



Keith Nicholls
Nominated for Vice President at 2016 AGM

My first encounter with volleyball was in 1965 and I was hooked immediately. By 1966 I was serving as Assistant General Secretary of the Amateur Volleyball Association. Since then I have held a number of positions on the AVA, EVA and Volleyball England including Facilities Officer, Executive member, Competitions Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Technical Director and currently Vice-President.

At regional level I have been involved with the Yorkshire, South West and Eastern regions in various capacities. At local Level I am President of Norfolk Volleyball.

At club level over the years I have been Secretary, Coach and player with seven NVL clubs. I have also played for Southgate, and Stowmarket in the national leagues.

My books on volleyball have been widely used by teachers, coaches and players. I have played at all levels of the game and am proud to have been inducted into the Volleyball England Hall of Fame. I have coached at levels from local league to national teams in European, Commonwealth and World championships. As a Tutor I have trained coaches over many years.

I was honoured in 2016 to receive the Peter Wardale Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to volleyball.

Working as a volunteer I started and edited Volleyball Magazine, started and ran AVA Sales and then EVA sales. I created the National League with three divisions for men and women and started the Student Cup which has been a major factor in the development of the sport in Higher Education.

I wrote the Technical Guidelines for equipment and facilities and the Volleyball England design specification for Beach Volleyball.

Until 2012 the Sport England standard size for halls was based on one agreed in 1965. I drafted new design specifications for the size of sports halls that would be more appropriate for volleyball and other indoor court sports than the Sport England and these have been adopted.

As Technical Director I developed the wall slider as a multisport teaching/training aid for schools and clubs. Over 500 have been installed in sports halls. Through the Ruth Nicholls Volleyball Foundation, I designed the Multisportbase for sitting and primary level volleyball.

In 2011 I developed the concept of creating two training courts in a standard size sportshall enabling more volleyballers to train in the space. Sport England funded installation in thirty universities. Another grant has enabled 40 clubs/schools to have a second set of posts.

As Vice President I proposed unifying leagues at national, regional and local levels under a single entity, the English Volleyball League. Consultation is taking place with Regional Associations in the first instance to examine how this could be implemented.

With a new Government Strategy for Sport it is important that Board members are able to evaluate the impact it will have on how we organise, develop and manage our sport. Your Board members need wide experience and understanding of the game at all levels, a full understanding of the issues at grass roots levels and the vision to create ways of building and promoting our sport.