

London Volleyball League
Men's Second Division 2007-08
Epidote Projects Volleyball League
League Secretary's Report

I have been very pleased by the way the division has run since the autumn especially as I have been new to the post. But I am not satisfied.

The pleasing aspects first:

The vast majority of matches were played on schedule.

Of those that needed to be rearranged, only three were not completed: not more than one by any single club.

Good sportsmanship and wonderful co-operation were evident almost without exception.

Placing our prison sides in separate divisions seemed to make life easier all round and it was encouraging to see the improving results at Arrows as the season progressed.

Congratulations to Hillingdon and Ernest Bevin School for entering EVA Cup competitions and a special "Well done" to John Lowney and his team on winning the under 16s boys' national trophy. Congratulations to Richmond and Grasshoppers on winning their league.

The divisions' own electronic newsletter, *2nd Touch* has been well received. Sent to LVA officers and other administrators, to referees, club secretaries and those players whose email address had been included on their registration card, I believe it has played a part in enabling everyone to identify with the league and, because matches are being reported on, in encouraging better administration.

My thanks to Charlie for the initial fixture list which proved very resilient, to club secretaries who, almost always, provided a first class standard of administration, to all those who refereed, scored or provided other services without which we might have floundered and, finally, to Barbara Totterdell who stepped in as our sponsor to give the division an air of professionalism it did not truly deserve but on which we can build for the future. As Grasshoppers and Richmond move up the divisions, we trust they will value the Epidote Projects trophy as a reminder of where their progress began.

It would be remiss of me not to mention some weaknesses that I think we must address:

Communication between the respective league secretaries who make up the Competitions Committee has not always been adequate and, while that has not detracted from our organising of our divisions, I suspect it will hinder our developing the competition structure if the game grows rapidly with imminent coverage of the Beijing Olympic Games or should changes to the National League structure bring the pressure of more applications to join us.

Some clubs have complained about the amount of travelling even though at this level we keep the demand to within one half of London. Another feels the gap in standards between the top and bottom sides is too wide resulting in too many one-sided games. The obvious solutions to one would exacerbate the other so I believe we do need to review our competition structure and increase (or reduce) the number of participants if both these difficulties are to be overcome.

Few of the fixtures that had to be changed resulted from events within the clubs' control but rearrangement frequently appeared to prove difficult because the matter was approached without a sense of urgency. Just following the league rules properly ought to have made life easier but it is equally important to alert all involved of a problem as soon as it becomes apparent and, maybe, playing at an earlier rather than a later date.

Not every club seems to appreciate the importance of registration of players. From a club secretary's point of view, it may be a chore too many that requires more time than the risk of misuse deserves. However, without a registration system for players our officers' efforts to market and publicise the sport will be doomed to failure.

It has been a good season. But, as I said at the beginning, I am not satisfied. In a sense, we should never be satisfied for we can always do better. For the coming season, I would hope to get improvements rolling.

DBH

League Tables

South and East Division

Pos	Team	P	W	L	Sets		Points
					W	L	
1.	Grasshoppers	13	12	1	37	5	37
2.	Chadwell Heath	14	10	4	32	20	**31
3.	Arrows	14	8	6	28	24	30
4.	Fireball	13	7	6	27	21	27
5.	Whipps	13	7	6	25	24	*26
6.	White Eagles 4 (Ernest Bevin)	13	6	7	21	27	25
7.	Wapping Wildcats 2	14	2	12	16	40	18
8.	Thunderball	14	2	12	13	38	18

**points deducted for playing unregistered players

* point deducted for failure to submit scoresheet

North and West Division

Pos	Team	P	W	L	Sets		Points
					W	L	
1.	Richmond	12	12	0	36	3	36
2.	British Airways	12	10	2	32	10	32
3.	Hillingdon	12	7	5	26	17	26
4.	PVC Boys	12	6	6	19	23	24
5.	Richmond College	12	2	10	11	31	16
6.	Metropolitan Police	11	3	8	13	23	*15
7.	Tunnel Diggers	11	1	10	7	31	13

*points deducted for defaulted matches



Epidote Projects wishes the **London Volleyball Association Men's League Division 2** a very enjoyable second half of the season. And may you all achieve your team aims!