

Newcomers take control by starting with three victories

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EXETER and District Volleyball League newcomers Taunton have made a strong start to life in **Division 3** with three straight victories that puts them third in the table with two games in hand over leading teams Torexe Hurricanes and FP Jacks.

They opened up with a 4-1 win against Ottery-based ADDS Evolution built on good hitting from captain Paul Mattocks and setting from player of the match Nick Halse.

Evolution picked up a valuable point by claiming the final set 15-8 after recovery work from Shaun Carter held Taunton at bay.

Taunton have also picked up wins against the top two teams by 3-2 margins.

Mark Jeffries was player of the match as they recovered turned a 1-0 deficit into a 3-1 lead before losing the last set to FP Jacks.

Leaders Torexe Hurricanes gave Taunton a scare in the next game, pulling back from 2-0 down to level with fine hitting from Tom Mammola before player of the match Jeffries inspired a 15-8 deciding set win.

FP Vikings are holding down top spot in **Division 2**, with Torexe Tornados and Wonford Panthers close behind.

Panthers recovered from losing the first set with Pete Notman's big hitting helping them to a 3-2 win against Churston, then Pete Hill's blocking through the middle inspired another comeback and 3-2 win against Space Hoppers.

Tornados played consistently well in a 5-0 win against Churston with Ade Squires picking up the player of the match award.

Wonford Betablockers have already opened

up a seven point lead in **Division 1**, but Torexe Breezers have two games in hand after a 5-0 win against Kirton, with Nick Maye's spiking outstanding as they won all five sets by narrow margins.

FP Wanderers beat Priory 3-2 after working hard to build up their lead.

Wanderers took the first two sets 25-22, Prior rallied to win the third before Andy Nicks, Steve Raine and Glen Tom dominated the fourth for the eventual winners.

Torexe Thunder are clear at the top of the **Ladies Division** with 4 straight wins, including a 3-2 victory over closest rivals and reigning champions Exeter University Ladies.

Thunder have also beaten Friends Provident Queens 4-1, with key 25-23 and 25-22 wins in the third and fourth sets.

Debbie Chalk's consistent serving was the feature of Thunder's 5-0 win against FP Wander Women.

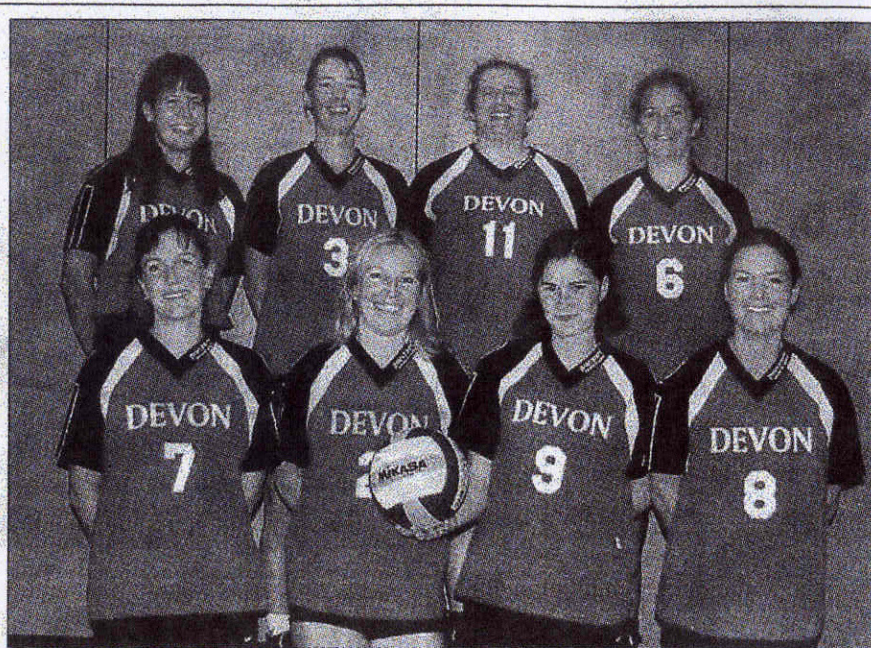
● National League side Torexe were looking for major improvements this weekend after going down to their third defeat in five outings at the Riverside last weekend.

Torexe went down 3-0 against Bristol-based Speedwell losing the sets 20-25, 17-25, 20-25.

Today they were due to travel to Milton Keynes followed by a tough EVA Cup match against Division 1 side Portsmouth Mayfield.

Torexe's women's South West League side picked up a win against Priory but went down to UWIC Lexus at Burnham-on-Sea.

They fought back to win the third set before losing 3-1 to the latter before Jacky Pike and Debbie Chalk impressed in a 3-1 win against home side Priory.



VOLLEY GOOD SHOW: The Devon Women team, back row (left to right): Cleo Andrews (captain), Amanda Squires, Sam Gamer, Sue Back. Front: Jocelyn Glossop, Nikki Batho, Marion Williams, Claire Stolworthy

THE Devon Women side are dominating Women's Division 3 West of the National League after picking up two more wins at Plymstock last weekend.

The new club now top the table with 16 points from six games after wins against Whitefield and Plymouth Goldfish.

Controlled serving from Marion Williams helped Devon beat Bristol-based Whitefield 3-0, taking the tight sets 25-17, 25-21 and 25-22.

Goldfish levelled the first set at 19-19 before Nikki Batho's accuracy closed out a first set

win before Devon eased to another 3-0 win.

The team was originally part of the Torexe club in Exeter and now includes players from throughout the county.

They have been helped by grants from Awards For All and the Exeter & District League and are now searching for a team sponsor.

Any potential players interested in joining the National League outfit should contact club secretary Mrs C Andrews on 01752 894018.