

SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

I write this report a few weeks after having attended the EVA 50th Anniversary Dinner. It was a very pleasant experience meeting old friends and talking about the earlier days of volleyball in this country. It was 14 years after the establishment of the national association (then AVA) that the SW Association was founded – in 1969.

There were few sports halls, fewer clubs and no local leagues. Organised volleyball in the region grew relatively quickly and local leagues developed in Poole, Weymouth, Bristol, North Devon, Gloucester, Swindon, Cornwall, Woodspring, Exeter and fleetingly in a few other places over the 10 to 15 years that followed. At the national level the men's league was dominated for many years by a SW club – Speedwell of Bristol (who had in the early 1970s dominated junior volleyball).

It may seem odd to start my 2006 Secretary's Report in such a historical way, but I believe it is worth looking back briefly before now looking forward with much optimism. While volleyball in the region today is undoubtedly better developed, of a higher standard and more sophisticated than in the early days of the region, it remains patchy in many ways – with relatively few clubs and players and with large areas of the region being very thinly catered for.

The awarding of the Olympics to London, and the subsequent Government support for a volleyball performance programme, should provide some excellent opportunities for us to strengthen volleyball development in the region – but we must start now and take advantage of these opportunities. A particular area of development will be in beach volleyball with much of the national development programme taking place in the region – at Bath and Bournemouth.

So what will we build on? The area reports that follow talk of general, but unspectacular progress in local volleyball. In the national leagues there were good performances in top divisions from City of Bristol Men and Wessex Women – two large clubs which provide models for the development of clubs in other areas.

The SW Regional Leagues have experienced a stand still year, they provide valuable competition at a layer between local volleyball and NVL, but we need to find ways of increasing the number of entries to heighten competition and provide an incentive for local league clubs to move on and up.

Junior development remains buoyant with competition successes in the region spread across a wide range of clubs and schools. In the national junior competitions we had no winners from the region this year – after many years where Wessex has carried the regional banner for us.

At the National Regional Junior Championships we again saw very good results for the regional teams and for this we must compliment our many junior coaches, Ros Sutherland our Junior Development Officer and the SW Squad personnel. The 4 regional junior squads continue to offer more talented players the opportunity to receive high quality coaching and the opportunity to represent their region. Congratulations are due to the teams for their final positions: U17 boys were winners, U15 boys were runners up, U16 girls were 3rd and U14 girls were 4th. Many thanks to the squad coaches and managers and also to the club and school coaches who have provided them with such a rich pool of talent.

Affiliations to the EVA have held up, but we are not seeing any significant growth in membership anywhere in the region. As always, the strength of the region and its areas come from the quality and dedication of its volunteers. I would like to thank all those who have given so willingly of their time to ensure that we have strong area and regional activities.

Ron Richards

Competition Results 2005/6

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Men's Premier League	Torex	Yeovil
Women's Premier League	Plymouth	Priory
Men's Championships	City of Bristol 1	Plymouth
Women's Championships	Plymouth	City of Bristol
Veterans (2005)	Whitefield	Speedwell
U12 Boys	Wessex	Trowbridge
U12 Girls	Melksham	King Alfreds
U13 Boys	Kings	Melksham
U13 Girls	King Alfreds	Devizes
U14 Boys	Priory	Wessex
U14 Girls	Melksham	Melksham
U15 Boys	Wessex	Melksham
U15 Girls	Wessex	Melksham
U17 Boys	Wessex	Melksham
U17 Girls	Wessex	Melksham

A five event Grand Prix series also provided regular competition through the season for U11 to U14 age groups. We are grateful to Mike Halse for his organisation of the series. Winners were: U11 Trowbridge, U12 Boys Lydney, U12 Girls King Alfreds, U13 Boys Melksham, U13 Girls Melksham, U14 Boys Priory, U14 Girls Melksham.

AREA REPORTS

POOLE & DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

A year of trying to maintain the high levels of participation and national success achieved over recent years.

DEVELOPMENT

Portman Building Society continued its sponsorship of the area's schools and junior development. Over 40 people assisted Lynn Allen, our Junior Development Officer, during the year.

Community Volleyball Coach - of particular importance was the commencement, in January 2006, of Ian Loke as the Community Volleyball Coach for Dorset. He will spend 2 days a week in the PDVA's area. This will hopefully enable us to push our junior development back up to the levels of a few years ago.

Mini-volleyball – our main area for new development work.

- Introduced volleyball to over 1,000 9 to 13 year-olds in 20 schools (other schools teach volleyball themselves)
- Staged 12 tournaments, ranging from 10 to 72 teams, including the Portman Under 12, 13 and 14 Schools Championships, and the monthly Portman Mini-Volleyball Grand Prix Championships
- After-school, evening and weekend sessions run by Wessex VC coaches for under 12's, 13's and 14's.

Youth Volleyball – ran schools championships for boys and girls teams at both under 16 and 18 levels. Wessex ran junior sessions for under 15's, 16's and 18's.

Adult volleyball - A local player development evening covered both playing and refereeing skills, while a number of clubs cater for new players. Due to popular demand the adult novice tournament (run by Purbeck VC) was staged twice this year, attracting 48 teams. Consequently, the PDVA plan to introduce a fifth division, for occasional teams.

PARTICIPATION

The Pursuits Club Winter League fielded 4 divisions, including a women's, playing on 3 courts at Poole Sports Centre. Nuffield Hospital sponsored the cup competitions. Unfortunately, this year there is no indoor Summer League. Congratulations to again, achieved a winter league and cup double. Special mention must go to Sobia Nayyar, who took over as Competitions Secretary, working hard to make the leagues run smoothly.

In summer, beach volleyball has become more popular than ever, with up to 18 courts in use at the same time. Sandbanks VC runs both competitive and development evenings, while many players and clubs set up their own courts.

Tournaments –the Sandbanks Classic attracted over 200 beach volleyball teams, and the Poole Festival of Volleyball attracted 90 6-a-side teams from all over Europe.

PERFORMANCE

National titles – For the first time in many years, Wessex VC didn't win any national titles. However, Portman Building Society Wessex were runners-up in women's under 18's and boys under 15's, and third in under 18 men, under 16 boys and under 16 girls.

Lynn Allen was awarded the 2005 EVA Coach of the Year.

England honours - it is pleasing to see that half the England women's squad came through the Wessex junior programme. Of the current Wessex players:

Women	-	Vicky Palmer, Leanne Eddie, Hannah Ruddick
Junior Men	-	Alex Robertson
Junior Women	-	Hannah Ruddick, Phoebe Jeffery

National Beach Volleyball Centre – Disappointingly, Bournemouth University has declined to be the base for this centre, despite Richard Callicott and Toomas Ojasoo coming down and meeting most of its main Board.

National League – the Wessex women's team achieved their highest ever position in NVL Div 1, finishing third. The Wessex men's NVL Div 2 team finished mid-table.

Geoff Allen, Chairman

GLOUCESTERSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

The GVA ran three leagues again this season, 2 for men and 1 for women. The two Men's leagues had 7 and 10 Teams respectively (last season 7 and 9), whilst the Women's had 8 teams, its highest number since 1997/98. There was a turnover of clubs in all divisions: in Div 1 as we lost Vale, to be replaced by RAF Brize Norton which has some NVL players available to them. Div 2 saw a Stroud second team, plus a team from Cardiff. The expanded Women's Division received new teams from Cardiff and RAF Brize Norton, as well as a combined Ross/ Lydney squad. Ross and Lydney also operated combined squads in the Men's divisions.

In terms of juniors, the GVA is indebted to the work over the past seasons of Dave Tatlow at Farmors School and Craig Maller at Lydney. Dave has run a team in the league for a number of years, and as well as entering some of the Grand Prix events this season, Craig's former juniors now comprise the bulk of Lydney's senior ranks. Lesley Jeanes at Pate's in Cheltenham is also keeping the junior flag flying. Our newly-appointed Development Officer Kevin Lewis has made a great start in getting volleyball off the ground at Chosen Hill School in Gloucester, which hopes to enter a team competitively next season, and also in facilitating meetings between Will Roberts of the EVA and the local school sports contacts. Kevin is also getting the first local official School / Club link off the ground, between Chosen Hill and the Bournside club.

No courses were run during the season, a matter which we need to address for next season. The GVA should be in a position to underwrite these courses if necessary, as our current financial situation is quite strong.

Mark Horseman

PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

The 2005/2006 season had 12 teams entering the P&D League, 5 of which were allocated to Division 1 whereas Division 2 consisted of 7 teams. The winners and Runners-up for both Divisions can be found in the enclosed League-tables.

The Divisions were considerably smaller than last season, mainly caused by external factors, such as the ongoing refurbishment of HMP Dartmoor's Gym, but also as the result of long-term injuries of players, leading to a withdrawal of 4 teams from Division 1. The Junior Divisions were again run as a separate competition, taking place as an inter-school League during school-hours.

Because last years AGM wasn't successful in appointing new P&D Officer, the League was more or less run by a skeleton staff, a matter which hopefully can be resolved in this year's AGM.

Unfortunately there weren't any referees courses available for P&D Players. There will however be a Level II coaching course held at the beginning of July at Eggbuckland Community College, Plymouth. The course will be run

by Dan Dingle and Geoff Allen, with Graham Pearson and Kevin Hamblin acting as co-facilitators. More information about the course can be obtained from G. Pearson, Tel. 07711328819.

The P&D Championships, our yearly League-tournament, took place on the 7th of May, and was very well organized by K. Kirk and J. Ward from Marjons. 9 teams, both from Plymouth and Cornwall entered the tournament. The Cup-Winners were Eggbuckland A, with Marjons A having been the Runners up, whereas the plate was won by Lipson Mixed, with Lipson Ladies having taken second place.

A. Gutmann

Division One

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	SETS FOR	SETS AGAINST	SETS DIFFERENCE	POINTS
Eggbuckland A	8	7	1	19	3	16	21
Marjons A	8	7	1	19	5	14	21
P'stock Pumas	7	2	5	8	13	-5	6
Plymstock	7	1	6	5	16	-11	3
University A	6	1	5	2	16	-14	3

Division Two

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	SETS FOR	SETS AGAINST	SETS DIFFERENCE	POINTS
Lipson Ladies	12	11	1	31	5	26	33
Marjons B	12	10	2	29	7	22	30
P'stock Staff	11	9	2	22	11	11	27
Marjons Ladies	12	7	5	23	13	10	21
Eggbuckland B	11	4	7	14	22	-8	12
Uni C	12	1	11	7	29	-22	3
Uni B	12	1	11	3	33	-30	3

WILTSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Last year' expansion in Wiltshire has levelled off with 19 teams entering the Mixed League (3 divisions), and 10 teams in the Ladies and Juniors League (2 divisions). Wootton Bassett returned as the top division Champions of the Mixed League, and Melksham won the top division of the Ladies and Juniors League. Additionally 2 mixed league tournaments and 2 ladies tournaments have been played. The number of players has decreased after a sudden increase last year but has still resulted in over 228 registered players, of which approximately 1/3 are female. One club, Devizes VC, is close to achieving accreditation.

Teams from Devizes, Calne, Westbury, Trowbridge and Melksham took part in the successful Mini Grande Prix volleyball series for under 11s to under 14s. The county has ladies representative teams (Mavericks) in the SW League and Division 2 of the NVL; the Mavericks NVL squad has unfortunately been relegated from Div 2 and was in danger of withdrawing from the NVL completely but is now under "new management" and will compete next season in Division 3.

The Melksham junior section has continued to support both SW and National junior squads with several players. A player from Devizes has also been invited to train with the England Junior squad. Calne and Devizes have also supplied players to the SW squads.

No courses have been run in the county this year but 4 students attended a Level 1 coach's course in Reading. Three Wiltshire referees were selected for refereeing in the National Cup Finals. Three members excelled at the EVA Big Bash Awards with Official of the Year (Su Brennard), Young Official of the Year (Luke Wiltshire) and Female Coach of the Year (Sue Pierce).

In summary, this has been another successful season for Wiltshire and county representative teams (Wiltshire Mavericks) are being revamped to include a higher junior representation. It is intended to enter a Men's team in the SW region league next season.

Richard Morten, WVA Co-Chair

The WVA Ladies and Junior League One 2005-06 - rd1, rd2, rd3

Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	50%	Points For	Points Agnst	League Points
Melksham A	16	14	0	2	2	593	389	44
Salisbury Bluestones	16	10	1	5	5	513	426	37
Melksham B	16	5	2	9	9	474	517	28
Calne Comets	13	6	0	7	6	365	364	24
Melksham C	16	1	1	14	9	351	618	14
Bath Aquae Sulis	5	3	0	2	2	133	115	11

The WVA Ladies and Junior League Two 2005-06 - rd1, rd2, rd3

Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	50%	Points For	Points Agnst	League Points
Westbury Wasps	18	14	2	2	2	750	503	48
Salisbury Pebbles	18	12	1	5	5	717	536	43
Stonar	14	11	1	2	2	576	414	37
Devizes	18	5	1	12	11	625	650	28
South Wilts	14	5	0	9	8	483	506	23
Calne Starlets	18	0	1	17	4	413	955	7

The WVA Mixed League Premier Division

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Sets For	Sets Agnst	Pnts For	Pnts Agnst	League Points
Wootton Bassett A (C)	12	11	1	30	6	881	709	52
Westbury Wasps A	12	8	4	22	14	813	696	38
Salisbury Druids	12	7	5	18	18	768	787	32
Devizes 6X	12	5	7	20	16	800	763	30
Olympiad A	12	6	6	17	19	790	808	29
Aqua Sulis A	12	5	7	16	20	764	762	26
Calne Comets A (R)	12	0	12	3	33	591	882	3

The WVA Mixed League Division One

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Sets For	Sets Agnst	Pnts For	Pnts Agnst	League Points
Melksham ACSSU (C)	12	12	0	30	6	859	604	54
Melksham VBC	12	7	5	20	16	806	794	34
Devizes Barrels	12	7	5	17	19	802	872	31
Calne Comets B	12	6	6	19	17	723	688	31
Westbury Wasps B	12	5	7	19	17	738	795	29
Aquae Sulis B	12	5	7	17	19	791	750	27
Wootton Bassett B (R)	12	0	12	4	32	660	876	4

The WVA Mixed League Division Two

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Sets For	Sets Agnst	Pnts For	Pnts Agnst	League Points
Salisbury Pagans	12	11	1	29	7	863	601	51
Calne Meteorites	12	8	4	26	10	820	696	42
Olympiad B	11	5	6	17	16	631	692	27
Salisbury Bluestones	12	4	8	12	24	690	694	20
Aqua Sulis C	11	1	10	3	30	482	803	5

