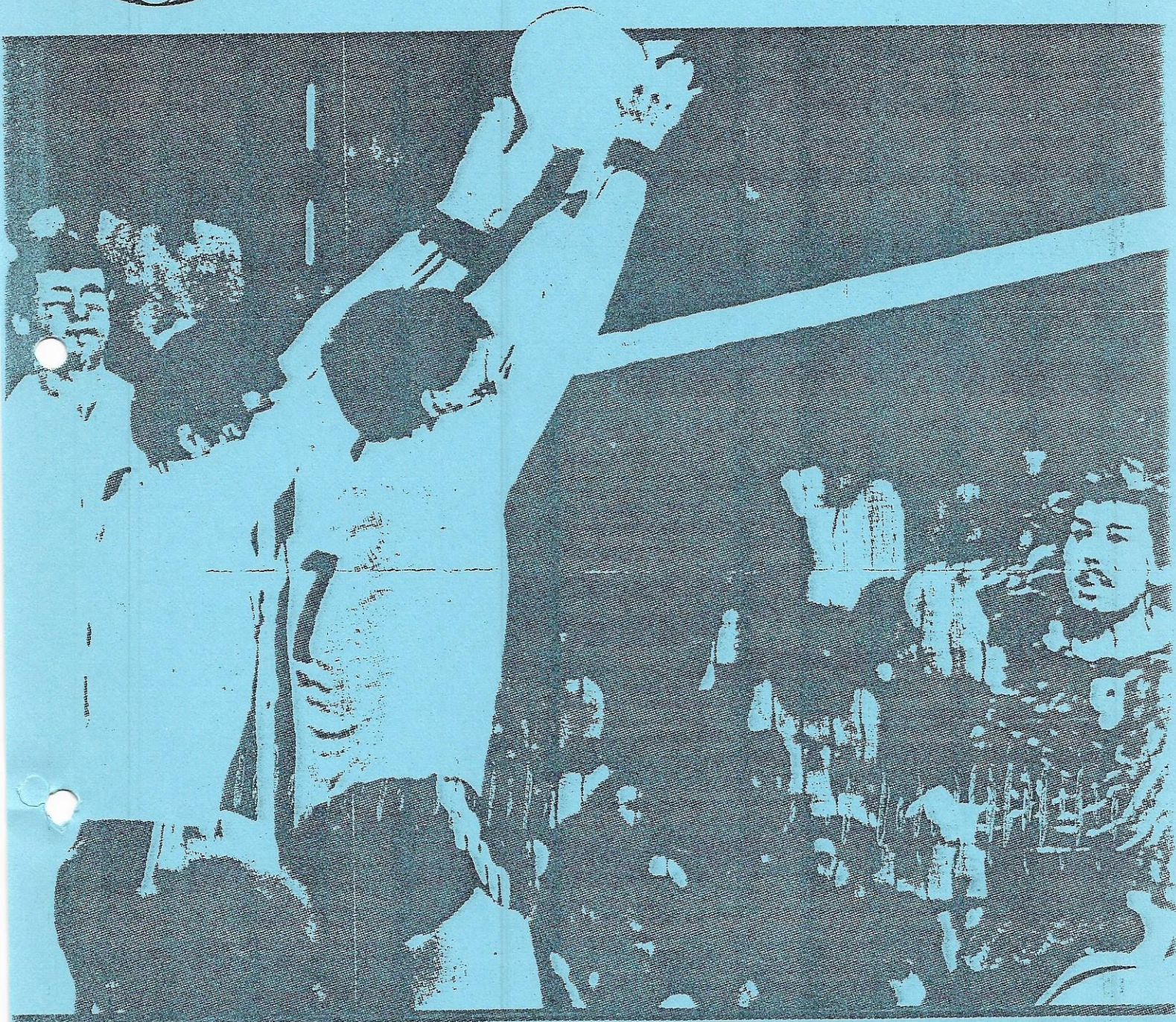


# **SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT 1988/89**

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#### Chairman's report

This year has been another successful one for SWVA. The competition in the leagues has been as keen as ever and the Presentation of the matches has improved considerably. It has been encouraging to see the amount of media publicity that has been obtained throughout the region.

The forthcoming SWVA club championships in Weston super mare will be the last event to be sponsored by Girobank. Over the last three years the Girobank sponsorship has helped enormously in the development of volleyball in the South West and I would like to thank Girobank for all their help and encouragement. David Hide in particular has given freely of his time and expertise. It is a great pity that National League commitments and lack of interest will mean that the regions top clubs will not be represented at the championships.

During the year we saw the passing of two great stalwarts of SWVA Bert Williams and Dave Kinder. Both were unceasing in their work for the game and will be sorely missed but neither will be forgotten. Rest well Friends.

This year saw the staging of the British Mens International championships at Weston super Mare. The region once more excelled itself with superb organisation. Everyone performed their duties with skill, enthusiasm and good humour. I would like to express my thanks to everyone concerned. The expressions of thanks I have received from the B.V.F, the E.V.A. and all the competing teams show the high esteem in which they hold the SWVA. It was particularly pleasing that when we discovered that Bath was not available for the tournament we had three other areas willing to stage the event.

The region Junior squads again represented us very creditably at the Inter-regional championships. It was pleasing to note that the squads included players from a much wider area this year thus showing that more areas are putting a greater emphasis on Junior development. We still need a Junior Development Officer for the region. Any offers?

In conclusion I would like to thank the officers and Executive members for an excellent years work, in particular Ron Richards for his exceptional efforts. I would like to remind everyone that we still need all the help we can get and the main thing which is holding us back is lack of help. So come on it's up to You!

Brian Jones.

#### Secretary's Annual report

I write this report having spent two hectic but most enjoyable weekends at Hutton Moore Leisure centre.

For the first weekend we acted as hosts to the British Mens Championships - superbly organised by the helpers from Woodspring Volleyball Association. It was a pity that so few turned up to see the matches, in particular the high standard final between England and Scotland.

On the second weekend the same team of organisers repeated their feat and provided an excellent Girobank S.W. Championships. This year an innovation was the Division 2 championships. It was second division only in comparison to the higher division that weekend. A few years ago the standards seen in this competition would have graced the higher division - so much has the standard of volleyball improved in the last 10 years.

Congratulations go to Whitefield who took both titles. It was a pity that difficulties over EVA competitions prevented Speedwell and Redwood Lodge fmen from taking part. It was perhaps more of a pity that other NVL Division One mens and ladies teams did not take part. I hope that they do not forget beginnings! This 'official' championships does provide teams from lower divisions to play the better teams. Lets hope we see a full turn out next year.

The event also saw the end of our three year sponsorship agreement with Girobank. They have been as pleased with the results as we have been but unfortunately their cooperate policy has changed. I would like to express my thanks to David Hide of Girobank for all the effort he has put into the sponsorship over the past three years. Hopefully it may be possible to find a sponsor for next year - but it takes time (and often luck) and time is in short supply.

I would suggest that lack of voluntary help is still our major problem. We often hear comments of lack of money and we could do with more finance to provide some of the things we need. We have been in a situation however this season when finance allocated to certain development projects has not been fully spent because of the lack of organisers (and sometimes lack of interest).

The level of affiliations has increased again this year - up to 194 clubs, despite a lack of affiliations from Guernsey, who seem to have cut themselves off from S.W. volleyball. The nearest region in terms of affiliation is the Eastern region with 156 clubs. So we remain ahead of the pack, though for how much longer I would not be certain.

The overall picture is however patchy - there are few clubs in Somerset and there are few ladies leagues around the region - two of the problems identified in our three Development Plan to be finalised at the AGM - for which generous Sports Council funding will be available.

The regional competitions have been ably supervised by Geoff Giddy and we have been much responsibility exercised by the teams with fewer fixtures re-arranged. There seems to be much interest from new entrants for next seasons league.

Coaching and refereeing development have not kept pace with general development this season: and need to be both increased and better coordinated.

Congratulations go to Gill Harrison, Geoff Allen, Lyn Allen and Mandy Hooper for the success of the SW Junior squads in Telford. We are most grateful to them for the valuable time they put in to provide high level coaching for these youngsters. It is good to see so many young players involved from so many clubs, particularly in the girls squads.

Later this year we will see the 20th birthday of SWVA which has developed from a handful of clubs based in Bristol, Poole, and Exeter. My thanks go to all the people who make the continuing development possible - particularly the SW officers and the Area Secretaries. Thank you for replying to my frequent requests for information, articles etc. I hope that the membership value your efforts and express their appreciation from time to time.

R. Richards.

#### Regional Coaching Administrator. Annual Report

In this my first year in the post the region has hosted several courses both in coaching awards and player improvement days. There have also been some level one coaching awards organised without prior reference to me. Although it is not pre-requisite to notify the administrator before courses are organised I believe it would help us all if this region were able to advertise all courses being stages and possibly improve attendances.

The player improvement courses are proving to be successful but this year the response from some areas was poor. We have tried to let people know about the availability of these courses with articles in the time out magazine and I also followed up with several phone calls but some areas just did not react.

I would like to thank the coaches of the regional junior squads who have once again achieved outstanding results.

A level two course has been booked for November 4, 5 and 12. The venue is still to be finalised but already there have been some enquiries from people wishing to attend. Also I have been asked by Reg Beck at North Devon College to arrange a level one course to coincide with the end of the BTEL course in April of every year.

Courses organised in 1988/89.

Level one coaching.	Jersey -- B. Swann	Marjons College - R Stenning
	Plymouth - A Mosley	

## Player Improvement Courses

Cornwall - Men (S. Nuth.) Women (K. Harvey)  
Barnstaple I - Women (B Swann).  
Swindon - Men (B Swann)  
Plymouth + Men (S Nuth)  
Ottery St. Mary - women (B. Swann)

I regret that I will be unable to continue in this post next year. I have had some problems this year which have resulted in me not being able to fulfil the role in the best way. I would like to thank the executive and membership for the support in the last year and wish to confirm that I will continue to support the region whenever possible.

B. Swann

## Report of SWVA Regional Representative

In my capacity as SWVA regional representative I am a member of the EVA regional representative Committee (R.R.C) and I attend EVA National Executive Committee (N.E.C) meetings as an Executive member.

Over the last year the main topic of concern of the RRC and also of the senior officers of the E.V.A. has been the need to increase the importance and influence of the regions within the E.V.A. We have been concerned that the regions are not able to get their voices heard and their needs acted upon.

Various discussions have taken place and ideas have been floated to improve the position of the regions but all of these were very recently overtaken by a plan to change the structure of the E.V.A. Administration itself. A paper was produced by one of the E.V.A. vice chairman Ken Edwards, and some of the E.V.A. officers attended a meeting prior to the last RRC/NEC meetings to formulate a plan.

When the RRC meeting took place we found that one of the ideas was that the RRC would become a Commission which would result in the regions losing their individual votes on the NEC. While being a Commission was thought to have its good points the Regional representatives were not prepared to agree to lose our NEC votes and certainly not to agree to do so without sufficient discussion and consultation within our regions. This resulted in a block vote by the members of the RRC against the newly proposed E.V.A. Administrative structure when the NEC meeting took place. The result of all this is that the position of the regions within the E.V.A is still evolving and discussions of a new E.V.A. structure will have to continue for possible discussion at the 1990 E.V.A. A.G.M.

I hope you can appreciate that this subject is very important to our region because of our need to get our views across at National E.V.A. level and that we need to consider within our own region what route we would like the E.V.A. to take in its future form.

The attempts within the RRC to get our views across has met with some notable success over the last year. At last years E.V.A. AGM the members passed a proposal concerning Alcohol sponsorship. This thorny problem had been unsuccessfully discussed for many years within the E.V.A. but as a result of a proposal from the RRC the E.V.A. were able to put forward an agreed form of words which were accepted at its AGM. Currently we are discussing the subject of competition below the National Volleyball League (N.V.L.) Generally within England there is a need for regional leagues and for feeder competitions for entry into the N.V.L. It may surprise some in our region to find that not all regions have the leagues and qualifying competitions that we have in our region, but this is the case. Some regional organisations are very weak because their constituent counties/ areas exist autonomously and in some cases see no need for a regional organisation. Within the RRC we have been discussing how to provide these regional competitions where there are none and at the last NEC we put forward our recommendations which are to be taken further by the Competitions Commission. We hope this will lead to significant improvements throughout the E.V.A. competitions structure.

Other areas where we are having some influence is in our discussions on how to improve communications between the E.V.A. and its members, in how to increase the numbers of women playing volleyball and to provide starter packs for those

entering the game. At our RRC meetings we always discuss the agenda of the NEC and when we attend that meeting we make a concerted effort to influence discussions to the benefit of our regions and our members.

In the immediate future the E.V.A. will be holding its annual Administration Conference in June. The Regional Representatives have been tasked with organising this event and we hope to make the best possible use of the opportunity which this conference provides.

The preceding paragraphs are just a summary of what has been an eventful year for myself and the other members of the RRC. I hope they provide an insight into what has been happening at National Level.

D. Williams.

### Plymouth and District Volleyball Association

At its AGM in September, it soon became apparent that the coming season would see the Association expand and strengthen its position. A lively meeting saw a greater determination from member clubs to make the League, the Association's backbone, function more effectively. A new post of Administration Officer was created to look after routine League matters and circulation of information, thus easing a portion of the Secretary's workload.

The league was to be formed of 3 divisions of 6 teams, based on the previous season's results, with a separate Ladies Division, also of 6 teams. The League again benefitted from its wide catchment area, attracting teams from as far afield as Exeter and Teignmouth.

To date, with a few weeks of the season remaining, the likely outcome is as follows:

- Div 1 - Plymouth Pumas
- Div 2 - Marjons
- Div 3 - Poly A/ Teignmouth/ Prison service
- Ladies - Plymouth Pumas.

Thanks to the efforts of its Administration Officer, the Association has achieved its best local publicity yet, with regular features and tables in local papers. It is hoped that a sponsor may show interest for the forthcoming season.

Apart from the League set-up, the Association has been particularly active this season in other areas;

During Ladies Development Year in Devon, it is gratifying to see the only Ladies League in Devon centered on Plymouth.

Despite the non-appearance of some teams due to bad weather, a Ladies Development Tournament was held in late February with Teignmouth as eventual winners. A perpetual Shield was provided by the P & D Association in the hope that this will become an annual event.

Unfortunately the Ladies Development Course was cancelled at the last minute due to difficulties with the coach.

In their first season for some years, a Plymouth Ladies team have been successful in the S.W. League, taking third position.

The Association's most successful men's S.W. League representatives, Pumas, had another good year, finishing as runners-up in the Premier Division. Hopefully they will soon join Torexe in the National League. The Association boasted Torexe, Kitto and Navy Tridents as further representatives as Regional level.

A men's Development Course was staged at Burrington School in conjunction with the N. Devon Association in February and was well attended.

Further qualified referees were provided as a result of a course held together with Marjons College in January. There are, however, several clubs with no qualified referees. Progress on this important issue will continue to be slow if smaller teams rely on the larger clubs to keep providing referees. The widespread use of qualified officials will help improve the standard of volleyball within the Association.

For the first time, the Association staged a SWVA Tournament in Plymouth with great success. The S.W. Inter League Championships were played on April 23rd at the Kitto Centre, with 8 entries, the host club reaching the final.

Representation in the S.W. Regional junior squads was considerable, with a player selected for a National squad for the first time.

It is anticipated that an outdoor tournament will be staged for the first time in early July. Excellent facilities have been found at Ivybridge, with only minimal entrance fees required.

It is hoped that the next season will allow the Association to build on the excellent foundations of the past 12 months. The aims remain - to actively encourage players to take up and enjoy the game; to give players the opportunity to play the game at their desired level within the Association; to continue to provide Leagues, Tournaments, Development opportunities and other courses and events for its members; to ensure that the sport and the Association achieve a higher profile without losing their 'friendly' reputations.

A particular aspiration for the next year is that School's Volleyball might be resurrected in Plymouth. Through its links with the local P.E. Teachers Organisation it is hoped that the P & D Association can provide the necessary advice and instruction to enable this body to provide volleyball as a serious alternative sport within the School Games Curriculum.

Officers 1988/89	-	Chairman	Peter Sizer
		Treasurer	Rick Dreher
		Secretary	Tony Symons
		Admin Officer	Jeff Brenton.

Tony Symons  
Secretary.

#### Junior Squads Coordinator

Each season sees the growth of the Junior squads. This being no exception. The number of players attending trials has doubled since 1987. There are more training sessions, weekend training caps, and a gradual increase in the coaching staff.

The main competition, The Regional Championships took place at Telford in April. The South West was represented by 4 teams. Both the Under 17 girls and the Under 19 men finished in runner up position with the under 19 ladies third and the Under 17 boys (a very young team) finishing 5th. The weekend was undoubtedly a success not only in terms of the final placings but bringing several of the young players to the attention of the England coaches.

I think with the growth of the squads in recent years the regional coaches are now working on 2 levels;

- 1) with raw beginners who need basic skills training
- 2) with established squad players some of whom are on the fringes of England places.

It is not possible to cater for both groups at the same session so I suggest 2 types of session.

- 1) Player development days for beginners 13/14/15 years.
- 2) player improvement days for squad members and a few on the fringes.

A detailed training programme will be put together once the playing dates for National league and S.W. League are available and 'free' weekend noted.

Certainly the squads are successful in both their results and in attracting young players. However the financial implications of running flourishing junior squads are considerable. The weekend of the Junior Championships cost over £3000. This takes no account of the training costs or equipment costs which have to be met by the S.W.

To ensure a future for the squads there is a need for sound financial backing.

SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

AREA REPORTS 1988/89

WOODSPRING VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

This season the Woodspring area has been running an open league consisting of ten teams. Some of the teams consist purely of male players but most play mixed teams. The league has experimented this year with teams playing one best of five sets match per evening with neutral officials from another club. The main problem expected with this format, that of teams not fulfilling their officiating obligations, has not arisen. However, clubs with two teams in the league have found that they have little time to practice. This problem is also compounded by three teams having the same venue. King Alfred V.C. in their first season in the league, are in the top half of the table and the Association hopes that the example of their success will encourage other new clubs in the area to enter the league competition.

Woodsprings only active referees Dave Grundy and Jues Crow ran a basic introductory refereeing course attended by players from every team in the league. Its aim was to give them a chance to gain a little more knowledge and confidence about refereeing and encourage them to attend a Grade 4 course to be held in June.

Priory V.C.'s South West Mens and Ladies teams have both won their respective league titles and continue to be the areas most successful club.

Priory also host their annual outdoor tournament in September and Churchill V.C. celebrate their third year by adding a new outdoor tournament to the calender on Sunday June 11th.

Woodspring are proud to be involved in this years Mens National Championships and to be hosting the Girobank South West Senior Championships again this year.

Shaun Cross.  
Secretary W.V.A.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION.

The G.V.A. year began once again in September with the start of the new league season. The mens league continued to be made up of two divisions of 6 teams each although the teams themselves went through some changes. The Ladies league gained one new team and now has five teams.

The League were as follows :-

<u>MEN DIV 1</u>	<u>Men DIV2</u>	<u>WOMENS LEAGUE</u>
Stroud V.C.	Time-out Dowty	Stroud Ladies
Dulux Glos	Spirax Trappers	Beaufort V.C.
Phoenix	R.A.F. Innsworth	Phoenix
S?P.A.S.M.	Schindler Lifters	S.P.A.S.M.
K.H.S. Abergavenny	Lydney Interceptors	Dolphins
English & American Insurance	Beaufort V.C.	

Although there are still one or two matches left to be played, most of the top places have been decided.

MEN DIV 1 winners	- Stroud V.C.	Runners up	Dulux Glos
Men Div 2	" Time-out Dowty	" "	Spirax Trappers
Womens	" Stroud Ladies	" "	to be decided

The last SWVA AGM coincided with the G.V.A. summer tournament at Northleach. Once again the weather was fine and the competition a success although as usual several teams failed to turn up on the day. Stroud were the winners with Churchill V.C. runners up. This years tournament will again be at Northleach on the same day as their Charter festival, 24th June. Entries are still open to any teams interested.

About the same time our Winter League was starting the Gloucestershire Schools Association was formed. They have a difficult job ahead but their first organising committee should be well up to the task.

Their officers are :-

Chairman	-	Rob Hall. Bournside School, Cheltenham.
Secretary	-	Jerry Spear
Treasurer	-	Lesley Kirk Beaufort School, Gloucester.

They have various schemes in mind for 'faster' and 'come and try it' sessions. The C.V.A. will try to help them out whenever possible.

A new venture this season has been the Knockout Cup. This cup competition was run on an home and away basis at club venues in its initial stages but the semi-final and finals will be on neutral venues. A Place competition has also been run in parallel to the cup for those teams knocked out in the first round. This new competition has provided interest and competition for our teams and we are grateful to Keith Gooding of Time-out Dowty for organising and running it.

The Ladies league, although small in number of teams, is hoping to expand in the near future. They would like to take up the offer made by the SWVA to participate in its development scheme and to use the scheme to increase the number of women players and teams. They are organising a group of workers to run the development scheme in Gloucestershire.

As our season draws to a close we are again hearing plans from our members for the next season. Last year Stroud mens and womens teams competed successfully in the National Volleyball League and both teams did well in the recent SWVA Championships at Weston super Mare. Also Dulux Glos played in the South West leagues. They are Time-out Dowty who also competed in the recent South West Championships at Weston. In our own G.V.A. Leagues we hear of teams planning to drop out but we also hope that some of the non-league teams in our area can be persuaded to join and replace them. We will not know what shape our leagues will take until a little later. Certainly not until after our A.G.M. On 8th July.

The 1988/89 season will end with a Barn dance planned for 9th June at which we will present the league trophies for the year. We hope that will bring our league year to a successful conclusion.

D. Williams.

#### WILTSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

This season was progressing successfully until the unexpected death of Chairman, David Kinder on the 19th January 1989.

The work he put in to Volleyball was greatly appreciated by the Committee, indeed, it was his drive that founded our Association and has taken us to our present level of activity. Only now is the full extent of his efforts being realised by players in our league.

This season we ran a league consisting of ten teams and mixed league tournaments throughout the year. Swindon men also have a team in National League three and are third at the moment looking to finish with their best ever position. Swindon also have a ladies team in the South West league. In general the standard of matches has continued to improve.

In September we ran a level 1 coaching award course with eleven successful participants and also two mens development courses attended by thirteen players each.



We are grateful to the EVA for the area status grant aid which was used to buy items of equipment for development use. We have already made good use of these in particular our junior development officer who has been visiting schools and also at a come and try session at Wootton Bassett.

Our publicity officer has also been doing a great job increasing publicity in general.

Future events are our end of season tournament, mens and ladies teams entered in the County Cup in Leeds and our presentation evening including disco and food.

Paul Francis  
Secretary.

#### CORNWALL COUNTY VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

As another long season draws to a close, we continue to see overall growth in the area, although sadly we have lost some of the older stalwarts from earlier days.

The two divisions of the local leagues have been more closely contested than last year, with the seeming impregnability of Culdrose in Div 1 being destroyed; by a series of postings and injury in the second half of the season. The title would seem to be bound towards Helston once again, who have recently benefitted from the return to Cornwall of former Area Secretary Russ Jameson.

Div 2 has been even close, with the Fleet Service B side undefeated for the early part of the season, only recently having been overtaken by Thin End Spikers 'A' who under the watchful eye of the evergreen Ken Harvey, will surely be a threat in the higher division next season if they continue in present form.

An encouraging factor this year has been the affiliation of several new schools in the area, and whilst none of those compete at league level as yet, we are perhaps at the threshold of a Junior Development Programme at long last.

It is also hoped that with careful management, and the possibility of outside financial assistance, we might see the rebirth of Ladies Volleyball in the area and perhaps even an introductory tournament and series of friendlies later in the year.

Luck has been varied for the two clubs competing in the Regional Leagues. Helston men in the Premier Division, mainly due to players moving on, had a fairly disastrous start to the season, though they have staged enough of a comeback to maintain their continued place in recent weeks. Their Ladies, too have suffered somewhat this year, but a proposed merger with some of the more experienced servicewomen from Culdrose augurs well for next season. The Seahawks, a composite team derived from three of the Div 1 sides have played together particularly well for their first year, and indeed are outside candidates for promotion to the Premier Division if all goes well in April.

Post the success of last year Player Development Course, we took advantage of Steve Nuth's demise at Speedwell to invite him to come down into the 'sticks' and an invaluable weekend was had by those who attended, with the ladies having their own separate day under Ken Harvey. It is universally agreed down here that these type of 'courses' are the most successful method of introducing good volleyball in our peculiar geographical situation.

Once again we have held a successful Officials Course since the last report, and we shall shortly be putting up some of those for upgrading. It is also hoped to hold another Coaching Course in the not too distant future and with the advent of the necessary N.C.F. courses at the local Leisure Centre, several people have expressed an interest in going on to the forthcoming Level 2 course in Plymouth.

Finally I would like to express my personal thanks to those Officials who give up so much of their time to ensure the continued growth of the game in the area, and also to the Regional Association for their tremendous backing, let us not forget the importance of Administration both at Area and regional levels.

Dave Robson. Chairman.