

SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

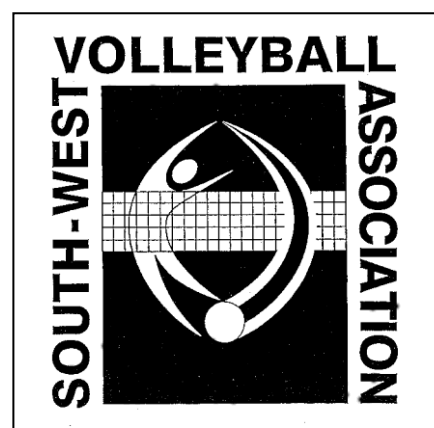


TIME OUT

40th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

SW NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009



SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

April 2009

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Volleyball in the SW continues to thrive. Entries for the SW Junior Grand Prix series have been up this season, with a noticeable improvement in quality. SW Junior teams take up places in three of the four national junior finals at Sheffield on April 18/19.

At a senior level we suffered a decline in the number of mens teams in the SW League this season, though the number of womens teams held up. In the Mens National Leagues, City of Bristol are 6th in Div 1, Wessex 8th in Div 2, while City of Bristol head Div 3 West. In the Womens NVL Wessex are 8th in Div1, Plymouth 11th in Div 2 and Devon are clear leaders in Div 3 West.

The most recent affiliations figures show that the SW continues to lead the other regions - having the large number of paid for affiliations and registrations of clubs, coaches and referees. Affiliation figures have remained strong - despite the "credit crunch" and club / junior affiliations are up on last season.

Volleyball England have been successful in their submission for an increased Sport England grant and we should see some of this filter down to the SW through programmes such as the Regional Grass Series, Lets Play Volleyball (Junior) Series and the Club and Coach fund - exciting times ahead.

As we look forward to this new four year VE Strategic Plan, we can also look back to when it all began in the SW. 2009 will see the 40th anniversary of the founding of the SW Association. Elsewhere in the newsletter is more information about the early years and about some planned celebration events.

Ron Richards

SWVA AGM

The SW Volleyball Association Annual General Meeting will take place at Priory Community School, Weston super Mare at 10.30am on Saturday June 6th. Lisa Wainwright, Chief Executive of Volleyball England will be joining us and will talk about the new VE Strategic Plan and the increased funding received from Sport England. We hope that clubs will send representatives to hear about these exciting plans and help the SW Association to move forward with its own planning.

SW 40th Anniversary Celebrations

The SW Volleyball Association was established in 1969 and so this year will see us celebrating our 40th anniversary. As many of our clubs will be playing at the SWVA Senior Championships in

Plymouth on the weekend of June 13/14 we are going to hold a celebration buffet at the Eddystone Inn, Heybrook Bay Plymouth (PL9 0BN) on the Saturday evening.

The event will start at 7pm, with a buffet at 7.45 followed by a few short speeches / toasts at 8.30. Some may wish to stay on at the Inn, while others may choose to head off to their regular Plymouth / SW Championships haunts for the later part of the evening.

We will be inviting guests who were involved with the setting up of SWVA and were active in its early years. We hope that many of those playing at Plymouth that weekend will join us and that others who are not involved in the Championships may like to come and have a pleasant weekend in Plymouth with the opportunity to meet old friends on the Saturday evening.

There will be a charge of £8 per head for the buffet. Numbers are limited to 100 guests, so please apply early. Further details and forms are available on the SW website www.swva.org.uk or by email from Ron Richards: rricha7122@aol.com.

On October 4th we will hold the SW Veterans Tournament in Bournemouth. This provides another opportunity for a celebration and we hope to organize a celebration event on the Saturday evening - October 3rd, for those taking part in the Vets and for any others who might like to join us. More details to follow.

SW Competitions

The SW Men's League has been completed with City of Bristol topping the table after their 8 games, Torexe finishing as runners-up. Although having a reduced number of games due to only five teams entering the league for 2008/09, all matches were played, there were no disputes and there was a very good level of organisation between the teams. Clearly it is hoped that there will be a larger number of entries for next season and, with that in mind, Countrymen & Plymouth have agreed to play in a series of matches with the existing teams for the remainder of the season (up to the end of April).

The Women's League, containing eight teams, is currently headed by Torexe Queens. Again, all the matches to date have been played and the final fixture of the season is scheduled for 19 April.

The Volleyball England Regional Champions Trophy is being run again over the weekend 16 & 17 May, the weekend after the SW Championships. This year the tournament is being run over two days and is being held at the Kettering Conference Centre with ten teams invited for each competition (men & women). The SW League winners will be the region's representatives and will compete against teams from the other eight regions, plus a combined Welsh VA team.

The SW Championships are booked for 9 & 10 May, the venue being the Kitto Centre in Plymouth. Entry details / forms are available on the website: www.swva.org.uk. The SW Veterans Tournament will take place in Bournemouth on October 4th.

Kevin Hamblin
SW Competitions Secretary

SW Mens League (final table)

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Sets for	Sets against	Pts for	Pts against	Pts diff	League Pts
City of Bristol	8	7	1	21	11	732	672	60	22
Torexe	8	6	2	21	9	698	614	84	20
Yeovil	8	3	5	14	18	711	717	-6	14
Cardiff Wildcats	8	2	6	12	21	651	742	-91	12
Bristol	8	2	6	9	18	574	621	-47	12

SW Womens League

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Sets for	Sets against	Pts for	Pts against	Pts diff	League Pts
Torexe Queens	14	11	3	35	10	1044	745	299	36
Plymouth 1	10	9	1	28	5	785	517	268	28
Wessex	12	8	4	28	16	972	806	166	28
Bristol	10	7	3	23	9	702	544	158	24
Torexe Aces	14	5	9	17	30	896	1048	-152	24
Mavericks	10	4	6	12	21	650	788	-138	18
Plymouth 2	12	2	10	8	32	725	944	-219	16
Cardiff	12	1	11	6	34	577	959	-382	14

SW Mens Supplementary League

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Sets for	Sets against	Pts for	Pts against	Pts diff	League Pts
City of Bristol	2	2	0	6	0	150	119	31	6
Cardiff Wildcats	2	2	0	6	3	189	177	12	6
Plymouth	2	1	1	4	3	152	145	7	4
Yeovil Viceroy	2	1	1	3	3	141	143	-2	4
Kernow	4	0	4	2	12	283	331	-48	4
Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torexe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Junior Volleyball

SWVA has a comprehensive series of junior competitions that run through the winter months. This season the SW Mini Volleyball Grand Prix Series attracted a larger entry than in previous years with a higher standard of competition. At the end of the four main events and three satellite events the final positions were as follows:

SW Mini Volleyball Grand Prix Final Results

U11 Mixed

No		Points	No		Points
1	Melksham Minis	32	6	Newbury Minis	6
2	Calne Mars Bars	28	7	Wessex G1	5
3	Calne Milky Ways	20	8	Wessex B1	5
4	Devizes	14	9	Academy Quashers	5
5	Academy Prodigies	10	10	Wessex B2	4

U12 Mixed

No		Points	No		Points
1	Melksham GWM	38	7	Awesome Alfreds	10
2	Melksham Gifted Ones	34	8	Wessex	10
3	Devizes	19	9	Lydney Young Guns	8
4	Academy Leapers	16	10	Newbury Diggers	4
5	Melksham Mighty Mice	12	11	Alfred's Amigos	3
6	Almighty Alfreds	11	12	Spectacular Spongebobs	2

U13 Girls

No		Points	No		Points
1	Alfred's Aces	34	5	Alfred's Avengers	11
2	Melksham Gummi Worms	32	6	Academy Idols	11
3	Melksham Mega Mouth	24	7	Kings	5
4	Alfred's All Stars	24	8	Calne Galaxies	4

U13 Boys

No		Points	No		Points
1	Melksham Maltesers	30	5	Academy A-Team	10
2	Academy Danger Ducks	24	6	Melksham Smashers	6
3	Devizes	13	7	Bournemouth Hitters	5
4	Priory U13	10	8	Academy E	5

U14 Girls

No		Points	No		Points
1	Devizes Double R & J	31	6	Alfreds Army	6
2	Kings A	26	7	Alfreds Avengers	5
3	Melksham Sweet	25	8	Wessex 1	5
4	Academy Bandits	23	9	Wessex 2	4
5	Alfreds Airheads	21	10	Weymouth 2.5	

U14 Boys

No		Points	No		Points
1	Priory U14	43	6	Academy Giants	9.5
2	Wessex	34	7	Lydney Young Guns	9
3	Kings A	25	8	Newbury DJ	5
4	Academy A-Team (*)	23	9	Newbury Gang	4
5	Academy Hammers	19			

U15 Girls

No		Points	No		Points
1	Alfred's Angels	38	6	Kings	5
2	Av'it Alfred's	32	7	Academy Kickers	4
3	Academy Crushers	19	8	Academy Might	2.5
4	Devizes	10	9	Academy Originals	2
5	Academy Jumpers	9	10	Academy Nevery Say	1.5
				Die	

U15 Boys

No		Points	No		Points
1	Wessex U15	43	7	Kings E	10
2	Priory A	27	8	Kings D	8
3	Kings A	16	9	Priory B	7
4	Lydney Old Uns	13	10	Kings C	6
5	Academy Fighters	13	11	Priory B	3
6	Kings B	11			

SW Mini Volleyball Championships

These were held in Bournemouth on March 21st. The event attracted a large entry and these were the final results:

U14 Girls	w	Wessex PG	ru	Wessex M	2-1
U14 Boys	w	Priory	ru	Wessex	2-0
U13 Girls	w	Melksham Mega Mouth	ru	Melksham Gummi Worms	2-0
U13 Boys	w	Priory	ru	Wessex	2-1
U12 Girls	w	Wessex Oakdale	ru	Devizes	2-0
U12 Boys	w	Melksham Gifted Ones	ru	Melksham GWM	2-0

South West Junior Championships 2009

The Junior Championships took place in Melksham on January 24th. The top two teams in the U15 went forward to the National U15 Finals as regional representatives

Team (U15 Girls)	Played	Set For	Sets Agnst	Lge Points	Position
Wessex	3	6	0	6	1
North Devon (U17s)	3	4	3	4	2
Wiltshire Mavericks	3	3	4	2	3
Kings	3	0	6	0	4

Team (U15 Boys)	Played	Set For	Sets Agnst	Lge Points	Position
Wessex	4	8	0	8	1
Kings	4	4	4	4	2
North Devon	4	0	8	0	3

Team (U17 Boys)	Played	Set For	Sets Agnst	Lge Points	Position
Wessex	3	6	1	6	1
North Devon	3	4	3	4	2
Wiltshire Mavericks	3	3	5	2	3
Kings	3	2	6	0	4

National U14 Cup

The SW regional round of the national U14 Cup should have taken place at Priory Community School, Weston super Mare on February 7th. However that was the "big snow" and we were forced to cancel the event. Volleyball England also had to postpone the national finals, due to the knock on effect of regional postponements. In the end the National U14 Cup Boys finals clashed with the SW Mini Volleyball Championships. Despite all the disruptions the SW was represented by three teams at the Manchester finals - congratulations to:

Boys 3rd place Academy A Team, North Devon

Girls 6th place Devizes
 7th place Wessex

National U15 Cup

Congratulations to Wessex and Kings who will take part in the National U15 Boys Cup Finals (Last 8s) on March 28th. Also congratulations to Wessex and Wiltshire Mavericks who will take part in the girls event.

National U18 Cup

The region will be represented in all but one of the Junior National Finals in Sheffield on April 18/19. Wessex will play Boswells in the U18 Boys Cup Final; Wiltshire Mavericks will play Tameside in the U18 Girls Final and Wessex will play Newcastle Staffs in the U16 Boys Cup Final.

This shows the strength of junior volleyball in the SW and congratulations are due to the coaches of these teams and to Ros Sutherland and her team of volunteers for ensuring that there is a tremendous structure of junior competitions and junior squads in the SW which has helped the teams and players to develop.

Coaching

Level 1 Volleyball Coaching Course (the new award)

Saturday and Sunday 20th & 21st June and 28th June at Exeter University

Cost £150

Candidates will be eligible for a £100 bursary towards the cost of this course. Max. 16 candidates

Bursary candidates must enrol before the end of March

If you are interested in attending this course please contact Paul Mouland at Exeter University "Mouland, Paul" <P.D.Mouland@exeter.ac.uk>, for further details.

Level II Coaching Award Courses at Bournemouth University on May 2nd / 3rd

If you have completed a Level I Coaching course and would like to take the next step towards becoming a more qualified coach, then this could be a big opportunity! We are able to offer candidates a Bursary from the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure for candidates for 66% of the actual courses costs bringing the fee for the qualification to just £50! Please distribute this e-mail to coaches in the club and expressions of interest will be followed in order to access the Bursary. At this stage we need names and not the course fees as soon as possible.

The Level II award is a minimum of 24 hours and it prepares the coach who has some experience of competitive volleyball to plan, organise, and deliver a series of volleyball sessions in a safe and enjoyable manner to a group of adults or children. The course focuses on the development of basic tactics for the 6-a-side game and progresses the basic techniques and skills that were introduced at level I, with some introduction of specialist roles. Opportunities are provided for candidates to further extend their experience of practical coaching in a group setting and

assessment is completed by a formal written examination. If you are interested in this course please contact Jon Garrard by either email or phone immediately!

Jon Garrard, Coaching Administrator, Volleyball England

Beach Volleyball

Denise Austin has been working hard to bring together a comprehensive programme of junior beach events to carry on the excellent indoor provision that is referred to elsewhere in the newsletter. These are the events that will take place. Further details are available on the website www.swva.org.uk.

Day	Date	Time	Age Group	Event
			U18(2's)	
			U16(2's)	
			U14(3's)	Welsh Junior Beach Champs
Saturday	6th June	09:00	U12(3's)	Grand Prix - Barry Island
			U18(2's)	
			U16(2's)	
			U14(3's)	Croyde Parkdean Junior Beach-
Saturday	13th June	12:00	U12(3's)	Grand Prix - Croyde
			U18(2's)	
			U16(2's)	Maplan (UK) Junior Beach
			U14(3's)	Volleyball -Grand Prix - Weston
Saturday	27th June	09:00	U12(3's)	super Mare
			U18(2's)	
			U16(2's)	
			U14(3's)	Bath University Junior Beach
Saturday	4th July	09:00	U12(3's)	Volleyball-Grand Prix
			U18(2's)	
			U16(2's)	SWVA Junior Beach Volleyball
			U14(3's)	Championships-Grand Slam -
Sunday	12th July	10:00	U12(3's)	Exmouth
			U18(2's)	
			U16(2's)	
			U14(3's)	Sandbanks Beach Volleyball
Sat & Sun	18-19 July	09:00	U12(3's)	Festival-Grand Slam
				Weymouth RAF Careers Beach
Sunday	26th July	8:00	TBC	Volleyball Classic-Grand Prix
	12th		U18(2's)	SWVA Animal Windfest Finals
Saturday	September	09:00	U16(2's)	Sandbanks
	13th		U14(3's)	SWVA Animal Windfest Finals
Sunday	September	09:00	U12(3's)	Sandbanks

SW Junior Beach Training

Tuesday 26th May 10:00 SW Junior Beach Training - Croyde

The Academy of Beach Sports has become the first Beach Volleyball Club to achieve Volley 1 Accreditation

The Academy of Beach Sports has become the first Beach Volleyball Club to achieve Volley 1 Accreditation. The Club now has over 140 members including 13 qualified coaches and 8 qualified referees. Denise Austin, who has been working as a part time community sports coach and Chairperson of the Academy of Beach Sports coach has been at the forefront of this great achievement.

Denise said: As a club we really wanted to maximise the benefits of going through the clubmark process to help aid us in running the club. We were able to successfully implement all that clubmark offers you in terms of managing yourselves as a club and how to improve.

Our new club website www.academyofbeachsports.org.uk is proof that our communication is working better than ever and all our 140 members are now able to source more information more easily than ever before.

Our Academy dig in this year, (when we put the beach nets back in place, they are only there from May to Oct) promises to be the best yet and hopefully all our nets will be up in record time with more helpers and volunteers wanting to be part of the club set up and be the first to be playing on the beach again in 2009.

Over the last year the Club has gone from strength to strength. They took part in the South West Junior Grand Prix for the first time; with teams entered in the Under 15s and U17s Championships. Jack Walker and Ashley Yeo won the U18 South West Junior Beach Volleyball Championships in Exeter. The U13/U14 Boys competed on the South West Junior Grand Prix and took the top spot on more than one occasion.

The Club has also run successful small sided games league for Under 14s and Over 14s with over 30 members in each league. They have also started the North Devon Super Series which is a 6v6 series that takes place once a month.

If anyone is interested in finding out more information about how their Club can become accredited then please email Stuart at: s.johnson@volleyballengland.org

Tournaments

Jersey Tournament

On behalf of the Jersey Volleyball Association, our sponsors Insurance Corporation, and the States of Jersey Committee for Education, Sport and Culture, , it is our pleasure to extend a personal invitation to your club/team to participate in the 24th Jersey Open Tournament, which is being held over the week-end of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May 2009. Please note that Monday 4th May is a 'Bank Holiday' i.e. a public holiday in Jersey and England and provides an opportunity to see some of the Island before returning.

Details are available from:

Lucy Sparks

The Mill

La Bel Du Monnyi

La Grande Route De St Pierre

St Peter

Jersey JE3 7AX

Tel: 01534 490668 (h) (+44 1534 490668)

07700 800 800 (m) (+44 7700 800800) www.jerseyvolleyball.com

We look forward to welcoming 'old' friends back to the Open, and also hope many new faces will join us for "The Jersey Experience". Enter early to avoid disappointment.

Denis

Denis Le Breuilly,

Joint Tournament Director 2009

Paul

Paul Adamson

Joint Tournament Director 2009

Whitefield Volleyball Tournament

Entry forms and further details are available on the tournament website

<http://www.whitefieldvolleyball.co.uk/> from March 31st. Teams are encouraged to make early entries as many outdoor divisions are full within a few days. The tournament takes place on July 25/26, on the Recreation Ground in the centre of the beautiful and historic centre of Bath. The top teams in the country play in the indoor divisions - with the Sunday afternoon finals being a major draw for the outdoor players.

This year the tournament will be part of the prestigious Volleyball England Regional Grass Series and we hope to enhance the tournament with the support of the national association.

Coaver Tournament - Exeter

Coaver weekend is planned for the Saturday 13th (pm) and Sunday 14th June 2009. For further information see:

www.coavervolleyball.org.uk

Martin Oram

* (01392) 382418

Fax (01392) 382917

Email martin.oram@devon.gov.uk

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/email>

Ashcombe Volleyball Tournaments

Join us for a weekend of volleyball under the view of Box Hill in Surrey. You can choose

to play on Saturday 27th June or Sunday 28th June or both days and camping overnight on Saturday is also available. The tournament is played on outdoor grass courts at Dorking Rugby Football Club, The Big Field, Brockham, near Dorking, Surrey RH3 7LZ.

Ashcombe Volleyball Saturday Tournament is for teams of 4 in mixed, mens and womens teams of all levels. Boys and girls junior teams from Under 11 to Under 18. Matches begin at 12pm and play finishes at about 5pm. All matches are timed.

Ashcombe Volleyball Sunday Tournament annually attracts over 100 teams of all levels. Matches begins at 10am and play finishes at about 5pm. All matches are timed.

Entry forms and more information on the website:

<http://www.ashcombevolleyball.co.uk/summer%20tournament.htm>

Volleyball in the Areas

Cornwall

The formation of a new Development committee under Dave Robson has sparked off a new Development plan which will have far reaching implications for the future of volleyball in Cornwall. Work in schools is going well with work at Heamoor, St. Ives, Truro and Hayle schools. A meeting at Penryn Sports College has resulted in the Exeter and Falmouth colleges hoping to form a Penryn volleyball Club.

The beach matches this year start in St. Ives on a Friday night in late May and go on till Sept. The Schools competition is on Friday 19 June with the Charity Pairs on 20 June. The Club fours will be on the Sunday.

The Ladies, based at Cornwall College are going great guns and hope to get into some sort of competition before long. They are looking at possibly going for Volley One which would be great especially as they are the youngest club around.

Don't forget Countrymen Volleyball Club is open to all during the Summer if you are down our way near the sharp end of Cornwall please ring Jim 01736 755038 or Alan 01736 754521 for details of where playing is.

Alan Conquest

Division 1	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Penalty Points	Points
	St Austell A	6	4	2	0	14
	Helston College	4	4	0	0	12
	Truro	5	2	3	0	9
	Countrymen A	2	2	0	0	6
	Culdrose	4	1	3	0	6
	St Mawgan A	5	0	5	0	5

Division 2	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Penalty Points	Points
	Countrymen B	5	5	0	0	15
	Helston College B	5	4	1	1	12
	St Mawgan B	3	1	2	0	6
	Cornwall College	4	1	3	0	6
	St Austell B	4	0	4	0	4

Gloucestershire

Our four leagues are all well under way, although some teams seem to have suffered more than their fair share of cancelled games. Even at this stage it would appear some teams are going to find it difficult to fit in all their games before mid-May. Bournside are leading the way in the two Men's divisions, their Div 1 side being unbeaten, with Cheltenham topping the Women's and Lydney the Mixed. Competition is particularly fierce in Division 2 and Women, with only a few points covering a number of teams at the top.

Our new Development Officer, who works at Hartpury College, has had an immediate effect, organising coaching sessions with some local schools, and also putting on the first refereeing course in the area for some years over the weekend of Jan 31/ Feb 1. We have attempted to provide a sweetener for attendees with money back from their course fee if they officiate a set number of GVA games in the next season and a half.

Mark Horseman

Men's Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Bournside I	6	6	0	18	4	14	30
Sandford	6	4	2	13	8	5	21
Stroud	7	3	4	14	14	0	20
Bristol	8	3	5	12	19	-7	18
UWIC	7	1	6	6	18	-12	8

Women's Division

	P	W	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Cheltenham	6	4	2	16	7	9	24
Bournside	6	4	2	14	8	6	22
Bristol	4	4	0	12	2	10	20
Glos Uni I	6	4	2	12	8	4	20
Stroud	4	2	2	6	6	0	10
Lydney	3	1	2	6	8	-2	8
Hartpury	3	0	3	0	9	-9	0
Glos Uni II	6	0	6	0	18	-18	0

Men's Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Bournside II	9	7	2	22	12	10	36
Lydney	9	6	3	23	12	11	35
Glos Uni I	7	6	1	18	4	14	30
Wildcats	6	5	1	17	4	13	27
Eagles	8	5	3	16	14	2	26
Chosen Hill	10	3	7	14	23	-9	20
Farmors	12	3	9	13	32	-19	19
Glos Police	6	2	4	9	14	-5	13
Hartpury	4	1	3	5	10	-5	7
Glos Uni II	5	0	5	3	15	-12	3

Mixed Division

Lydney	4	3	1	11	6	5	17
Glos Police	3	1	2	4	8	-4	6
Eagles	1	1	0	3	2	1	5
Hartpury	2	0	2	4	6	-2	4

Jersey

Volleyball is riding high in Jersey at the moment, with preparations underway to host the annual Jersey Open Tournament, and the Island team, HLB Jackson Fox, preparing for the National Cup Shield semi finals.

The 24th Jersey Open Tournament, sponsored by Insurance Corporation, will be held over the May 2-3 weekend and is expected to attract teams from across Britain and Europe.

Jersey Volleyball Association president, Paul Adamson, said: "We have magnificent facilities, and most matches are played in a hall with a full circle gallery and a ceiling that is about three stories high. "There are a number of UK clubs who enter the men's, women's and mixed events, maximising the number of matches they get for their expenditure.

"We are expecting to attract good teams from France, Belgium and elsewhere in Europe, as well as Britain. Other events, such as the Jersey Boat Show, are being held over that May bank holiday weekend, so there is plenty to see for those players who want to enjoy a holiday as well as a good competition."

Details of the Open are available on the Jersey Volleyball Association website. www.jerseyvolleyball.com or from the Tournament Secretary, Lucy Sparks on lucy.sparks@jerseymail.co.uk or 07700 800 800.

Jersey's squad, HLB Jackson Fox, will be entering the Open on the back of a very successful National Cup Competition campaign.

The team faced English National Division 1 high-flyers Warwick Riga in the second round of the Cup. The step up to such opposition proved too much, but moving into the Shield Competition has shown that Jersey can still compete against lower National Division opposition.

HLB beat Division 2 team Wessex in January. To some it was a surprise but not to Jersey's coach Lee Ingram.

"Since winning last year's Jersey Open the team has had to go through a change in players, however, with all the hard work and the introduction of another two players into the squad, the team has yet again excelled and proven results beyond initial expectation," he said. "The team has beaten Solent, Wessex and Stowmarket; all good National League opposition to progress in the National Shield. Those results speak for themselves."

When HLB met Division 3 side Stowmarket in the quarter finals in February it was the first National Cup game to be played in Jersey. The home advantage worked, and in a tense five set thriller HLB beat the visitors to set up a much-anticipated trip to Middlesbrough in March. "Volleyball is doing pretty well in Jersey at the moment," Paul Adamson said. "We are celebrating our thirtieth anniversary this year, and we seem to be doing it in some style."

Pictures are available at www.jerseyvolleyball.com

Alex Mallinson - alexmallinson@yahoo.co.uk

Poole and Bournemouth

The 2008 - 2009 season started at the Sir David English Sports Centre with two mixed divisions and a ladies division. The change of venue has meant that triangular matches are run in an evening making it a full session but the gaps between evenings are longer. As expected some players favour the new system while others would rather go back to the single match old system.

The Mark Pitman Charity tournament was run again and proved a successful event. The novice tournament for teams and groups of mainly non-league players was also held. While this has been a well-attended event it has not been successful in getting new teams or players into the league. Unfortunately a new team that did join the league has already withdrawn. This has led to thoughts about how to present the league and playing volleyball within the Poole and Bournemouth area.

One outcome is the creation of an introductory leaflet and welcome pack that can be given out to interested people. Advertising of the league and clubs within the area is also being actively considered. An opportunity that is probably not being utilised enough are the club beach volleyball sessions.

Mike Silvester

Wiltshire

At the start of the season the Wiltshire League reduced to two larger divisions of 8 rather than 3 smaller divisions. The current leaders of the Premier Division are Aquae

Sulis Apollos (Bath), followed closely by Devizes 6X and Wootton Bassett Aces. The first Division is lead by Devizes Barrels with Salisbury Pagans in second place.

Both our Wiltshire Mavericks teams are doing well in the NVL Division 3 West, with the men's team currently third and the ladies team sixth. The ladies SW team is also mid-table in the SW Ladies League.

Wiltshire's juniors have been very active with representation at the Mini Grande Prix series from Calne, Devizes and Melksham. The boys U16 attended the Last 8s competition on Saturday 7 March at Nottingham, coming a credible 5th equal. The girls U18 were at Nottingham the following day coming second in their pool but beating Wessex in the semi-final to book a place in the National Finals at Sheffield!

The county's volleyball seems to be healthy with an active junior section and the mixed league running smoothly and 3 adult teams playing outside the county.

Richard Morten

SW Annual Awards 2009

The South West Volleyball Association appreciates the importance of volunteers in our sport and the huge contribution they make. The Annual Awards go a little way to recognise their contribution and we hope that clubs and members will nominate those who they believe have put in their time and energy to assure the future development of volleyball. All nominees for volunteer awards must be part of an affiliated club or association. Nominees for the coach or referee awards must be currently registered Volleyball England Coaches or Referees (or have recently retired from long standing registration / membership). Nominators must follow guidelines given below as well as providing any additional relevant information that may apply.

Award categories:

Doreen Dingle Administrator Award	Bert Williams Referee Award
SW Coach Award (new this year)	Commitment to SW Volleyball Award (also new)

The deadline for all nominations is **30th April 2009**. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.swva.org.uk or by request from Ron Richards - rricha7122@aol.com. Nomination forms should be returned to Ron Richards on the above email address or by post: 3 Woodside Grove, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7RF

Doreen Dingle Administrator Award

An award for an administrator who has made a significant contribution of time and effort, provides high quality administration and who continuously displays an outstanding commitment in a club (including schools and other organizations with a volleyball section), area association or the regional association.

Eligibility

Must be part of an affiliated club / organization (or recently "retired" from longstanding membership).

Guidelines for Nomination

Has the individual;

- Made a notable commitment of their personal time resulting in a positive impact on their club / area / region.
- Shown their commitment to the administration of volleyball over a continuous period.
- Provided a high quality of administrative services to their club / area / region.
- Developed their own skills, knowledge and experience through training e.g. attending workshops or appropriate qualifications.
- Been involved in the recruitment or support of other volunteers.
- Inspired or motivated others.
- Created something new or developed an existing system/practice/initiative which has contributed positively to volleyball.
- Has been an advocate for volleyball in their area and / or across the SW Region.

Bert Williams Referee Award

Awarded, in memory of Bert Williams, to referees in recognition for contribution and dedication to volleyball / development of refereeing in the region or its local areas.

Eligibility:

Must hold a recognised EVA qualification. Must be a registered referee with Volleyball England (or recently "retired" from longstanding membership).

Guidelines for Nomination:

Has the individual;

- Made a significant commitment of their personal time.
- Conducted themselves professionally at all times.
- Developed their own skills, knowledge and experience
- Recruited, supported or motivated others to referee or develop their skills
- Created or developed a system, practice or initiative which has contributed positively to volleyball in the area of refereeing
- Acted as a role model and set a good example to other referees
- Set high personal standards of professional and/or administrative behavior
- Been an advocate for their local volleyball club, area or region.

SW Coach Award

Awarded to coaches in recognition for their contribution and dedication to volleyball and the development of coaching in the region or its local areas.

Eligibility

Must hold a recognised EVA qualification. Must be a registered coach with Volleyball England (or recently "retired" from longstanding membership).

Guidelines for Nomination

Has the individual;

- Made a significant commitment of their personal time.
- Conducted themselves professionally at all times.
- Developed their own skills, knowledge and experience
- Recruited, supported or motivated others to coach or develop their skills
- Created or developed a system, practice or initiative which has contributed positively to volleyball in the area of coaching
- Acted as a role model and set a good example to other coaches or players
- Set high personal standards of professional and/or administrative behavior
- Been an advocate for their local volleyball club, area or region.

Commitment to SW Volleyball Award

An award for a volunteer who has made a significant contribution of time and effort and who continuously displays (or has displayed) an outstanding commitment to volleyball in and across the region and / or a local association.

Eligibility:

Must be part of an affiliated club/organization (or recently "retired" from longstanding membership).

Their contribution may be within one area of volleyball organization (administration, development, coaching, refereeing etc) or preferably in a number of these areas.

Guidelines for Nomination:

Has the individual;

- Made a notable commitment of their personal time resulting in a positive impact on their area / region.
- Shown their commitment to volunteering over a continuous period.
- Developed their own skills, knowledge and experience through training e.g. attending workshops or appropriate qualifications.
- Been involved in the recruitment or support of other volunteers.
- Inspired or motivated others.
- Created something new or developed an existing system/practice/initiative which has contributed positively to volleyball.
- Been an advocate for volleyball in their area and / or across the SW Region.

The deadline for all nominations is **30th April 2009**. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.swva.org.uk or by request from Ron Richards - rricha7122@aol.com . Nomination forms should be returned to Ron Richards on the above email address or by post: 3 Woodside Grove, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7RF

THE SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

INFORMATION FROM THE ARCHIVES

This year will see the 40th anniversary of the founding of the South West Volleyball Association. The information listed below is taken mainly from the archive materials available - namely the minutes of Executive Committee meetings and copies of the SW Newsletter and sometimes from personal memory.

If any person or event has been unfairly ignored, then I apologise. Habits do not change, and it is noticeable, that some-events were not reported in the newsletter - because nobody bothered to submit an article! Before moving on to the archives, it may be helpful to sketch a background to the formation of the SW Association.

In the late 1960s there were no public Sports Halls. When the Sports Hall at Exeter University was opened it provided a large (3 court) playing area for volleyball, the like of which had never been seen before in the region. New sports centres such as Arndale Centre Poole, Mayflower at Plymouth, Christy Miller at Melksham and Whitchurch in Bristol suddenly provided decent tournament and league venues. Ironically, some of these centres have now come to the end of their working lives - the loss of the centre in Poole caused huge problems for the local association last season.

If you look back through the early editions of the SW Newsletter, you find that tournaments featuring the teams of the late 60s - Townhill Tigers from Swansea, Bedminster Down Boys Club, Speedwell School and Hartcliffe School of Bristol, Somervale School of Midsomer Norton were all played in small, low gyms.

Only Exeter University and the armed forces bases had large halls.

In searching for the prime movers behind the SW Amateur Volleyball Association (as it was first known) we have to look toward a small group of people. Ray Tingley was a teacher at Somervale School, Midsomer Norton. Later he went on to develop the Speedwell Club (who became many times national champions) - he was incredibly energetic, intelligent and full of ideas. It was so unfortunate that Ray was to die early from cancer when he had so much to offer to whatever he turned his hand.

In Bristol there were two school teams - led by Mike Rothwell at Speedwell and Phil Bollom at Hartcliffe. At Bedminster Down Boys Club, the club leader Steve Long and assistant Chris Shipman played an influential part. These were the teachers and coaches who were leading the volleyball development. There were tournaments between them but no organised association. The organisation required to bring them together was provided by George Reynolds of the CCPR, who called the initial meeting of the Association.

In the archives there is a letter from Terry Knight, our first Coaching Administrator who, following the Cornwall County Show demonstration match, wrote to the SW Squad players and said: A lot of work goes on behind that scenes, to make everything successful and we have someone working for us who is one of the best, George Reynolds. I am sure that you will join me

in saying 'thanks a lot, George, we really appreciate what you have done for us.'

These are some of the archive records for our first five years as an association.

1969

February 16th - inaugural meeting of the South West Amateur Volleyball Association was held at the Technical College in Taunton.

The meeting was organized by George Reynolds of the CCPR (SW), following discussions of Ray Tingley of North East Somerset VC and Phil Bollom of Hartcliffe School. A steering committee was established with its members being:

Bill Gamble	North East Somerset
Phil Bollom	Hartcliffe School
Chris Page	Midsomer Norton Grammar School
Terry Knight	Army Southern Command
Geoff Edmundson	Queens College, Taunton

George Reynolds took on the role of Interim Secretary. The main discussions revolved around the need for coaching courses, one day tournaments and the formation of local leagues.

June 3/4/5 - the SW Mens Squad play demonstration matches against the International All Stars (Southgate College) at the Cornwall County Show. The Southgate team was coached by Roy Pankhurst the EVA General Secretary (and 30 years later the SWVA Vice Chairman).

September 3rd - the 5th Steering Committee meeting was held with discussions focusing on the SW Mens Squad to be coached by Terry Knight and the Womens Squad to be coached by Ray Tingley. The Bristol League began in September - the first in the region. By the end of the season the top three teams were Bedminster Down, Hartcliffe and Speedwell.

The national teams of Japan and Czechoslovakia (2nd and 3rd at the Mexico Olympics) played a demonstration match at Crystal Palace - watched by many of our emerging players in the SW (I still remember the late evening journey back to Exeter in as friend's Morris Minor van!).

Plans were in hand for an Inter Area Tournament to be held at the new Arndale Sports Centre in Poole in November and for a SW Invitational Tournament to be held at Exeter University in March 1970.

On October 19th the first SWAVA AGM was held at Exeter University. Officers elected were as follows:

Chairman	Ray Tingley		
Vice Chairman	Chris Sherman		
Secretary	George Reynolds		
Womens Secretary	Barbara Mead		
Schools Secretary	Phil Bollom		
Executive Officers	Bill Gamble	Ron Richards	
	Gerry Vowles	Cynthia Bollom	Chris Page

The club affiliation fee to the national body (then called the Amateur Volleyball Association (AVA) was £1.10s (£1.50)

Unfortunately Terry Knight, a member of the Steering Committee was posted to Germany prior to formally taking up his position as SW Coaching Administrator. Mike Rothwell agreed to act as SW Representative at the AVA Executive Meeting.

1969 / 70

Discussion took place at a series of SW Executive Meetings to plan for:

- Officials courses at Bristol and Exeter
- Mens and Womens Senior and U19 Squads
- Setting up local leagues in Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, Poole and Cheltenham
- Elementary Coaching Award courses
- Demonstration matches at the Bath & West Show in June 1970

1970

February - the Exeter University Invitation Tournament saw a very exciting final between Southgate and Spark - the top two English teams. The tournament was covered by BBC TV. The SW Squad lost 3-0 to both Southgate and Spark. SWAVA was grateful to receive sponsorship from a local businessman for this event. Unfortunately when we went back the following year to ask for further sponsorship we found out that the sponsor was in prison for fraud!

September - the 2nd AGM - a good year with 12 clubs affiliated to AVA. Leagues had been successfully established in Bristol, Exeter and Poole, with plans for one in Weymouth. The accounts showed turnover of £167 and a net surplus of £7 9s 10d.

Chris Sherman took over as Chairman, Ray Tingley as Secretary and Jane Smythe as Womens Secretary. Brian Jones of Poole and Clive Green of Cardiff joined the Executive Committee. However by November changes had to be made and Mike Rothwell became Chairman, Chris Sherman, Interim Secretary and Peter Joignant U16 Boys Coach.

The Poole and Bournemouth Association had just begun their new league. Plessey and Telephone sports were soon to take up the running for the top spot.

1971

April - Brian Jones proposed the establishment of a SW League and donated a trophy for it. Unfortunately it failed to take off due to a lack of interest from clubs. Jane Smythe resigned, due to her taking up a teaching post in France.

June - the AGM met in a more despondent mood than the previous year - a number of CCPR coaching and refereeing courses had been cancelled and the Womens Squad had collapsed.

There was some good news - Karen Mason of Hartcliffe was selected to play for England. The number of affiliated clubs had increased to 16, but it was felt that this represented only about 35% of clubs playing in the SW.

Brian Jones was elected as Vice Chairman, Geoff Hollett as Schools Liaison Officer and new Executive Officers were elected - Alan Lewis of Poole, Ken Dufton of Exeter, Cliff Diffey of

Weymouth. At its AGM the AVA became the EVA.

1972

Ron Richards became Acting Secretary and was confirmed as secretary at the next AGM. The CCPR became the Sports Council and launched its "Sport for All" campaign.

At the AGM a new development plan was proposed by George Reynolds. Its main details included the promotion of new leagues in Taunton, Plymouth and North Glos, arranging player performance course in Poole, Cheltenham and Plymouth. A coaching service was to be offered to clubs and schools. The SW Squads were however disbanded as more emphasis was placed on arranging more regular and more local competition.

Exeter University followed up their success in becoming UAU (University) Champions by gaining promotion from National League Division Two South to Division One. It was hoped that they would soon be joined in the national league by Poole and by Concorde (a team made up of players from Bristol and from NE Somerset).

Ron Richards moved from Exeter to Bristol and established the Whitefield Volleyball Club (and subsequently the Whitefield Volleyball Tournament).

Brian Jones became SW Chairman, Peter Joignant became Officials Secretary. Phil Bollom had moved to Swindon and it was hoped that volleyball development would follow him there. Keith Nicholls had moved to Bristol to take up his post at Bristol Polytechnic and agreed to take up the post of SW Coaching Secretary.

The Exeter Summer School provided an excellent opportunity to learn to coach volleyball - at an award course led by Mike Hibbert, Roy Pankhurst and Ken Harvey.

Nationally there was concern that the EVA were proposing to "centre base" the England Mens Squad in one city ie London. However, the SW was beginning to influence national decision making with the election of Ron Richards and Brian Jones to the EVA Executive Committee.

1973

Real expansion was taking place at a regional level - the SW Championships included an U18 section and a Womens competition (won by Speedwell). An Inter City Tournament attracted 7 entries. The winners of the Mens SW Championships, held at the Mayflower Centre, Plymouth were Bristol Poly and the runners up Speedwell. There were now 29 affiliated clubs.

Rule changes introduced at the Munich Olympics allowed players to put their foot over the centre line and to block ANY ball in their opponents court. The latter rule change caused chaos and soon had to be rescinded.

Brian Jones became the EVA National League Secretary and Ron Stace became the SW Officials Secretary. At national level the day of the professional had arrived - Barrie MacGreggor was appointed as the EVA's first professional officer.

Speedwell was becoming a growing force in regional and national volleyball - particularly at schools level, where they often completed a clean sweep of trophies. In June they organized

their first international tournament at Whitchurch Sports Centre. This was to be the forerunner of the acclaimed INVO tournaments that ran at Easter until the late 70s - attracting numerous foreign teams to Whitchurch, with the players sleeping on the floor at Speedwell School or with local host families.

Volleyball in the Weymouth area was boosted by the arrival of Ian Mair, former Scottish International, who soon had the Weymouth squad beating a strong Poole squad. Another new arrival in the region was Bob Coombe - the former Spark and England captain, who set up a very successful club at Paignton.

Meanwhile, Keith Nicholl's "superteam" Bristol Mikasa had joined the new EVA Superleague and were in top place by the end of 1973.

1974

In January, Ray Tingley organized the first ever mini volleyball tournament in England. The U11 section was won by Bedminster Down and the U13 by Speedwell.

In the SW Championships, held at Melksham, the winners were Weymouth - showing continued improvement, the runners up were Bristol Mikasa. Winners of the inaugural SW Mens League were Whitefield.

The Speedwell INVO tournament attracted 50 teams, with 30 of them coming from Europe. The organization of such a large international tournament was quite a feat in itself, but it was more amazing that it went ahead successfully with the main block at Speedwell School having burnt down four days before the event. The intention was for the teams to sleep on classroom floors, but following the fire another school - Hengrove - to the south of the city had to be pressed into use and a large number of players were farmed out to 200 "foster homes" - the start of a superb tradition had taken place. In the years that followed many teams stayed in "foster homes" and often the hospitality was returned as Speedwell teams visited many of these European teams and tournaments.

Club affiliations were up to 35 clubs, though this fell the following season with an increase in affiliation fees to £5.40.

At the start of the new season, Weymouth took their place in the EVA Superleague alongside Bristol Mikasa. The Bristol League had grown to 24 teams in 3 divisions. The SW Mens League had 12 teams split into two divisions with a final tournament.

In the first five years the growth in the number of teams had been substantial and standards improved significantly. However there was still no SW Womens League (started in 1975).

If you have any memories of the early years of our association that you would like printed in the newsletter, please send them to me (contact details at the start of the newsletter). I hope that older players and members might bring photos and memorabilia to our two celebration events - on May 9th in Plymouth and October 3rd in Bournemouth.

Ron Richards

