

Indoor Volleyball Report 2017-2018

The main focus for indoor volleyball in Hampshire for the 2017-2018 season was to continue the HVA Grand Prix Series and try to increase the number of teams taking part in the competition. This was achieved, with the ladies' competition growing from five teams to ten, and the men's competition growing from six teams to eight. The Grand Prix format continued to show its worth, providing the teams with a number of events that average around 8 sets of volleyball per event, and feedback from the teams was very positive.

The top two teams from the series went through to represent Hampshire in the SEVA finals, with Guernsey finishing 5th and Wessex finishing 7th in the ladies' competition, while Salisbury and South Hants finished somewhere between 6th and 10th in the men's competition (results pending). It is worth noting, though, that only one of the 4 teams qualifying for SEVA is actually based in Hampshire: given that the remit of the HVA is to support volleyball in Hampshire, the committee may wish to review the rules on SEVA qualification.

While the increase in participation was welcome, it did however create two problems that we can improve upon next season. Firstly, as we run the overall GP series as a league, and we try to guarantee that every team gets at least 4 sets of volleyball at each event, we could not have a final event where all teams are present. For the men's competition, this was less of a problem as the University team were unable to attend the final event anyway. In the ladies competition, there were four teams that were not scheduled to play at the final event, and two teams that had no matches beyond January. We may want to change the structure and have something like a finals day to enable more teams to attend.

The second problem was that with the number of ladies teams entered doubling, but the number of events only increasing 20%, each individual team actually got less volleyball than the previous year. Again, this could be changed by altering the structure of the league.

We also ran a one-off mixed event, inviting teams from Hampshire and the surrounding counties, which attracted 9 teams. This was a great success, and we plan to hold more mixed events next season.

The Bay House venue continues to be an outstanding place to play volleyball.

Beyond the GP series, there have been some coaching and refereeing courses run in Hampshire, but these have tended to be run by individual clubs and education institutes rather than HVA themselves. There was also the intent to run an audit of the clubs in Hampshire and their capacities with respect to coaching staff, teams and league entries, but this failed to happen. This would be a useful measure of the health of volleyball in Hampshire so I would recommend this continuing to be a target.

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