



Indoor Volleyball Report 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 season was lining up to be our best year yet as we continue to develop the GP series: we had attracted 9 men's teams and 8 ladies' teams in the main GP series (a similar number to previous years) and we had also planned to stage our first "finals days" in the men's and ladies' leagues to decide the final league places and which teams would qualify for the SEVA finals. Both the men's and ladies' competitions welcomed new teams to the GP series, and both saw some close-fought matches across each of the events.

We had also scheduled in multiple mixed competitions, designed to help the clubs in Hampshire grow by giving their developing players some competitive volleyball outside of the main leagues.

The big headline though was the impact of COVID19 on the leagues. We were unable to hold the planned finals days, which meant that the final standings would have to be decided on the first phase of matches only. Fortunately the ladies' competition had already completed phase 1 and "Southampton Ladies 1" were crowned the champions, with "Winchester Eagles" coming second and "Portsmouth Ladies" finishing 3rd.

In the men's competition, there was one Grand Prix event still to be played. We waited as long as we could in the hope of playing the remaining matches but when this became unlikely we took the decision to cancel the event and assign results for the unplayed matches. This meant that "Southampton University Men" could not be caught and were declared the league winners. The mechanism used was to calculate each team's "leaguepoints-per-match" and use that to scale up their league points. With that done, "South Hants Men" took second place and "Roke Polonia" took third.

We also managed to run 2 mixed tournaments, though we had more planned, with "Southampton VC" winning one and the combined "Salisbury/Portsmouth" team winning the second.

Our plan remains to use the men's and ladies' events as a way of providing clubs with competitions that can act as a stepping-stone to National League, and to use the mixed tournaments to provide clubs somewhere for their developing players to compete. Future seasons will be affected by the COVID19 pandemic, but these fundamental aims remain unchanged.

Andy Edwards