

Hampshire Volleyball Association
AGM - July 2017
Chairman's Report

This report is set against the backdrop of a changing landscape for volleyball across the UK, brought about following Sport England's decision to reduce its funding to Volleyball England. Consequently, a number of challenges have presented themselves to the HVA, including most noticeably the demise of the Volleyball Relationship Manager's role, so capably undertaken by Mark Simmons, who was an integral component and key generator of our success over the last three years.

But where there is challenge so is there opportunity and the HVA has taken stock of its direction and used this period of churn to align its efforts to our original – and agile - 2014-17 Development Plan so that we can ensure we are respecting the needs of the county in the following main areas: a) junior development, b) maintaining the indoor league, c) promoting sitting volleyball and d) refereeing & coaching.

It is a credit to the remaining Committee members that we have maintained this focus and continued to work coherently as a team, drawing on the specific skills, knowledge and attributes that each member brings to move the agenda forward positively together.

Our outputs have spanned the full volleyball spectrum although, somewhat ironically perhaps, despite being based on the south coast of England, we have not been particularly successful in aligning with beach volleyball but, hopefully we can begin to address this aspect with the increased participation of our juniors.

This reporting period has generated a number of highlights, as follows:

Junior Development continues to be a priority. South Hants and New Forest are leading the way (in Hampshire), also working well with Wessex (in Dorset). We are now striving to forge greater links with these clubs (amongst others) to encourage junior competition. This is regarded as a fundamental requirement to the sustainability of volleyball.

Specifically, three trial sessions were organised at Bay House School, Gosport although attendance and the availability of local coaches meant that the HVA subsidy had to be withdrawn.

The Hampshire School Games were also a success with over 80 children across 19 schools taking part. This activity was led by Cat Machado (New Forest) who has now been appointed to the role of U16 South East regional coach.

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The **Indoor League** remains the main income stream to the HVA (although this is only to cover its costs) and remains the ‘stepping stone’ tournament between local and national league. In the last 12 months, we have created two Grand Prix events at the new and excellent court facilities at Bay House School, Gosport, which enable two matches to be played simultaneously.

Six Men’s teams played over four Sundays and the league was won by South Hants Men, with Team Southampton as runners up. The Ladies event was also played over a similar number of Sundays, made up of five teams, and was won by Team Southampton with Forza Solent as runners up.

Individual teams were invited to nominate their own Most Valuable Player and the Committee then nominated Robin Hunt as the best Male Player overall whilst Julia Thompson won the Ladies MVP award. Both from Team Southampton.

All four teams were invited – and funded - to participate at the regional SEVA one day competition. Unfortunately, Team Southampton (Men) pulled out at the last minute. Their entry fee for the forthcoming season will be adjusted to reflect the sunken cost for their entry (£60).

Since this was a new format – with particularly good participant feedback and local TV and other media coverage – we are looking to encourage even more teams next season although we do expect each team who enters to have their own medical kitbag and also provide qualified referees. It is generally recognised that this was excellent value for money and a significant improvement on previous years.

The profile and awareness of **Sitting Volleyball** continues to be promoted, e.g. taster sessions delivered to a number of schools and colleges to circa 500 students. In addition, the newly adopted mini-league now has a broader profile to include the following teams; GB Women, Guernsey, Essex Pirates and South Hants. Plans are in place to include a team from Denmark at the next competition.

It is acknowledged that with a wider ‘pool base’ we should look at other ways of funding this important growth area.

Unfortunately, no outdoor summer tournament was planned in 2017 (the second year running). This should be a focus item in the coming season.

It should be mentioned that there is an enduring commitment to improve the standards of **Coaching & Refereeing**. HVA has decided that we expect all teams who enter our events to have coaches and officials that are appropriately qualified.

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To this end, South Hants are running a referees' course at Purbrook Park School on 30th September 2017.

Finally, with regard to the future of our Development Plan, this is 'work in progress' to be sanctioned by the Committee but will continue to focus on the ongoing promotion of volleyball, at all levels, not just in the county but as widely as possible.

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Finance Update

As at 1st June 2017, the balance in our bank account stands at £4006 which is an absolute reduction of £1434 year on year.

£940 of this is attributable to a long-standing dispute with Crestwood College for hire charges in previous years (which was settled at the beginning of 2017).

An investment was made to the Grand Prix (e.g. aerials, score boards, line flags); junior development subsidised sessions; plus a relatively small contribution towards sitting volleyball 'mini league' costs.

Providing we continue to use Bay House School as a natural hub for HVA competitions and development, we will almost certainly need to look at some additional funding for referee's stands etc.

However, HVA need to work through our own Development Plan to consider further long-term opportunities.

As in the previous year, it is the stated intention that the income generated is matched by the costs incurred for the indoor league / Grand Prix and other expenditure is prioritised across the other areas including refereeing and coaching.