

HAMPSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION AGM 2018

REPORT ON JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL BY BEVERLEY COOPER

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CLUBS

The development of junior volleyball in Hampshire is largely based within three clubs: New Forest, South Hants and Southampton. It is dependent on a very small number of dedicated coaches who give up large amounts of time. There are many expectations of coaches and clubs involved with juniors; coaches must be at least Level 2 qualified, first aid trained and have attended child protection training; clubs must have £5 million pounds of public liability insurance and must have a club welfare officer who has attended the appropriate training. Recently South Hants has expanded its provision to include a second junior session so now offers Saturday morning volleyball at Horndean Technology College and Wednesday evening volleyball at Cams Hill School in Fareham.

SCHOOLS

Many schools also offer their students some volleyball experience. Although what is on offer can vary enormously, provision is often half a term within curriculum time taught by non-specialists. I am aware of some after school clubs but believe these are few and far between. Encouragingly, I have recently had conversations with two PE teachers from separate schools who described how their schools are planning to teach more volleyball as it is a great leveller within lessons, with the majority of students having little or no prior knowledge or experience of the sport. Every June there is a Hampshire Schools Sports competition which includes volleyball. This year there were only seven schools represented and one of these had originally entered the hockey competition which was cancelled, and it was suggested they play volleyball instead.

COMPETITION

Every year the HVA committee discuss options around developing junior volleyball competition within the county but with only three clubs, a shortage of coaches, a shortage of volunteers, costs and availability of facilities and clubs being geographically spread leading to transport challenges, there are many difficulties to overcome. The committee has been pleased to welcome junior girl teams from New Forest and Southampton and boys from Southampton into the HVA Grand Prix and acknowledge the clear progress that has been made by these teams over the course of the competition.

The development of junior players is very rewarding as well as being vital in order to keep the flow of players going through into adult volleyball and I would therefore plead with those of you who read this report to consider offering some time to your local club or school to play your part. I know your time will be appreciated.

Below are reports provided by the clubs.

SOUTHAMPTON VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Report by Tim Nash

As Team Southampton and Solent merged this year to form Southampton VC, there was an emphasis to offer volleyball at all levels. Team Southampton had always had a good junior set up, it was easy for the new club to develop its junior section. This year saw an U18 boys and girls team as well as an U16 girls team. It was encouraging that children did not come from 1 or 2 schools/colleges. We found that we recruit players 4 different colleges and 7 different schools. Many of the players came with little or no experience of volleyball but a desire to try a new sport. A decision was made to enter the 3 squads in the HVA league. Although a big ask for them it would mean regular competition and playing time. The squads benefitted by having dedicated coaches who focuses on skill development and court awareness. The aim for the 2018/19 season will be to progress a number of players the chance to train and possibly play in the Div 3 NVL teams. With the success of volleyball at the Hampshire School Games, there is the chance to work with more local schools, around our area to offer the chance to children to continue with the sport. The hope is also to move the younger player into the SE regional set up and for the Southampton teams to play in more friendlies against other junior teams in around the country.

SOUTH HANTS SATELLITE CLUB

Report by Bev Cooper

2017/18 has been another good year for South Hants juniors with 21 players currently on the register and an average attendance of 12 per week this term. We are proud of the inclusive nature of our club: players come from 15 different schools and colleges, boys and girls play together, ages range from 10 – 18.

Successes:

U13 boys and U14 girls winners at Bournemouth SWGP event

U14 girls winners at Ashcombe

1 boy and 1 girl played their first seasons in the National League teams

1 girl won Player of the Tournament at the club annual volleyball party

1 girl won Spirit of the Tournament at a junior competition

2 girls and 1 boy represented the South East at the National Inter Regional finals at Kettering

1 girl and 1 boy have been on the Volleyball England talent pathway.

Challenges:

Attracting players to come along on Saturday mornings!

Finding competitions to enter when our players age ranges are spread so wide.

Development:

In September we are starting an additional 45 minute session for 0-10 year olds which will be a 'stay and play' parent and child session. We hope this will prove to be popular, help us catch the children early and bolster numbers at our 10-18 junior sessions as children progress between sessions.

SOUTH HANTS FALCONS (Based at Cams Hill School, Fareham)

Report by Ryan Gunner

New club set up.

24 juniors signed up.

Ages 11-17 in attendance.

One over 16 years old

Regular attendance around 16 participants

NEW FOREST VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Report by Jo Ankers

New Forest Junior Academy has gone from strength to strength in 2017/18 now boasting over 35 junior players. The most significant growth has come in the U16 girls and U16 boys squads, where we have had a 50% increase in players coming through from our satellite clubs in the New Forest in the past 12 months. The U18 boys, on the back of their U16 National Final runner up success last year (the vast majority of the squad were playing in u16 category last season) had a successful SADVA season coming a close second place in the men's league. The team qualified as regional winners going into the final 8's at the Nationals, but as a new entrant into the U18 category their success of last year was not to be repeated. The U16's comprising of a newly formed squad, of which the average age was just 14, also managed to get to the Final 8's at the nationals. A major achievement for such an inexperienced squad which included a player as young as 12! Next season NFV will be well placed to enter a boys team for the first time into the U15 category as well as U16, as so many of the young juniors coming through the satellite system have now benefited from academy training over the past 12 months.

The less experienced and established girls squads have been consolidating and gaining playing experience attending HVA Grand Prix fixtures throughout the season. The U18 team was largely comprised of U16 players and narrowly missed out on progressing in the U18 National qualifiers. The U16 team unfortunately had to withdraw from National Qualifying round as the qualifier fell just before GCSE mock exam time and we could not get a team together. Both girls squads are now one season into their academy training and will be well positioned for National qualification next season.

Our junior development programme has been incredibly successful over the past couple of years, encouraging and developing young talent and we now have 5 of the boys and 3 of the girls playing at NVL level in their respective National Division 1 (ladies) and Division 2 (men) NFV teams.

At a junior regional level, we had an impressive 6 players within the U17 South East boys squad, and 3 junior boys were selected for the U15 South East regional squad. For the girls, we had one of our U16 players within the U15 South East team.

Finally, for the England National squads, we are proud to boast two Junior Men players and one Cadet. For the Girls, we have one Cadet player.