



SWVA Newsletter November 2021 Issue 363

Hi Dave,

You don't see a newsletter for a while and then two come along in one month.

Some updates:

The next U15 & U17 Junior training sessions for both Girls & Boys takes place in Exeter this weekend. Places are limited and booking is required, details below, not too many open sessions left before coaches start the process of selecting for this seasons squads.

December JuVoTo - Unfortunately its not going to happen, next one is Stroud on the 8th January, bookings will open next month.

As always, lots of great work being done across the region for the new season, no SW Champs at the moment, we have not yet had a club or a local association come forward to host the event. If your club or local association would like to get involved, then please let us know.

Regards

Dave Reece

SWVA

2021 Veterans Tournament Report



2021 Winners: Torexe Saga Louts

It was great to see a return of tournament action following the 18 month hiatus. The event attracted a lot of interest selling out with 4 teams on the waiting list with 2 months to go, showing that teams were eager to get back. Unfortunately as the date drew nearer a combination of Covid isolations, injury and illness resulted in only 10 teams able to make it on the day.



The competition started with teams playing a random five other teams in a ladder format. There were many closely fought games with two thirds of matches resulting in teams scoring the bonus point for staying within 75% of the winning score. At the end of this phase four teams had each lost just one game with points scored having to be used to separate the top 3 teams. The remaining teams were all very close. Teams in 4th and 5th place and 8th and 9th place went into a play off to decide who went into the top group (1 to 4) & middle group (5 to 8).

After the play-offs there was a short break to make a presentation to Ron Richards to celebrate his 50 year contribution to the SWVA, see [50-years-not-out](#).

The first semi-final saw a rematch of one of the ladder matches between Wiltshire Mavericks and Saga Louts when Wiltshire Mavericks had a 2 point advantage in a very exciting game. Saga Louts upped their game in the semi-final to take a convincing win. In the second semi-final Bemi VC 2 (the youngest team in the tournament) had a comfortable win over Cheltenham and Gloucester.

This set up a final between reigning champions Saga Louts against the “youngsters” Bemi VC 2, which was very equal throughout with Saga Louts just opening up an advantage in the closing stages. Saga Louts retained their title for a very impressive 4th year in a row giving them 5 titles in all.



We continue to monitor the age demographics and whether the qualifying age is at the right level. Only one team this year didn't use any players under 40 (which was the winners Saga Louts) and over a third of the players were over 50.

Almost 10% of players were over 60, but they were balanced by an equivalent number eligible to play this year for the first time. Therefore with 60% of teams relying on players under 40 it doesn't look like we can increase the qualifying age without a substantial impact on the number of teams we can attract.

Final Results

- 1st Saga Louts – Torexe
- 2nd Bemi VC 2
- 3rd Wiltshire Mavericks
- 4th Cheltenham & Gloucester

- 5th City of Bristol
- 6th Yeovil
- 7th Wiltshire Allsorts
- 8th Countrymen
- 9th City of Bristol 2
- 10th PMVC Vets

More Photos at: <https://www.swva.org.uk/news/2021-veterans-tournament-report> & [SW Vets 2021](#)

Rachel

SW Junior Training 4th Dec - Exeter



SW Junior Training sessions for both the Girls & Boys moves to Exeter for the remainder of the 2021/22 season.

- The training is run to offer opportunities for young players to improve their play by working with the regional squad coaches.

- To have the opportunity to meet other young players from around the region and enjoy working with a large 'same age group'.
- To prepare Regional Representative teams to compete in the National Inter Regional Championships.

The Riverside LC venue is located near the City Centre and the Exeter Water front, plenty of activities and attractions for the rest of the family to do in the area if you are making it a day out. It's also accesable by Train, the venue is next door to the Exeter St Thomas station if travelling from the South (or N. Devon), 20 min walk from Exeter Centre and Exeter St David's stations if traveling from the North and East of the region.

You will need to [Book & Pay](#) for each session in advance. The sessions are £12 (3h) or £15 (4h), depending on the length of each session and currently limited to 27 players.

All bookings will close on the preceding Friday evening at 23:45 and payments will be non refundable or transferable. If you have a credit or voucher from an earlier session, please enter the ticket code in the "Do you have a promo code".

Details at: <https://www.swva.org.uk/south-west-junior-training>

50 Years – Not Out



The SWVA are celebrating the UNIQUE contribution that Ron Richards has made to our Association and our sport within the Region during the last 51 years. Ron has also served as SW Secretary without a break for 50 years but that is just one of his many activities that has shaped the sport that we all enjoy today.

Highlights include:

- Helped to set up the SWVA in 1969 while a student at Exeter University.
- Started and still running the Whitefield tournament since 1974 (47 Years)
- Ran the Priory outdoor Tournament, a regular fixture in September for many years
- The SW Timeout Newsletter, which ran during this period until recently, distributed to all clubs and SW Players
- Involved in the running of Speedwell, Bristol, and Priory Volleyball Clubs plus the SW Junior grand prix program
- Represents the SW clubs and local VA's on the Regional Commission and has stepped in as SW Treasurer when required (1972, 1977 & 2020).

- Recognised by Volleyball England in 2000 with the presentation of the “Peter Wardale Memorial” Award.

Many of our older players will be familiar with the above list and would have started their volleyball at these events, newer members may not be familiar with Ron but will hopefully appreciate the setup of the sport they see around them in the SW region today.

To mark this outstanding service, a collection was arranged through SW clubs and the amount collected exceeded our expectations, many thanks to everyone for their generosity. Clubs were also asked what they thought would be appropriate gifts, which included a Presentation Award, Magnum, 6 Counties SW Hamper (with a selection of Ron's preferred cheeses) and several Red Letter days packages.

The presentation took place during this weekends SW Vets Tournament together with other invited guests at the Exeter Riverside LC. I would like to also thank Roy and Ann Pankhurst for arranging all the presentation gifts, which started with an autumn themed bouquet for Jan Richards.



Following the presentation, Ron addressed those present and thanked all SW members for their generosity.

"I would like to thank everyone who made the presentation to myself and my wife Jan at the SW Vets Tournament possible. While I knew a presentation was to be made, the scale of your generosity was amazing.

My fifty years involvement has been a real pleasure. It has been great working with some wonderful people who have led the Association and its member clubs and all those who have contributed as administrators, coaches and referees. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many who have developed through the fantastic SW junior development programmes and squads go on to become senior players, administrators, coaches and referees.

We can never have enough volunteers in the game and I would encourage players to get involved as volunteers in their clubs, local / regional associations and nationally. It can be very rewarding and as I said above – you get to meet some wonderful people and make lifelong friends.

Thank you again for the kind words and gifts.

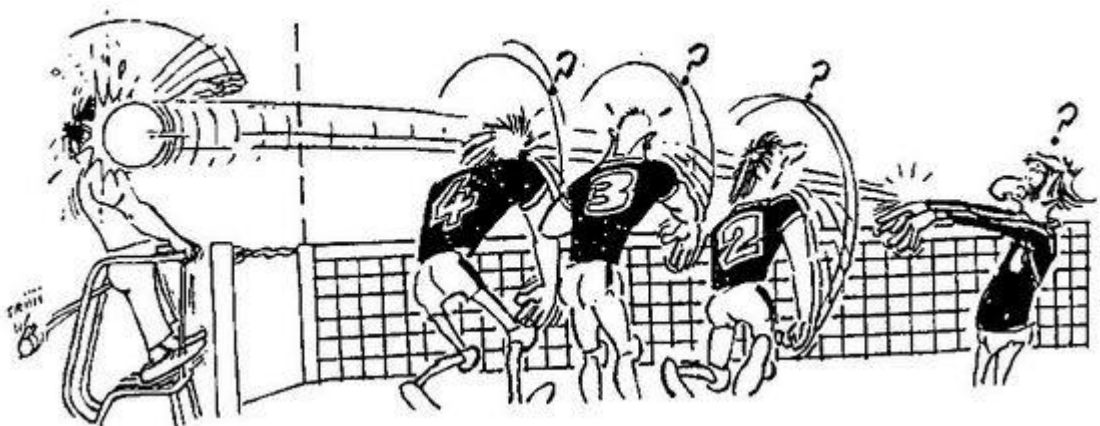
Ron

Full report at: <https://www.swva.org.uk/news/50-years-not-out>

Dave Reece

SWVA Chairman

An Introduction to Refereeing



The SWVA are looking at running an online Referees Introduction / Update clinic for Clubs, Teams, Players and Volunteer in the region in Q1 of 2022.

The exact format TBC, but likely to include amusing cases, examples of good & bad stuff, some video and I'm sure some PowerPoint stuff. May well include a guest speaker, hand signal & carding practice for those on a web cam and of course a Q&A session.

It will be online, let us know what you would like to include and join in the fun.

Ideas and suggestions to Chris Semmens at: Chris.Semmens@talktalk.net more details in the New Year.

Dave

SWVA

Calendar

Due to changing restrictions, please check with the organisers for any event listed below:

DECEMBER

- 4th Dec – SW Junior Training, Exeter U15 & U17 – [Book](#)

JANUARY 2022

- 8th Jan – JuVoTo at Stratford Park Leisure Centre
- 15th Jan – SW Junior Training, Exeter U15 only
- 29th Jan – SW Junior Training, Exeter U17 only

FEBURARY

- 5th Feb – SWVA Meeting
 - 12th Feb – JuVoTo at Parkstone Grammar
 - 19th Feb – SW Junior Training, Exeter U15 & U17
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