

Yorkshire Volleyball Association – AGM

Wednesday 13th June 2018
7.30pm, York Sport Club

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1 Apologies and attendance

Apologies

Simon Cowie – Referee Coordinator

Mo Buckson - Treasurer

Sheffield Volleyball Club not represented

Hull Volleyball club not represented

Attendance

Attendees names and contacts removed.

2 Minutes – Volleyball England

Please find the presentation attached.

Do not miss: Volleyball England AGM 21st July in Loughborough at 2 PM

3 Officer Reports

3.1 Chairs Report

17/18 Yorkshire Volleyball Association Chairs Report

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who keep volleyball in the region running, especially to the Executive Committee of YVA and also all those who run all the clubs and sessions in Yorkshire. Yorkshire makes an excellent contribution to the successful NVL and there is an increasing desire to play NVL with 3 new women's teams entered from Yorks in 17/18 and a further team in 18/19. Well done to Sheffield Hallam Men for coming third in Super 8 League season. Well done particularly to York Vipers, who were Womens 3N champions losing only 1 game - to Hull Thunder who were also promoted. Well done as well to Miners Doncaster winning 3N Mens and York who were also promoted to 2N.

I have represented Yorkshire on the Regional Commission at meetings in and telecons as the sport rebuilds after previous very challenging times for the sport nationally. It is interesting to hear how other regions get on and I share how we work. I have fed my thoughts and those of the others in YVA when required.

YVA Leagues - have run well as usual - I will let secretaries comment. I was secretary for Yorkshire Women's Div 1 which had a lot of junior players and those newer to the game but needs more teams for next season to help it grow and give these players more competition. York Wolves won and are heading to the Premier League, York Pumas were 2nd, Barnsley, Doncaster Miners and York St John also took part.

On juniors the YVA Programme grew from strength to strength, competing in age groups and at the Inter-regional competition - James will update more fully. We need the junior programme to grow with support from clubs and coaches. We are very grateful for the support from the Brid Beach event who sponsored the team and to Ruth Gorse Academy for use of their venue.

Look forward to working with everyone again next year - we are always looking for more people to support the Executive and are welcoming new people for the coming year.

3.2 Secretary's Report

Thank you to all volunteers.

3.3 Treasurer's Report - *Muhammad Buckson*

The financial positions are as follows:

Main Account £6,084.92 with an unrepresented chq of £300(chq No. 98 dated 20/6/13 to Karl re Website Result Service)

Junior Account £2,575.35. £1000 from Dave not in yet.

We also have a bond account which is not online and the balance was £783.31 on the 04/07/2013.

All the above details can be seen as per attached spreadsheet.

All league fees due can be found on the tab "2017-18 Fees as at 31 May 2018". Some of the amount due might have to written off.

3.4 Youth Development Officer's Report - James Oliver

Yorkshire Junior Programme

This year we will take 3 teams to inter regionals. This is a fantastic achievement as in our original plan we aimed to take 2 teams to our first competition. The hope for next year is to take all 4 teams to inter regionals.

Actions: - More players (we currently will have a 2-3 full teams next year based on current transition figures and I feel increased squad sizes are essential); More volunteers – we currently have 4 coaches and 2 team managers and this has made it very challenging at times this year, more team managers and coaches are essential; More playing opportunities – inter regionals, although a great opportunity, its time of year is not ideal for the majority of older participants as exam pressures are much greater around that time of year, so more playing opportunities are needed. I propose arranging friendlies with North East, North West and West Midlands for Boys and North East and East Midlands for the Girls as a minimum and agreeing these dates earlier in the year as regions are very hard to organise after Christmas.

Junior Development Review

This year, on behalf of the clubs, Yorkshire entered teams into the Under 18's boys and girls, Under 16's boys and Under 15's Boys and Girls competitions. The Under 18's Boys, Under 16's Boys, Under 15's Boys and Under 15's Girls all made it to the 2nd Round of each competition and learnt that the level around the country is much higher than in our region. The reason for this is down to teams training 2-3 times a week and playing matches fortnightly, weekly or monthly.

Action: Increase the amount of training and playing opportunities.

We have seen sides such as Leeds, Barnsley and York have all given juniors playing opportunities in the Yorkshire Regional leagues this year which is a great opportunity however this is still only a limited number of players involved.

Action: Increase more playing opportunities and with the help of Dave Speers (Leeds) and Dave Roberts (Sheffield and England) a calendar is currently being developed to run development festivals and playing opportunities.

Clubs such as Barnsley, York, Leeds and Hull have all ran sessions of which juniors are welcome to train and play. The next step is take this to the next level with an organised calendar building towards recruiting more juniors and volunteers. Leeds are currently planning to set up junior only squads and school competitions in Leeds and if this was replicated across the region then this would certainly develop the game amongst juniors substantially.

Action: Clubs to assign a Junior representative and meet with me to discuss options in preparation for the new season.

Beach and Indoor crossover

This year we have seen a crossover of beach and indoor that wasn't apparent last year. With some beach dates taking place on Yorkshire training camps. This then lead to some players and coach being pulled in two directions. I feel a calendar needs to take into account as some older players were choosing beach over indoor which had a negative impact on training and preparation for the regional squads. The benefits of playing both are well founded.

Action: Create a regional calendar for junior so that all aspects of Volleyball Juniors are created to prevent crossover.

3.5 Referees Coordinator Report - *Simon Cowie*

Important update: any referee whole fails to renew their membership for 2 consecutive years from this year will have to undertake a Grade 4 course again. They will be considered as unqualified..

Unfortunately I am unable to attend this years AGM due to other commitments I have therefore provide my thoughts and observations; some of which you may agree with and some you maybe don't. I am more than happy to further discuss with anyone who has an interest.

The past season has followed it seems the patterns of previous seasons with many clubs struggling to find registered qualified referees to officiate their fixtures.

There is a national shortage of referees to cover National League games and this shortage is reflected in the number of registered referees officiating at Yorkshire League level.

In many cases the registered officials are covering on average 4/5 games per weekend at National League level which they receive compensation for time and travel and are reluctant to do additional games that are in most cases expected to be covered for free during the week for some teams or additionally at weekends where Yorkshire league Teams are playing weekends. The geographical locations of the NVL games also make it difficult to cover local teams. Thought could be given by fixtures secretaries to scheduling local league games following or preceding NVL games. That may help those clubs who are active in the Yorkshire Leagues and NVL.

It is my understanding that the majority of games at local league level are being officiated by either Grade 4 and above registered officials – small percentage of games Grade 4 but not registered – large percentage of games.

The use of non registered grade 4 officials leads raises a number of issues.

In most cases there is no referee development taking place because they are not receiving mentoring or feedback on their performance. It also means that standards of refereeing are not improving which was a goal set at last year's YVA AGM.

It is my contention that the need to improve standards should still be a goal for next season with the proposed restructuring of the division but is one that isn't going to be achieved by pushing new people towards another referee course.

The current VE referee course is the start of a process that requires continuing commitment. Whilst it is the starting point everyone completing the course and achieving a grade 4 has only started on a journey.

There are a significant number of people who have achieved Grade 4 but never progressed further than the course.

I firmly believe that we need to encourage new referees but more importantly encourage the people who have undertaken a Grade 4 course to become better or more complete referees by registering with Volleyball England for the start of the season and seeking opportunities.

The expansion and restructuring of the National League will put an increased pressure on the availability of registered referees for the forthcoming season with many YVA teams having an increased number of weekend fixtures meaning finding registered officials for games will become increasingly difficult.

There have been a number of junior tournaments throughout the season which were officiated by in most cases parents and coaches. These tournaments are an ideal opportunity to develop referees and give experience. It would be really useful if dates for these next year could be coordinated with NVL fixtures and provided as early as possible so we can hopefully turn them into a training and development opportunity for referees as well as a great event for the juniors.

3.6 Men's Premier League Secretaries Report *Doug Lawson*

Congratulations to Leeds RGA - Men's Premier League Champions 2017/18

Men's Yorkshire Premier League 2017-18		
Pos	Team	Points
1 st	Leeds RGA	30
2 nd	Barnsley Braves	22
3 rd	The Miners Doncaster	22
4 th	Sheffield Saints	20
5 th	Hull Thunder	12
6 th	York Kings	10

[View Full Standings & Points Breakdown](#)



Congratulations to Harrogate Goats - Men's Division One Champions 2017/18

Men's Yorkshire Division 1 League 2017-18		
Pos	Team	Points
1 st	Harrogate Goats	30
2 nd	Barnsley Braves 2	24
3 rd	Bradford Eagles	24
4 th	York Lions	16
5 th	Leeds RGA Lynx	16
6 th	Sheffield Uni 2	8

[View Full Standings & Points Breakdown](#)



Excellent standard of competition across the leagues - well done to all !

Disappointingly, 2 matches defaulted in the Premier League at the very end of the season but only 1 defaulted match in Division One.

Thank you to all Club Secretaries for your hard work over the season organising matches because it is a thankless task, no one in your club "really" appreciates the work you do !

I have not received any emails about any matches so I have to assume that all matches were completed in good spirit and without any contention, which is always nice.

I have not received any emails to say that referees have felt unduly intimidated at matches so thank you to all players for competing in matches in the correct spirit and for showing the referee the respect that they are entitled to.

I would like to point out that only 34 matches were played across all leagues, men and women, in the first half of the season, with 87 being played in the second half of the season.

On this occasion it did not prevent the leagues from being completed even if we did run into May ! But it is a trend that we must not allow to continue unchecked.

Next season the "play by" schedules will be reintroduced and a new League format will be trialed.

"Good season"....."let's make 2018/19 even better !"

3.7 Ladies Premier League Secretaries Report *Patrick Sprakes*

Congratulations to Barnsley Scorpions - Ladies' Yorkshire Premier League Champions 2017/18

Ladies' Yorkshire Premier League 2017-18		
Pos	Team	Points
1 st	Barnsley Scorpions	34
2 nd	Hull Thunder	30
3 rd	Leeds RGA Academy	28
4 th	York Vipers	22
5 th	The Miners Doncaster	22
6 th	Barton Blockers	16
7 th	Sheffield	12

[View Full Standings & Points Breakdown](#)



I am pleased to report that all 7 ladies teams completed their 12 games with only 2 defaulted games all season. Team secretaries made it relatively easy to administer the league this year, with no problems at all.

No conduct issues reported which is great, hopefully meaning that most games were played in good spirit. Barnsley Scorpions are worthy league champions.

The only disappointment was the breakdown of the ladies cup at the semi final stage due to the semi final between Leeds and Barnsley not concluding. Probably needs a discussion as to whether Hull Thunder (other semi final winner) become cup winners by default?

Thanks to all for successful season.

3.8 Mens Division 1 Secretaries Report

As per Men's Premier League Secretaries Report

3.9 Women's Division 1 Secretaries Report

As per chairman's report.

Congratulations to York Wolves - Ladies' Yorkshire Division 1 Champions 2017/18

Ladies' Yorkshire Division 1 League 2017-18		
Pos	Team	Points
1 st	York Wolves	20
2 nd	York Pumas	16
3 rd	Barnsley Scorpions 2	16
4 th	Miners Doncaster 2	10
5 th	York Saint John	6

[View Full Standings & Points Breakdown](#)



4. Area report

4.1 HEYVA

Hull & East Yorkshire Volleyball Association Report from 2017-18 Season *Patrick Sprakes*

Nine teams competed in the HEYVA league this season. Some struggled to see the season through due to difficulties with recruitment and in some cases increased hall hire. I am glad to report a friendly season. No real issues reported to either the Chairman or League Secretary and referees were well respected and were able to use the league as a learning platform, as should be the case. Barton Blockers VC (Seniors) were league champions.

Unfortunately, a cup competition as a step too far this year.

Summer league 2-side entries are now in and I am glad to report that there will once again be a weekly outdoor tournament during the summer months on a Wednesday evening.

Our upcoming AGM will focus on training courses, venue hire and making it easier through the rules for teams to enter an A and a B team.

4.2 South Yorkshire

4.3 North Yorkshire

5. Election of Officials

The following were elected:

Chair – Tim Godson / Secretary – Jitka Jizerova / Treasurer – Martyn Quick / Coaches
Administrator – Penny Speers / Referees Secretary – Simon Cowie / Men’s Competitions Secretary
– Doug Lawson / Woman’s Competitions Secretary - Patrick Sprakes / Youth Development Officer
– James Oliver / Beach officer – Dave Speers and Pete Makowski

6 YVA Competitions 18-19

7. Beach Volleyball Report

Big Brid Beach Open by Leeds VC - Dave and Penny Spears.

- the biggest and most popular of all BV festivals in the Year attracting hundreds of people from the whole country and beyond.
- Last year saw over 400 participants that took place and had fabulous time playing and socializing and also witnessing a BV wedding too which was amazing for all to be included in the symbolic ceremony on the beach.
- This year the event is taking place over 14-15th July and all places for app. 100 teams have sold out within a few weeks from the opening of the entries which was extraordinary, some payments and confirmations still to come through and app. 10 teams still waiting wanting to be included.
- Sunday last year welcomed juniors wishing to participate, there was training session followed by a tournament, turnout and participation was great (no numbers known); no information available about this year's junior competition yet.

Yorkshire Series:

Last year there were just under 300 single entries made to training camp and various competitions throughout the Summer.

Among them took part:

-114 different adults

- 15 juniors

129 in total

- there were 11 different events organised by YS, incl. the Beach Series, Open Mixed, Junior Competition and Training Camp.

Plus app. 300 participants that got involved in the longest or largest single bv game that took place for about 15 min alongside the beach during the Beach Games Festival organised by Active Coast from East Riding.

Skyball Club:
skyballclub.co.uk

The beginning of this year saw the opening of the first BV Club in North England that derives from already existing YS, players demand for more structured and professional approach to the sport, chaired by Jitka Jizerova.

Already happened:

- two 2 day training camps in April and May
- one YS Beach Series
- 3 training sessions for all: juniors, adults, beginners, intermediate and advanced.
- one BV clinic for women.
- there were app. 110 single entries to the events by Skyball club so far.

What is the same as last year:

- **Active Coast** - The organisation actively supporting development of BV in the area, having the BV as one of their largest and fastest growing type of seaside activity. Advertises BV in their magazine, leaflets, household publicity, social media.

- YS Beach Series

- Bridlington Beach as the home venue

- Beach Games Festival on 22nd July will see a free family festival full of various beach games activities, among them: YS Mixed Open - 1*UKBT event, open to anyone of any skills, fun and social event, all welcome.

What is different to last year:

- Skyball Club provides structured and regular training opportunities for all with qualified coaches in Volleyball L3, Beach Volleyball, Fitness and Exercise.

- YS is **affiliated with Volleyball England and UKBT** (UK Beach Tour with Jake Sheaf as the director) which allows for national standard competition recognition,

- there will be two 3* YS Series in 2018, one 1* YS Mixed Open and one 5* Pro Tour.

- the biggest and back again in Brid **5* Pro Tour** will take place on 11-12th August - this event is organised by Active Coast, YS and UKBT and mainly sponsored by Active Coast and East Riding Council.

- **CEV Beach Volleyball Festival on 12th August** alongside the Pro Tour - under the European Volleyball Federation Active Coast and Skyball Club will organize a range of various volleyball activities to promote the sport among young people and increase participation.

- some of the juniors that started to train last year will be playing in YS 2 and signed up to competition in Sandbanks Beach Festival (Poole) on 30June/ 1st July.

Areas for further development:

- need for more qualified and available coaches,
- more focus on Junior BV development,
- inland bv courts for better training opportunities and accessibility for players and coaches.

If you want to get involved please contact info@skyballclub.co.uk

8. Website use and administration

9. AOB

Facebook Group – Yorkshire Volleyball Association for updates about latest courses and events.

Please join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/yorkshirevolleyball/>

10. Date and Venue for next 2 meetings

- Pre-season Meeting to arrange league fixtures on 18th September 2018
- Yorkshire Volleyball Association AGM on 5th June 2018