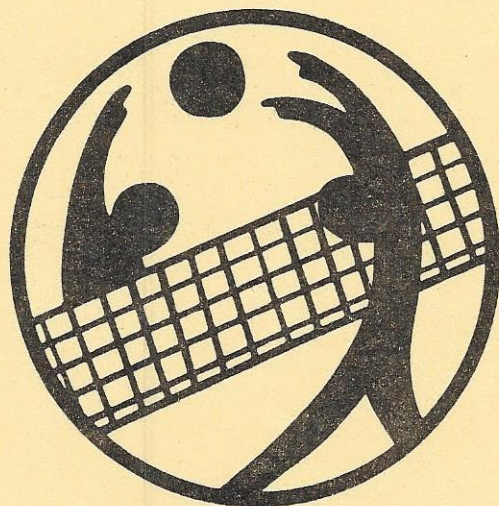


VOLLEYBALL



ANNUAL REPORT 1981

**SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL
ASSOCIATION**

SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Chairman's report

It seems only yesterday that I was sitting unexpectedly, in what was probably the second AGM I had attended, suddenly to find myself as the new Chairman. This, unfortunately, has also been the case in the appointment of other officers on the committee, unfortunate, because it's not an easy way to start a job as I did from a position of complete ignorance. Every year since then there has been at least one position on the committee which we have been struggling to fill. In an association with so many members it seems that we shouldn't be in a position of having to cajole innocent bystanders into working on the committee. Please let's have more willing volunteers.

On a similar note it is disappointing to realise that out of 78 affiliated clubs in the region last season only 8 were actually represented at the AGM. The executive committee tries hard to work for the benefit of all its members but to do this it needs to know that it has been elected by the members and know what its members want from volleyball.

Before mentioning some of the events which have taken place in the South West this season I would like to thank all the members of the committee who have worked hard during the season to bring about more and better volleyball in the region. With congratulations to Ron who sets a high standard of enthusiasm and work output which the rest of us find difficult to match.

Although they will all be mentioned in other officers reports there a number of highlights which I would like to mention.

1. The success of the England v Scotland Mens internationals held in Poole and Stroud which was due to the hard work put in by the committees in these areas. Congratulations to both groups of organisers and I hope that both areas will have benefited from their experience.

2. Competitions in the Region have run smoothly this season with record numbers of teams in the mens league and knock-out Championship. But where are the ladies? There must be lots of you playing in mens or mixed teams in local leagues who could get together to form teams to enter South West competitions. I enjoy seeing all the old faces every year but it would be great to see more new ones on the other side of the net.

3. It looks as though, after two abortive attempts in the past two seasons that this year's Development Camp will take place and be a success which will, I believe, make another first for the region. Well done Sue.

4. Another new league has been set up this year in North Gloucestershire. I hope this will continue to thrive.

In conclusion, once again, thanks to the committee, area organisers, club secretaries, coaches, referees, club players and all those who have represented county or country. Please make every effort to keep the game going and growing.

Wilma Kelman.
Chairman.

Secretary's Annual Report

I would like to start my report with mention of an afternoon in March which gave me great pleasure. It was March 22nd and the event was the England v Scotland internationals at Stroud. On the Saturday we had a very good crowd at Poole where the local committee had organised the matches with their usual efficiency. Then on the Sunday the event was a sell out and a crowd of over 700 were packed into the hall to see an exciting 3 - 1 win by England Juniors and a climatic 3 - 2 win by England Seniors. The event was a memorable one not just for the packed hall and the exciting match but for the reason that it proved the success of our local development in the past few years. The Stroud league has grown with help from SWVA and with a lot of effort by the local organisers - in particular Tony Williams - to a strong local association willing to take on the organisation of major events.

This development is also true of other local associations - Weymouth, Poole, Swindon and Bristol who are all active in the development of the game in their area. It has been pleasant to see development in N.Glos under the guidance of Jerry Spear and there is hope of development in Cornwall with Tom Fisher and Ken Harvey.

The growth of these areas has led in turn to the growth of the SW - in terms of affiliated clubs 86 compared to last years total of 78 and in the growth of the number of players.

Our competitions have improved in quantity and quality and much credit goes to the teams who displayed such excellent standards at the recent SW Championships. In 1982/83 our regional league will become a true qualifying league to the National League - something we have wished for a long time.

We have had more success this year with coaching courses though I do feel we need someone who is interested in coaching who will take an active role in building a regional structure.

It looks as though our long planned Junior Development Camp will take place this year and for that much credit and thanks to Sue Sessions our Junior Development Officer.

My thanks to Brian Jones as well for his work with officials - I am sure that the standards here in the SW are much higher than elsewhere. There is however still need for interested referees to develop the breed in their local areas.

In September we will act as hosts to the Commonwealth Volleyball Tournament at Bath - I hope that we can use this event to further develop the game in the SW.

In conclusion a good season - Growth has continued in most areas, quality has improved and we remain in many ways far ahead of other regions. But we must not sit back - there are a few major areas that need attention -

- i) a supply of willing and active volunteers to take up Executive positions
- ii) A need to develop our coaching skills - too few players are willing to be trained and become coaches.
- iii) a need to plan our development more carefully and over a longer period of time.

My thanks to all those people who have worked so hard this season, I hope you will continue to do so and that you can persuade more people to join us.

Ron Richards.
May 1981.

OFFICIALS SECRETARY REPORT 1980 / 1981.

This season has seen a growing need for national league officials, with more S.W. teams than ever competing in the leagues.

Grade 111 courses were run in Exeter, Swindon, Guernsey and Bristol with mixed results. Courses planned in Paignton and Stroud were cancelled through lack of support.

The E.V.A. referees commission are discussing the problem of the failure rate. The need for qualified officials who are prepared to referee at regional and national league level is causing problems and club secretaries will probably be surprised to know that in the South West we have less problems than any other region. So therefore it is obvious that the aim is to pass candidates rather than fail them, but a weekend is a very short time to give a candidate enough knowledge to enable them to achieve the pass mark. So the suggestion that I would like to see adopted in our region is that when a league or club secretary is arranging a course, a meeting of the candidates is held a minimum of ten days before the course at which a local referee would spend time explaining the object of the course, give a brief outline of the rules, ensure that each candidate has a rule book and go through the scoresheet procedure. In my opinion this will assist every candidate and will make the difference between a pass or a failure

Problems have arisen this year with delay in notification of results and non availability of rule books. A supply of rule books are now held at the National Office and the Commission will monitor the situation to ensure that sufficient stocks are kept. The Commission has decided that the staff officials will mark the examination papers for the Courses which they run and this should enable the candidate to be notified of their results more quickly.

My records show that thirty two referees from the S.W. have officiated at National and National Qualifying league matches during the season. The total number of referees registered with the E.V.A. for 1980/81 is 213 of which 23 are from the S.W. I hope that for the 1981/82 season the number will increase substantially.

In the Bristol and Poole areas we are well off for referees at National League level, but we must endeavour to give experience to referees in the other areas where National League and Regional League teams are based, therefore when teams are running tournaments please help by informing me and requesting help.

I would also ask clubs to give me the names of the officials who referee their National and Regional games, so that I may be able to help these people gain more experience. This is particularly necessary where officials are non-players who may wish to officiate more regularly. My message to clubs is again 'help me to help you'.

Where do we need more officials? The Exeter, Paignton and Plymouth area is in need of a course, I will willingly staff one, but someone in that area will have to organise it.

My aim for 1981/82 is to establish a Regional referees Committee consisting of the officials secretary and the officials secretary of each area league, and in areas where leagues do not exist a nominated representative. I would like to hold a meeting as soon as possible after the S.W. A.G.M. to discuss a programme for the season. Perhaps at the A.G.M. area and club representatives would like to meet with me to discuss this matter.

I would like to thank all the clubs and referees who have helped me during the past season. I would personally like to thank "Mr South West" - Ron Richards for another season of fantastic devotion to South West Volleyball and all other executive members for the work they are doing.

Brian Jones.

Competitions Report

The 1981 South West League season started with its full commitment of entries in the ladies and men's Division 1 and the largest number of entries ever in Division 11, fourteen, so that the Division had to be split into 2 zones. The Division also saw the entry of two sides from over the border, Abergavenny and Pontypool; the former having a particularly successful baptism winning the northern zone and the play-off between the two zones. The standard of Division 11 which was intended for 'new' teams has certainly improved quite markedly over the last three years.

In Men's Division 1, Weymouth Bay Rowdies won the division for the first time, managing to withstand a late challenge from Paignton who were undefeated in the last twelve matches; with Poole coming third only on sets difference.

In the Ladies Division, Poole Thumpers won the title for the third successive season, with Portsmouth Vitesse (playing for the first time in S.W.) coming second.

It is pleasing that in both Ladies and Mens Division 1 there was nearly a 100% fixture fulfillment a feature which was lacking in Mens Division 11. Certainly if teams from Division 2 wish to continue playing in the South West Leagues they are going to have to show greater commitment to their fixtures.

Junior Development Officer's Report

I took on this job in October 1980 little realising the size of the area (geographically) and the lack of interest in Junior Volleyball on the part of most of our players and clubs. I get the impression that many clubs think that fully fledged volleyball players are found under the scorers table rather than painstakingly trained by people interested in the future of their sport. Last season (1979 - 80) I was playing in Strasbourg and there every club that had a senior team also had a junior section. The Alsace region ran a short league season and K.O competition for age groups from under 11 to Under 19. This is something I feel we must aim for. Too many senior volleyball players are selfish, taking only from their chosen sport and putting absolutely nothing back into it.

I hope that in the near future we can set up local Junior Development competitions run by many local leagues we have in the area. There is a Junior Development Camp taking place at Wroughton School on June 26th - 28th. This coincides with the Hambro Tournament at the same venue on the 28th. Why not send your youngsters along?

We also have the Commonwealth Tournament coming to Bath in September which should stimulate some interest in the Sport so why not advertise your existence in local schools and sports centres. Start recruiting your 6'6" centre spikers now before somebody else nabs them.

Sue Sessions.

Centre for Excellent Report.

Members of the SW Centre continue to achieve high standards at international and club level. Steve Pincott and Ucal Ashman have been regular members of the Senior National team and Martin Hodges is in the Junior squad.

Other members of the centre have been members of the national squads and it is anticipated that others will in the next two years also obtain that status.

The emphasis at the centre is on improving and developing basic ball control skills and techniques. This work is reflected in the performances of the teams the centre members play for. I am convinced that the continued dominance of mens volleyball by Speedwell is as much due to the overall ball skills of the team as to the individual ability of certain players. Players from the other local teams are also beginning to make a greater contribution to their clubs performance.

We have still been unable to obtain a sportshall for our regular training sessions and although the gymnasium used is a limiting factor in certain activities it does have the advantage of requiring players to concentrate on accurate playing of the ball. If we are able to obtain a sports hall it is my intention to start an additional session for players of potential who are currently not of the standard suitable for the present sessions.

The Sports Council have continued to grant aid, the centre and I would like to think that the performance of the centre in achieving its aim of raising the standard of our top players has justified their faith in us. A generous grant of £750 from the Sports Council combined with a £250 donation from Sportset and money raised from the sale of video tapes / publications by the Centre has enabled us to purchase a 'Spikemaster' machine from America. The machine will serve, set and smash balls to a very high degree of accuracy and will be a tremendous aid to the training of players. The machine will be used also by SWAVA for courses and training camps.

K. Nicholls.

Section 10
General

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Section 11
General

SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL AND WEST VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

AREA REPORT

Last season in the Bristol League was without doubt one of the best seasons for years. We ran three leagues, these being Mens, League, Ladies League and a Mixed League, with all three having a good level of competition, a good variety of clubs participating.

As well as the league running well, we had very good support from all clubs at league meetings, which made a pleasant change. As a result of this we ran two very successful courses in Bristol, one a referees course and the other a coaches course, our thanks to Ron Richards and Brian Jones for taking the courses. Also thanks to South West League for their Grant Aid towards the courses.

We have at present two good county sides and although the ladies team were defeated narrowly they have a good chance to reach finals.

Outlook 81/82

We hope for another good season with more teams participating, also we aim to re-introduce K.O. Cups for all our leagues, plus a tour abroad for both mens and ladies county teams. Finally follow up courses for referees and coaches.

Gerry Greet.
League Secretary.

TAUNTON AREA.

After the reasonable progress of the last two seasons this year has been a consolidating year.

Due to all of the main players forming into one club, Taunton, there has not been any local league. There have been many casual games between affiliated clubs not in leagues such as S.C.A.T students who have had a reasonable season.

The emphasis will now be on setting up new clubs or reviving old interests using the main club as the focus and catalyst. New sports halls are being built and the Public Schools are beginning to show interest. Attempts will now be made to publicise the game more in the area with regular team reports. The Taunton club have held a Tournament with all local clubs participating but existing clubs at the Fire Station, Police cadets and Youth clubs have ceased to compete at any level.

Help is needed to get interest into action in 1981/82.

I.S. Cooper.

POOLE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION.

This has been a good year for Poole with the three divisions of the League running fairly smoothly. Sandy Bullock took over as secretary at the A.G.M. and unfortunately has been dogged by ill health ever since, but he has, with help from other committee members, soldiered on. He enters hospital soon for an operation and the Association would like to wish him good luck and an early return to full fitness.

Two major events have taken place during the last year, the National Finals and the England v Scotland internationals. The local club members have given good support and help.

Geoff Allen has worked hard at developing Schools Volleyball resulting in the first Dorset Schools tournament held recently.

Local clubs have done well Nationally with OBC Poole winning Division Four South and Poole Thumpers finishing runners up in the qualifying league. Both clubs are promoted next season and look forward to future honours. I Cup competitions Poole Thumpers Ladies have reached the final of the Kestours Cup, their men being defeated in the semifinal of the same competition.

Internationally Sarah Bardsley of Poole Thumpers and Gary Joyce of OBC Poole have represented England at Schools level and Jenny Hedgecock and Vince Joyce of OBC Poole played at U20 level.

Local firm Hamworthy Engineering Limited won the National Recreation Managers Title and the team with the OBC flavour now travel to Hamburg for the European Championships.

We would like to thank the South West Association for their help during the year and wish you all a good volleyball season next year.

Brian Jones
Chairman.

STROUD AND DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

The Stroud Association is pleased to report a very successful year.

The highlight of the year was the successful England v Scotland international in March. A capacity crowd of over 700 people packed in the Stratford Park Leisure Centre for an afternoon of exciting high standard volleyball. This was an important event in terms of publicity but perhaps more important was the experience gained by the very active local committee.

In May the same committee will take on the organisation of the S.W. Finals and has obtained sponsorship from Lacey and Thompson a local garage for that event.

The local league ran successfully with 13 teams in 2 divisions. The winners of Div 1 were Cheltenham Fire Service and of Division 2 Breakaways. Some of the teams are reorganising next season and this could lead to problems over promotion and relegation. It is hoped that new teams will join the league.

Recently a very successful presentation dinner was held with 150 people present. In all this season has seen volleyball in Stroud receive some welcome development.

Tony Williams
President.