

VICE PRESIDENT

What an interesting year and, for a change, nearly all good news.

After one year of operation the Whole Sport Plan (WSP) is now well underway and beginning to have an effect on how we do things and improve our effectiveness and performance. The Development Director and the WSP Managers refer to this in their reports.

The WSP and its associated funding increase has, however, had a massive impact on one of the areas within my remit – staffing, especially full-time employees. The number of staff at the centre has increased in line with WSP and its project programmes. A key role in this was identified as a Manager who would oversee the development team staff and the delivery of the WSP. At this point I would like to thank Craig Handford, who stepped into the role on a part-time temporary basis at short notice in order to give the Association time to seek the right person. His contribution has been significant and of the highest quality and will be a hard act to follow. The Association is indebted to him and thank him for his contribution with best wishes for whatever he does in the future.

As Chairman of the Staff sub-committee, I have embarked on a programme with the CEO and the Office Manager to ensure that the policies, practices and procedures for the EVA are in line with current legislation and good small business practice. Thus we started the process of re-writing the Staff Handbook, due for completion in the autumn, examining appraisal schemes that will benefit both employee and employer in improving our efficiency and assisting in the continued professional development of the staff.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the best news of all – London 2012. While the excitement will grow, so will the challenges and workload on both amateur and professionals in volleyball. The British Volleyball Federation (BVF) has the responsibility for taking us forward and preparing elite level volleyballers who can do us all proud in both the Olympics and Paralympics, but the EVA must capitalise on the heightened focus all Olympic sports will generate during the next 6 years. With the renewed vigour, interest and enthusiasm, already evident, coupled to the Whole Sport Plan that is specifically focused on growing the base and community links, we have a massive opportunity – failure is not on the agenda.

Finally, after more than 34 years of involvement in volleyball, 27 of which have been at National Executive level, I can honestly say that I have never felt more challenged to succeed than I do now – but the opportunities to succeed are there in abundance.

BRIAN STALKER