



VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

A collage of three volleyball players in action. In the center, a male player in a white and blue jersey is shouting with his mouth open and fists clenched. To his left, a female player in a red jersey is in a ready stance. To his right, a male player in a blue jersey is diving for a ball. A yellow and blue volleyball is in the air. The background shows a crowd of spectators and a banner for 'BANCO'.

2024-25
Annual Report

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Cover images by Beach Volleyball World,
Jon Cornish and Simon Clarke.

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WELCOME



A welcome from the Chair

For the past eight years, I have been incredibly privileged to serve as Chair of Volleyball England. Throughout this time, I have had the honour of working alongside many wonderful staff members, incredibly dedicated board colleagues and truly inspirational volunteers. Together, we have shared many rewarding moments and forged lifelong friendships, for which I am deeply grateful.

When I first took on this role, Volleyball England was at a crossroads, requiring significant reshaping and rebuilding to secure its future. It has been a remarkable journey, one defined by collective ambition, resilience and unwavering commitment. I am proud to have worked with a highly-engaged Board, who fully embraced our The Game Plan vision, mission, and objectives,

providing steadfast leadership and strategic guidance every step of the way.

I have been fortunate to collaborate closely with a series of exceptional CEOs, firstly Janet Inman, who expertly steered the organisation through its initial reshape and rebuild; Sue Storey, who navigated the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic; Sam Jamieson, who provided vital interim stewardship; and, more recently, Charlie Ford, whose leadership has strengthened the organisation, grown our commercial revenue and begun the journey towards professionalising the sport.

Over these years, we have made significant strides in strengthening Volleyball England's financial position, successfully reducing our reliance on Sport England investment and diversifying our income streams. This financial resilience underpins our capacity to invest in the sport's future.

On the court, the Bello brothers' historic bronze medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games was a defining moment for English volleyball, one that has served as a springboard for continued international success and raised our profile on the global stage. Our reputation within the international volleyball community has grown substantially, reflecting our dedication to delivering top-level events, supporting elite athletes and fostering strong partnerships worldwide.

We have also worked diligently to embed robust governance standards across the organisation, ensuring Volleyball England is a transparent, accountable and well-managed body, fit for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Reflecting on the last 12 months, I am immensely proud of the organisation's achievements, from delivering a thriving commercial strategy that has dramatically increased our unrestricted funds, to launching our new Volleyball England

Learning platform and bringing volleyball to iconic locations, such as Canary Wharf, with the Queen & King of the Court event. The opening of the new High-Performance Beach Volleyball Centre and the continued success of our elite athletes demonstrate our clear direction and ambition.

While I am saddened that my time as Chair is drawing to a close, I am confident that Volleyball England is in an incredibly strong position. The sport's future is bright, and the foundations we have laid together will enable continued success and growth for our volleyball family. Though the role has presented its challenges, it has also been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I look forward with excitement to seeing volleyball in England reach new heights.

Adam Walker, Chair



REFLECTIONS



Executive reflections from Charlie Ford and Guin Batten

This has been a landmark year for Volleyball England, one defined by bold steps forward, meaningful progress and a shared belief in the transformative power of our sport. We are proud to reflect on a period that has not only delivered tangible outcomes but also laid the foundations for long-term, sustainable growth.

A particularly special and poignant moment this year was the Queen & King of the Court event held in the heart of Canary Wharf, a unique senior international beach volleyball competition staged amidst one of the world's busiest financial districts and a city steeped in heraldic history. Crowning Kings and Queens in this iconic location captured the spirit of our sport's vibrant energy and growing reach.

Alongside this, we successfully hosted the NEVZA Youth Beach event in Bridlington, the first of its kind in England for many years, underlining our renewed capacity to deliver top-level international events on home soil. The year also saw the introduction of the Five Nations Championships over the Christmas period, as well as the inaugural UK Coaching Symposium, led by the renowned coach Jim Stone, which brought together coaches from all Home Nations to share knowledge and inspire progress.

At the heart of our progress has been the successful implementation of a forward-thinking Commercial Strategy, designed to strengthen our independence and unlock new opportunities

for the game. We are now seeing a more resilient and balanced organisation, with greater investment flowing into the sport from a wider range of sources, allowing us to reinvest where it matters most.

Equally significant has been the deepening of our relationships across the volleyball's many communities. By welcoming new Regions and Counties into our VolleyZone system, we are creating a more connected and inclusive national infrastructure, one that not only increases visibility, but also empowers more people to engage with the sport on and off the court. This collaboration begins the process of centralising our membership data – and signals a growing momentum behind our shared mission.

We have taken significant strides to build a stronger, more inclusive community through the launch of our People Plan, alongside a dedicated Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP). These two strategic frameworks reflect our commitment to fostering an environment where everyone connected to the sport – whether players, coaches, volunteers, officials or staff – feels valued, supported and empowered.

From a talent perspective, we continue to be inspired by the outstanding achievements of our beach athletes on the world stage. Although narrowly missing out on Paris Olympic qualification, Javier and Joaquin Bello made more history by winning England's first-ever major international gold medal at the Elite 16 event in Rio, Brazil, a milestone in the sport's history. This momentum was furthered by Daisy Mumby and Kirsty Star's historic silver medal at a Futures event in Australia. As we look ahead to the 2025–26 period, the opening of our new Indoor Beach facility at Birmingham City University, and the launch of our National Performance Programme, will support the ongoing development of elite volleyball.

We have also been proud to launch Volleyball England Learning, a new Learner Management System that represents a significant milestone in our People Plan. This platform will ensure that every individual – whether coach, referee, volunteer or aspiring leader – has access to the tools, training and support needed to thrive.

Our sport is reaching wider audiences than ever before. The launch of Super League Live has brought a new level of visibility and professionalism to the domestic game, while the delivery of our international events throughout the year has reinforced England's reputation as a credible and capable host on the global stage.

None of this progress would have been possible without the dedication and belief of volleyball's communities in their entirety. From our clubs, coaches, officials and volunteers to our partners, staff and supporters, your passion fuels everything we do.

Charlie Ford, Chief Executive Officer

Guin Batten, Deputy Chief Executive Officer



2024-2025 IN NUMBERS

2024-2025 in
Numbers



182
Annual Awards
nominations



45%
of players are female



949
people have joined
Volleyball England's online
Heritage Group.



157,808
social media followers



9,883
members registered
on VolleyZone



389
clubs affiliated



45,000
hours of live
coverage watched



12%
growth in student
cup members



7.1 out of 10
was the average mark for
club satisfaction



71
referees are grade
2 or higher



319,500
views of live
streamed events



46%
of players
are under 24

82%
club committee positions
"filled by people with
the right skills"



18%
increase in the number
of members dual registered
as a coach and referee.

792

affiliated coaches

2024-25 Timeline

April – The Super League Final 4 is staged, with Durham Palatinates clinching both the women's and men's titles.

May – London take two titles and Yorkshire and the South West the others at the Inter Regional Championships 2024.

June – The NEVZA Beach Youth Championships 2024 are successfully staged in Bridlington and the VE Hub Team assists with the delivery of sitting volleyball's Golden EuroLeague.

July – Bailey Harsum and Lewis Bunton reach the quarter-finals at the CEV U18 Beach Championships in Kachreti, Georgia – the first English pair to do so since Javier and Joaquin Bello in 2017.

August – Sarah Hanrahan, Denise Austin, Mark Perkins, Clayton Lucas and Glynn Archibald are among those to volunteer and work at the Paris Olympics and Paralympics.

September – The historic staging of the Queen & King of the Court London brings top-class international volleyball to the capital for the first time since the London 2012 Olympics.

October – The NEVZA Indoor U19 Championship sees England's U19 Men clinch a bronze medal, with the women finishing fifth.

November – The Bello brothers, Javier and Joaquin, win England's first-ever gold medal at a Beach Pro Tour Elite 16 event in Rio, beating Argentina's Capogrosso brothers in the final.

December – Volleyball England partners with FabLittleBag in its bid to set a new standard of period care and awareness

January – Hosts England take home the Dr Don Anthony Trophy as the most successful country at the Five Nations Championships, held at the NVC in Kettering.

February – Kukri becomes Volleyball England's new official kit supplier for five years.

March – The Sitting Volleyball Cup is renamed the Ken Edwards Trophy, with South Hants the inaugural winners.

PEOPLE PLAN

People Plan and DIAP

The People Plan and Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) were launched in early 2025, with the vision of creating a deep-rooted sense of belonging for everyone within the volleyball community.

Key to its success is ensuring everyone understands the role they play, how to be part of a culture of continuous improvement and how they can personally progress through the sport.

The DIAP is an integrated and integral part of Volleyball England's People Plan, highlighting strengths in terms of diversity and inclusivity, and, importantly, where improvements are still needed by the organisation.

Below are some of the activities from the last 12 months that are aligned to the plan's five strategic themes.

A: Communities that feel valued and engaged

- Heritage Group began to catalogue and digitise Volleyball England's rich history.
- Ian Legrand inducted into the Hall of Fame.
- 20 years of continuous participation in sitting volleyball in England celebrated.
- Inaugural Player Community Online Seminar took place, with guest speakers from the FIVB and UK Sport Institute.
- Podcast partnership with That Volleyball Guy launched.

66

The record number of HEVO officers in post during 2024-25.

B: Enough people doing the right roles

- Competition Working Group restructured to bring in new members and to help drive standards in the NVL.
- Referees' grading revamped to support those wanting to progress up the ladder.
- Higher Education Volleyball Officer (HEVO) programme attracted a record number of volunteers to grow volleyball in their universities.

C: People with the right skills for their role

- UK Coaching Symposium staged in Kettering on the theme of Junior Performance Coaching.
- Beach referees upskilled at the Club Beach Championships, funded by the FIVB Empowerment Fund.

D: Inclusive and diverse communities of people

- Members of the new Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group appointed.
- Three new female directors appointed, ensuring stronger women's representation on the Board

E: A safe place that protects people from harm

- Safeguarding Adults Policy published.
- New Safeguarding champion, Tracy Newton, appointed.
- Club Welfare Officer Discord Group established.

"This is our People Plan. It expresses who and what we are as a membership organisation, and what we will continue to do and to become. Although it is aimed at 'the people that support the people that play volleyball', we can all play a part."

Volleyball England Board Director
Richard Harrison

GET KEEP GROW



10

workshops delivered
to upskill club
officers.

Get. Keep. Grow.

The overarching priority of Get. Keep. Grow. in Volleyball England's The Game Plan is to strive to strengthen the English volleyball club structure by working hand in hand with regions, counties and clubs to help them achieve their ambitions – and plenty of progress has been made during the 2024-25 period towards that goal.

Celebrating sitting volleyball

In celebration of Disability History Month, a dedicated month-long campaign was delivered to raise awareness of sitting volleyball.

The campaign included a series of inspiring case studies highlighting the work of existing sitting volleyball clubs, alongside engaging videos and a resource pack designed to support clubs in launching their own sessions.

A landmark development was the piloting of the first-ever University Sitting Volleyball Tournament, hosted and won by the University of East London. Four universities participated in this inaugural event, laying a strong foundation for future inter-university competitions.

A safe sport for all

Demonstrating the organisation's commitment to maintaining a safe and inclusive sporting environment, a new Safeguarding Adults Policy was launched to sit alongside the existing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy.

To further strengthen safeguarding at grassroots level, the inaugural Club Welfare Officer Workshop was held, bringing together 50 Club and Sport Welfare Officers from across the country for peer learning and support

Club Development

Various club development resources have been developed and launched for affiliated clubs, including templates for a Safeguarding Children/Adults Policy, a Code of Conduct, a Complaints Procedure, a Disciplinary Policy and Procedures and also wording for a Safeguarding website section.

In response to the challenges identified in the Club Survey, a programme of 10 free online workshops were delivered, which were attended by over 100 club volunteers.

The workshops covered important topics such as marketing, leadership and governance, financial planning, inclusivity, legal structures and more.

A set of seven case studies was also published, spotlighting the exemplary work of clubs across the country. These real-world examples serve as learning resources and inspiration for other clubs seeking to develop and grow their activities.



Case study: HEVO popularity grows

Now in its 14th year, the Higher Education Volleyball Officer (HEVO) Programme achieved record participation with 46 universities and 66 HEVOs involved. The programme's impact on HEVOs continues to grow, reflected in a rising



satisfaction score of 8.96, up from 8.7.

The HEVOs engaged more than 5,000 participants, with more than 75 mass participation sessions reaching nearly 3,500 people.

The latest cohort of officers also placed a greater emphasis on sitting volleyball, with 27 sitting volleyball sessions delivered, many for the first time at participating universities, engaging over 450 participants.

Regions and Counties network

A series of Community of Practice sessions have been held to support collaboration among Regions and Counties (R&C).

The four sessions brought together six Regions and 10 Counties focusing on topics such as venue-related challenges, workforce planning, revenue generation and strategies for attracting new partners.

WHAT YOU FUND

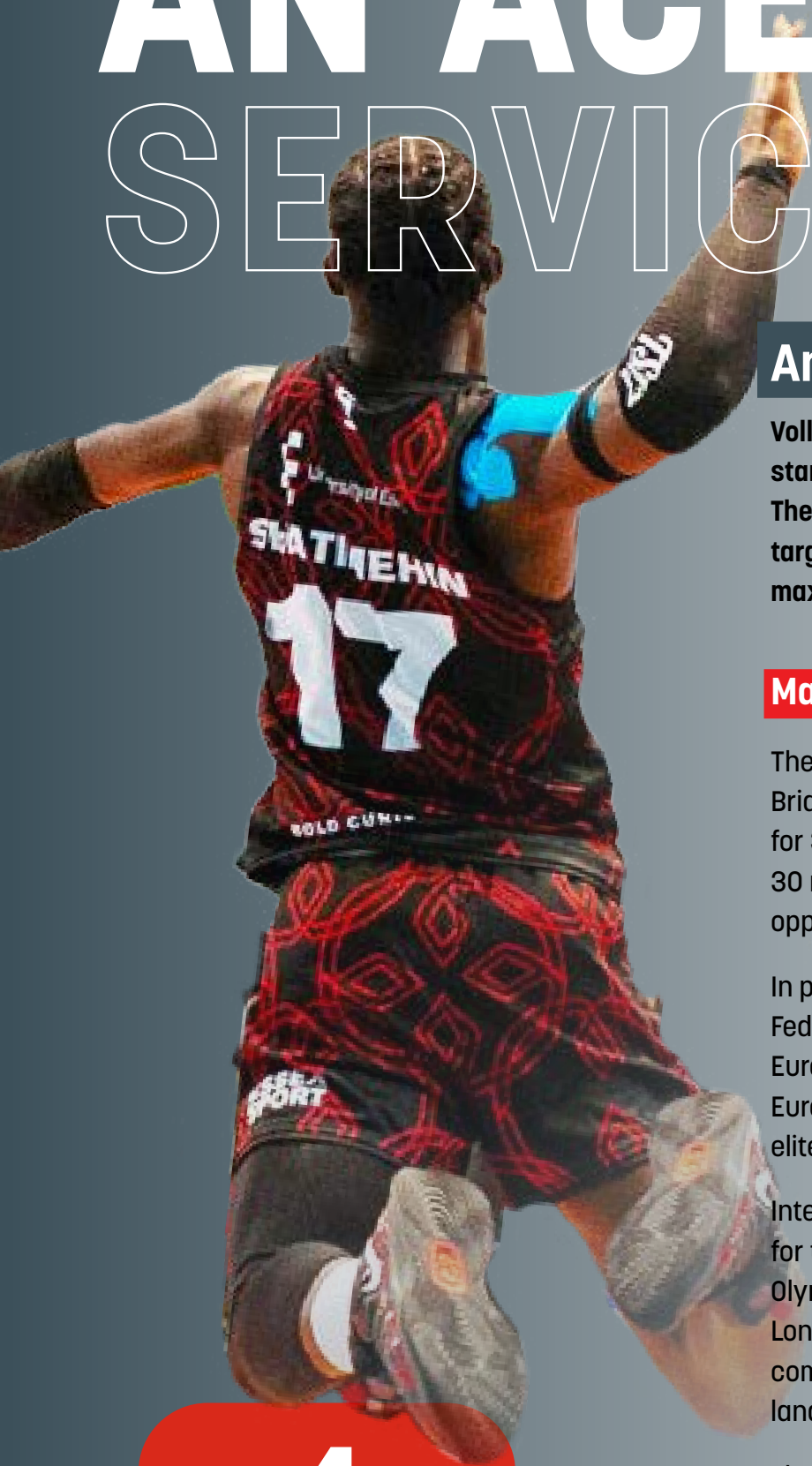
What does your membership fund?

1. Developing skilled coaches, referees and volunteers across England
2. Workshops and tailored resources to support your volleyball journey
3. Building the foundation and clear route to nurture future talent
4. Running support groups for coaches, officials and volunteers
5. Safeguarding support to all members
6. Building infrastructures for athlete development
7. Discounted VolleyStore alongside partner offers
8. Insurance cover for clubs and members providing much-needed peace of mind



9. Driving inclusion to ensure everyone can enjoy the sport
10. Expanding domestic competitions and bringing global events to England
11. Raising volleyball's profile through stronger marketing and visibility
12. Direct member support via our Hub Team running support groups for coaches, officials and volunteers
13. Continued anti-doping educational support to athletes
14. Supporting the Volleyball England Foundation's work
15. Building partnerships that elevate sports and its values
16. Partnering with charities to reach underserved communities

AN ACE SERVICE



4

major international tournaments (staged or provided assistance).

An Ace Service

Volleyball England has continued to raise standards across the Ace Service strand of The Game Plan Strategy. In the past year, four targeted international events were hosted to maximise the impact of the talent strategy.

Major international events staged

The NEVZA Youth Beach Championships in Bridlington provided international experience for 32 English junior athletes, engaged over 30 new volunteers and offered development opportunities for five English referees.

In partnership with the British Volleyball Federation, Nottingham hosted the ParaVolley Europe Golden EuroLeague, welcoming top European women's club teams for three days of elite-level sitting volleyball.

International beach volleyball returned to London for the first time since the city hosted the 2012 Olympics with the Queen & King of the Court London Showcase in September. 10 English pairs competed alongside world-class athletes in a landmark event for the sport.

The inaugural Five Nations Championships in January featured eight senior national teams from the Home Nations. Two English teams and three referees gained senior international experience.

Enhancing the Super League experience

To professionalise the Super League, the introduction of Super League Live events focused on enhancing the spectator and broadcast experience. With 16,000 combined views and a 200% increase in attendance at the Final 4, the event – held at Crystal Palace – received a 7.9/10 satisfaction rating from attendees.

At the junior performance level, a revamped competition structure saw the launch of the U18 Super Series and a tiered format combining Tier 1 and Tier 2. This led to 116 team entries and a guarantee of 15 matches per team – an increase of 50 teams from the previous season.

Implementing the five-year vision

In its first year of implementing the five-year vision for the National Volleyball League (NVL), Volleyball England has achieved notable progress.

There was reduced calendar congestion, limiting each division to a maximum of 14 game weeks, and there was the introduction of live draws for the National Cup and National Shield.



A consistent league structure was adopted, with the Super League streamlined to eight teams and Division One split into two balanced conferences.

Standards have been raised through revised regulations and the successful rollout of the Team Self Report, completed by all 159 NVL teams.



Case study: Five Nations 2025

January saw the first Five Nations Championships of its type since 1987, when England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland had contested the British Volleyball Federation Tournament.

It was a return that was widely welcomed by the four participating teams, who revelled in the chance to compete in international matches in the British Isles.

The Dr Don Anthony Trophy for the most successful team overall went to England and they also won the men's title, with Scotland taking the women's.

Live streaming of matches attracted 23,500 YouTube views, while there was more than 1.8m views of video content across Volleyball England's social media platforms.

It is hoped the tournament will now be run on an annual basis, with participating nations taking turns to host.

VOLLEYBALL FOR LIFE TALENT



30

Senior players (16 men, 14 women) won their first England caps.

Volleyball for Life (Talent)

Strengthening the foundations of the future was the major focus for 2024-25 in the Talent area. In line with the five-year Talent strategy laid out in 2023-24, the main themes were coach development, athlete support and improved competition profile.

Educating coaches

Volleyball England hosted a very well-received UK Coaching Symposium in September, aimed mainly at juniors performance coaching. It featured Jim Stone as the lead presenter, a highly- respected coach and coach educator, who led the USA U19 teams to multiple World Championships medals.

Coaches from across the UK and Ireland enjoyed an information-packed two days of on- and off-court information and education.

Stone also worked with the U17 and U19 coaches following October's NEVZA tournaments to help them identify key areas of focus for future gains in performance by the teams.

More athletes in more competition

Thanks to the hosting of the NEVZA Junior Beach tournament last Summer and the Five Nations Championship in January, England athletes at both the junior and senior levels had more opportunities to represent their country and gain valuable international experience.

And they took full advantage by winning plenty of medals – especially gold and silver.

Improved athlete support



Volleyball England took key steps forward in how it supports the development and wellbeing of England athletes.

Sports and Exercise Medicine improvements continued to be integrated into the pathway, and support from TASS was secured in the development of S&C programming – which was identified as a major area of need – for national team athletes and beyond.

The Hub's Talent team began use of the Perfbook platform, which offers an array of tools to track and enhance athlete development.

New beach facility and performance programme

Birmingham City University is poised to become the first ever UK university to host a programme for beach volleyball, as well as being the site of a new four-court covered sand court facility.

This is a major step forward for England beach volleyball players, who will now have a central location where they can train year-round, regardless of the weather..

Case Study: Historic Success

Javier and Joaquin Bello became the first British pair to win gold at a major beach tournament in November when they won a Beach Pro Tour (BPT) Elite 16 event in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.



The result also propelled them up to their best ever world tour ranking (at that point) of 14th by the end of the 2024-25 period.

Then, in March, Daisy Mumby and Kirsty Star followed that up by becoming the first British women's pair to reach a BPT final when they earned silver at a Futures event in Coolangatta, Australia.

Freddie Bialokoz and Issa Batrane also continued their progress by winning the BPT Futures event in Halifax, Canada.

VOLLEYBALL FOR LIFE

WORKFORCE

Volleyball for Life (Workforce)

It has been another busy 12 months in Workforce in order to fulfil goals laid out in The Game Plan Strategy, with a strong focus on improving people and the processes by which to do it.

Learning and Development

Volleyball England has partnered with Accelerate Sport to transform education and training by developing a new, volleyball-specific learning platform.

This platform offers online courses, training videos, downloadable resources and webinars, allowing members to access materials at their convenience and work at their own pace.



615

learners on
Volleyball England
courses.

Educational Opportunities for Officials

The FIVB Empowerment Fund supported a beach volleyball seminar, led by Sandy Steel and Jeff Brehaut, which brought together seven top beach referees in Sandbanks for a three-day immersive learning experience.

Indoors, 37 referees joined the National Referee Development Programme, aimed at preparing them for Super League and National events where they are exposed to the highest level of play. The Five Nations Championships served as a catalyst to upskill officials in using the E-scoresheet and to train four new Technical Delegates.

The annual professional development programme, which includes pre-season briefings and regular webinars, continues to attract an increasing number of participants. Gerda Berstautaite and Lauren Tucker became the first two coaches to earn the new Beach Volleyball Club Coach Award, while Paige Clarke achieved the distinction of being the first coach to gain the Sitting Volleyball Club Coach Award.

The Assistant Coach Award has been updated to include mandatory safeguarding training. The course now features one online classroom session, a one-day face-to-face practical session, eLearning modules and a personal learning plan.

Dave Gunter and Jane Ashbrook proudly represented England at the annual CEV Coaches' Convention in Sophia, Bulgaria.

Iwona Grabon and Sam Shenton joined the high-level UK Coaching Performance Pathway Coaching Collective programme, alongside other coaches from other sports.

Junior Player Pathway

The Let's Play Volleyball programme has been relaunched with new materials to help coaches and teachers introduce the sport through Volley2s, Volley3s and Volley4s mini games.

Case Study: Safeguarding eLearning

A new eLearning Safeguarding Children and Adults in Volleyball course has been introduced, a vital addition to our coaching curriculum.

This course equips coaches with essential knowledge on safeguarding principles and their duty to protect the welfare of all participants.

Key topics covered include online safety, DBS



checks, recognising various forms of abuse, responding to concerns and avoiding poor coaching practices.

What sets this course apart is its focus on volleyball-specific scenarios, making the content highly relevant and practical.

This innovative qualification underscores Volleyball England's commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone involved in the sport.

ANTI-DOPING



200

athletes have received clean sport training.

Anti-doping

Anti-Doping Assurance Framework

Volleyball England continues to maintain its compliance with the UK Anti-doping (UKAD) Assurance Framework in order to protect the integrity of clean sport within volleyball.

As part of this, the 2024-25 period saw a new Clean Sport Education Strategy and Implementation Plan published.

Clean Sport Education

More than 200 Futures and Talent Pathway players received clean sport education and training in 2024-25.

In addition, all senior players, coaches and support personnel received information on the prohibited list changes and clean Sport education requirements for 2025. A new UKAD Educator from volleyball was also appointed.

Testing

In 2024, no tests were reported in volleyball by UKAD. The latest information can be found at ukad.org.uk



FUTURES AND DiSE

Futures

The Futures programme continued to deliver opportunities for young athletes from around England to experience a day's training under the guidance of national team coaches in a format akin to those of national team camps.

Foundation (open to all athletes born 2011 and 2012) and Evolution (open to 2009 and 2010 England-eligible players) were brought together for camps both ahead of the start of the 2024-25 season and during the second half.

More than 260 total athletes from over 60 different clubs took part in at least one of the four Futures camps. Each camp also included several developing juniors coaches taking advantage of the opportunity to work alongside an experienced lead coach.

In Q4, the development of the first Beach Futures camp, to be run in Summer 2025, was started.

DiSE

In Summer 2024, the final cohort of students under the old DiSE delivery model completed their programme, while all 40 of the students who began in 2023 under the new delivery reached the halfway point.

That new model ensured more one-to-one support and removed most of the workbooks, allowing for athletes to be free to create and

develop their own Individual Athlete Plan, which was a key component to their learning.

As of March 2025, 39 of those students remained on course to complete the programme. At the same time, the new cohort of 40 were well into their first year.

Alongside the Lead DiSE tutor, there are three external tutors, a nutritionist and now two psychologists to deliver content and support the athletes in their progress.



2022 LEGACY

Commonwealth Games 2022 Legacy Impact

The legacy of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games continues to thrive through a diverse range of volleyball-focused initiatives both in and around the city and nationally, funded and supported by the Inclusion and Diversity (I&D) Fund.

These efforts aim to deliver long-term impact and drive community engagement in line with Volleyball England's wider strategy goals in The Game Plan.

New beach volleyball facility

A key achievement this year has been the confirmation and sign-off of a four-court beach volleyball facility with a seasonal dome at Birmingham City University (BCU), funded in collaboration with BCU and Sport England.

This landmark development will serve as a National Performance Programme hub for beach volleyball, providing a year-round training and competition base for pathway athletes and exemplifying a blueprint for sustainable beach volleyball facilities in the UK.

Moseley Rugby Club site and clubs

At Moseley Rugby Club, local volunteers are now assisting with court operations, supported by a small funding allocation.

Alternative operational models, including leasing to third-party operators, are under review to ensure the long-term viability of the site.

Support for local clubs has also expanded. Birmingham Volleyball Club received equipment through the I&D Fund and is now based at Starbank School, where joint programmes are being developed to promote youth engagement.

Workforce Upskilling

Workforce development, in line with Volleyball England's People Plan, remains a priority, with 80 coaches upskilled through Level 1 and Level 2 courses. Notably, we also supported Paul Whittle in achieving international referee status; he is now contributing to the organisation's wider referee development efforts.

BVDCs on the rise

The Beach Volleyball Development Centre (BVDC) programme is gaining momentum. Head coaches have participated in national workshops with Volleyball England's Beach Performance Director, Kirk Pitman.

Each centre has received community outreach grants to attract new audiences and participants to the sport. Cross-centre competitions and the inaugural BVDC Championships are in planning.

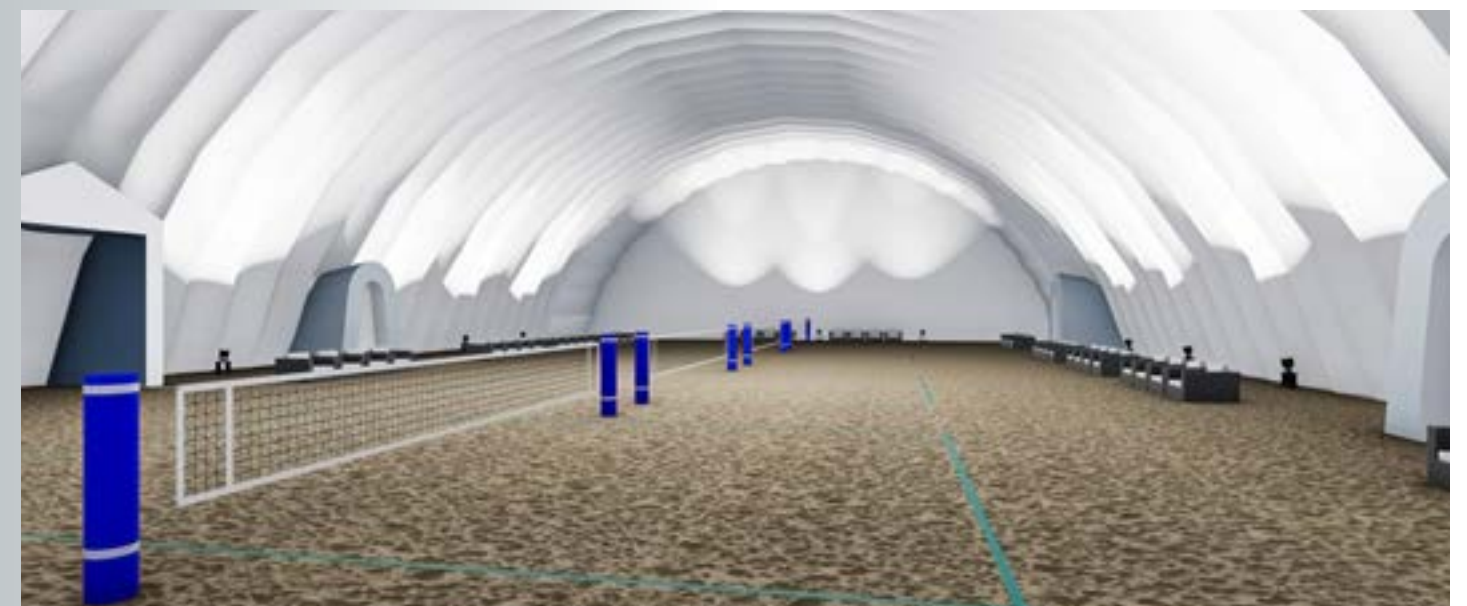
Major events legacy

From a major events perspective, equipment from the Commonwealth Games has been utilised to successfully deliver the NEVZA Youth Beach Championships in Bridlington.

Building on that success was the staging of a Queen & King of the Court event in Canary Wharf.

Finally, legacy equipment has been redistributed to benefit various community groups, charities, and BVDCs ensuring the continued grassroots impact of the Commonwealth Games.

The strategic use of legacy funding is not only optimising financial investment but also elevating Birmingham's position as a national hub for beach volleyball development.



80

coaches upskilled
on Level 1 and
2 courses.

FINANCE

Finance report

A look back on the 24-25 period, from a financial perspective, is a story of continued progress.

Volleyball England’s financial situation remains strong, with an investment back into volleyball of some of the previous year’s surplus, as forecast.

The continued strength of the organisation’s Membership and the success of its Competitions and Workforce training programmes has allowed a further reduction of reliance on Sport England funding, with it now making up just under 35% of total revenue, down nearly 8% year on year.

Sport England continued to support Volleyball England during 24-25 with the Year 3 ‘System Partner’ award of £456,782. Sitting volleyball used an additional £109,915 of funding from UK Sport for GB Training camps, cup competitions and a successful hosting of the Golden League event in Nottingham.

As the Birmingham 2022 NGB Participation, Innovation and Digital Fund nears completion, a reduced amount of £32,579 was drawn to amplify legacy ambitions. The remaining amount will be used as a contribution to the new Indoor Beach facility at Birmingham University. There has also been further success in applying to the FIVB to fund Beach and Talent coaches.

Volleyball activity continues to be encouraging in terms of the National Volleyball League, Student Cup entries, Junior Cup entries and Membership, all showing significant year on year growth.

Competitions have hosted three major events (QKOTC, Five Nations and NEVZA) generating more than £131,000 in revenue. These efforts have allowed Volleyball England to continue to grow total revenue, up 11.3% year on year.

Finally, it should be noted that Duncan and Toplis, Volleyball England’s Auditors and Business Consultants, audited and signed off the 23-24 Financial Statements with no adjustments to the Management Accounts presented at the 2024 AGM.

Turnover **£1,824,445** **+ 11.5%**

SE Grant Income **£522,461** **28.6%**

Total Grant Income **£652,589** **35.8%**

Where did the money come from?

Sport England Grants 24-25	£522,461
Other Government Grants	£130,128
Commercial Income	£49,534
Talent Income	£252,968
Technical Courses	£111,378
Student Income	£10,590
Membership	£92,397
Diploma in Sporting Excellence	£156,329
Competition and Events	£440,361
VolleyStore Income	£58,299
TOTAL	£1,824,445

Where did the money go?

Operating Cost (incl. Dig Transformation)	£363,091
Salaries	£655,236
Commercial Cost	£1,642
Talent	£237,675
Technical Courses	£58,547
Student	£27,424
VolleyStore Cost of Sales	£58,295
Diploma in Sporting Excellence	£50,220
Competition and Events	£265,269
NSSF Expenses – Sitting	£130,163
TOTAL	£1,847,562

VOLLEYBALL FOUNDATION

Volleyball England Foundation

Foundation Trustees

The Foundation was very fortunate to recruit four talented new Trustees following the 2024 AGM.

Many of volleyball's communities will know Peter Bakare (a member of the GB Men's team from London 2012), Donald Dean (Ex-England and GB Player) and Robbie Barrett (Paralympic athlete and part of the GB sitting VB team for London 2012). All have been involved in playing coaching and promoting volleyball for many years.

The fourth new member of the team is Robert Blaszcak, a seasoned sports industry professional.

After eight years as a trustee Janet Inman will be leaving the Foundation Board, but will remain as the Company Secretary and Foundation fundraiser.

Birmingham Legacy Programme

Last summer, hundreds of children in and around Birmingham were offered an opportunity to play volleyball for the first time, as part of the Birmingham Sport Summer Holiday Scheme.

The project was delivered in partnership with Birmingham Sport and Volleyball England

Foundation as part of the Legacy from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

The Ark Boulton Centre and the Make A Difference (MAD) project were the groups that borrowed the Foundation's equipment, stored at Birmingham Sport, over the summer. The MAD project is a Sport Birmingham open access youth development programme.

In addition to the summer holiday programme, the Foundation also provided equipment, balls and ball carts to 10 primary schools and a secondary school in the city.

Earlier this year, outdoor nets were used to support the Birmingham Polish Heritage Day.

The organiser had included volleyball as the only sporting activity event and there were 18 teams taking part. The event attracted around 2,000 people, creating a fantastic atmosphere of community and celebration.

In addition to working with Birmingham Sport, the Foundation is also working with Birmingham United, a newly-formed community club, and are planning to support a coach development course in the city this summer.

LGBTQ+ Project

The Foundation's LGBTQ+ project is coming to a conclusion after two years of hard work. An online resource will shortly be launched to support clubs and the wider sporting network.

The Foundation would like to thank all the clubs who have engaged and 'The Good Trouble' for all their efforts. The aim of the project is to break down barriers and make volleyball a safe space for everyone to enjoy.

In particular, the aim has been to develop inclusive spaces helping to provide a welcoming, non-judgemental environment, which significantly increases participation and retention.

Sitting Volleyball

The Foundation continues to focus on supporting the sitting volleyball community.

Members of the Foundation Board sit on the Sitting Volleyball Working Group, helping to develop a long-term plan to encourage the development of more clubs and increase the number of players both in clubs and the player pathway, in partnership with Volleyball England and the British Volleyball Foundation.

This 2024-25 year, the Foundation donated the Ken Edwards Memorial Trophy as the prize for victors in the Volleyball England Sitting Volleyball Cup competition.

Donald Deans was on hand to present the trophy to the first winners, South Hants.

Continuing to support the Volleyball network

The Foundation continues to provide a list of local funding opportunities to clubs and individuals.

In the past 12 months 10 clubs and 9 individuals have been supported to find additional funds. Ben Richards from Lincoln Imps Sitting Volleyball Club was supported to find funds to take his Club Coach, Safeguarding and First Aid courses.

George Riddick continues to develop as an England international beach volleyball player with the support of the Foundation's Just Giving page.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Christmas Auction and to our commercial partners Dryrobe and Steroplast.



REGIONAL REPORTS

At the time of publication, the following regional reports have been received. Any further regional reports received will be added to the document in due course.

London Volleyball Association

London Volleyball Association

The 2024-25 season was the biggest season that London has hosted, with more than 100 teams across 13 divisions.

On top of that, the region's U17 girls, U15 girls and U17 boys won gold at the Inter-Regionals, the fourth year in a row that the juniors have brought gold home.

The region is still seeking an injection of money into the league to support the junior costs and the potential improvements that can be made to infrastructures, which can support the growth of the sport.

Overall, it was a very positive season, wrapped up with the London Volleyball Medal Ceremony, with lessons to make 2025-26 even better.



Focus on officials' growth

It has been a big year of change in the London officials' stream, with a specific focus on officials' growth, coaching courses, and the implementation of a support process to Grade 4 referees and referee observations.

As a result, of the 20 referee observations, 15 resulted in upgrades or had "potential for upgrade"/ "can referee at this level and Higher".

Two Assistant Coach Awards ran this season, resulting in 36 newly-qualified coaches. In the London League, most games were run with two officials, except for a handful of matches, a clear improvement from previous years, and a consequence of the new system. The implementation of a group chat with officials became a very effective solution to filling last-minute appointments.

A new onboarding process for Grade 4s has been implemented. In this process, they are only appointed as 2R for lower divisions, with experienced referees to mentor them and help them gain experience and get feedback quickly.

After they have gained competence as 2R, then they start getting appointments as 1R in lower divisions. Premier and other high divisions are usually covered by highly-graded officials.

On a final note, this was the first year that London had line judges for its Play-offs. The aim is to bring this level of referee to the Premier Division.

Future plans

London is keen to work with Volleyball England for a clearer referee growth in numbers and quality. Work continues to raise and standardise the level of officiating in the league, as some committed officials need to refresh their knowledge of rules and protocols.

There is the intention to run a referee course at the start of the season to qualify university students to cover BUCS games and help with the London League.

This dedicated course aims to give students experience while studying before they can then take that knowledge and expertise to other clubs in England.

Since some of the newly-qualified coaches are non-London residents, London is keen interesting to explore if it can work as a central hub for the south of England when it comes to courses.

Alongside that, there are plans to assess how line judges can be appointed in Premier Divisions without incurring more costs to teams, while it is hoped VolleyZone can be used to book and track referee observations.



Clubs, Membership and Volunteers

The number of clubs in London continues to grow, increasing the size of the volleyball community.

To support this growth, the region is keen to secure more volunteers to manage divisions and support more strategic projects.

The change of chair brought the typical initial instability of new leadership, but the hope is that 2025-26 will be more stable.

London is slowly getting the right people in the right position, with a consistent effort to bring more people on board.

100

teams in the London
League, across
13 divisions.

Future plans

It is an aim to involve people with partnership expertise that can improve the quality of membership, as well as finding potential sponsorships.

London League expansion

This season was the biggest ever season of the London League with 13 divisions (six women and seven men), which featured almost 1900 players (796 women and 1090 men).

The introduction of Division 3 in the men's competition at the start of the previous season has meant an improvement in the level of men's Division 2.

VolleyZone implementation

The London region has successfully seen the implementation of VolleyZone to manage the London League and Referees management.

All players are now registered through the system and rostered for their specific teams, while all fixtures and tables run through it, as well as the appointment of referees for all matches.

Future plans

London is seeking to work closely with Volleyball England and providers Sport LoMo to clean up existing interactions in the system and overall processes.

There are also plans to work towards creating an U14 London Junior League, as well as assess how to create a sitting volleyball momentum.

Venue restrictions continues to be a block for clubs to grow or to have junior teams, while there is a desire to increase the quality of beach volleyball tournaments.

11

clubs contributing to the West Midlands Inter Regional team.

West Midlands Volleyball Association

The major developments this season have been centered around the continued development of beach volleyball in the West Midlands, thanks to the Commonwealth Games legacy work that has been ongoing.

The region ran a full beach inter-regional programme for the first time ever and has seen the emergence of a real community around the courts in Moseley.

At the end of 2024, it was confirmed that a second legacy venue at Moor Lane is well underway and should be opening before too long – providing two very real legacy facilities to grow the sport in areas of the city previously under-represented by volleyball.

Inter Regionals

Last season's Inter Regional Championships offered a real insight into quite how much talent there is in the region with all four squads securing semi-final spots.

The boys' U17 side went on to compete for a gold medal, and although they ended up with silver, there was much to be proud of across all squads.

In terms of preparations for the 2025 Inter Regionals, West Midlands has been delighted to see players from 11 different clubs take part in the programme – underlining a significant growth in that regard.

There has been a move from just a handful of clubs running junior programmes before the Covid-19 Pandemic to a position of strength, with most clubs offering junior volleyball and all of them developing talent such that they can compete for spots in the regional squads.

Beach programme development

The development of a beach programme for youngsters last year was a massive hit – and early signs are that this year's will be equally popular.

With the exception of one or two clubs in the region who had prior access to closer beach facilities than those in Birmingham, this was something virtually unknown for most of the West Midlands.

Since then, a series of scramble tournaments have been run, along with squad training, and eight junior athletes were able to experience their first competitive beach action.

The standard at the top of the region's top divisions remains very high and the West Midlands is very proud of the quality of competition available for regional players.

The men's Division 1 title went right down to the wire with a 'winner takes all' clash in May on the final day of the season.





The growth of the number of NVL teams from the region is also something to be proud of – with an additional two men’s teams making the cut for the 2025-26 season.

Having said that, it’s been equally pleasing for the West Midlands to see the competitive nature of the lower divisions – and with three new clubs emerging during this season, with two of them gaining promotion, this shows no signs of slowing down.

Volunteer growth needed to help development

Volleyball in the West Midlands is booming – but it can never be forgotten that this continued growth tends to fall on the same hard-working volunteers across the clubs and region.

Real, sustainable growth needs growth in the number of administrators, referees and coaches, with more people urged to step forward and take on roles in order to build on the huge strides forwards already taken.



South West Volleyball Association

The South West continues to flourish, with a full senior and junior competitive programme and active local associations.

There is a large junior development programme through the regional junior squad training programmes for indoor and (less developed) beach.

The region has an active Executive Committee, but still struggles to fill all posts and this is particularly true of coaching, where the lack of an appointed officer has contributed to a lack of direction and development of coaching in the region.

Coaches, Officials and Talent

The South West is still struggling to arrange coaches and officials award courses. In the case of coach awards there is still the issue of cost, time and distance.

However, webinars have been arranged for referees to help improve the standard of refereeing in the region’s Leagues.

There has been a full programme of training for the regional junior (indoor) squads, since October, with large numbers in attendance.

Inter Regionals

At the Inter Regional Championships, the South West’s teams gained two third place positions, a fourth and a fifth – meaning, on aggregate, a third place finish over the weekend.

The squads also provided opportunities to develop coaches – with many having moved up from assistant coach to squad coach over the years.

In the summer of 2024, junior regional beach teams took part in the Inter Regional Beach event and the Small Nations beach event. The 2025 programme is about to start and there are plans to enter similar events this year.

Membership update

The number of affiliated clubs in the region and its areas has remained stable, while coach and referee registrations are slightly up on last year.

Most local area associations have seen stable membership, though some face serious issues over the availability of facilities. The region has some excellent, committed volunteers in the region and areas, but, as always, more are needed.





45

teams entered the South West's JuVoTo (U12 to U15 mini volleyball) Series.

Senior competitions success

In terms of competition, it was a season of stability and some growth for the South West.

Entries to the South West Leagues increased to 16 men's and 12 women's teams, requiring two divisions for both for the first time in many years.

The men's leagues were won by the University of Bath and Team South Wales. The women's divisions were won by Torexe and Wessex Hendy.

The SW Vets tournament in November had only eight entries this year and was won by Wiltshire Mavericks. The SW Senior Championships attracted a full entry of 10 men's and 10 women's teams with the winners being Exeter Storm and Bedminster respectively.

The region has been pleased to report regional success in the NVL and National Cups, with Wessex winners of Men's Division 2 South and Bristol winners of Women's Division 2 West and third in Men's Division 1.

At Cup Finals Weekend, Wessex won the Men's Shield, while the Women's Shield featured two Bristol teams, as Bristol beat Bedminster.

Junior competitions round-up

The JuVoTo (U12 to U15 mini volleyball) Series has featured six events, across the region, featuring 45 teams.

The numbers are slightly down on previous years, which may have something to do with an increase in competitive opportunities in national competitions and in 6v6 volleyball in the region.

The South West plans to extend the junior competitions next season, adding some 6v6 events within the JuVoTo programme.



Regional structure working well

As a region, the South West works closely with five local associations that provide league competitions where all teams are affiliated.

Where no recognised local associations exist, the teams from those areas tend to travel to take part in the five recognised local leagues.

There are good communications between the region and its areas and the regional executive committee meetings that take place three times a year are well attended and contribute to the planning of development of volleyball across the region.

Work has taken place this year on the role descriptions for officers and a risk register.

The South West values the Volleyball England Regions and Counties Community of Practice meetings as a means of communication and is grateful for the regular registration data received from the Hub team.

Thanks to the outgoing Chair

As usual, the South West would like to thank all those who volunteer to make organised volleyball possible, particularly Chair Dave Reece, who gives up so much of his time to the cause and has announced his intention to step down after 14 years in the role.





Eastern Volleyball Association

Essex

Performance Volleyball Coach at University of Essex, Alex Porter, has stepped away from his role after almost 11 years in his role.

His final season ended on a high as Essex Rebels' DYNAMIK Men's Super League side secured a silver medal placing at Super League Final 4 and victory in the Men's National Cup Final.

That followed a first BUCS title for Essex Blades, with all three successes owing much



to the way the former GB player at the London 2012 Olympics has steadily developed the volleyball programme, based at the university's Colchester campus.

Essex Blades women, led by Alex Chinery, were also BUCS winners, while the Rebels women were also runners-up at Final 4 after finishing the MAAREE Women's Super League in third position.

5 University of Essex Athletes won their first National Team caps at the Five Nations and Novatel Cups during the 2024-25 period, underlining the ambition to develop homegrown talent.

Elsewhere, ARU's Chelmsford campus also entered Chelmsford League and also entered BUCS alongside the Blades.

Suffolk

Officiating and coaching

Ipswich Ravens worked with Volleyball England to host an Assistant Coach Course, with the Suffolk Association contributing one third of the course fee for seven candidates from member clubs, who also providing additional support.

The event ran successfully thanks to the efforts of Amy Scrivener and Bertrand Olie who travelled to tutor.

Two of the participants in our 2023-24 officiating workshop, meanwhile, progressed to Grade 4, with the association contributing half the course fee for each of these.

A disappointment was that there was no repeat of the officiating workshop and the bid to recruit volunteers to replace those stepping down from the Team Suffolk Junior Development programme means it is suspended for the time being.

As part of ongoing work in the area of leadership development, at least two clubs are in need of additional Activators, Assistant Coaches and Coaches.

To service the demand for volleyball across the county, it may be time to consider funding models where coaches / leaders are paid for their time.

Clubs

In terms of clubs, Warriors – formed from members of the Filipino community based around West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds – have affiliated and entered the Mixed Intermediate League, joining the six community clubs which have been affiliated to Suffolk for many years.

Ipswich VC have added a beginners' session, overlapping their existing training session. They also joined forces with Volleyball England to produce a video to coincide with National Volunteers' Week explaining how securing, nurturing and rewarding volunteers has been central to the continued development of the club.

Newmarket are eagerly awaiting the 2025-26 where their second team will be competing in NVL Division 3.

Bury Bobcats ladies and men regularly compared in Eastern Region Series and Cambridgeshire League, while Newmarket and Stowmarket men also both competed in Cambridgeshire League.

The county's clubs appreciate the opportunity to participate in neighbouring counties' and regional competitions - thanks go to their organisers.



301

children took part in Suffolk inter-school events.

Facilities

The association has assisted with a grant application which led to facilities upgrade at Farlingaye High in Woodbridge, which could lead to a community club in future.

Claydon High is a next focus with regard to a facilities upgrade as they offer volleyball at lunchtime five days per week and after school on Fridays!

Schools

School Games Organisers continued to help find dates to host inter-school events, which have been successful.

In total, 301 participants (153 girls, 148 boys) took part across U13, U15 and U19 age groups, up from 282 in 2023-24, despite one fewer events (six as opposed to seven).

Future plans involve encourage more schools to affiliate with VE as junior clubs so they can access Volleyball England and Volleyball England Foundation support.

Beach

On the beach, a new company, Level-Up Beach, led by Rich Flynn (Norwich Spikers) and supported by the Norfolk Volleyball Association has worked with East Suffolk District Council to install three beach courts have been installed on Lowestoft's South Beach.

Level Up are now providing a range of coached sessions every Saturday from May to September.

Cambridgeshire

The county enjoyed a good degree of success in the NVL, with Cambridge women winning the Division 2 East title, while Rhinos Cambridge matched that achievement in Division 2 Central.

Thriving junior development this season from Cambridge Volleyball Club saw more than 80 juniors get involved.

Of those, four were selected to compete in the U15s boys, one in U15 girls and one in the U17 boys regional squads.

All enjoyed their experience, particularly the boys in U15 team, who have been training together since they were in Year 7.

It is hard to say what next year will look like and depends on the availability of the coaches concerned.

More coaching and refereeing development is needed for next year and court facilities are also a longer term target, with the potential of a plot for redevelopment in Cambridge.

For now, the county is busy organising the 32nd Cambridge Volleyball Tournament (6v6), with the aim of attracting more than the 60-plus teams who took part last year. EASTERN Volleyball Association



PARTNERS

Partners

Volleyball England would like to thank its valued partners for their continued support in helping the sport's development.

- Sport England
- Mikasa
- MAAREE
- DYNAMIK
- Volleyball England Foundation
- British Volleyball Federation
- HUDL
- Universal Services
- Sportserve
- Bishop Sport and Leisure
- The Student Sport Company
- Kitround
- IBB LED
- FabLittleBag
- Award It! Classic Miniatures
- Accelerate Sport



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