

## **2008 EDVA Exmouth Beach Volleyball League Proposal**

In the recent Exeter & District Volleyball Association (EDVA) player's survey, 70% of those who voted requested that we set up and run a 2008 beach volleyball league program.

The committee asked me to look into this, with the aim of running a beach volleyball league program, starting in May 2008. For this to happen, I need to present my proposal and any request for funding to the EDVA committee by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

I am therefore emailing around my initial thoughts on how best to achieve this and asking you for your views and feedback and possible alternative options. You are receiving this email because you have either:

Voted for the Beach league in the recent player's survey.

Took part in the last years summer Tuesday evening beach training sessions.

Or you have Volleyball England Beach Tour (VEBT) Grand Prix points.

### **Introduction**

For those who don't know who I am, I am a volleyball volunteer and I set up and run volleyball events in this area. With respect to Beach Volleyball, I started the annual Exmouth Beach 4's volleyball tournament, I'm also a qualified Beach Coach and I run the Tuesday evening Exmouth Beach training sessions. I will also be running the Exmouth Beach 4's tournament this year in conjunction with the Devon Women VC and the EDVA beach junior tournament.

To help get the Beach league up and running, I have also roped in the following beach enthusiasts.

Ali West: A beach pair's player, ranked 71<sup>st</sup> on the 2007 VEBT with 88 points.

Clare Babbage: A beach pair's player, ranked 81<sup>st</sup> on the 2007 VEBT with 60 points.

I have also inviting Natalie Smith to join the team, another VEBT ranked player and previous VEBT junior player.

### **Initial Beach League Proposal**

Beach League evening: Tuesday's, voted as the best day for training in 2007.

[Monday's are not popular; Wednesday and Friday may affect the Thursday evening Summer Grass league, which we must not do].

Time: Net up at 6:30 with free practice until 7:00pm, League & Coaching 7:00pm to 9:00pm (or dusk).

Beach Pair's and / or Beach 4's

We need to cover both, in the player's survey, EDVA division one players clearly voted for beach pair's, division two players clearly voted for a Beach 4's event.

I am therefore proposing that we run both events simultaneous, but with matches arranged so players can take part in either or both events (as required).

### **Beach Pairs**

We have a number of players who are training to compete on the 2008 VEBT. Hence we must run the Beach Pairs league to the full beach rules, with player's points etc, with a Men's and Ladies league. Most likely to be self refereed however if numbers are appropriate, then we could look at providing referees and scoresheets but this may not happen in our first season.

Last year, everyone new to beach pairs had to attend an introduction session, this worked extremely well and it made sure everyone understood the required hand signals and allowed players to change partners etc. In order to keep the standard appropriate, I am proposing that everyone entering the beach pair's league (as a team or as an individual) attends or demonstrates to the league organisers that they understand the basic set of hand signals.

Players can enter the league as a team or pick up a partner on the day (requests to be listed on the web site).

### **Beach 4's**

To be a recreational mixed league, self-refereed, single set or timed matches, a similar set up to the Thursday night summer league.

Another proposal for the beach 4's would be to have all the courts set at ladies height, last year women vastly outnumbered the men and hence all matches took place with the net set at the ladies height. TBD

### **Beach Training / Coaching**

In addition to the league program, I intend to use one or two courts each week to run the beach coaching sessions on. For new players who wish to learn how to play the sport etc, also available to those who wish to improve their game, players who may not wish to join the league and for players who are waiting for their next league game, a match warm up net.

### **Beach Location**

With only a hand full of nets last year, all training and matches took place on the stretch of beach opposite the Pavilion. Although this area has several advantages, we cannot erect the proposed four or six courts which we may need for the league.

We will have to use the area by the permanent nets, in the no swimming area of the beach, where the Exmouth Beach Tournament is held. This has the disadvantage of no covered seating, no free parking and it's more exposed to the wind. The advantages are, it's a much wider beach, less affected by the tide height, more parking, the existing permanent nets which can be used for coaching / match warm up and we are more likely to obtain permission from the beach owners.

### **Logistics**

Transporting and storage of the beach nets, balls and the general equipment bags is the main issue here. Previous experience shows that it is generally not practical to

have more than two beach nets (or equipment bags) in a car, due to size and carrying them with your own kit to the beach. Hence the required nets and equipment bags will have to split between several people, who are all going to be available the following week etc.

As a small incentive, I would like to suggest that we pay the parking fee for those who transport and store the nets etc.

### **Beach Cleaning**

Last year we set about removing various bits of debris from the beach (as opposed to just moving them to another area). This worked well and the beach became much safer and cleaner during the season.

### **First Aid**

The only injury we had last year, was a cut foot due to a piece of buried debris (ref beach cleaning). A general first aid kit needs to be part of the general equipment bag.

### **Junior Beach Volleyball**

I have two junior nets, one for 8 to 12 year olds and a full size beach net that can be set at the junior height of 2.10m. Junior beach coaching could be added to the program but from last years experience there was very little call for this.

### **Permanent Nets**

Although the Exmouth permanent nets are owned by the EDVA, they are not adjustable or level and hence we cannot use them for league or tournament matches.

However we could run the beach coaching sessions on them and for players who are not part of the beach league. One for beginners and one for advance beach players etc, we need to provide a set of 8x8 court lines.

### **Equipment**

**NETS:** The EDVA has two beach nets and others have also offered additional nets. Last year we used nets provided by myself, Ali and Torexe VC, hence we should have a good six nets available to us to get the league up and running. So I don't initially see the need to purchase any more at the moment.

**LINES:** Unlike grass, beach volleyball is played on an 8x8 court and beach nets tend to be supplied with 9x9 court lines, hence we will need a minimum of six 8x8 court lines. We already have a number of these from last year and additional sets are on order, all with appropriate bungee fixings.

**PEGS:** Exmouth has very soft sand and four (or six if windy) 20" wooden pegs are required per net. Last year the army surplus store sold out of these and hence I started to make my own. However they don't last too long and we will get through quite a few during the season.

In North Devon, they use steel bolts with a hoop attached, which is then tied to the guy rope. It means they don't lose pegs and they don't wear out. The only down side

is they don't come with a point on (which I'm sure I can fix) and hence if used on hard ground (grass) they may not work too well. I suggest we give this ago and see how it works on the Exmouth sand.

**ANTENNAS:** My net is the only one that had antennas last year and in the wind they were a bit of a pain. I would therefore suggest that we do not start off using antennas, it will also keep the cost down.

**BALLS:** Like indoor volleyball, proper beach match balls are a must and hence we will need to purchase a complete set, e.g. six to start with and mostly likely a few replacements during the season.

#### **JUNIOR POST INSERTS**

Junior post inserts for the Sportset beach nets cost £10 per net, as the EDVA will be running a junior beach tournament this year, I would suggest that we purchase two sets so we can use the two EDVA nets for the event.

#### **NET BAGS**

With extra court lines, pegs, antennas and a complete set of post inserts, the standard supplied Sportset net bag is generally not large enough. Last year I found a supplier who can provide slightly larger replacement volleyball net bags, I will be ordering replacement bags for the EDVA nets.

#### **Web site / Communication**

Everything to be web based, last year this worked well, the web site is currently being rebuilt and redesigned by Ali. You can check it out at [www.exmouthbeachvolleyball.com](http://www.exmouthbeachvolleyball.com)

As well as the usual information, the following is required for the beach league:

**Calendar:** What's on what week.

**On/Off:** If an evening is to be cancelled due to the weather, then a cancellation notice needs to be shown on the web site by 5pm. This system worked really well last year and is used by other beach leagues.

**Hand Signals:** The required beach pairs hand signals.

**League tables:** Players points etc for the pairs and a team league table for the 4's.

**Partner Required:** Beach pair's partner list.

#### **Beach Season**

Beach leagues in the UK start in May and run until the first week in September.

I therefore propose that we run a 17 week beach league season starting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 and finishing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008.

#### **Accounts**

I have tried to put together several options for accounts but there are just too many variables at the moment. The league is likely to be small but should cover its running cost.

I would suggest that we charge a £5 per player entry fee for the league program, e.g. £10 per team for the pair's event and £20 for the beach 4's. Last year, we charged £1 per player per session for the beach coaching and I would suggest that we double that this year to £2. Chargeable to anyone who takes part in the coaching or training nets and who is not part of the league program.

### **Insurance**

As we are operating in a public space, we will need to take out Public Liability insurance. One net and half a dozen people would constitute normal beach use, likewise if we just used the permanent nets, we would be covered by EDDC insurance.

Four to six nets are not normal beach use and as we will also be a weekly structured event, we will need to take out public liability insurance. The easiest way to do this is via the EVA club affiliation option (£43 first year, £75 thereafter), see item below.

### **The EDVA & the Beach League**

I personally have no problem with the EDVA helping to start and to get the beach league up and running. The EDVA is a source of equipment, administration, accounts and a source for funding, however if the beach league is to become a permanent part of the EDVA. Then additional beach posts will need to be added to the committee and the appropriate changes made to the constitution.

It's will be unfair to add the additional work load of a beach league to the existing posts of indoor league fixture sec, PR sec or development office etc. It would also be better for the sport if these posts were filled from the beach community. Suggested additional posts would be, beach competition sec, beach PR (including beach web site) and beach equipment office. The committee could also choose not to fill these posts until February / March.

An alternative option to consider is to set it up as an Exmouth Beach Volleyball Club. This has the advantage that as a club, affiliation and public liability insurance can be obtained but has the disadvantage of all the issues associated with starting a new club, accounts, constituting, committee etc with a small number of people.

My preferred option, would be to create a beach club as a subcommittee of the EDVA, this would allow beach affiliation and public liability insurance. It would also allow the beach league to draw on the administration, equipment and accounting services that the EDVA offers. This is the same set up that would be required if the EDVA were to run indoor regional or national league teams etc. As the EDVA can set up sub committees, I do not believe a change to the constitution is required.

### **On going actions**

Additional proposals to be sent to Dave Reece by the 30<sup>th</sup> March

EDVA Nets to be collected from Coaver VC – Request sent

EDDC use of beach request – Sent 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 08

Beach League: Proposal & Cost to be voted on at the 3<sup>rd</sup> April Committee Meeting.

Web site - In progress

## **Summary Accounts**

### Additions to the EDVA Beach nets

Two replacement net bags: £25 [for beach use]

Two sets of 8x8 court lines: £60 [required for beach]

Purchase Junior post inserts: £10 [required for EDVA junior events]

Total repair costs, approximately £95

### Additional Equipment Required to start the league

Six beach match balls + bag: £170

Two court lines for the permanent courts: £60

Total additional equipment cost, approximately £230

### Cost for Running a Beach league

Affiliation & public liability insurance: £43

Parking for three cars x £3 x 17 wks: £153 TBC

Replacement pegs (four per wk @ £1 each): £68

Running cost, approximately: £264 for the first year.

### Income at £5 per player

Ladies league, 8 teams: £80

Men's league, 8 teams: £80

Beach 4's, 8 teams: £160

Training income, 2 people per wk x £2: £68

Example of income: £388

### Other Items to consider

End of season awards (EDVA Tee shirts x 16 @£6): £96

Steel bolts pegs with a hoop: £?

Income from an EDVA Beach Pairs Tournament?

Income from the EDVA Beach Juniors Tournament?

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