



## 2015 AGM Elections

The following positions are due for election at the 2015 Annual General Meeting being held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at SportPark, Loughborough University:

- President
- Finance Director
- Playing Director
- Performance Commission President
- Coaches Commission President

Two nominations were received from the Volleyball England membership for the position of President and one nomination for each of the four other positions due for election. The selection panel appointed by the board have reviewed all nominations, and applications where appropriate, and recommended to the Board that all nominations be put forward to the election at the AGM. The recommendations from the selection panel have been approved by the Board and the following candidates are being put forward by the Board to the elections at the 2015 AGM:

- President – Geoff Allen and Tracy Watkinson
- Finance Director – John Boughton
- Playing Director – Jefferson Williams
- Performance Commission President – Alex Bialokoz
- Coaches Commission President – Gillian Harrison

A biography for each candidate for President and Director elections can be found on the following pages.

The Volleyball England Board have appointed Electoral Reform Services to independently conduct any poll votes at the AGM in accordance with the Articles of Association. Full details of the voting process and appointed representative / proxy forms will be issued by Electoral Reform Services on the 25th June 2015 along with full instruction on how to complete and return the forms.



## **Geoff Allen Nominated for President at 2015 AGM**

### **Biography**

#### **EXPERIENCE**

Aged 61, I have devoted over 20 hours a week as a volleyball player, coach and administrator for over 40 years and appreciate the challenges of running clubs, local/regional associations and Volleyball England. For the last year, I have also given 20+ hours a week to Volleyball England.

#### **Club / Tournaments**

- Formed Wessex VC 39 years ago, created/coached its junior programme, coached its NVL teams, raised funds.
- Developed strong links with Bournemouth University, Leaf Academy and local schools
- Founded Sandbanks Beach Volleyball Festival 23 years ago, 140 junior + 40 adult teams in 2014

#### **Area / Regional**

- Volleyball Dorset committee member since formation, Chair for last 19 years
- Former member of the South-West VA committee, SW Junior Development Officer
- England South Cadets Coach, SW boys coach
- Dorset-Hampshire Investment Zone Steering Group member
- Created and fundraise for Mark Pitman Fund for grants to young volleyballers

#### **Nationally**

- President of Volleyball England for the last year
- Previously Marketing, Playing and Finance Directors, and Honorary Vice-President
- Former member of Schools & Junior Development Commission
- England Men's Assistant Coach
- 34 years a Volleyball England Staff Tutor

#### **Outside Volleyball**

Group Finance Director of a group of 10 electronics and leisure companies in the UK, USA and Hong Kong for 24 years. Non-Executive Director for last 2 years, working 2 days a week.

#### **WHY PRESIDENT?**

It is vital that we have experienced volleyballers at the forefront of Volleyball England, as we commence our journey towards Strategy 2024, to meet the challenges, achieve the growth and improve performance. My significant experience in virtually all areas of volleyball can contribute significantly towards this and help ensure that all of volleyball benefits.

The President's role comprises far more than just chairing Board meetings. The President represents Volleyball England's interests with the British, European and world volleyball federations, Sport England, UK Sport etc. Issues such as reducing international transfer fees with other countries, liaising with Directors regarding any Commission problems, and of course, liaising with the National Office. All this takes time and commitment. Working only 2 days a week enables me to put in the time needed.

## **AIMS**

Much of what I hope we would achieve revolves around our Strategy 2024. However, towards this, I would aim to :

1. Give volleyballers a greater voice and thus improve their engagement with VE and contribution towards volleyball's development.
2. Strengthen our pyramid structure from grassroots participation to high-performance volleyball. We need a broad base of young players to feed into our clubs and universities, and to develop top-class adult teams. I would work to improve access for youngsters not at major schools/clubs to receive good coaching and further develop our junior competition structure.
3. Improve consultation with clubs, to help you succeed.
4. Give our top players something to aspire to, we need to enable the England senior squads to start training and playing again.
5. Encourage more clubs to form sitting volleyball sections.



## **Tracy Watkinson Nominated for President at 2015 AGM**

### **Biography**

For the last two years I have been a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Volleyball England. During my time in the sport I have met so many great people, learnt so much, and learnt to love the sport like you do. I would like to see a Volleyball England that everyone involved in the sport will be proud to be part of, from grassroots to international, on grass, on sand, indoor and sitting. I was part of the Volleyball Voice tour, and it was listening to you all that encouraged me to run for President of this great sport.

As a Chief Operating Officer at a tier 1 global investment bank I bring a successful commercial background, essential in any strong NGB. My 'trade' is as a change manager – having led numerous complex organisational and cultural change programmes. My speciality is building and leading effective teams to deliver change successfully.

I want to drive forward the pace of delivery of the strategic initiatives to meet the needs of you, the Volleyball playing community, with transparency for all on progress.

I will improve the relationship between Volleyball England and everyone who is involved in the sport. Ensuring that the services provided by the team at the Head Office are tailored to meet your needs, and that you know what incredible expertise you have on hand.

I will use the entire leadership team effectively. Ensuring that the Board, Commissions, volunteers and Head Office staff operate as a high performing team, and are the collective 'face of volleyball' to members and external stakeholders, leveraging this vast Volleyball knowledge.

I will be accountable to you. Give me one year to execute my plan, at the end of which I will deliver a full review to you. If I haven't delivered and this approach doesn't work, then you can hold me accountable and choose someone else.

My independence from Volleyball is not the traditional background for the President. This allows a different approach, to be straight and open, and focussed on the immediate strategic deliveries at hand.

What I lack in volleyball 'mileage' I make up in commercial acumen, the ability to drive change and lead teams. The Board and wider leadership team has so much strength with volleyball knowledge, that delegating effectively to them is what is needed right now.



## **John Boughton Nominated for Finance Director at 2015 AGM**

### **Biography**

I have been involved with the Board of Volleyball England since 2008 and am applying for re-election for the final time. During my period on the Board, I have supported and challenged the professional staff through a series of changes both in financial systems and processes as well as strategic plans and developments.

I am a qualified accountant and a member of the Chartered Institute of Management. I have over 40 years experience working in the finance function within the automotive industry where I have mainly been involved in financial accounting and budgetary control. Latterly I have worked in a sales division which has developed my commercial and marketing experience.

As regards volleyball, I started my playing career proper at Lancaster University, where I first became involved in running a club and coaching a team. I also organised a regional coaching session, open to the public, whilst at University.

I've been a member of the Riga Volleyball Club since 1973. During this time, I have played in National, Regional and County league teams. I still play regularly at recreational level. For about ten years, I was Treasurer for the club and I have also been Secretary.

I am qualified as a Level III coach and have coached teams at all NVL levels, both men and women. I coached my club's men's team to consecutive National Plate titles as well as promotion to the old Division One where our highest league finish was third. I have also coached at junior level at the Inter-Regional Championships, winning in one year and being runner-up in another at U17 Boys level.

I am a qualified referee and I have been active over the past four seasons in the National League.

I have also acted in various other committee positions within both Warwickshire and West Midlands, primarily as Treasurer but also including Secretary and Coaching Administrator. I also became Chairman of Warwickshire. I have served as Treasurer, European Women's Spring Cup Finals and as Treasurer for the Royal Bank Cup, held in Birmingham. I have also served on the European Finance Commission, CEV.

I therefore feel I have extensive experience of the sport at a grassroots level, as well as the professional and technical experience to bring a rounded and full contribution to the Board of Volleyball England.



## **Jefferson Williams Nominated for Playing Director at 2015 AGM**

### **Biography**

I discovered the sport of volleyball as a teenager in Canada and fell in love with the game whilst watching the 1976 Olympic Games, on television. I have had a passion for the sport since and it has taken me through my university studies, in the United States and to various countries around the world. I arrived in England in 1986, joined Malory Volleyball Club as a player and have been the Club's Head Coach since 1990. I have since dedicated much of my life to giving back to this wonderful sport that has given me so much.

I have been a member of the association for close to 30 years and have served the organisation in a number of roles. I was Men's National Team Coach from 1989 through to 2003. Prior to taking on this role I was Head Coach for England Cadet Girls' team. From 1990 to 1997 I was an Assistant coach to the GB men's Team and was Head Coach (Interim) to the GB Women's Olympic Team. I established and coached VE Women's development squad between 2008 -2013, which provided a link for athletes between VE junior and the GB Women's Team.

I have served on Coaches Commission for over 10 years and on Performance Commissions since 2003. The experiences gained on these commissions have given me a good insight into the working of volleyball. This hopefully demonstrates commitment, dedication and desire to put the time and effort in to the role of Playing Director.

My focus since arriving in England has been on performance and driving the level of performance forward. This has been demonstrated by Malory Teams I have coached, which have won numerous National League titles and Cups. A number of players from these teams have forged professional careers in the game. My background as an International coach has given me a good understanding and experience of performance volleyball that will enable me, working with the Performance Commission, to guide the Board on issues regarding our National Team and performance. I will continue to contribute to the association's delivery to members in the Playing Director's role, fighting for the needs of our talented and high performance athletes.

In 2013 I was co-opted into the Playing Director's role when the previous post holder left and was subsequently elected at the 2014 AGM. I was reluctant to move on from my coaching activities but felt that I was ready and able to serve the needs of performance volleyball in other ways. As the incumbent, I have gained further insight and experience of the working of the board of VE and feel that I can now focus my energy into helping VE National Teams to move the sport forward.

I am very passionate about this sport and I continue to demonstrate this on a daily basis across the Volleyball community. I understand the commitment needed to be the best and I feel that it is vital that VE continue to provide an extended pathway for our talented athletes to develop and succeed. I understand performance, I know the needs of our athletes and I feel that I am ably suited to represent them on the Volleyball England executive board.