

POOLE ACE TAKES SECOND WITH PARTNER AT SANDBANKS



TOP QUARTET: GP winners Hendrik Neubert, Maria Bertilli, Audrey Cooper and Albrecht Glitz



TOP TEAMS: British junior under-12 champions Wessex Commandos (right) with runners-up Lytchett Loonies and GB captain Richard Dobbell

# Spokes is Classic hit

POOLE Beach Volleyball star Debbie Spokes and partner Hedda Meijer continued their rich vein of form on the south coast after achieving a runners-up spot in last weekend's Sandbanks Classic tournament, writes Paul Burbidge

The event, the second in the three-tournament British Grand Prix, was won by Audrey Cooper and Maria Bertilli who triumphed in the final 2-0 to take pole position in the 2003 British GP rankings.

Despite their runners-up spot at Sandbanks, Spokes feels the Grand Prix title she won last year in her first foray onto the sand may be out of her reach this time around, after finishing fifth at the first tournament in Bournemouth.

Spokes said: "We played a good game against Audrey and Maria. I've only been on the sand two years and

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Audrey has been playing for 10. She is also in Olympic contention so considering this I think we've done well.

"It's a shame that the British GP only consists of three tournaments, otherwise we'd have better chance of turning things round, but hopefully we can still finish second.

"We have one competition left in the Grand Prix at Barry Island in Wales, and we're hoping that we can at least reach the final, but hopefully we'll come first."

Next in the diary for the former Loughborough University student is an invitational tournament at Bournemouth in two weeks time, the following week will then see the pair travel to Weymouth for the

Weymouth Classic contest.

In the Men's Grand Prix local duo Tim Hollis and Mike Randall reached the final against Germany's Hendrik Neubert and Albrecht Glitz, with the German duo winning a fierce battle 2-0.

The British Junior Championships were also played out on the Sandbanks sands, and in the under-19s final Wessex's Zara Dampney and partner Helen Brown were 2-0 winners over Dampney's Wessex club mate Vicky Palmer and Lucy Bolton.

In the under-16s competition, Poole pair Leanne Eddie and Henri Creasy triumphed over Lauren Williams and Rachael Turner 2-0, with Wessex duo Scott Frame and Robert Flay matching their success in the boys' event beating Richard Collins and Chris Dawe 2-1.



Debbie Spokes (front) with partner Hedda Meijer

# Beach in Invitation final



VOLLEY GOOD SHOW: Dorset's Nicky Tinsley and Julia Stevens were beaten finalists in the Invitation Cup

DORSET beach belles Nicky Tinsley and Julia Stevens reached the final of the Invitation Cup in Bournemouth last weekend.

Tinsley and Stevens pipped top beach volleyball junior Lucy Bolton and Grand Prix winner Kerri Olding 2-1 to book their place in the showcase match.

But the local favourites had to settle for the runners-up spot after losing out to Hedda Meijer and Debbie Spokes 2-0 in the final next to Bournemouth Pier.

It was a double Dorset success for Meijer and Spokes who also won the Boscombe Invitation Cup last month.

Despite great determination from Tinsley and Stevens they couldn't match Meijer's power at the net which was assisted by her partner's sound defensive work.

The local sands again proved fruitful for Bournemouth Grand Prix winners Jody Gooding and Colin Paterson who reached last weekend's final on Bournemouth beach.

However the pair failed to repeat their success of two weeks ago and

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL Paul Burbidge

lost a close battle 2-1 to Morphe Bowes and Stuart Watson.

Bowes and Watson won a thrilling final set 18-16 to clinch the title.

Gloucester pair Gooding and Paterson reached the final of the tournament after defeating Bournemouth's Mike Randall and Tim Hollis who had won the first Invitation Cup at Boscombe in May.

Chichester's Bowes and Cambridge-born Watson edged past Danny Wol and Greg Gwinnett 2-1 in their semi-final.

The event was organised by the Bournemouth Beach Volleyball Club with help and support from Bournemouth Council, Parasol Skin Care, Mikasa, Jumpin Jaks and Pinnacle Events and Marketing Services.

Anyone thinking of trying beach volleyball can attend coaching classes at Boscombe Pier every Thursday from 6.30pm.