

Herts Nomads.

We are coming to the end of a challenging season and unfortunately I do not know the outcome yet.

Despite a brilliant effort this weekend where we won both our matches we remain 9<sup>th</sup> in the league. Therefore we must have a playoff game with one of the runners up in Div 3. This is very harsh as there are 3 teams below us, but as div 3 is split into 3 we are involved in play offs.

Pete Brooks has run most of our Thursday sessions and these have been well attended by both team members and other Herts ladies. Pete seems keen to continue helping us, which is excellent news for ladies volleyball in our county. Pete is a top coach and we are very fortunate to have the benefit of his expertise.

With this in mind I urge all HVA ladies teams to consider recommending their more able players to attend the Nomads training sessions. We are not training at the moment because we have basically run out of money this season and cannot afford to book a venue.

Financially it has been quite hard this season, venue costs are very high and we are a relatively small squad. All the team members have paid £180 subs for the season, (£90 for a couple who joined after Christmas.) Everyone has also paid £25 registration and we have had to finance our travel expenses, which have been substantial with matches as far north as Leeds and as far south as Devon. We also provide a food at home matches.

The budget was very tight for the season we just about made it by cancelling a couple of training sessions in March. However, the play off match has to be hosted by us so we now have to find another £100 plus and the coffers are bare! If the HVA could help us with this unexpected expense we would be very grateful.

I think the Nomads have done reasonably well this year it is a very big step from div 3 to div 2 and it has been quite a challenge. Obviously we intend a favourable result in the play off and another season in div 2. However, the team is keen to continue whatever the result and I certainly believe it is good for Herts volleyball to continue with a NVL team.

The Nomads rely on the support of the HVA financially but also for the website support and help given at home matches with scoring, line judging and spectator support.

The reason for this somewhat premature note is to ask if the HVA will continue to support us by paying the league fees for the Nomads, it is probably not viable to continue without your support. I understand it will be some time before your next meeting and we would need to notify the EVA within 3 weeks of the end of the season if we are not going to continue.

Once we get to the end of the season we will of course have our AGM and plan the coming season. I will then be able to give a full report to the HVA.

Dawn Graceson.