

SWVA Junior Beach Championship 2008 Report

Exmouth Beach 17th August 2008

Report on the Southwest Volleyball Association Junior Beach Championships at Exmouth.

Event Owner: SWVA

Event Organiser: Denise Austin, Dave Reece

Report by: Dave Reece 23/08/2008

Summary

This was a new event to the junior calendar and hence small but very enjoyable, excellent volleyball and lots of competitive matches. It was a good spectacle and attracted the media and generated some good PR, lots of people enjoyed themselves and I would be happy to run it again in the future.

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Press Release

Plenty of games for all teams in the 2008 Southwest Junior Beach Championship event held on Sunday (17th Aug) at Exmouth Beach VC. The day started off with a number of pool rounds (best of three sets matches), with the top two teams from each of the pool rounds qualifying for the event final in their respective age group.



U16 Girls: 1st Em Brennand & Rosie Kirk (Left)

U18 Girls: 1st Kate Pearce & Lauren Powell (Right)

U18 Girls: 2nd Beck Ashworth & Amelie Exton (Middle)



U14 Girls: 1st Robyn Sayers / Jodie Amor / Rachel Draper

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A small crowd stayed on to watch the last match of the day and possibly the best match of the tournament, the U18 Boy's final. Ashley Yeo & Jack Walker took the first set 17-15 with a good display of team work but Daniel Hunter & Ryan Henry came back in the second 15-9, helped on their way with some power hitting to set up the third set. With everything to play for the match went on into the early evening. The stalwarts left in the crowd, were rewarded with an excellent display of team work by Ashley Yeo & Jack Walker who took the set 15-7 and the SW U18 Junior Beach Championship 2008 title 2 sets to 1.



U16 Boys Champions

1st Matt Hunter & Ryan Stout (left)
2nd Charlie Grant & Lewis Norvill (Right)

Watch Match Highlights: [Boys U16 Final.wmv](#)

More Photos at: [Volleyball Newsletter Photos](#)

U12 Champions

1st Sam Dunbavin / Will Hartholl / Taylor Latharn
2nd Jo Wright / Finn Begley / Will Evans
3rd Hayden Lawson / Torrin Lawson / Matt Bull / Nick Bull



U18 Boys Champions:

1st Ashley Yeo & Jack Walker (Right)
2nd Daniel Hunter & Ryan Henry (Left)

Watch Match Highlights: [Boys U18 Final.wmv](#)

More Photos at: [Volleyball Newsletter Photos](#)

U14 Champions

1st Robyn Sayers / Jodie Amor / Rachel Draper
2nd Immy Davies / Holly Paddon / Rosie Norton /
Rosie Northbridge
3rd Amelia Richards / Ellen Blandford / Danielle
Spencer / Emily Tucker

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Event Report.

Back Ground

I was approached earlier in the season and asked if I would like to add this event to our existing Exeter & District VA (EDVA) junior beach tournament. At the time, we were against combining these two events for the following reasons.

The EDVA junior event is an established event in the junior calendar and hence combining it may take the focus away from local teams, by flooding it with out of area teams.

Beach capacity is an issue at Exmouth, Beach volleyball is popular and we are restricted to the amount of beach we can use.

For these reasons, I offered the 17th August date as an alternative date and to run the event along side the Exmouth Beach Open Pairs Tournament. The pairs event was being organised by Ali West (The EDVA Beach Co-ordinator) and hence I would be free to run it.

The beach pair's event is also a smaller event than the Exmouth Tournament (the beach four's) and hence beach capacity was also available.

The Set Up

Another issue to sort out before the event, which set of the junior beach rules should we use, we all play junior events with a slightly different formats, court sizes, net heights etc, a SWVA beach standard was put together by all parties, details in the appendix.

This event also gave us two major junior beach events at Exmouth this year and hence allowed us to provide a progression from one event to the other. I.E. The highest EDVA placed teams in the July event would win free entry (sponsored by the EDVA) into the SW junior Championships in August.

Unfortunately only 17 teams entered the SW junior beach championships from across the region and none from the EDVA area. This was very disappointing, we had 28 junior teams taking part in our July event. All teams had details of the August event, but 90% of the teams involved were school based and hence we were unable to re-contact them or chase them for entries once school holidays had started.

As entries were low, we combined the following pool rounds for the event, U12 & U14, U16 & U18 Girls and U16 & U18 Boys. The two highest placed teams in each age group qualifying for their respective age group finals.

The Event

All matches were the best of three sets, initially this was the first to 21, 15 in set three. Later in the day, this was reduced to 15 in all sets.

Finals were played in the U14, U16 Boys, U18 Boys and U18 Girls. Only one team entered the U16 Girls event (automatic winner).

I was prepared to let any U16 team play in a U18 final, it gave the U16 teams something to aim for and the U18 something to stop, in the end no U16 qualified for a U18 final.

A final was not played in the U12 event, the kids appeared to be happy to play it but the event had over run a bit (due to a late start) and a few of the parents had had enough by then. Final

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team placings were awarded on their league / pool position. The U12 / U14 event was late starting, as none of the teams appeared to have a controlling parent. On the entry form I had asked for all teams to be accompanied by a responsible adult, who would be responsible for the team on the day. Once I realised this, I tracked down a few parents and asked them to take control of their teams schedule, which they appeared reluctant to do.

Beach & Weather Conditions

Weather, dry all day but windy at times.

The sand was also cold at times and hence some people who did not change into shoes after their match or were not playing in sand socks or beach shoes got cold feet. Not aware of any juniors but I did see quite a few blue parents, personally I was in shorts and a tee shirt until the evening.

A high tide combined with a high swell over the previous couple of days had washed a lot of rubbish onto the beach-playing surface. The council removed the bulk of this in the morning but the beach was not as clean as it could have been at the start of play but was fine by mid day.

First Aid

No one from the junior event requested any first aid assistance.

Food

Apart from the long queue at the ice cream stand, take away pizzas appeared to be very popular with the U16/U18 girls (not sure where they got them from).

Lost / Left Property

None (very unusual)

Players Behaviour

It was good to see all the U16 & U18 players conducting and managing themselves in a mature and responsible manner, on and off court. Warming ups, using timeouts, talking tactics and using hand signals where appropriate etc, a credit to the sport of volleyball.

Show court

We had a show court, it was my aim to play most of the U16 & U18 final on it. The U18 girls did not want to play on it, it was not available for the U16 boys final, but it was used for the U18 boys final. As this is a possible sponsorship photo opportunity in the future, then better match scheduling between the two events would be required (the senior event was also using the net).

Balls

Although I took along Mikasa V-200 ball's for the U12's, none of the teams wanted to use them, preferring to use the more traditional type and heavier beach ball. Which to be honest worked better in the windy conditions.

Press

As a regional event, a number of press photographers attended the event, press reports have been sent to and or displayed on the following web sites: The Exmouth Beach VC, The EDVA, The Volleyball Newsletter, The SWVA Beach web site, VE and 3Touch, The Exmouth Journal and the Express & Echo local newspapers.

You can also view photos from the event at:

<http://volleyballnewsletter.smugmug.com/>

http://www.perspectivesphotography.co.uk/portraits/portrait_pictures.html

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Video

A few match video highlights from the Boy's U16 & U18 matches are available on the above web sites.

Qualifying for the SW Junior Finals at the Windfest

A few of the players were playing to qualify for this end of season junior event at the Windfest event at Sandbanks. This type of qualifying for a future event appears to be a good carrot for some.

Prizes

Denies Austin arranged all the prizes, winners and runner up mugs were awarded to the top two teams in all age groups. Bags of goodies (tee shirts etc) were also handed out to the top two U16 & U18 teams.

The Spirit of the Tournament prize was not awarded, as highlighted in "Players Behaviour" above, there was a high level of sportsmanship across the boards and no one person stood out.

The goody bags for the U14 & U12 were unfortunately not handed out, they got lost in the back of the HQ gazebo (I did not know I had them) and they were not found until we were packing up at the end of the day (returned to Denise for handing out locally).

Entry fee

I was asked to set an entry fee, this I set at £5 per team (the same as the July Exmouth Junior Beach Tournament). At this rate, I believe we would need an entry list of about 40 teams to break even.

Lessons for the Future

Exmouth is located, not quite geographically in the middle in the SWVA area but it does have easy access from the M5, A303, A30, the national rail network and Exeter Airport. Thereby allowing players and teams from throughout the SWVA region, South Wales and the Channel Island access to the venue and this type of regional event.

Numbers are always going to be low for a new event and holding it in the school holiday also meant a number of players were unavailable and on family holidays etc. I contacted all known beach organisers in the SWVA, with reference to entries and not surprisingly everyone informed me that their teams were unavailable due to various other activities.

Also the lack of club teams in the Exeter EDVA area (90% being school teams) as highlighted earlier is another issue and one that hopefully will change as the sport develops in East & South Devon.

With reference to the Exmouth beach capacity issue, it may be better to run a single junior only event at Exmouth next year. This would free up capacity for the adult events and hence could be an advantage for all. We may also consider moving the EDVA junior events to a weekday, late afternoon / evening time slot.

Place additional rubbish bins next to the U16/U18 Girls court (for all those pizza containers).

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To personally check all prizes, when they are delivered by others, my mistake.

To check / confirm that every U12/U14 team has an assigned adult or coach who is responsible for the team schedule at the event, part of the registration process. No adult / no coach – no team entry, perhaps this requirement needs to be more strongly worded on the entry form. Alternatively, arrange for a court manager to look after the U12/U14 nets, not something I have needed to use before.

Playing sets to 15 points (instead of 21) appear to work better for all age groups than the normal 21. At Exmouth VC we also use a single set format, where we play to 31 points (by two clear points). This gives us a 20 min game, although it was a surprise format to our out of area players in the senior pairs event, it worked extremely well in the early pool rounds. If we had 30 to 40 junior teams, I may well use a similar single set format.

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Appendix A

SW Junior Beach Championships 2008 Results

U12

- 1st Sam Dunbavin / Will Hartholl / Taylor Latharn
- 2nd Jo Wright / Finn Begley / Will Evans
- 3rd Hayden Lawson / Torrin Lawson / Matt Bull / Nick Bull

U14

- 1st Robyn Sayers / Jodie Amor / Rachel Draper
- 2nd Immy Davies / Holly Paddon / Rosie Norton / Rosie Northbridge
- 3rd Amelia Richards / Ellen Blandford / Danielle Spencer / Emily Tucker

U16 **Girls**

- 1st Rosie Kirk / Em Brennand

U16 **Boys**

- 1st Matt Hunter / Ryan Stout
- 2nd Charlie Grant / Lewis Norvill

U18 **Girls**

- 1st Kate Pearce / Lauren Powell
- 2nd Beck Ashworth / Amecie Exton
- 3rd Emma Freeman / Sarah Keen

U18 **Boys**

- 1st Ashley Yeo / Jack Walker
- 2nd Daniel Hunter / Ryan Henry
- 3rd Luke Wilkshire / Joe Waterman

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Appendix B

SWVA Junior Beach Rules

This year, court sizes and net heights for junior events will be standard across the SW region.

U12 (3's) : Age: U12 on 1.9.07. Court : 5m x 5m. Net Height : 2.1m, Ball : V-180 (V-200 if windy), Catch & Volley is allowed*. One substitution per player per match. Max number of players per team : 5.

U14 (3's) : Age: U14 on 1.9.07. Court : 5m x 5m. Net Height : 2.1m, Ball : V-200, One substitution per player per match. Max number of players per team : 5.

U16 Boys (2's) : Age: U16 on 1.9.07. Court : 8m x 8m. Net Height : 2.24m, Ball : VLS200, Number of players per team : 2.

U16 Girls (2's) : Age: U16 on 1.9.07. Court : 8m x 8m. Net Height : 2.24m, Ball : VLS200, Number of players per team : 2.

U18 Boys (2's) : Age: U18 on 1.9.07. Court : 8m x 8m. Net Height : 2.43m, Ball : VLS200, Number of players per team : 2.

U18 Girls (2's) : Age: U18 on 1.9.07. Court : 8m x 8m. Net Height : 2.24m, Ball : VLS200, Number of players per team : 2.

U12 - One substitution per player per match, the block does not count as the first hit, catch and volley is allowed*.

U14 - One substitution per player per match, the block does not count as the first hit.

U16 & U18 - Full beach rules, time-outs not allowed during timed matches. Coaches must refrain from entering the playing area except directly behind the player's bench. They are only permitted to coach during timeouts and are not allowed to call for time outs or approach the referee on any other matter except where it appertains to the safety of players.

* Definition of Catch & Volley

The ball must be caught and released in one movement and within one second, the ball must not be brought down below head level and the player cannot change direction. The pass (catch volley) should resemble a volley pass. Players who use a netball or football type throw during a match are to be given one warning.