

EAST VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

The 2005/6 season feels like a year of drawing breath as the Whole Sport Plan has been digested at national level and relatively little changed yet at grass roots. 2006/7 will see this change as the Big Bash presaged.

On the plus side:

- The region continues to exist. Essex, Cambridge, Herts and Suffolk all have established functioning associations. We have offered financial and other support for the formation of a Norfolk Association.
- We have 54 registered clubs (41 in 2004/5) which returns us to 2002/3 levels. The balance has moved towards junior registration. Ipswich are the first and so far only club in the region to attain Volley 1,2,3.
- We have 115 registered coaches (c 55) and an informal network of 67 who receive a regular regional newsletter. We ran four successful courses and plan to host a level 3. The regional coach subsidy scheme has worked well and we financially supported a level 1 course in Cambridgeshire.
- We have a full time Community Sports Coach at Colne School Sport Partnership (Tendring, Essex) and another part time just appointed at Cambridge by the local authority.
- Our three regional junior development squads continue to perform well. The u15 boys led by national Junior and Coach of the year Darren Lewis retaining their title. The u17 boys and u16 girls also performed creditably. We have identified three coach/manager teams for the next campaign.
- Elsewhere our juniors also continue to do well – Tendring representing England at the Schools International championships, Boswells winning national titles and a good deal of grass roots work such as that of Dawn Graceson in Herts.
- Regional competitions were again well supported and ably run by Keith Nicholls using an innovative format with another Brentwood side taking the men's title whilst Stowmarket retained the women's.
- Our NVL sides including two new men's teams from Tendring and Stowmarket had mixed fortunes. Cambridge finished 4th in NVL Men Div 1 and pick of the bunch were Essex Estonians who won their Div 3 Men's Division unbeaten. Ipswich men reached the play offs to replace them but were unsuccessful. Norwich led the Ladies finishing mid table in Div 2 where Herts Nomads face a play off to stay up or join Cambridge in a Division 3 where Brentwood will continue for another season.
- Our volunteers were recognized with Darren's coaching being joined by national awards to a number of long serving people including Tony Pennock, Bernard Kilkenny, Martin Garfield and Ken Edwards
- We are active in promoting Sitting Volleyball with a number of taster sessions and in Kwok Ng an active regional ambassador. More is planned.
- Support from the centre has improved with more regular data and information plus a continued Development grant albeit heavily weighted to junior regional squads. Costs continue to outstrip grant although the region's finance remain sound. Our constitution has been approved by EVA Board.
- Beyond volleyball we are active in the East NGB Forum and Federation of Eastern Sport (CCPR) as well.
- Brentwood VC successfully ran the County/Area Cups at UEA Norwich – true cross county co-operation.

But we must also recognize the problems and challenges:

- The region functions as a very loose federation of those willing to be part of it. Information flows out but little comes back outside Essex and Cambs. It is clear some counties see little need for a region and many regional posts are doubled up and some e.g. Chairman unfilled. Essex continues to fill most roles.
- There is no association in Bedfordshire and the volleyball footprint there is small. This is significant in that a major PE training college is based in Bedford and Luton with its multi-cultural community provide a natural location for volleyball as well as having significant resource as a development zone.
- We have only 25 registered referees and no course has been run in the region for some time.
- Coaching and Refereeing courses planned and managed by BUSA for Essex Univ did not take place.
- There have been issues around the Community Coach appointments.
- Our junior regional squad program was set back by the Junior Development Officer resignation, for valid personal reasons, late in the season. Two squads had limited training and we had no u14 girl's squad for a second year. We have yet to find an u15 boys coaching team for next season.
- There is no developed regional plan as the true implications of the WSP to the region are not yet clear and only Essex is believed to have a currently valid County Development Plan.
- There have been no meetings of the Regional Commission and the future role of regions in the national structure also remains unclear. This year we have tried unsuccessfully to move this agenda on.
- Links with County Sports Partnerships are variable. In Cambs and Essex they are strong in Norfolk and Suffolk there is contact, in Herts is unknown.

So a mixed year and a definite could do better. My thanks both personally and on behalf of the region go particularly to Paul Bohanann, Tony Pennock, Brendan Osborne, Rees Warren, Darren Lewis, Alex Porter, Liam Chinnery, Sara Heaton all from Essex, Keith Nicholls from Norfolk, Pavla Connor from Suffolk and Jean Jaquet, Kwok Ng and Jon Clarke from Cambs for their work and help during this cycle.

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As at end of season 2005/2006

Clubs

	Club/ Uni	School/ College	2005/6	2004/5	2003/4	2002/3
Bedfordshire	2	1	3	2	4	4
Cambridgeshire	6	1	7	4	4	5
Essex	4	11	15	14	18	19
Hertfordshire	7	6	13	7	5	6
Norfolk	4	2	6	5	7	9
Suffolk	8	2	10	8	8	7
Not known			-	1	3	4
Total	31	23	54	41	49	54

Coaches

	Level 1	Level 2	3 Theory	Level 3	FIVB	Total
Bedfordshire	4					4
Cambridgeshire	21	4				25
Essex	28	7	2		1	38
Hertfordshire	16	2	1			19
Norfolk	13	2	1	1	1	18
Suffolk	7	4				11
Total	89	19	4	1	2	115

Note this is registered coaches only

All successful level 1 candidates are registered free for their first year

Level 3 includes a practical assessment which some candidates have yet to complete

I am aware of at least one FIVB coach in region unregistered

I do not have fully comparable figures for previous years but last year we had c 55

Referees

	Total	4	3R	3N	2	1	Int
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0		
Cambridgeshire	4	2	2	0	0		
Essex	5	1	1	2	1		
Hertfordshire	6	1	1	0	1	1	2
Norfolk	4	1	2	1	0		
Suffolk	6	1	4	1	0		
Total	25	6	10	4	2	1	2

Note this is registered referees only

International – Steve Walton and Bernard Kilkenny (soon to retire)

I do not have comparable figures for previous years

Ken Edwards

Acting Regional Chairman, Regional Representative, Regional Coaching Co-ordinator, Acting junior Development Officer and Website manager.