

NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

England & Wales · Charity number 1166178

Details

Other names	NSVC
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-03-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	8 Harrowby Drive Newcastle Staffordshire ST5 3JE
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Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF THE AMATEUR SPORT OF VOLLEYBALL, BEACH VOLLEYBALL AND SITTING VOLLEYBALL FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AND THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN HEALTHY RECREATION, BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PLAYING VOLLEYBALL, BEACH VOLLEYBALL SITTING VOLLEYBALL IN NEWCASTLE, NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND SOUTH CHESHIRE

Activities: The promotion of the amateur sport of volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball for the public benefit and the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, by the provision of facilities for playing volleyball, beach volleyball sitting volleyball in Newcastle, North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Cheshire East
- Staffordshire
- Stoke-on-trent City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-30	£37,338	£42,120	-	-
2024-05-30	£40,492	£48,849	-	-
2023-05-30	£33,559	£34,103	-	-
2022-05-30	£28,110	£21,256	-	-
2021-05-30	£13,890	£7,899	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
WILLIAM ROBERTS	Chair	2016-01-01
Diane Gentle		2024-06-07
Geoffrey David Keen		2024-06-07
Hannah Donaldson		2023-06-13
Katherine Sarah Lang		2025-07-08
Matthew Phillip Smith		2020-05-13
RICHARD GUEST LLB		2016-03-17
Rebecca Shelley-Hitchen		2025-07-08

Accounts



NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st May 2025

NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

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TRUSTEES

- Hannah Donaldson (Secretary)
- Matt Smith (Treasurer)
- Els Drijfhout
- Diane Gentle
- Richard Guest (Vice Chair)
- Geoff Keen
- Will Roberts (Chair)
- Rod Stockwell

TRUSTEES REPORTS

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statement for the charity for the year ended 31st May 2025.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:

The promotion of the amateur sport of volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball for the public benefit and the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, by the provision of facilities for playing volleyball, beach volleyball sitting volleyball in Newcastle, North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The 2024/25 season has seen further strength in depth added to the club courtesy of the commitment of our wonderful team of volunteers and in particular a group of coaches prepared to go above and beyond in support of their players.

The end of this season also marks the mid-point of our 'Ambition 2030' strategy launched in the midst of the covid lockdowns of 2020 as we missed out on celebrating our 40th Anniversary and sought to map a decade of change for the club with three ambitions to achieve by our 50th anniversary as a club in 2030.

1. Double our Membership
2. Create a home for the club
3. To ensure our players and teams are at the top table of English Volleyball

This time last year in my report I reflected that we would drop ambition 2, having pursued options with our closest partners at Madeley School, and with the local authority – and drawn a blank. Without larger institutional support or a significant benefactor such ambitions are not possible.

Tremendous progress has been made with our remaining ambitions.

2030 Ambition: Double our Membership

The 'doubling' was achieved during the 22/23 season from our 2020 baseline of 135 members, when we hit 276. Since then our membership database has been above 350 noting that we have around 300 regularly active members in the club across all our groups.

Our challenge has been on sustaining excellence in provision and having the space to host everyone! This really has been a challenge and during the 24/25 season there is no doubt that coaches and players may have felt this. As a result our end of season activity has been focussed on securing even more court time in more places – and the 25/26 season promises even better experiences for our members as a result!

Coupled with this, an end of season meeting of coaches brought a fantastic discussion about shared values and how we want our coaches and teams to represent the club. There was a feeling that with such rapid growth, aspects of our identity had been challenged and it was time for a re-set for consistency across all the teams pulling on the famous navy blue shirt of the club!

2030 Ambition: To ensure our players and teams are at the top table of English Volleyball

Our achievements in the 24/25 season:

- Men's 1st team – finished in the top half of NVL1 in a transitional season
- Women's 1st team – sustained their presence in NVL 2 following promotion in 2024
- Men's 2nd team – sustained their presence in NVL 2 following promotion in 2024
- U18 Boys A team – National Ranking #2, National Cup Bronze, Cornacchia Cup 2025
- U18 Girls A team – National Gold Cup Winners (second year in a row!)
- U16 Boys A team – Last 8s, National Ranking #7
- U16 Girls A team – National Gold Cup Silver medal
- U16 Girls B team – National Gold Cup 7th place
- U15 Girls A team – Last 8s and National Ranking #6
- U15 Boys A team – Last 8s and National Ranking #6
- Four players capped by England Men at the Novotel Cup

- One player played for England Women u22 in the CEV qualifiers
- Four players played for England Men u22 in the CEV qualifiers
- Five players played for England u19 men at NEVZA
- 1 player played for England u17 men at NEVZA
- Two girls trained at England Junior Talent Pathway Camps
- Seven boys trained at England Junior Talent Pathway Camps
- Seven players played at the girls Inter Regionals
- 10 players played at the boys Inter Regionals
- Two coaches in the England National Team programmes

We could not achieve this without the support of our sponsors and partners. This year many local companies supported the u18 boys trip to Italy to compete in the Cornacchia Cup where they played wonderfully well – thank you so much to all those partners. Local businesses Paragon Pub Group, one of Staffordshire’s premier employers and brands, and Firmus Financial services were valued supporters of the club and their financial support is greatly appreciated

The importance of two further partners can never be underestimated – Madeley School, now entering its 22nd year as an active partner of the club, and the University of Staffordshire. Both partners accommodate our frequent requests for court time and are open to suggestions of how they might help the club progress further. We calculated the market-equivalent value of their support in court time as being around £12,000 this season – their partnership and support therefore keeping costs down significantly for the club.

To all the club’s volunteers, coaches and trustees – and all our members as the club... THANK YOU! NSVC is in such wonderful health thanks to the culture and environment that we have together... let’s keep building it.

Will Roberts
Chair of Trustees
July 2025

ANNUAL AWARDS WINNERS 2024-25 SEASON

Chair's Award - Senior	Sakura Althuge Don
Women 1 – Coaches Player	Jenny Jung
Women 1 – Players' Player	Bee Yusuf
Women 1 – Most Improved	Bee Yusuf
Women 2 – Coaches Player	Alayna Hirshi
Women 2 – Players' Player	Sakura Althuge Don
Women 2 – Most Improved	Dasha Vitsynska
Women 3 – Coaches Player	Lucy Pountain
Women 3 – Players' Player	Sakura Althuge Don
Women 3 – Most Improved	Wiktorja Jablonska
Men 1 – Coaches Player	Stefan Cowley
Men 1 – Players' Player	Cameron Rhodes
Men 1 – Most Improved	Komari Burey
Men 2 – Coaches Player	Jim Cox
Men 2 – Players' Player	Charlie Kobylarz
Men 2 – Most Improved	Seb Karas
Men 3 – Coaches Player	Ollie Panther
Men 3 – Players' Player	Elliott Wilde
Men 3 – Most Improved	Tyler Allin-Jones
Social – Most Social	Peter Lambe
VolleyStars – u7 to u12s: Thomas Dodd, Jacob Roberts, Edward Goodwin, Annie Goodwin, Georgi Parakasov, Abigail Wood, Clara Jackson, Elliott Deaville, Sophie Deaville, Lily Satchithananda, Roo Lang, Addie Lang	
Team of the Year – u18 Boys, finished season #2 ranked in England for the second successive year.	

Chair's Award – Junior	Alayna Hirschi
U18 Girls - MVP	Alex Viggars
U18 Girls – Most Improved	Emma Vaughan
U18 Girls – Special Award	Niamh Barrow
U18 Boys - MVP	Josh Sturland
U18 Boys – Most Improved	Albert Biryukov-Wang
U18 Boys – Special Award	Finn Chalkley-Beales
U16 Girls - MVP	Emma Vaughan
U16 Girls – Most Improved	Sarika Krishnadas
U16 Girls – Special Award	Eve Swindells
U16 Boys - MVP	Seb Wood
U16 Boys – Most Improved	Max Butterworth
U16 Boys – Special Award	Tom Satchithananda
U15 Girls - MVP	Michal Karas
U15 Girls – Most Improved	Ollie Groom
U15 Girls – Special Award	Dylan Jones
U15 Boys - MVP	Panayiota Kalli
U15 Boys – Most Improved	Viv Burke
U15 Boys – Special Award	Jess Simpson
U14 Girls - MVP	Izzy Roberts
U14 Girls – Most Improved	Sofia Vitsynska
U14 Girls – Special Award	Daisy Dalgarno
U14 Boys - MVP	Harry Knowles
U14 Boys – Most Imp.	Oscar Woods
U14 Boys – Special Award	Will Edwards
U14 Boys – One to Watch	Toby Parkinson
U13 Girls – One to Watch	Evelyn Chadwick-Brown
U13 Girls – One to Watch	Lily Talbot

SAFEGUARDING

At the AGM in 2024 we were delighted to welcome the highly experience and knowledgeable Gemma Bradshaw as our new Safeguarding Officer. Unfortunately, Gemma was unable to continue in the role beyond January 2025 and we were fortunate that Michelle Williams provided safeguarding support for an interim period before Vice-Chair Richard Guest took on oversight for the remainder of the season as we sought a permanent solution.

During the season we received a safeguarding disclosure which was managed with support from Volleyball England as appropriate. In the debrief from this disclosure, changes were made to the club's processes to ensure that we are better equipped in future.

With Volleyball England's changes to safeguarding training – through a more accessible online course which also covers adult safeguarding, the trustees feel greater confidence regarding the accessibility of appropriate training for our coaches and volunteers.

Will Roberts
Chair of Trustees, June 2025

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

Our club was founded through junior volleyball and it remains the heart of the club. Huge thanks go to Ant Viggars, Karl Wood, Rich James, Sam Stevenson, Jess Keen and Will Roberts for leading the coaching of our junior players, and to Geoff Keen, Stefan Cowley, Sakura Althuge Don and the u14/15 players who helped with VolleyStars as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award volunteering.

VolleyStars

Throughout the season a consistent group of 8-10 youngsters have been learning to play volleyball with the support of lead coaches and a crew of young coaching assistants ... Maggie, Pani, Will, Izzy, Jess and Laicie have been fantastic especially for the younger VolleyStars who have had a personal coach! The skills of the 9-11 years old have come on leaps and bounds and they enjoyed a tournament at Wolverhampton. 5-6 of the group will now graduate into the club's training groups.

U13/14s

The focus in our coaching of these age groups is to first get the players to fall in love with the game, then learn how to play and then to compete. We have a large number of committed girls in this age and a smaller number of boys at present. The club's teams excelled in the Volleyball England u14 and u15 4v4 competitions throughout the season – many of which we hosted at Madeley, some at University of Staffordshire.

U15 Girls

With the girls training twice per week and being part of a consistent environment with the u16s, building on the last 8s experience from last season we entered this season with high hopes. In the first 6v6 Grand Prix despite missing a key player the girls were dominant in their opening two matches before dropping to a 2-1 defeat vs hosts Ashfield.

This meant that at the second Grand Prix they had to win all of their games and win the group to make it to the last 8s which they did in emphatic style, taking 'Castle to a second consecutive last 8s at this age group.

With a squad of 3x u15s and 9x u14s the girls did us proud at the Last 8s, beating South Bucks 2-0 in the opener. In match 2 vs Urmston a mid-match fire alarm disrupted the girls flow and unfortunately they fell 2-0 despite being in a strong position in the second set. Wapping, who ended up reaching the final beat the girls 2-0 in the last match leaving 'Castle joint 5th in the tournament and ranked #6 in England!

Charlotte Keen, Panayiota Kalli, Kornelia Chudyk, Jessica Simpson and Isabelle Roberts all represented West Midlands u15s in the Inter Regionals, and Laicie Williams played for Wales! Bella Bradshaw and Isabelle Roberts have both attended 2x England u17 camps as u14s this season.

U15 Boys

The season started with many of the players having to learn how to play 6v6 Volleyball. Grand Prix 1 was organised in regions, and we got drawn against Urmston A (Eventual Winners) and

Urmston C, for which we ended up finishing 2nd in a very cold sports hall. This result placed the team in the Silver Pool against, Urmston B and Urmston C for which we won easily not dropping a set and securing our place in the last 8's.

The last 8's saw us play Richmond A, Wessex and Team Sideout in our draw for which we could only manage 3rd place, but a massive improvement from the start of the season, with some very good performances especially in defence.

Michal Karas trained with England Cadets

Tom Satchithananda, Michal Karas, Rex To, and Oliver Groom all represented West Midlands u15s. Dylan Jones also got selected but sadly picked up an injury prior to the competition.

U16 Girls

Having reached the u15 last 8s last season the girls were aiming to match it as u16s. Unfortunately, their aims were scuppered in Grand Prix 1 when playing in a 5-team pool meaning 2-set matches not best of 3. The girls won their opening 3x matches 2-0 to set-up a clash vs highly fancied Urmston. Castle played out of their skin to win set 1, before losing a close second set meaning the match finished 1-1 and on points difference Castle came 2nd in the group and were placed in the silver pool for Grand Prix 2.

That competition proved a nightmare for the team with a late injury withdrawal from a key starter meaning a player with a sickness bug that week need to play. The girls won 2/3 matches but knew at that point the last 8s was all but out of reach.

In Grand Prix 3, 'Castle were in a great pool of strong teams all on the edge of being last 8s quality, and ended up winning 2 matches and losing 1... so they went to the Gold Cup ranked #10 in England, so as 2nd seeds.

Meanwhile the B team had also been excelling and finished with a ranking of #19 expecting to go to the Silver Cup... but a couple of withdrawals meant they joined the A team down in Ashcombe for the Gold Cup where they defeated west midlands rivals Black Country to take 7th!

At the Gold Cup, the A team beat London based teams in their quarter final and semi final before meeting Ashfield in the final. In a very tight match Castle lost 2-1, 15-12 in the decider!

Sarika Krishnadas and Eve Swindells both represented West Midlands at the Inter Regional Championships, and alongside Emma Vaughan they also played NVL for W2!

U16 Boys

This year we saw player numbers increase and felt the season would go well, but we are still reliant on some of the more junior players.

The season started very well with convincing wins in the Preliminary Round again Urmston, Nottingham and Black Country, topping the group without losing a set. This year with no Platinum Pool, we were placed in pools for northern and southern regions. For Grand Prix 1 we got placed in a group with Urmston A (last year's winner), Leeds (last year's 3rd place) and Urmston B, despite some close games we finished 3rd, But securing our place in the Gold Pool.

Grand Prix 2 was very similar being placed in a northern Pool with Urmston A, Leeds and Mk City, but doing enough to secure our place in the last 8's.

The team unfortunately picked up injuries to key players just before the last 8's and went into the competition with a much-weakened team. Despite some strong individual performances, the team just did not have the depth and sadly was ranked 7th overall.

Seb Wood, Max Butterworth, Lewis Ord and Sam Michell all trained at England Junior U18 Camp.

Seb Wood Captained and Max Butterworth and Lewis Ord all represented West Midlands U17

We entered this U16 group of players as a B team in the U18 Tier 1 competition which initially went very well but many of the players got called up to play for the A team as the competition progressed.

U18 Girls

We entered three teams this season – with the 'C' team being the u15 girls... and they reached the final of the Bronze Cup!... and the 'B' team being a real mix of girls getting valuable competitive experience, many being 'promoted' to the 'A' team during the season.

The u18 'A' team began the season in a transitional phase, having lost 2 key players from the previous seasons Gold Cup winning team. With not enough strength in depth amongst our year 12s, u16s Eve Swindells and Emma Vaughan were initially brought into boost numbers. Sarika Krishnadas (libero) and Bella Williams soon followed

As to be expected, we spent the first few GPs (1-3) trying to develop a system of play with the younger girls also having to adapt to the challenge of playing against bigger, stronger opponents. During this period, our serve and defence always kept us competitive, but it was evident that we would need to be more effective offensively to progress.

By GP4, relationships and understanding on court were beginning to form as we began to develop attacks from all areas of court and finally won 2 of our 3 games for the first time in the series. The team clearly now felt more optimistic heading into the last GP and the Gold Cup tournament

In the quarter finals we overcame Ashfield (lost to in both GPs 1 & 2), with relative ease and then followed this up with a hard-fought semi – final victory over Black Country. Due to venue problems, the final, against a strong, tall Wessex team was not actually played until early May and was best of 5 sets. From the start rallies were long and it was clear that the game would be close. Thanks to our improved attack we managed to match Wessex at the net and had a belief that our serve and strong defence would eventually wear them down. With the sets tied at 2-2, Castle went into the 5th appearing to be more positive, especially on serve. After a strong start to the set, Wessex were unable to fight their way back and Castle emerged 3-2 (15-9) winners, taking home the Gold Cup for a second season.

U18 Boys

Castle U18 Boys Season Highlights & Performance

The U18 boys squad delivered an impressive campaign in the Volleyball England u18 Super Series, first of its kind this season, finishing 2nd in the league rankings after 5 events and 15 matches winning the last 3 events. They also came 3rd in the national cup competition after a very close (both sides had the same overall points scored at the end of the game) match against Leeds Gorse who were the eventual cup winners. This was the only defeat on the day

Their consistent national-level performances underscored the club's impressive junior development system, built over decades.

As part of Newcastle Staffs' role in Volleyball England's Beach Volleyball Development Centres, U16/U18s enjoyed additional beach sessions each week enhancing their agility, court awareness, and all-round skills on sand which translated to indoor courts.

Newcastle Staffs has a well-established reputation for nurturing juniors claiming multiple national titles across categories over the years

The system has produced international-level talent, with several of the current U18 boys players have moved into higher-level competitions and senior squads at the club and with England.

The final games most of the players played in this season where in Italy at the Cornacchia world cup where we placed 12th in the competition of 24 teams , a wonderful experience for the club and the boys.

Summary

The 2024/25 season saw Newcastle (Staffs) U18 boys establish themselves as one of England's top youth squads sitting at the top table of English Junior Volleyball. The run in the Super Series reflected both high-calibre coaching and a robust development path from beach training to national-level indoor competition. Supported by the club's elite junior framework and legacy of success, the U18 boys not only performed strongly this season but also strengthened Newcastle Staffs' position as a leading producer of young volleyball talent.

Julian Kobylarz
July 2025

SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL

We have had a very busy year!

Just about every Wednesday we have played on 3 courts in Madeley, with a maximum of 42 players, capped via spond. We have a great uptake from Keele university students. But with so many people in the hall, it is a bit hard to give complete novices an introduction into volleyball.

We did put a temporary stop to admit new members, as we reached the 42 several weeks in a row with people on the waitinglist. The plan for next season is to empty the whole list end of August, for a great cleanup, and start anew in September.

Most pay on the evening via sumup. Some pay annually, some pay via West Mids. We have now a men's and a women's team playing in the West Midlands league.

Els Drijfhout, June 2025

WOMEN'S 1st TEAM REPORT

Following promotion in the previous season, the main aim for the 2024/25 season was to consolidate its position in the NVL Division 2 as well as continuing to embed and further improve the style of play.

The squad was bolstered by the arrival of Shannon McCue, Jenni Lee Johnson, Shadi Kim and Izzy Murphy but did lose Vika Kroll as she returned to Switzerland following her exchange year in the country.

We had a good pre-season with the quality of training exceeding the previous year and therefore hopes and expectations were high going into the season.

Whilst the team had an increased obvious technical ability from the previous season the improved quality of the opposition did cause some confidence challenges in the early games.

The team lost the first 3 games albeit two of these were winnable games and one was a 3-2 defeat away to Everton. The team won its 4th game with an extremely strong performance beating the league leaders at the time, Doncaster 3-0.

The remainder of the season saw a real mix of results with a great example seeing us beat Sheffield 3-2 one week and then lose 3-0 to the same team the following week.

We finished the season having won 5 and lost 9 games being placed in 6th position overall which meant that, essentially, the season aim of consolidation was achieved.

The season was disrupted by a number of injuries and absences across the squad. This meant that generally the squad was very different from week to week which did not allow us to build the momentum needed.

It is essential that the squad builds up its physical capabilities ahead of the next pre-season to ensure that we have greater resilience to the demands of the game.

Richard Guest, 17th June 2025

MEN'S 1ST TEAM REPORT

After the team's relegation from the Super League via a play-off in Surrey vs London Giants (who incidentally went on to reach the 24/25 season Super League Final 4s) we suffered some departures and retirements and therefore entered the 24/25 season knowing it required a re-build and would be a transitional season.

We utilised a blend of youth and experience, anchoring in the experience of Cam Rhodes, Stefan Cowley and Rich James (and drawing on a couple of experienced middles with a combined age of 80, when required!) alongside the very talented u18s from the club, and the growing crop of young players attracted to the area to study at University of Staffordshire alongside pursuing their volleyball.

Due to the strength of the u18 boys A Team and the increased frequency of their Grand Prix events, there was a significant negative impact on the Men's 1st team across five matchday weekends of the season. Whilst we accept that the club is committed to and celebrates junior success, in a season like this with the squad we had it was difficult to manage, and we slipped to three defeats that we otherwise should not have done. Other clubs and Volleyball England were not helpful in trying to navigate the issue when setting up fixtures at the start of the season and so we had to deal with it.

With this in mind, we should be pleased with 5th in the league, an effective national ranking of 15th ... however it is hard to look at the league table and particularly the D1-Super League playoff without feeling we might have made it back into the Super League. In our final league match of the season we travelled with a sub-par squad to Black Country, losing 19-17 in the final set vs the same starting team for BC who a few weeks later pushed Richmond Docklands all the way in the play-off!

Big thanks in particular to Stefan, Rich and Cam, and to all the team, supporters and volunteers.

Sam Stevenson, Coach
July 2025

WOMEN'S 2nd TEAM REPORT

For the first time in the clubs history, NSVC this season fielded a women's 2nd team in the NVL. The object of the team being to primarily give more game experience, at a reasonably challenging level, for our growing number of younger female members.

During the course of the season 15 players were used, training attendance was high and we usually had the full allocation of 14 players at fixtures. Whilst the team did struggle to secure victories, they did from the start push pretty much all teams hard. Probably our best performances were against the leagues two strongest teams, Manchester Moss Side and Leeds 2. Twice we took league winners Manchester to 4 sets and even had a set point in one game to go to a 5th. Against promoted Leeds we played a mammoth 2hr 15mins match, where our defence was at its best and actually had 2 match points in the 5th set before agonisingly losing out 3-2.

Whilst defence was clearly our strength, the team did struggle at times to find attacking winners. This though did clearly improve towards the end of the season after much hard work on this topic in training. It was very fitting that the team won their last game 3 – 0 against Hull, probably playing their best game offensively of the season.

As coach, I would like to thank the girls for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment through the season – the group really did have an outstanding team ethic and were a pleasure to coach. I would say that the goals/objective of the group were clearly met and the team were a credit to our developing female section.

Anthony Viggars, Coach
20th June 2024

MEN'S 2ND TEAM REPORT

National League Involvement

Newcastle Staffs Men's 2 were newly admitted into NVL Division 2 North for the 2024–25 season after a championship winning season the season before.

This season was always going to be tough as the squad mainly consisted of U18s boys and Staff University scholars who lacked a background in NVL and well as a lot of the U18s also playing for Men's 1 meaning they were training 3 times a week plus 2 games at the weekend.

We set ourselves the goal of staying in NVL Division 2 which we achieved with a game to go so an exciting season. The squad gelled well however lacked composure in close games, we were competitive all through the season and the team worked hard for each other with some notable games with 7 players especially one against league winner Manchester marvels that we eventually went down 3-1 however their coach said it was the hardest game they had all season.

One other standout match included a tightly contested 3-0 loss to Boston Kings of Court who had a seasoned squad (each set scored tight: 24-26, 23-25, 21-25) reflecting a competitive performance despite the result.

The team acted as a key stepping stone for transitioning players beyond University-level volleyball into the national league structure.

With strong competitive exposure at both BUCS and NVL tiers, players gained valuable experience in high-stakes environments, often acting as feeders to the club's first team.

With structured coaching in place, the Men's 2 squad showed excellent cohesion and growth through the season evident in consistent results (if not winning games) across multiple games. A special mention for the help with coaching from Phil Smith.

The team benefited from shared resources with the first team, thanks to Sam Stevenson for the coaching, strengthening club-wide development.

Final Conclusion

The 2024–25 season was a transitional season for Newcastle Staffs Men's 2. Stepping confidently into NVL Division 2 North, the team demonstrated both talent and ambition. The progress beyond player development to credible competitive results will set strong foundations for future seasons positioning them well for potential promotion pushes and deeper cup runs.

Julian Kobylarz
July 2025

WOMEN'S 3RD TEAM REPORT

This season has been a positive one for our Women's 3rd team. Although we only managed a few wins, the team showed great commitment and enthusiasm throughout. We faced tough opposition, often coming up against teams with much more experience, but our players rose to the challenge with determination and a positive attitude.

One of the highlights of the season has been the dedication shown by everyone, both for home and away matches, often travelling long distances and still giving 100% on court. Despite results not always going our way, the team spirit remained high, and players consistently supported one another to keep improving.

This year has laid solid foundations for the future, and with continued hard work and the experience gained this season, we are confident that the Women's 3rd team will keep progressing next year.

Sakura Althuge Don, July 2025

MEN'S 3RD TEAM REPORT

This was another successful year for the Men's 3 team. Being promoted to Division 2 in the West-Midlands Volleyball association, set our expectation that we will face tougher opposition this year.

The team started the season very well with winning 6 out of the first 7 games, just losing 2-3 to Birmingham City, who ended up being champions. Unfortunately, due to injuries, we had to recruit new players, which meant it took some time to get to play as a team, and our winning streak ended. The new recruited players were mostly students, and this meant that we had to forfeit a game, as the original date was clashing with the student competition, and although we tried, we couldn't reschedule the game.

During the final part of the season, we played better, with Tyler Allin-Jones playing well through middle, and Adam Lam connecting more with the hitters. We hoped to celebrate our final game with the return of Falko Drijfhout, coming back from his injury during the previous season, but the game was cancelled on the day! The third team finished fourth in Division two, which is a great achievement.

Falko Drijfhout, 28th June 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members

We started the 2024/25 year with an opening balance of £ 23,755.56.

As at the 2024/25 Year end on 31/05/2024 the Total Expenditure for the year was £42,120.05, our Total Income was £37,377.96 which left us with a Closing Balance of £18,973.47.

A decrease in Last Year's Balance of £4,782.09. The club's balance has again decreased since the previous years. This time of a more significant amount.

In April 2024, last financial year, we received £2,000 of sponsorship grants from VE to create a Beach Volleyball Development Centre. This year the club took on that initiative, used these funds and employed some Beach Circuit players to coach some beach volleyball sessions to our junior players. This, in addition to the court hire was funded by the sponsorship money we received from Volleyball England. The income being received in 2023/2024 and the cost being incurred in 2024/2025 largely explains the decrease in our balance that you can see above.

As well as Beach court hire, Indoor court hire has also contributed largely to the overall expenditure of the club. Our initiative to provide every member with a new club t-shirt continued. Referee expenses also remained consistent with the previous year at around £3,000 too.

A different initiative that took place this year was the U18 boys deciding to enter an international competition – Cornacchia World Cup. They raised funds by putting on Skills camps, hosting "Spot the ball" competitions as well taking on the responsibility of other fundraising activities. All money was funded through and expensed by the club. However, the club incurred no overall cost.

A note to add to this year, the Gift Aid for 2024 and 2025 has not yet been claimed. We will be claiming these in the 25/26 financial year.

All of this being considered, despite the decrease in balance in comparison to the previous years. The club is still in a good stable condition and looking to be in a positive position to increase the overall balance next year.

The year-end accounts of 2024/25 will be sent to Sefton's Accountants for auditing.

As we are over the £25,000 threshold of income, we require an independent examination.

Once audited the accounts and information will be sent to the Charities Commission for publication on the website (last year accounts can already be viewed online)

Matthew Smith
NSVC Treasurer
31/05/25

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
NEWCASTLE STAFFS VOLLEYBALL CLUB – ('the CIO')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31st May 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**D R Sefton
FFA
135-143 Union Street,
Oldham,
Lancashire,
OL1 1TE**

Date: 27th November 2025

For Season 2024/25							
INCOME		2024/25	EXPENDITURE		2024/25	Opening Balance (from 1/6/2024)	
		£			£	INCOME	
Snr Contirbution	£7,061.70		Volleyball England Senior Team E	£3,020.43			£23,755.56
Jnr Contribution	£14,068.73		Jnr Reg/Entry Fees	£2,953.56			£37,337.96
Social Contribution	£5,714.37		Club Affiliation	£114.54			£61,093.52
Cash in hand	£6.10		Audit	£756.75		EXPENDITURE	£42,120.05
Sponsors	£750.00		Referee Fees	£3,008.82			£18,973.47
Lyme Lottery	£101.50		Dawn Roberts Memorial Donation	£910.00		Balance at bank 1 (31/05/25)	£7,332.90
Gift aid received	£0.00		Sportshall Hire	£10,674.00		Balance at Bank 2 (31/05/25)	£11,632.24
Awards Eve	£1,901.43		Beach Court hire	£7,130.45		Cash in hand	£0.00
Christmas party / Club event	£1,376.19		Competition Hosting fees	£885.00			£18,965.14
Competition / Tournament hosting f	£1,406.49		Tournament travel / accomodation	£270.00		Difference	£8.33
Competition / Tournament travel	£171.42		Club Kit	£4,172.70		Cash in hand	£8.33
Beach Camp	£482.50		Club Equipment	£215.32		Balance	£0.00
Refund/Reimbursement	£170.32		Repairs & Fixtures	£0.00		Total Bank balance (incl. Cash)	
U18 Cornacchia fundraising	£3,311.20		Awards Eve	£1,950.29			£18,973.47
Sumup	£0.00		Club event / Christmas party	£723.00			
Spond	£0.00		Qualification/VE Reg. reimbursem	£892.85			
Dawn Roberts memorial Donation	£258.30		Coaching Fees	£958.79			
Fundraising	£557.71		Membership and Regular Refunds	£159.50			
			Cornacchia U18 tournament	£3,311.30			
			Miscellaneous	£12.75			
TOTAL	£37,337.96						
CHECK	£0.00		TOTAL	£42,120.05			
			CHECK	£0.00			

Accounts

Charity number: 1166178



NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st May 2024

NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

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TRUSTEES

- Marie Barley (Secretary)
- Matt Smith (Treasurer)
- Hannah Donaldson
- Els Drijfhout
- Ben Fernandez-Fontan
- Richard Guest
- Flossy Owen (Safeguarding)
- Will Roberts (Chair)
- Rod Stockwell
- Sharon Sturland

TRUSTEES REPORTS

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statement for the charity for the year ended 31st May 2024.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:

The promotion of the amateur sport of volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball for the public benefit and the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, by the provision of facilities for playing volleyball, beach volleyball sitting volleyball in Newcastle, North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been another year to be proud of as a club with so much going on. In 2020 we launched our 'Ambition 2030' strategy setting out three aims to achieve by our 50th anniversary as a club in 2030.

2030 Ambition 1: Double our Membership

Through an increased media presence, direct approaches with schools and others, and targeted social media promotion this growth happened remarkably quickly, and relatively easily.

The challenge has been keeping up pace and the implication of achieving the target three years after setting it has been significant on our requirements for venues and coaches. We must now ensure we provide high quality experiences for our members and consolidate on this growth.

- 2020 baseline (September): 135 members
- 2021/22 season: 263 members (up 95% vs baseline)
- 2022/23 season: 276 members (up 104% vs baseline)
- 2023/24 season: 367 members (up 172% vs baseline)

However, work is required to cleanse our membership database in summer 2024 as the 2023/24 figure is likely inaccurate due to the Social membership figures not having yet been assessed for members that attended no sessions in 23/24 – these should be removed from a final figure.

2030 Ambition 2: Create a home for the Club

We set-out with two options in this ambition, a home at Madeley School, and/or at Keele University Beach courts. The costs and complexities relating to working with the University mean that in 2022 it became evident that this would not be a viable option unless the University changes its approach to investment in facilities.

Initial conversations with Madeley School were positive with an in-principle 'yes' to creating a club room with kitchen, storage and indoor changing facilities on the small basketball court area between the sports hall and the new nursery. This led to the creation of initial drawings in January 2024 but since that time the Trust that runs Madeley School has indicated it would contribute no funding to the project – meaning that at this time we have no viable means of progressing any further given their restriction on funding sources (i.e. they would not accept use of available local funding source for ethical reasons).

With this ambition now seemingly out of reach for now, the Trustees will consider the development of a new ambition to ensure we keep moving forwards to our 50th anniversary in 2030!

2030 Ambition 3: To ensure our players and teams are at the top table of English Volleyball

Our achievements in the 23/24 season:

- Women's 1st team – promoted to NVL 2 through play offs
- Men's 2nd team – promoted to NVL 2 as Champions
- Men's 3rd team – promoted to West Midlands division 2 as Champions
- U18 Boys A team – National Ranking #1, National Championship Silver
- U18 Girls A team – National Gold Cup Winners

- U16 Boys A team – National Gold Cup Winners
- U15 Girls A team – Last 8s and National Ranking #9
- U15 Boys A team – Last 8s and National Ranking #5
- Two players capped by England Men
- Four players played for England Men Development
- One player in the England Girls Cadets team
- Six players played for England Boys Cadets team
- Four girls trained at England Junior Talent Pathway Camps
- Five boys trained at England Junior Talent Pathway Camps
- Five players played for West Midlands girls teams
- Nine players played for West Midlands boys teams
- Two coaches in the England National Team programmes

This is an impressive list, however we must recognise the potential impact of relegation from the Super League for Men1 – a symptom of the ongoing strengthening of those teams able to create full time training programmes through large Universities, and those in large metropolitan areas with significant populations from strong volleyball countries. Being based in a small market town on the outskirts of an unfashionable industrial city means we punch well above our weight and are at the top table!

We could not achieve this without the support of our sponsors and partners. Local businesses Paragon Pub Group, one of Staffordshire's premier employers and brands. Paragon feature as kit sponsor across all of our senior teams but their support behind the scenes again extended beyond this – thank you so much!

The importance of two further partners can never be underestimated – Madeley School, now entering its 21st year as an active partner of the club, and Staffordshire University. Both partners accommodate our frequent requests for court time and are open to suggestions of how they might help the club progress further. Huge “thank you” messages should go to both.

To close I would like to express my thanks to all of the club's volunteers, coaches and trustees – and all our members as the club is in such wonderful health thanks to the culture and environment that we have together.

Will Roberts
Chair of Trustees
June 2023

ANNUAL AWARDS WINNERS 2023-24 SEASON

Chair's Award - Senior	Diane Gentle
Women 1 – Coaches Player	Shev Watson
Women 1 – Players' Player	Alex Viggars
Women 1 – Most Improved	Vika Kroll
Women 2 – Coaches Player	Isabelle Regan
Women 2 – Players' Player	Manuela Trafane
Women 2 – Most Improved	Niamh Barrow
Women 3 – Coaches Player	Jennyfer Jung
Women 3 – Players' Player	Lydia Shabong
Women 3 – Most Improved	Sydney Pace
Men 1 – Coaches Player	Elliot Francis
Men 1 – Players' Player	Michael Lee
Men 1 – Most Improved	Josh Sturland
Men 2 – Coaches Player	Connor Grimes
Men 2 – Players' Player	Rich James
Men 2 – Most Improved	Komari Burey
Men 3 – Coaches Player	Ollie Panther
Men 3 – Players' Player	Elliot Wilde
Men 3 – Most Improved	Adrian Chudyck
Social – Most Social	Vyacheslav Paslar
VolleyStars – u7 to u11s: Thomas Dodd, Jacob Roberts, Edward Goodwin, Annie Goodwin, Georgi Parakasov, Vladi Parakasov, Abigail Wood, Clara Jackson, Elliott Deaville, Hattie Marsh, Lily Satchithananda, Roo Lang, Riley-Mae Summat, Pedr Summat	

Chair's Award – Junior	Alex Viggars
U18 Girls - MVP	Vika Kroll
U18 Girls – Most Improved	Lori Bettany
U18 Girls – Special Award	Kornelia Chudyk
U18 Boys - MVP	Josh Sturland
U18 Boys – Most Improved	Freddie Guest
U18 Boys – Special Award	Jim Cox
U16 Girls - MVP	Ryleigh Heron
U16 Girls – Most Improved	Kaitlyn Hurlstone
U16 Girls – Special Award	Eloise Guest
U16 Boys - MVP	Jim Cox
U16 Boys – Most Improved	Rudy Whittaker
U16 Boys – Special Award	Seb Karas
U15 Girls - MVP	Eve Swindells
U15 Girls – Most Improved	Emma Vaughan
U15 Girls – Special Award	Charlotte Keen
U15 Boys - MVP	Seb Wood
U15 Boys – Most Improved	Michal Karas
U15 Boys – Special Award	Seb Wood
U13 Girls - MVP	Jess Simpson
U13 Girls – Most Improved	Viv Burke
U13 Girls – Special Award	Laicie-Jo Williams
U14 Boys - MVP	Dylan Jones
U14 Boys – Most Improved	Thomas Jackson
U14 Boys – Special Award	Ollie Groom

SAFEGUARDING

As a club we have been fortunate to have had no issues regarding the welfare and safeguarding of our members this season.

We are grateful to our coaches for their hard work and vigilance, and as club we should be proud of our commitment to the members in our club but must ensure we don't become complacent.

Florence Owen
Safeguarding Officer, June 2024

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

Our junior membership this season stands at 134 with a highly comprehensive programme that has seen players 14+ training 2x per week thanks to our dedicated coaching team – all volunteers. We have also run outreach coaching at the Orme Academy, and guest sessions at Kings School in Kidsgrove further growing our membership.

The VolleyStars aged 7-11 years old have had a consistent group of around 12 children training weekly.

Our Beach Volleyball Development Centre launched in May 2024 means many young players are able to train twice a week on the sand at Keele University and are making rapid progress with Josh Sturland selected to play for England at the u20 Northern European Championships, and Eve Swindells/Sarika Krishnadas and Seb Wood/Rudy Whitaker selected to play for West Midlands at the Beach Inter Regionals in July.

U15 Girls

The club took full advantage of three Tier 2 Grand Prix events taking place before Christmas to give as many girls as possible competitive experience, and through parental support teams of u13 also played Grand Prix 4 and 5 in the new year.

This gave the girls a strong performance platform and led by Jess Keen and Will Roberts with close support from Geoff Keen and at Tier 1 Grand Prix at Wirral they finished 2nd behind a strong Urmston team, and beating the hosts in a close and tense encounter. Grand Prix 2 saw the Castle girls return to court with another month experience under their belts and knowing that if they won the Grand Prix they should qualify for the last 8s. In that gap, the girls had progressed leaps and bounds and the convincingly beat Hull Thunder, before comprehensively beating the Wirral team that had so recently pushed them very hard.

The season ambition was to make it to the Last 8s and the girls had done it! With a very young squad featuring four u13s in the starting 7 we knew this would be a learning experience and the coaches of the other teams all commented on how much the team came on on the day. The two finalists were in the 'Castle team's group at the last 8s... there is much to be proud of and look forward to.

Sarika Krishnadas and Isabelle Roberts attended England Talent Pathway camps, and Eve Swindells, Sarika Krishnadas and Kornelia Chudyk played for West Midlands u15s.

U15 Boys

We entered two teams in each of the tier 2 4v4 Grand Prix with the support of parents to run the teams – with so many teams in the club without parents prepared to do this we would not be able to give so many youngsters great opportunities to compete. The boys came on a great deal and the year 8/9 boys made great progress.

The A team played a very strong season coached by Karl Wood, and found that their nemesis opponent Urmston ended up winning the National Title. The team finished 5th in the national rankings and are very clearly the 5th best team – having beaten all the teams below them in the rankings comfortably, and lost out in close matches to the four teams that finished above them.

With a rapidly improving group of young boys emerging strongly, the u16 boys team for next season should aim to go further than this ranking! Exciting times!

Seb Wood trained with England Cadets, and Sam Mitchell, Max Butterworth, Dylan Jones, and Tom Satchithananda attended England Talent Pathway Camps. Seb, Sam and Max represented West Midlands u15s.

U16 Girls

The u16s had an extremely disappointing season in that despite having a reasonable group of players they never actually played together and the club unfortunately had to withdraw our tier 1 Grand Prix entry. A group of girls did play in tier 2 competition and regularly trained on Fridays. The disconnect between the group appeared to be that the better players who trained and played at a higher level (eg u18s/ Ladies 2) did not feel able to play/commit with others in their own age group? This is obviously a massive disappointment for the club and a problem that we somehow need to solve as the age group moves forward.

We also entered our younger girls in the u16s competitions and in two of the Grand Prix took a 'C' team too. This was invaluable experience for them and undoubtedly helped them get to the u15 last 8s, and making some great memories beating some good quality older teams.

Gracie Wilmer trained with the England Cadet Squad and represented the West Midlands u17 team at the recent Inter Regional Championships

U16 Boys

Whilst we had plenty of players meaning that we could have entered two teams in the u16 boys competition this season we were unsure of the commitment levels of younger players in that group and therefore decided to focus on one team, led by Matt Smith and Karl Wood.

After being drawn in a tough initial Gold Pool with eventual Champions Leeds, Castle missed out on the Platinum Pool and went into a Gold Pool stacked with talented teams all from London and travelled to the capital for a long day and very late night. With the venue booking starting in the afternoon a series of three set matches meant no warm-ups for Castle's last two matches and injuries were sustained in a controversial atmosphere and the boys just missed out on the Last 8s and went into the Gold Cup.

The team admirably recovered from this disappointment to win the Gold Cup!

Jim Cox represented England Juniors, and West Midlands u17s.

Seb Wood attended England Cadets Camps, and along with Sam Mitchell and Max Butterworth played for West Midlands u15s.

U18 Girls

In this age group we again had 'A' & 'B' teams competing in tier 1 and 2 Grand Prix competitions respectively. The 'A' team was again made up entirely of girls training within the Development Group, whilst the 'B' team also included some of the stronger u16 players also. Teams and sessions were coached by Anthony Viggars and Richard Guest.

'A' Team

This year's team was probably our strongest and certainly most cohesive group of junior girls that we have fielded for many years. The team was boosted in September by the arrival of 2 international students from, Brazil and Switzerland, who presence hugely elevated the level of

play that we were able to achieve. The hard work and dedication of other in the squad must also be commended.

With the arrival of Manuela and Vika coming after the Grand Prix entry deadline the team were left to go with our original plan to play tier 2 for round, 1 before then moving up to tier 1. This was based on the decision that the team were all actually u17s and this season was seen as more of a preparation exercise for next season. This left the team with a possible target of competing for the Gold Cup in the final Grand Prix weekend.

Over the 4 Grand Prix's the strength of the team became apparent as we generally served and passed better than our opponents and were physically more equipped at the net – taller. With the group also playing together in the West Midlands League the understanding and confidence amongst the girls grew between each round. Overall the team won 12 of 13 matches over the season and successfully achieved their goal of Winning the Gold Cup This was a fantastic achievement for a totally u17 team and the girls should be really proud of the level of play that they achieved.

'B' Team

Our 'B' Team competed in all four tier 2 Grand Prix's played at Wirral and Madeley. A combination of coaches staffed the team across the season with Adrian Chudyk a constant factor as either Coach, organiser or Manager.

With good commitment from a regular group of girls the team quickly settled into a playing system and results steadily improved throughout the series, The tournaments provided valuable court time (without huge travel demands) for several girls who we hope will go onto compete in tier 1 over the next few years and for current u18 girls not yet ready to play tier 1.

Lori Bettany did also transition into becoming 'A' team Libero

Alex Viggars trained with the England Cadet Squad and represented the West Midlands u17 team at the recent Inter Regional Championships

U18 Boys

Two teams were entered in Tier 1, with a very strong 'A' team largely composed of u17s coached by Julian Kobylarz, and a mixed 'B' team with a blend of u15-u18 boys coached by Karl Wood.

'A' Team

Like the girls, this year's team was probably our strongest and certainly most cohesive group of junior boys that we have fielded for many years, with a strong group having progressed together through from being u14s to now largely be u17s, with added strength from Kieran Carstens who joined in spring 2023 and Joshua Chizewa.

The team won their initial pool to be in the new 'Platinum Pool' which meant that they would automatically qualify for the Last 8s and would take on the other top teams in the country multiple times in the season – great for their development. In January down in London, the Castle lads were excellent winning all their matches to be top ranked in the Grand Prix series. At the last 8s they saved their best performance to beat Leeds in the semi-finals after losing to Richmond in the pool – and made the club's first u18 boys National Final since 2012.

Sadly in the final the boys could not bring their best performance and lost 3-0 vs a well organised Richmond team and despite trying a number of options, could not find a way to win.

The boys will come back stronger next season with only two players not coming through for another season.

'B' Team

Our 'B' Team competed in all four tier 1 Grand Prix events and played for the club with pride, coached excellently by Karl to balance the ambitions, abilities and experience levels of a committed bunch. It was absolutely right to play in Tier 1, meaning the players got a good challenge and they represented the club brilliantly through to the Bronze Cup.

Josh Sturland played for England Men's Development team, and the England Juniors where he was joined by Jim Cox, Kieran Carstens, Albert Biryukov-Wang, Finn Chalkley-Beales, and Charlie Kobylarz. These players all also played for West Midlands at the Inter Regionals.

SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL

NSVC Social Volleyball has had another very good year. Our venue is Madeley Sport shall, where we are every Wednesday from 6-8pm. The aim is to give adults the opportunity to play volleyball, regardless of their skill; so even very inexperienced players can have a go and learn from those who have had lots of training and/or experience.

We use the Spond app to sign up for sessions. This is working fine. We have 173 people listed (61 more than last year!), though some have not played at all this year. We have reached the maximum of 42 players (6 team of 7) a few times. We have a mix of beginners and advanced players, and try to mix abilities in the teams.

We have players from all over the world, who for work or study are in the area and have found us via the internet or via friends. Students from Keele are in the majority most evenings, they are very glad for the extra opportunity to play, as indoor facilities at Keele are limited.

We play on a pay as you play basis and payment goes via the Sumup app, though some people prefer to pay straight into the club account, and some pay the annual fee in one or 3 instalments.

Great as it is to have 3 courts to play on in the hall, we have noticed that the school is lagging in the maintenance of the hall, mainly the holes in the floor. We try to put equipment away in a safe way, but do not always find it tidied away safely. Both are cause for concern.

For the first time a women's and a men's team has been entered in the West Midlands league. We try to help each other out with scoring and lining, and cheering each other along.

Els Drijfhout
21st May 2024

WOMEN'S 1st TEAM REPORT

I took over the head coach role for the Womens 1 team at the start of the 2023/4 season with support being provided by Keeley Guest both as an Assistant Coach but also as the key pastoral contact for the players. It was important to provide that additional support as part of the agreement of me to take on the team was on the basis we would focus purely on performance and player development which would need greater levels of interaction and support.

During the close season we held a meeting with the core players to understand their own individual and collective ambitions and to ensure the views of the coaching team and players were aligned.

This was a positive meeting and the womens 10 year vision and mission document was created on the back of it which we would refer back to at times to ensure we were continually aligned. As part of the revamp of the focus, the team gained a new home at the Orme Academy which was fitted out with a new court, new equipment and our own access keys which was clear evident of the backing of the club in the team.

We welcomed some brand new players into the playing squad – Jenny Jung, Emma Willhoite, Vika Kroll; promoted Alex Viggars from the development squad & we brought younger players Grace Wilmer & Isabelle Regan into the training environment to further their continued development.

Pre-season was really positive and the players adapted well to the new style of play & more intense training sessions. The main season was an overall success with the team finishing second in the league only losing to the unbeaten divisional winner Black Country. Overall in the league & cup we played a total of 18 games winning 14 & losing 4; winning 46 sets & losing 17.

The team put the new quicker style of play into practice really well – often beating teams three to zero and restricting them to very low set scores. This meant that the season would be defined in a one off play off game vs Hull in Ashcombe. The team prepared exceptionally well for the game with clearly defined and focused training sessions over a 5 week period.

The game itself was challenging with the noise from the adjoining court a clear distraction to the players and coach as communication was almost impossible. That said despite not playing our best on the day the team showed incredible resilience and team spirit to win the game 3-2 and 17-15 in the final set.

The aim for the season was to intensify the sessions, improve the style of play and develop players technically – all of which was achieved so it has been a huge success overall.

The fact the team won promotion in the first season was a deserved outcome for all their efforts and certainly places us one year ahead of plan on the wider vision and mission for the female section of the club – both for this team and the wider plans.

The team are now better equipped from a technical, tactical & style of play perspective but next season we will provide greater support for players on the mental side of the game as this will be more required as the quality of opposition increases and the games intensify even further.

Richard Guest
31st May 2024

MEN'S 1ST TEAM REPORT

After losing two of England's leading international players and graduates of our club's junior development programme in the summer of 2023 (Zakk Hadgett, current England captain – to a pro contract in Denmark; Adam Bradbury – preceding England captain – returning to Australia where he first played professionally) it was always going to be a tough season and sadly after a play-off it ended in relegation from the Super League.

Despite these departures, we were pleased to recruit Michael Lee from Derby, David Hodson from University of Nottingham, Jermaine Miles from London Malory Eagles and Lichfield based former FIVB World Beach Tour player for Australia Cole Durant, and trained excellently through the summer period approaching the season well prepared.

The Super League structure saw our 'home' match vs reigning champions Durham take place at Kettering on a show court event which sadly saw this controversial match live streamed, laying bare the challenges in the NVL as part way through the match the appointed scorers realised that a starting player for Durham was not on the scoresheet. This controversy led to a 30 minute delay followed by a 'cold restart' with no warm-up for the teams and 'Castle played out the match under protest losing 3-2 but on appeal being awarded a 3-0 win. Big thanks to Richard Guest for his support in managing this appeal.

Pre-Christmas the team's form was up and down, playing fantastic volleyball at times and at others looking like a disjointed team that had no confidence, and these ups and downs coupled with only two league matches at home saw us critically lose away at Leeds and also drop points at vs Sunderland. These were results that came back to haunt us.

Over the Christmas period Cameron Rhodes and Mike Lee excelled for England at the Novotel tournament and the team felt good going into a busy period with lots of home games, but in the first training session back Cam suffered a serious ankle injury which meant we were without England's number 1 setter for most of the rest of the season never quite making it to 100%. We also lost Josh Wainwright to ill health and Jermaine Miles and Cole Durant due to work, and David Hodson also suffered a bad ankle injury, and Sam Stevenson had to take time out as coach due to family illness.

Matt Smith and Sam Allen came out of retirement, as did Will Roberts (again!), and u17 star Josh Sturland became a real star... and the team managed to finish 9th, so go into a relegation playoff rather than automatically go down.

Going full circle to the farce of the opening game, the playoff was played in the south east with a 370 mile round trip to play in the 'central' location against London Giants. The opposition spectators were ferocious in their support creating a hostile atmosphere with Castle going down 3-1 including a 33-31 second set defeat, and will play in NVL1 next season. A very sad way to end a draining season.

Thank you to all those who have supported the team through the season especially Hannah for the secretarial support, Liv and others for scoring, Simon for coaching support, Kate and the Staffs Uni team for the background support and the club members who cheered us on!

Sam Stevenson, Head Coach
4th June 2024

WOMEN'S 2nd TEAM REPORT

Our Ladies 2nd team again competed in the West Midlands League with all matches(bar one) comprising of players training in our Development Group. The emphasis of the team was to give our younger players valuable court time to further aid their progress, with the added benefit that it would also benefit our u18 teams preparation for their Grand Prix Series.

With several fixtures clashing with either NVL games or National Squad weekends we were not always able to field our strongest team, but this did have the benefit that certain players experienced more court time than they might otherwise have had. This did however also highlight that we currently do lack numbers of setters able to currently perform at this level. Fortunately Keeley Guest and Manuela Trafane did sterling jobs when asked to step into the role.

As usual with a young team, performances did improve as the season progressed. This was perhaps best highlighted in the fact that we lost the first game of the season 0-3 to Telford and beat them 3-0 in our final game.

The team ended with 7 wins and 7 losses and finished a in very creditable top half, 4th place in the league. Overall I feel that the season was a success and our young team should be proud of their efforts. In fact several of our best performances came in defeats against the few strong teams that finished above us in the league, who featured many experienced NVL players.

Thanks must go to Diane Gentle who had the task of trying to navigate the numerous fixture problems that the West Midlands League always generates. A big thanks also to Bee Yusuf for officiating the majority of home games.

Anthony Viggars, Coach
3rd June 2024

MEN'S 2ND TEAM REPORT

The 2023/24 season has been an outstanding period for Newcastle Staffs Men 2, showcasing our team's dedication, hard work, and exemplary performance on the court. This report summarizes the key achievements, statistics, and highlights from the season, reflecting on our journey and looking forward to future success in Men Division 2 North in the 24/25 season..

Team Performance Overview

We demonstrated exceptional prowess throughout the season, participating in a total of 16 matches. The team secured 15 wins and suffered only 1 loss, underscoring our dominance and consistency. This stellar performance earned us the top position in the league, a testament to the collective effort and strategic excellence displayed by our players and coaching staff. 19 players contributed to the season with 6 of these U18 with a number of the team also playing up into the Men's 1 team.

Statistical Highlights

- Matches Played (P): 16
- Wins (W): 15
- Losses (L): 1
- Sets For (SF): 46
- Sets Against (SA): 15
- Sets Quotient (SQ): 3.067
- Points For (PF): 1428
- Points Against (PA): 1196
- Points Quotient (PQ): 1.194
- Total Points (PTS): 42

Detailed Analysis

- **Winning Streak:** The team achieved a remarkable winning streak, securing victories in 15 out of 16 matches. This impressive record highlights our tactical superiority and resilience.
- **Sets Dominance:** With 46 sets won and only 15 sets lost, the team's sets quotient stands at an impressive 3.067. This reflects our ability to dominate matches and finish strong, often outpacing our opponents significantly.
- **Scoring Efficiency:** Scoring a total of 1428 points while conceding 1196, our points quotient of 1.194 showcases our offensive efficiency and robust defence. The ability to maintain a positive points differential has been crucial in our overall success.

Achievements and Milestones

League Leaders: Finishing the season at the top of the league with 42 points is a monumental achievement, demonstrating our team's superiority and consistency. This compared to winning and losing 7 games last season show a marked improvement.

Player Development: Several players have shown significant growth and development, contributing to the team's success and setting the stage for future achievements. The mix of young talent and seasoned veterans contributed to the consistency of the team over the season with a large number of the team getting the opportunity to play up. We hope to continue using U18 players in the 24/25 season to give them NVL experience as this also gives us a good basis for National U18's competition and gives us a pipeline of talent.

Team Cohesion: The synergy and teamwork displayed this season have been exemplary, with each player contributing effectively to the collective goal.

Conclusion

The 2023/24 season has been one of the most successful in recent history for Newcastle Staffs Men 2. The dedication and hard work of our players, coaching staff, and supporters have been instrumental in achieving our goals. As we reflect on this season's accomplishments, we also look forward to building on this success in the upcoming season.

Future Outlook

We aim to continue our trajectory of excellence by focusing on player development, strategic enhancements, and maintaining the high standards we have set this season. With the unwavering support of our Club and the relentless drive of our team, we are poised for a great 24/25 season in National Men's Division 2 North.

Acknowledgements

A special thank you to our supporters, sponsors, and everyone involved with Newcastle Staffs Men 2. Your continued support and encouragement have been invaluable. Here's to another successful season ahead!

Julian Kobylarz, Men's 2 Head Coach
4th June 2024

WOMEN'S 3RD TEAM REPORT

2023/2024 has been a real challenge for Ladies 3, after the decision to diversify NSVC ladies into three teams for this season. Predominantly due to our team players having busy lives including children of their own, work, other sporting commitments.

From last season's team, we now have two new NSVC babies and another one due prior to next season - hopefully more NSVC superstars in the making!

Our main challenge was consistently within the team and getting 7+ players to attend matches. Without a structured training session, our only opportunity to meet potential new players were through University links and social on Wednesday evenings.

We currently have a pool of about 10-12 ladies who played for us this season, however the struggle will continue into next season as we are losing possibly 2-3 of them to university degrees finishing. Because of this, we forfeited 2 games this season which were opportunity games and had to change one to a double-header at Madeley (vs Stourbridge) spreading 10 ladies over a gruelling 10 sets (losing 3-0, winning 5-2).

The other major challenge we came up against was timings of fixtures, for example playing Cleobury on a Tuesday evening at 8pm. We were having to leave Newcastle around 6-6.30pm and not returning home until turned midnight if the match went more than 3 sets.

Our star player this season was Jennyfer Jung, a Brazilian player joining the team this year. Jenny earnt MVP in every match she played in, which is extraordinary. Her wing hitting and power serving were incredible and ultra consistent; I don't believe we would have won some of the matches we played without her!

The best thing about our team this season was togetherness, everyone pulling their weight and supporting the greater cause from washing kit to supporting with travel and side-line coaching. Every player helped each other out in a different way and it is so showing when we polled for the awards this year which so many names being thrown into the hat for MVP, most improved and best support.

MEN'S 3RD TEAM REPORT

With mainly players drawn from Wednesday nights' social volleyball sessions the Men's 3rd team proudly played its first match on Sunday 15th October 2023. It was a nervy introduction to competitive West Midlands League volleyball for the squad of 7 players but almost unbelievably, after losing the first 2 sets, resulted in a sweaty 5 set away win against Birmingham City 2. That night the 'Castle team played a variety of systems with one setter, two setters, no setter and some other "experimental" rotations that are probably best consigned to the dustbin of history. The team has settled on a traditional one setter system, and usually includes a libero in the team.

The matchday squads and starting line-up have varied throughout the season, and we've had to cope with several injuries, not least to club talisman Falko's achilles tendon during the first set of his first game of the season. In fact foot, ankle and lower leg injuries have been our collective Achilles heel this year.

There have been some notable performances and contributions this season, including;

Setting – Tom B, considering the sub-optimal physical condition of the player/coach, the team has been surprisingly complimentary about his choices and execution with the ball. Seb, Speake(y), JJ, Matt, Elliott, and latterly, Adam L have all also been called upon to orchestrate our attack. Notably Adam L – having never previously played as setter – won MVP for the 3 games in a row that he played for us!

Hitting - We have been fortunate to be able to call upon a couple of the club's rising junior stars, Seb and Max, who have been regulars in the team and they have happily played in any position asked of them, but have mainly been used, and excelled, as "4" hitters. Slightly older are Elliott and Ollie who have also terrorised oppositions with the power of their hitting. Older still are Adam O, Iliya, and Matt who killed their fair share of Mikasas too.

Middle Blockers – We lost our Dutch star early in match 2 but our other 2 mature, and tall, middle blockers, Apostol and Adrian have both been extremely enthusiastic and both had adrenalin creating, scream inducing moments of first line defence flooring the opposition's attack. They've also been effective in attack, with their timing and connection with the setter improving as games and the season went on. The middle positions have, less frequently, been occupied by Tom B, Ollie and Iliya.

Opposite – We haven't had a regular starter at Opposite. Ollie, Elliott, Max, Speake(y), Adam B and JJ have all played Opposite, and their experience this season has mainly been to be part of our block rather than attack.

Libero – The libero position has been used to fulfil a couple of different objectives, to give the middle blockers a rest and to give as much court time as possible to everyone in the matchday squad.

The Team would like to recognise the work of our secretary, Diane, who has arranged our fixtures and registered our (many) players – A HUGE Thank You to her!

We would also like to say thank you to Abbie and Wiktorina, who have often scored for us at home and supported us home and away all season.

Looking forward to next season, there has already been lots of interest from social players asking how they can join the Men's 3rd.

15 Oct '23 Sunday	Away	Won 2-3	Birmingham City 2	No system 1 setter / 2 setter / Matt D Libero
30 Oct '23 Monday	Away	Won 0-3	Dudley Academy	Falko injured – Joe Machin Libero
16 Dec '23 Saturday	Home	Lost 1-3	Coventry and Warwick Riga	Iliya left to go to work
6 Jan '24 Saturday	Home	Won 3-0	Telford 2	Old Guys Rule 1- Tom-ski
3 Feb '24 Saturday	Home	Won 3-1	Birmingham City 2	Old Guys Rule 2 – Tom-ski
28 Feb '24 Wednesday	Away	Won 1-3	Coventry and Warwick Riga	Adam O – serving demon
17 Mar '24 Sunday	Away	Won 1-3	Telford 3	8 rotation fouls in 1 set
6 April '24 Saturday	Home	Won 3-0	Dudley Academy	3-0 walkover – Dudley no show
14 April '24 Sunday	Away	Won 1-3	Telford 2	Only 1 rotation foul
7 May '24 Tuesday	Away	Won 1-3	Wombourne 3	2 ankle injuries – Ollie & Apostol Debut of 2 Adams (other Adam injured)
11 May '24 Saturday	Home	Won 3-0	Telford 3	Speake opposite
12 May '24 Sunday	Home	Won 3-1	Wombourne 3	Old middles, youth on wings

- 1x Mon (a)
- 1x Tues (a)
- 1x Weds (a)
- 5x Sat (5h 0a)
- 4x Sun (1h 3a)
- 11 sets dropped 5 in 3 (h) 6 in 5 (a)
- 3-0 x4 (3h 1a) 16-5 (h)
- 3-1 x6 (2h 4a) 18-6 (a)
- 3-2 x1 (0h 1a)
- 1-3 x1 (1h 0a)

Tom Barr, Coach
11th May 2024

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members

We started the 2023/24 year with an opening balance of £ 31,811.77.

As at the 2023/24 Year end on 31/05/2024 the Total Expenditure for the year was £48,849.84, our Total Income was £40,914.78 which left us with a Closing Balance of £23,876.71.

A decrease in Last Year's Balance of £7,935.06.

Continuing on from last year the club has decided to carry on the initiatives taken in 2022/23, these being:

- the deployment of coaching services and development to aid coaching across the club
- facility investment to enable volleyball to be played at Orme Academy
- investment into the Awards Evening the club holds
- reducing the cost for our members, to celebrate the success of both players, teams and the overall club.
- both Indoor and beach court hire have again contributed largely to the overall expenditure of the club and grow aligned with our growth of members and
- new Club kits, tournament/travel & accommodation, as well as referee fee expenditure.

These has undoubtedly attributed to the decrease in the overall balance from last financial year to this year. These initiatives taken were something that was discussed and agreed as a positive initiative by our board of Trustees.

The Gift Aid for 2023 was claimed and the amount received during the 23/24 year. For 2023 we received an amount of £3,286.39.

The year-end accounts of 2023/24 will be sent to Sefton's Accountants for auditing.

As we are over the £25,000 threshold of income, we require an independent examination.

Once audited the accounts and information will be sent to the Charities Commission for publication on the website (last year accounts can already be viewed online)

Matthew Smith, NSVC Treasurer
31/05/24

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
NEWCASTLE STAFFS VOLLEYBALL CLUB – ('the CIO')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31st May 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

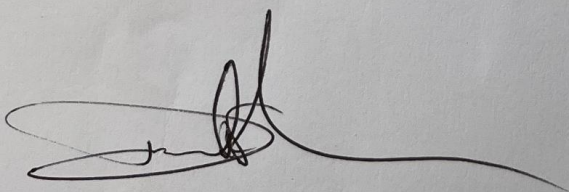
I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act: or;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**D R Sefton
FFA
135-143 Union Street,
Oldham,
Lancashire,
OL1 1TE**

Date: 8th November 2024

For Season 2023/24							
INCOME	2023/24		EXPENDITURE	2023/24		Opening Balance (from 1/6/2023)	£31,811.77
	£			£		INCOME	£40,492.64
Snr Contirbution	£5,927.80		Volleyball England Team entry fee	£4,238.14			£72,304.41
Jnr Contribution	£13,795.83		Jnr Reg/Entry Fees	£0.00		EXPENDITURE	£48,849.84
Social Contribution	£5,052.79		Ref Fees	£2,928.94			£23,454.57
Lyme Lottery	£116.00		Club Affiliation	£111.96		Balance at bank 1 (6/12/23)	£5,746.76
Spond	£597.69		Audit	£694.44		Balance at Bank 2 (31/05/24)	£17,537.08
Sponsors	£3,400.00		Hall Hire	£9,246.80			£23,283.84
Refund/Reimbursement	£1,525.77		Grants/sponsorship	£350.00		Difference	£170.73
Sumup	£0.00		Merchandise	£0.00		Cash in hand	£170.73
Awards Eve	£3,408.62		Beach Court hire	£3,687.60		Balance	£0.00
Gift aid refund	£3,286.39		Award Eve	£5,005.59			
Christmas party / Club event	£978.26		Tournaments	£755.94		Total Bank balance (incl. Cash)	£23,454.57
Competition / Tournament hosting fee	£1,106.59		Qualification/Registration reimburse	£1,357.41			
Competition / Tournament travel	£1,128.40		Tournament travel / accomodation	£2,525.12			
NULC	£0.00		Sportset	£0.00			
			Website	£0.00			
			Club event / Christmas party	£744.00			
			Equipment	£2,665.27			
			Club Kit	£7,650.45			
			Repairs & Fixtures	£3,580.68			
			Coaching Fees	£2,497.50			
			Membership and Regular Refunds	£810.00			
			</				

Accounts



NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31st May 2023

NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

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TRUSTEES

- Marie Barley (Secretary)
- Matt Smith (Treasurer)
- Els Drijfhout
- Ben Fernandez-Fontan
- Richard Guest
- Flossy Owen
- Will Roberts (Chair)
- Emma Rodgers
- Rod Stockwell

Due to personal circumstances Emma Rodgers stepped back from being a Trustee mid-season, to be replaced at the 2023 AGM.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statement for the charity for the year ended 31st May 2023.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:

The promotion of the amateur sport of volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball for the public benefit and the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, by the provision of facilities for playing volleyball, beach volleyball sitting volleyball in Newcastle, North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

CHAIR'S REPORT

We are such a progressive and positive club that in completing these reports I always struggle to reflect on the year past as my focus and energy tends to be forward looking, but recognising and celebrating what we have achieved is important in understanding where we can go.

The period covered by the 2022-23 volleyball season has been characterised by soaring ongoing inflation and a cost-of-living crisis. These issues have affected the club – we lost junior members in September whose parents referenced a decision to cut down on activities for their children to reduce costs, and despite freezing our membership costs we also needed to provide financial assistance to a larger number of members. In parallel with this, our costs have risen with venues increasing their charges.

We could not achieve this without the support of our sponsors and partners. Local businesses Paragon Pub Group, one of Staffordshire's premier employers and brands. Paragon feature as kit sponsor across all of our senior teams but their support behind the scenes again extended beyond this – thank you so much! Environmental Essentials, another local company also founded by a Newcastle-under-Lyme local, and friend of the club sustained their sponsorship of our Junior Teams.

The importance of two further partners can never be underestimated – Madeley School, now entering its 20th year as an active partner of the club, and Staffordshire University. Both partners accommodate our frequent requests for court time and are open to suggestions of how they might help the club progress further. Huge “thank you” messages should go to both.

The effective long term financial management of the club is therefore something that have given us security to ‘carry on regardless’ and work hard to provide the best possible quality experiences we can. The cushion of our reserves is a blessing that prevents sleepless nights, and it is notable that we experienced only a small decrease in our closing vs opening balance in the 2022-23 financial year. We are proud to be so well run in a voluntary context and celebrate that fact that our Trustees have not only this season dealt with the day to day running of the club but also undertaken important governance work for example reviewing our policies.

Other areas of our professionalism are our clothing partnership with Kitlocker and Nike branded clothing which also provides a kick-back into the club which we use to suppress costs, and our use of the Spond member management app which has helped transform member communication over the last two seasons, and critically reduce the time our volunteer spend on admin – meaning they can do more of the enjoyable stuff!

During the season we faced a complaint made against a coach and there followed a Safeguarding investigation. This tested the skills of our Safeguarding lead Flossy Owen, and she managed this admirably with the support of Rich Guest in particular. Ensuring our members has safe and enjoyable experiences is at the heart of the purpose of a community club, and confidence that the club will deal with any issues is critical to our credibility with members.

This season was also Rod Stockwell's last as NVL fixture secretary, and we salute his efforts over the years and commitment to the role and the teams. We are grateful that Rod will remain a Trustee... and as a volleyball fan anticipate he will still be at many matches through the season!

Led by our board of Trustees we celebrated our 40th anniversary in 2020 by looking to the future and imagining what the club might be in 2030 when we reach 50! Club members past and present contributed to lively discussions on this and we agreed three ambitions for 2030:

1. To double our membership (baseline of 135 members)
2. To create a home for the club (i.e. facility)
3. To ensure our players and teams are at the 'top table' of English Volleyball

In 2022-23 we made progress!

2030 Ambition 1: Double our Membership

Through an increased media presence, direct approaches with schools and others, and targeted social media promotion this growth happened remarkably quickly, and relatively easily.

The challenge has been keeping up pace and the implication of achieving the target three years after setting it has been significant on our requirements for venues and coaches. We must now ensure we provide high quality experiences for our members and consolidate on this growth.

- 2020 baseline (September): 135 members
- 2021/22 season: 263 members (up 95% vs baseline)
- 2022/23 season: 276 members (up 104% vs baseline)

2030 Ambition 2: Create a home for the Club

We set-out with two options in this ambition, a home at Madeley School, and/or at Keele University Beach courts. The costs and complexities relating to working with the University mean that in 2022 it became evident that this would not be a viable option unless the University changes its approach to investment in facilities.

Initial conversations with Madeley School have been positive with an in-principle 'yes' to creating a club room with kitchen, storage and indoor changing facilities on the small basketball court area between the sports hall and the new nursery. With the nursery having set a model for the adaptation of a mobile classroom building there is recent experience in the school.

We must now ensure we focus on creating a viable costed plan, and embark on a fundraising strategy.

2030 Ambition 3: To ensure our players and teams are at the top table of English Volleyball

The success of the Men's 1st team in the 21/22 season served as a reminder of the **value and influence of performance across the whole club:**

- A positive feeling through the club
- Teams supporting teams
- Increased spectatorship including 5x 100+ crowds in a 9-day period
- Role modelling for emerging and young players
- The best habits becoming the norm
- Increased media profile
- Improved engagement with our sponsors

So, what did we do in 2022-23 to build on this and drive further change?

- Relationships with partners to increase training opportunities at no further cost to the club (use of Staffs Uni)
- Accelerated player progression
 - Creation of Women's Development team to bridge the gap between junior and NVL competitions
 - U15/16 train 2x per week as an expectation, including strength and conditioning
 - U18 players able to access up to 4 sessions/week through attendance of Newcastle College & joining NVL squads

- Taking our Beach Programme to a new level
- Invested in coaches to sustain momentum in overall club influence, reputation and brand (all three of our 2030 ambitions rely on having great coaches)
 - ... to cater for our growing membership
 - ... to make the most of our new facilities
 - ... to help our players achieve their potential
- We invested in utilising England Men's National Team coach to support coach and player development through coach mentoring and session support twice a month. This would:
 - value our coaches, directly supporting their development, learning and growth
 - raise standards of performance in coaching, and therefore on the court
 - demonstrate to our members and wider community that we are serious about taking the club forward, aligned with the charitable and community values upon which the club is built.

...And as a result we achieved:

Senior Performance top achievements:

- 6th place (= W/L ratio with 4th, improved ratio vs 21/22!) in the Super League
- 3 players represented England including Zakk Hadgett as captain
- Hosting England Men's Camps, coach Sam Stevenson invited to become an assistant with England Men

Junior Performance top achievements:

- Joe Kobylarz represented England at the CEV u19s
- Josh Sturland and Jim Cox represented England at the CEV u17s
- Further male and female athletes in England Juniors and Cadets training camps
- Richard Guest secured role as England Junior Girls Assistant Coach
- Rapid progression through Women's Development Team with players now training in NVL squad
- 6 young juniors attending Volleyball England Futures Camp
- Hosted Junior Beach Performance Camp led by England Beach coach Pete Makowski
- u18 boys 3rd in National Rankings, u18 girls 18th in National Rankings (did not compete in GP3, if they had and had secured average points from GP1 and 2 they would have been ranked 14th)
- u16 boys 7th in National Rankings, u16 girls 9th in National Rankings
- u15 boys 5th in National Rankings, 15 girls 15th in National Rankings (did not compete in GP3, if they had and had secured average points from GP1 and 2 they would have been ranked 12th)

To close I would like to express my thanks to all of the club's volunteers, coaches and trustees – especially to Marie Barley and Richard Guest without whose additional support in both time, reassurance and initiative – the role of chair would have been too much for me to carry. Most of all though... I'd like to thank all our members as the club is in such wonderful health thanks to the culture and environment that we have together.

Will Roberts
Chair of Trustees
June 2023

ANNUAL AWARDS WINNERS 2022-23 SEASON

CHAIR'S AWARD			
Senior	Julian Kobylarz	Junior	Josh Sturland
SENIOR PLAYER AWARDS			
Team	Coaches Player	Players Player	Most Improved
Women’s Social	Nike Baechle	Bee Yusuf	Els Drijfhout
Women’s Development	Lily Sturland	Alex Viggars	Dash Vitsynska
Men 2	Thomas Jeneson	Joe Kobylarz	Trafim Brokh
Women 1	Becky Hallworth	Olivia Burton	Abbie Gentle
Men 1	Cameron Rhodes	Zakk Hadgett	Josh Wainwright
Social – most social member!		Falko Drijfhout	
JUNIOR PLAYER AWARDS			
Team	MVP	Most Improved	
u18 Girls	Abbie Gentle	Niamh Breslin	
u18 Boys	Joes Kobylarz	Harry Ford	
u16 Girls	Alayna Hirschi	Maria Pachucka	
u16 Boys	Charlie Kobylarz	Josh Sturland	
u15 Girls	Gracie Wilmer	Ryleigh Heron	
u15 Boys	Seb Wood	Seb Karas	
u14 Girls	Sarika Krishnadas	Lara Saint	
u14 Boys	Seb Wood	Ashish Saninair	
u13 Girls	Maggie Friend	Evie Watson	
u13 Boys	Tom Satchithananda	Dylan Jones	
u12s	Andrew Findlater	Isabella Bradshaw	
VolleyStars	all players		

SAFEGUARDING

As a club we have been fortunate to have had very little issues regarding the welfare and safeguarding of our members. However, this year we have had one matter arise. This has now been closed, and the appropriate actions were taken.

We are grateful to our coaches for their hard work and vigilance, and as club we should be proud of our commitment to the members in our club but must ensure we don't become complacent.

Florence Owen
Safeguarding Officer, June 2023

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

Running a junior section for players aged 7-18 requires a significant commitment from coaches in a voluntary section and we are fortunate to have enough coaches who understand the commitment and personal investment that young people deserve and need if they are to flourish and develop in sport.

Sincere thanks to all those who have coached juniors this season. This has been led by Julian Kobylarz, Ant Viggars, Matt Smith, Flossy Owen, Richard Guest, Will Roberts, Jack Dunkley and Sam Stevenson, supported at various points through the season by, Stefan Costachescu, Elliot Wilde, Phil Harrison, Paul Goodwin, and Jess Keen.

Though not playing for the club specifically we should also recognise yet again the amazing achievements of the Newcastle College based volleyball programme who won the following Association of Colleges titles:

- Girls' Cup
- Girls' Championship
- Boys' Championship

We can also celebrate numerous regional and national team selections, and of our strongest transfer of training commitment into Beach Volleyball of any season, supported by the camp provided by Pete Makowski, England coach.

VolleyStars

Following its establishment in 2021 the VolleyStars group continued to thrive in 2022-23 despite lower number than the previous season. By the end of the season with some newbies added we had 12 regular attendees aged 7-11 (school years 3-6) in weekly sessions at Clayton Sport Centre, with three further u12s able to access additional training time in parallel.

Sadly it is really hard to get any competitive play with other clubs for this age group as so few clubs are active, however this does not appear to affect the children's enjoyment or interest, or that of their parents.

In May Sam Stevenson ran a series of sessions for the boys in the Stoke City FC Academy at u9-u11, sharing the details of VolleyStars with these youngsters.

Over the course of the season significant progress has been made by the young players and if they stick with the sport these early experiences will stand them in great stead to be our volleyball players of the future!

Girls' teams

U12/u13/u14 girls

The younger girls were coached by Will Roberts, who until April had to coach solo this season due to a lack of available committed young leaders. Will was then joined by former NCAA player Jess Keen who recently moved to the area from France along with her family and will play an increasing role in coaching over the coming seasons adding excellent coaching knowledge and experiences for the girls.

A strong volleyball culture has been developed in this group and despite a handful of drop-outs during the season the core 16-18 girls are highly committed and have been enthusiastic about taking

in additional training and opportunities wherever possible including attendance of the Beach Camp led by Pete Makowski.

We entered B, C and D teams into the 4v4 Tier 2 format through all three Grand Prix events. All these teams performed competitively and it was gratifying to see them come up against a consistent set of opponents across three months, getting to know their opponents and how to overcome them, developing their playing style and skill deployment. The highlight came at Frodsham in Grand Prix 2 when the B team played without a coach and reached the final of the tournament beating physically bigger, older and stronger teams through their court coverage and quality of skills. With the C and D team cheering them on it provided a memorable moment for the programme.

- *Sarika Krishnadas, Maggie Friend, Kornelia Chudyk, Charlotte Keen, Isabella Bradshaw and Isabelle Roberts all attended the Volleyball England Futures Camp*

U15 Girls

The u15s team was selected from players who trained in the combined u15/16 training sessions on Monday and Friday evenings. The sessions were led by coaches Rich Guest, Flossie Owen and Anthony Viggars. We have 25 registered players within this group (two did drop out) and Fridays session in particular had very good attendance with about 20 girls there each week with an even split between year 10 and 11 girls. Monday session attracted a consistent 14 or so of the more dedicated players.

Competition wise we did feel that our u15s might compete strongly on a national level although nothing is certain at this early age group. Unfortunately, due to illness and unavailability we never quite did ourselves justice. In GP1 we produced a very nervous performance and finished 3rd to two teams who would both go on to reach the semi-finals.

Having been placed in a silver group for GP2, we did then play with more confidence and managed to win 2 from 3 matches. Due to further player unavailability for GP3 we sadly did not compete. Whilst this was a sad end to the team's season, hopefully they can gain some confidence from the GP2 performance to push forward next season on their current status as a good silver pool team.

- *Both Skye Whitfield and Gracie Wilmer trained with the England Cadet Squad.*
- *Isabelle Regan gained selection along with Gracie Wilmer for the West Midlands Regional team*

U16 Girls

The u16s group for the most part had a positive season with both 'A' & 'B' teams competing well in tier 1 and 2 Grand Prix competitions respectively.

'A' Team (tier 1) – started off THE GP Series well winning 2 from 3 matches which placed them in a gold group in London that would turn out to be somewhat a 'group of death'. After a long journey they fell to defeats against 3 teams who all went on to reach the semi-finals – included eventual finalists Richmond and Boswells. The team did however respond well, winning all 3 games in GP3 finishing equal 8th in the overall rankings. The team should take great heart in the fact that without the particularly tough 2nd round draw they would have perhaps finished even higher in the rankings.

'B' Team (tier 2) – the side consisted mainly of u15 girls not in the 'A' team squad with most playing 6v6 volleyball for the first time. The team won half of its games across the first 2 GPs and the girls gained valuable experience. Unfortunately, their GP3 was cancelled at the last minute by the host club. Some girls also competed in the u15 tier 2 (4v4) GPs alongside our u14 group.

- *Alex Viggars trained with the England Junior Squad*

u18 Girls

In this age group we again had 'A' & 'B' teams competing in tier 1 and 2 Grand Prix competitions respectively. The 'A' team was made up entirely of girls training within the Development Group, whilst the 'B' team also included some of the stronger u16 players also. Teams and sessions were coached by Richard Guest and Anthony Viggars

Whilst the **'A' team** will probably view this club season as disappointing there were contributing factors and the majority of the team would also go onto have success with the College Academy team. In GP1 the team was hit by a double blow to the first 6 with a late player withdrawal through illness and a setter injury in the first game. Despite this the team should probably still have finished 2nd rather than 3rd which could have drastically altered their season. In GP2 the team did perform extremely well, with 3 good performances, only losing to a very strong Wessex team.

The **'B' team** which featured most of the u16 'A' team players competed in the first 2 GPs at tier 2 level travelling to Wirral on both occasions. Playing 2 set matches the girls struggled to win games outright but did manage to draw most matches.

Due to a shortage of players (Easter Holidays) across both team for GP3 we only entered one combined team in the tier 2 event. We proved too strong for our opponents winning all 4 games with several of the younger team members putting in excellent performances.

- *Abigayle Gentle trained with the England Junior Squad*

Boys Teams

With Adam Bradbury stepping away from coaching this season, the stable structure provided in 2021/22 was disrupted as we did not manage to secure the consistent high quality coaching coverage across teams that we aspire to. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment of Julian Kobylarz and dependability of Matt Smith, Jack Dunkley and Will Roberts we sustained A and B teams for u18 and u16, and A, B and C teams for u15s – but it was hard work with some originally committed coaches withdrawing at short notice.

u12/u13/u14 boys

Huge credit should go to Jack Dunkley who turned 19 during the season and as a graduate of our junior section himself, found himself as a first year Medical Student taking significant responsibility for what is an excellent group of boys. We have an excellent and large cohort of boys in the u13 category, three of whom were in the u15 A team – Gabriel Fatu particularly impressive and promising with his powerful attacking play.

In the Grand Prix events we were able to give a good number of the boys court time but sadly some missed out due to football commitments and we would love to see them get available for the Grand Prix events next season. We hosted GP1 and travelled to Black Country for GP2, then Frodsham for GP3. On each occasion our teams predominantly made up of u13s with 1x u14, 2x u12s and 1x u11 playing in these competitions came up against physical and experienced u15 players from other clubs who could have played 6v6 in tier 1.

This group is very exciting and the club must take care of nurturing them to stay in the sport and develop well over the coming seasons.

U15 Boys

The u15s A team was selected from players who trained in the combined u15/16 training sessions on Monday and Friday evenings. The sessions were led by Matt Smith and Julian Kobylarz, with occasional support from Will Roberts. The group grew during the season with additional players in the u16 group in particular adding depth to the B team – and new u15s joining in the spring who show great promise for next season. When focussed, the boys show great promise but there are novice and experienced players whose training attendance is too sporadic, and behaviours limit their and others' development. With a small number of actual u15s, the team relied on better u14s and u13s.

Competition wise, we had the bad news in January that Jim Cox's England u17 selection to compete in the CEV qualifiers in Bulgaria clashed with Grand Prix 1 so the boys had to play without their captain, setter and start player. With u13s Eugen and David Costachescu stepping in to play a two setter system up in Urmston the boys turned out a strong performance to win the group!

Jim was back for GP2 but carrying an injury and the boys travelled to title favourite Leeds. The team struggled to play at their best, losing two matches but doing enough to qualify for the last 8s in GP3.

For both GP1 and GP2 Julian Kobylarz stepped in to coach due to the withdrawal of the planned coach for this group, and at GP3/last 8s Matt Smith took the team getting in valuable experience in his young coaching career.

GP3 didn't quite go to plan as the boys lost to an Ashcombe team they really should have beaten, but with Jim Cox still not fully mobile due to his lasting ankle injury heads dropped and more experienced players struggled to step up. The team finished 3rd in the group missing out on the semi-finals **finishing 5th in the National Rankings for the season** – including two defeats to eventual national champions Leeds.

- *Jim Cox played for England Cadets*
- *Seb Wood and Max Butterworth played for the West Midlands region*

U16 Boys

The u16s group had a positive season with both A and B teams competing well in tier 1 and 2 Grand Prix competitions respectively.

'A' Team (tier 1) – started off the GP Series like a train, dominating their GP1 pool winning all games 2-0 in convincing style at Madeley. They also got to host GP2, but had to do so with libero Lucas Stuttard setting as a result of Jim Cox's ankle injury. In a 'group of death' this was seriously bad news – as both of the eventual national finalists were in this Gold Pool. The boys beat London Sharks (who ended up beating Leeds in the national final) and this performance and a heart breaking 2-1 defeat to Leeds saw them secure enough sets and points to qualify for the last 8s despite finishing 4th in this group. Per the u15s, sadly Jim Cox had not recovered sufficiently physically to train at the required mental intensity ahead of the last 8s and he admirably struggled through to make it work but not able to be at his best. All three pool games at the Last 8s were incredibly close but it was the 15-12 deciding set defeat to Richmond that cost Castle a place in the semis, and as a **result 7th in the national rankings**.

'B' Team (tier 2) – played in both GP1 and GP2 but due to date clashes could not make GP3 work. This group was coached in competitions by Toby Waugh, assisted at GP1 by Harry Ford. The team played well learning a lot finishing with 3 wins, 2 draws and 5 defeats across their 10 matches in the GP series.

- *Josh Sturland played for England Cadets and West Midlands*
- *Charlie Kobylarz trained with England Cadets*
- *Lucas Stuttard played for the West Midlands*

u18 Boys

In this age group we again had A and B teams competing in tier 1 and 2 Grand Prix competitions respectively. The A team featured a strong core of boys with NVL and National Squad experience, and the B team a real mixture of players – fringe A team players who could progress, less experienced u16s, and emerging younger talents!

Whilst the **A team** will probably view this season as disappointing as they didn't make the final or play at their best at the Last 8s, they must remember they **finished clear 3rd in the National Rankings**. For GP1 they travelled to East Northants taking 2-0 wins over the hosts, Coventry Riga and Wombourne, and they were then hosts for GP2. They started the day at 100 miles an hour convincingly beating Leeds before throwing away a winning position vs perennial champions Richmond to lose 2-1. They then beat Exeter to secure 2nd place and a strong ranking going into the last 8s. Despite beating Worthing and Black Country at the last 8s the boys weren't at their best and lost to IBB London Polonia meaning they got Boswells in the semi-final, and the Essex side provided too strong.

The B team had an up and down set of performances but plenty to be positive about, particularly the performances of emerging u16 and u14 players. They finished the season on a high winning their GP3 pool, and an overall record of 3 wins and 6 defeats in the season

- *Joe Kobylarz played for England Juniors*

SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL

NSVC Social Volleyball has had a very good year. We play in Madeley every Wednesday from 6-8 pm. The aim is to give people the opportunity to play volleyball, whether for the first time, as continuation or returning to the sport. And that is exactly what we do every week!

Use of the Spond app is working satisfactorily. We have now 112 people on the social membership list, that's 30 more than last year! Players have to sign up for the evening, and we have had to introduce a waiting list, to cap the number of players at 42 per evening, that is 6 teams of 7 playing on three courts. We first met this number at the end of May!!

We still have a healthy mix of beginners and advanced players and try to make the teams more or less even in strength, so that all can get the most out of it. Inexperienced players are learning from those who have been playing for years, and it is great to see them improving through the year!

Players come from all over Europe and beyond. This year again we had of lots of students from Keele and Staffs Uni join us.

Payment goes via the Sumup App, which works most of the time, but depends on internet availability. It is proving to be very useful for taking payment on the evening. Some members prefer to pay annually.

As we have a high number of players every Wednesday, it is important that we keep our equipment in good order, so that we can safely play on three courts.

This season we entered a women's team in the West Midlands league again. Bee Yusuf coached us and you can read about this in the report from the Ladies 2nd team. Some of the men from social have kindly helped out with scoring and lining, which was much appreciated!

Els Drijfhout

05/06/2023

WOMEN'S NVL REPORT (National Volleyball League)

Overview

Following relegation to the national league division 3, the ladies team had what can be reported as a mixed season.

There was a large change over of players, with some of the key younger players, developed through the club turning 18 and moving away to university. Two players left to have babies and two players returned to the club, having not played since school but now wanting to become established NVL players. This change over caused some instability within the team in terms of expectation and standard of play.

The first half of the season saw the team lose a number of games 3-2 and games lost that could have been won. Following Christmas with a more consistent approach and a core team developing the team finished well, winning their last 6 fixtures to finish 3rd.

The aim for next season is to build on this and get promoted to Div 2.

Coaching

As the coach I feel much more confident in my second year of coaching the team. I have a good rapport with the team and feel I have the personable skills to get them to perform to their best ability. In terms of technical coaching I feel this is an area where I would still like further development.

Simon Lotus helped with some coaching it was felt by the team that his approach was not overly suited to the women's game at our level. As a new coach I found his technical coaching very helpful but not his style of coaching. It would be more appropriate when he has more than 2 hours per week as he talked a lot and used problem solving for the players. I did learn from him and have implemented some of his strategies for drills and getting the players to focus in training particularly during the warm up and building up to multi play but due to the inconsistency of his commitment to the ladies team, he did not get to know the players and this support was therefore infrequent and not as productive as it could have been.

Players

Ruth had a good season as captain and is developing in this role as a leader. Other players shown improvement in their play, that were committed to training. There was a feeling at times of a less professional attitude towards matches and training and feeling more social, maybe due to the expectation that division 3 would be easy.

As a team we have discussed this and wish to strive towards a more professional vision for the team, support by both myself and Rich Guest.

Keeley Guest
June 2023

MEN'S 1ST TEAM REPORT

Following the obvious success and excitement of the 2021-22 season it was always going to be a tough act to follow, and it is fair to say that the 2022-23 season was a tough one for the Men's 1st Team playing in the Volleyball England Super League.

However, we are looking back on a challenging season with following positives:

- 6th place finish in the Super League
- National Cup Quarter Final, losing out to the team that lost in the final
- Three players playing for England including the captain of the National Team
- Super League debuts for three of our talented junior players
- Support of the England National Team coach in monthly sessions to enhance performance

The 6th place finish vs 4th last season, and a quarter-final vs final appearance in the cup is obvious cause for disappointment and the season was full of ups and downs. We were rocked in the summer by the decisions of last season's MVP and former pro and England captain Adam Bradbury's decision to reduce his commitment to playing (Adam ended up playing <50% of matches) and of Matt Smith to take a break from playing (returning to play a limited role after Christmas), Rich James stepping away from the sport (again playing a bit-part after Christmas), Jack Richardson moving overseas, Ieuan Lamb retiring and Roo Scott moving back to California!

Positively had made some good recruitment with Iqbal Mohammed returning to the fold, tall and powerful middle Josh Wainwright moving into Newcastle with a desire to play at the top level (having lower league experience), plus James Baker and Iain McKellar signing to support the squad in the games in the South-East.

Injuries were then also a key feature with Iqbal rupturing his ACL away at Nottingham in the autumn after an impressive start to the season, followed by mid-season Canadian signing Rees Lehman suffering the same injury in the Cup Quarter Final playing only 1.5 games for the team prior to the injury. We then lost Seb Bukowski for two months due to a lower leg problem and Jim Smith who responded impressively to having to step up from Men2 tore his ankle ligaments in a blocking joust in February.

So how did we manage to finish in the league?!

Credit must go to the deep reserves of resilience from Zakk Hadgett, Cam Rhodes, Stef Cowley, Josh Wainwright, Elliott Francis and player-coach Sam Stevenson in this period. Through the season this group were the heartbeat of the team and they actually achieved a better win-loss ration than the previous season, hamstrung only by the Super League scoring system that does not reward 3-2 wins in the way it does for 3-0 or 3-1. We got the same number of wins as the team that finished 4th but being the kings of the 5-setter is no good for your league finish!

Thank you to all those who have supported the team through the season especially Rod for the secretarial and scoring support, and the club members who cheered us on!

Sam Stevenson, Head Coach
June 2023

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT (West Midlands League Div. 1)

As the number of junior members grew, at the end of the 21/22 season, we decided to create an additional section removing the previous reliance upon specific age groups within the junior section. The aim of the development group was to provide an environment where players of a certain level or potential under the age of 20 could train & play together to support their technical development; opportunity to play competitive games & progression towards the senior women's team.

The team was entered into the West Midlands league and trained on a Thursday at Newcastle College under the coaching of Ant Viggars and Richard Guest. At the time of writing, the squad consisted of 16 active players with ages ranging from 15 to 19.

In terms of meeting the initial aims of the programme I would outline the following:

Technical Development

Every single player within the group improved on an individual basis over the course of the season. Obviously some players improved more than others and the younger players in particular benefitted from training with older, more competent players. The programme also allowed the players to get more challenging training sessions as the coaching team would insist on a higher standard of play than at younger age group levels.

Opportunity to play games

The team was entered into the West Midlands league division 1 and, at the time of writing, the team are in 6th place out of 8 having won 4 and lost 9 of the 13 games played. There are a couple of games that were not played due to logistical challenges (of both teams) and they may be conceded however it is expected they will finish in 6th place retaining their place in this league.

The standard of 4 of the teams in the league in was extremely high (at least Div.3 NVL standard) and whilst they did give the team good experience of competitive games, it was at times challenging given the age and experience of the individual players compared to the opposition. In certain games, 4 of the 6 players on court were under the age of 16 which will be beneficial to the longer-term development of the players. The games also provided some good preparation for the national u18, u16, u15 tournaments.

Transition into the Senior team

The playing system applied within the training sessions and matches mirrored that of the senior womens team which also supported certain players own transition and gave an insight for other players as to how that team plays and is coached.

The group benefitted from the consistent presence of Abi Gentle and Lily Sturland who were also members of the senior squad and leaders in the u18 team. A number of the squad also had the opportunity to train with the senior team at various times throughout the season.

Next Steps

Overall, the creation of the group has been a success with the key aims met or exceeded. We have decided to evolve the group in the 2023/24 season and it will be renamed Womens 2. The team will continue to play in the West Midlands and be focused on the development of junior players with the additional aspect that it will involve more senior squad players to support the transition and also create a more competitive team within the tournament.

Ant Viggars & Richard Guest
20.5.23

MEN'S 2ND TEAM REPORT

Overall 5th in the league with 7 games won and 7 losses however 1 game had to be forfeited as our hosts (Derby Darkstar) couldn't supply a venue this was also done to Coventry Riga by the same club so we forfeited a game to Cambridge 3-0 25-0.

First triangular of the year was at Loughborough against the hosts and eventual winners of the league (they only lost 2 games against the Cambridge teams all season) and Northampton Polish Crew (NPC) and despite a strong squad present the first 2 games didn't go our way however some good individual performances however at crucial times our own mistakes let us down.

Despite having 17 players signed up for NVL our first cup game was at Urmston in November and due to a Volleyball England Camp, work commitments and injuries we only had 7 players available despite a rally in the 3rd set (lost to 23) we ended up out of the cup 3 – 0 however the silver lining for the trip was that Freddie Guest made his senior debut for the club.

The next game saw a good win against Rhino's VC Cambridge a 5 setter 16-14 in the final set with Elliot Wilde hitting several winners under pressure to secure the victory as this was a single match away at Cambridge this was made all the sweeter due to a long journey there and back.

The next triangular was against Coventry Riga and Cambridge (eventual runners up in the league) and due to venue congestion the first game was played at Newcastle College and the next 2 at Keele we came away with one win and one loss.

The next triangular was against Nottingham Rockets and Loughborough, the rockets game was a bizarre affair as we won the first 2 sets to 11 and 22 and went on to lose the game in 5 sets. Having played Loughborough in the first game of the season we were confident we had enough talent to give them a game. The match was lost in 3 sets with 2 going to 25-23 and this was probably the best standard of volleyball we played all season even in defeat there was a lot of positives with Loughborough having to use their 6' 7" Australian beach pro tour opposite to counter the castle attack.

We finished the season strongly beating Riga and NPC (avenging the opening day defeat) in the next triangular, lost a close 5 setter to Rhinos (making honours shared for the season) then finished the season with emphatic wins against Nottingham and Derby twice.

We had a good mix of players this year with seasoned NVL players, players returning to the game and talented youngsters coming through the club however until the 2nd half of the season we never had a consistent team and we missed key players in some games. We will miss Mark Speake's experience as he retired this season however, we now have some early career talented players who have had a couple of years NVL experience that will be complimented by returning NVL players and juniors.

We look forward to next season's challenge.

Julian Kobylarz, Head Coach (June 2023)

WOMEN'S SOCIAL TEAM REPORT (West Midlands League Div. 2)

Summary of the season

For the volleyball season 2022-23, I continued my role as the team secretary/coach/captain for the ladies' 2nd team, I oversaw arranging fixtures and potential training opportunities. The members of the team had given a good indication that they were interested in playing in the west midlands league like in the previous years. Therefore, Ant, Rich, and I, with the support of the club chair made the executive decision to enter the social team into Division 2 of the West Midlands league.

This decision was influenced by the creation of an additional team called, the ladies' development team, this team was entered into Division 1 of the same local league. I oversaw organising the fixtures for both teams. The social team started with about 10 members, but that number grew as some other people showed interest, we ended the season with double that number.

In terms of matches, we had 12 fixtures in the West Midlands League (6 away and 6 home matches). The league started in October 2022 with a 3-0 win against Stourbridge & I'm pleased to say that that winning streak lasted the entire season with the team never losing a match. We ended the season at the top of the league table. Nevertheless, we had some issues with members' participation.

Participation and Performances

At first glance, it seems like we have a lot of members but the commitment from each person was highly variable with only 5 core players. Most of the time we found ourselves recruiting players from the first team or players from the university team that also play social volleyball for the club. Hence, this lack of commitment and consistency made it quite difficult to plan the matches effortlessly.

Furthermore, home matches were sometimes trickier to plan as we won't have enough possible referees or scorers to help. Most of the time, I planned the fixtures in a way that the development team and the social team played matches on the same day so that we can help each other officiate the matches. So, we got help from the coaches of the development team and Abbie G. and Diane G., and vice versa. The courts at Madeley were booked through Marie.

I'm proud that we were able to go from the bottom of the leaderboard to the top this year and there were some amazing performances throughout. As much as I enjoy contributing to the club, I realised toward the end of the season that the workload I had was not manageable in the long run. I had to arrange fixtures, book & set up venues, organise match officials, recruit players, coach players, & captain the team while also trying to play to win. Unfortunately, I was rather drained by the end of it all. So, I'm taking a step back next season to allow other members to take up some leadership roles.

Highlights

- Winning all matches 3-0 except for Cleobury who took one set off us (3-1 win).
- Being able to put together a team for away matches that were scheduled at obscure times (Tuesday at 8pm)
- Getting help from some NVL team members when we were short players.
- Collaboration with the Development team

Bee Yusuf
Ladies Social Secretary
June 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members

As at the 2022/23 Year end on 31/05/2023 the Total Expenditure for the year was £34,102.72. Total Income of £33,559.45 leaving a Closing Balance of £1,809.54. A decrease on Last Year's Balance of £545.50.

The stability from our opening to closing balance for the year ended 2022/23 can be explained by additional initiatives taken by the club throughout the year. The employment of coaching services and development to aid coaching across the club cost the club substantially. Both indoor and beach court hire has contributed largely to the total expenditure for the year. Our annual awards event was also another initiative where the board of trustees mutually decided to harbor some of the cost, reducing the cost for our members. This again amounted to a relatively large expense for the club.

The Gift Aid for both 2021 and 2022 has been claimed and the amounts have been received. For the year 2020/21 we received an amount of £1,950.08. For 2021/22 an amount of £3,537.21 was received.

The year-end accounts of 2022/23 will be sent to Sefton's Accountants for auditing. As we are over the £25,000 threshold of income, we require an independent examination.

Once audited the accounts and information will be sent to the Charities Commission for publication on the website (last year's accounts can already be viewed online)

Matt Smith

NSVC Treasurer

31/05/23

[illegible]

Accounts



NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st May 2022

NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

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TRUSTEES

- Marie Barley (Secretary)
- Matt Smith (Treasurer)
- Els Drijfhout
- Ben Fernandez-Fontan
- Richard Guest
- Flossy Owen
- Will Roberts (Chair)
- Emma Rodgers
- Rod Stockwell

TRUSTEES REPORTS

The trustees present that annual report together with the financial statement for the charity for the year ended 31st May 2022.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:

The promotion of the amateur sport of volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball for the public benefit and the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, by the provision of facilities for playing volleyball, beach volleyball sitting volleyball in Newcastle, North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Having emerged from the significant disruptions since 2020 as the Volleyball England Club of the Year 2021, recognising the work we had done not only to keep our members safe, but to grow the club's capability behind the scenes in that period when we were not able to get on the courts.

The 2021-2022 season has seen us come back with a bang!

We secured and benefited from the wonderful support of a major new sponsor in Paragon Pub Group, one of Staffordshire's premier employers and brands. Paragon feature as kit sponsor across all of our senior teams but their support behind the scenes extended beyond this – thank you so much! Environmental Essentials, another local brand also founded by a Newcastle-under-Lyme local and friend of the club sustained their sponsorship of our Junior Teams too. This meant all our teams have been kitted out in brilliant matching Nike kits – placing all our teams as equally important.

Further to this we also benefited from sponsorship from 4fitt gym in Newcastle providing access to training for some prize draw winners, and the support of Per Cup catering company whose vans we must get to some of our events soon!

Without our sponsors we could not offer what we do to our members at the cost model we do, nor provide the 'value added' that we can for our members. We are always looking for more support, but for now would like to thank sincerely our current supporters.

Other critical behind the scenes developments included a partnership with Kitlocker, seeing us create an online club shop, exclusive kit and clothing through Nike with our brand and logo – and through our 't-shirt within membership' model, new kits and member purchases a sizeable 'kick back' was generated for the club which we invested immediately into prizes for our annual award winners.

The introduction of a membership and communication platform 'Spond' in summer 2021 has given us the ability to track members, assign them to groups, have session registers, and now to also process payments. Whilst we have some improvements to make in how consistently members, coaches and trustees use the platform day to day, it works very well in increasing efficiency and ensuring that we have a secure and accessible route to the information we need to run the club well. No more WhatsApp and Facebook groups is the ultimate aim!

Thanks to Spond, we can easily give a breakdown of our members through the 21/22 season noting that some joined more recently, many are occasional attendees of our successful Social section, and others have now left – **but we have had 240 members this year!** Compared to the start of the 2020/21 season when we launched our 'Vision 2030' and set the ambition to double our membership, this is an increase of 79%... so we rapidly approached that doubling target!

With this success come challenges of facility hire and coach availability to ensure our provision is high quality – in reality this is now our biggest challenge for our junior groups. We ran a member survey in spring 2022 which has helped provide insight into what our members wasn't and should be a key consideration for trustees, volunteers and coaches alike.

Our annual awards on the 25th June will provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the club and will be our largest ever (we think!). Having twice postponed the planned gala event to celebrate our 40th Anniversary in 2020 due to covid-19, we have the benefit of the investment we had signed off

on for that event to make this one really special – and the surroundings of Keele Hall and extra special prizes will make it a night to remember and really celebrate our club.

We benefited hugely from our link with Staffs University this year – not only stepping in as Keele could not host matches due to covid-19 vaccination and test centres taking place in the sport centre, but also through photography, scorers and linespeople, equipment, a brilliant post grad student now doing a documentary on the club... so much! Thank you Sam Stevenson for the hard work in making this all work.

BBC Radio Stoke became brilliant supporters of the club with regular interviews with players, coaches and Trustees taking place throughout the season on the main sports show.

On the court there is so much to celebrate and the upcoming reports reflect this in much more detail so I will keep these references relatively brief!

- **Welcoming those in need** – it is with great pride that we have welcomed and integrated new club members this year into our junior section for whom volleyball is a vital part of life due to the challenges they face. With juniors fleeing persecution in Iran, and the war in Ukraine, Volleyball has become a place of safety and strength and our club a home. **VolleyStars** – creating this new section for children in primary school was a gamble, would anyone come? Could we teach them to play? Would they enjoy it? Every volleyball club should do this! These young children aged 7-11 are phenomenal and if they stay with the sport will be the backbone of the club for a long time. We must continue to integrate this part of the club.
- **Junior performances** – whilst we didn't make any finals and that troubles some of our coaches (in a good way!) our teams probably performed just about aligned with their potential and we should be especially proud of the u18 A teams finishing 3rd (girls) and 4th (boys), and the u15 boys (4th) in the national rankings. Girls and Boys trained with England Cadets and Juniors, and others didn't make it past the trials. Others represented West Midlands, and many more got their first taste of competitive volleyball!
- **The Club supporting our teams** – what a season! For the first time in 20-odd years we had a team scrapping it out at the top of English Volleyball. Finishing 4th in the Super League and losing out in the Cup Final only tells the headlines. The support of the club in 'the week from hell' was incredible with the back-to-back-to-back... >100 crowds was amazing. Men2 claimed 4th in D3 North, and at their best the NVL women played exciting volleyball with some memorable wins against top teams in their league, suffering relegation courtesy of another team forfeiting matches which seems incredibly unfair and a problem with the VE rules. The Women 2 team became a much more stable and consistent thanks to the introduction and leadership of Bee Yusuf – a wonderful individual to have added to the club.
- **Beach volleyball** – after two summers with no chance to have the sand between our toes this summer we are running a beach programme with sessions Monday to Thursday and competitions through u9s to u18s!

To close I would like to express my thanks to all of the club's volunteers, coaches and trustees – especially to Marie Barley and Richard Guest without whose additional support in both time, reassurance and initiative – the role of chair would have been too much for me to carry. Most of all though... I'd like to thank all our members as the club is in such wonderful health thanks to the culture and environment that we have together.

Will Roberts
Chair of Trustees
June 2022

ANNUAL AWARDS WINNERS 2021-22 SEASON

CHAIR'S AWARD			
Senior	Richard Guest	Junior	Tyrese Madina
SENIOR PLAYER AWARDS			
Team	Coaches Player	Players Player	Most Improved
Women 2	Nike Baechle	Bee Yusuf	Rebecca Williams
Men 2	Harry Ford	Jack Dunkley	Ethan Hulme
Women 1	Siobhan Watson	Siobhan Watson	Becky Hallworth
Men 1	Adam Bradbury	Zakk Hadgett	Jack Richardson
Social	Bee Yusuf	N/A	Mason Stevens
JUNIOR PLAYER AWARDS			
Team	MVP	Most Improved	
u18 Girls	Libby Kavanagh	Tegan Billinge	
u18 Boys	Jack Dunkley	Toby Waugh	
u16 Girls	Lizzie Gething	Ace Bailey Parr	
u16 Boys	Josh Sturland	Ethan Huckfield	
u15 Girls	Chelsey Viggars	Niamh Barrow	
u15 Boys	Charlie Kobylarz	Ollie Lewis	
u14 Girls	Isabelle Regan	Elouise Guest	
u14 Boys	James Cox	Seb Karas	
u13 Girls	Amelia Washington	Handan Caki	
u13 Boys	Max Butterworth	Sam Mitchell	
u12 Girls	Kornelia Chudyk	Isabelle Roberts	
u12 Boys	Eugen Costachescu	Gabriel Fatu	
VolleyStars	all players		

SAFEGUARDING

As a club we have been fortunate to have had very little issues regarding the welfare of our members, beyond keeping them safe through the various covid-19 regulations in place in the sport through the past year.

We are grateful to our coaches for their hard work and vigilance, and as club we should be proud of our commitment to the members in our club but must ensure we don't become complacent.

Florence Owen
Safeguarding Officer, June 2022

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

This season has been one of our best ever in providing extensive coaching and competition opportunities for our young members. With the new VolleyStars section of the club providing weekly sessions for 7-11 year olds for the first time, and the evolution to commit to 1x week training for those under 14 years, and twice weekly for older juniors we significantly upped the focus on player development.

Sincere thanks to all those who have coached juniors this season – Julian Kobylarz, Flossy Owen, Adam Bradbury, Ant Viggars, Richard Guest, Will Roberts, Stefan Costachescu, Rich James, Nancy Locklin, Jack Harper, Louis Coggins, Jack Dunkley, Elliot Wilde, Phil Harrison, Paul Goodwin, plus Bee Yusuf, Kev Colton and Sam Stevenson for their involvement in the Beach programme... and the young leaders supporting sessions – Tyrese Madina, Josh Sturland and Lucas Stuttard.

Though not playing for the club specifically we should also recognise the amazing achievement of the Newcastle College based volleyball programme who did the clean sweep of titles, winning the following Association of Colleges titles:

- Mixed Cup
- Girls' Cup
- Boys' Cup
- Girls' Championship
- Boys' Championship

VolleyStars (Will Roberts)

The new VolleyStars group attracted regular attendance of 16-18 children aged 7-11 (school years 3-6) in weekly sessions at Clayton Sport Centre, a new venue for the club. To start the season, we worked with no net or posts as we were waiting on installation – this actually really helped with a focus on movement and ball skills to get things started.

We then moved into 2v2 play linked to the Volleyball England 'Volley 2s' format for beginners, allowing 2 catches in the sequences of 3, and over time reducing this to 1 catch... and for the older players now – no catches. We held two tournaments in the club – 2v2 at Christmas, and 3v3 at Easter, with the Beach event to come on the 25th June. In January, the group travelled to Stourbridge to take on players from across the West Midlands and did brilliantly. Wonderfully, three pairs of players will be travelling to Sandbanks to take part in the u12 category of this leg of the UK Beach Tour in early July.

Boys Teams

It was great to see all the boys seizing the opportunity to return to a regular season with regular practices and games led by coaches Adam Bradbury and Julian Kobylarz.

Players who last year were in the initial stages of development were able to step up and take leadership roles on and off the court and this will help in the next season's campaign as well as producing a pipeline of leaders in the boys programme for up to the next 4 years. New members after tasting castle volleyball on a Monday evening committed to the whole season and did

themselves and their families proud in consistently training hard, to a good standard and performing as a team in competitions.

6 boys selected in October 2021 as part of the England U17 squad which is more athletes than any other club in the country representing 1/6th of the overall squad showing the strength of our programme to produce recognised volleyball athletes.

- Charlie Kobylarz (Newcastle Staffs)
- Freddie Guest (Newcastle Staffs)
- James Cox (Newcastle Staffs)
- Joshua Sturland (Newcastle Staffs)
- Lucas Stuttard (Newcastle Staffs)
- Ryan Nestor (Newcastle Staffs)

2 boys selected in October 2021 as part of the England U19 Squad. Now 50% of the coaching team for England U19's either play – Adam; or have played for Castle - Sam Shenton and Sam Bragg.

- Jack Dunkley (Newcastle Staffs)
- Joe Kobylarz (Newcastle Staffs)

We had good results in national competitions off the back of just a few months training for a number of the younger teams.

- U15 – 4th Nationally with a team who had a few weeks before their first game in round one and shook the eventual winner of the competition
- U16 – 9th Nationally with only 2 pure U16 players and a year of training missing due to covid.
- U18 – 4th Nationally out of 26 Tier 1 teams entered.

A big thank you from both coaches to all the parents and the club for everything they have done to make an amazing season!

The younger boys started the season led by Rich James, but due to a change in jobs he had to step back, and Stefan Costachescu took over. Huge thanks to our young assistant coaches Elliot Wilde, Jack Dunkley and Louis Coggins for their role throughout the season and especially for the period of handover between Rich and Stefan. The boys and the club are in-debt to you for this.

We entered an B and C team into Tier 2 of the National u15s (4v4), enabling 11 of this group to compete regularly across three events Jan-Mar, playing around 15 matches each. The B Team did exceptionally well, developing a nice style of play and topping the table in each of their Grand Prix events. The young C Team was far less experienced and grew in skill and team play brilliantly through the series of events, with the highlight being their win over the B team in Grand Prix 2.

Girls' teams

The younger girls (u12/13/14) were coached by Will Roberts and Jack Harper, and got a lot of competitive opportunities this season with every player in this large group given the change to play in home and away with our friends at Urmston VC in Manchester in the autumn and at the West Midlands Juvoto event in December. This enabled us to then 'promote' some of the year 9 girls into

the 'A' team for the u15 and u16, and into the 'B' team for u16 so providing even more opportunities for young girls.

We entered B and C teams into the 4v4 Tier 2 format through all three Grand Prix events, and in Grand Prix three we had a D team! All these teams performed competitively and it was gratifying to see them come up against a consistent set of opponents across three months, getting know their opponents and how to overcome them, developing their playing style and skill deployment.

U15 Girls 'A' Team (Ant Viggars with Flossie Owen)

Despite having a relatively young u15 team containing three Y9 girls it was decided that the squad would benefit and develop better in the Tier 1 (6v6) competition. Whilst competing well and clearly improving as individuals and as a group, the team did experience mixed fortunes both on court and with the competition format. In Grand Prix 1 the team struggled to find a rhythm mainly due to serve problems and despite pushing all teams hard failed to win any matches. In Grand Prix 2 the team performed much better winning 2 out of 3 of their Bronze group matches, only losing to Stockport 17-15 in an epic 3 set match. In fact, the team did have a match point, which if won, would have promoted them into the Silver group. Unfortunately, the teams GP3 group (which we were due to host) was then cancelled with the two London based teams deciding not to travel the long distance to play pretty much the same teams again - something for Volleyball England to consider re this years format

U16s (Ant Viggars with Flossie Owen)

With a large group of girls in this age group it was decided that we would enter 2 teams both in Tier 2 this year. This was based on the fact that we had a vast range of abilities and again several girls from Y9 and below playing and logistically it would be better to keep the group together. It also gave us the chance to interchange a few players across the Grand Prix.

This led to the **'A' Team** competing extremely strongly, playing consistently across all GPs, winning 9 out of 11 matches and 2 of the tournaments. Result wise the **'B' Team** predictably did not fair so well but competed well, particularly with many girls making their 6v6 debuts. The highlight was perhaps in GP2 where the team finished 6th out of 8 teams.

U18s 'B' Team (Ant Viggars)

With a small squad of 8 players playing across Tier 2 series, the team was able to provide a very consistent group of performances in all 3 GPs with all players clearly understanding their on-court roles. As with the u16s. the team won 9 from 11 matches and 2 of the tournaments. On reflection the team could possibly have competed in Tier 1, but I did feel that all 3 weekends did provide us with close competition with several 3 set matches. Six of the team will go onto represent the club in Tier 1 next season.

U18s 'A' Team (Richard Guest)

I was delighted to be offered the opportunity to work with under 18 girls team in the national championships during the 2021/2022 season. The competition had a new format with a tiered approach taken to try to create more competitive games on a consistent basis.

I worked with the tier 1 team on the basis the majority of the players were already part of and/or training with the senior national ladies team which I had been coaching previously. It is firstly important to put on record the work undertaken primarily by Ant Viggars over a number of years in developing this group of individuals.

He has worked tirelessly with them on an individual and collective basis both as part of their time with the club but also through his work at Newcastle College. This provided a really good level of core capabilities across the squad as a whole.

We knew that it would be challenging to win the competition as a few of the teams were training on a daily basis as were part of school/college set ups but we hoped to be competitive throughout. The competition consisted of 3 rounds of matches with every round being played away from home – with round 1 at Leeds, round 2 at Derby and round 3 at Kettering.

In round 1 the team had a tough start losing to Urmston who would eventually finish runners up before performing well to win against Derby and Leeds.

In round 2 the team was placed into the silver pool and again lost one match against South Bucks but beat both Black Country and Derby again.

The results again placed the team into the Silver pool for the final round meaning that qualification for the final was out of reach. The event at Kettering was really good as it had 4 courts with under 18 boys and girls across both the gold and silver pools.

The team had a slow start losing the first set of the first match to Black Country 25 – 18. They then showed incredible resilience winning the next 2 sets 25 – 19 and 15 – 12 to take the match. Confidence was high and the performance in the game against Wessex was outstanding taking the game 2 – 0 with set scores of 25 – 20 and 25 – 20.

The final match was against an exceptionally strong Cardiff side with 2 6 foot plus hitters which had also won their first 2 games. We won the first set 25 – 20 with the game plan to reduce the threat of the big hitters working perfectly. The second set was lost 17 – 25 with the team making too many individual unforced errors. The deciding set was incredible tense but the team showed great spirit to win it 15 – 13.

The results across the Gold pool meant the team finished the competition in third place overall which is a fantastic achievement.

Across the 3 competitions we used a number of different players which allowed people to get valuable experience of playing in tough competitive matches. I hope that every player continues to play volleyball in the future whether that is at this club, university or in other clubs as they have improved so much during this competition.

I would like to thank Diane Gentle for her support in managing the team throughout the competitions together with other parents who provided lifts and court side support throughout.

Congratulations to the following players for be invited to train as part of England squads this season, and to Abi Gentle who played for England in Portugal.

- Gracie Wilmer – Cadets
- Abi Gentle – Juniors
- Niamh Harding – Juniors
- Hannah Molyneux - Juniors

SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL

NSVC Social Volleyball has had a good year. We play in Madeley every Wednesday from 6-8 pm. The aim is to give people the opportunity to play volleyball, whether for the first time, as continuation or returning to the sport. And that is exactly what we do every week!

Since we have started using the Spond app, we have 81 members; of those about 15 are signed up to other NSVC teams as well. Some members hardly ever turn up, but usually we have more than 20 and quite often more than 30 people turn up. We have a number of students from Keele and Staffs join us. So we play on 2 or 3 courts depending on the number attending. As we are using Spond to sign up, we know at the start of the evening how many courts to set up, which is very helpful.

In general, we get to play at a pretty good level. Total novices get a crash course given by one of the more experienced players, and then we absorb them into a team by placing them next to an experienced player who will do some coaching as we go. Players come from all over Europe and beyond. This year we had a big group of students from Keele Uni join us, partly because there was only one sportshall available at Keele due to covid testing at the sports facilities.

As we have a high number of players every Wednesday, it is important that we keep our equipment in good order, so that we can safely play on three courts.

This season we entered a women's team in the West Midlands league again. Chiara Robbins had to step down as organizer, but Bee Yusuf was willing to take over, and you can read about this in the report from the Ladies 2nd team. Some of the men from social have kindly helped out with scoring and lining, which was much appreciated!

Els Drijfhout
08/06/2022

WOMEN'S 1ST TEAM REPORT

This season has been my first season as Ladies first team coach. There has been some learning points and personal development along the way. It has also been a period of transition for the team in many ways.

Positives

At the start of the season, I opted to let the players decide on their captains to promote some real team spirit and empowerment within the group. Following this Ruth Gurgle was voted in as team captain with Olivia Burton as her vice-captain.

Despite being relegated the team won more games this season than the previous full season. The competition in Division 2 was tough and although the team were relegated there was some well fought wins, and I am confident in saying that the team has improved overall throughout the season. The team saw Georgia Reah leave as moved to Dubai but welcomed back ex junior players – Zara Lovatt and Ellie Yeo, having not played for 7 years since school. Esme Newman joined from Bournemouth. Bee Yousef Joined from Sheffield and we had 5 U18 year olds registered with the team. We also had Rachel Copestake return from pregnancy along with Hannah Kettle. This meant numbers at training of up to 17 players. This shows that there is a desire to play for the senior ladies team and a commitment to improve.

Three players were selected for England Juniors – Hannah Molyneux, Niamh Harding and Abigayle Gentle which shows the progression being made by players.

The results from the end of season survey that was carried out showed players had enjoyed training overall with particular comments on the quality and variety. In addition most players felt that they had improved individually over the season.

Negatives

The challenges of having a team that has a number of shift workers, Mums and U18's means there were difficulties in fielding a consistent team. On occasions despite having 15 at training it was not unusual to have only 6 available for an away match which created significant challenges.

There were also a high number of fixture clashes with England Junior camps meaning key players were not available for selection.

Covid meant we could not fulfil our fixture away at York when we were playing well and winning matches. The difficulties rearranging this led to us playing with 6 players, no libero and I also had to play. This was a key loss as York who themselves went on to receive a 3-0 forfeit win from Tameside which put them 1 win above us.

Next season

I feel that the team will benefit from being in Division 3 next season. This should enable us to re-establish and rebuild and hopefully gain confidence through playing well and winning matches. The team loses Esme Newman – moving to Bournemouth and Iona Young and Becky Gaskell (University). The rest of the team have committed to playing, which will be around 12 players.

The primary aim of the season will be to win promotion back to division two. It would also be a target to bring through the next generation of junior players into the squad as we progress through the season.

Last year we did not enter the cup due to lack of commitment, but we intend to enter this year to get additional game time and hopefully reach a final.

I would like to continue to develop as a coach and would like the opportunity to do the level 2 coaching course.

Ladies volleyball continues to grow within the club and I hope to link in with the junior teams as well as the Ladies second team to create pathways for players within the club.

Keeley Guest, Head Ladies Coach season 2021-2022

MEN'S 1ST TEAM REPORT

Taking on the role of coach at the start of the season was something that I had to consider carefully after being approached. As a player, making that transition would be tough enough but to do so in the Super League on the back of recent seasons where we were fighting relegation made it tougher.

Luckily for me though timing was on my side and my taking on the team coincided with a number of high-quality players with professional and international experience returning to the area for the short, medium and long term. This meant that of all of the players used in the first team this season only three did not come through our junior section – a unique achievement at this level.

This included local lads Adam Bradbury (former England captain, pro in Australia and Sweden), Roo Scott (US Collegiate player and pro in Germany), Zakk Hadgett (pro in Holland) and Cameron Rhodes (played in Norway), and mid-season we signed Ieuan Lamb the England middle blocker who has played professionally in Sweden. This experienced raised the bar on the court in terms of play but also in how sessions were designed and delivered, with a step-up in expectations and attention to detail. All our players benefited from this environment and it was really pleasing to see more of our players invited to train with England.

At key times in the season we were able to put in additional training blocks taking advantage of the support we could lever through Staffordshire University and this again helped the team to progress exactly when we needed it. This was most clearly the case in advance of the intensive period of key cup matches and leading into the cup final.

As is always the case in non-professional sport, we had to go into a number of matches through the season understrength due to work and family commitments, weddings etc, and although we managed to win some of these games there are definitely two league matches that we could or should have won if we had been at full strength. In addition to this we suffered a strange situation with the Malory home game which should have taken place when they were reportedly understrength and we were on a brilliant run of form, but then had to be rearranged at a point when we were understrength and heavily fatigued.

On this occasion and in relation to the Cup fixture congestion a lack of availability on match days from administrators and decision-making not based on fairness or consideration of player welfare from Volleyball England was deeply disappointing.

The team played 5 massive matches in a 9-day period, winning them all to reach the National Cup Final and cement their top 4 place in the league – but this avoidable scenario cost us down the line due to injuries and both physical and mental fatigue which then cost us two winnable matches and undermined Cup Final preparation.

Whilst we did not perform at the level we had hoped in the Cup Final, the team represented the club with pride and was brilliantly supported by so many travelling club-mates and families – thank you so much. Richmond Docklands played an excellent game and we didn't quite manage to take our chances in the first and third sets. We hope that the core of the team can stay together for 22/23 and with a couple of additions we can try to challenge for honours again.

Sam Stevenson,

June 2022

WOMEN'S 2ND TEAM REPORT

Summary of season matches

After the national lockdown in 2020/21, I was asked to take up the role as team secretary/coach/captain of the ladies' 2nd team a role which I accepted because I love the sport of volleyball and I am always happy to help. This team is comprised of a group of ladies that want to play socially and compete in only friendly leagues. Hence, we entered a mini-West Midlands League. The league started in October 2021 and ended in January 2022. We played 4 matches and won 2. The most outstanding feedback from those matches was our inexperience playing together as a unit. Undoubtedly, because we do not train together, this was not a surprise. Nevertheless, all the ladies were happy to be back on court after a long break.

In February of 2022, we entered a larger West Midlands league (Div. 1) which comprised of 8 matches. We played and lost 6 matches, won a forfeit against Cleobury and we forfeited our final match because we didn't have referees. This was very unfortunate, as I find that organising home games are quite hard because of the shortage of Refs, scorers etc. Hopefully, we can implement a more collaborative approach within the club that extends between all the groups.

Highlights

- Getting to play matches and learn from each other.
- Winning games and sets even if they were against difficult teams.
- Being able to travel to all our away matches.

Future request

- Organising structured training times.
- Having more people that can act as referees and scorers.
- Organising coaching and refereeing courses.
- More collaboration between ladies' 1st and 2nd teams.

Bee Yusuf, Ladies 2nd Secretary, 2021/2022

MEN'S 2ND TEAM REPORT

Successful season with a new squad.

After a long break due to covid we started Preseason with a new look squad. The first training session had at least 8 new faces and most of the remaining familiar players are now junior men rather than boys which they were when the last point was played in the last NVL game.

At the start of the season the new appointed assistant coach Koby and I set a simple goal to win more games we than we lose. A target that would not be easy due to a lack of national league experience but nevertheless achievable with the talent of the squad.

The season started well with winning 2 out of 4 national league games, losing to eventual league winners Womborne and a very strong Leeds team. During this time, we also had a string performance and victory over Manchester Marvels in the first round of the cup.

The middle of the season was when we had our best performances and results, I believe our strength in depth is the main reason for this as we had strong options in every position so players were playing for places.

During the next 5 games we were victorious 5 times, this proved very important to aiding us in succeeding in our goal.

The final four games we were hit with some injuries in key positions however the squad showed its fighting spirit and won 2 out of the last four games. I look back at the season and feel proud of the team spirit this season definitely was a squad effort. We had:

- 3 different starting setters
- 4 different starting middles
- 5 different starting outside hitters
- 5 different starting off setters
- And 3 liberos

We finished 4th in the league and I am confident we will finish in Higher position next season.

Mark Speake, Head Coach

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members

As at the 2021/22 year end on 31/05/2022 the Total Expenditure for the year was £21,256.08.
Total Income of £28,110.10 leaving a Closing Balance of £32,355.04

An Increase on Last Year's Balance of £6,854.02

The increase in income and expenditure values compared to previous years can be explained by the increase in both Members and Sponsorship received by the club, as well as an initiative to partner with a kit supplier for the 2021/22 season which led to an increase in club kit costs.

The Gift Aid for both 2021 and 2022 are due to be credited into Next Year's Accounts 2022/23 by HMRC. For the previous year we expect to receive a Gift Aid claim of £1908.80. For 2022 we expect the Gift Aid claim to be around £3,800.

The year-end accounts of 2021/22 will be sent to Sefton's Accountants.

Once their checks are completed the information will be logged with the Charities Commission for publication on the website (last year accounts can already be viewed online)

Matt Smith
NSVC Treasurer

14/06/22

NOTE: Sefton's Accountants wrote with a clean report on 09/12/22 (see below)

Mr. W. Roberts
Newcastle Staffs Volleyball Club
59 clumber avenue
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 3AY

OUR REF: DRS/KT/N348

9th December 2022

Dear Will,

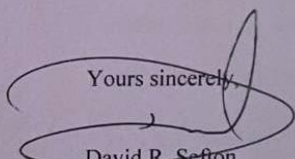
Please find enclosed our Audit Report for the year ended 31st May 2022.

Finally, please find enclosed my Firms' Invoice in the sum of £515 plus VAT which I trust you will find to be in order. Please note that if you pay by Standing Order, any payments made up to the Accounts year-end date should be offset against the attached Invoice.

Should you have any questions with regard to the above or on any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Assuring you of my personal attention at all times.

Yours sincerely,


David R. Sefton
SEFTONS

Encl.

Mr W Roberts MSC, BSC (HONS)
Newcastle Staffs. Volleyball Club
59 Dartmouth Avenue
Westlands
Newcastle-Under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 3NT

8th December 2022

Dear Mr Roberts,

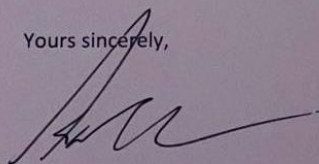
R.E Audit Report

I have checked the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2022 to the books and records made available to me and have formed the opinion that they represent a true and fair view of the charity's performance.

Please note as the accounts have not been filed at The Charity Commission, I am unable to confirm whether they reflect the filed accounts.

Our work in connection with this letter is limited in scope and does not constitute an audit in accordance with Auditing Standards.

Yours sincerely,



SEFTONS

0161 665 0507
info@seftons.co.uk
www.seftons.co.uk

135-143 Union Street
Oldham Lancashire
OL1 1TE

Seftons is the
trading name
of Seftons Ltd

Registered in
England & Wales
Co. Reg. No: 05759784



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

For Season 2021/22					
INCOME	2021/2022	EXPENDITURE	2021/2022	Opening Balance (from 1/6/2021)	£25,501.02
	£		£	INCOME	£28,110.10
Snr Contribution	£6,786.25	Volleyball England	£1,756.00		£53,611.12
Jnr Contribution	£13,882.35	Jnr Reg/Entry Fees	£160.00	EXPENDITURE	£21,256.08
Social Contribution	£2,276.45	Ref Fees	£1,245.50		£32,355.04
Lyme Lottery	£112.00	Club Affiliation	£95.00	Balance at bank 1 (31/05/22)	£23,664.22
Donation	£0.00	Audit	£564.00	Balance at Bank 2 (31/05/22)	£8,688.59
Sponsors	£2,768.93	Hall Hire	£3,457.23		£32,352.81
Refund/Reimbursement	£892.82	Grants	£0.00	Difference	£2.23
Merchandise	£45.00	Merchandise	£27.60	Cash in hand	£2.23
Awards Eve	£705.00	Advertising/Social Media	£120.00	Balance	£0.00
Gift aid refund	£0.00	Award Eve	£540.00		
40 anniversary	£0.00	Tournaments	£572.02		
Competition	£370.00	LPV	£0.00		
NULC	£38.00	Gifts	£0.00		
		Sportset	£1,209.28		
TOTAL	£28,110.10	Website	£0.00		
		40th anniversary	£872.23		
		Equipment	£0.00		
		Club Kit	£7,006.64		
		Repairs & drilling	£553.56		
		Coaching Fees	£520.00		
		Membership and Regular Refunds	£2,036.72		
		TOTAL	£21,256.08		

Accounts



NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31st May 2021

NEWCASTLE STAFFS. VOLLEYBALL CLUB

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Financial statement	7

DRAFT

TRUSTEES

- Marie Barley (Secretary)
- Matt Smith (Treasurer)
- Els Drijfhout
- Ben Fernandez-Fontan
- Richard Guest
- Flossy Owen
- Will Roberts (Chair)
- Emma Rodgers
- Rod Stockwell

DRAFT

TRUSTEES REPORTS

The trustees present that annual report together with the financial statement for the charity for the year ended 31st May 2021.

OBJECTS

The objects of the CIO are:

The promotion of the amateur sport of volleyball, beach volleyball and sitting volleyball for the public benefit and the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, by the provision of facilities for playing volleyball, beach volleyball sitting volleyball in Newcastle, North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

DRAFT

CHAIR'S REPORT

The 2020/2021 season is one that will hopefully be unique in the club's history, due to the covid-19 pandemic which saw us unable to get on court to practice or compete for much of the time.

That said, we have continued to use the time well, planning for the future, supporting our members, and ensuring we stayed connected and supportive. Not only that but we managed to deliver around 50% of all training sessions across all groups despite the challenges of Tier 1, 2 and 3 covid status locally through the autumn, and the paralysis of lockdown in the early months of 2021.

Thanks to the hard work of our Trustee and now covid-19 office Richard Guest we developed a reputation in the sport for our diligence around keeping members safe, being contacted by other clubs that wanted to use our guidance aligned with that from Volleyball England. Most importantly though, we sustained high standards in all our sessions and managed to stay free of being part of a covid-19 outbreak much to our relief.

The senior teams sadly got no competitive volleyball at all this season, and those members must be congratulated and recognised for their patience, and obvious love of the sport and loyalty to the club as we have lost very few people.

We have worked incredibly hard to get as many of our junior teams back on the court as possible and did so securing girls' and boys' fixtures through work with neighbouring clubs of a similar philosophy and level of play for all junior age groups. Our coaching team worked incredibly hard to make this happen, and it is testament to their sense of belonging, identity and duty that they did so, often on back-to-back weekends home and away.

As part of this, Volleyball England ran the '2020' National u15s last 8s competition a year late – and our girls' and boys' teams attended. The girls secured 5th place overall ranking and it was a memorable day for the boys who reached the final losing to Boswells of Chelmsford, Essex – in a repeat of the final that took place in 2005!

Our plans towards our 50th anniversary in 2030 are full steam ahead with immediate progress made:

- We have secured a new venue for our brand-new Primary school age group sessions due to start at Clayton Sports Centre, where we have worked hard with the operators Staffordshire Cricket and got permission to install fixtures and fittings for a long net with posts.
- We are also in the process of moving to an online membership system to improve communication with and management of our members
- Our brand-new kit and merchandise supplier relationships is set-up with a 10% rebate in place which we will use to fund kit for end of season prizes for players and to help those in need of more support
- Recruitment of new coaches to run our growing club, including very excitingly two female head coaches – for the Women's First Team, and for the Girls u15/16 group
- We are growing! In September 2020 we had 132 members in total, and by the end of the season we were at 151.

- We have secured new sponsors who are supporting our charitable mission generously, and share our values and commitment to the local community

So... a season of ups and downs. We had already had to cancel our 40th celebrations in 2020 and had to do the same with the replacement 41st this summer... and we missed nearly all matches and lots of time on court. BUT...

- We supported our members and provided a sense of community and belonging
- We provided 50% training hours in a year of lockdowns locally and nationally
- We did get on the court to compete, and did so with pride and success
- We grew in number
- ... and all this was recognised as we were awarded Volleyball England Club of the Year!

Will Roberts
Chair of Trustees
08/06/2021

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members

As at the 2020/21 year end on the 31/5/2021 the Total Expenditure for the year was £7,899.02 and the Total Income was £13,890.98 leaving a Closing Balance of £25,501.02

This is an Increase of Last Year's Balance of £5,991.96

The Gift Aid is due to be credited into next year's accounts 2021/22 by HMRC, a figure yet to be confirmed

The year-end accounts of 2020/21 will be sent to Sefton's Accountants for auditing

Once audited the information will be sent to the Charities Commission for publication on the website (last year accounts can already be viewed online)

Matt Smith

NSVC Treasurer

7/6/2021

NB: Confirmation of accounts received from Sefton's Accounts, November 2021.

FOR SEASON 2020/2021						
INCOME	2020/2021	EXPENDITURE	2020/2021	Opening Balance (from 1/6/2020)	£19,509.06	
	£		£	INCOME	£13,890.98	
Snr Donations	1,918.93	Jnr Reg/EntryFees	0.00		£33,400.04	
Jnr Donations	5,740.50	Referee Exp	0.00	EXPENDITURE	£7,899.02	
NVL reg	0.00	Affiliation	0.00		£25,501.02	
Social Volleyball	2,002.75	NVL reg	300.00	Balance at bank (31/05/2021)	£25,498.79	
Merchandise	890.00	AUDIT	540.00	Difference	£2.23	
Awards Evening	0.00	Hall Hire	4,066.62	Cash in hand	£2.23	
Sponsors	615.00	Grants	0.00	Balance	£0.00	
Contribution	0.00	Merchandise/kit	865.20			
Donation	0.30	Award Eve	0.00			
Beach Competition	0.00	Tournaments	0.00			
HMRC (19/20)	2,567.50	Sportset	284.20			
40th Anniversary	0.00	Website	208.66			
Lyme Lottery	156.00	Coaching Costs	304.00			
Credit NULC	0.00	Stationary	175.34			
		40TH Anniverary	0.00			
		Volleyball England	0.00			
TOTAL	£13,890.98	TOTAL	£7,899.02			