

**Eastern Volleyball Federation (EVF)
Annual General Meeting
via MS Teams
7pm 12th June 2022
MINUTES**

Present:

[AC] Alex Chinery (Essex),
 [AP] Alex Porter (Essex),
 [AW] Andrew Whitefield (Suffolk),
 [FB] Frances Balaam (Cambridge VC),
 [HY] Hayden Yates (GYGVC, Norfolk),
 [IK] Iwona Kalisz (Southend VC, Essex)
 [JJ] Jean Jacquet (Cambridge VC),
 [JPDA] Juliana Pallamin-De-Almeida (Cambridge VC),
 [MW] Marzena Wisniewska (WHVC, Herts),
 [MS] Maya Stancheva (Rhinos VC, Cambs),
 [RZ] Robert Zanchi (Rhinos VC, Cambridge),
 [UL] Ursula Lowe (Cambs)

Apologies:

Douglas Tennant (Cambridge VC),
 Emily Keel (Norfolk),
 Glynn Archibald,
 Joel Matthews (Norwich Spikers, Norfolk),
 Lewis Fenech (WHVC, Herts),
 Magdalena Kłodowska (Cambridge VC),
 Michelle Abbot (Suffolk),
 Rees Warren (Suffolk, Essex),
 Rob Dovaston (Suffolk)

<p>17. Quorum for general meetings</p> <p>17.1 No business (other than the appointment of the chair of the meeting) may be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present.</p> <p>17.2 The quorum shall be Five Members entitled to attend and vote from at least three affiliated clubs and at least two Area Associations on the date that the general meeting is to be held.</p> <p>17.3 If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place, or to such time and place as the Executive Committee may determine, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting those present and entitled to vote shall be a quorum.</p>

1. **FB** welcomed everyone and confirmed of those present and any apologies and that we had a quorum.

2. **Setting the scene**

[There are 9 volleyball regions in England](#) – East Midlands, Eastern, South East, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire, North East, North West and London – [key contacts for each region on VE website and on here](#). Being in the Eastern region, EVF stands for Eastern Volleyball Federation and covers all Volleyball England affiliated clubs and members in Beds, Cambs, Essex, Herts, Norfolk and Suffolk.

According to the latest data from VE (June 2022), we have in the Eastern region...

42 affiliated volleyball clubs	76 registered teams - 1x <i>Sitting volleyball team</i> - 34x <i>Junior volleyball teams</i> - 16x <i>Local & Regional teams</i> - 19x <i>NVL teams</i> - 6x <i>University teams</i>	572 active users (registered Junior players, NVL players, Coaches, Referees) - 66x <i>registered referees (8x G3R, 3x G3N, 1x G2, 2x G1 and 52x G4)</i> - 65x <i>registered coaches (38x Level 1, 27x Level 2+)</i>
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The EVF committee was essentially inactive between 2012-2016. Following the Volleyball Voice on 19 Sept 2016, EVF was to be re-established as a working Volleyball England region. The last AGM was held on 25 Feb 2017 where the following people were elected:-

- Chairman – Charlie Hedgecock (Essex)
- Secretary – Frances Balaam (Cambs)
- Treasurer – Steve Rosser (Essex)
- Youth Development Officer – Rachel Laybourne (Essex)
- Refereeing Co-ordinator – Glynn Archibald

Unfortunately, Charlie stepped down in 2018, Steve passed away in 2019 and Glynn resigned earlier this season. This meeting was called as a way to get more members, clubs and counties involved.

3. [Last AGM Minutes \(25 Feb 2017\)](#) agreed. *(proposed by AW, seconded by FB)*
4. FB gave an [overview of the accounts from 2014 to date](#). The Accounts for the periods 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 were adopted. *(proposed by AW, seconded by AC)*

In the last AGM, it was agreed that we would like to see a larger amount of the existing funds be put towards coach and referee development - an investment in coaching and refereeing will have a wide impact on developing more juniors and supporting the adult game.

Below was the budget proposal in 2017. The new committee will have to find ways to generate revenue as well as agreeing on how to support the clubs in the region financially, such as subsidising future junior events, coaching and refereeing courses. IK suggested making use of the Active Partnerships (formerly County Sport Partnerships) eg. [Team Beds & Luton](#) (Beds), [Living Sport](#) (Cambs), [Active Essex](#), [Herts Sports Partnership](#), [Active Norfolk](#) and [Active Suffolk](#).

Action: Committee to discuss fund-raising opportunities eg. can we raise funds via player registrations? Eastern Cup? Knock-out competitions? Sponsorships?

**Eastern Volleyball Federation
Outline budget proposal for 2017AGM February 2017**

This is a discussion proposal. It is based on a three year cycle
As things stand there is no source of income but we start with a balance of c £5,600.

	Notes	2017	2018	2019
Junior Squads	1	1000	1000	1000
Support for coaches	2	250	250	250
Support for Referees	3	150	150	150
Admin	4	100	100	100
Total		1500	1500	1500

Notes

- 1 There are potentially 4 squads. Traditionally they are self financing apart from competition entry fees met by EVF
- 2 This could be a course subsidy, conference, mentoring etc.
- 3 This could be a course subsidy, conference, mentoring etc. There is only one referee course, hence lower sum.
- 4 To cover any meeting, website, printing, travel expenses of officers on regional business

Other possible categories

Regional League - currently self supporting with help from Ruth Nicholls charity
Counties/County Leagues - currently self financing

Outcome

If spent without additional income, this would deplete balances to c £1,100 by the end of year 3.

5. [Constitution](#) reviewed with no changes.

6. **Election of officers:**

Chairperson – Lewis Fenech (Herts) *(proposed by FB, seconded by MW)*

Secretary – Frances Balaam (Cams) *(proposed by AW, seconded by AC)*

Treasurer – Vacant

Vice Chairperson – Jean Jacquet (Cams) *(proposed by FB, seconded by IK)*

Youth Development officer* – Joel Matthews (Norfolk) *(proposed by FB, seconded by IK)*

Refereeing Co-ordinator – Iwona Kalisz (Southend VC, Essex) *(proposed by FB, seconded by AC)*

Coaching Co-ordinator – Alex Chinery (Essex) *(proposed by FB, seconded by IK)*

**FB to confirm with JM*

7. **Bank mandate and signatories:**

The existing signatories are Frances Balaam and Jean Jacquet as the account requires two signatures, it would make sense to have at least 2 people from the same county to be the signatories. FB proposed we add at least one more signatory to the bank mandate.

Action: FB to look into adding an extra committee member to the new mandate.

8. **Junior Development:**

Since the last AGM in 2017, we found a great way to keep the junior development active and strong in the Region. Via whatsapp, junior coaches in the Region are in communication, giving our players more opportunities to train and compete (eg. Eastern Region Volleyball Development Camps pre Covid, junior tournaments in Ipswich, Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Welwyn garden city).

The hardwork and efforts from all the junior coaches and players in the region have produced some brilliant results in the U15s and U17s Inter-regional junior championships. The 2022 results were:

6 th for the U15s girls	5 th for the U15s boys	3 rd for the U17s girls	1 st for the U17s boys
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In July 2021 the Eastern region entered the inaugural IRB, Inter-regional junior Beach Championships in Cardiff – the men’s squad came 2nd and the women’s narrowly missed out in the semi-finals and the subsequent playoffs, each by just 2 points. All the players had a wonderful time and the sentiment was very much shared by their parents.

These competition experiences wouldn’t have happened without the amazing support from all the coaches led by Rees Warren, Alex Chinery, Charlotte Bontems, Chloe Williamson and Callum Banks. Thank you also to Alex Porter with assistance to the junior program.

AC added that this year’s Inter regional junior championships were a success and that they were able to recoup the money spent on training and coaching.

Next steps:

- Rees and Chloe to lead 2022 IRB on 9th and 10th July in Cardiff.
- FB to add Junior coaches who would like to be connected with others in the region to the whatsapp group.

9. Referee and Coaching courses:

It was acknowledged that members in the region would like to find a way to raise the referee standards and to have more referees.

Action:

- a) FB / JJ / Cambridge will be organising a referee course in October, probably on 9 Oct 2022. Essex may run one in September 2022. Check out the [course finder on Volleyball England's website](#) from time to time. To find out how to organise a course, please [click here](#).
- b) FB to do a poll to gauge interest re an Assistant coach award, Level 2 and Level 3 courses in May or June 2023 when most NVL matches are finished.
- c) Next meeting to talk about budgeting/ funding support eg. 25%, 50% after successful coaching/refereeing qualification?
- d) FB / IK to contact and add referees to a whatsapp group – “Eastern Volleyball Referees”
- e) Get qualified referees to register with VE every year so that they are on the system.
- f) In order to raise the refereeing standard, G4 referees need to gain more experience by refereeing more matches, to be observed and assessed to G3R, G3N, G2..etc
- g) We appreciate some referees may be put off by the unsportsmanlike behaviours of some players or coaches. To encourage a healthier competitive environment for all, MW suggested speaking to both captains at the start of each match, setting the behaviour standard and expectations (a code of conduct) from the off.
- h) For teams who do not adhere to the code of contact, referees can refer them to the Regional Refereeing co-ordinator, IK.
- i) Volleyball England has a youtube channel for referees – [Let's talk rules](#) which is a good way to educate the membership.
- j) Qualified coaches are also recommended to register with VE, attend coaching conference...etc
- k) IK to contact all qualified referees in the Eastern region and gauge their interest in joining the Eastern refereeing whatsapp group.
- l) AC to contact all qualified coaches in the Eastern region and gauge their interest in joining the Eastern coaching whatsapp group.

10. Role of region reviewed and adopted as follows:-

Youth Development Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appoint coaches to become regional junior coaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Indoor coaches for 2021-2022: Rees Warren and Alex Chinery</i> • <i>Beach coach for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022: Rees Warren</i> - Liaise with the coaches as and when required - First point of contact for Volleyball England relating to junior competitions - Support the coaches eg. admin, entering the Region into a competition, writing reports, liaising with parents if need be...etc - Connect with the junior coaches via Whatsapp - Initiate discussions / generate ideas with the junior coaches or executive committee in the Region that will benefit the junior development side of things in the East. - Organise Inter-county junior tournaments or leagues?
Committee	<p>Hold annual meetings Attend Volleyball England Regional Commission Generate ideas on fund-raising for the Region</p>
Secretary	<p>Pass on information to / from Volleyball England Publish minutes Submit annual reports to Volleyball England</p>
Treasurer	<p>General accounting Budgeting - Financial subsidies for coaching and referee courses?</p>
Refereeing co-ordinator	<p>Connect with other referees in the Region via Whatsapp Lead a referee mentor program Assist Counties / Clubs in organising courses</p>
Coaching co-ordinator	<p>AC to email FB re ideas.</p>
Competitions	<p>Run open region league</p>

11. AOB:

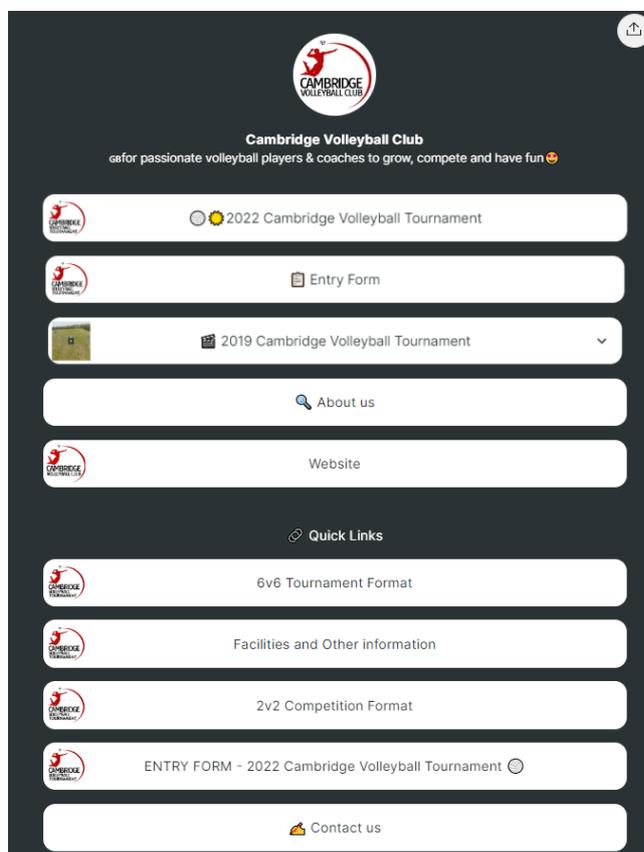
- a. Uni of Essex plans / Coaching clinics and playing clinics
 - AP outlined plans as Uni of Essex are hosting events on Wednesdays (7.30pm onwards) from October whereby spectators are welcome to watch sporting events such as Super League volleyball matches (free-of-charge).
 - They would also be happy to run workshops for coaches and/or players - eg. 3hrs on Saturday morning for Serve/receive.

- b. What up-coming tournaments are available?
 - i. **10 July 2022** – Volley 3s for U13s (Year 7/8s) Festival at Kettering, National Volleyball Centre 10am-5pm. £15 per team, [please fill in form](#) before **21st June 2022**.

 - ii. **16 July 2022** - Boswells school is running a tournament. £5 per player (outdoor, Juniors and Seniors). **Deadline 10th July 2022**. Please see poster below for details and entries to dls@boswells-school.com

 - iii. **13th & 14th August 2022** - Cambridge Volleyball Tournament (outdoor, Mixed div 1/2/3, Men's div ½, Women's and Junior coaching and games). **Deadline 1st August 2022**. Details on <https://linktr.ee/CambridgeVC>

 - iv. Rob Dovaston from Castle Manor Academy in Haverhill would be happy to attend or host 3v3s for under 12/13s and 4v4s or 6v6s for under 14s/15s/16s. Please contact Rob, Alex Chinery or Frances if you are interested.



- c. **28 July – 8 August 2022** - Beach Volleyball at the 2022 Commonwealth games in Birmingham. Tickets can be purchased from <https://tickets.birmingham2022.com/accountLogin.html>
- d. Committee to discuss ways to recognise players, coaches, referees, volunteers..etc eg. Eastern awards? Athlete highlights?
- e. Volleyball England are looking for a new chair for networks and clubs to support counties and club structures. Please contact them or Frances if you are interested.

~ Meeting adjourned at 8.30pm ~

Useful Links from meeting:

1. Volleyball Regional Associations - <https://www.volleyballengland.org/support/regional-associations>
2. Active Partnerships (formerly County Sport Partnerships):
 - a. [Team Beds & Luton](#) (Beds)
 - b. [Living Sport](#) (Cambs)
 - c. [Active Essex](#)
 - d. [Herts Sports Partnership](#)
 - e. [Active Norfolk](#) and
 - f. [Active Suffolk](#)
3. [EVF Constitution](#)
4. [Volleyball England - Refereeing or Coaching Course finder](#)
5. [How to organise a Volleyball England course](#)
6. [Let's talk rules](#) – youtube channel for volleyball rules. 
7. [Volley 3s for U13s on 10 July 2022 entry form](#) before 21st June 2022.
8. [Boswells school volleyball tournament on 16 July 2022](#) before 10th July 2022.
9. Beach Volleyball at the 2022 Commonwealth games in Birmingham from 28 July – 8 August 2022. **Tickets can be purchased from** <https://tickets.birmingham2022.com/accountLogin.html>
10. [Cambridge Volleyball Tournament on 13th and 14th August 2022](#) before 1st August 2022. More information on <https://linktr.ee/CambridgeVC> 