

Sitting Volleyball Report 2018-2019

2018/19 has been another productive year that saw record numbers of teams competing in the national Grand Prix series. Although activity across Hampshire has not been at the same levels as recent years, the HVA's sitting volleyball representative has been active in generating awareness and mobilising support for the sport across the country. This effort has seen three new clubs come into being (Oxford, Telford and Kent), with another club set up in Salford and two further teams anticipated to come online in the coming months.

More locally, South Hants Sitting Volleyball Club, which remains the only sitting club in the county, has seen record numbers of players attending training. For the first time in its 10-year history the club was able to enter two teams into the Grand Prix series, with the Tier 2 development team finishing 8th out of 12 teams, while the Tier 1 team finished 4th overall, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Thanks to volunteers within the club some outreach activity took place with taster sessions delivered in local schools, once again demonstrating the inclusive nature of sitting volleyball.

The enduring challenge is creating more clubs across the county but with such a small workforce it will take time. There are signs of interest and it is hoped that a tournament that is taking place in October to commemorate South Hants Sitting Volleyball Club's 10th anniversary will attract some local indoor teams to take to the floor, with potential for those teams to develop sitting sessions thereafter.

Richard Osborne