

Hampshire Volleyball Association
AGM – 2018

Chairman's Report

In the last twelve months, we have seen the **Grand Prix** increase significantly. The Ladies representation has grown from 5 to 10 teams; the Men's league has grown from 6 to 8 teams. More significantly, the representation is well beyond the county border. In fact, the teams who represented 'Hampshire' at the South East Volleyball Association competition in May included the top two performers in each league; Guernsey & Wessex and Salisbury & South Hants respectively. Only one from within the county boundary!

In addition to the success of these individual competitions, we also introduced a one day Mixed Grand Prix.

I think it is reasonable to say that each of these events have been an outstanding success.

All of the above is possible due to the outstanding facilities at Bay House School in Gosport. Notwithstanding, there are still some challenges to overcome (e.g. storage) and we are working hard to overcome these.

Junior Development is largely represented by three main clubs in the county; South Hants, New Forest and Southampton. Experience has shown that there are a small number of dedicated coaches who require child protection training (i.e. DBS checks). However, we continue to work with our neighbours in Wessex and Salisbury and are considering some form of competitive experience for our home-grown talent. It should be noted, however, that each of the above teams participated in the Grand Prix and this can only bode well for the future.

In December last year, Portsmouth hosted a **Sitting Volleyball** competition with representation from Essex, Guernsey and Denmark. The GB Women's team also participated. We have also arranged free taster sessions, mostly in schools, attracting over 500 participants, promoting great awareness of the sport.

Whilst each of the Committee members have a strong profile with Volleyball England, one of highlights for me is that **Richard Osborne** helped coach the Georgia team to victory at the **Invictus Games** and is now directly involved with the UK team.

As I close my remarks for another year, I am very pleased at what we continue to achieve. We are a strong team, a very dedicated and committed group of volunteers, who continue to learn and look to improve the volleyball provision.

But we are not just a county organisation. We are a genuine facilitator and network provider across a much wider geography. For this alone, and the future of volleyball in this country, we should all be proud.

Ashley Cullen
Chairman

July 2018