



Volleyball Australia Newsletter

October 2004

AVF

General Managers Report

October sees the AVF Annual General Meeting being held in Canberra on the 23rd. As part of the AVF AGM weekend this year, many of our major stakeholders will discuss a 2020 vision for our sport. The workshop will be facilitated by Russell Newman.

Plans for the future were at the forefront during the announcement of the State Volleyball Centre as part of a \$6.4million redevelopment of the Dandenong Basketball Stadium. This initiative will allow Volleyball Victoria to further grow volleyball in that State as well as give Volleyball a home. For more information please check out the VVI website – www.volleyballvictoria.com.au.

Risk Management is a phrase that is fast becoming a permanent part of sport delivery now and into the future and the recent insurance crisis brought this issue to a head. As a result the Confederation of Australian Sport (then Sport Industry Australia) looked to the insurance industry to come up with a package that could help sports reduce their risks and exposures with the aim of reducing, or at least capping, their premiums. Administered by SportsSure, a joint venture by CAS and OAMPS Insurance Brokers, the program that was designed was an accreditation program for all levels of the sport called SafeSport. Volleyball and WaterSki have been chosen in a nation-wide pilot program to test and implement this initiative. Our sport will then see a reduction in the risk profile of the sport through identification, planning and implementation of policies and procedures to deliver our sport in an environment where risks and their impacts are minimised, thereby allowing our Clubs and their volunteers to get on with the business of providing Volleyball opportunities.

Sport Development Managers Report

Annual Review of Spikezone

The AVF submitted its performance review on the first year of the Spikezone – Discover Mini-Volleyball program to the ASC last week and has also had an initial meeting with the ASC to discuss the programs performance in Year One. While the AVF fell short of its national membership target of 1,750, obtaining only 1,264 members across the six states involved in delivery of the program, it does appear that the ASC is reasonable satisfied with the outcomes achieved and will continue to support the program into its second year. However, a definitive response will not be received until the end of November.

ASC National Officiating Scholarship Program

The ASC released details of the 2005 Officiating Scholarship in the past week and the AVF would like to invite all suitable qualified and interested referees to apply. As was the case this year, the 2005 scholarship for Volleyball / Beach Volleyball will be awarded to a National AAA referee who is interested in gaining their international accreditation.

Further information regarding the scholarship opportunity, including the application form, can be obtained by contacting Tim Shannahan (sdm@avf.org.au). Applications from interested referees close on Friday, October 29th.

Project CONNECT

The AVF held a one-day workshop with members of the ASC Disability Unit and representatives of Sitting Volleyball and Standing Volleyball in Canberra last week to discuss the AVF's inclusion in Project CONNECT from 2005. If included, the focus will be the development of improved volleyball programs for the disabled community, including improved means of delivering inclusive volleyball.

National Sitting & Standing Volleyball Championships

As part of the festival of Volleyball that will be occurring in Melbourne during early December, which already includes AVL Finals, the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup and the St. Kilda leg of the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour, the National Championships for Sitting Volleyball and Standing Volleyball have now been added. These Championships will take place on December 4th – 5th at the Melbourne Sports & Aquatics Centre.

For further information, including playing in the State teams that will be competing, please email sdm@avf.org.au. Please be aware that due to the limited number of eligible players currently participating in Sitting Volleyball, this discipline will be open to anybody who is interested in playing this discipline.

ASC National Coaching Scholarship Program

Applications have now closed for interested coaches to apply for a scholarship within the Australian Volleyball Federation's High Performance Program. A total of seven applications were submitted. The Australian Volleyball Federation should know whether it has been successful in obtaining a scholarship for 2005 by the end of November.

Referees for the Australian Volleyball League

This year's Australian Volleyball League has commenced and runs through to the first weekend in December when finals will take place in Melbourne. Referees interested in officiating in this year's League and with a current AVRC accreditation of National A or above should contact their State Volleyball office who can put them in contact with the appropriate AVRC State representative. Alternatively, email sdm@avf.org.au. The draw can be accessed in the Competitions & Events – AVL section of the AVF website.

Referees for the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour

A similar request for referees applies to this summer's Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour. Referees with a State AAA accreditation or above for Beach Volleyball are eligible to referee on the Tour. For further information, view the August 2004 Time Out E-Newsletter in the 'Newsletters' section of the AVF website or email sdm@avf.org.au.

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Volleyball Team Australia Men

VTAM bids Head Coach Jon Uriarte farewell

In a disappointing finish to the 4-year Olympic cycle, Head Coach, Jon Uriarte, has decided to return to Argentina after not renewing his contract with the AVF and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

Jon will depart in mid-November, leaving behind the most successful period for VTAM. He will be fondly remembered in Australia for his crowning achievement in guiding VTAM to qualify for the Olympics for the first time. His legacy will be the system of development of Youth and Junior players that will continue to see VTAM be competitive at the highest levels.

Jon arrived in Australia to find that the National team that represented Australia so well in the Sydney Olympics had all but disbanded, with only 4 players not retiring after the Games. On top of this, the focus on Junior development had not been as strong in the build up to Sydney as the program strove to maximise their preparation for the Olympics. Jon immediately put in place a model centred on the necessary strong Junior development, as he used the athletes' more formative years from 16 years old to fast-track their development.

The results were swift, as within a couple of years the Youth team had finished 8th in the World Championships and his young AIS team had won the AVL. By the 2004 Olympic qualifying event Jon was able to mould his very experienced Senior athletes into a formidable team with the help of three players 18 yrs and under, including two in the starting line up.

Jon will continue to be successful wherever he coaches in the future. We will fondly remember his determination, passion, commitment, achievements and friendship. We wish him, and his family (wife, Maria and children, Nicolas, Ezi and Delphi) all the very best for the future.

2004/05 Professional Player Contracts

With the end of the Olympics, VTAM's senior players headed back to their (mostly) European professional clubs. As seems to be the norm, some of our players have changed clubs between seasons.

Australian Captain, **Dan Howard**, returned to Verona, the team that he won the Italian 2nd Division with last year. The team has carried its good form into the 1st Division and is currently in the top 4. Dan has also been named team captain of Verona, another huge honour for him in probably the best League in the World. It is the first time that an Australian has been made the captain of an Italian 1st Division club team

Ben Hardy has changed from Division 2 in Italy to play for one of the top Division 1 teams in Belgium. His team is currently undefeated.

Hidde Van Beest, after a year away from the club scene to repair his injured shoulder, has returned to his former club, Loreto, in Division 2 in Italy and seems to be doing well as his team is currently top of the ladder.

Andrew Earl has left Spain to join National teammate, **Luke Campbell**, at Wuppertal in the German 1st Division. Another Aussie, **Mark Lebedew**, coaches the team and they hold hopes of again making the finals of the League.

Brett Alderman has moved from Germany to the French 2nd Division club of Geloe as that club attempts to gain promotion to the 1st Division. While fellow setter, **Matt Young**, has stayed with his club in the Spanish 1st Division with the hope of making this season's finals.

David Ferguson, has moved from the Netherlands and, with the help of National team coach, Jon Uriarte, found a new club in San Juan in the Argentine 1st Division.

Steven Keir, is playing in the Italian 2nd Division with a different club, Cagliari, from the island of Sardinia.

Dan Howard	Verona, Italy Div 1
Ben Hardy	Roselaare, Belgium Div 1
Hidde Van Beest	Loreto, Italy Div 2
Luke Campbell	Wuppertal, Germany Div 1
Mathew Young	Gran Canarias, Spain Div 1
Brett Alderman	Geloe, France Div 2
Andrew Earl	Wuppertal, Germany Div 1
David Ferguson	Obras Sanitarias – San Juan, Argentina Div 1
Steven Keir	Cagliari, Italy Div 2

AVL

The AIS squad members have started their AVL title defence. The team contains less than half of the winning members of last year's team and a number of younger (16 year old) athletes have taken their place. The AVL provides an excellent competitive opportunity for these young players and they are to improve from the experience over the next few months.



Volleyball Team Australia Women

'86 National Junior Team

The Australian Junior Women's team recently competed in the 12th Asian Junior Championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka (17-27 Sept) and placed a very creditable 6th.

Australian Junior Team:

Caitlin Thwaites (VIC)
 Shayla Chalker (VIC)
 Anne Ehrenberg (AIS/VIC)
 Natalie Frostick (NSW)
 Jo Healy (SA)
 Justine Mowen (QLD)
 Jessica Peacock (AIS/SA)
 Tarsha Praski (VIC)
 Rachel Rourke (QLD)
 Karina Schaap (WA)
 Christa Vogel (AIS/NSW)
 Rebecca Walter (AIS/VIC)

Head Coach: Sue Jenkins (AIS/VIC)
 Assistant Coaches: Boris Georgieff (QLD)
 Ross Sullivan (VIC)

Final Standings:

1. China
2. Japan
3. Korea
4. Chinese Taipei
5. Thailand
- 6. AUSTRALIA**
7. India
8. Sri Lanka
9. Maldives

Prior to the tournament the team travelled to Bangkok for a training camp and played several warm up matches,

first against the Thai Junior team and then in U-League, the Thai University League. This was invaluable to the team's preparation, helping the team adapt to the faster Asian style and solidifying starting positions within the team. The team improved with every match, culminating in a hard fought 5 set win in our final U-League match. The team gained a lot of confidence from the camp and before leaving set themselves a rather lofty goal – a top 4 finish at Asian Champs! Laden with handbags, watches, clothes and other goodies from the Bangkok street markets, the team headed to Colombo ready to tackle the best Junior teams in Asia.

Although Australia received a favourable draw, in that they were in the weaker of the two pools, their assignment to finish in the top 4 was made more difficult by the fact that they had to play both Korea and Chinese Taipei without having scouted them (Taipei having a bye on the first day). Australia did well to stay with the Koreans in the first set of their opening match, with serving errors at critical times being the telling difference in the set. Korea pushed on after a tight first set to take the match comfortably.

Then came the crunch match against Chinese Taipei. Australia took on the challenge and played a solid first set, upsetting Taipei 25-22, and for a while there it looked as though a top 4 finish was in sight. However, late in the second set the Australians consistency and self-belief fell away and they lost what was until then a close contest, 21-25. Chinese Taipei took full advantage of Australia's stumble and opened the third set with a flurry of points. Australia never recovered. Taipei gained momentum and embarked on a mission of all out attack whilst Australia was finding it increasingly difficult to penetrate the disciplined defence of Chinese Taipei. This eroded what little confidence the Aussies had left and Taipei took the match in four sets.

With the two tougher matches behind them, Australia then had to ensure that they were in the 5th /6th playoff and proceeded to convincingly beat hosts Sri Lanka and volleyball minnows Maldives to place them third in Pool A. Both were crushing victories that lifted the spirit of the Australians.

Australia met India (4th in Pool B) in the crossovers and inflicted some revenge for their loss last year at Asian Youth Championships, demolishing them 3-0. Australia then faced Thailand (3rd in Pool B) in the battle for 5th place. Thailand served very well and had Australia on the back foot and under considerable pressure from the first whistle. The Thai's didn't allow Australia to get into any sort of rhythm and were able to take the match in 3 comfortable sets, Australia therefore finishing 6th.

Although disappointed at not finishing in the top 4, the Australians were justifiably content with 6th position. Apart from a 4th place in 1982, this equals the next highest finish by an Australian team in this tournament.

The Australians have improved markedly since the Asian Youth Championships last year, having some crushing victories in winning all the matches that they were “expected” to win and are definitely bridging the gap to the traditional Asian powers.

There were also some great individual performances, notably Jess Peacock, Rebecca Walter and Anne Ehrenberg (as acknowledged by the tournament statisticians). Fantastic results given the accepted high skill and success level of our Asian opponents.

Individual accolades (top 5 finishes):

Jessica Peacock

- 3rd in “Best Scorer” (serve + block + spike)
- 2nd in “Best Spiker”
- 3rd in “Best Server”

Anne Ehrenberg

- 3rd in “Best Blocker”
- 4th in “Best Setter”

Rebecca Walter

- 5th in “Best Digger”
- 5th in “Best Receiver” (having lead this section after the pool games)

Match results at Asian Championships:

Pool games:

Korea d Aust	3-0 (25-21, 25-15, 25-17)
Taipei d Aust	3-1 (22-25, 25-21, 25-16, 25-13)
Aust d Maldives	3-0 (25-9, 25-10, 25-9)
Aust d Sri Lanka	3-0 (25-7, 25-18, 25-15)

5-8th playoff

Aust d India	3-0 (25-14, 25-22, 25-8)
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5th/6th playoff

Thailand d Aust	3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-17)
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National Junior Program Report

6th Junior Women's Trans Tasman Cup Series

Recently (Sept. 26 - Oct 2), the 88 National Youth Girls Team contested the 6th Junior Women’s Trans Tasman series for the Jenny Kirk Cup. (Jenny Kirk is a New Zealand volleyball identity that has made an enormous contribution to junior volleyball in that country.) The five match test series was contested in the Bay of Plenty region and surrounding towns of the North Island.

The team was coached by former '81 Junior Men's coach, Dan Higgins (VIC), and was assisted by Gary Roberts (VIC) and Trudy Watson (SA). The athletes selected for this tour were drawn from across Australia

with New South Wales volleyballer Alice Rohkamper appointed as captain. Congratulations to the following athletes on their selection to represent Australia:

- Teresa Dixon (VIC)
- Jessica Forman (WA)
- Ami Hart (QLD)
- Yolanda Hazebroek (SA)
- Jodee McCormac (NSW)
- Kimberly Morton (VIC)
- Jessica Pidgeon (NSW)
- Alice Rohkamper (NSW) - Capt.
- Rachel Rourke (QLD)
- Danielle Stott (VIC)
- Emily Tooker (QLD)
- And Rhiannon Tooker (QLD)

Results:

27/09/04	AUS lost to NZ	0 - 3 (14-25, 19-25, 17-25)
28/09/04	AUS lost to NZ	0 - 3 (24-26, 16-25, 13-25)
29/09/04	AUS lost to NZ	0 - 3 (13-25, 24-26, 25-27)
30/09/04	AUS lost to NZ	0 - 3 (17-25, 20-25, 22-25)
01/10/04	AUS lost to NZ	0 - 3 (19-25, 16-25, 21-25)

The series continued the deliberate age disparity that we have pursued since the inception of the series five years ago. In other words, we have consistently competed with younger athletes (in this case U17s versus U19s) against the New Zealand Junior Women’s Team.

For the first time since 1999, the result of the series reflected quite strongly against this concept. Every previous series has resulted in a 3/2 result, with a number of series remaining “alive” until the final match. The 5/0 result to New Zealand was not the result of a weaker Australian Youth Team. On the contrary, it is the belief of all Volleyball Team Australia Women’s program staff that this group could be one of the strongest we have ever presented.

There are two factors, which have lead to the result in this series. Firstly, New Zealand presented an excellent Junior Women’s Team. They made only two unforced errors in the first match of the series and just seven in the final match, after five days of tough competition and travel. These figures are quite extraordinary for junior athletes and reflect the high level attained by our Trans Tasman rivals.

Secondly, the Australian Youth Team is a particularly tall group of young women. It is, in our experience, more difficult for young athletes who are tall, to deliver the standard of ball control and agility that their shorter counterparts are capable of achieving. With greater experience and strength, we expect them to surpass the levels attained by previous groups.

Dan Higgins (Head Coach) and his staff Gary Roberts and Trudy Watson are to be congratulated for their patient and dedicated response to the Team and we are

certain that local Australian coaches will recognize the significant gains that the girls have made during their time in New Zealand. The results and match reports for the series follow.

at the top end of the rankings. Summer Lochowicz and Nicole Sanderson will join forces for the Tour while Kylie Gerlic will team up with Stacey Kloeden to form the second ranked team going in to the first event in Manly in November.

Josh Slack and Andrew Schacht will be the hunted this summer with the strongest early threat likely to come from Julien Prosser and Victor Anfiloff. Julien's Olympic partner, Mark Williams is in the USA and is unlikely to compete during the summer.

The dates for the 2004/05 Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour are:

- Round 1** - November 19-21 - Sydney, NSW
- WA Event** – November 26-28 – Cottesloe, WA
- Round 2** - December 10-12 - St. Kilda, VIC
- Round 3** - January 1-3 - Glenelg, SA
- Round 4** - January 14-16 - Newcastle, NSW
- Australian Championships** - February 4-6 - Surfers Paradise, QLD

The TV schedule, Top 16 lists, Qualifier entry lists, the Wildcard lists for Rounds 1 & 2 and much more can be viewed on the Tour website. For all the information on the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour please visit the website: www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au.

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AIS Women's Report

The last month has seen quite a deal of activity within the AIS Program. With the commencement of the AVL season and the finalisation of contracts for 4 players overseas we are now settled for the domestic season.

Currently Anna Maycock (Chemnitz, Germany), Tolotear Lealamanua (Evreux, France), Rowena Morgan (Pollux, Holland) and Adrienne Marie (Kölbacks Vasteras VK, Sweden) have signed contracts for the 2004/05 season. All players have been doing well with Anna Maycock being made captain of her club team.

Erin Ross (Bendigo, Victoria) has commenced on AIS Scholarship and will be with the program until the end of 2004.

Domestically the AVL commenced with the AIS Women's team recording 2 wins from the first 3 matches. The season didn't start well with a 3-0 loss to Sydney Uni Lions but with two 3-0 wins over the University of Technology and the University of Queensland we have managed to settle into a little more cohesive unit and will be looking forward to the remainder of the season. The advent this year of the shorter (in relation to number of games) season means that it will be extremely important that we don't underestimate the strength of any team as another one or two losses could jeopardise a place in the final 4 in December. I must also make special mention of Eileen Romanowski (AIS Scholarship Holder 2001-2003) and Rachel Rourke who have made themselves available to play in all of our matches thus far. The team will travel to Bendigo at the end of the month for a triple header against the teams from Melbourne and then play a home match against the Canberra Heat Team in early November.

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Vodafone Junior Beach Volleyball Championships

The 2004 Vodafone Junior Beach Volleyball Championships will be held at Glenelg Beach, Adelaide on December 29-31, which directly follows the South Australian Open Beach Volleyball Championship, and precedes the Glenelg round of the Australian Beach Volleyball Tour.

This guarantees hot, exciting volleyball for eight days straight over the New Year period, with an expected 100,000 spectators to pass through Glenelg Beach in that period. So get organised, and get those teams together, and take on the challenge.....

Entry forms for the Vodafone Junior Beach Volleyball Championship are available on the AVF website: www.avf.org.au.

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Australian Volleyball League

The 2004 Australian Volleyball League is well underway with 11 Clubs competing for the right to be crowned AVL Champions. This year will also see the return of television to the AVL with the medal matches

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Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour

With the international season over the attention has turned to the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour. With some doubt over the fitness of some of the elite athletes, this summer will be a golden opportunity for some of the developing athletes to gain some good results in preparation for the 2005 World Tour.

Injuries to Natalie Cook and Kerri Pottharst and Angela Clarke's overseas move has seen a change in the teams

being televised in four 1 hour shows on SBS from Sunday December 12, 2004.

With the season for weeks old Melbourne Falcons look like the club to beat with both their Men's and Women's team currently undefeated. Last year's Women's Champions WA are also undefeated, with Sydney Uni Lions and USC Adelaide Lion looking Top 4 bound as well.

In the Men's competition, the AIS, last years Champions fell to the UQ team from Queensland last week leaving a number of teams still well and truly in the hunt for December action. Canberra Heat are undefeated and UTS and Mt Lofty are still in the hunt for finals action at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Dec 4 & 5.

This year's single round-robin format has made the League more exciting as every match counts and this has seen improved media coverage with articles in the Courier Mail (Qld) and Adelaide Advertiser and TV highlights coverage of matches in the ACT.

For all the latest AVL news, team lists, player profiles, results and up-to-date ladders check out the AVL page on the AVF website and look out for the weekly AVL Newsletter.

Important dates/events

2004

Oct 23 rd	AVF AGM & Annual Dinner
Nov 19 th – 21 st	Vodafone Beach Tour – 1 st event
Dec 4 th – 5 th	AVL Finals
Dec 5 th – 10 th	Australian Volleyball Schools Cup
Dec 10 th – 12 th	Vodafone Beach Tour – 2 nd event
Dec 29 th – 31 st	Vodafone Junior Beach Champs

2005

Jan 1 st – 3 rd	Vodafone Beach Tour – 3 rd event
Jan 14 th – 16	Vodafone Beach Tour – 4 th event
Jan 19 th – 23 rd	Australian Youth Olympic Festival
Jan 31 st – Feb 2 nd	Vodafone Junior Beach Masters
Feb 4 th – 6 th	Vodafone Beach Champs
Mar 2 nd – 4 th	Our Sporting Future forums
Mar 25 th – 28 th	Australasian Volleyball Masters Tournament
July 10 th – 16 th	Australian Junior Volleyball Championships – Marion Rec Centre/Westminster, SA



Volleyball Australia is proudly supported by:



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Australian Sports Commission

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2005 Australasian Volleyball Masters Tournament

The 2005 Australasian Volleyball Masters Tournament (AVMT) will be held in Sydney on 25th – 28th March 2005.

The AVMT is expecting to attract more than 30 teams for 2005 with significant interest already from the teams from this year's event and about six teams from New Zealand. Therefore we are expecting have over 250 masters volleyball enthusiasts playing hard during the day and "revving up" for the evening social activities.

There will be social activities which will be closely aligned with the geographical attributes that Sydney has to offer including the Harbour and the beaches and being in March the weather will be very warm and conducive to partying hard near the water.

Registrations for the Tournament are now open, please visit the website www.volleyballmasters.com.au for more information and to register your teams expression of interest.

