

## **Division One Comment Summary**

### **League Format**

I am interested in Central Venue but only if it is not on a Sunday. We would be a better club if we could train once a week on a Sunday and compete during the week. I am very happy to see mixed teams but not as the only option as we do not have many girls. Very happy to play 4's instead of 6 but only if the 4s' is reffed to a good standard.

The only one I don't like is the central venue choice

Separate Mens and Ladies Leagues. Central Venues – time control is key, does not need to be triangulars – could be 3 or 5 set matches – would help new teams to get started.

### **Refereeing**

Very against No 2. for us it would be almost impossible. 3 is easiest but other options OK

Non-playing team if using Central Venues, otherwise current system

As a grade 4 ref I would probably do more 1<sup>st</sup> reffing if it was worth it

### **Supra Club**

Not against it . I think the Hub club idea is quite good and fits in with where sport is going. It would have to be a hub and affiliated satellites. I think all the clubs should participate in the organisation though.

Yes but it is important not to lose the local rivalries that we have now which encourages competition and recruitment of new players, resulting in need for training sessions for improvement.

### **EDVA Funding**

I think a variety of fund raising is required + as close to self sufficiency as possible.

### **EDVA Committee**

I would have stood for a committee post but was not sure that I could get someone else from the club to also attend the meetings. We have very few adults and the club is becoming younger at the moment. Also I think that it is time for younger people with newer bright ideas to take on some of the organisation and if I continue to hold a post it blocks the opportunity for others. I am also still very upset about the ideas and attitudes of some of the club reps in the league as illustrated by the previous AGM and although it was over a year ago it has damaged how I feel about serving in the committee.

I live too far away, I believe I do not currently have the know-how or motivation to be a successful part of the committee

I did for a number of years, and left as got so fed up with the bitching, back stabbing and lack of direction. The league has never appreciated what people over the years have done for it. Just slagged off the people that have put in the effort and kept it alive. You did ask!

I live too far away to be able to make meetings in Exeter and have a lot of commitments outside of volleyball that take up most of my time.

I do not currently have time

Pure and simple - time! Same with many people, I suspect. Whilst I sympathise and am very grateful to all those who volunteer to the task, I simply cannot accommodate doing so along with my work and (soon to expand) young family. I'm afraid that my quality of life actually improved with a lesser commitment to volleyball and is likely to remain reduced or reducing in the future...

As I consider myself relatively new to the sport I haven't felt like I have enough experience to be involved in the running of the league although I think surveys like this one are helpful in making future decisions.

Time is my main constraint. I know we could all use that as an excuse though. I do now have 3 young kids as well as being the Chairman of a team playing in the A Division of the Devon Cricket League. Sorry to say this but cricket is my main sport and passion. Volleyball to me is great fun and really enjoyable but you need to remember

how Kirton started. This was basically a group of mates that were looking for something to do and thought they would give it a go. It just so happens over the years we have become O.K. and picked up a player or 2 en route. I think though that if you asked the nucleus of the original Kirton mob they would probably tell you that they would rather not play than get too involved in running things. Basically it is a hobby. I appreciate that this could sound a little ungracious or patronising to some of the more committed teams and people involved and it certainly isn't meant that way. It is most of our guys 2nd sport though and unfortunately it suffers accordingly. I do think that this is slowly changing though with the addition of new players from different areas etc. To answer your question I do not think that there is much that the EDVA could do to make it more appealing. That said the efforts that people make to ensure the smooth running of the league are appreciated by all and you won't find anybody from Kirton complaining.

Well I do! But I think we should consider that all Clubs, or a combination of two or more, need to manage the League in turn, probably keeping a fixed Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary, re-elected annually.

I could not stand on the EDVA committee due to work and other commitments. If I had some more spare time it might enable me to make a positive contribution towards the work of the EDVA.

Have stood. A small amount of people like to criticise but don't offer support or their own effort to change things. The overwhelming majority just want to play volleyball with as little administration as possible. We should be removing barriers/administration wherever possible. Those who are willing to help get pretty quickly burned out. I would do it again if we had the people who would get out and actually help do the work.

Have family commitments which mean I must minimise leisure time

I really appreciate what the EDVA and club committees have done in organising volleyball in Exeter. It's a thankless task and efforts of individuals on committees will often massively outweigh that of those who benefit from their efforts. I don't mind helping out once a year or so - for example at tournaments etc. - but I can't make a regular commitment.

Who said I didn't? But as I don't my reason is that I am happy to be involved in a playing and coaching role at this point but have enough else on not to want Volleyball to be the be all and end all of my life.

lack of time. more press releases and better referees organization

I have previously been on the committee; I currently have a very demanding job and am treasurer for another voluntary organisation. I would consider joining the committee of the EDVA in the future.

I live in Newton Abbot, it is already a journey for training and matches. I have a young family that spend most of their time swimming up and down swimming pools in the south west. My work involves shifts, so I would not be able to commit to ensuring that I could attend meetings, as I have to take time off now to play.

Too busy at the moment.

Difficult for me to be involved due to my business.

I have college work and other matters that must come before volleyball. Sorry

time – existing work commitments away from Devon but also impression I get is it's a bit political

I just don't have the time. I work shifts which rotates through days and nights so would not be able to guarantee availability to attend meetings etc. With playing as much as I can I couldn't do both.

Need to try and reduce the paperwork somehow. Timed meetings. Too much other commitments at the moment to stand - but do support as club rep.

I have a very demanding job as a teacher that doesn't allow for any extra commitment and a very busy family life on top of that. I am secretary to my volleyball club and that is as much as I can do.

I was going to last year, but at the first meeting there seemed to be a lot of internal politics going on which was taking up a lot of time and was very unproductive, therefore I decided not to.

Too many commitments within the club already

My commitment to National League volleyball & also playing local league.

Available time is main reason for not standing, as coach for team and active player I do have other commitments outside volleyball that limit the amount of time I have.

### **Any other comments**

Think I have covered most of it! A league has to be run with an element of common sense. This has never been applied before. Rules are there to be bent a little perhaps, not abused by the bigger clubs. I think that the natural progression from EDVA would be to South West. Could that not be introduced? After all, it's hardly a busy schedule playing South West is it?! Volleyball is a social sport here in Devon. But where is the social part of it? Anyway, isn't Taunton Dome fantastic! I want one in my garden. Go on EDVA, pay for it for me?? Please? Pretty please? You know you want to? Be your best friend?

I prefer the current 2 div structure as there is just enough games – not too much or too little (there was too little last year)

I have really enjoyed my few years of volleyball and just want to play as much as possible

Website etc. is running really well as per my e-mail communication with Rachel last week. In general things seem to be picking up and some of the negativity that was flying around seems to have curtailed.

I thought the midweek Mixed League a couple of years ago, running in parallel to the main league, worked very well: minimum admin, relaxed scoring, play up or play down as you liked, low cost. Good opportunity for non regional league players to get some extra games in a competitive but relaxed competition

Website is great... really helpful and thorough. I think it would be very helpful if the EDVA kept one or two main goals at the heart of everything it does. One, promote the playing of volleyball. Two, make it EASY to play volleyball in Exeter/Region. Every choice, every league, every event should keep this in mind. -Thanks for the venue to say all this.

No gripes

It's always been hard to get people to officiate. That needs to be a more democratic process with everyone doing their bit. 3 way fixtures or refereeing fixtures would address that. Notwithstanding a good understanding of and competence to apply the basic rules of the game, I see no reason why referees should be qualified. When a team wins the first 3 sets of a match ie. 3-0, it should take all match available points. Personally I would end the match there. However, if people insist on playing out the final 2 sets - perhaps because they want more court time, or it's an opportunity for other squad members to get match practise; this should not affect a team's relative league position if they lose 1 or both of the remaining sets. If there are financial benefits (EVA/sport England funding/grants etc.) in forming a "supra Exeter and district" club I think it should happen. In all but name, I believe the Exeter and district league is just that already. Managed correctly, I see no reason why a supra umbrella club cannot co-exist with the existing team/league structure and allowing teams to maintain their individual characteristics and autonomy. Everyone would seem to benefit from the extra funding and it's ramifications. Also why duplicate the efforts of individuals by holding so many committees - which one hopes, all strive a similar outcome. To get people playing Volleyball! Please do not attempt to resurrect the post-Christmas closed tournament. It had run its course. The Open 6-a-side tournament at Coaver is a really good event. Also the summer 4-a-side league at Coaver is fun and I hope will continue.

Things are taken for granted in the running of the league and I'm most grateful to people in my club who sort things and more so to those who do the administration of the league. My only concern/interest (that at this stage of my career I can't/don't want to devote the time it needs) is junior volleyball. I know there are a few primary sessions running but there isn't any/enough avenues for kids that want to or indeed need developing because of their talent.

Too many ins and outs to discuss/iron out if it were to happen. May be it is happening and I don't know about it. Overall everything is great and the level/mix of Volleyball is good enough to be competitive but relaxed enough to be fun. Good work

more press releases!

No gripes or niggles, I like the inclusive nature of this questionnaire

When I played in North Devon, the league played on a Monday evening, which is easier to work around weekend family commitments than a Sunday afternoon, fortunately I have an understanding wife to a degree. Is the evening running of league not an option? I think the league is fantastic and I am really enjoying playing again, and I would personally be gutted if the league folded. I appreciate the hard work the EDVA do and I would assist where I can.

I quite enjoy the closed tournament, and maybe would be a good idea if something like that could be put on at the end of the season, so that everyone would be there, and the league champions and player awards could be awarded.

I personally like the way the league is run, maybe having matches all played in one location might make things easier (part from prison matches of course). As for that question on tournaments, as many as possible please!!! P.S questions g & h I wasn't to sure what they were asking but I answered as best I could. Sorry

I do appreciate all the work that is put in by the committee, and it's a good idea to take stock of where the league is at, thank you.

I think the score sheets and referee administration can be simplified for Div2 league. Not for Div 1. We need a friendlier approach for those starting and so remove some of the tight rules etc. Even have a beginners league if there is enough people starting? Or have a social league with relaxed rules for those people who do not want the competitive edge. Div 1 needs to abide by all rules. More warnings before fines and point deductions. I feel sometimes that we behave as the ruling classes. Not the way forward. I would suggest harsher penalties but a couple of warnings first. There is a tendency to assume that people know all the rules and they are too long for this at beginner or social level.

this is all good stuff you are doing,. thank you

Other comment would be that I think it is important to encourage/ provide a stepping stone to National league teams. Probably not the place to express but I feel that the southwest league should be just this.

Any events held at County Hall would likely need to be organised by the Coaver VC.

## Division Two Comment Summary

### **EDVA Committee**

My job is organising sport. In my time off I need a break to recharge my batteries. Family Commitments etc.

This is my first season playing volleyball, and I am learning the game and rules each time I play. I don't really know much about its history or the level of commitment involved in being on the committee. Although I may be interested in the future.

At the moment it is the other commitments I have as a volunteer eg county welfare officer for cricket, cricket coaching etc. To take on other post would mean doing things badly.

Cannot devote any more time to volleyball due to work, family, etc.. Currently happy with my current commitments within Torexe VC. Cannot and do not want to take on any more responsibility.

The committee tend to be DCC based. Meetings at the Coaver are not good for me.

In relation to sport generally, I have always only really been interested in playing. I've never had much interest in watching it, officiating it or being involved with committees. Having said that, I realise that at the moment, volleyball in the area is being organised and run by a small number of very dedicated people and we all need to do a bit to try and spread the load. So whilst I am not willing to become further involved in any official capacity at the moment, I will try to assist where I can in some of the more minor supporting functions.

Principally because I live in Taunton and with my work committee meetings will be a bit hit and miss. Whilst I am very grateful for EDVA accepting us into the league, I still feel a bit of an outsider (not a full part of the family) and feel guilty people have to travel so far.

For me it would be the travelling expense and also finding the time. I know most of us work full time and have families but it's trying to find the extra bit of time to commit to something else.

I have been very active in our club and have so many other commitments that I simply can't give the commitment at this time.

Lack of time - already heavily involved in other organisations (Round Table) at National level, leaves little time for other committee meetings.

### Job commitments & Domestic Reasons

Not enough time due to ongoing PhD studies.

I don't have enough time to do everything I do now. I could not commit to something else and be able to do it well. Travelling to Exeter is also an issue and with work commitments cannot always be available.

The main reasons for not standing would be that I am pretty new to volleyball as a sport, that I'm not sure yet how long I will be living in Exeter, and that I have a fair amount of work pressure and therefore limited time. I suppose that I would consider it after a few more years of experience playing the game

### Time Commitment

## **Any other comments**

I have played the Coaver open in the summer and thoroughly enjoyed it, which meant I was more than happy to take up volleyball and finish with football. So far I have played 3 winter league 6's and have enjoyed the game and the training. Away teams have been more than friendly and I would hate to see the competition fold.

Thanks for all your efforts

'Scoring' and 'League committee' question mostly unanswered - this means "I don't know" and/or I have no firm views either way.

I joined Torexe in September having played no volleyball since my school days 30 years ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far and I am already kicking myself on all the years I have wasted NOT playing volleyball. The techniques and skills required make it much more demanding than the school knockabouts I remember - and this makes it all the more exciting and satisfying when I see or am involved in a good game. I am extremely grateful to the small group of people who offer their time and support so generously so that others can practise and play every week. Thank you.

Referees need sorting, but I feel we are a big part of the problem, being so far away. I think we need to allocate referees and pay them mileage. Second refs and scorers could be supplied by the home team, otherwise costs may be astronomical.

From the "outside" things seem to run smoothly - but from my other activities I know this is down to the preparation and commitment of the committee. I don't envy you your job !

I just feel that generally volleyball needs more promotion (not just in this area) and maybe we should be encouraging more spectators - to increase interest and bring in line with other sports. Also maybe we could make games more social so that both teams meet after the match.

I've only played two games so far (both at the Riverside) and both have seemed to be very well organised, so from my limited experience I would say that you guys are doing a great job. I wasn't really sure what to put for many of the answers here as I am so new to the area, but what I do know is that I love playing volleyball, want to play as much as possible and am very grateful for all your efforts!