

BVA AGM 7th May 2023 MINUTES + virtual EGM 18th June 2023

2-3pm at the Buckingham New University, Queen Alexandra Rd, High Wycombe HP11 2JZ
EGM 18th June 2023-8pm, meeting held online, minutes at the end of the meeting notes.

1. Welcome (Andy Bickle)

Andy Bickle welcomed the attendees.

2. Attendance & Apologies for Absence (Andrew Tatarek)

ATTENDEES:

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Piers Lawson;

BASINGSTOKE: Pablo Alvarez;

FARNBOROUGH: Andrew Tatarek;

MAIDENHEAD: J Hodgson; Barbara Wojciechowska;

MAVERICKS: Khusro Habib; Marta Wojtak;

NEWBURY: Andy Bickle;

OXFORD: Annika Voss;

READING ACES: Dave Fox;

SOUTH BUCKS: Charlton Tucker; Karolina Romaniak;

SPIKEOPATHS: S Kral; A Aygul; G Ekornrod; C Codorean;

WYCOMBE EAGLES: Mateusz Rogosz.

APOLOGIES: Sue Sayers (N'bury); Alasdair Macleod (F'bro); Carol Fogarty (F'bro).

3. Season's report (Andy Bickle)

Well here goes for my last Season Report after 5 years as chair and 23 years of playing within the BVA.

First of all I'd like to thank the rest of the BVA committee and others that have endeavoured to make this 2022/ 2023 BVA Season a success.

I'd also like to thank Lauren of South Bucks VC for sourcing the venue for this weekend and Dave for organising.

Yet again we have successfully completed another BVA Volleyball season, which for us as an association can be broken down to the following, we are 11 Clubs across 4 counties with 49 teams competing across 6 divisions. This certainly demonstrates the growth within our region and our sport and may it continue.

Congratulations to all of our participants & winners and good luck to the four teams from the BVA attending the SEVA tournament next week.

The BVA Committee is a group of volunteers here to make volleyball happen for you, we do need some vital Posts to be filled this year and additional volunteers moving forward to keep making the BVA a success and I know Andrew will come on to this later.

As a committee we have held 4 virtual BVA Committee meetings, participated in Volleyball England virtual meetings including a very insightful conversation with Volleyball England CEO Charlie Ford, There are exciting times ahead with the BIG conversation and a new IT platform.

There are two messages that I would like to pass on to you all.

- Home teams, please submit the Scoresheets to the BVA Website as soon as you can, you really would not believe the amount of missing score sheets from this season which meant we were not able to finalise the league positions till this week, it is not the committees responsibility to chase you for your results.
- To all Clubs & Players, please respect the referees, respect your opponents and respect the game of Volleyball, on some occasions this season the level of respect could have been better.

Lastly, thank you all for attending today's AGM and have an amazing summer. I'm now off to spend time with and spoil the grandkids, kind Regards Andy.

The meeting profusely thanked Andy for his service, steering the BVA over the last 5 years, through a variety of challenges, not least Covid, and facilitating competitive volleyball across our clubs.

4. BVA League Results & MVP's (Dave Fox)

Results

- Men's Div 1 - Winners – Oxford Vollox
- Men's Div 2 – Winners – Wycombe Eagles
- Ladies Division - Winners – Oxford Flamingos
- Mixed 1 - Winners – Basingstoke Tigers
- Mixed 2 - Winners – Mavericks
- Juniors - Winners – Reading Aces Juniors A

MVPs

- Men's Div 1 – Krzysztof Wojnarowicz (Farnborough Vipers)
- Men's Div 2 – Jordan Ayres (Newbury)
- Ladies Div – Erin Chan (Reading Aces) & Julianna Piskorz (Oxford Uni)
- Mixed Div 1 – Bianca Crostarosa (Farnborough Panthers) & Dorian Muszynski (Maidenhead Braywick)
- Mixed Div 2 – Marta Wojtak (Mavericks Mixed) & David Colebourne (Spikeopaths Mixed 2)
- Junior Div – Reuben Ramsey (Newbury Juniors)

Trophies were handed out accordingly.

Dave noted that as the number of teams expands, we will have to consider matches on Saturdays as well as Sundays, as otherwise there will be insufficient capacity to play the league matches in the time available.

5. Youth Development (Sue Sayers)

You can see from the following reports from the clubs that wrote to me that juniors have really taken off. The problems clubs are facing is lack of coaches first, then venue time and working out how best to pull in volunteers and parents to help.

Sharing what works and learning from each other is something our association gives us the ability to do.

I am fully behind changing the junior league we need to cater for all ages. Running a league for 16 to 18 and perhaps a younger lot 4v4 running over a long net, allowing play on 4 badminton courts.

BASINGSTOKE

This season we've had 24 juniors attending one training session a week which was then expanded to two sessions a week. 3 junior players joined Basingstoke Mens2 team and one of our junior players attended an assistant coach course and will be helping out in future junior training sessions.

SOUTH BUCKS

This season we are 100% U18 juniors and have 80 active players. We are struggling to keep up with demand due to lack of facilities in the area.

We used BVA Junior League to alternate our boys/open teams and girls so everyone could compete. U18 girls competed in Women's League.

We nearly had to pull out of BVA this year due to the 'Sunday only' fixture rule as we had 9 Sundays taken by National events. :(

Results:

GIRLS - Tier 1

U18 - 3rd tie in points (4th on set difference)

U16 - 4th (with help from Aces Erin & Mirella!)

U15 - 5th (with help from Newbury Erin & Aces Erin!)

BOYS -- this is our first year entering in boys nationals and BVA league since before the pandemic.

U16 - Tier 2 participation

U15 - Tier 1, qualified for Top 8 -- final position on points is 9th

REGIONAL -

we have 9 players selected for South East inter-regionals

NATIONAL

4 x players on ENG pathway programme

COACHES

We paid for 4 x new coaches and have 3 x U17 girls qualified and now coaching the development competition teams.

NEXT

We will be focusing on coaching beach this summer as we work to get beach courts built in High Wycombe ASAP

FARNBOROUGH

We have 23 Advanced (14-18) and 47 Beginners, (11-16) or so. The Beginner/Advanced categories are based on ability rather than age. We have started getting parents to book and pay ahead for each half term, and this is working well.

Advanced juniors team played in the BVA junior league, doing well, but are also playing for the Men's teams some of the time, where they are generally better than the adults technically, but needing to gain match confidence and consistency.

We've also opened the adult session to the stronger juniors who attend the Advanced session. This is working well, keeping the session at capacity. To prevent adults being

unhappy at losing their opportunity to play, we're allowing booking for adults before the day and allowing junior players to fill any places left for free. The effect is that there is good rapport, and the transition from junior to adult is happening.

In mid-April, we sorted out a net slider of our own design (Goals at each end prevented the use of an off the shelf one) that runs across 4 badminton courts, which is already helping with capacity, and will start to do 2v2, 3v3 4v4 tournaments, the first one on 30th April. We will be inviting other clubs and doing this more frequently as we get experience. Our involvement with VE tournaments has been limited, mainly due to coach capacity. We hosted one and played in a couple.

We have developed a good relationship with the school we use as a venue, and now that there is a net slider system they are considering including volleyball in their sports lessons, with our help.

Children's parents sign up on our website at a rate of 1 to 3 a week, and our ability to take more players is limited mainly by the number of available coaches. After this, the number of evenings of the week on which the hall is available. So generally positive, with the main limiting factor that we need more coaches.

MAVERICKS

Mavericks Volleyball aims to promote and provide volleyball playing opportunities to children and young adults of all abilities, enabling players to enjoy the sport of volleyball, to develop as players who are fundamentally and technically sound, and to be able to play within the best competitions being held locally, regionally and / or nationally.

Mavericks run 5 training groups a week for juniors of all abilities and age from 6 to 18 years old in Bracknell and Reading. At the moment we have 90 active junior members. Mavericks Panthers represented the established juniors team in BVA League and BVA Plate. On top of that all our members were invited to participate in Volleyball England Grand Prix tournaments for Boys/Open U18 (one team), Boys U15 (two teams) and Girls U15 (three teams) categories. The club hosted the final Grand Prix for Girls U15 at our home venue Newbold College in Binfield. Our 6 junior teams are looking forward to taking part in the Ashcombe tournament later this year. Last season Mavericks hosted an outdoor end of summer tournament for juniors only. It is planned to be our club's annual event and we would love to invite all BVA clubs to take part in the next one on 10th September 2023.

Newbury

We have about 40 regular juniors training once or twice per week depending on ability. We had teams in the tier 2 Grand Prix. A junior team in the BVA league and under 18 boys in the men's division. We have several players selected for inter regionals and 2 presently on the England talent pathway. 2 are attending the elite camp in Chobham. Talks are in place to do a volleyball exchange. Two juniors have passed their assistant coaching course and several grade 4 ref course

6. BVA Finance (James Murphy)

See appendix for finance report

We need to get the bank mandate updated once we have appointed the officers at the AGM – I believe it is currently myself, Andy and Iva.

We need to decide how to spend the fines – we agreed at the last AGM this would be for the clubs to decide but suggest we need to put forward proposals to vote on e.g. Used to subsidise

- a. Junior players competing at the inter-regionals.
- b. The next referees course. **(THE MEETING CHOSE THIS ONE, AS REFS ARE NEEDED FOR THE LEAGUE TO EXPAND.)**

- c. A candidate at the next level 2 coaching course.
- d. To upgrade a volleyball facility within Berkshire.

7. Volleyball England Update (James Murphy)

Volleyball England is replacing Volleyzone, and are getting a system that will manage fixtures, so this is something we are going to need to get to grips with, whether this season or the next. It's not certain how it deals with the niceties of venues not being available on particular days. There is a lot of energy at the moment, and worth getting involved on their Discord Server.

8. Proposals & Suggestions

Proposal 1, Maidenhead (proposal rejected, but current rule to be implemented)

Current rule	Failure to submit match results to the BVA Website within two days – £10.
Proposed rule	Can we fine the host team £10/result for not submitting the results to the BVA website on time? All results must be in the BVA website within 3 days (i.e. end of Wednesday) or face a £30 fine, to be paid within one week. If unpaid, the fine would go up by £10 per day.
Reasons	Encourage fast reporting so the results on the site are up to date.
Votes for:	7
Votes against:	42

There was discussion around this. The results are entered manually by the home team, then relies on Dave Fox to put on the web-site, which can cause delay that is not of the team's doing. This is needed because people put obscene messages in the results screen and Dave filters these out. There is a time-stamp when the team does the entry, so potential to use this as a criteria for fines. The problem is one of the work involved in sorting out the fines, when Dave is already very thinly stretched, which has meant that to date fines have not been issued. The meeting agreed that fines will be enforced in the coming season, and suggestions for help would be appreciated. The issue may be helped by a new VE platform that will manage matches and results entry by the home team, and should not suffer the same limitations of our current platform.

Proposal 2, Basingstoke (Proposal rejected - U17 and U18 can be too big & strong.)

Current rule	1.3 (iv) . . . Due to the number of Junior participants available Non-Junior Players (Helpers) may participate however they do so with the following restrictions A junior team must consist of at least 3 junior players on court at any time, non-junior players are not permitted to Block, Hit or overhead serve.
Proposed rule	Could we consider adding an option to the non-junior players (helpers) rule to allow up to 2 U18 or U17s to play with no restrictions, as an alternative to 3 adult helpers.
Reasons	This will allow some flexibility for those over 16 players who are not ready to play with non-junior teams and will further their development. It is also closer to the intention of the junior league being for the development of junior players than adult helpers, and would add options to make getting a team out easier.
Votes for:	6
Votes against:	43

Proposal 3, Basingstoke (Proposal rejected, BVA is in line with VE policy Transgender women have strength advantages of men, so this would not be fair, but they are eligible to play in the mens league.)

Current rule	1.3 (ii) Ladies, in which only women and juniors (where a junior is defined as a player, male or female, who is aged Under 16 on the 31st August prior to the start of the season) may play. A maximum of 3 male junior players may be on court at any time. Junior boys playing in the Ladies league may also play in the Men's league. For the purpose of Junior boys only who play in both the Men's and Ladies leagues, the Playing Up Rules as listed in Section 1.5 will apply as follows: Please be aware that the premise of a Ladies League is primarily for female players, male junior players should only be used when female players are not available. (The BVA committee had decided to not opt out of VE policy. VE policy does not allow biological men to play as women for reasons of fairness and safety due to size, strength and competitive advantage differences between the two sexes.)
Proposed rule	Not to apply VE transgender policy to BVA competitions. (I.e. allow transgender women to play in ladies teams).
Reasons	For inclusivity, and any future potential players, as the policy also applies to non binary players.
Votes for:	6
Votes against:	43

Proposal 4, BVA committee (Proposal accepted as too un-controversial to say no to)

Current rule	1.9 Friendly matches Where necessary, some fixtures will include a friendly match, where two of the teams play a fixture which does not count towards league positions. Where a fixture includes a friendly match, the order of play will be altered, if necessary, to ensure the friendly fixture is the last match played in the triangular fixture.
Proposed rule	Add clarification that if a friendly match is played the third team must officiate if either of the teams playing the friendly ask for it.
Reasons	While most people would take a pragmatic view and self-referee, it would be polite to return the favour if the playing teams wanted it.
Votes for:	49
Votes against:	0

Proposal 5, Reading Aces (Proposal accepted - experience indicates that NVL 3 players are no stronger than our league players, sometimes weaker, and this would then make mixed consistent with mens and ladies).

Current rule	- Currently, there are NVL player restrictions on all Top divisions (Mens, ladies, mixed), maximum 2 on court at any time. - Currently, NVL div 3 players don't count, for men's and ladies, but do for mixed.
Proposed rule	We want to ask that BVA extend this rule to include mixed league as well
Reasons	1. Mixed Volleyball is the same standard as men's and ladies' top divisions, with the same players typically involved, so the same fair rule should apply to each. 2. NVL Div 3 players are really not any stronger than the standard of BVA div 1

	at all, some are considerably weaker. This is already recognised by the exclusion condition on men's and ladies. 3. Mixed league doesn't exist at NVL level, so local league is the only opportunity to play mixed volleyball for people playing Div 3 NVL. 4. For us in particular, we will not be able to field a mixed team next year if the current rule exception is not extended to mixed division.
Votes for:	35
Votes against:	10

9. BVA Committee – Nominations & Elections

Please note that all positions are up for re-election, but we need the highlighted ones filled, or the BVA cannot continue.

POSITION	CURRENT HOLDER	PROPOSED/ SECONDED	ELECTED
Chair	Andy Bickle	Nobody standing	Gareth Bevan (elected at EGM)
Secretary	Andrew Tatarek	Oxford / Spikeopaths	Andrew Tatarek
Treasurer	James Murphy	Farnborough / Oxford	Khusro Habib
Competitions Sec	Dave Fox	Spikeopaths / Newbury	Dave Fox
Ref & Coach Coord	Vacant	Mavericks / Oxford	Marta Wojtak
Safeguarding Officer	Lisa Mitchell	Maidenhead / Oxford	Lisa Mitchell
Youth Secretary	Sue Sayers	Newbury / Wycombe	Sue Sayers
Webmaster	Piers Lawson	Mavericks / Basingstoke	Piers Lawson
Social Secretary	Vacant	Spikeopaths / Oxford	Barbara Wojciechowska

Dave Fox gave notice that he is willing to do the role for one more year, having done it for nearly 30 years will stand down at the next AGM. Gisle Ekornrod has offered to shadow Dave this year and then stand for the post at the next AGM. This is a vital role, and we are grateful to both for this.

If we can do what we can to reduce Dave's burdens, that would be a good thing.

10. Summer Competitions & Tournaments

There are:

[WICK 2023: 10 & 11 June.](#)

[Ashcombe 24 & 25 June 2023.](#)

[Whitfield 22 & 23 July, Bristol.](#)

[Salisbury 5th & 6th August 2023.](#)

[Roke Sun 3rd September.](#)

Our own Mavericks have a Junior tournament on 10th September

11. AOB

Timetable for league Playoffs TBA. Dave will organise.

There is an issue with not having a Chair - the league cannot continue without one.

A virtual EGM was proposed on Sunday June 18th, 7:30pm (to avoid possible matches on the day, date avoiding Wick tournament and Ashcombe). This has the specific aim of finding and electing a Chairperson, so it should be a short meeting.

Each club needs to go to its membership and see if we can put forward a candidate. Far better than a volunteer who is interested than somebody forced.

Without a Chairperson, the BVA league will not continue and there will be no matches.

With the EGM happening there is the possibility to discuss rule changes, but please keep it to absolutely essential.

Virtual EGM held on 18th June 2023

12. Attendance & Apologies for Absence (Andrew Tatarek)

ATTENDEES:

BASINGSTOKE: Pablo Alvarez; Amanda;

FARNBOROUGH: Andrew Tatarek;

MAIDENHEAD: Lisa Mitchell;

MAVERICKS: Khusro Habib; Marta Wojtak;

NEWBURY:

OXFORD: Annika Voss;

READING ACES:

SOUTH BUCKS:

SPIKEOPATHS: Gareth Bevan; Simona Kral

WYCOMBE EAGLES:

13. Meeting was opened by the secretary, attendees were welcomed.

14. Any candidates for BVA Chair asked to stand.

Gareth Bevan stood for Chair.

Sue Sayers proposed him. Simona Kral Seconded him.

15. Vote for Chair.

The meeting voted, and Gareth Bevan was unanimously voted in.

16. Meeting was closed.

Minutes recorded by BVA Secretary Andrew Tatarek

BVA Finances as at 19-April-2023

BVA Balance Brought Forward

£5,766

		Last Year
<u>Income</u>	£3,568	-£878
League entry Fees	£2,820	£0
Good Will deposits	£80	-£350
Fines	£164	-£172
Play off cost 2021/22	£172	-£24
Sponsorship	£332	-£332
	£296	Expenditure
		Deposit refund
		Referee Course subsidy
		Play off cost 2021/22
		Internet domain reg fee
		AGM Awards (trophies/medals/certs/etc.)

Outstanding Income

£120

SEVA entry Fees*	£120	-£2,850
Play off cost 2021/22	£0	-£900
		-£560
		-£250
		-£900
		-£240
		-£1,380
	£0	Outstanding Expenditure (commitments)
		Good Will Deposits
		Play off costs 2017/18
		Play off costs 2022/23*
		BVA Plate costs 22/23*
		SEVA Costs 2022/23*

Total In/out actual

£3,568

Total in/Out (inc. debts & commitments)

£3,688 **£296**

Current Account Balance

£8,396 **£5,706**

Year End prediction (current account + outstanding income - Commitments)

£5,666 **£4,446**

* = Estimate