

Hampshire Volleyball Association
AGM – 2019

Chair's Report

Whilst we continue to witness ongoing financial issues with our sport's National Governing Body, Volleyball England, we were forewarned just prior to the AGM of the almost certain winding up of the local Portsmouth Volleyball Association (PVA) which has been running for at least four decades. Against this backdrop, I am pleased to report that the situation in Hampshire is thriving and we have made some significant investments in the last twelve months.

On reflection, our focus is to continue to develop a strong junior development programme, whilst maintaining our Grand Prix (including mixed) and sitting volleyball activities. We are also making significant inroads to improving the way we communicate and promote the sport. Once again, we are not oriented by the county border and we actively encourage participation from far and wide.

None of our progress could be achieved without a tight knit and hugely supportive Committee to whom I am truly indebted.

Highlights

- 3 junior festival; now looking to achieve a more regular programme in 2019/20 – the lifeblood of our future
- Third Grand Prix season, relatively new and maturing, but fantastic feedback
- Bay House School (Gosport) recognised as an outstanding facility and where we are continuing to build strong relationships
- Ladies entrants stable at 10; Men's increased from 8 to 10; with a healthy churn in the mix of teams
- Invested in our own umpire stands, nets and match balls, plus storage facility at BHS
- Continued progress in sitting volleyball, now about to celebrate the 10th anniversary of South Hants SVC
- Proactively looking to modernise our website and (potentially) create a regular newsletter; bringing players, clubs and the HVA closer together
- Financially, we have very prudent management and our activities are generally self-sufficient; in the coming months, we are looking at generating more income from sponsorship / grants as well as investing in more proactive marketing of volleyball and HVA (e.g. feather flags, pop up banners etc.)
- Supported the Fitness Festival in Southsea, providing an all-day 'volleyball picnic' across both outdoor and sitting volleyball courts

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Finally, in recognising the support of the Committee, I am sad to report that Dave Gunter, who provided some inspirational thoughts and ideas to HVA, not least of which was the original GP concept, was obliged to resign to maintain his other work commitments.

Ashley Cullen
Chairman, Hampshire Volleyball Association