

31st May 2024,

Dear Member,

NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 22ND JUNE 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the English Volleyball Association Limited will be held at 11:30am on **Saturday, 22nd June 2024**. The formal notice is set out in Appendix 1 of this document pack and specifies the purpose of the meeting.

This information is sent to all Members of the Association entitled to receive notices of general meetings, but kindly note that only Affiliated Clubs are eligible to vote (in accordance with Article 9.1.1 of the Articles of Association). Those who are not eligible to vote are still welcome to attend the AGM.

A light lunch will be provided for all attendees from 1.30pm. To assist with our hosting arrangements, we ask that all those planning to attend complete the '[Volleyball England 2024 AGM Attendance Form](#)' no later than Thursday, 20th June 2024.

This pack sets out the procedures for the AGM and how you can vote. In addition, to maximise interaction with your Board and the AGM we will also:

- live stream the AGM via Volleyball England's YouTube channel so anyone not able to attend is able to watch the AGM live (and a recording will be on the website after the event).
- enable the submission of questions to the Board in advance of the meeting. These will be answered in advance, and some may be covered at the meeting also. The answers will be posted on the Volleyball England website in line with the timetable set out below. Depending on the number of questions received, we may group certain questions together when providing an answer.

As usual we will be holding a poll vote on each of the resolutions. Voting can be carried out at the AGM by appointing an authorised representative or a proxy in accordance with the process set out in Appendix 3 of this document pack. A draft voting form is included within Appendix 3. The final voting form and appointment of representatives/proxy forms will be issued directly to members on Monday 10th June 2024.

PLEASE NOTE – CLUBS MUST TAKE ACTION PRIOR TO THE AGM TO BE ABLE TO VOTE EVEN IF ATTENDING IN PERSON. PLEASE ACTION THIS PROMPTLY.

Enclosed within this document pack are the following:

Appendix 1	Notice of AGM 2024 and minutes of 2023 AGM
Appendix 2	Description of process, timetable, and details on question process
Appendix 3	Information on how to vote
Appendix 4	Management Accounts
Appendix 5	Annual Report
Appendix 6	Resolution form
Appendix 7	Board member & Delivery Lead Bio's

Affiliated Clubs should read carefully these papers and in particular the timetable so that they can take relevant actions in good time prior to the AGM. Members that are ineligible to vote are still entitled to ask questions and welcome to attend or view the live stream of the AGM.

We routinely consult with Members over matters relating to governance because we welcome and value the views and input that our Members provide.

Members also have responsibilities, both to other Members and to the sport. Members should have the best interests of the sport at the forefront of their conduct and act in a manner that is compatible with the standards of conduct that Volleyball England expects from its Members.

We look forward to welcoming you at the AGM.

Yours

Charlie Ford, Company Secretary

**APPENDIX 1
NOTICE OF AGM**

COMPANY NUMBER: 02023635

ENGLISH VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(the Company)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is given that an annual general meeting of the Company will be held on 22nd June 2024 at 11:30pm at SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough University, Loughborough LE11 3QF for the following purposes:

1. to receive from the Directors the draft management accounts of the Company and the auditor's comments on those accounts for the financial year ended **31st March 2024**;
2. to receive a report by the Directors containing a review of the operating activities of the Company since the previous AGM and the Company's annual report.
3. to receive notice of the appointment of Jill Osleger in accordance with the company's articles as an Independent Director.

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following resolutions that will be proposed as ordinary resolutions:

4. To re-appoint Duncan and Toplis as auditor of the Company to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which management accounts are laid and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.
5. To elect Alison Shipway in accordance with the company's articles as an Elected Director.
6. To elect Tracy Newton in accordance with the company's articles as an Elected Director.
7. To elect Jessica Keen in accordance with the company's articles as an Elected Director.
8. To appoint Simon Cowie in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as Competitions Delivery Lead.
9. To appoint Stephen McKeown in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as Coaching Delivery Lead

10. To appoint Adam Barr in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as Clubs and Networks Delivery Lead.

By order of the Board

Charlie Ford, Company Secretary

SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough University, Loughborough LE11 3QF

DRAFT AGM MINUTES FROM 2023

Draft minutes of Volleyball England's 2023 AGM, held at 11.30pm on 22 July 2023 at SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough LE11 3QF are available to view on our website [here](#). You can also view the and via YouTube live stream [here](#).

APPENDIX 2
DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS, TIMETABLE AND DETAILS ON QUESTION PROCESS

1. Timetable

The timetable for activity leading up to the AGM and for the AGM is set out below for clarity. Members should take careful note of the timetable and in particular closing dates for activity.

Activity	Date	Submit Information via
Issue of notice	Friday 31 st May 2024	
Period for questions to be received from members	Friday 31 st May to 5pm Friday 14 th June 2024	governance@volleyballengland.org
Closing date for receipt of any special resolutions	5pm Saturday 8 th June 2024	governance@volleyballengland.org
Issue of final voting paper	Monday 10 th June 2024	NA
Answers to questions submitted	Tuesday 18 th June 2024	NA
Period for appointment of authorised representative and/or proxy by Affiliated Clubs	Monday 10 th June until 5pm Thursday 20 th June 2024	governance@volleyballengland.org
AGM	Saturday 22 nd June 2024	NA

2. Question Period

Members are invited to submit questions to the directors in advance of the meeting. These may be questions about the financial statements, the annual report, any of the resolutions of the meeting or the operation of Volleyball England over the last 12 months.

To ask a question please email governance@volleyballengland.org, including your name and question. The closing date for asking questions is 5pm on Friday 14th June 2024 in order to allow time for them to be answered in advance of the closing date for appointment of authorised representatives or proxies who are instructed in their voting. We will not accept or respond to questions that are submitted anonymously or not from members.

The directors, together with the senior management team, will answer the questions in written form in advance of the meeting so that members have the answers and can consider them in advance (and for voting members they can consider the answers in advance of exercising their vote). The questions will be answered on an ongoing basis up to 5pm on Tuesday 18th June 2024. The questions will be posted anonymously with the answers on the Volleyball England website. Depending on the number of questions received, we may group certain questions together when providing an answer.

At the AGM the directors may expand on some of the questions received, but will not cover again all answers provided previously in the interests of time.

3. Management Accounts and Annual Report

A link to the draft management accounts is included within Appendix 4 of this document pack. Given our audit timetable with Duncan & Toplis, it is not possible to supply audited accounts at the AGM.

A link to the annual report is included at Appendix 5 of this document pack. This includes reports from the Chair, CEO, Deputy CEO, Financial Consultant, and various officers on the activity of Volleyball England over the last 12 months.

These documents will be received by the meeting in accordance with Article 20.3 and are provided for members to review in advance. No specific action is required in relation to these documents.

4. Nominations for Directors and Delivery Leads

In accordance with the Company's Framework Document, the Board recommends to Affiliated Clubs the appointment of Simon Cowie as Competitions Delivery Lead, Adam Barr as Clubs and Networks Delivery Lead and Stephen McKeown as Coaching Delivery Lead.

In accordance with Article 31.6 and following an open recruitment process to identify individuals with relevant skills and experience in line with our Board Skills Matrix, the Board recommends to Affiliated Clubs the appointments of Alison Shipway, Tracy Newton and Jessica Keen as Elected Directors subject to election by Ordinary Resolution at the General Meeting. Summary candidate profiles are set out in Appendix 7.

In accordance with Article 31.5, the Board shall, from the date of the General Meeting, appoint Jill Osleger as an Independent Director. This is not subject to any election. A summary candidate profile is set out Appendix 7 for the information of Members only.

5. Special Resolution

Any special resolution in accordance with Article 20.4 must be received by the Chair by 5pm on Saturday 8th June 2024. The form for submitting a special resolution is included in Appendix 6 of this document pack. If a valid special resolution is received in accordance with Article 20.4, it shall be circulated on Monday 10th June 2024 together with the final voting form, which will include the details of the special resolution.

6. Voting

Please read carefully Appendix 3 of this document pack, which sets out details on how voting members (Affiliated Clubs) are able to vote at the AGM by appointing an authorised representative or appointing a proxy. Note this includes a **DRAFT** voting form.

The final appointment form with final voting form will be issued on **Monday 10th June 2024** following the step detailed in section 5.

Appointment of authorised representatives and proxies must be returned by **5pm on Thursday 20th June 2024** and may be rejected if returned after this date.

7. AGM

Voting members and non-voting members are all welcome to attend this year's AGM in person and we do very much hope you will be able to join us. Please note to vote your **authorised representative will need to join in person or you must appoint a proxy who is present in person. Note you can appoint the Chair of the meeting if you do not know anyone attending in person.**

In addition, for those not able to join us in person, the AGM will be streamed live via Volleyball England's YouTube channel. A link will be made available on the Volleyball England website on the day.

APPENDIX 3

INFORMATION ON HOW TO VOTE AND APPOINTMENT FORM

8. Entitlement to vote

- 8.1 In accordance with Article 10.1, Affiliated Clubs are the members that are entitled to vote at the AGM.
- 8.2 Affiliated Clubs must be fully paid up for the 2023-24 affiliation season prior to the date of this notice to be entitled to vote.

9. Voting process

- 9.1 A poll vote will be held on each of the resolutions at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.2 Affiliated Clubs are entitled to vote (in line with Article 24.5) in two ways which are:
- 9.2.1 by appointing a proxy to exercise its rights by issuing a proxy notice (in accordance with Article 26); or
- 9.2.2 by authorising a person or persons to act as its representative or representatives (in accordance with Article 27).
- 9.3 **To appoint an appointed representative or proxy each Club must complete an appointment form. A draft example of this is set out below (“Appointment Form”). Note that this is a DRAFT form – the final form for use will be issued on Monday 10th June 2024 and will contain the same information but in an MS forms format to facilitate use. You may use the word version or the MS Form – but it is recommended you use the MS form for ease and reduce likely errors or submission of an invalid form.**
- 9.4 Please follow the guidance notes for completion carefully to ensure that the appointment of a proxy or representative is valid. If you do not know anyone attending, you can appoint the Chair of the meeting as your proxy.
- 9.5 In order to vote, each Affiliated Club must complete the final issued Appointment Form via MS Forms or by completing the word version below. If you use MS forms you are required to validate your club’s response. Please email governance@volleyballengland.org from the email address that we hold on VolleyZone for your club with the following information:
- Name
 - Club
 - Date and time of appointment form submission.

Your submission and accompanying email must be received by 5pm on Thursday 20th June 2024. Any appointment forms/emails received after this time will not be valid.

- 9.6 If a valid Appointment Form has not been received by Charlie Ford, Company Secretary via governance@volleyballengland.org by 5pm on Thursday 20th June 2024, then the club will not be eligible to have a vote at the AGM but can still attend.
- 9.7 Please note:
- 9.7.1 **Each Affiliated Club must complete an Appointment Form even if it is the Club's chairperson, secretary or other committee member that is attending the AGM.**
- 9.7.2 Each Affiliated Club can appoint either a proxy or an Authorised Representative. An Authorised Representative is likely to be someone from your club that you are confirming will represent the club on the day in person. A proxy is likely to be a third party individual that you (as a club) are authorising to exercise your club's rights at the meeting. This can be the Chair of the meeting or another individual that you know is attending the AGM.
- 10. Procedures**
- 10.1 In order to ensure fair process in the appointment of representatives/proxies, Affiliated Clubs should note as follows:
- 10.1.1 the Appointment Form must be completed by the Chairperson, General Secretary or Treasurer of the Affiliated Club who must use their email address registered on VolleyZone at the time that the relevant Appointment Form is completed and until the AGM date. If you need to change the registered email address registered on VolleyZone address, please email membership@volleyballengland.org .
- 10.1.2 Volleyball England may conduct spot checks by telephoning individuals (via the contact details held on VolleyZone) that have submitted an Appointment Form on behalf of their Club in order to ensure it is a valid record of that Club's indications.
- 10.2 Note that receipt of Appointment Forms will be acknowledged within one working day of receipt. Therefore, Affiliated Clubs should email governance@volleyballengland.org if they have not received acknowledgment within one working day in order to verify that the Affiliated Clubs' Appointment Form has been received.
- 10.3 If two or more Appointment Forms are received from the same Affiliated Club, Volleyball England shall (unless agreed otherwise in writing with the Club's general secretary) rely on the last valid Appointment Form received prior to the closing date for receipt of forms as being the form that sets out the appointment indications of that Affiliated Club.

11. Appointment Form

- 11.1 The information that will be required in the Appointment Form is set out below. Completion of the Appointment Form (in MS Forms once released or via word and then emailed to governance@volleyballengland.org) shall be sufficient as a Proxy Notice to meet the requirements of Article 26 or to appoint an Appointed Representative in accordance with Article 27.
- 11.2 The final Appointment Form will be issued on Monday 10th June 2024 in accordance with the timetable and in MS forms format. Further information is set out in Appendix 2 above.

APPOINTMENT FORM

The Appointment Form will be open from Monday 10th June 2024 and can be found as an MS form [here](#).

Appointment Form – Volleyball England AGM 2024

The purpose of this form is twofold.

Part A – Appointment of proxy or appointed representative (all Clubs to complete)

Where each affiliated Club will declare their representative. This may be an appointed representative or a proxy. The proxy vote may be given to the Chair to hold or to another person attending the meeting.

Part B – Voting indications

This is for Clubs that have determined how their proxy or representative shall vote at the meeting. If you do not complete this section, the proxy or representative will be able to use their discretion on any vote within the meeting.

The MS form will open from Monday 10th June 2024 to 5pm 20th June 2024.

Once completed, and to validate your club's response, please email governance@volleyballengland.org from the email address that we hold on VolleyZone for your club with the following information:

- Name
- Club
- Date and time of appointment form submission.

Your submission and accompanying email must be received by 5pm on Thursday 20th June 2024, any appointment forms/emails received after this time will not be valid.

YOUR DETAILS

You need to complete this form by 5pm on Thursday 20 June 2024. Any forms received after this date may not be accepted.

Full Name
Position held at Affiliated Club (Note to complete this form must be Chairperson, General Secretary or Treasurer as registered on VolleyZone) <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Chairpersono General Secretaryo Treasurer

Email Address (Note must match that registered for Club Chair, General Secretary or Treasurer on VolleyZone)
Affiliated Club Name
Affiliated Club Affiliation Number (can be located on VolleyZone)

PART A – APPOINTMENT OF PROXY OR APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE

Please declare your club’s preference.

OPTION A - Appoint a club member as your appointed representative at the AGM who must attend the AGM to vote (this may be yourself if you are attending).

OPTION B - Nominate the Chair of the meeting to vote by proxy on behalf of your club.

OPTION C - Nominate another attendee to vote by proxy on behalf of your club.

Please note.

By selecting your option, you confirm that the appointment of the proxy or authorised representative is duly authorised by the Affiliated Club in accordance with your constitutional procedures.

Volleyball England reserve the right to check the status of a nominated proxy or Authorised Representative

OPTION A	Appoint a club member as your appointed representative at the AGM who must attend the AGM to vote (this may be yourself if you are attending).	i
	Name your club representative:	
OPTION B	Nominate the Chair of the meeting to vote by proxy on behalf of your club.	i
OPTION C	Nominate another attendee to vote by proxy on behalf of your club.	i
	Name your proxy:	

PART B – VOTING INDICATIONS

Do you want to determine in advance how your proxy or appointed representative can vote on the day or leave them to use their discretion to vote in the meeting?

i	Set out our votes now
i	Let Proxy/Appointed Representative decide in the meeting

Resolution Group 1 - Appointment of auditors
 To re-appoint Duncan and Toplis as auditor of the Company to hold office from the

conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which management accounts are laid and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration
<input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

Resolution Group 2 – Election of Directors
To elect Alison Shipway in accordance with the Company’s Articles of Association as an Elected Director .
<input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
To elect Tracy Newton in accordance with the Company’s Articles of Association as an Elected Director .
<input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
To elect Jessica Keen in accordance with the Company’s Articles of Association as an Elected Director .
<input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

Resolution Group 3 – Election of Delivery Leads
To elect Simon Cowie in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as the Competitions Delivery Lead .
<input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
To elect Adam Barr in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as the Clubs & Networks Delivery Lead .
<input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
To elect Stephen McKeown in accordance with the Company's Framework Document as the Coaching Delivery Lead .
<input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

Once completed, and to validate your club’s response, please email governance@volleyballengland.org from the email address that we hold on VolleyZone for

your club with the following information:

- Name
- Club
- Date and time of appointment form submission.

Your submission and accompanying email must be received by 5pm on Thursday 20th June 2024, any appointment forms/emails received after this time will not be valid.

APPENDIX 4
DRAFT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Volleyball England's 2023-24 Draft Management Accounts be viewed [here](#).

**APPENDIX 5
ANNUAL REPORT**

Due to the file's size, Volleyball England's 2023-2024 Annual Report has been uploaded to the website. Please click [here](#) to view it.

APPENDIX 6 RESOLUTION FORM

Any special resolution in accordance with Article 20.4 must be received by the Chair by 5pm on Saturday 8th June 2024 and should be submitted using the form below. Forms should be emailed to governance@volleyballengland.org. Receipt of an email with a special resolution at this address will deem the form to be received by the Chair.

The Directors welcome proposed resolutions from Members that will benefit the sport. Members are reminded that any proposed resolutions will only receive the support of the Directors if they are consistent with Volleyball England’s Articles of Association and compliant with legal and regulatory requirements.

Resolution (max. 500 words)

We hereby propose the above-mentioned special resolution for consideration by the Executive Board.

Proposed by	
Name (please PRINT IN BLOCK)	

CAPITALS)	
Affiliated club name and number	
Position held within Affiliated Club	
Signature	
Date	

Note – resolutions must be seconded by the Executive board or by two (2) Affiliated Clubs separate to the proposer.

Seconded by	
Name (please PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS)	
Affiliated Club name and affiliation number	
Position held within Affiliated Club	
Signature	
Date	

Seconded by	
Name (please PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS)	
Affiliated Club name and affiliation number	
Position held within Affiliated Club	
Signature	
Date	

APPENDIX 7 BOARD MEMBER AND DELIVERY LEAD BIOGRAPHIES

1. Elected Directors – In accordance with and in support of ordinary resolution group 2.

Alison Shipway



Alison’s passion and support of volleyball kicked off by being an active parent and volunteer member of Black Country Volleyball Club. She has seen it all – from travelling the country to support in matches, to advising on club development and sponsoring fundraising events.

She has nearly 30 years’ experience working in the private and public sector supporting organisations to develop effective strategies, leadership, people, culture and Boards.

Alison works primarily in the world of sport and physical activity and is passionate about the power of sport to improve people’s lives. She sat as Vice Chair and Senior Independent Director for the Active Partnerships National Board for six years and has worked with numerous local Active Partnerships, National Governing Bodies, Sport England, and community organisations in and around sport.

Tracy Newton



Tracy’s volleyball story is the reason she wants to add value to the Volleyball England board. She feels she has been fortunate to have had a positive and life-changing experience in volleyball because of those who have encouraged, mentored, coached, and supported her.

Some of those influential people have since passed on, but she believes she can play a part to continue to offer to others what they gave her - a safe and happy environment in which to be involved in a sport they love. If she is able to be part of a team who inspire and influence young people and adults to do their best and improve their skills and confidence, then she wants to be part of that team.

Tracy has a strong desire to continue to provide a safe and positive environment for young people and adults in volleyball. She believes she can influence culture to continue to help shape the knowledge that safeguarding children and adults is everyone's responsibility. She would like to be involved in a role that can influence and advise how VE can further achieve this. She believes she can share her knowledge and experience on effective systems, processes, and governance of safeguarding for the organisation.

In Tracy's professional career in healthcare for 30 years, she has consistently been exposed to the significance and importance of safeguarding children and adults. She has experience of raising, reporting, and investigating alerts and concerns (enquiries). As a leader of healthcare services, she has also held responsibilities for oversight and governance of safeguarding systems and processes. In her current role as a healthcare regulator, Tracy holds all providers of health and social care services and local authorities to account (within legislation) for good governance and safe delivery of safeguarding practice.

Tracy has a passion for governance and accountability - it's the part of her current role she enjoys the most. She believes organisations work best in an open culture where skills and enthusiasm of individuals is stronger when combined and committed to a vision. Tracy promotes values of integrity, honesty, teamwork, and kindness. She sees all roles she undertakes as a privilege to be part of the bigger picture to improve experiences of those who use 'services'. She takes responsibilities seriously and offers her full engagement to roles as she is driven to achieve the highest standards of delivery.

Jessica Keen



Jessica is the Head of Sales and Marketing for the Powertrain business at JCB, a global manufacturer of construction and agricultural equipment. As the Head of the Powertrain division, Jessica is responsible for the external sales and marketing of JCB engines, axles and transmissions to equipment manufacturers around the world through a hybrid network of distribution and direct sales.

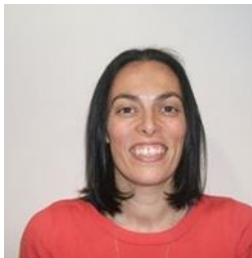
Prior to joining JCB, Jessica was the Strategy and Marketing Director for Moteurs Baudouin, a marine and power generation engine manufacturer based in Cassis, France. As a Weichai Group subsidiary, Jessica also held the position of Overseas Brand Director for Weichai Power. Prior to Moteurs Baudouin, Jessica held various product and marketing leadership roles at Cummins Power Generation in Kent, England.

As a volleyball athlete, Jessica played club at Sky High in Crystal Lake, Illinois, USA and earned a full scholarship to play for the NCAA Division II Michigan Tech Huskies. Following university, Jessica coached for NAIA teams and girls club volleyball teams ranging from U14 to U18. She is currently the U15 girls' assistant coach at Newcastle Staffs Volleyball Club.

Jessica hails from Chicago, Illinois, USA and holds an MBA with Merit from The Open University in Milton Keynes, UK and a bachelor's degree in Industrial Marketing and Management from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan, USA.

2. Independent Director – For information only.

Jill Osleger



Jill loves sport and the power it has to positively impact people's lives, either physically and/or mentally. She feels everyone, regardless of background, should have the opportunity to get involved whether they play, compete or support activity.

She has worked for the LTA for over 11 years, six of which was with the Tennis Foundation as National Disability Development Manager, responsible for its Disability programme, Open Court. This programme has grown to engagement with over 500 venues and coaches enabling over 15,000 participants with a disability to play tennis.

Jill has worked in the public, private, not-for-profit and NGB sectors so has a unique insight into the sports industry, in which she has worked for over 20 years.

Her role within the LTA plays a critical role in mobilising every aspect of the tennis ecosystem in her area, both traditional and new, ensuring a joined-up approach to maximise impact, with a focus on growing and diversifying the player base.

Jill leads the implementation and ongoing delivery of the centrally developed tennis and padel participation strategy across a designated geography, through all tennis delivery channels, ensuring alignment with the organisation's vision, mission, and objectives.

She build and maintains high-level relationships with key delivery partners, including local authorities, Active Partnerships, tennis operator, and other tennis providers, to influence and support the successful execution of the strategy and its activities at a local to regional level.

3. Delivery Leads – In accordance with and in support of ordinary resolution group 3.

Simon Cowie – Competitions



Simon was first introduced to volleyball in 1976 whilst at school and has been involved in volleyball ever since. Initially taking up the spot as a player, he subsequently became a coach, referee and was involved in club management before volunteering as a Competitions Working Group member. Here, he looks after Division 2 men, and, in this last year, has acted as Competitions Working Group lead.

Under his leadership. the Competitions Working Group has overseen a number of major initiatives during the 2023-24 season, including the NVL 5-year Vision, changes to the National Cup and Shield competitions and delivering the Super League Opening Weekend and Final 4 events, both of which were huge successes.

Despite these successes, there is much development and fine-tuning still needed. Having led on the initial changes. Simon wants to be able to carry on and deliver in these areas, so a structure and competitions format is developed that is fit for the future, and, importantly, is what the membership wants.

Adam Barr – Clubs and Networks



Adam often remarks that he was “lucky” to attend a high school where volleyball was taken seriously, “lucky” that the school had a strong connection to the local volleyball club, and “lucky” that the club had high performing teams and talented coaches. This luck allowed Adam to compete at a national Level, experience promotions and relegations, make countless new friends, become a qualified referee, and develop into a better volleyball player and a confident and outgoing person.

However, Adam does not believe these opportunities should be so dependent on luck and he hopes that, as the Delivery Lead for Clubs and Networks, he can help provide more people with the opportunity to experience what he credits to his personal growth and success.

Adam started playing volleyball at age 11 with Newcastle Staffs Volleyball Club. He went on to play in multiple National Junior competitions with the club, as well as Inter Regional competitions with West Midlands. He made his National Volleyball League debut with Newcastle Staffs aged 16.

Adam hopes his experience of English Volleyball and passion for the sport can benefit volleyball players nationwide, regardless of if they have years of competitive experience or just want to try out a new sport. His Masters degree in Computer Science also gives him a wealth of knowledge to understand where technology can empower clubs and players and where it can be a burden.

He hopes that by contributing his knowledge and energy to the Get. Keep. Grow. Sub-group, he can help strengthen the English volleyball club structure, improve the quality of volleyball in the country, and help more people discover the life changing experiences available through volleyball.

Stephen McKeown – Coaching



Stephen McKeown has been engaged in coach education and development for 30 years. For the last 16 years, he has taught on the undergraduate and master Sport Coaching courses at Leeds Beckett University (LBU); the last six years as Course Director.

Central to Stephen’s coaching philosophy is that coaches should adopt appropriate practice structures and coaching behaviours to meet the needs and aspirations of the

player. He says there should not be one 'preferred' way of coaching at the expense of others and that a coach should have an abundance of tools in his/ her toolbox that he or she can call upon when required. It is knowing what tool to adopt and how to use it is the challenge, he believes, and this is what makes coaching interesting but demanding.

Much has been made of player welfare and the work that needs to be done. However, coach welfare has been totally neglected, believes Stephen. Coaches need not just to cope, but thrive, in a society where actions, words and behaviours can be exposed, scrutinised, and judged via social media, he says. Players, parents and other stakeholders also expect so much more from the coach in terms of standards and transparency and, he feels, there is a need to reflect on how to best prepare and support coaches to meet these challenges.

Finally, Stephen's response to the question 'why would you like to be considered for the voluntary position of Delivery Lead?' was simple. 'Because it is important', he replied. Stephen believes he can contribute to coach development. He feels that he has the advocacy skills to harness and take on board the knowledge of other coach practitioners and developers who are equally passionate about coaching volleyball.