



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

BVA AGM 2023/24

May 12<sup>th</sup> 2024

Hosted by James Murphy (BVA Chair)



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

### **Attendees**

- James Murphy – BVA Chair (Maidenhead)
- Khusro Habib – BVA Treasurer (Mavericks)
- Competitions – (vacant covered by James and Piers – with advice from Dave)
- Sue Sayers – Youth Secretary (Newbury)
- Piers Lawson – BVA Webmaster (Spikeopaths)
- Marta Wojtak – Refs and coaches coordinator (Mavericks)
- Lisa Mitchell – Safeguarding officer (Maidenhead)
- Andrew Tatarek – Secretary (Farnborough)
- Representatives from all the clubs except South Bucks & Didcot (not mandated):
  - David Morgan (Maidenhead); Denisa Krcalova (Reading Aces); Dave Fox (Reading Aces); Kasia Janeczek (Spikeopaths); Katie Fox (Reading Aces); Lisa Mitchell (Maidenhead); Maite Braud (Oxford); Mateusz Rogosz (Wycombe); Olgunn Tunheim (Basingstoke); Simona Kral (Spikeopaths); Tara Karki (Oxford Uni).

### **Apologies**

Didcot

### **Non Attendees**

Barbara Wojciechowska – Social & media secretary (Wycombe)

## **AGENDA**

- Welcome
- Apologies for Absence
- Seasons Report (James)
- BVA League Results & MVP's (James)
- Youth Development (Sue)
- BVA Finance (Khusro)
- Volleyball England Update
- BVA Committee – Nominations & Elections
- Proposals & Suggestions
- Summer Competitions & Tournaments
- AOB

## **Chairs Report – James Murphy**

I'd like to thank the rest of the BVA committee and others that have endeavoured to make this 2023 / 2024 BVA Season a success.

I'd also like to thank Lisa of Maidenhead VC for sourcing the venue for this weekend's plate competition and the organisers for making it happen.

Looking back at 2023, with the loss of our Chair and Competitions Secretary we have faced some significant challenges in running our league this season, however we have all persevered and 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, 49 teams competing across 7 divisions, a total of 127 scheduled fixtures, so 381 volleyball matches, WOW! thank you to you all for making this possible.

The BVA Committee is a group of volunteers here to make volleyball happen for you.

As a committee we have held 1 physical and 3 virtual BVA Committee meetings, participated in multiple Volleyball England virtual meetings. Thank you to all that have participated in these meetings, please remember that these meetings are for your benefit.

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

- Referees, thank you for the role that you do in every match, competitive matches cannot happen without you.
- Players, please leave the referees alone, they are there for your benefit and have enough to do without having to deal with 12 different opinions on their decisions.
- Thanks to all the volunteers that make our sport possible!

Lastly, thank you all for attending today's AGM and have an amazing summer.

Thanks James.



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

**League Results & MVP's  
(James in lieu– Competitions Secretary)**

## **BVA League Results**

- Ladies Div 1 - Winners – Farnborough Phoenix
  - Relegated - Oxford Falcons
- Ladies Div 2 – Winners & Promoted - Wycombe Eagles Ladies
- Ladies Division Playoff - Winners – TBD
- Men's Div 1 - Winners – Oxford Vollox
  - Relegated – Reading Aces Mens 1
- Men's Div 2 - Winners & Promoted – Newbury Mens 1
- Men's Division Playoff - Winners – TBD
- Mixed Div 1 – Winners - Basingstoke Tigers
  - Relegated - Mavericks Lions
- Mixed Div 2 – Winners & Promoted - Wycombe Eagles Mixed 1
- Mixed Division Playoff - TBD
- Junior – covered in Sue's report later



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

- **BVA MVP's**

- Men's Div 1 – P.Migala (Wycombe Eagles VC) & A. H Cutcheon (Reading Aces Mens 1)
- Men's Div 2 – M. Markson (Farnborough Vipers)
- Ladies Div 1 – M. Bushi (Oxford Falcons)
- Ladies Div 2 – H. Richardson (Mavericks Lionesses)
- Mixed Div 1 – D. Fazekas(Reading Aces Mixed 1)
- Mixed Div 2 – I. Sumbaev (Spikeopaths Mixed 2)
  
- **Notes to All**
- **When completing the MVP section, please use an initial and surname. (A # and a number is of no use to us)**
- **Scoresheets must be submitted to the Website, we can only get the MVP information from the Website submissions**



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

**Junior Season & Youth Development  
(Sue Sayers – Youth Development Officer)**



## **Junior League Winners – Reading Aces Juniors A**

### **Junior League MVP – Dan Lyons (Newbury)**

#### **Junior report**

- Clubs have a lot of juniors but are struggling with coaches and volunteers. The grand Prix which was introduced is a good idea until you find the venue is 3 hours away. We have very little parental support with travel.
- The BVA junior league had 8 teams last season and only 5 this. Coaches and players who usually run the junior teams are struggling with clashes of their own fixtures.
- Having the juniors in general joining in the adult teams gives them an opportunity to play locally and get the much-needed lift to a venue.
  
- This season's proposals are focused very much on the under 16 boy playing as a lady.
- This was introduced to give them more opportunities.
- The Grand Prix was set up to encourage and promote junior volleyball.
- But you can see from the club reports this is proving a struggle.
- BVA needs to be very proactive in its approach to junior players, they are there in our clubs and actually the lifeline to some.

## Volleyball England

Making sure players have the best competitive opportunities,

Improved, more frequent communications on Talent Pathway developments and direction.

Talent Programme has as its core mission the development of athletes capable of competing at the highest standard of international Volleyball.

“To do so, we must identify those with the potential to reach that level, and see they have the structure – both directly through Volleyball England activities, and indirectly via clubs, Regions, etc. – to develop the technical, tactical, physical, mental, and other elements necessary.

1. To have more young people taking part in Volleyball at all levels.
2. To begin to recruit talented players at an earlier age.
3. To put the main focus for talent development back into the regions
4. To develop a closer working relationship between all coaches working with junior players.
5. To increase the number and quality of the coaches working with junior players.
6. To have a strong and sustainable structure to support athletes on the performance ladder.
7. To develop a balance between the coaching and competitive opportunities for young talented players.
8. To ensure we get the best from our resources both human and financial.

What is BVA policy on this to develop juniors could clubs register their talented players so clubs can combine training sessions competitions etc. Its all about communication again which sadly is very lacking

## Reading Aces

- This year Reading Aces did not put a team in GP. Our juniors players were asked to play for different teams like south Bucks, Richmond and Ashcombe. 5 players of our juniors are representing South East in the coming inter regionals in May. 3 boys and 2 girls. 2 of our juniors also play in Adults NVL and 3 other for BVA adults team. Transport is quite a challenge if it's more than 2 hours away

## Newbury

- We have about 35 juniors novice and beginner have one session a week. Our stronger juniors play twice a week.
- Some of our better juniors have played in the mens team and the younger ones as ladies in the mixed team.
- We had 3 players attend the England talent camp and 2 have been selected to continue.
- 3 players are representing SE region.
- We entered an under 18 boys team in all rounds of tier 2 Grand Prix Newbury won 2 and came 2nd in 2.
- One boy also represented South Bucks and VBDC in under 15 and under 16. We like most clubs could not field a squad.
- We set up an under 18 girls tour going into a school giving a chance for girls too old to play juniors not good enough to play ladies and also lacking in confidence to play competitive matches. It was all about having fun with like-minded students with snacks at the end

## Mavericks

Mavericks run 5 training groups a week for juniors of all abilities and age from 7 to 18 years old in Bracknell and Reading. At the moment we have 100 active junior members and a waiting list for all the sessions. Our juniors had a chance to compete in different type of competitions:

### BVA

- We created a Men's team that is mainly advance junior boys between 15-17 years old - it was an experimental approach but went well and team enjoyed competing against strongest team more than in junior competition; boys developed a lot during the season and managed to win 3 matches!
- intermediate players were offered space in juniors division
- best juniors boys and girls were offered a chance to play in Mixed team or Ladies team (girls only)

### GPs

- We took part in few rounds of Tier 2 Under 15 and Under 16 girls competitions
- We took part in one round of Tier 2 Under 18 boys competitions
- Two of Mavericks boys took part in Tier 1 Under 15 boys competition under lead of Southbucks

### Friendlies

- We played friendlies matches against Farnborough juniors for different age groups

### Tournaments

- we organised our Annual Juniors only end of summer tournament during which we hosted 21 teams across 3 divisions (sadly only 2 other BVA clubs joined)
- we had a strong representation of 6 Mavericks teams in Ashcombe and placed 2nd in U12 category and U16 boys

### Camps

- we run 2 camps for Mavericks players during Christmas and Easter breaks where we focused on technical skills 4 days in a row

### Our main issues were:

- lack of coaches
- lack of hall for matches and generally speaking lack of infrastructure and understanding of volleyball; we visited multiple sites where we were told equipment was there for volleyball and found out that it is being played at school on badminton nets etc.
- juniors matches clashing with adults mixed league where all the coaches are also playing

## Referees and coaches survey Marta Wojtak - referees and coaches coordinator

Thank you to all individuals and the clubs who replied to the survey, if Didcot would like to share their views, please let me know

1) How many coaches responded? 21

- Out of them 14 coach regularly
- Out of regular coaches 5 have Level 1 qualifications, 3 have Level 2 qualifications, 1 is FIVB Level 2 and VE Level 3 qualified
- 9 coaches out of all 21 respondents are not qualified
- There is appetite for all types of courses – 16 respondents would like to do Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 course
- Voices raised on the coaching topic:
  - We need local CPD for coaches
  - Training too excessive and costly
  - Calls for LOCAL trainings and not on the weekends only
  - We need more coaches v. Creating coaches networking forum
  - Organising friendlies matches

2) How many refs responded? 21

- Out of them 18 are qualified, majority with Level 4, 3 with Level 3, 2 with Level 2 and 2 with Level 1
  - 13 of the respondents are interested in further development
  - Main points raised:
    - Courses too expensive – subsidising costs by BVA was much appreciated
    - Need for local courses
    - Creating refs network who are happy to take on a refereeing job like in NVL
    - More women to ref especially in Ladies division

3) Sam Yip from Maidenhead offered his experience to any refs and coaches who would like to developed

4) Congratulations to Sarah Hanrahan from Oxford VC for getting VE Young referee of the Year award! Congratulations to Sam Yip from Maidenhead for getting VE Contribution To Volleyball award

5) Upcoming courses:

- Referee grade 4 London 28 September 2024
- Assistant Coach Award Nuneaton 28 July 2024 (practical)

6) Decision to take: do we want BVA to subsidise ref courses and should we introduce the limit ie. 2 candidates per club?



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Financial Statement (Khusro Habib– Treasurer)

<b>Current account opening balance on 19/4/23</b>	<b>£8,396</b>			
		(last year)		(last year)
<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>£2,924</u></b>	<b><u>£3,568</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>-£3,606</u></b> <b><u>-£878</u></b>
League entry fees	£2,740		Plate 23-24	-£1,838
Fines	£25		League medals	-£221
Play off cost recovered	£159		Referee course subsidy	-£365
			Seva 23-24	-£210
			Internet domain fee	-£20
			Plate 22-23	-£743
			Seva 22-23	-£210
			<b>Current account closing balance on 10/5/24</b>	<b>£7,713</b>
		(last year)		(last year)
<b><u>Outstanding income</u></b>	<b><u>£606</u></b>	<b><u>£120</u></b>	<b><u>Outstanding expenses</u></b>	<b><u>-£843</u></b> <b><u>-£2,850</u></b>
Fines	£70		Juniors plate & medals 23-24	-£215
Seva 23-24	£70		Play offs 23-24	-£480
Play offs 23-24	£318		Play offs 22-23	-£148
Play offs 22-23	£148			
			Projected current account balance	£7,476

\*Net Income over expense for current year +£34

\*\*Net prior period expenses -£953

## Volleyball England Update (James Murphy)



- VE continue to struggle with capacity (privately).
- VE have limited the number of new teams able to enter the league to “drive up standards” & “reduce fixture congestion”
- NVL rules need to be submitted in Jan, are finalised in May.
- VE will be changing the Cup Format for next season – Cup for top teams, Shield for all others (one loss and you are out)
- New Junior format remains popular
  - extra GPs added and new U18 competition (centralised) to be added.
  - If you want it more local, then offer to host 😊
  - Richard Williams – VB, ex teacher, is now running it
- There remains a shortage of NVL referees. Although 80%+ now have referees this includes those appointed by clubs and often newly qualified grade 4
- There is likely some AGM resolutions (put forward by me and others) that I would like you to consider supporting but more importantly I would like all clubs to exercise their votes!



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

**Proposals & Potential Rule changes to be voted on  
(Please BVA AGM Appendix A)**





BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

## **BVA Committee – Officer Elections – the following were duly elected:**

- BVA Chair – James Murphy
- BVA Secretary – Andrew Tatarek
- BVA Treasurer – Khusro Habib
- BVA Competitions Secretary – Carmel Greenwood & Simona Kral
- BVA Referee & Coach Coordinator – Marta Wojtak
- BVA Safeguarding Officer – Lisa Mitchell
- BVA Youth Secretary – Sue Sayers
- BVA Webmaster – Piers Lawson
- BVA Social Secretary – Lisa Mitchell

No	Brief description ( <u>refer to proposed rule changes document</u> ) (Vx) refers to the votes in the voting spreadsheet.	Vote	Notes ACTION
2.	<b>Need for more weekend slots when entering multiple teams (v0)</b>	+34	Carried – 4+ teams need more than one slot Need to implement into the rules.
3.	<b>Use VE software for recording, submitting results, saves committee time and lag. Broken down into:</b>		
3a	We will use the system for recording results and send score-sheets (v1)	+48	Need to implement into the rules. Training and instructions.
3b	We will register players on Volleyzone their first match and do team sheets on Volleyzone for adult teams (v2)	+32	Need to implement into the rules. Training and instructions.
3c	We will register players on Volleyzone their first match and do team sheets on Volleyzone for Junior teams (v3)	-31	
4.	<b>That the home team provides balls for warm up (v4)</b>	0	Hung – so stays as is.
5.	<b>Adopt VE adult safeguarding policy (v5)</b>	+48	Carried (reluctantly), as it will be a condition of VE membership. Need to implement into the rules? Lisa offered to lead implementation.
6.	<b>Change booking from 4 to 4.5 hours (v6)</b>	-14	Rejected. Remind teams of the need for speed.
9.	<b>Get rid of helpers in the Junior league(s) (v7)</b>	-5	Rejected – so stays as is.



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

No	Brief description <a href="#">(refer to proposed rule changes document)</a>	Vote	Notes ACTION
12.	The home team determines the day of the weekend the triangular is played and does NOT require the agreement of the opposition (v8)	-30	Rejected. Remind teams of the need for speed to start quickly and minimise the gap between matches – perhaps guidance notes.
13.	Rename the “Men’s league” as the “Open league”. (v9)	-28	Rejected
14.	A deposit to the value of double the total fine outstanding with appeals (v10)	-43	Rejected
16.	Add note to clarify that categories are based on sex recorded at birth. (v11)	+28	Need to implement into the rules.



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

No	Brief description – these were all the proposed rules relating to boys playing as ladies <a href="#">(refer to proposed rule changes document)</a>
1.	Retain juniors in ladies and mixed but U15, not U16 - SEE `17
7.	Do not play junior boys in ladies and mixed - SEE `17
8.	Junior boys ineligible to play ladies and mixed - SEE `17
10.	Do not play junior boys when a lady is available - SEE `17
11.	Male junior player cannot be used as a female player when female players are available. - SEE `17
15.	Reduce number of male juniors eligible to play in ladies and mixed from 3 to 2 - SEE `17
18.	Another one on boys playing in Ladies.

No	Brief description – the above was last in the meeting and by the time we were discussing it, there was not a lot of energy left to discuss this with any subtlety.	Vote	Notes ACTION
	Do we want to change anything in the LADIES' league (v12)	+28	Yes
	Do we want to change anything in the MIXED league (v13)	-26	No
	Allow boys to play as ladies at all in LADIES' league (v14)	-22	Boys will not play as ladies in the ladies league. Need to implement into the rules.



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

## Competitions & Tournaments

- SEVA 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of May (Ashcome School) plus Referees Clinic
- BVA Play-offs 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> May (Wren School)
- BVA Junior Plate – 9<sup>th</sup> June (Newbold College)
- Ashcombe Tournament 30<sup>th</sup> June
- Whitefield Tournament 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July (Bristol)
- Salisbury Tournament 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> August
- Oxford Beach dates [Tournaments \(myclubhouse.co.uk\)](https://myclubhouse.co.uk) - NB £50 for annual membership required
- Mavericks Junior Tournament - 8<sup>th</sup> September 24



BERKSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

## AOB

- Next BVA Committee Meeting - Tuesday 4th June 6:30pm online - focus is Finances and Competition System.
- Team Entries for next season - aim is mid August. The tension is between the time to set up the league schedule as early as possible to allow venue booking, vs starting as late as possible to give clubs the time to set up their teams. (to be finalised by Competitions Secretary)