**SOUTH EAST VOLLEYBALL ASSLOCIATION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held online via Teams**

**on**

**Monday 9th May 2022**

**Present:**

John Biddiscombe [Chair, Surrey] Freda Bussey (Secretary, Surrey), James Murphy [Berkshire], Pedro Fernandez [Surrey], Deb Pickens [Surrey], Mark Byerley [U17 Boys Coach, Sussex], Cat Machado [Under 17 Girls Coach, Kent] Sue Jerrold [Under 15 Girls Coach, Bucks], Nick Sampson [Under 17 Boys Coach, Hampshire] Lewis Howell [Kent Chair] Ashley Cullen [Hampshire Chair], Zuzana Resetarova [Sussex Chair], Colin Bussey [Surrey], Dee Wauchope [Referees co-ordinator Sussex]

**Welcome:**

The Chairman the welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**Mort Bandar [Under 15 Boys Coach, Surrey] Wayne Clarke [Surrey VA SEVA Rep], Ian Ruddock [Kent], Andrew Bickle [Berkshire Chair], Jim Baker [Kent, Treasurer]
2. **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**The Minutes of the 2021 AGM, were accepted with the following matters arising:
3. **Matters Arising**Safeguarding is still an issue that needs further discussion, added to the agenda for later discussion.
4. **Reports**

**Chair – John Biddiscombe**

Following on from my 2021 report last December where I was delighted to report that the volleyball in the South-East had not only managed to get back on its feet following the enforced Covid breaks but was in fact thriving in many areas.

I am now happy to be able to report that all the signs are that the progress made since the last lock down has been sustained if not further enhanced.

The county leagues in the region have by and large been able to complete or at least be on schedule to complete their fixtures despite everything, which is a testament to the league organisers and the flexibility shown by the teams in reorganising fixtures cancelled due to Covid. This means that the SEVA tournament for the top two teams from each county league will take place at the Ashcombe Volleyball Centre over the weekend of 14th and 15th May. Dee Wauchope is again going to be running referee assessment and workshop at the tournament allowing our referees the chance to upgrade their qualifications.

Referee and Coaching courses have taken place throughout the year in the region to address the on-going need for more people getting qualified and work within our clubs to cater for the surge in interest in the sport.

The interest from junior players both taking up the sport and continuing to train and play with our clubs shows no sign of slowing down. This was reflected in the huge numbers of youngsters who came to the trials for the regional squads. A huge thank you to all the coaches and team managers who managed to take this in their stride and eventually select representative squads in the age groups, and through hard work achieving the following results at the Inter Regional Championships: -

Girls U15 – 3rd Place  
Girls U17 – 5th Place  
Boys U15 – 4th Place  
Boys U17 – 4th Place

The new format Volleyball England Junior Grand Prix events has proven to be a great success in providing multiple opportunities for youngsters to compete against other teams, with several rounds hosted in the region. While the finals were dominated by established teams from the North-West and London regions, the South-East did provide the one and only junior team from outside of those regions with VBDC-Club based in Surrey getting silver in the Under 15 Girls final.

It was a different story in the Sitting Volleyball final with two South-East teams battling it out as Sitting Bucks just pipped South Hants in a 5-set thriller.

Two stalwarts of the Sitting Volleyball community in the South-East were recognised by the World Para organisation with an Outstanding Achievement award, namely Richard Osborne and Dee Wauchope.

Our sport is almost entirely powered by volunteers, and I hope you all realise the huge part they play in the sports future growth and that you give them the appreciation they deserve in the clubs they serve. A few emails and conversations I have had with parents has really highlighted the positive impact we are having for youngsters playing our sport in this post covid world.

On behalf of the whole SEVA community, we would like to express our appreciation for all the hours that volunteers put in to make our sport a success.

**Treasurer – Jim Baker**

The treasurer was unable to deliver the accounts to the meeting due to our main events: SEVA Tournament and Inter Regional competitions, taking place in April and May. A full set of accounts will follow.

**Secretary – Freda Bussey**

SEVA Inter Regional Junior training took place from September 2021 to April 2022, mainly at The Ashcombe Volleyball Centre.

Junior Squad coaches

Under 17 Girls – Cat Machado

Under 15 Girls – Sue Jerrold

Under 17 Boys – Ashley Cullen and Mark Byerley

Under 15 Boys – Maciej Michalak and Mort Bandar

The squads took part in the Inter Regional Championships 30th April – 2nd May 2022

Training fees were set at £6 per player per 4–5-hour training session. All profits will be used to cover our coaching costs for the Inter Regional Championships and extra kit.

The SEVA Tournament 2022 is due to take place over the weekend of 14th and 15th May 2022. The 5 county associations that run competitions have all entered 2 men and 2 women’s teams at a cost of £60 per team - £1,200. Total. We hope to make a profit of around £400 for the competition which will be added to the SEVA account. Dee Wauchope is organising a referee’s workshop for the weekend where referees can learn from experienced observer referees and perhaps be upgraded.

Communication between coaches, managers, players, and their parents has been improved using the Spond App.

**Coaching Report – Luke Thomas**

No report received. It was reported by the meeting that there were 3 Level 1 courses and one level 2 courses in Surrey, also one Level course in Sussex, Kent and Hampshire.

**Referee Report – Dee Wauchope**

We have 89 SEVA referees registered currently which is a lot less than the 147 that were registered at the end of July 2019 (when I prepared my last report) but more than the 62 we had registered in December at the time of the last AGM. All regions have seen a major decline in referee numbers since 2020 with many referees not registering again since the pandemic. However, I am pleased that we have been able to run 4 referee courses over the 2021/2022 season in West Sussex, Surrey and Kent. Of these we have (increase/decrease from 2019/20 season in brackets): 27 NVL referees - grades 3N and above (-13) 4 National grade referees (-1) 2 grade 1 referees (-4) 2 grade 2 referees (-5) 7 grade 3 NVL referees (-3) 74 referees who are not on the NVL panel for appointments (some of these may however be refereeing some div 3 NVL games) (-46) 13 grade 3R referees (-8) 56 grade 4 referees (-41) 4 overseas (+3) 2 beach refs (-3) Note: Greg Thompson has moved to Canada so we no longer have an international beach referee 7 sitting refs with 2 sitting internationals (Dee and Pete Parsons) (-4) I also ran the annual referee clinic alongside the SEVA Cup tournament in May. We had 15 referees that attended, including some who had just attended their referee courses a few months ago . All of the 12 grade 4 registered referees were upgraded to grade 3R which will double our numbers at this grade. 2 grade 3R referees and 1 overseas qualified referee will be recommended for upgrade to 3N and for appointment to the official list of NVL referees. As discussed at the AGM, it would be great if we could use other opportunities for upgrading and observations. There is now some funding from Volleyball England for this. I have already spoken to Zuzana about the possibility of holding a Sussex Cup competition and using this for a referee clinic. Finally, I have stood down as SEVA RRC after many years. I am delighted that Ludo Kowalski has agreed to take up the post and I will do everything to support him in his new role and make this a smooth transition.

**Junior Development Report and Inter Regional Report – South East Junior Coaches**

Junior Development – Bob Pickens

2021-22 has been an important season for the South East Volleyball Association youth development programme, particularly with regard to addressing the huge surge of young athletes’ interest in our sport and in taking the first steps to create a foundation for a sustainable quality training program in future seasons. First indication of it being an exceptional season came in the numbers of young athletes who turned out to try for a place on the SEVA team: approximately 80 athletes trialled for the girls’ U-17 and U-15 squads, and more than 90 boys appeared for their squad try-outs. Clubs from throughout the region were represented in the turnout, a welcome break from past years when at times only small number of clubs were the source of athletes. The broad representation of clubs remained in the final selection of athletes for the Inter-Regional tournament, an indication, perhaps, that the skill level among young athletes in the region, and the training been offered to them at their club, is rising as a whole.

The teams started the season with two female coaches for the girl’s squads and six coaches for the boys, four of whom were on the floor and two of whom took care of administration and organisational duties. Parental interest in the development program also seemed to increase this year, despite covid restrictions on attendance which prevented parents from observing the sessions for much of the season. That did not stop a number from offering their time and talent, including two male coaches for the girls’ squads, and two females becoming involved in the boys program as a physiotherapy advisor and a coach. This solid foundation for a SEVA coaching unit marked a significant departure from previous years when it could prove difficult at times to get a single coach for each squad and sessions periodically lacked a sufficient number of qualified personnel to provide the desired level of instruction. This year the additional staff made it possible to provide greater consistency in the training sessions, to cover absences, and to give more individual attention to the athletes.

The first steps to digitise SEVA’s youth programme took place this season, with improvements to the process of registration and payment of training fees under the leadership of the girls section, when the Spond application was used to convert from the paper methods. The girls were far more successful in employing Spond than the boys, but this can be improved next season with either a better set up of Spond and training in its use, or by employing a different application if required. A regional database on the athletes will also need to be created for next year to hold information necessary for the safe and response responsible training of young athletes such as emergency telephone numbers, health issues and other pertinent information. One of the biggest challenges faced by coaches this year was paring down the large number of athletes who wanted to join the SEVA program into competitive teams for the end-of-season tournament. Some SEVA coaches felt clubs needed to undertake more stringent vetting of athletes before recommending them to SEVA, while others expressed disappointment at having to cut so many enthusiastic young players (who can contribute much to the growth of volleyball in the region) from the programme. There was discussion on ways to address this and maintain a source of income for SEVA by offering some form of continued training or activity to the youngsters who were unable to make the cuts. Similarly, there was discussion on how to make the regional development program a logical step above the activities that are already available to young athletes in their schools and clubs. One suggestion was that SEVA could take steps to enter teams in various youth tournaments or arrange exchanges with similar organisations in the UK and other European nations, and that those activities could be opened to athletes who had not been selected for the Inter-Regional teams. The SEVA girls lead the way in this by having an outing to Portugal in the spring, and it was proposed that the boys could continue this sort of activity in 2022–23 with a trip to Lille, France to train at the CREPS facility there. Other activities such as offering the athletes lectures on how to compete for university scholarships, training in the proper procedure for warm ups and cool downs and stretching, have also been periodically discussed over the season.

All of these initiatives will require involvement from parents who support SEVA, and will be able to provide volunteer help as organisers, coaches and chaperones. Work on these projects will need to be launched in September. Boys Head Coach Ashley Cullen summed up the season by stating it was one of “collaboration, fun, no egos and SEVA family”. The coaches extended their gratitude to Simon Abbott, Matt Burgin, Tanya Darling, Steph Cucotti, Lisa Furness and Sophie Carolan for their involvement in the programme.

Inter-Regional results

The Inter-Regional tournament is the climax of the season, not just because it pits the best young volleyball athletes of all the nine England regions against each other, but principally because it gives younger athletes the opportunity to be observed by the national junior squad coaches, and a possible invitation to try out for the nation’s junior squads.

SEVA coaches reported their teams had performed respectably at the 2022 tournament, with most matches being close run scores, some very close. The U-17 girls finished fourth, the U-15 girls were third, and both boys units finished fourth. A number of male and female athletes who took part in this year’s Inter-Regionals are expected to return to the SEVA training program next year.

**Under 17 Girls – Cat Machado**

The SEVA U17 Girls started preparing for the Inter-Regional Championships in September 2021 with approximately 30 athletes trialling for the squad. Trialists were from a wide range of clubs and there was an equally very wide range in abilities. In my opinion, some trialists were not of the standard of trialling and I would encourage coaches to only send players who have already established most of the core skills. The squad was gradually reduced to a final squad of 12 players selected in February 2022. The final squad included players from 6 different clubs: South Bucks, VbDC, Dartford VC, South Hants, Worthing VC, and Yellowave Beach VC.

The final U17 Girls SEVA squad was one which had huge potential to reach the finals and was initially made of 5 players already on the England Pathway. Unfortunately, one starting player pulled out with injury a month before, 2 other starting players pulled out with covid the week before, and the starting setter acquired an injury in the third match of the Championships. Despite the difficult circumstances with essentially 4 of the starting 6 missing, the SEVA U17 Girls finished a respectable 5th place out of 9 regions. Of note, the squad was incredibly close to reaching the semi-finals losing by the smallest margin in a tie break (13-15) against West Midlands. Although we had hoped to rank slightly higher, the team did incredibly well and represented themselves, their clubs, and the region in a very positive light. The majority of players are still eligible next year so we will rebuild and will once again target a medal next year.

A special thank you to Tanya Darling who designed the South East kits which was very much loved by players and coaches. I would also like to thank Stef Cuccotti for stepping in as Team Manager and relentlessly supporting the team throughout.

**Under 15 Girls – Sue Jerrold**

The SEVA U15 Girls started preparing for the Inter-Regional Championships in September 2021 with over 50 athletes trialling for the squad. Trialists were from a wide range of clubs and there was an equally very wide range in abilities. The squad was gradually reduced to a "long squad" of 25 players in January and 15 selected in February 2022. The final squad included players from 6 different clubs: South Bucks, VbDC, Dartford VC, South Hants, Worthing VC and Newbury.

The final U15 Girls SEVA squad was one which had huge potential to reach the finals. The squad was drawn in the same pool as London which given their performance in the finals the previous week probably made them the favourites. The SEVA Under 15 girls won all of the matches in the pool 2-0 until the final match against London, where although rallying in the 2nd set we lost to finish second in the pool. The quarter final at the end of a long day always has the potential to trip teams up and East were a solid all round side, taking a set. The team went onto win the match and 3rd set with a comfortable margin. Unfortunately, in the Semi-finals against South-West, when SEVA were 11-1 up due to strong serving, one of the starting 6 received an on court injury and we had to substitute out of position and we lost the first set 28-26 despite having had match point twice and went onto lose the match despite periods of strong play. Even given the difficult circumstances, the SEVA U15 Girls went onto a fine performance in the 3rd/4th playoff against a strong North West side who were also suffering from injuries to players and overall finished 3rd place out of 9 regions. Although we had hoped to rematch against London in the finals, the team did incredibly well and represented themselves, their clubs, and the region in a very positive light.

Half of the players are still eligible next year, and half will graduate to the under 17's who will have terrific potential next year. We will restart again next year and build on our knowledge and experience. A special thank you to Tanya Darling who designed the South East kits, Freda for all the admin support and Simon Abbott and Matt Burgin as assistant coaches. Also, a shout out to all the parents and players who showed fantastic commitment.

**Under 17 Boys – Mark Byerley and Nick Sampson**

We enjoyed a large turnout to the trials (Bob, you have the figures. Over 50 I think). A fairly mixed standard, from players already selected for England U17s and U19s to some who had only recently started playing. We selected a training squad of about 25 players from a large range of clubs and undertook spot trails throughout the season of late joiners. Our philosophy was to be inclusive, develop and build both talent and a cohesive team.

We selected and announced the final representative squad of 12 with two training sessions to run and left the invitation open for those not selected to continue training with us. We were delighted that almost everybody from the training squad of 25 players continued with us for these remaining sessions. Our last session, open only to the final 12, focussed on scrimmage matches with Worthing. We saw all of our players develop between their first and last sessions, some remarkably so. There is clearly a depth of coaching talent across the region producing this and we believe the opportunity for players across the region to train with stronger peers is hugely developmental. It was wonderful to see our less experienced players competing effectively with the country's best age-group players at Inter-regionals.

We had good results at regionals, finishing 4th after East (winners), London (2nd) and West Midlands (3rd). We just missed out on 3rd place after having match point at 15-14, losing 17-15. As coaches we worked hard to give court time to the whole squad and, in the 3/4th play-off, we played mostly our non-starting six players - and found that in fact they performed almost as strongly as our starting six. We competed hard against East and London, but could not match their serving power or cohesion (in East's case, comprising almost wholly of players from one team, Boswells; in London's, from three teams: Richmond, Polonia and London Giants). On a technical point, we discovered at the competition that the net height for U17 boys is 1.35cm, 8cm lower than regulation mens height. This may have contributed to our struggles with our strongest opponents' serving. In our opinion, East were deserved winners of the competition, fielding an exceptionally strong team this year.

In terms of selection, we found we had a good pool of talent to make our picks from for outside, opposite and libero positions. We had less depth in our trialists and squad in the setter or middle positions, although we ended up with 2 capable setters and 2 strong middles. In terms of organisation, Spond seems to have the potential to be very helpful but perhaps we still have some more learning to do in order for it to be as effective as it could be. For instance, we had a few cases of the wrong players being put into the wrong squads and then this was hard to remedy in a timely way; the U17 girls used it to collect fees for training which would be a very good development.

Both Mark and Nick are keen to continue with the programme next season.

**Under 15 Boys – Mort Bandar and Maciej Michalak**

The Inter-Regional Championships trials started in September 2021 with over 50 athletes for the U15. These numbers were reduced after the first session and split in two groups. The players not selected were given a further opportunity for further trials. These players came from a range of clubs with wide range of abilities. The squad was reduced to around 25 players and the final 12 were confirmed in March 2022 with two further players on standby. All 14 players came to the weekend and after an excellent effort full of excitement the squad came fourth.

The training sessions could have been better as a few of the players were missing by other commitment however at the tournament the squad showed fantastic potential to reach the finals, sadly, we had two very close matches and the London squad hitting power proved too much for us.

Many of the players are still eligible for next year and some of the parents suggested that they could have a larger involvement. I believe both the players and parents were pleased and based on this year’s commitment I hope next year the squad will be stronger..

A special thank you to all the coaches in particular Maciej Michalak who did well to put up with me and Sophie Henry for all her support. Also not to forget some of the parents that were excellent. Bob and specially Freda for all the support as usual.

**Beach Volleyball Co-ordinator – Vacant**

Beach volleyball is thriving in the counties, wherever courts are available. The South East entered the Inter regional Beach Championships in July 2021 where the girls reached the finals. The meeting felt that we need to have a co-ordinator for the Inter Regional Beach programme and Lauren Tucker was to be approached to fill this role. Kent reported they were looking to find a suitable place for volleyball courts and were advised to approach local councils for support.

Trials for the Inter Regional squads has been booked for 26th June 2022 at Kidbrooke Beach Courts.

**5 County Association Reports**

The County reports were all sent ahead of the meeting and not discussed at the meeting.

They give a glimpse of the work being done by the county associations and all of them gave

praise to the volunteers who make volleyball happen in the region.

**Surrey – Rachel Kane**

No report was submitted.

It was reported by the Surrey representatives present that the Surrey Leagues: Womens, Mens 1, Mens 2 and Mens 3 had a very successful year with the results still to be finalised. A new junior league had been established and has proved very popular. This will be continued next season. Coaching and referee courses were very popular, and bursaries awarded to several candidates.

**Sussex – Dr Zuzana Resetarova**

At the beginning of the season no one believed that we could have season we just had.

We have been running our leagues through League Republic, all the results and final tables can be found there.

…amazing effort from every team to get every match played with no chasing or involvement from SVA. All score sheets all sent though through extra fab effort from all team captains and coaches.

Number of players registered to play in the SVA league grown during season, mainly down to the juniors. Under 18 Grand Prix 5th in gold A for Sussex boys.

Finances – East Grinstead club has got outstanding bill to pay

All SVA expenditure has been covered by individual club fees. SVA have not applied for any grants etc, although have provided support to clubs, who have successfully gained funding for junior development and individuals to cover 50% of the cost of ref/coaching courses.

SVA League

Mens 1

Worthing Viper

Brighton Jaguars

Worthing Sharks

Brighton Scorpions

Eastbourne Phoenix

Mens2

Dolphin Men

Worthing Cubs

Dolphin Juniors1

Worthing Jets

East Grinstead Aces

Dolphin Juniors2

Women

Worthing Angels

Dolphin Ladies

Eastbourne Valkyries

Worthing Demons

East Grinstead Queens

Brighton Starlings

Worthing Devils

Cup competitions

Our SUSSEX CUP Day will be on 7th of May, at Ashcombe volleyball centre. Run by Mark Byerley

Clubs have not had time yet to do their AGMs

Sussex AGM is planned for 2nd week in June

**Hampshire – Ashley Cullen**

Our County AGM is expected after June, so this is an interim report. In the meantime, this has been another very successful season and I continue to be extremely grateful for the contributions of each of our committee members, some of whom are identified below. For those who may be interested, I am enclosing a link to our website which includes contact details of County-based clubs (although we continue to invite teams across the border to our events) as well as our Grand Prix league tables.

https://hampshirevolleyball.org.uk/index.php

**Junior** (Ryan Gunner)

Due to the increasing interest in junior volleyball, we are considering increasing our capacity and capability to run more junior development / competitions by a) extending hall hire to increase participation, b) running 4-a-sde for U12 and U14, but 6-a-side for U16, and c) adding additional dates to our existing junior Grand Prix schedule. Collaboration from Hampshire Clubs and school teachers has been excellent. They are fully supportive of any amendments suggested to the existing format to increase the quality of events. For example, a member of Farnborough VC, Andrew (Tat), has stepped in the volunteer his expertise, time and passion to fully support the team entrance administration and competition schedules. Tat’s help has proved wildly influential, heavily reducing time in arranging fixtures, schedules and referee duties. Finally, by way of an observation, the quality of skill has certainly increased over the season as athletes are completing longer rallies.

**Grand Prix** (Andy Edwards)

Hampshire's return to competitive indoor volleyball couldn't have gone better, with 20 teams registering for the Men's and Ladies Grand Prix from across the County and beyond.  We managed to play all 120 scheduled matches with Guernsey winning the Ladies league and South Hants winning the Men's league. We also held four stand-alone mixed tournaments, intended to help more grass-roots and development teams get a bit more practice in competitive matches and they have all been over-subscribed.

Representing Hampshire in the SEVA Ladies competition will be Winchester Eagles and University of Southampton; and, in the Men’s competition, it will be South Hants and University of Southampton. Good luck to all entrants.

**Sitting** (Richard Osborne)

At a local level, there has been a move to generate regional competition with South Hants, Sitting Bucks and Salisbury all taking part in a triangular series.  The first two clubs have already hosted competitions on their home turf, with the latter expected to take place on 15th May.  It has been a remarkable success and has provided a blueprint for other regions to follow should they wish to do so.  There is an appetite to do it all again next season. Following a successful return to the national Grand Prix, South Hants appeared in its first final on 23rd April as part of the National Finals Weekend where they took on Sitting Bucks.  The teams had shared victories throughout the Grand Prix series, winning 3 apiece and so the final was set to be an epic and it did not disappoint with Sitting Bucks pipping South Hants in the 5th set, 17-15.

More globally, a great deal of work has been invested to provide more resources for novice sitting volleyball coaches, all of which have been added to the Volleyball England website: <https://www.volleyballengland.org/getintovolleyball/play/sitting_volleyball>

March 2022 was designated as the first ever 'Sitting Volleyball Month’ which brought about a suite of initiatives to promote awareness of, and participation in, sitting volleyball.  Universities ran taster sessions and competitions, the ’Skills Challenge’ was well supported, while indoor teams threw down a challenge to their local sitting rivals.  Overall, a great success.

**Officials** (Clarisa Choh)

Earlier this year, 14 people successfully completed their Level 1 Coaching Course. We are looking to organise another Coaching Course in the coming season. Beyond competitions, our biggest challenges are in generating new referees for both county and NVL matches. Consequently, we are looking to encourage as many people as possible to register and qualify.

As per our usual practice, the County fund 50% of the course fees.

**Kent – Lewis Howell**

Memberships / Registrations – Ian Ruddock Registrations: · The overall number of players registered to play in the KCVA league programme for the season just ended more than doubled, compared to the season prior to Covid lockdown. · This was obviously mainly down to the 5 new teams joining the leagues. But all KCVA teams saw a net expansion to their player rosters with new players coming into the sport across the county. · Dartford junior women were the biggest individual contributors to the growth in numbers, with more than 30 players registering to play! Not all of them played regularly in the Kent league, although the majority of those who didn’t are still active members at Dartford VC.

Finances – Tim Bown All KCVA expenditure has been covered by individual club fees. KCVA have not applied for any grants etc, although have provide support to member clubs, who have successfully gained external funding in the past year.

Kent League / Knock Out Competition – Ian Ruddock Leagues: · 1 new club and 5 new teams joined the league. Invicta (based in Canterbury) took part in the men’s and women’s divisions for the first time (both had previously entered our KO cup competition in 2020, which had to be abandoned due to Covid). · In addition to the Invicta senior men’s and women’s teams, there were also 3 new junior / academy teams taking part in the main divisions; Invicta and Dartford in the men’s division and Dartford in the women’s division. · It was the closest finish to our men’s and women’s divisions for several seasons across the widest number of teams (i.e. not 2-horse races). · In particular, the men’s division had 5 potential winners as we entered the second phase of the contest in mid-March (at that stage, the division had been split into top and bottom halves, with teams playing each other in reverse fixtures for phase 2). There were still 3 potential winners as late as the last week in April, but one result settled the outcome of the top 3. Dartford senior men were winners on sets difference from Invicta, with Team Medway just a couple of points adrift of the top 2. · Invicta women took the advantage over Dartford women with a 3-1 win in mid-March, but the title was finally settled in Invicta women’s favour at the end of March when Dartford suffered defeat at the hands of Maidstone Diamonds Women’s team. Cup competitions: · Our Finals Day will be on 22nd May, with Invicta and Dartford meeting in both the women’s and the men’s finals, and either Maidstone Rocks or Dartford Academy vs Team Medway in the plate final. We were aiming to also hold an exhibition match between Team GB sitting players, and an All Star Kent team, but unfortunately the schedules of Team GB did not allow this to happen this year. We do hope to arrange a separate date for this though.

Junior Memberships / Events – Ian Ruddock / Lewis Howell A number of teams entered and hosted volleyball England junior competitions this season, in both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories. We have seen clubs existing junior programmes grow, as well and other clubs starting up new junior sessions. It is the aim of KCVA to establish an official junior competition for next season, details are yet to be confirmed. Across Kent, our clubs have had junior players trial for regional and national teams, and a number of these players ended up getting selected! Maidstone Volleyball Club – Have been running 5 separate junior sessions each week. Gems Mixed for 11-15 years old (up to year 9 school); Granite Mixed (15-18 years old, more fundamental), and Granite Girls and Boys (girls and boys squad); and a Granite Mixed Games only session. Maidstone entered teams into the tier 2 competitions for U15 Boys & Girls, U16 Girls & Boys, and U18 Boys. Every event was attended through the season, and they hosted a number of these events, including the inaugural one for region. Dartford Volleyball Club – Dartford entered boys and girls teams into both Tier 1 and Tier 2 and have hosted a number of Grand Prix events. Dartford also entered junior boys and girls’ teams into the Kent adult league. Invicta Volleyball Club – Invicta entered teams into various Tier 2 VE Grand Prix series and hosted an U15 girls’ event as well. Invicta also entered a junior boys team into the Kent league. Strood Volleyball Club – This was the first year for Strood with a junior specific session, and they are at capacity for their junior sessions and have a waiting list approaching 20 names, wanting to join. But they simply don’t have the coaching / admin resource or court time access to be able to start up what would effectively be another junior group. Tonbridge Volleyball Club – This was the first year for Tonbridge with a dedicated junior session (previously, junior sessions were run and managed by the leisure centre, but to no real avail).

Development Luke Thomas headed up the development of volleyball in Kent.

**Berkshire – Andy Bickle and James Murphy**

I’d like to thank the BVA committee and others that have endeavoured to make this 2021 / 2022 BVA Season a success.

Looking back at 2021, we didn’t know if we were going to be able to play Volleyball in the “normal” way (legally) or if we’d have the venues to use due to all of the issues surrounding COVID, 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 9 Clubs across 4 counties with potentially another Club joining later this year, 40 teams competing across 5 divisions, a total of 107 scheduled fixtures, so 321 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, we do need additional volunteers moving forward to keep making the BVA a success. As a committee we have held 4 virtual BVA Committee meetings, participated in 3 Volleyball England virtual meetings, the SEVA meetings and SEVA AGM and a World Sport Equality & Diversity consultation. There is an AGM follow up meeting planned for the 25th of May. Thank you to all that have participated in these meetings, please remember that these meetings are for your benefit.

There two 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.

## BVA League Results

* Men's Div 1 - Winners – Oxford Vollox - Relegated - Oxford Uni
* Men's Div 2 - Winners & Promoted – Reading Aces
* Men’s Division Playoff - Winners - Farnborough
* Ladies Division - Winners – Oxford Eagles
* Mixed - Basingstoke Tigers

## Junior report

* **Junior League Winners – Reading Aces Juniors A**
* Regional Activity & Interaction with SEVA & VE
* **Basingstoke** Have about 30 Juniors registered with the club. We have one dedicated training session a week, about 15-20 in attendance each session. We have entered 2 teams in the BVA league and same for the plate tournament.
* **Farnborough** have had 78 juniors that have attended this season but 63 actively participating in sessions (split between beginners and inter/adv’d). We are hoping to enter one boys team next year in the BVA and had several boys attending SEVA sessions (none made final cut). FVC entered in the VE GP Series: 1 x 18u T2 Boys, 1 x 16u T2 Boys, 1 x 15u T2 Girls and 1 x 15u T1 Boys. We also attended HVA junior grand prix series in Nov, Jan, March (hosted) and one coming up in May: 1 x 16u Mixed, 1 x 16u Boys & 1 x 14u girls. We had two accepted into the VE cadets program with one only just being cut recently from final team.
* **Newbury** We have about 35-40 coming to training. We have 1 junior team in the BVA league. We entered under 15 under 16 girls under 16 and under 18 boys in the National tier 2. The juniors are entering a men's and mixed team at the BVA plate and will be taking part in summer tournaments and possibly beach if we can arrange it
* **Reading Aces** – Very active junior programme – had to close to new entrants due to lack of facilities and coaches. Entered VE Tier 2 U18 boys.
* **Spikeopaths** We had an average of 50 junior players this season, split in two groups for training. We have one team in the BVA Junior League.
* **South Bucks** This year we had 96 juniors ages 7-18. Did not enter BVA as most coaches also juniors so no ability to travel. Played internal events instead w 40+ participants in each. National comps, 18 girls came in 5th in England top tier, u16 girls came in 3rd in England top tier. We are out of court space and have a wait list of 20-25 new players at the moment.  We will no longer service adults and will have only juniors in the future. Next year we hope to have intra team events, BVA Juniors and our national team will play Women's.

**g. SEVA Competitions report – Freda Bussey**

South East teams were entered in all 4 Junior competitions at The Inter Regional Championships, from 30th April – 2nd May 2022. The squads have been training monthly since September 2021. Coaches Cat Machado, Sue Jerrold, Mark Byerley, Mort Bandar, Michalak Maciej and Nick Sampson were supported by Bob Pickens and Ashley Cullen and parents who stepped in to act as managers and support staff at training and at the competition.

The SEVA tournament will take place over the weekend of 14th and 15th May 2022. It will be held at The Ashcombe Volleyball Centre, Dorking. The tournament has been organised by Freda Bussey and Ian Ruddock and all 5 County Leagues are sending their top 2 Men and Womens teams to compete.

1. **Election of Officers**
   1. Chairman – John Biddiscombe was elected unanimously but he agreed to continue only if a successor could be found as soon as possible.
   2. Hon. Secretary – Freda Bussey was elected unanimously with Bob Pickens as assistant secretary
   3. Hon. Treasurer – Sue Jerrold was elected unanimously. Jim Baker was stepping down after more than 30 years’ service and was thanked profusely by all at the meeting.
   4. Coaching - Vacant
   5. Referees – Dee Wauchope is stepping down after several years of great service to the region. She has approached Ludo Kowalski to take her place.
   6. Beach – Vacant – Lauren Tucker to be approached.

* Sitting - Vacant

1. **SEVA Constitution**

A working group of James Murphy, Zuz Resetarova, Sue Jerrold and Bob Pickens was set up to review the constitution and bring back to the meeting.

1. **SEVA Adult competitions and Date for next season**

The weekend of 13th May and 14th May 2023 was set for SEVA 2023 with the men’s competition on Saturday 13th and the women’s on Sunday 14th May 2023.

1. **SEVA Junior squads and competitions**

The junior coaches all wished to stay in position, and it was agreed to have an online Coaches meeting on Tuesday 21st June 2022 via Teams. James Murphy set the meeting up via Teams.

1. **SEVA junior competitions 2022-23**

A discussion took place about junior competitions in the counties leading to a SEVA Junior Cup. Freda agreed to co-ordinate this with the county reps and a final, possibly at Ashcombe VC. in the autumn, as extra chances for the IR Coaches to talent spot for the IR teams. Bob Pickens thanked all the county reps for their efforts in getting junior competitions running this year.

1. **Coaching and Referee Courses 2022-23**

Freda reported that there were several coaching and referee courses in the pipeline at Ashcombe VC and ACS Cobham in Surrey**.** If other counties were interested in running a course in their areas, they should contact VE directly**.**

1. **Any Other Business**

1. Mark Byerley agreed to investigate a Safeguarding policy for the South East that can be sent to all clubs and teams.

2. I.R. Training fees will need to rise from £6 a session next season to help cover costs.

3. Referees. It was agreed by all that our priority for the coming season needs to be the recruitment and retention of referees. All counties agreed to make this a priority and to encourage current and new referees to upgrade, where possible. Competitions in the region would welcome referee observers to upgrade their candidates.  
  
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and asked all the counties to report back that volleyball is having a positive impact on our young players and to thanks all the volunteers who are making this happen.

The meeting closed at 8.30. p.m.