

EASTERN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

A Region of the English Volleyball Association

Bedfordshire

Cambridgeshire

Essex

Hertfordshire

Norfolk

Suffolk

Overall

In May 2004 reflecting people's lack of response, I declared the EVF deceased. To my surprise several until then silent people, shouted that they were active. So we are not dead.

The main task has been to maintain existing activity (junior squads, competition) whilst reviving a communication network and rebuild an executive team. Issues of communication and insufficient volunteers remain. Clubs continue to have the same people doing everything, limiting room to step up to county or region. In my view these areas are major implementation risks in a Whole Sport Plan.

It seems clubs and counties in the East don't need a region. If the national structure does, this needs reflection in resource allocation, or a respectful funeral is required.

Administration

In July 2004 the first Regional meeting since 2000 saw three important posts unfilled. By the AGM in March we had a Treasurer but still lacked Chairman or Secretary. We remain an active group of four.

As Regional Representative I have attended regional meetings, East National Governing Body Forums and meetings relating to the significant restructuring of sport e.g. County Sports Partnerships.

Juniors

John Embrey, Darren Lewis and Peter Robinson were appointed (by EVA) and as I write will I expect be maintaining our good inter-regionals record.

Individual schools Tendring College and St Edwards have been joined this year by Boswells in school success.

Competition

Keith Nicholls organised and run successful men's and women's competitions based on four one day events and an innovative 40 or 50 point set basis. Congratulations to winners Brentwood Men and Stowmarket women.

JUVO, the major outdoor junior tournament organised by Tony Pennock had another good year.

Rumours circulated of a veteran's event in Peterborough later in May, to add to June's VETVO in Essex.

Coaches

I organised an open level 1 course in Tendring and another is planned in Hornchurch to add to the closed course in Benfleet. Suffolk is hosting a level 2 during the summer. We agreed a policy to support coaches attending courses.

At this time of significant change in coaching and without central communication, we saw a need to update active coaches. I undertook a survey which has been the basis for an informal network and newsletter that has included the UK Coaching Certificate, Long Term Athlete Development Model and sportscoachUK.

Referees

Paul Bohannon is undertaking a survey of referees.

County activity

Essex – Active association and competitions. Brentwood NVL men's and women's teams. Tendring, Deanes SSCO possible centres for community coaches (www.volleyball.co.uk)

Suffolk – Active association and leagues. Ipswich in the men's NVL, only regional club with Volley 1,2,3. (www.suffolkvolleyball.org.uk)

Beds – No association, isolated activity

Norfolk – No association but activity pockets around Norwich and Kings Lynn. Possible Community Coach in the Norwich area

Herts – Association exists. Herts Nomads a successful NVL women's team. (www.hertsvolleyball.co.uk)

Cambs – Active association and competitions plus outdoor event. Cambridge VC successful in NVL men and women. Bob Matthews has independently managed to get volleyball included in an Active England plan.

Ken Edwards

Regional Representative