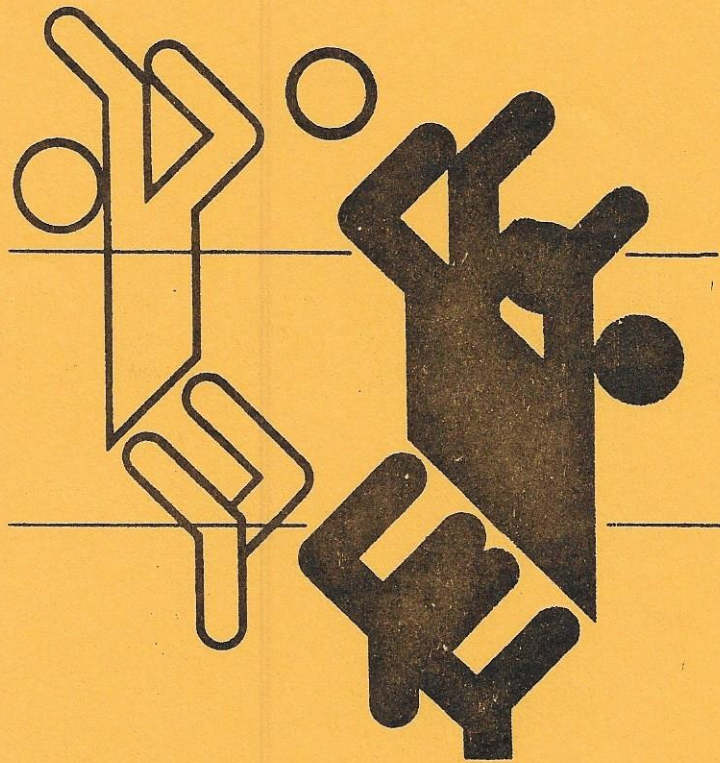


VOLLEYBALL



**SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL
ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

1984

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ANNUAL REPORT 1983 /84

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Instead of ending with thanks I would like to start my report this year by saying thankyou to all the officers of the region and local associations who continue to give up so much of their time to the development of volleyball in the South West.

This season has not been one of great growth ewfionally but I feel that a lot of work has been done to stabilise the local associations and in their strength lies the strength of the South West. As fairly new Associations North Devon and North Gloucester have developed into two strong areas. North Devon were the hosts of our new style championships weekend and I don't think that they; could have done a better job I'm sure that all the teams which participated would join me in thanking them for their efforts.

This season saw our first presentation buffet which took place during the championships weekend at Barnstaple. More teams than ever before were actually there to receive their trophies and the whole evening was a pleasant social occasion which I hope will be repeated in the future. Coupled with this more spectators watches the regional finals than in the past.

Apart from the senior championships, entries to all regional competitions was disappointing this season. I would like to think that this is because teams are getting a higher standard of competition in their local leagues than they have previously but I don't think that this is wholly the case and feel that the development of competitions especially at junior level must be a priority for the future.

Once again successful coaching and refereeing award courses have taken place and last summer saw the first Advanced Coach Award for some years.

It is with regret that the Association has to accept the resignations of our treasurer, Jeff Brehaut and Competitions Officer Paul Moss. They have both given much to the region and their services will be missed. I know that they will both continue their activity in the sport, albeit in another region, and I wish them success in their future ventures.

In looking forward to next season we look to changed which will be taking place in the way which The Sports Council give grant aid and possible changes in the way that regions are funded by the E.V.A. In either case we will have to be more accountable for the way in which we spend our money and the chances are that we will have to do some of our own fund raising in the future. Hopefully we will increase our local membership and local Association could have more funds to organise their activities. I await the changes with interest and the expectation of ideas.

I owe my position as chairman of the region to my proposal by Ray Tingley some years ago and although I may not always feel grateful to him for that I do know that I and everybody who knew Ray in any way at all must have him to thank for some of the part we play in volleyball. He was a great motivator and man of action who will be sorely missed by us all.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is on a sad note that I begin my report. When I was seventeen and playing volleyball in a small gym in Swansea, one evening a team of school children came to play from Somervale School, Midsomer Norton, their teacher was Ray Tingley - he motivated those players so much that many want on to national honours and are still much involved in volleyball. Everywhere that Ray went he had a magnetic influence and was able to draw people into the game. When the SW Association was founded in 1969 Ray was a strong influence on its development. I have always been grateful to Ray for the many things I learnt from him and hope that in the SW we shall be able to find some form of permanent tribute to his memory.

This season has seen some good and some sad development. The collapse of the Stroud League showed how vulnerable our local associations can be and how much affect the regions fixtures - the loss of the Stroud clubs caused our affiliations to decline for the first time in many years. However, other areas have grown in size and activities and the long established areas have shown some solid stability. The standard of play in these leagues has certainly improved - as shown in the new Inter League Championships held at Melksham.

There are more teams playing volleyball but parts of the game cause me great concern:-

- (i) Ladies volleyball - there are ladies playing - but too many of them play only in mens teams - we must develop more local ladies leagues.
- (ii) Junior volleyball - again there are juniors playing but few of them in teams of their own age - SW Junior competitions have raised a poor response in recent years and I feel that playing standards in the future will fall behind other areas with strong growth policies. Let us hope that International Youth Year in 1985 will encourage us to do something about this.

The SW Executive Committee showed concern this year at the fall in the number of Regional League entries. As a result a number of tournament were planned to bring teams into the regional competition fold - the Ladies Tournament at Yate, the SW Inter League Championship and the tournament for non-national league teams organised by Poole and N. Gloucester. I am pleased to report that entries for next seasons leagues are much higher.

By the time of our AGM the EVA AGM will have discussed the proposals on affiliations. I hope that clubs will look carefully at these proposals - they could change the structure of local volleyball. This will probably have little effect on our stronger local associations but I fear that taking away the funding of the regions will cause a gap in the pyramid which the game is not yet well developed enough to fill with just local associations. I believe that the service to the newer associations and to parts of counties not presently covered could suffer.

I would like to offer thanks to all those who work hard for the development of the game in the local areas and in the region, there are far too many to mention. but I hope that you will continue to offer your services.

Ron Richards.
Secretary S.W.V.A.

COMPETITIONS SECRETARY'S REPORT

This has been my third successive season as Competitions Secretary and I must offer apologies for not really being closely involved with developments within the region. A change in personal circumstances has forced me to withdraw from major competitions as a player, this coupled with the distances I have to travel and that I am not really represented by the region I work for have left my duties in this Executive sadly lacking in consistency.

The season has been an up and down affair. The splitting of the league into East and West Regions was a good move for teams not able to commit themselves financially to the league. The problems came when teams withdrew from both leagues causing both to collapse in disarray. It was only due to last minute re-organisation of the league by co-operative secretaries and myself that final tables were committed to paper. I believe the new Executive Committee will be giving much thought as to the Leagues next year in both their membership and structure.

Writing this script a week before the Southwest Championships means that I cannot comment on this event, however it looks like its all proceeding to plan. There was a low number of entries from our more senior clubs, "Come on lads you're not that good!"

Finally I would like to thank all that have made my nightmare a lot more comfortable. I regret that I shall not be standing for re-election. Cowardly as it may seem, I do believe that the South West League will run a lot more smoothly if there is a 'Man on the Spot'. My best wishes to the next man, your phone will never get cold.

Paul Moss.

P.S. Watchout 2nd Division Clubs, Weymouth won't be down there for long.

OFFICIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

During the last year courses have taken place in Cheltenham, Barnstaple, Guernsey, Poole and Weymouth. The latter being run at the moment. It is hoped to run courses in Bristol and Swindon in the near future. Unfortunately the majority of successful candidates seem to disappear from the scene very quickly. very few carrying on to reach National League standard. The number of referees registering with the E.V.A. is also very disappointing. This region has always been blessed with a large number of National League referees but with the increase in competing clubs more are needed. Any qualified referee who would like to be involved at National League Level should register with the E.V.A. and contact myself.

I am often asked what benefits a referee gains from registering with the E.V.A. The answer is a copy of each E.V.A. magazine, a quarterly referees newsletter which will become more frequent if referees send items to the editor. The newsletter also lists tournaments which require referees.

Eligibility for appointment to National League matches is Mens Division 1 and 2, Ladies Division 1 plus updates on changes in rules and rule interpretations. The registration fee is £2.50 per year and for referees only the year runs from April 1st to Match 31st annually. So come on colleagues, put your hand in your pocket and register. At today date 21.5.84 only fourteen people have registered.

Unfortunately due to lack of support the Seminar planned to take place at the same time as the South West Championships had to be cancelled but hopefully next season the event can be organised at a more central venue.

During the last year Richard Insley and Dave Jenner from Bristol have been promoted to Grade 1 and Dennis Le Breuille from Jersey has gained Grade II status. Congratulations to all three.

Amongst the Honours gained by S.W Officials during the season are :-

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Mi kasa Cup Finals | - Richard Insley | Dennis Le Breuille |
| | Paul Pinhorne | Brian Jones |
| ESVA Schools Finals | Richard Insley | Dave Jenner |
| | Bert Williams | Andy Benson |
| | Andrew Jones | Brian Jones |

In summing up this year I have come to a few conclusions :-

- 1) Referees, please once you have accept appointments and find that you cannot carry them out please inform myself and the team secretary as soon as possible
- 2) Club Secretaries please when you have to appoint your own referees do it as early as possible.
- 3) Clubs we need more referees, please find some people that we can train, although it will not give you National League referees overnight it will stand us in good stead for the future.

Finally, thankyou to all referees and clubs who have co-operated with me to try and make my job easier and to those who haven't - please think about it.

Brian Jones.

COACHING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

In going through the process of assembling information for inclusion in this report I began to feel that there was very little to say about coaching activities in the region this year which hasn't already been reported. I feel a little concerned that this might indicate a lack of interest in coaching which needs to be rectified through greater activity on my part as a promoter and organiser of courses. This is probably part of the truth but the current situation reflects, in part, a continuation of the policy of a more rationalised approach to the programming of courses.

There have been too many courses cancelled in the past through lack of response and it has been my view that, except in exceptional circumstances, there should be a strong indication that a viable number of people are positively interested before arrangements proceed. If this fails to produce sufficient courses then subsidies may be necessary. I seek guidance on this.

To achieve a balanced distribution of courses the EVA Technical Commission has suggested a programme.

Whilst this could be construed as removing some of our independence, it is not an inflexible arrangement and should not limit our programme. In the long term it will undoubtedly be of benefit to all regions in that specific weekends will be set aside each year for different courses. Unfortunately this year I did not receive a positive approach from any area for a course to be organised. We hope to allocate the required courses in the not too distant future.

Since June 1983 the following courses have taken place

June/July 83	Advanced Course	Bristol	7 candidates
June 83	Preliminary "	Poole	10 "
May 83	Teachers Award	Bristol	12 "
May/June 83	"	Exeter	14 "
May/June 84	"	"	15 "
May 84	"	Bristol	12 "

In another capacity I represent the association on the Conference of S.W. Governing Bodies and through that the S.W. Council for Sport and Recreation. At the annual meeting of the Conference, we were introduced to the recently formed National Coaching Foundation under the directorship of Dr. Nick Whitehead. They have some interesting resources which could be of great benefit to our coaches. In conclusion may I repeat the plea to area secretaries to generate sufficient interest to make coaching courses viable. When you think you have enough local interest contact me, the Coaching Administrator and you will receive every possible assistance. I would also like to see each area association appoint a coaching secretary with whom I can liaise on a regular basis.

A.E.Mosley (Regional Coaching Administrator)

NORTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

This year the NGVA has run more smoothly. The league we run has played most of its games unlike last seasons when many games were not even arranged. This year our fixtures secretary set things up in advance instead of leaving it to the clubs to arrange their own fixtures, which had been our policy in the past.

Recently, regrettably, our chairman Rod Ireland moved from the area and his place has been taken by vice-chairman, Richard Pascall.

Our committee is

Chairman	Rod Ireland (but see above).
Vice-chairman	Richard Pascall
Secretary	Deryck Williams
Treasurer	Mary Barsellotti
Fixtures Secretary	Martin Marcus
Publicity Officer	Colin Chapman
Schools Officer	Jerry Spear.

The league membership has changed in that we have lost Double View B, but gained Red-Setters, Brockworth Allstars, Stroud V.C. and Nuclear Sports, the last two coming to us from the now defunct Stroud League.

During the last few years Gloucester Fire Service have carried all before them, this year they are struggling with newcomers Stroud V.C. at the top, Double Vie, the eternal runners-up, are second, at the time of writing.

Once again we are running a Summer tournament called the North Gloucestershire Challenge Shield. This years event will take place at Brockworth School on the weekend 23/24 June 1984.

At the time of writing we have 17 teams entered, this is more more than last year when entries were closed to local teams only. This year thanks to S.W.V.A. publicity, we have opened it to outside teams, to widen our horizons.

Additionally we have revived the idea of a county team. A team of ladies from North Gloucestershire won the South West regional inter-league tournament at Yate on April 8th and we are continuing this by forming Mens and Ladies county teams to take part in the Oxfordshire VBA tournament at Chipping Norton on 16/17 June 1984.

We also sent a representative team, Stroud V.C. to the mens inter-regional tournament at Melksham on May 6th and four of our teams are playing four teams from Swindon V.B. in a tournament at RAF hullavington on May 20th.

This summer, to encourage new players into the game, we hope to run volleyball sessions in our local parks in co-operation with the local councils.

Financially we are much better off this year than last. Probably thanks to the efforts of our new treasurer.

D Williams.
Secretary N.G.V.A.

AVON VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

The season is finally over, after all the worry of our new format.

After sending out four sets of fixtures owing to new entries into the league at the last minute, having never been associated with the marathon holiday periods at Universities and Technical Colleges.

Finally having to postpone league games for one month owing to major floor changes at Whitchurch, we managed to produce probably the best season in Avon for many years,

The competition was good, the participants friendly, the outside interest growing in fact we have gained a small group of regular spectators.

Next season will be a much improved season, organisation wise, we now know the pitfalls. Also we aim to show a growth in number of participating clubs.

I would also like to see the -re-introduction of the mixed league next season or the season after.

The only regret this season was that we were unable to run either a referees course or coaching course, however that will be put right next year.

Finally a personal note, I would like to thank Phil Gorton for his work and help as fixtures secretary. Without him I would have been snowed under.

Gerry Greer
Secretary.

NORTH DEVON VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

1983/84 has been another successful year for the Association within the Region

Local League

A total of twelve teams have contested the league this season, with a possibility of an increase to sixteen teams next season. This is very encouraging as enquiries are now coming from a wider radius of the region.

South West Leagues

The stronger sides are either competing in the South West League this year or are making their preparations to join the league within the next two seasons. It is expected that at least four teams will be playing. South West League within two years.

Coaching

This remains a problem area, lack of coaches is holding back new club development but with so many potential coaching having playing ambitions difficulties are arising, as present coaches are presented with tremendous work loads. Solutions are constantly being considered.

Officials

The appointment of an Officials Secretary to consult with Brian Jones has been a success. No problems have been encountered this year.

Junior Development

Information, brochures and posters are continually being fed into local schools and are beginning to have an effect, particularly in the Barnstaple and Torrington areas. Reg Beck at the North Devon College is continuing this work in the 16 - 20 group. At least one school team will be entering Division 2, local league next season.

Competitions

Much success has come from the Associations willingness to play other areas in one day competition. The Association provides four teams to play against other Associations. One strong side, one mid-table team, a representative team and a ladies team are provided to play local leagues of the same standard. An event with Cornwall has become a regular fixture, and the Association is due to travel to Farnham in Surrey in July or August for another fixture. Local teams represent the Association in most Regional Competitions.

South West Championships

The Championships were hosted by the Association this year in its new format and appeared to be a great success. We hope the experience gained will stand us in good stead for the future, and the Association would consider hosting other events should clubs wish to return to Devon again.

D Rimmer.
Secretary.

Guernsey Volleyball Association

The 1983 A.G.M. was held in July and saw the introduction of a constitution / general rules. A committee was elected comprising: Chairman, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary General Treasurer, League/Fixtures Secretary and 2 Ordinary Members.

A Sub-Committee comprising 3 members was also formed to undertake the task of organising entertainment and fund raising events throughout the season. The 1983 season commenced on 23 September 1983 and finished on 18 May 1984. 3 mens divisions comprising 17 teams, 2 ladies divisions of 11 teams and 3 mixed divisions of 22 teams competed this season.

Several volleyball events have been staged this season both social and competitive, these I list below:-

During July, 2 fun volleyball tournaments were staged, the first a 4-a-side at a local fete and the second a Knock-Out tournament played on the beach.

These events were for local players only.

The England U16 Schoolgirl team came to Guernsey in August 1983 and competed against the Island Ladies team and the top three local ladies teams. Even though all the local teams were beaten by the Schoolgirls, valuable experience was gained.

Team Dulux travelled from Gloucester for the Annual I.C.I. Tournament held in September. The 7 local 1st division mens sides competed in this tournament along with Team Dulux and the eventual winners were the 1983/84 league winners, Lexicon St Sampsons.

Brian Jones staged a Referees course for Guernsey Players in October 1983 and a 100% pass was achieved i.e. 19 players took and passed the course. This has certainly assisted in refereeing duties throughout the season.

Also during October, Lancing Manor made their annual visit to Guernsey, competing against the Island Teams and local league sides. Winners were Guernsey Ladies "A" and Lancing Manor Men's.

December 1983 brought about the Premiere "Guernsey Open Volleyball Tournament". Several English and Jersey sides entered, however, the number of visiting teams was not sufficient to warrant the entry of the Guernsey Island Sides and instead the local 1st division sides entered the tournament. The mens tournament was won by Liverpool Brookfield and the ladies and mixed by Southampton. The visiting sides praised the tournament and we hope for a larger entry this year 9-12 November.

Jersey travelled to Guernsey in May 1984 for the Annual Inter-Insular and I am delighted to report that we were successful in all 4 matches.

4 teams from Guernsey took part in the S.W. Championships- the ladies taking second place and the mens third. We are obviously delighted with these results and hope to improve upon them next year.

At the end of this month the G.V.A. will hold a closed tournament and at the beginning of June 2 teams from Normandy, France will travel to Guernsey for matches against our Island Sides. This, hopefully, will be the first of many matches against continentals.

Proposed for August is a coaches course to be staged in Guernsey by Dave Pope.

This season has been very successful in all aspects and we trust that 1984/85 will be as good, if not better.

Jane Breton (Honorary General Secretary)

SWINDON LEAGUE 1983-84

It is pleasing to report an increase in teams playing competitive volleyball in our area, albeit only 1, namely National Westminster Bank who had a very successful introductory season by finishing 4th in the league.

It is also pleasing to note an increase in the number of women 'playing' with the men (censor at your peril) as there are insufficient women to run a ladies league. A constant criticism from all area secretaries is efficiency of team secretaries and it can be said that the message is certainly getting through in the Swindon area.

As an association we have forged links with the North Gloucester League in playing inter-league matches. All teams seemed to enjoy the fixtures and welcomed the opportunity of playing against different teams. If any other association would like to have a one day tournament against our league teams then please contact me.

At the end of the season Ridgeway were the League winners with Thames Water as runners up. In the Cup, Thames Water beat R.A.F. Lyneham by 2 sets to 1 in the final.

Dave Kinder (Secretary)

WEYMOUTH REMBRANDT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

This year's biggest success must be the newly formed Third Division, won by Vickers in their very first season after defeating Colfox School in a play-off.

The First Division title was won by AUWE Stingray with Winfrith taking second. Wyke Youth Centre won the Second Division after dropping only two games, Saints Benedict securing runners-up spot.

All three Knock-Out Tournaments ran smoothly and to schedule thanks to Chris and Terri Brook's organisation, with AUWE Stingray, Winfrith(B) and Vickers taking the respective honours for each division.

22 teams competed this year as opposed to 19 last season. Only one team dropped out from last year's league, Osprey(B), but this was more than offset by the 4 new teams joining.

2 Weymouth League teams have won competitions outside of the area this season. AUWE won the Ministry of Defence National Championship and Winfrith won the first ever South West Inter-League Championship.

This year's presentation evening is to be held at the Hotel Prince Regent and the cost has been maintained for the third consecutive season.

After the success of Nigel Smith's introductory referees course, we are hoping to run an EVA Grade III course during the summer. Brian Jones has kindly agreed to take the sessions which will be held at the H.M.Y.C.C. Portland.

Next season it is hoped to continue with three divisions and new teams have been promised from Vickers, Portland School and Colfox School.

Weymouth Rembrandt and Weymouth Bay Rowdies plan to hold joint training sessions to help bring promising local players through to the National League sides.

Nigel Apsey (Secretary Weymouth Volleyball League)