



The West Midlands Volleyball Association continues to support and encourage Competition in the Region. The Committee has been pleased to be able to offer financial support for the potential Community Sports Coach in the Black Country Region, which it sees as complementary to the continuing excellent work in Junior Development in the Region. Other seeds of developmental and optimism are being seen in what were once Area Associations in their own right. These bode well for the future.

It would be amiss not to note and praise Peter Bragg, Fabrizio Marrama and a hard core of helpers for their positive and forward-looking planning of the Volleyball Passion Event in June of this year. The WMVA Committee wish them all success with the project.

Colin Hill, Secretary West Midlands Volleyball Association.

Competition

Four Divisions are maintained within the Region, two Men's and two Women's comprising a total of thirty-one teams. Juniors remain well represented in the Competition. In particular teams from Tettenhall, Rugby, Redhill, Kineton Cleobury and Bishop Milner School continue to help foster the development of talent by giving youngsters regular experience and competition alongside 'grown ups'. Another successful Cup Finals day was held, this time at the new Sports Development at Walsall campus of Wolverhampton University (For whose support we are grateful). Cup winners were Dudley (Men) and Persian Phoenix (Women). Plate winners were Wombourne (Men) and Tettenhall (Women).

Steve Evans

Coaching Co-ordinator's Report

Coaching remains a stated priority within the West Midlands. The executive committee has repeated its commitment to support coach development. Whilst the training and induction of new coaches remains strong within the region, the progression of experienced coaches gives cause for concern, and we are actively seeking to make progress: the prospect and implications of the UKCC to the sport, as well as the development of the teams / players consequent to the coaches' development is seen as a vital step. Only two coaches took up a heavily subsidised offer to undertake a level 2 course, even though a region-wide survey had indicated both the need for, and a willingness to take the course. However, coaching in its wider context continues to be strength, with excellent work [at junior level and several clubs] permeating well through players to enhance leagues and tournaments, despite the [general] lack of formal qualifications.

The region's planned level 2 had to be cancelled and candidates transferred to the Loughborough course, and the CSLA courses have also been fewer this year, with only two run. On the other hand six level one courses have already taken place, with 115 successful candidates, and one further course with results not yet through.

Ron Chadwick

Warwickshire Volleyball

Despite no association committee, volleyball in Warwickshire continues to thrive. At a national league level, Warwick Riga had another successful season with both men and women firmly established in division 1, and development teams finishing mid-table in division 3. Nuneaton volleyball club expanded and entered a men's team into the West Midlands league, joining Rugby Phoenix, AT7, FISSC, and Kineton. The strength in junior volleyball is focused around a handful of schools, notably Kineton and President Kennedy; with PK strong enough to field both girls and boys teams in the national u16 cups. Richard Williams at St. Thomas More School introduced a 'Power League' for younger players in the Nuneaton district and Rugby Phoenix entered their girl's team into the national u18 cup for the first time. The Coventry and Warwickshire junior training sessions were again led by Richard Williams and Jon Chetham, rotating the venue between Nuneaton, Coventry and Warwick to give access to as many children as possible. Attendance was down on last year and only three juniors went forward to the regional trials so lessons need to be learnt for next year. Warwickshire clubs have joined forces to organise an outdoor junior volleyball tournament at the Greater Warwickshire Day of Sport on July 15th, with entry forms and 'Let's Play Volleyball' leaflets being distributed to 82 secondary schools in Warwickshire and Solihull.

Jon Chetham

North Staffordshire

It is hoped that the North Staffordshire Volleyball Association will be reformed and the Association will re-establish a League competition. This has been stimulated by the very strong development of volleyball being created by NVL club Newcastle Staffs. The club now has one hundred and fifty members and Colin Roberts, the Chair of the club, is working to get players involved. There is also a newly created source of volleyball in the area of Madeley (Nr. Keele). Matthew Pitts is heading up the revival of the North Staffordshire Volleyball Association.