

2nd Touch

The newsletter from Division II in the London Volleyball League

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Welcome to London Volleyball League 2008-09 Season

Willesden overthrow Hillingdon as league leaders (3:1)

By Douglas Barr-Hamilton

FOUR MONTHS to the day since Hillingdon inflicted Willesden's last loss, the league newcomers got their revenge beating the division's leaders in four sets and maintaining their own unbeaten record, which stretches from that evening.

The whole match proved to be thrilling with the excitement starting in the very first set. After even early exchanges with the score regularly tied up to seven-all, the hosts raised their game and forced Hillingdon time-outs at 11:8 and 21:15 but the visitors then fought back and at 21:21 it was Stuart Fullerton's turn to

give his players thirty seconds of gentle advice. They responded well and dropped only one more point.

The second set was not dissimilar but without a time-out, Willesden enjoyed an early lead, saw it eliminated and the scores tied and fourteen-all and fifteen-all, before they pulled out the stops and took a two set lead.

For a while it looked as though the third would follow a similar pattern but Hillingdon recovered from 12:8 to eighteen all and then went from strength to strength. Willesden's time-out at 18:20

failed to help them; another time-out at 18:24 looked futile: and so it proved as the leaders forced the match into a fourth set. That began with each side winning four of the first eight rallies but the home team were then able to build a small lead. Small: just two or three points until the score reached 20:17.

Willesden are too experienced to lose from there and, in fact, Hillingdon were not able to score another point: the excitement had come to an end just two minutes early with the final score reading: 25:22 25:20 19:25 25:20. **END**

Mid match crisis hits College as Imperial lose to Flaming Six

By Douglas Barr-Hamilton

THE STUDENTS again produced inconsistent volleyball when they entertained Flaming Six and after an excellent opening set with both sides producing some of their best and the visitors saving one set point before going behind, Imperial appeared to fall apart in the second. It was a bizarre set in which only four Imperial players got to serve.

Most of the serves were by Philip Xenakis who came on as a sub at 2:6 and took the score from 2:11 to 7:11 when Flaming Six required a time-out. For them,

Ryan Curry's serves had already precipitated the slump from two all to 2:11 and Riccardo Palluotto's were to lead a charge that made his side safe at 8:20.

From one set all, play was much more competitive again until Flaming Six drew away from 19:21 to take the third and from 8:10 in the fourth steadily to extend their lead and claim both set and match. Final score: 25:23 10:25 19:25 17:25. **END**

Fireball conquer weakened Whipps

By Douglas Barr-Hamilton

LONDON SPYKERS' Fireball enjoyed a rare success in early January after a season of close results that have not yielded the points when they entertained Whipps. The match was very close indeed with all the first three sets being won to 21 points. It remained close for part of the

fourth but, two sets up and winning a point at 8:9, it seemed that Fireball suddenly realised this was to be their night. Despite a time out at 12:9 and another at 18:9, it was 20:10 before Whipps served again. The visitors did match their hosts point for point until the end but it was to

be celebrations for the boys from Bethnal Green although the shine will have been taken off the success by the absence of Whipps' Tom Howells and Lance Symister, serving a match suspension. Final Score: 25:21; 25:21; 21:25; & 25:15. **END**

IN MEN'S DIVISION TWO BLUE

PVC take Grasshoppers to the Edge

By Douglas Barr-Hamilton

HAVING BEEN taken to five sets by Fireball just two weeks earlier (21:25 25:21 25:22 23:25 13:15) title challengers Grasshoppers have started to look vulnerable. PVC travelled to Tottenham and produced their match of the season so far. 217 points were

scored in just over an hour and a half and the hosts got just one more than half of them. It could hardly have been a better match and 2T congratulates both clubs on their team's performance and the good spirit in which the game was played. Playing the leading

teams will bring out the best in most sides and it was certainly true of Putney while Grasshoppers determination will be a signal to all that their ambitions remain intact. Final score: 25:22; 25:21; 18:25; 26:28; & 15:12.

END

Dominant Putney worried by Arrows

By Douglas Barr-Hamilton

ARROWS' SHANE Donnelly surrounded himself with a side of beginners and, although that is fairly normal for the establishment, they initially appeared overawed as Putney swept through the opening set. The right words were obviously said after the teams had changed ends as, from then on, they challenged for every point and played with much enthusiasm. Indeed, PVC eventually seemed rattled and needed to call two time outs as

their opponents closed first to 17:10 and then to 22:18, much to Arrows' delight. Now full of confidence, they competed well for much of the third set although it always looked as though PVC could raise their game. It was still close at 11:10 but two runs of points saw Putney home, the first opening up a 16:10 lead and the second taking the score from 20:17 to the end of the match. Final score: 25:8; 25:20; & 25:17. **END**

IN MEN'S DIVISION TWO RED

Met run out of players

By Douglas Barr-Hamilton

IT PROMISED to be a great match when the Met entertained Wandsworth at the Peel Centre and the opening rallies of the first

set were of a good standard and play close enough to suggest a long, close match. But the Police had a squad of just six

and an evening in Hendon was ruined by an injury to Harry Eveleigh when the score had reached 9:11. Sadly, he could

not continue and ref, Ryszard Dabrowski had no option but to abandon the match. Final score: 9:25; 0:25; & 0:25. **END**.

Tunnel Diggers lose to Flaming Six

By Douglas Barr-Hamilton

AFTER A bright, purposeful start, Tunnel Diggers faded somewhat as Flaming Six got attuned to their unfamiliar surroundings. The home side had enjoyed a small lead initially but a bright spell of play took Six from 11:6 to

12:11 and then into a comfortable lead at 18:13.

The Battersea side never looked back as they held any nerves they may have retained and then breezed through the following two sets.

Tunnel Diggers were neither able to recover from a 0:5 opening to the second set nor recover their rhythm after the visitors' pressure had taken them 14:19 ahead in the third. Final score: 22:25 13:25 14:25. **END**.

Unstoppable Willesden?

By Patrick Hassan-Morlai

THEY HAD a late start because their home venue was not available at the beginning of the season. But as if that never happened, Willesden Volleyball Club now occupies the second spot in women's division two.

This is the result of having played nine matches and won all. Even the current

leaders in the division, ISIS, were subdued in a three straight encounter with Willesden.

With that decisive win, Willesden has given shudders to the rest of the division that nothing will stop them from clinching that enviable top spot by the end of April / May; but no one is

prophesying that Willesden will be crowned queen of WD2, only time will tell.

Willessden's recent win also include three straight defeats against Flaming 6, Lionhearts 3, Dynamo Dykes Free and White Eagles 3. **END.**

They say history repeats itself

By Patrick Hassan-Morlai

FOR THE second time this season, Flaming Six lost to PVC Girls Volleyball Club in WD2. Sometimes, it is the case that no matter how good a team plays, it's just unable to defeat an opponent either at home or away. It may just be down to history repeating itself, bad luck, superiority of the opponent or some other factors.

The match between Flaming Six and PVC on Sunday February 1 was bound to be decided by one or more of the above factors. Flaming Six are quick to dismiss history and superiority as they argue that they lost their first match to PVC by 3:0 last October while the February match was 3:1. Flaming Six also noted that

their October scores were 13; 18 & 16 to PVC 25 in each set; while in February they did not only win one set but scored 20 or more points in each set they lost – 23 in the first; 22 in the second; won the third; and 20 in the fourth.

It should be acknowledged that any encounter between Sally Hendry and Vanessa Handley's sides is bound to produce tense and competitive action. PVC is full of experienced players. Flaming Six have been consistent throughout this season, their first as a team. Both teams should however be commended for their commitment to the sport and the league – well done you two. **END.**

Lionheart 3 + White Eagles 3 = 5

By Patrick Hassan-Morlai

THEY BOTH occupy positions in the other half of the league table; Lionheart 3 is sixth and White Eagles 3 is seventh. They both have played at least half of their league matches

this season and have been able to win 3 and 2 matches respectively, hence the total 5.

However, when the two last met, it was Lionhearts 3 who

triumphed after 75 minutes of court action; three sets; 139 points; 9 sideouts; and 4 substitutions between the two sides with each side playing 8 registered players.

These statistics indicate a close actioned match and also demonstrate the way the teams earned their points as follows: 21:25; 22:25; & 21:25. **END.**

Whipps' persistence pays off over PVC

By Patrick Hassan-Morlai

THIS IS the only match that produced five sets in WD2 since the beginning of 2009. The host, PVC, wasted no time to establish themselves in the first set with each player making at least two or more points in their first serves, except of Gina Rembe who made no point in her first.

At her second serve, Gina took her team from 13 to 17 while

Whipps were still at 6 and with that pace the visitors were unable to catch up and lost the first set at 25:13.

Set two was a different affair as Captain Jane Carne of Whipps led her team to victory having served four straight points from 15 to 19 and when she served for the third time, she only needed one point from 24 to clinch that set.

Although PVC attempted to re-establish themselves in the third with a slight lead, they were prevented from doing so eventually. The visitors halted PVC's Sabine Rinshe's serve at 10 and when Whipps' Akvila Skarnulyte finished her serve, Whipps took the lead at 14 and continued to win that set at 23:25.

(Continued at page 4 ↻)

Whipps' persistence

(from page 3 above)

Set four was PVC's at 25:22. This was an important win for PVC who had trailed until Lene Syngstad brought the home side at par with the visitors at 15:15. From that point, Sally made one point for her side but this was equalled by another point from Whipps' number 9 (H. Haves) at 16:16.

Both teams tied again at 19:19 and then at 20:20. This was the point when Sally Hendry's team said enough was enough and pulled together to win the set at 25:22.

As both teams were levelled in sets won so far, it was down to a 15-point fifth set to decide the winner for the day. Whipps started off well with Akvila Skarnulyte making four points

in her first serve. Sally made two in her first serve at 2:4. The visitors maintained their lead and by the time their fourth server Anita Widlake went to the service area at point 14, she only needed one point to seal their victory at 05:15. With this victory, Whipps also moved a position ahead of PVC in the league table at position 4. **END.**

League Tables as of 27th February 2009

Women's Division II

Pos	Team	P	W	L	Sets		Points
					F	A	
1	ISIS	11	10	1	30	10	31
2	Willesden	9	9	0	27	2	27
3	Flaming 6	12	7	5	24	19	26
4	Whipps	9	5	4	19	17	19
5	PVC Girls	8	5	3	21	10	18
6	Lionhearts 3	10	3	7	13	22	16
7	White Eagles 3	8	2	6	7	18	12
8	Dynamo Dykes Free	9	0	9	1	27	9
9	T.H. Lynx 2	4	1	3	4	9	6
10	Richmond College	4	0	4	0	12	4

Men's Division II Blue

Pos	Team	P	W	L	Sets		Points
					F	A	
1.	Grasshoppers Betsson	11	10	1	30	19	31
2.	Chadwell Heath	10	10	0	30	3	30
3.	PVC Boys	10	7	3	24	12	24
4.	White Eagles 2	10	6	4	21	16	22
5.	Fireball	9	3	6	14	19	15
6.	Thunderball	9	2	7	6	22	13
7.	Whipps	8	2	6	10	18	12
8.	Arrows	9	1	8	4	24	11
9.	IVA Rustam	4	2	3	7	7	*7
10.	Wapping Wildcats 2	6	0	6	1	18	*4

*point deducted for defaulted match

Men's Division II Red

Pos	Team	P	W	L	Sets		Points
					F	A	
1.	Hillingdon	11	10	1	31	5	31
3.	Willesden	9	8	1	24	6	25
2.	Lume	10	6	4	20	14	22
5.	Flaming 6	9	4	5	13	16	17
8.	Wandsworth Boys	7	4	3	12	12	15
4.	Tunnel Diggers	8	3	5	10	17	14
9.	Metropolitan Police	8	2	6	10	19	12
6.	Richmond College	9	2	7	11	23	*12
7.	Imperial College	9	1	8	7	26	11

*point deducted for defaulted match

Volleyball elsewhere

FIVB World Championships, Sheffield 2009

THE FIRST round of the 2010 World Volleyball Championships in Sheffield could not be missed. It was Great Britain's opportunity to show the progress they are making towards becoming Olympic contestants.

The results and official views are on Volleyball England's web site but we in 2T thought you might like a different slant on the event although it has to be said that one's first and lasting impression after leaving the tournament are one and the same: the superb quality of the volleyball. The number of Londoners in Sheffield was agreeably impressive, many of them working in jobs they

hope to be doing in 2012 and the standard of the presentation was high so everyone was taking their duties seriously. The number of spectators was lower than expected especially for the games in which Britain was not involved. There is so much that players and coaches can learn from watching such talent and, while a train-load from St Pancras would be too much to expect, one would have liked to see Yorkshire folk flooding from the nearby Tramway station.

However, you want to know about the teams, don't you? Against Israel, the men only looked themselves in the second set which they won

25:21 and, although the third was close, one never felt they were firing on all cylinders. On the other hand, against the eventual winners, Belarus, they were magnificent for three sets, again winning the second, before fading somewhat in the fourth. The women's side had three games and looked a better team and a much improved one. They played well and with great spirit going down to Portugal in five sets and beating Montenegro in four before being outclassed by a formidable Israeli outfit that goes through to the next round. Our teams are making great progress but the outcome of the tournament was disappointing. **END.**

Theatre in Prison gives chance of friendlies – HERE'S YOUR INVITE

IN FACT, Arrows are always keen to organise friendly matches but are especially eager to do so after a hole has been blown in their season's fixtures. The sports hall at Wandsworth prison is being converted into a temporary theatre for four weeks: mid February to mid March, and Fireball and Grasshoppers will each enjoy a "walk-over" in place of their scheduled fixture in men's division blue.

The prison team is comprised mainly of beginners but the players are enthusiastic and impatient to improve the standard of their play. Playing them could be enjoyable

for your bench players, beginners, or a mixed social side (but not suitable for juniors). It would even be possible for a women's side to play there.

Free after mid May? Contact Shane Donnelly (shane.donnely@hmps.gsi.gov.uk) if you are interested. With team lists in advance, production of passport or driving licence to gain entry and handing in of mobile phones, it's not so easy to get into prison. But the welcome is warm, the play will be enjoyable and it'll be easy to get out afterwards. **END.**

Volleyball's Vietnamese New Year



GRASSHOPPERS' SECRETARY, Hahn Le, threw a party for volleyball friends to celebrate her New Year (same as Chinese) at the family restaurant, The Eastern Tree, opposite Loughborough Junction station in Camberwell and our picture shows some of the gathered players and administrators enjoying their fabulous meal.

To book and share something of the experience, phone 02077372545. **END.**

AND FINALLY

WE'D LIKE every volleyball player, scorer, referee, executive member and fan in London to receive this regular **free** newsletter. Please pass this message to others to request **free** subscription by emailing douglas@londonvolleyball.org or patrick@londonvolleyball.org and including **SUBSCRIPTION** in the subject line.

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