

## Foreword: October 2016 Newsletter

It has been a very busy summer with the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio and the UK school games this year held at Loughbrough University and of course the Volleyball England Beach Tour. We have been very fortunate that we had representation at the Olympics with Ray Capewell and Luciano di Fazio who went as Games makers and Glynn Archibald having the honor of refereeing at the Paralympics. Please see Glynn's report of his experience in this newsletter.



The UK School Games has been supported by members of our referee corps for many years and is an ideal opportunity for development, assisted by our other Home Nations; Scotland (SVA) and Northern Island (NIVA). The UKSG is not just grounding for the players, there are many young officials and volunteers from local schools and organisations. For example this year saw our youngest referee Jake Welch open the first match of the Competition on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September, Jake's 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Jake's first involvement was as a young volunteer along with his school friends and staff from Nuneaton in which they took on the roles of quick moppers and ball persons. The group then progressed to taking on the young officials role where Jake then became a qualified scorer and lines person. As a result of his interest he attended a referee course in 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015. A fantastic achievement within a 12-month period of qualifying.

It also gives me great pleasure in announcing that Volleyball England has their first Woman Candidate International Referee. Katarina Cepinova attended her course in September in Argentina; her account of her experience is later in this newsletter.

The 2016-17 season is upon us; please ensure that those refereeing the National League are well aware of the regulations. Please keep your availability up to date as this aids the appointers. Appointments are made via WTR up to 3 weeks prior to the fixture match date, if we have been unable to appoint by this time the clubs will be seeking officials as per the NVL Regulations.

It is the Referee Commissions priority to implement a mentoring programme in line with the referee strategy, these will be coordinated by the Regional Referee Coordinators (RRC) locally with support from the Referee



Commission where needed. The programme is in its early stages of development and still being finalised, the RRC's are trying to identify persons wishing to be mentors. All Grade 2 referees and above would be expected to offer their services and anyone else interested should contact their RRC. Our aim is to give support to our Grade 4's and Grade 3R's to get their feet on the start of the referee pathway.

Have a great season

Steve Evans  
President  
Referee Commission