

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Volunteers wanted! The cry is going out across England for people to volunteer to help in every sector of life. How can we attract volunteers to be a coach or referee when there are so many other demands on our time? This is the challenge we have to meet in the future, if volleyball is to grow and develop in England and Referees and Coaches Commissions are trying to meet this challenge head on. The Olympic preparations will ensure a focus on performance players, referees and coaches but we must ensure that this impacts on our technical expertise at all levels to leave a legacy for those that follow.

My first big thank-you must go to Bernard Kilkenny and Richard Harrison who have led the Referees and Coaches Commissions with a real sense of purpose.

Referees Commission is driving forward an innovative e-learning platform to help deliver its training programme. These plans, together with the excellent work being carried out in the referees development programme and the implementation of a Junior Referee Award in the near future, have given the referees commission a firm platform for future development and progressions as part of the Whole Sport Plan.

Coaches Commission has been tackling the thorny areas of the UK Coaching Certificate and World Class Coaching Programmes and hopes to learn from the sports which have already started introducing the programmes. The appointment of Steve Jones as Coach Education and Development Officer is a positive move forward for the improvement of coach education in England

The challenge of Olympic preparation for players can only be successful if supported by the work of coaches and referees. The work of our valuable volunteers still needs to be nurtured and supported. With the further appointments of professional staff, who will be taking on much of the day to day work and supporting our coaches and referees, we hope to educate and retain more technical expertise within the English Volleyball Association.

Volunteer if you can. Give a little time to allow those who have been doing too much, for too long, to catch their breath and enjoy their volunteer work too.

Freda Bussey