport forward and engage members of the community with volleyball. Undoubtedly, you know plenty of people like this in your local region.



Denise Austin

These people inspire participation in volleyball and this year we decided to do something special to recognise and honour their fantastic achievements and years of tireless service to our sport.

A small team of Head Office staff recently ran an informal volunteer recognition programme, resulting in sixteen outstanding candidates being nominated for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero Award, the largest number ever nominated by ourselves as a National Governing Body.

Whilst there were a huge number of potential volunteers to choose from, we decided on the following criteria to slim line our efforts.

**The nominees must:**

- Meet the official terms and conditions laid out by the BBC
- Have received no previous official public recognition
- Have committed many years to the sport of volleyball
- Have had a high level of regional impact

**In addition to this, we wanted to:**

- Look across all three disciplines of volleyball
- Nominate from every region in the country
- Nominate across a wide breadth of voluntary roles

It was difficult to whittle down our shortlist, however those selected were:

**Denise Austin, Phil Chanin, Nick Hanger, Richard Harrison, Janet Inman, Vera Kenyon, Ian Legrand, Darren Lewis, Steve Matthews, Keith Nicholls, Richard Osborne, Keith and Sue Sowden, Brian Stalker, and Jackson Sweeting.**

When putting together the nomination form, we tried to speak to a number of people who had been influenced and inspired by these people. Some went on to become Olympic players, others leading coaches, some simply just inspired others to get more involved with volleyball.

We're sure plenty of you will have been impacted or motivated by these fantastic coaches, referees and volunteers over the years and we hope you will agree they are worthy candidates for this award! We selected these people based on their phenomenal commitment and achievements, from organising regional tournaments and promoting their discipline of the sport, to safeguarding achievements and volunteering at national events.

The next stage of the nomination process consists of a regional panel selecting their winner. There are fifteen regions and the BBC will sort each nominee into their respective region. Regional winners will be announced at the end of November, so keep a look out for your local BBC news to see if any of our volleyball Unsung Heroes were successful!

The BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards was televised live from Glasgow on Sunday, 14 December. Whilst there can only be one national winner, we hope you will agree that our volleyball nominees are truly Unsung Heroes in our eyes! We would like to extend our thanks to everybody who helped with these nominations and wish our volleyball Unsung Heroes the very best of luck!



Brian Stalker



Keith Nicholls



Janet Inman



Richard Harrison



Ian Legrand



Steve Matthews

# go spike! **STUDENT ACTIVATOR AWARD - NEW COURSE FOR 2014!**

We're looking for students who can make a difference to volleyball at their university or college and join our growing team of Student Activators.

The Activator is a new role created to increase the number of students playing volleyball, with an emphasis on fun games. We're currently running Activator Award Courses at universities and colleges across the country and we're looking for more students to sign up!

## We Are Seeking:

- Students who are passionate about sport and enjoy motivating others to play sport.
- Colleges and universities looking to develop their recreational volleyball offer.

## Course Information:

- A three-hour course, delivered by a Volleyball England accredited Activator Tutor.
- The course provides students with the tools to lead Go Spike recreational sessions at their college or university.

Participation may develop into inter-college league games.

- Only £35.00 per person, which includes a Resource Book and Certificate.

## How to Book:

- No course pre-requisites, just be eager to learn about volleyball and be in education.

If you wish to book a Go Spike Student Activator Award for your college or university then please contact: Roman Neveykin, Workforce Officer on [r.neveykin@volleyballengland.org](mailto:r.neveykin@volleyballengland.org) or 01509 227730

### Go Spike Activator Award – Coming Soon!

The Go Spike Activator Award is designed to facilitate recreational volleyball sessions anywhere at any time: leisure centres, beach courts, parks, the workplace, youth centres, community groups and existing volleyball clubs. Wherever there is suitable space indoors or outdoors, volleyball can be played.

The Activator role can enhance a club's existing offers. It will help to recruit new recreational members through providing a lower cost course to upskill the workforce and offer a structure for recreational sessions which hasn't previously been available through Volleyball England.

To read more about the Go Spike Activator Award please go to: [http://volleyballengland.org/getintovolleyball/coaching/courses/go\\_spike\\_student\\_activator\\_award](http://volleyballengland.org/getintovolleyball/coaching/courses/go_spike_student_activator_award)



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For more information visit  
**www.gospike.net**

or call Volleyball England on 01509 227722