



## **West Midlands Volleyball Association Annual Report 2004-2005**

The main thrusts of activity in the region remain as the provision of competition and the ongoing commitment of Junior Coaches. Enclosed is a Junior Report including the good news of further Development from Carl Brookes in Cleobury Mortimer.

The successful West Midlands League Programme continues to be led by Steve Evans. The use of email and the website developed by Steve again prove invaluable. Three Divisions for Men and Two Divisions for Women provide scope for a wide range of volleyball. Thanks again to coaches: Nick Shaffery, Steve Cousins, Dave Beardsmore, Carl Brookes, Dan Showler and Pete Bragg Junior Players take part in almost all the Divisions. It is a great plus point to see Junior Players, Senior Players and what might be called 'Vets' playing and learning from each other on a regular basis. The League also caters for HMP Prison and University Teams. More established clubs also continue to support the League structure. However as well as a new club, FISSC (from Stratford on Avon showing great enthusiasm and enjoying success this season) we have also lost one or two clubs on the way. Some local competition between teams in Hereford and Worcester Association and Shropshire has continued.

A successful Cup final day was held at the Royal Grammar School Worcester, we are indebted for their support. There was success in Cup finals for Wombourne (Men) and Cleobury Mortimer (Women) and Plate Finals for AT7 (Men) and Tettenhall Tigers (Women), the Women's Teams again being well represented by Junior Players. At the time of this report the Leagues are still to be completed.

The Executive Officers of the committee have been pleased to have input and support from Richard Callicott in the latter part of the season. Following an extensive survey of clubs undertaken by Ron Chadwick a Level Two Coaching Course is seen as a must. There is confidence that a Referee's Course can be established soon. The officers are keen to develop and integrate courses in to the activities for next season.

*Colin Hill, Secretary*



## **West Midlands Junior Volleyball 2004 - 2005.**

This season in terms of junior development can be looked upon as our most successful to date.

West Midland Development Training expanded so that the monthly sessions took place not only in a central venue but also a separate Coventry/Rugby/Nuneaton session was taking place at the same time.

The central training was predominantly in Wolverhampton for girls and Stourbridge for boys but we did stage two of the sessions in Cleobury in Shropshire and Madeley in North Staffordshire.

The result of this expansion was that for any of our training weekends there were over seventy youngsters taking part at any one time! Registers show well over this number participating throughout the season.

This number does not include our young people who attend National Squad Training instead! Again it is worth pointing out that both boys and girls are represented in these National Squads, in fact a quarter of the girls training squad selected after the Loughborough training camp in the summer were from the West Midlands.

The most impressive statistic however is that the squads who participated in the Inter-Regional Championships were made up of young players from seven different clubs which in turn represented fourteen different schools.

On a club front Madeley and Tettenhall Tigers won the National Under 15 crowns in the boy's and girl's competitions respectively whilst Redhill and Tettenhall Tigers reached the National Under 18 Finals.

We are beginning to show strength in depth within our region which is down to a committed group of coaches and managers who are working to a common format for the benefit of all our young people. Thank you to you all.

Nick Shaffery



## **Cleobury Volleyball Club Junior Development**

Cleobury V.C. has always had strong links with the local Secondary School, Lacon Childe, with club coaches regularly going in and taking Volleyball sessions with GCSE students. However, Lacon Childe became a Sports College about 4 years ago, and the Club's Committee managed to convince the PE staff to reintroduce Volleyball back onto the curriculum, starting with Year 8's and 9's in September 2004. The PE Staff have really got their teeth into it, none have any background in Volleyball, and with the help of some of the Club Coaches, one working in the School (not PE though), another in the Sports Centre, and lots of other volunteers, Volleyball has really taken off. Over a hundred different children regularly attend extra training (out of lessons), whether it is lunch time, after school or Junior Club sessions and at present we are planning to take 56 children to Pontins at the beginning of July. The Club, School and local Sports Development team has also put on a Level 1 Coach's Course and plan to do a Referee's Course next year. The Club are also sorting out their file to apply to the EVA for Club Accreditation and are in discussions with the Sports Colleges PDM about looking into the possibilities of a Community Coaches post for Volleyball.

Carl Brookes