

Herts Junior Volleyball.

Thanks for the funding, I have purchased:

12 junior volleyballs
6 normal weight balls
1 heavy weight setter training ball
1 ball cart
10 pairs of knee pads

This was from Sportset total cost £557

I also purchased a first aid kit £29.95 (via Darren from Costco)

I also donated £20 to Eric's charity as payment for a set of second hand balls.

Our treasurer Sandra Goetz is away at the moment but I think I have covered all our expenditure above, therefore the balance in the bank is £93.17 and I have £16 in petty cash collected from the Saturday session.

Sandra will pass on the accounts when she is back.

We had three volunteers attend the Level 1 course in February:

Darren Chason, Heidi Shaughnessy and Sandra Goetz.

I am pleased to announce all three were successful in passing their level 1.

We had agreed to support these volunteers by paying half their course fees, the cost of the course was £70 each.

I applied to The Torch Trophy Trust for a bursary to support these applicants and was awarded 50% of the total cost for the three, £105. Therefore, we did not need to use the funds given by the HVA.

The EVA have advised that we treat the club as a junior section of the Herts Nomads, so we do not need to affiliate separately but are covered by the Nomads affiliation.

We are implementing the EVA Child Protection Policy and all coaches and helpers are in the process of having a CRB check. Heidi Shaughnessy has agreed to fill the role of Child Welfare Officer and is co-ordinating the process with the EVA.

We have started a Saturday club at RSS . This is a girl's session running every week from 12.30pm – 2.30pm. Many thanks to Geert for providing the venue free of charge which has allowed us to do this. The session is well attended by RSS girls and there are a couple of others who pay £2.00 to attend the session.

The group is doing exceptionally well and have achieved a good standard already. It is hoped the numbers will increase as more girls achieve the required standard at the after school clubs.

Darren Chason has started to share the coaching with me and covers for me when I have NVL fixtures. He has played a key role in developing this group.

Sandra Goetz, Amanda Barraclough and Glynn Archibald have also attended when they can to support the development of these girls.

We hope to begin a boy's session ASAP, we need a venue at a time coaches are available. A possible option is Watford YMCA, they have said I may be able to have Thursday 4.30pm – 6.30pm but I would need to have one of the other coaches to commit to supporting this session.

The after school club at Watford Girls Grammar is going well on a Tuesday, with about 12 girls now attending regularly. The girls have asked me to extend the session, so we will train longer after Easter.

The Wednesday after school club at Queens is also doing well although numbers are still lower than I would like. However, six of the members passed their Preliminary Junior Volleyball award last term and the school has supported them by paying for their badges and certificates.

I am just coming to the end of another 6 week rotation of GCSE class volleyball with two different classes at Queens School. These are challenging sessions as there are around 24 kids per class to accommodate in quite a small gym! Heidi has come along and assisted me on several occasions and that has been very helpful.

Having the new equipment has also helped a great deal as we now have enough balls to go round!

There are quite a few boys in these classes who have potential, but cannot make the after school session, so I am hoping that once we can offer an alternative boys session they will be able to develop that potential.

We have begun enquiries at Parmiters School and St Michaels School, where there seems to be an interest in volleyball. However, I will again need to rely on some support from the other coaches to commit to sessions in these schools as well.

I am also hoping to develop a link with a school in Tring, where a young teacher I know is interested in volleyball.

Enfield are planning to set up some junior volleyball and we hope to support them with equipment and help if they need it.

Barnet are very keen to have a match against our girl's team and we hope to arrange it ASAP. Paul Westhead at Clement Danes is also interested in a match for his Y8 girls.

I did suggest to Sue at Barnet that it might be nice to have some junior matches before the main events of the cup finals in May. I don't know if this is viable – but the youngsters seemed to enjoy the outdoor net last year!

As we move forward and expand into more schools it will be essential to have more equipment, it is already difficult as we have to meet up to pass over the equipment if I can't make a Saturday at RSS. I would like to buy some more practice balls and knee pads and a second ball cart so we have enough equipment for more than one coach to be working at the same time in different schools.

It is still my intention to apply for funding and we are in a better position now having established a regular club and bank account.

This is a time consuming job and I am hoping that there are some people within the HVA who will be prepared to take on the role of applying for funding. It is a way

people can help without having to commit to specific hours at junior training sessions. Please make the members of our clubs aware we need this help, there are lists of organisations that may be willing to offer funding, available from the EVA and I also have a comprehensive list from Ken Edwards.

I think we have achieved encouraging results so far, the process is very time consuming, but I feel we are moving in the right direction. I am hoping to contact more schools during this summer term, with a view to having more in school sessions in September.

The easiest way to reach more schools will always be if we can get a member of staff involved and operate a mentoring system, so coaches can visit periodically and the teacher can run the weekly sessions in-between. If any clubs know of an interest in volleyball in local schools it would be helpful if they could let me know and I can try and link them into our development programme ASAP.

Once again thank you for your support.

Dawn Graceson