

LAST WEEK saw the curtain come down on another season of beach volleyball with the final games of the Exmouth Beach League being played.

The weather this summer has most certainly not been conducive to beach volleyball.

Whilst rain does not mean 'no play today', as it does in some other sports, and, at the completion of the campaign only two rounds of the league had to be cancelled and all Sunday adult and junior tournaments took place without any rain interruption.

In the Ladies, Ali West topped the league table with 39 points from 17 matches, with Claire Babbage and Jess Webber taking the second and third spots respectively.

The Ladies 2008 Most Valuable Player (MVP) award goes to Claire Babbage, who achieved a match average of 2.92 for the season, finishing just 0.01 point ahead of her pairs partner Laura Wilson, with Gosia Krzyszkowska taking third place.

In the Men's league, Coolen Peryanaden took this year's title with 32 points, ahead of Danny

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Lewis, Dave Gibbs and Alan Liebermann. Beach volleyball is a sport for players of all ages and, just to prove it, there is a 40 year age gap between some of the players in the top four this year.

Danny Lewis took the men's MVP award with a match average of 2.80, followed by Dave Gibbs and Alex Clare, both on a match average of 2.75.

The recreational Beach Fours team award went to "Fat Bottom Girl" with runners-up spot going to "Return to Sender" and "Kings School", Ottery St Mary, finishing in third place.

The recreation beach fours league is for teams or groups of players who just want to have a social evening playing volleyball. This format is a great introduction to the sport and is very popular with over 40 teams competing in the 2008 summer grass league and 12 local company teams took part in this year's corporate games. Plans are already in place to expand the beach league next season and to attract more local and company teams on to the sand.

Beach volleyball has been played on Exmouth beach since the 1970's in one form or another, the annual Exmouth Beach Volleyball Tournament starting in 1994. Beach pairs and junior events were added later. Although locally based beach players have been successfully competing on the UK Grand Prix circuit in recent years, this is the first year that a formal beach league has run throughout the summer. For more information about Exmouth Beach Volleyball Club, visit www.Exmouth-BeachVolleyball.com.



HIGH FIVES: A typical scene from Beach Volleyball.