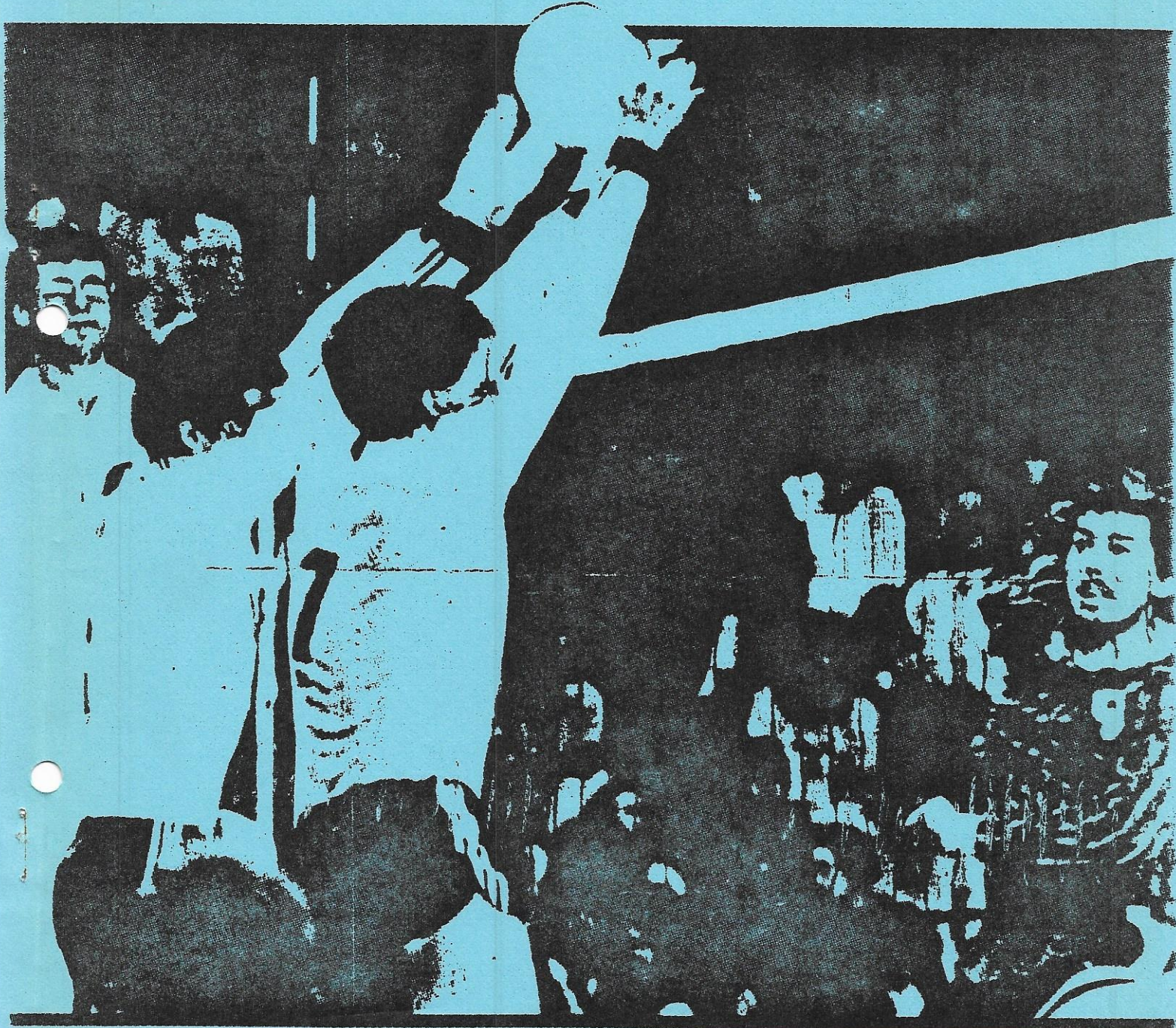


SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 1987 / 88

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CHAIRMANS' REPORT

As you well know this is the second year with GIROBANK as our sponsors. I hope that GIROBANK are enjoying the sponsorship as much as SWAVA. Their help has enabled us to grow in various areas.

This year has seen the development of the SW League as the way of teams spending more time and money in promoting both themselves and the League. I thank all the teams who have put in extra effort and although accepting that this promotional prize money does not match the effort the Awards Committee decided to reward more teams because of the work that was put in. It would be impossible to leave this subject without praising the tremendous programme produced by Sunward Surf, without doubt the best I have ever seen in English Volleyball.

Another highlight of the year was the performance of our SW Junior teams in the Inter Regional Championships, the Under 17 Boys team won their Championship showing tremendous fighting qualities, the Under 19 Boys were disappointed to lose their title but they still did us proud. Both Girls' Teams showed tremendous improvement and their attitude to the game and their enjoyment of it was great to see. It was good to see players from such a wide spread of teams included in the squads. The Association owes a great debt to the hardwork of this Squad Staff who have given such a lot of their time to our Juniors. I was very proud that these Coaches, Managers and Players were representing SWAVA.

In the National League it was the Ladies who lead the way with Atlas Wessex gaining promotion to Division 1 and Whitefield to Division 11.

Ladies Volleyball is growing within the Region but it still needs a lot of development, we must find more ways of attracting Ladies into the game,
LET'S DO IT !

If we are to develop the game in the SW to an even greater degree we must have more administrators. It is good to see areas taking a greater interest in Regional affairs but we are short of Officers, so how about

some Players who are nearing the end of their playing careers putting something back in.

Despite the success of our Junior Regional Teams, the Junior Championships were cancelled through lack of interest. We must develop Juniors if we don't want Volleyball to die. THINK ABOUT IT AND ACT NOW.

We have just had the best SW Championships ever and I don't think that any praise is high enough for the work of the Woodspring Association. This comparatively young Association showed some of us veterans the way it should be done. Many, Many, Thanks.

So to the future, I would like you all to act on the following points:-

AREAS must produce a development plan, when the Executive know your needs then we can work towards them together.

LADIES VOLLEYBALL is an essential target, let's find more players. We must give Ladies Volleyball the respect it deserves.

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL must be developed. How about every Club adopting a School or Youth Club?

In conclusion I would like to thank all the SWAVA Officers for their excellent work in the past year. Remember, where SWAVA leads other Regions of the EVA follow - LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY

Brian Jones. Chairman.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurers Report is being audited at present but will be available at the AGM.

The Secretary holds an expenses account to pay for postage etc. These figures will also be included in the full audited accounts:

SECRETARY'S EXPENSES ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE 1987/8

Postage	£632.43
Typing	£211.26
Stationery	£120.74
Photocopying	£ 45.00
Telephone	£ 23.00
Gifts	£ 22.79
Computer programme	£ 2.00
Miscellaneous	£ 2.28

Total	£1073.00

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

I am pleased to report the continuation of the sponsorship of the association by Girobank. Their agreement to take up the option of the second and third years of the agreement was based on the success of the first years organisation and publicity.

The sponsorship has allowed the S.W. to further improve the quality of its publications: the comprehensive handbook sent to all clubs, the quarterly newsletter supplied to each affiliated player and the entry booklets, posters etc.

League volleyball has flourished, with three divisions in the regional league involving 30 teams (7 up on last season). The local areas of Gloucestershire, Avon, Woodspring, Wiltshire, Poole, Weymouth, N. Devon, Plymouth and Cornwall have strong local leagues which continue to provide improved teams to move through into regional league.

SWVA has expressed to the EVA competitions Commission its concern that there is still no formal qualification structure for promotion from regional to national league. This we feel is an urgent need.

Two local leagues are not mentioned above - these areas are Guernsey and Jersey which both have thriving local leagues. Beeches from Jersey took part with much success in the Kestours Cup, this season.

I am sorry to report that at the time of writing affiliations have not reached last seasons levels. This is due mainly to the problems association with the late affiliation of those bodies that block affiliate. We are however also concerned at the slow rate of growth, in the number of open, active volleyball clubs.

A successful development this season has been the establishment of the SW Development Centre funded by the SW Sports Council, Girobank, an EVA grant and by SWVA. It has provided top national coaches for a days coaching in local areas to the benefit of players who would not normally be able to receive such coaching. Courses have been arranged in Cornwall, N Devon, Plymouth, Wiltshire, Woodspring (Avon) and a regional ladies course. The invited coaches have been Dave Joy, Steve Nuth, Steve Spooner, Jefferson Williams and Barry Swann.

Unfortunately the regional has not organised many coaching award courses in the past year - partly due to the restructuring of the awards but also due to an unwillingness of players to become qualified coaches. On this we will have to work hard.

March 6th 1988
March 27th 1988
March 6th 1989
April 21st 1989
April 28th 1988

One of the most fruitful methods that the association has found to increase the involvement and quality of its member teams is to Senior Champions, Ladies Introductory Tournament Inter-League Champions. In addition we are grateful to clubs and local areas for their organisation of open tournaments which we hope teams from other areas will join.

The SW Senior Championships was a great success and compliments are due to the local organising committee from Woodspring Volleyball Association for the way in which the event ran so smoothly.

Unfortunately the SW Junior Championships - the mini volley and the U.17 and U19 were all cancelled due to lack of entries. This is a pity in a region that was so proud of junior structure. Part of the problem I feel is the lack of a Junior Development Officer - if there is anyone prepared to take on this vital role- please come along to the AGM and volunteer.

Having been critical of the junior competitions, I would like to congratulate the Regional Junior Squad coaches, Gill Harrison, Mandy Honper, Barry Swann and; Lyn and Geoff Allen. The U.17 boys took the national junior title and while the others did not win trophies they drew lots of praise for their effort and spirit at the national championships at Nottingham.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to all the administrators that make volleyball and volleyball development possible- in particular my fellow SW officers and all the Area Secretaries.

R. Richards,;
Secretary S.W.V.A.

COACHING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

This season has seen the emergence of the restructured coaches awards:

Level I equivalent to the old teachers award and preliminary.

Level II equivalent to club coach.

level III equivalent to advanced coach.

The financial support which the region has received from Girobank, Sports Council and EVA has meant that a full development centre programme has been possible during the season and the region has been lucky to have had some of the country's top coaches staffing these courses.

The following courses have take place or are planned for the near future.

COACHING

Level I - Bristol university	June 21st/22nd 1988
Swindon	September 10th/11th 1988
level II Cornwall	August 21st -27th 1988
Level III - Cornwall	August 21st -27th 1988
CSLA Bristol	June 12th 19th 26th 1988

Player development

Men/women regional / local	Plymouth	September 12th/13th 1987
Men/women " / national	Barnstaple	January 10th 1988
Men Regional /national	Chippenham	March 6th 1988
Men Regional/National	Cornwall	March 5th 1988
Women local/regional	Cornwall	March 6th 1988
Men regional/national	Woodspring	April 24th 1988
Women National	Stroud	April 24th 1988

W. Martin.

JUNIOR SQUADS REPORT

After a slow response from junior players in the South West the squads gradually began to take shape after Christmas.

One of the main aims of the squads is to expose young players to top level coaching. Therefore its pleasing to see players from all over the South West attending training sessions.

From the training sessions 4 teams were selected to represent the South West at the Inter Regional Junior Championships at Nottingham in April. A decision was made to take young (talented) Under 17 teams which will hopefully play together for the next 2 - 3 years.

Once again Lynne and Geoff Allen did an excellent job in preparing the Mens teams with the Under 19's finishing 5th and the Under 17's winning the cadet event. The ladies squads flourished under the guidance of Barry Swann with the Under 19 team coached by Mandy Hooper finishing a creditable 4th. A very young Under 17 team took 7th place. The ladies teams benefited from the help of team managers Terry Brooke and Lindy Morrison.

It is important to note that the squads are truly representative with players coming together from pockets of volleyball all over the South West.

The main problem threatening the development of the squads is - finance. It cost £1000 to send the teams to the Regional Championships. That is solely for travel and accommodation over the weekend. Training costs are in addition I would like the South West to formally ask the E.V.A. to review its policy on funding of squads and the Regional Championships.

Immediate Aims.

1. Appoint Squad coaches backup team of assistant coaches and managers.
2. Written policy stating aims of the squads.
3. Guaranteed financing for next 3 years.

Gillian Harrison.

CORNWALL VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 1987/88

At the end of its 7th year the Cornwall Association has consolidated the progress made in the previous six years of its existence.

The highlight for the players was the two day visit to the county of Barry Swann who gave a splendid session for the men on the first day, the fruits of which are already being seen on the court. The second day was for ladies improvement and despite a hitch in the booking arrangements (not the fault of the organisers), an excellent day was enjoyed by the Cornish players and some from Plymouth who joined us for the day. Barry's organisational skills in a less than perfect hall were an object lesson to us all on how to keep players busy, working and happy.

In the league season just completed, the two Services sides have dominated the competition with Culdrose proving easy winners despite not always having their strongest team available. They dropped only 5 sets during the season. St. Mawgan ended in a comfortable second position without really having threatened Culdrose supremacy. Helston, having lost 3 of their starting 6 at Christmas had to be content with third place. Behind them level on points were the two most improved sides in the first division, Countryman A and Fire Service, with some honing of technique and the addition of taller players to contest the centre of the net in attack and defence these teams must surely be looking for honour next season.

The Second division of the league was won for the second year in succession by Countryman B, who were never really threatened. Cornwall College came a creditable second and surprised many people by their competitiveness. Most exciting of all was the presence of Folkuth Spikers in third place. A new team this season, their appearance in a tournament in November was welcome evidence of interest in the East of the County but their playing standard indicated that much needed to be done. Much has been done, and their playing standard in recent weeks has been a revelation. Roland Mogg is to be congratulated on the immense amount of time and energy he has invested in this tremendous achievement. This organisation and enthusiasm provide an example which all would do well to follow.

On the regional scene, Helston entered men's and women's teams in the Regional Leagues, with the women having a very successful season while the men have adjusted to the demand of the Premier League and rest in the middle of the table. Culdrose have been playing in the Plymouth League and have been as dominant there as in the Cornwall League. It is intended to enter a men's composite team in the Regional League next season which will further improve standards among the feeder clubs. It is hoped that ladies hoping to experience volleyball at the higher level will form a composite team with Helston Ladies so that the strongest side can be entered.

An official's award course was organised and successful candidates emerged. Another course is planned for June and it is hoped that every club will persuade members to take the course and provide a larger pool of qualified officials.

A very successful one day tournament was sponsored by Kerrier Sports Council at Can Brea Leisure Centre in November. This was won by Helston with St. Mawgan as runners up. The first set in this final was described as the most exciting volleyball played in Cornwall to date. The Plate Final was won by Countryman B who defeated Helston B.

Volleyball is now established in both Leisure Centres and this must increase interest in the sport.

A Beach Tournament was organised in July with a good turnout, but an unseasonal Gale meant that local rules had to be instituted: e.g. serve was carried out from the 3 metre line when facing the gale. Have you ever played volleyball with A Force 9 bully kicking sand in your face? A beach tournament is planned for this summer on a more sheltered beach.

Those clubs from the Regional leagues which we have welcomed down here will know just how remote we are. It is worth pointing out that the bulk of the volleyball played in Cornwall is played in Kerrier District which with a population of 52,000 stretched from coast to coast and is a mere 20 miles from Lands End. How many other areas of this population size can boast 13 active and competitive teams. With courses organised, leagues vibrant and a welcome surge of interest from the schools, volleyball in Cornwall is set for a major expansion in the next few years.

Tom Fisher.
Coaching Secretary.

WOODSPRING VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT.

The past year has been an interesting one for the Woodspring Volleyball Association with a league and cup programme of fixtures being played on a local level and the Association involved in the preparations as hosts for the Girobank South West Senior Volleyball Championships (May 14/15) being held in the area for the first time.

Our league programme of fixtures ends in June and it is clear that the overall standard of the teams involved has improved with several clubs continuing to attract new players as well as develop existing ones.

A League Knock-out Shield competition was initiated at the start of the season for the first time and has been well supported.

Young players from Priory and Churchill Volleyball clubs have represented the South West at under 17 and under 19 level reflecting the efforts put in to junior development by the two clubs.

Priory continues to be our most successful club with a mens team in the National League (Div IV South) and the South West league and their ladies winning the ladies division of the South West League. Priory mens team reached the clubs first national final - The Kestours Cup Plate final - but were unable to celebrate this milestone with a victory.

The Association were delighted to welcome the Great Britain Disabled Volleyball team to the area for a training weekend and players enjoyed the experience of playing with and against the disabled teams in a friendly tournament.

Players from several clubs in the area attended a player development centre recently welcoming the opportunity of a days coaching from Dave Joy (EVA Junior Development Officer).

The Association is now looking forward to the Girobank South West Senior Championships in May and the Woodspring Beach Tournament in Weston-super-Mare on Sunday August 14th.

Shaun Cross
Secretary W.V.A.

NORTH DEVON VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

LOCAL LEAGUE

This season has been very successful for ever-one involved with volleyball in North Devon. The honors in division one went to the Sunward Surf Club as their A and B teams came first and second respectively. While in division two, with six fixtures left to play, the title looks like heading to Bidefort Skip Hire.

With four ladies teams now playing in North Devon, the prospects of forming a ladies league is beginning to look brighter.

OFFICIALS

Another referees course has been held during the season, taken by Brian Jones. The league now has a good percentage of qualified referees.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Mike McKeever came down to Earnstaple for the day on Sunday 10th January he ran a player improvement course for both men and women which proved to be very successful and rewarding for all participants.

Some of the local ladies also travelled up to Stroud on Sunday 24th April for an improvement course which was taken by Jefferson Williams, this course also proved to be very beneficial.

TOURNAMENTS

The Girobank South West Inter-League competition was held at the North Devon Leisure Centre on Saturday 16th April. Seven teams from all over the Court West contended for the title, and after many close games, the eventual winners were Sunward Surf.

This season also saw four of our local teams competing in the South West Leagues', all teams gave a good account of themselves with the local ladies team finishing best of all in their league.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

Volleyball is now being played in most of the secondary schools in the area, this can be seen clearly at Pilton school as Roger Tyler a teacher at Pilton coaches the pupils and then introduces them into the local league through his club, Tow Garages, thus bringing new blood into the sport every year.

S. Baker. Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT

POOLE AND DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

National League

Our National League teams have had mixed fortunes over the last year. After a poor start, W.H. Whites rallied to finish 8th in Division 1, their highest ever league position. However, Atlas Wessex lost the Division 1 place they did so well to attain last seas, finishing on the same points total as Polonia but being relegated on set difference. Atlas Wessex Ladies were promoted to Division 1 after finishing 2nd to Portsmouth Scorpions and their Mens second team were promoted to Division IV South.

Local Competitions.

Atlas Wessex dominated Division I of the Local League, filling the top four positions. The two clubs new to the league this season, Winfrith and Reborn, did well in Division II, finishing 1st and 4th respectively. Purbeck were runners-up in this division. Ferndown were Division II winners, with Guys Marsh second. The K.O. Cup was won by Atlas Wessex, beating W.H. White 3-0 in the final. Winfrith took the Division III Cup Final. Two new competitions were introduced this season, both of which proved sufficiently popular to organise on a regular basis (sponsorship is to be sought for both events). The Handicap Cup, where teams received a handicap of up to 12 points per set based on League position, turned up some entertaining matches, with two Atlas Wessex teams contesting the final. However, the top 3 teams in Division I and the Division II winners reached the semi finals, suggesting that the handicaps were not sufficiently severe. In response to the South West Sports Council's desire to promote Ladies volleyball, a mini-tournament was run at the end of the season. Atlas Wessex won, with Splitz second but the benefits of this competition may be yet to come, with the hope of attracting other ladies teams into the league and the possible future inauguration of either a Ladies League or a Mixed League.

Coaching and Refereeing

In January a development Centre for U.17 and U.19 boys was run at Poole by Geoff Allen. It is hoped to hold a coaching session for ladies, both beginners and experienced players, before the start of next season.

Paul Pinhorne was awarded Grade I refereeing status and Phil Francis Grade II status. A referees course was held at Poole in September, run by Brian Jones, at which there were 9 successful candidates at Grade IV.

Area Status

Our original application for Area Status apparently went astray in the post. Our second attempt was made just before we were notified of the change of address of the EVA'S administrative offices and has also gone missing. We hope that the saying "Third time lucky" holds true and that the current submission is successful. Meanwhile the EVA recognises Poole as holding Category B Status whereby Area Status has been approved pending a further submission of relevant papers.

Rick Gunn. Secretary P.D.V.A.

WILTSHIRE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

This season the Wiltshire area ran a mens league of 9 teams and for the first time a ladies league of 5 teams. Again this year Swindon had a mens team in National League Division 3 and a ladies team in the South West League.

This season has been our busiest yet with the first event on the calendar being two 'come and try' sessions which were a great success receiving publicity in the local press and on local radio. 25 new faces turned up to the sessions held at Wootton Bassett over the two weeks.

The 'Rec' the new Highworth Sports Centre, together with local players from our Thames Water team, ran 4 taster sessions to test the response in the area.

We plan to run more of these in the future and in particular a junior taster day which, if successful, will be followed by weekly training.

In February we had a grade 4 referee course with 24 participants, most from our local teams with a few new faces from a local sports centre as well.

In March we held a development centre for nation/regional league standard men with Steve Nuth the Speedwell coach as our coach for the day. The course was attended by 17 players who all benefitted from the expert coaching and I hope the team coaches, or potential team coaches, learned a great deal on how to coach their teams. We plan to run another course for our ladies and local league standard men in the near future.

In April we had our End of Season County Cup Tournament which proved to be an exciting and competitive day with Swindon winning the final in a hard fought match against Wootton Bassett (Cable) 2-1. This was followed later in the week by our first Presentation Evening including a hot supper and disco. Tracey Barker (Swindon) received the ladies players player of the year award and a stunned Les Symons (Wootton Bassett) the mens award. With almost 100 people attending this was a successful and very enjoyable venture.

This year we entered a mens, and for the first time a ladies team in the County Championships at Leeds which proved to be a very enjoyable weekend.

In June we will be running a county schools tournament, with the help of EVA grant aid received, at Wroughton Ridgeway School.

For the coming season our main priority has got to be junior development but who can we find to find the time to find our future players? As part of this aim we are running a level one coaching course in September.

Paul Francis. Secretary.

WILTSHIRE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

This season the Wiltshire Association has had a very successful year and for the first time a ladies league of 12 teams. Again this year Swindon had a mens team in the National League Division 2 and a ladies team in the South West League. This season we had a very successful first event on the calendar being the 1st and 2nd county cup finals a great success receiving publicity in the local press and on local radio. 12 new faces turned up to the season held at Wootton Bassett on the 10th October.

Helped by the Wiltshire Association and with local players from our towns after the first 2 weeks of the season to fast the response in the area. We plan to run more of these in the future and in particular a junior section day which if successful will be followed by weekly training.

In February we had a grade 4 referee course with 24 participants, most from our local teams with a few new faces from a local sports centre as well. In March we held a development centre for national/county teams standard men with Steve with the 2nd level coach for the day. The course was attended by 14 players who all benefited from the expert coaching and I hope the team coaches or potential team coaches, learned a great deal on how to coach their teams. We plan to run another course for our ladies and local league standard men in the next future.