

Coventry and Warwick Riga Volleyball Club

2018/9 Annual Report



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CHAIRPERSON REPORT – VIRGINIA RENNIE

Welcome to the inaugural Riga Volleyball Club annual report.

Our vision as a club is to provide opportunities for players of all ages and abilities to reach their volleyball potential. Our development key goals for 2018/19 and the next 3 years were to:



- Continue to have a successful men's and women's teams in the National League providing competitive playing opportunities.
- Provide a back-to-volleyball pathway for women returning to the sport to support their development and engagement through access to training and opportunities to play competitively.
- Increase our Club members that are involved in volunteering (through taking on or helping with specific roles within the Club, scoring, lining, refereeing or coaching).
- Expand qualified coaches within the Club to ensure members continue to be able to benefit from high quality coaching.
- Build long-term relationship with a venue to develop a 'home' for the club to improve its identify

This annual report shows how we have made progress but also where there is more work still to do.

Overall 2018/19 has been another good year for the club with progress being made on all fronts. Two women's NVL teams for the first time in nearly a decade, a men's NVL team that has stabilised and turned the corner after a difficult period and a recreational session that continues to enable everyone to play and enjoy volleyball. And, for those of you who have been with the club for a while will know how important this is, we are also financially stable. This enables us to look forward to the future with confidence.

As is to be expected with a club that plays over four venues, has 80 active members and runs three teams in national competitions there have inevitably been a few challenges. I therefore want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee who put in time and energy to keep the club on an even keel, the coaches who help us all improve as players and remain competitive, John Boughton for organising the recreational session and each and every member who takes time out to referee or do a line or just support the teams. Without all of your input the Club would not be in the healthy position it is today.

On a personal level this has been my first year of not playing either competitively or recreationally. My 'semi-detached' position has given me the opportunity to see from a distance the outstanding contribution my colleagues on the Committee make and to be able to appreciate the personal commitment they have made to the Club. We are a club run by volunteers and whilst we have made progress, Marta's early forays into coaching being a prime example, there is always more to be done. I would therefore urge everyone who wants to continue to play volleyball and be part of a thriving club to think how they can contribute.

Thank you and here's to a successful 2019/2020 season and beyond for the Club!

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GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT – HANNAH ANDERSON

- There were two committee meetings in the season, and one ad hoc meeting via webex.
- Slightly fewer than usual as I struggled to find mutually convenient dates - however, we dealt with any issues as they came up by email or webex.
- Thank you to the committee for keeping the club going this year, despite the challenge of having three teams in NVL for the first time.
- The Club Development Plan was reviewed at the Committee meeting in April 2019, as part of the Club Mark annual club health check application. Thanks go to Clare Francis for completing the paperwork for the application.
- This year the committee also established the Club shop. Accessible from our home page (top banner) or from <https://www.kitlocker.com/yourclub/club/coventry-warwick-riga-vc> – it's the one stop shop for Club branded hoodies and warm up T-shirts as well as other volleyball accessories. Run in conjunction with Kitlocker it means members can buy anytime they join rather than once per year and reducing the admin on our volunteers. Get stocked up now for next season!
- As a committee we are also aware of Volleyball England's recently launched mission statement and the challenging financial situation with decreasing central funding. We continue to work closely with Volleyball England to champion the sustainable development of volleyball within England for the benefit of us all and the future generations of volleyballers!



TREASURER REPORT – CLARE FRANCIS

The detailed financial reports are attached at annex 1 together with the auditor's letter. The fully audited accounts show an overall surplus of £637.04 for the year. This year was looking challenging financially as we hit the half way mark - the surplus is less than one and a half full paying NVL members and is therefore very susceptible to membership numbers.

Income headlines

- Membership numbers were good across the squads. However the mix between full paying members and concession members (students) was different which impacted on overall income given the substantial student discount.
- Recreational session numbers have been high throughout the season so income from these has been good this year.
- Amazon commission has been down and this could be promoted and used further by members to increase this 'free' income. There is also no revenue from sale of Club kit having moved to the Kitlocker model at the start of this season.



Expenditure headlines

- Our largest expense by far remains sports hall costs. We have good deals with the existing halls (between £20.50 and £25 per hour at Centre AT7; £31 per hour at Alan Higgs and £33 per hour at Bablake) These are very competitive rates in the local market but still mean each training session costs between £40.50 to £66 per squad. There is also a significant lack of availability at any other venues that have volleyball equipment meaning that there are no options to change venues or nights. **** STOP PRESS – Bablake have told us this week the cost will increase to £38 per hour costing us an extra £690 per year ****

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- Competition entries across the NVL squads were as anticipated but it should be noted these costs are raised year on year by Volleyball England (at least in line with inflation). Referee costs were minimised by the committee making use of local referees where possible (particular thanks to Roberto!). This can be a significant variable cost and sensible cost control by the committee here is often the difference between us making a surplus or a loss.
- Debt write offs are from prior seasons. This year collection (and payment) of subs on time has significantly improved given the lowest debtor figure in living memory! Massive thank you to the team managers for prompting their teams and to each and every member for making their payments on a timely basis - it makes a massive difference.
- The Club invested this year in equipment (score pads, net etc) and also in its volunteers supporting Marta through her coaching course. Miscellaneous expenses also include website hosting and maintenance fees.

Recommendation for 2019/20

I would recommend no changes to fee subscriptions for the coming year. Whilst the fees have not increased for more than 10 years (despite inflation), this recommendation of no increase can be supported given the committee's continued efforts to manage costs pro-actively. Membership will need to remain high to support this recommendation but at this stage the committee has no reason to believe it will not.

The committee is also, in line with the audit report, recommending that the Club membership form is updated to ensure members must give at least 1 month's notice to suspend or cancel membership (akin to gym membership). This reflects the fact that the Club commits to costs a month in advance and, therefore, needs similar notice of any drop in income to be able to manage its costs and keep membership fees low as a result.

MENS TEAM MANAGER – CHRIS JONES

- Competed in Men's Div 3 Central National League.
- Special thanks to Alex for coaching the team this season and also to Marta as her assistant. Their hard work, as well as the squad's, saw the team have a very strong finish to the second half of the season eventually finishing 4th.
- As the season progressed so did the number of registered players and training members. Most of whom will be around for the 2019-2020 season. So the future is looking bright.
- Last but not least the season's wooden spoon award for the team goes to Tom Young for forgetting the kit for our game in Black Country #muppet.



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WOMENS NVL 2 TEAM MANAGER – MIRIAM ANDERSON

- Played in NVL Division 2 North.
- Remained in a comfortable position throughout the season and finished in 6th place.
- We did beat two of the teams who finished above us and when we played the team who finished first the set scores were incredibly close in both matches.
- We had a very strong end to the season – Jon challenged us to win 5 out of our last 6 matches and we achieved it despite injuries and turning our libero into a setter.
- Special thanks to Jon for once again putting a huge amount of time and effort into planning training sessions tailored to defeat the upcoming opposition and developing the squad to achieve a fantastic result.
- Also a big thank you to Clare for organising all of the training and match venues once again, the club would fall apart without you!
- Next season we aim to start as strongly as we ended the last one with the aim of finishing higher up in the league table.



WOMENS NVL3 TEAM MANAGER – HANNAH ANDERSON

- Played in NVL Division 3 for the first time in recent years after progressing up from the regional league.
- Won four matches and finished second from bottom in the league. That said, we were very happy with the outcome. The team demonstrated that we can compete and win against teams at a higher level, and despite the added travel, the commitment shown from the players was outstanding.
- We struggled for numbers towards the end of the season with players leaving or unable to continue with the season for various reasons, but we managed to just fulfil every match with much appreciated help from the first team.
- We would like to pay special thanks to Nick for coaching us this season, for his dedication and for helping the team achieve all they did. Also big thanks to Jon and Alex for coaching the joint sessions at the start and end of the season.
- Next year we hope to continue in division 3 national league, with an aim to finishing mid table.



RECREATIONAL SESSION MANAGER – JOHN BOUGHTON

The year has seen its “opportunities” as well as successes. With WASPS netball continuing on Thursdays at Bablake, the session had to remain on a Monday night. Attendance over the year averaged 14 over both the indoor and outdoor periods. Individual session numbers, though, varied quite a bit with outdoor ranging from 7 to 10 and indoor from 8 to 24! The latter number provided one of the “opportunities” - to demonstrate how flexibly the session can operate.



A total of 35 newcomers joined in during the year. Unfortunately not all of them are still attending. This could be a combination of the standard of play, the numbers at some of the sessions and the skill level of the “newbies”. The influx of NVL players at the sessions has certainly maintained, if not raised, the standard of play as well as increased attendance. For experienced players, this makes the games more competitive and enjoyable. For the less experienced, the sessions are more challenging and whilst help and coaching is made available, learning is very much “on the job” and not in a dedicated slot. It remains one of the

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challenges that the Club faces as to how to deal with beginners/the less experienced.

The premise of the session is “turn up and play”. The result of that is an unpredictable level of attendance. Whilst the average number of 14 could be said to fall within a “sweet spot” (two teams of six and a rotating substitute), numbers over 18 may not provide a value-for-money experience. There are still a significant number of pay-on-the-day players and if these are deterred then the financial viability of the session will be under threat. Perhaps another challenge for the Club.

The relationship with Bablake has also been challenging at times during the year but fortunately, those times have provided opportunities to clarify and improve that understanding. The Club can be sure that the relationship will continue to evolve as time passes, as it has done over the nearly 50 years that the Club has played there.

However much we would like time to stand still, it doesn't. Andy, Valdis and I haven't yet found a way of bucking that trend and at some point in the future (but not too soon, we hope), it will come time to “hang up our trainers”. Even before that, though, the Club needs to decide what it wants from the Recreational session, what that looks like on the court and who will lead it, as the three of us edge towards a back seat on the bus marked “Riga Volleyball Club”.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – ALEX SMITH

I'm afraid I have relatively little to report about this season having simply taken a bit of time to work out what I think needs doing... so instead, here's my plans for next year.

I would like Riga to be the club in the area that not only has the best teams available for men and women to compete in the national league, but also development squads enabling us to bring up beginners. In my ideal we'll grow to having maybe 3 squads of each gender, but that's longterm.

Short term, I have a proposal to start us being able to accept beginners – and thus doing our bit to start growing the sport in our area and finding the players who'd make up our third teams in a year or two.

But first, Juniors. I have started going into local schools and introducing volleyball as part of my role at the University of Warwick. I am hoping that from September, I will be running weekly Junior sessions at the University on Sunday Mornings. It will be mixed but we'll use a long net and 4 badminton courts enabling me to sometimes split the group by gender or by ability.

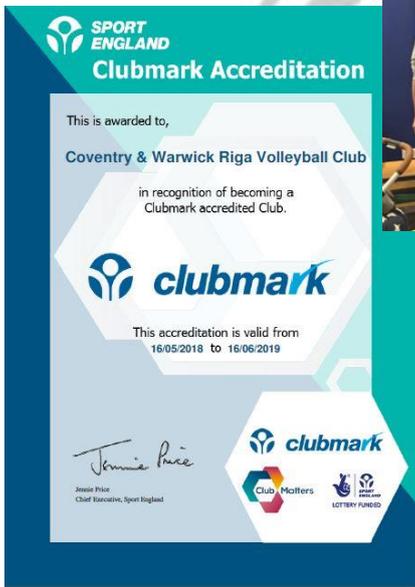
At my very first session I met one boy who's mother had previously contacted Riga asking about volleyball in the area. She was so excited he was now getting to play. And given how tall he is at age 13, we should be too!... There was also a tall girl who was incredibly coachable who I could see making England Cadets by Christmas if she keeps coming. There are tons of kids out there. My plan is to create a junior club at the University and enter them maybe into U16 cup with the hope of moving them up to Riga when they get good enough/want to compete at a higher level. So I would like the club to be in a position to welcome them in a year or two's time.



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Which leads me on to the recreational session. I would like to propose that we rejig the recreational session to enable us to accept beginners at it. I would like to suggest we run it using a long net and 4 badminton courts. The session can then be split enabling beginners to be on one court coached by existing NVL players at the session. The benefit of this is not just giving beginners an opportunity to train and play, but also intermediate and NVL players to also play at their correct levels at the rec session. It never harms NVL players to have to play on a small court as it makes you learn to play smart. Having multiple courts will enable the NVL players who attend to play against each other (without the fear of hurting a relative beginner), and mixing in the better 'rec' players with them in different rounds of play to develop those players further as well as for our NVL players to have the opportunity to begin coaching and help teach those starting out in the sport. I would happily go along when I can to help give NVL players some basic drills they can do with the beginners to help them run the session. I was wondering whether there might be a few NVL players who consistently go who might be willing to help me establish this?



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Annex 1 Financial Statements

Income & Expenditure				Balance Sheet			
Income		Expenditure		Liabilities		Assets	
Female Membership	-	EVA Club Registration	£ 92.00	Capital	£ 11,018.06	Assets	-
Male Membership	-		-	Profit and Loss Account	£(1,167.38)	Debtors	£ 168.28
	-		-	Surplus/Deficit for Year	£ 637.04	Competition Sureties	£ 255.00
Men NVL Subs	£ 5,223.29	Men NVL Competition Entries	£ 883.00	Creditors	£ 2,356.86	Santander Bank	£ 12,300.45
	-	Men NVL Matches	£ 912.00		-	Nat West Bank	£ 120.85
	-	Men NVL Referees	£ 577.50			Cash Float	-
	-	Men NVL Training	£ 2,046.00				
	-		-	Total	£ 12,844.58	Total	£ 12,844.58
Women NVL2 Subs	£ 3,463.16	Women NVL2 Matches	£ 837.00				
	-	Women NVL2 Comp Entries	£ 768.00				
	-	Women NVL2 Referees	£ 592.25				
	-	Women NVL2 Training	£ 1,380.00				
	-		-				
Women NVL3 Subs	£ 4,062.39	Women NVL3 Matches	£ 651.00				
	-	Women NVL3 Comp Entries	£ 767.00				
	-	Women NVL3 Referees	£ 412.00				
	-	Women NVL3 Training	£ 1,380.00				
	-		-				
Bablake Subs	£ 2,210.00	Bablake Hire	£ 2,508.00				
	-		-				
Tournament Income	£ 110.00	Tournament Expense	-				
	-		-				
	-	Bank Charges	-				
Sales of Club Kit	-	Debt Write Offs/Write Backs	£ 203.75				
Amazon Commission	£ 26.49		-				
Miscellaneous Income	-	Miscellaneous Expenses	£ 448.79				
	-		-				
Deficit	-	Surplus	£ 637.04				
	-		-				
Total	£ 15,095.33	Total	£ 15,095.33				

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Debtors – as at 31 May 2019

Miriam Anderson	£0.52 (cleared post 31.05.2019)	The Club also has a number of creditors (i.e. individuals who the Club owes money to (this totals a significant £2,356.86)). These members will be advised separately and the credits taken into account in the 2019/2020 subs payments.
Clare Francis	£25.71 (cleared post 31.05.2019)	
Maria Jancekova	£3.00	
Georg Serafimov	£57.00 (cleared post 31.05.2019)	
Tom Young	£55.00 (being cleared as overpayment through 2019/20 season)	
Regina Boateng	£27.05	

Auditor Letter

RIGA VOLLEYBALL CLUB
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MAY 2019
AUDIT COMMENTS

1. Adjustments.
 - a. Debtors consisted entirely of debts and credits belonging to Club Members. The value of money owed to Club Members exceeded that of money owed by Club Members. Therefore an adjustment to show the true amount owed to the Club is necessary. The amount of this adjustment is £934.86 and affects both Creditor and Debtor balances.
2. During the year, members left the club or were incapacitated by injury, sometimes part way through a month. There needs to be a consistent approach to such cases that is clearly defined in the Club Constitution and communicated in the Club Membership form. Recommendation: The Committee determines the proportion of monthly subscriptions due to the club in the event of a member leaving, or being incapacitated through injury, part way through a month. This policy is included in the relevant section of the Club Constitution and the Membership form which is given to each new member for their reference.
3. As in the previous financial year, the cost of the Christmas Social tournament was included in the training costs of NVL teams. Given that this event is open to all club members, it would not seem appropriate to allocate it to any NVL team. Improvement: The cost of the Christmas Social is allocated to Miscellaneous Expense for the 2019/20 financial year onwards.
4. Creditors include an amount due to Coventry Schools Foundation relating to the financial year 2015/16. It is prudent to hold this balance for a period of six years. I understand the Committee concur this approach and will look to release this accrual at the end of the 2021/22 financial year.
5. No other errors or omissions were found and the accounts, post adjustment, can be treated as a true and fair view of the financial position of the Riga Volleyball Club for the Year Ended 31st May 2019 as prepared on an historic cost basis.

J Boughton
Auditor