

SOUTH EAST REGION

It has been a year of building up our **South East** community and we have made significant progress.

Meetings were held in September, November, January, February, April and May which were attended by supporters from Surrey, Berkshire, Kent and Sussex. This is a huge step forwards and my thanks to all who have taken part. We are still lacking a Secretary, so as Chair, I have taken on both roles, which has been more than a stretch. Without volunteers to take on roles like this we will struggle to maintain momentum as, all too often, too much depends on one person.

The region has expanded - Kent, Surrey and Sussex having been joined by **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire**. In Buckinghamshire there is a very fragile county league with only 4 clubs remaining, Oxfordshire supports a couple of clubs who play in Berkshire league and the NVL while Hampshire does not have a county association but organised leagues in both Portsmouth and Southampton.

There have been many worthwhile achievements this year -

- With the amazing dedication of **Paul Duncan from Basingstoke**, we now have a fantastic SEVA website, which, when fully populated, will be the place to go for all information on all our counties and areas. It looks great, it is very functional, and will be an excellent source of news and info when completed.
- Our Beach Coordinator, **Katie Randall**, has done a fabulous job in persuading Brighton & Hove Council to support her bid to establish a covered beach volleyball centre and is through to the next phase - getting sponsors and funding to build it! We are doing all we can (which doesn't feel like much) to support her and have explored any corporate contacts we may have for getting her some finance.
- At the end of the season **Wimbledon and Guildford** worked hard to host the England v Norway men's internationals at the wonderful American Community School in Cobham in May.
- **Dartford** entered the NVL in 2004-05, to be followed by **Reading and Southampton Universities** next season. More generally, the standard of volleyball across the Berkshire and Surrey Leagues is reported to be definitely going up, good news for all.
- In total the region had 11 clubs in the NVL, with 9 Women's teams and 12 Men's teams.
- A Level 2 Coaching course, managed efficiently as always by the tireless **John Biddiscombe**, was held at Ashcombe in November. **Katie Randall** organised a pilot Beach Volleyball Coaching course run by Denise Austin. Katie is also running 'taster' sessions this summer as well as some exhibition/taster sessions for footvolley, beach rugby and beach soccer.
- We held a very successful **SEVA tournament** at the beginning of the season which will be repeated this September with representative teams from all parts of our expanded region, an exciting prospect. It is great to get together as a community at these events. There will be exhibition display boards with information about the committee, our plans, the counties and the website. A referee clinic will be held in conjunction with the tournament, with our Referee Coordinator **Dee Wauchop** and EVA Referee Commission development team leader Dennis Le Breuille on hand to coach and develop our referees and upgrade those who are worthy.
- **Tom Middleton** secured funding for, and purchased, a Taraflex floor for sitting volleyball. Wow - well done to Tom! Kent are fortunate indeed - and will also have a Community Sports Coach position funded partly by the County Council, partly by us. We expect volleyball in Kent to grow in future years, thanks largely to this wonderful person's hard and devoted work.
- Surrey, too, will have a CSC, funded by the EVA in line with the WSP, to build on and extend the excellent work already done in junior volleyball by Nevil Kapadia, Freda Bussey and Julie Garrard.
- **Buckinghamshire** league has kept going, helped out in part by some Berkshire volunteers entering a team and travelling to the two prisons and two other clubs to play matches and keep volleyball alive. More volunteers are needed! Bucks also has 3 other EVA affiliated clubs who play in the Herts and Northants Leagues and in Milton Keynes, a NVL team.
- **Berkshire** entered a ladies team in the **Area Cup** in Chester and managed to secure £500 funding from Price Waterhouse for kit and balls. Well done to **Charlie Willis** for that coup!
- I have attended Sports Development Officer meetings and Sport England meetings for the South East and Berkshire. Katie Randall is attending PESSCL meetings in Sussex and Jemma Green from the National Office has been providing support in the region throughout the year.
- This coming summer Dartford is hosting, what looks to be an excellent event, a Summer Beach and Grass Volleyball Fiesta, and the annual Ashcombe Tournament continues in July.

Frances White