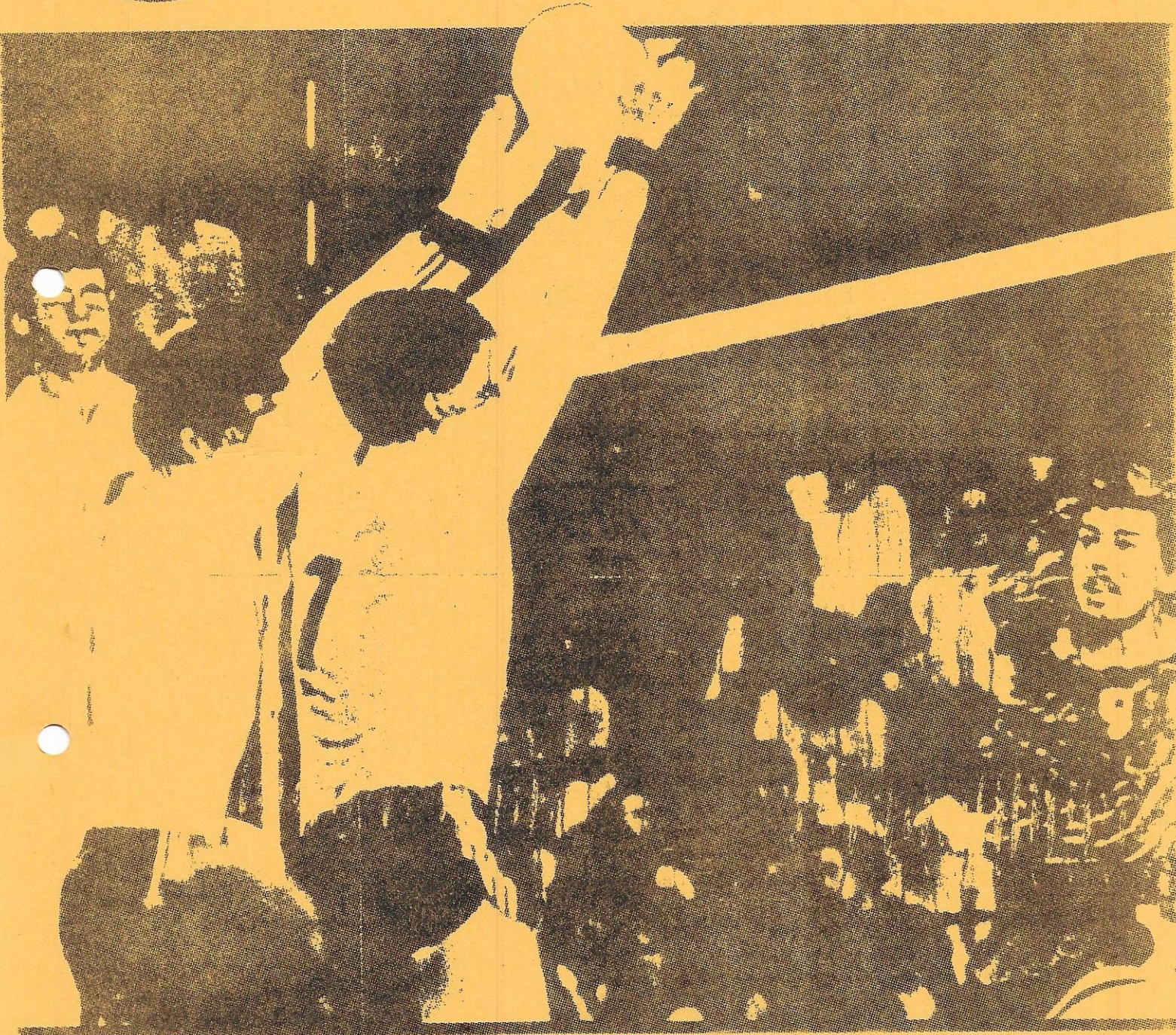


SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH WEST VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 1991

SECRETARY'S REPORT

After many years of growth in the number of affiliated clubs and schools it is sad to report a drop in the figures - down to 145 from 190 last season. They are in the main, schools who have not reaffiliated due, perhaps to changing financial regions in schools, but also perhaps due to changing policies in the EVA.

The arrival of Ralph Hippolyte as GB Coach has led to a revolution in the approach to coaching and a shift in priorities. The emphasis is now to be on developing the right conditions for the coaching of high quality young players. It also ties in quite well with changing Sports Council priorities.

This new emphasis is to be encouraged for the gains it is likely to bring. We will, though, need to beware of putting "all our eggs in one basket" - there is a danger that widespread grass roots development and support to the average player and average club will suffer.

We saw problems with the way the policies are carried out earlier this season when the age groups for the junior squads were changed without consultation, causing much disruption to the plans already made in this region. My attempt to reverse this policy for this season failed by one vote at EVA Executive, showing the concern felt about the changed policies.

Congratulations to the squads - we took U19 boys' and girls' trophies. It was a pity that we could not raise a U15 girls' team - our development plan must aim towards increasing the number of junior players.

We are grateful to the Sports Council for their financial help - a grant of £1500 has enabled us to run the junior squads and a number of women's development programmes. Unfortunately, this will be the last grant that we will receive for a number of years as we are not included in the first phase of the SW Sports Council concentration programme - included in the first phase are those well known "poor" sports of soccer, hockey, rugby and athletics. I asked clubs to write and complain - I wonder how many did?

We again organised a wide range of competitions and I am grateful to Keith Gooding, Jane Anstey, Sarah Stone and Andy Searle for the help they have provided to competition secretary Geoff Giddy - spreading his large load.

Our administration of coaching matters has been enthusiastically carried out by Ros Sutherland and I hope clubs and players will respond more actively to all her hard work over the coming season.

The turnout at the SW Championships showed the quality and teamwork of our referees, ably led by Denis Le Breully.

I would like to finish by thanking all those who have given up their valuable time to organise, coach and referee volleyball.

Ron Richards

COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Association has once again provided the opportunity, through many different competitions, for teams of varying abilities to play competitive volleyball on a regional basis. Some of these competitions have proved

more successful than others whilst some failed to attract enough entries to make a competition feasible.

The South West regional leagues are well established attracting this year a total of twenty seven teams playing in three leagues. It is pleasing to note that others are coming forward to lend assistance on the competition scene, and thanks are especially due to Keith Gooding and Jane Anstey for good work on their respective leagues, along with Dan Dingle and Andy Searle for work on the County Championships and Inter-League Tournament.

Mens Premier Division

See Keith Gooding's Report.

Mens First Division

Unlike other years, this division ran with relatively few problems this year. By its nature, this division, complete with new entries, is always interesting to compete in. The in-depth strength of MGI Wessex shone through in the end, but they were pursued relentlessly all the way by the talented, multi-national new side from Cardiff University. The other new sides had differing fortunes with Spirax Trappers acquitting themselves well but City of Cardiff having organisational problems.

Ladies Division

See Jane Anstey's Report.

County Championships

The inaugural S.W. County Championships was organised to take place in Cornwall but failed to attract enough entries. It would be pleasing to think that next year's competition will be a success so those Counties without associations and representative volleyball teams, please do something about it (in particular Devon and Avon?)

Inter-League

As I write this, the Inter-League tournament has yet to take place but I understand that seven entries have been received. It is to be hoped that last year's dismal entry of only four teams was a low point and that the competition regains the popular status it has enjoyed since its inception.

South West Volleyball Championships

The North Devon Volleyball Association hosted this event this year and proved what a difference local contacts can have in ensuring its success. The event regained the credibility that was lost during the 1990 S.W. Championships and thanks are due to all involved, including the N.D.V.A. and referees who made this a possibility. Ladies entries were up on previous years and the final between MGI Wessex and Priory proved to be a tight, exciting contest with MGI Wessex clinching the title in the final rally point set. Final placings were as follows:

1st	M.G.I. Wessex	6th	Teignmouth
2nd	Priory	7th	T.O. Dowty
3rd	Whitfield	8th	Plymouth
4th	Bemi	9th	Churchill
5th	Sheldons		

Entries for the Mens Championship were significantly reduced from last year's levels, perhaps reflecting the fiasco at Melksham last year. Weymouth Jewson, ever present in past championships, were notable absentees, amongst others. Although final results were much in line with the seedings, this hides the fact that all round, standards continue to improve, with both MGI Wessex the eventual winners and Speedwell, both involved in games with Bemi and Whitfield respectively, that could have gone either way. Final placings were:

1st	M.G.I. Wessex	7th	Priory
2nd	Speedwell	8th	Stroud
3rd	Whitfield	9th	F.B.M.
4th	Lovell Westward	10th	Plymouth pumas

5th
6th

Bemi
Helston

11th
Plymouth Kitto

In the past eight years the S.W. Championships have been hosted by only three different local associations. The association tries to spread its competitions geographically and would welcome offers to host next year's championships from associations in places such as Cornwall, Avon, Exeter and District and Plymouth.

COACHING REPORT

Here is the moment of truth. Have we had a successful year or have we not? To what extent have the aims of the development plan been achieved?

I have focused my efforts on two areas:

- 1) Trying to encourage the provision of Coach Award courses.
 - 2) Working with the N.C.F. to encourage volleyball players and coaches to use their services.
- 1) The following courses have been run this year:-
 - i) Closed Level I at The College of St. Mark & St. John Plymouth - Coach Ray Stenning.
 - ii) Open Level I at Poole - Coach Geoff Allan.
 - iii) Closed/Open Level I Weymouth College Coach - Barry Swann
 - iv) Closed CSLA Weston College of FE - Avon Coach Ron Richards
 - v) Closed Level I Bristol University - Coaches Ron Richards and Gill Harrison

The total number of passes was:

Level I 67
CSLA 26

The development plan looks for 3 Level I courses this year. Certainly more than 3 have been run, enabling all the South West staff coaches to work. This is important for them. However, only one of these courses was open to non-college students. The availability of Level I courses was thus rather limited, especially as two planned courses, one in Exeter and the other in Cornwall, were not run. However, it was nice to see a C.S.L.A. course at Weston College, a course not often run in this area.

Unfortunately Ray Stenning had to cancel the Level II course he was planning, due to unforeseen building work at Mar Jons.

I am not in the mood for beating my breast over these cancellations and non-happenings. At Level I, it reflects the lack of grass-roots support given to the people willing to do the organising. Courses can only be run if they are going to be financially viable.

2. This brings me to my second area of interest. With the help of the N.C.F. we have organised our own course on the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Injury. This will not occur until after the A.G.M. It is a first for us. I hope the first of many. But, at the moment, I have 7 applications. I am looking for 20 from the whole of South West England. In theory this should not be too difficult - the operative word seems to be theory.

I would like to have achieved more. Perhaps 20-30% of what was aimed for at the beginning of the season, has been realised. It is at least progress.

Ros Sutherland

U15, U17 + U19 MENS SQUADS MANAGER'S REPORT

Training

This year we ran 7 days' training altogether as follows:-

3rd February and 17th February at Millfield (single days)
30th-31st March, 7th April, 13th-14th April at Kemp Welch School, Poole.

Coaching

Coaching was taken by Lyn Allen U19, Geoff Allen U17 and Simon Webb U15; with squads interchanging to gain maximum court time. (Accommodation was sleeping bags in the school hall).

This proved to be very successful and good preparation for the tournament as we used similar accommodation at Eastwood Park Prison Officers' Club and Featherstone Prison Officers' Club.

Squads

The following players represented the S.W. at Telford -

U15 - Tom Crook, Matt Pearce, Craig Clarke, Nick Deahl, Scott Wooley, James Rimmer, Carl Dunford, Robert Latham and Nick Hitt (Captain).

U17 - Adam Hamblin, James Lucas, Daniel Howe, Chris Hume, Des Veale, Andy Jay, Edward Duffus, Angus Courtior and Chris Rimmer (Captain).

U19 - Colin Cadwallader, Peter Groves, Dennis Groves, Paul Castle, Mark Thomas, Scott Heaton, Daniel Acouba, Nick Bold, Bruce Prendergast, Elliott Crowe, Neil Schott and Robin Gregory (Captain).

Finances

Originally I was given £600 to run the three boys' squads but eventually I was allowed a further £200 to cover all our expenses, for which I am very grateful because this year it meant that the players only had minimal costs to represent their region at the finals. Please find enclosed copy of expenses and receipts.

Conclusion

We were late starting training this year due to the confusion over age groups. In future I think each county should run its own tournament by the end of November. (With County Coaches selecting a team at U15 & U17 level to play in an Inter County Tournament by the end of the year).

From this Tournament, Regional Coaches could select players for their training sessions.

I was able this year to minimise expenses by using sleeping bag accommodation. This may not be possible next year, and with the cost of transport forever on the increase, I estimate we will require around £1,000 to run the Squads effectively next year. Without Sports Council support, we desperately need sponsorship.

Finally, thanks go to Ron Richards for his help and patience this year.

AUSTIN LATHAM
Mens Squads Manager

REGIONAL REFEREES ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

It is pleasing to report that Staff Referees have once more hosted courses in excess of the five targeted in the Development Plan for 1990-91 and that the courses have been reasonably spread geographically. There are, however, some notable Area/County Associations who have not hosted courses for several years - they will not be named at this stage but it is hoped they will right the situation at the earliest opportunity. Remember that each Area/County should be targeting annual courses. My personal thanks to Senior Staff Official Dan Dingle who, in his inimitable style, has

with two very close games against Horfield 1 and Speedwell, to push them into third place with 41 points. Bemi managed to stick to their pre-season commitment of using a nucleus of developing Avon League players rather than calling on the experience of their National League squad.

Churchill ended the season in fourth position with 34 points, leading a group of five teams all closely spaced and evenly matched during the season.

The Churchill team is to be credited by using a number of newcomers and juniors in their games, who all played well and developed as the season progressed. - Hopefully they will look forward to challenging for the title next season.

The chasing teams behind Churchill were Horfield 2, Whitefield, Bath V.C. and Bristol University. Bath V.C. maintained their regular squad throughout the season but their final position was affected by default points gained during the season.

For the three other teams mentioned above, the season was a time for development and learning with new players adapting to the game and a good foundation being laid on which to build for future years.

At the bottom end of the table were Bath University and Avon Police. Bath University, despite playing some good volleyball at times, struggled to maintain a regular squad of players, and suffered through default points.

Propping up the league in their first season were the Avon Police. After a disjointed start with more games defaulted than played, their squad eventually started to play as a team and to challenge during the games. Their regular players are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm and attitude toward the game. We hope that this can continue into next season when they can consolidate their first seasons performance.

LADIES DIVISION

The ladies division was far closer than the mens with Bath V.C. on 38 points, taking first place from Churchill on 33 points.

Throughout the season Bath played consistent volleyball, losing only two games, one of those being a shock defeat at the end of the season to Horfield.

Bath V.C. must be pleased to take first place after finishing runners-up last season. They have a small nucleus of players that have been together for a long time and have successfully introduced newcomers to strengthen their squad.

The Churchill ladies team chased Bath V.C. all season but always remained in second place. They had some very close games with both Bath and Whitefield Blues, but managed to maintain their good form for the majority of the season, losing only four of their games. Their regular Avon League players were supplemented by more experienced players from Priory and by a number of newcomers who provided a positive contribution throughout the season.

In third place were Whitefield Blues, just one point behind Churchill. Although winning more games than Churchill during the season, they were denied second place due to a higher number of default points.

The Blues have been in the league for a number of years, finishing top last season and have always provided a strong challenge to the opposing teams. It will be a loss to the league next season as the Blues will not be entering a team due to maintaining the commitment required from their already busy squad.

In fourth position with 25 points were Horfield. This is only their second season in Avon Volleyball and they are showing signs of developing into a strong team who have a lot of commitment and enthusiasm for the game.

Speedwell ladies were in 5th place with 22 points. This is the first season for a long time that Speedwell have been represented in the ladies division. The majority of this team were beginners and/or juniors guided under the watchful and helpful eye of a number of National League regulars.

Speedwell ladies will not be entering a team in the league next season and we wish them well in their South West challenge.

The final three teams were Bristol University with 21 points, Whitefield Reds with 20 points and Bath University with -5 points.

The University teams struggled to maintain a regular six players throughout the season, but when the Bristol University team managed to field their strongest six players they provided a tough challenge to the other teams.

Whitefield Reds continued to develop and improve during their second season in the league. Their small squad of beginners show incredible enthusiasm in each game and are a credit to both the league and their club.

Paul Locke

CORNWALL VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Cornwall's problems have reflected those of the National League in that we have lost a number of first division teams. We are normally a few years' behind in Cornwall and the game is continuing to expand at grass roots level, but will this continue? There is evidence of the formation of a number of new teams, but these are not yet ready to join the League.

Cornwall is delighted to have a National League team again - initially Helston, now coached by Russell Jamieson, with Tom Fisher taking a well earned back seat - found the standard high, but they did well in the second half of the season. It is to be hoped that the fixtures are made with sympathy. Helston is 90 miles from Plymouth and 350 from Bristol. No wonder visitors in Cup competitions fail to make the journey. Helston wonder if their 664 mile round trip to Milton Keynes is a Cup record?

A significant contribution to development in Cornwall came from F.I.V.B. coach, Jeff Zaddow, whose Australian approach was much appreciated. Support from the Sports Council South West and the Region, together with Jeff's work, has done much to boost women's Volleyball in Cornwall. The Women's League was highly competitive and a junior women's team has been formed and is training regularly under Ken Harvey's guidance. Junior Development, a high priority, is difficult with so few people and so much space.

The reduced numbers in the League Division 1 caused problems, but the number of five set matches in Division 2 indicates that Division's success. We managed one beach tournament and hope to expand these, and welcome teams from further afield. We cannot guarantee the weather, but the scenery is stunning and as we survive on tourism, we look forward to seeing you here!

The Cornwall Volleyball Association is hoping to support the E.V.A. policy of excellence if it includes excellent grass roots development and excellent regional support. (The Sports Council redistribution of funds will cause us to cut back our help to the women's game and junior development). The nearest Ralph Hippolyte seems to have got to Cornwall is Worcester (286 miles away). Despite that, two Cornish coaches travelled and were inspired. We hope changes in policy will not result in the far distant country cousins being forgotten.

Cornwall is also short of administrators. If we could receive some input from a Volleyball Coaching Development Officer, we could reallocate jobs and move forward again.

DAN DINGLE
Acting Secretary

GLoucestershire Volleyball Association

The G.V.A. leagues consist of two Mens' divisions and one Womens' division. This year the Womens' competition involved eight teams and shows the

continuing progress being made by the development plan we have been running. The Mens' league, although not growing locally, is feeding more teams through into the Regional leagues and next season into the National League. In liaison with a County Council Development Officer and one of our Committee members, a strong Junior development plan has been put into operation. The plan is starting to make significant progress and it will continue, and we expect, grow further next season.

Our annual Knockout Cup and plate finals will be held at Gloucester Leisure Centre on Sunday 12th May and our Summer outdoor tournament on Sunday 23rd June at Lydney Sports Centre. The Summer tournament is open to any non-GVA teams interested in joining in. The dates for our A.G.M. and our Annual Presentation Evening have not yet been confirmed but both will be held at Dowty Sports and Social Club, Staverton.

D. WILLIAMS
Secretary

EXETER AND DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Our A.G.M. took place on the 10th September 1990 with all but one team present. Nothing untoward occurred and so we proceeded with our Fixtures Meeting and matches actually began at the beginning of October.

All divisions still have games to play so it is a bit premature to announce winners. Having said that, Teignmouth A in Division 1 & Culm Valley in Division 2 have unassailable leads. In Division 3 the race is between Honiton V.B. Club and H.M. Prison Exeter with everything depending on their last matches.

It is the second year of our Women's League with 6 teams participating. Things got off to a bit of a chaotic start as we had to delay their Fixtures Meeting until Exeter University returned but since then matches have progressed well. There seems to be bit of a gap between the standards of the top three & bottom three womens teams with Torrex & Volleddolleys still with a mathematical chance of beating Teignmouth to the title.

The League's committee has suffered a couple of setbacks - one member left to look after horses in Switzerland and the Secretary resigned to do some exam revision. Things did not improve when the new Acting Secretary and the two other executives got embroiled for a month in the census. Unfortunately that month happened to coincide with the Women's Tournament which had to be postponed until late Summer (Try to find a census enumerator who will be volunteering again in 2001 !!!)

These slight failures outstanding we have enjoyed another successful year with 17 teams playing in the three mixed divisions and 6 in the womens'. There were 5 completely new mixed teams which formed the third division & two new womens teams. We have already had some interest from new teams for next year so hopefully we will expand again next season. Our open, outdoors tournament will be on the 16th June 1991 and our closed, indoors tournament will be on the 30th June 1991.

In the immediate pipeline on the 20th July 1991 we have a Children's Festival with Chris Pope travelling down to give some of our youngsters an introduction to the sport. Also we have asked Dan Dingle to come along again to do a second Grade IV Referees Course on the 1st & 2nd of June 1991. This will continue our efforts to ensure all our matches are refereed by qualified referees. Next season we intend to organise a coaching course so our trainers can add greater variety & safety to their sessions.

Our chairperson, Paul Bray, has made tentative enquiries with our two Devon counterpart leagues, Plymouth & N. Devon but as yet nothing has progressed on forming a Devon League. Our area's main problem is that it's main administrators are already fully committed to the Exeter & District and allocating time to a Devon league could only prove detrimental to the local league. However, if the situation changes and we do find more resources, I'm sure a Devon League would be fully supported by our teams & players.

Finally we have brought our A.G.M. forward to 5th June 1991 so that a new committee will be in place to organise the new season and hopefully avoid

the Summer void we have suffered from in the past. I intend to stand down at that meeting so you will be hearing from a new contact in the near future.

Shaun Carter
Acting Secretary

NORTH DEVON VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION 1990/91 REPORT

For the NDVA the season started with a well attended refereeing course. With a view to improving the standard of refereeing for the coming local league, Geoff Giddy and Bill Taberner provided practical and theory in all aspects of refereeing volleyball matches.

As a pre-season starter to the league the Robinson Cooke Tournament was held. This was also well attended by all members of local teams and was thoroughly enjoyed. Teams for the event were made up by players' names being picked from a hat.

The League season commenced, made up of two divisions with 6 and 7 teams respectively. There was also a new team joining the second division. The results at the end of the season were: Division One winners Westward Surf, runners up FBM, Division Two winners Kenwyn Motors, runners up Stompers. Three local teams went on to do well at South West and National levels respectively. Sheldons won the South West Ladies Division and Westward Surf did well in their South West Division and finished 3rd in the Mens National Division 4. Younger members of the league teams participated in selections for the U19 Squads with success.

Thanks goes to one league player from Westward Surf, Steve Baker for all his tremendous efforts with coaching and support of many local teams and encouragement for beginners and new teams.

The departure of Dennis Rimmer, the Sheldons teams coach, is a sad occasion. He will be sorely missed and his efforts and encouragement to promote volleyball at all levels has been greatly appreciated by everyone concerned with the sport.

North Devon hosted the South West Champs, a well organised event by Geoff Giddy with help and support from the NDVA. As hosts of the event, we hope that the competition was enjoyed by all.

The league season culminated with a Dinner and Dance and the presentation of Local League awards, together with a Personality award presented to Marion Redfern for her continual hard work organising the NDVA. A tribute was also made to Dennis Rimmer for his consistent involvement with volleyball.

Wendy Jones

Sarah Jones

WOODSPRING VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION REPORT

Committee : Chairman Mr. L. Davies : Secretary Miss W. Risdale :
Treasurer and Fixture Secretary Mr. D. Grundy.

The League started off to a bad start with the proposed fixture secretary unable to carry out his position.

We had a Summer Beach Tournament in 1990 which was a big success and has been agreed to continue to run again this year. Also we had a Christmas Tournament which was also a success. Unfortunately we had a team pull-out of Division 1 'Sydenham', but we had a new team join Division 2 Minehead, under supervision of Mr. B. Swann.

Although we are trying to get more people/clubs involved in the League, we still find there is very little for people in the ages of 15 to 21. Maybe we could organise something to interest them a little bit more?

Altogether this year has been a steady year.

Wendy Risdale.

POOLE & DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Report To South West Volleyball Association AGM

Our winter season has now finished and we have had a very smooth running league this year. The final positions were roughly as expected this year. Except for the surprise of the new team, "YMCA", winning Division three. I have enclosed our final league tables for your perusal. We have now started our Summer League and there is a new rule this year whereby only one registered National League player can be on court during the match. This has proved to be a good idea and gives everybody a chance to win.

In April we ran the South West Volleyball Association Mens Introductory Tournament. On the closing date there were three teams entered but we managed to persuade another three teams to enter. Unfortunately I had to leave early but I am told that it ran very well. Also we ran the Inter League Championships. Apart from a few delays due to lateness and an injury at the beginning of the competition it went very well. There was a good standard of volleyball from all of the seven teams that entered.

The Poole Association and the Weymouth Association met in April for the inaugural meeting of the Dorset Volleyball Association. We decided our main objectives, both short and long term. (Please find enclosed on separate sheet.) We also hope to submit a plan for womens development.

Andy Searle
Secretary