

HAMPSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019 REPORT ON JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

2018/2019

This year has seen the introduction of trial Junior Festivals of Volleyball for players in school Years 7 – 10 (11 -16 year olds). Three festivals have taken place, one per school term on Saturday afternoons. Festivals 1 and 3 were held at Cams School, Fareham, hosted by South Hants Falcons Volleyball Club; Festival 2 was hosted by New Forest Volleyball Club at Noadswood School. The focus has been on the participants playing as much volleyball as it is possible to squeeze into the time allowed of three hours per festival.

All three festivals have been largely dependent on the coaches and teachers at the venues and through this report I would formally like to acknowledge and say thanks for the time, support and organisational skills of the adults that have been involved. We also rely on the parent taxi service as the players come from a widespread area.

Teams have attended from New Forest VC, South Hants Falcons VC, South Hants Juniors VC, Portchester School and Maidstone VC. Players have paid £5 per session. Numbers at all 3 festivals have been good enough to cover the cost of hiring the hall and the cost of medals.

Planning and organisation in advance of the days have been extremely difficult due to coaches struggling to confirm numbers and ages. This has meant that the first quarter of an hour on each day has been taken up establishing who is there and therefore what format will work. On all 3 days organisers have been unable to sort teams into age groups for competition as there have not been enough players within the different age categories, therefore all players have had to play against one another either in teams of 3 or 4. In spite of this the competition has been close, hard fought and played with excellent sporting attitude.

THE WAY AHEAD:

We will now use feedback from clubs to strengthen the festivals in coming years.

Plans include:

- *establishing a familiar annual pattern of festivals
- *reaching out to other clubs and schools in order to increase numbers
- *setting up trial festivals for school Years 10 - 13

CHALLENGES:

- *finding dates and times that don't clash with regional and national training and events, holidays, mock exams, actual exams, school events such as the Hampshire athletics championships etc.
- *finding dates and times that don't clash with other commitments of players, coaches and teachers, both volleyball and other
- *ensuring we cover the costs

Bev Cooper July 2019