

Bryan Youlden
Nominated for Regional Commission President at 2016 AGM

Volleyball was a sport that I discovered rather late in my sporting career. Although attending Manchester Grammar school where volleyball was played, I was too busy sampling every other minority sport. University saw me continuing my swimming career until late in my education I sampled a taster course and found myself on the fringes of a combined Newcastle University/ Newcastle Polytechnic team (how times have changed!). Staying in Newcastle upon graduation I was looking for a new sport and discovered that new employers British Telecom had an associate volleyball club. This was the start of my new sporting passion.

Before long, I was taken under the wing of long time volleyball advocate in the North East Ian Berry and was soon involved in club and then NEVA administration as well as playing for Newcastle Pumas and Wallsend VC.

Relocation to the West Midlands resulted in a 25 year association with this year's Club of the Year Tamworth (now Spartans) VC and over the years I occupied most jobs on the club committee including secretary, treasurer, Vice-chair and Chairman as well as first team men's captain. At the same time, I became involved in both Birmingham and District and West Midlands Volleyball Associations serving as one of the league secretaries and serving alongside various key volleyball luminaries such as Richard Callicott, Steve Evans and John Boughton to name but three. Over time I assumed responsibility for the Regional Commission representative from WMVA and I have now been on Regional Commission for probably around 10 years.

Before moving to my third region last year I served as WMVA Chair for a number of years. Now firmly ensconced in the North West I remain an active National League Referee, as well as a level 2 coach and recently agreed to Chair a new club in Preston whilst also being involved with Bolton VC. As such, I have a very strong grounding in grass roots volleyball and have seen it at various levels. My key desire is to bring Regional Commission to the top table of volleyball acting as a strong and effective voice for grass roots volleyball at the centre of the sport we all love. Communication and co-operation between the staff and the volunteers is vital and a strong Regional Commission is a key component of developing the sport. After a brief taster as a co-opted Chair for the Commission, the work is just commencing and I would be delighted to be favoured to continue this if the members wish it.