



Barton Blockers Volleyball Club

Baysgarth School, Barton- Upon- Humber (January 2011)

The Change 4 Life volleyball programme is now well underway, with over 200 teachers attending bespoke training courses and over 400 after-school clubs set to start this term.

One of these Change 4 Life clubs is Barton Blockers Volleyball Club, based at the Baysgarth School in Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire. Recognising the need for volleyball development in the area, teachers Patrick Sprakes and Joanna Wilkinson founded Barton Blockers in 2009 with support from their local School Sports Partnership and a successful Sport England funding bid. They recruited as many keen youngsters as possible and members of the local community to create a friendly and thriving club with members aged from 15 to 60!

Since Baysgarth School joined the C4L programme in September 2010, sixth form members of the club (aged 16-18 years old) have taken the lead on developing the club within the school. Small groups of young coaches have taken a year group each and are running weekly training sessions for the younger pupils. The hope is that these new players will continue to build their volleyball skills, whilst keeping fit at the same time. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the young coaches along with the support of their teachers, the youth club is a big success and growing in numbers every week.

Barton Blockers also recently entered the 18 National Junior Volleyball Championships both in the men's and women's competition. Both squads performed extremely well against more experienced volleyball players and the Under 18 women successfully reached the last 16 teams of the competition, a great achievement for such a young club!

