



# Volleyball Australia Newsletter

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

## AVF

### General Managers Report

With summer now upon us the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour has commenced and the Australian Volleyball League Finals has just been completed. These events are the cornerstone of our promotion of the sport and are both shown on TV which further enhances the reach of Volleyball and Beach Volleyball into the broader community.

November has also seen the commencement of the AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball National Centre of Excellence in Adelaide. The investment of the AIS will allow the National Team program to be expanded to compete with enhanced Beach Volleyball programs overseas and should be seen as a vote of confidence in the work of TABV in building the sport.

For all the latest from the AVF regularly check the AVF website – [www.avf.org.au](http://www.avf.org.au)

**Andrew Scotford**  
General Manager  
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### National Events Review

I am now over one month into the three month review of the AVF Calendar of Indoor Events and have been pleased with the informative and logical comments I have been receiving. I have endeavoured to reply to all emails and look forward to many more over the next month.

While the findings of the review will not be released until the end of January I would like to throw some issues up for further comment and robust discussion.

#### Junior Events.

There is no evidence to suggest the need to impact on the timing, structure or management of the three junior events (National Under 15, Australian Junior Volleyball Champs and the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup). Having said that there are some issues I am still pursuing:

- Inviting Asian youth teams to compete at AJVC
- Raising female U/17 net to women's height at AVC
- Expanding the age group of Under 21 to Under 23
- Aligning the management structures of all three events to the AVSC model

#### Senior Events.

AVL, the only senior event (exclusive by nature), is not achieving its objectives. AVL requires significant overhaul with the following being considered:

- Establishing an "Australian Open" at Easter. AVF invites each state league champion teams, other domestic teams of the appropriate standard, and Asian club teams. The winning teams represent AVF at Asian Club Champs.
- Conducting Grand prix in Oct-Dec based on one state team per state (again inviting Asian teams).
- National teams compete at Arafura Games (possibly youth men and junior/senior women).
- Develop a Commonwealth Cup (inviting Commonwealth countries such as Canada, UK, India, NZ) in order to establish grounds for Commonwealth Games inclusion.

I look forward to your comments and subsequent robust discussion on the above issues, and of course on any other issue you wish to raise. Email is the best method of communication as it allows me to collate the comments.

**Jenny Becker**  
National Events Review  
Email: [review@avf.org.au](mailto:review@avf.org.au)

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### Sport Development Report

#### National Sport Development Workshop

On Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the majority of sport development staff from the various Member States came together in Adelaide for their second workshop of the year. The primary focus of this workshop was the Spikezone program, but a number of other current national development initiatives and programs were also discussed.

Personnel from the last two Member States to commence delivery of the Spikezone program – Tasmania and the ACT –also spent the Tuesday afternoon prior to the workshop with Volleyball South Australia staff gathering information about the processes used to administer the Spikezone program. Based on their observations these processes will be replicated in their own States, as appropriate, in the delivery of Spikezone.

### **ASC National Officiating Scholarship Program**

The AVF has submitted its application for an ASC National Officiating Scholarship Program (NOSP) scholarship in 2006. This year four individuals from within Volleyball applied for a scholarship, however in accordance with the regulations of the NOSP the application that was viewed as best addressing the ASC criteria and therefore having the best chance of success was endorsed by the AVRC Executive and forwarded to the ASC for consideration. An outcome should be known by mid-December.

### **Club Development E-Newsletter**

Entries for the Madison Sport prize draw associated with the September edition of the AVF Club Development E-Newsletter close at the end of November. It is so simple to enter and the prizes will be of benefit to any club. For more information, view the September edition at:

<http://www.avf.org.au/avfclub/AA/2004/AVFClubDevE-NewsEditionII.pdf>

### **AVF Website – Where To Play**

The AVF is keen for more clubs, associations and schools to submit information for inclusion in the ‘Where To Play’ section of the AVF website. The target is to have at least 50 listings by July next year and while this target could be reached in a matter of days, this is dependent on the willingness of ‘clubs’ to submit information. Clearly a listing has positive benefits, especially given the number of approaches the AVF receives on a weekly basis from people wanting to participate in either discipline of Volleyball. For further information, please contact Tim Shannahan.

**Tim Shannahan**  
**Sport Development Manager**  
**Email: [sdm@avf.org.au](mailto:sdm@avf.org.au)**

### **National Junior Program Report**

Since the last E-newsletter, the National Junior Program has been busy organising the December Training Camp for the next age group of Youth Boys (born 1989 or later) and Youth Girls (born 1990 or later) in Bendigo, Victoria following the conclusion of the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in Melbourne.

The camp itself will host over 90 male and female athletes from across Australia in a weeklong training camp headed by Jenny Becker and Darren Wilson. Jenny and Darren will be ably assisted by a numbers of coaches from around Australia to form the coaching staff for the two respective groups; ’89 Youth Boys and ’90 Youth Girls.

In addition to the above coaches, Volleyball Team Australia Men will also have a presence at the camp with AIS / VTAM Head Coach, Russell Borgeaud and his Assistant Coaches also helping out. For the male athletes of the camp, up to 12 athletes will then be invited to a training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra for a chance to train fulltime with the National Program in 2006 as an AIS Volleyball scholarship holder.

**Phong Nguyen**  
**HP Administrator**  
**Email: [Phong.Nguyen@ausport.gov.au](mailto:Phong.Nguyen@ausport.gov.au)**

### **Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour**

The first event of this year’s Tour was held on the weekend of 25 – 27 November in atrocious conditions at Manly. The winners were Julien Prosser / Brett Richardson and Summer Lochowicz / Tamsin Barnett. The next event will see the Tour return to Perth for the first time in nearly 10 years with the Scarborough event on the 16-18<sup>th</sup> December. With a strong field of National and International competitors this years Tour promises to be very exciting.

All the latest information is available on the Tour website – [www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au](http://www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au)

### **Australian Volleyball League**

The Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre played host to the Australian Volleyball League Finals on Sunday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2005. The Medal matches will be televised on SBS from 11.00am on January 1, 2006 and the following 3 weeks.

The Final Standings in the Men's League are:

- 1st: Australian Institute of Sport
- 2nd: Melbourne Falcons
- 3rd: UTS
- 4th: Mt Lofty Rangers

The Final Standings in the Women's League are:

- 1st: USC Adelaide Lion
- 2nd: Canberra Heat
- 3rd: Melbourne Falcons
- 4th: Mt Lofty Rangers

**Results from the Medal matches:**

**MEN'S GOLD:**

AIS Def Melbourne Falcons 3:2

30:32, 25:19, 25:18, 21:25, 19:17

**BRONZE:** UTS Def Mt Lofty Rangers 3:1

25:23, 19:25, 25:18, 25:23

**WOMEN'S GOLD:**

USC Adelaide Lion Def Canberra Heat 3:2

25:20, 20:25, 26:28, 25:11, 15:7

**BRONZE:** Melbourne Falcons  
Def Mt Lofty Rangers 3:2

18:25, 25:23, 19:25, 25:15, 15:13

Results, ladder and other information on the AVL is available on the AVL page on the AVF website – [www.avf.org.au](http://www.avf.org.au)



**AIS Volleyball /Team Australia Men**

With the end of the International season, the senior VTAM players have returned to their clubs in various countries, mainly throughout Europe. This club season sees the largest number of VTAM athletes playing in foreign leagues, with four young players making their first steps into the leagues.

These young players are:

- Nathan Roberts – Denmark 1<sup>st</sup> Div
- Paul Carroll – USA college system
- Igor Yudin – Brazil 1<sup>st</sup> Div
- Nigel Panagopka – Brazil 1<sup>st</sup> Div

They join our senior players returning to their clubs or joining new ones.

- Dan Howard – Italy 1<sup>st</sup> Div
- Ben Hardy – Belgium 1<sup>st</sup> Div
- Hidde Van Beest - Belgium 1<sup>st</sup> Div
- Luke Campbell – Holland 1<sup>st</sup> Div
- Brett Alderman – Italy 2<sup>nd</sup> Div
- Andrew Earl – Poland 1<sup>st</sup> Div

- Matt Young – Sweden 1<sup>st</sup> Div
- Andrew Hunter – Italy 2<sup>nd</sup> Div
- David Ferguson - Poland 2<sup>nd</sup> Div
- Andrew Grant - Poland 2<sup>nd</sup> Div

The VTAM squad will assemble again at the AIS, mid-next year as we start our specific preparation for the World Championships in Japan. It should be an exciting year with potential for some incoming tours from various National Teams.

**AIS Program**

The young athletes in the AIS program become the focus at this stage of the year, with the team competing in the Australian Volleyball League. The team won the League, finishing the season undefeated.

The AVL is a perfect level competition for the AIS team who, despite their age (average of 17.7), have height to spare with a team average of 203cm. However it is the 6 days per week training, that they put in, that gives them the ability to compete.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member of staff to the program. Kim Neilsen is the new AIS/ VTAM Administrator and comes to the program with a wealth of experience in a number of sports including swimming, boxing and netball.

National Junior team coach / Performance analysis coach, Dan Ilott, will head to Brazil in December as part of an agreement with a Brazilian 1<sup>st</sup> Div club. The club is coached by former AIS/ VTAM coach Jon Uriarte. The club, as part of the agreement, will also place Igor Yudin and Nigel Panagopka on their squad list for the season.

The AIS/ VTAM program has been looking to set up agreements with clubs that are interested in taking both coaches and young players as a first step in the professional club network for those athletes, while still under the guidance of our own coaches. We see it as a great way for both the coaches and athletes to experience the foreign leagues. It also benefits the clubs by gaining access to young athletes, with good potential at a cheaper rate. We are excited to see how this first opportunity works, and thank Jon and his club for working with us. We also thank Dan for his commitment to this process, as having a coach involved is an important part of the whole project.

**Russell Borgeaud**  
**Head Coach AIS Volleyball**  
**Email: [Russell.Borgeaud@ausport.gov.au](mailto:Russell.Borgeaud@ausport.gov.au)**



## Volleyball Team Australia Women

### VTAW Review Update

Work has commenced on the development of the survey that will underpin the first stage of the VTAW Review. The survey will be distributed nationally during the second half of January 2006 (i.e. after the Christmas break) with responses to be submitted no more than two weeks later. Everyone who responds to the survey will be asked to identify themselves to ensure that comments/suggestions can be followed up.

Survey responses will be collated and summarized into a briefing paper that will form the starting point for the state-based discussion forums which will be conducted in most states during the latter part of February 2006. Key outcomes from these forums (i.e. issues and suggested solutions) will be fed into a Women's Volleyball National Planning Workshop which will be conducted during March 2006.

The primary objective of the Planning Workshop will be to develop a plan for the (re) development of Women's Volleyball in Australia over the next 8 to 12 years, with a short-term focus on retaining key senior athletes to ensure that Australia is successfully represented at major events such as the Asian Championships in 2007.

Obviously, the success of the VTAW Review will depend on the number and quality of contributions received from people who have been involved in and continue to be passionate about elite Women's Volleyball in this country. There will be many issues and no easy answers, but a problem shared is a problem halved (as they say).

## Team Australia Beach Volleyball

### Team LM Launched

In recent days, Sydney Olympic gold medalist Natalie Cook and her playing partner Nicole Sanderson announced the signing of a new corporate sponsor – Gold Coast-based LM Investments – which will provide funding and other support for their team between now and the 2008 Olympic Games. LM Investments is reported to be contributing in excess of 1.5 million over the coming years and will join with long-term existing supporters – the AVF, Australian Sports Commission (including the AIS) and the Queensland Academy of Sport – to ensure that Team LM (Cook/Sanderson) achieves a medal in Beijing after narrowly missing out in Athens in 2004.

With its financial security for the next few years confirmed, the hard work begins now for Team LM as it prepares for the 2006 FIVB World Tour (through the Vodafone Australian Beach Volleyball Tour). This preparation will be particularly important as Nicole Sanderson recovers from surgery to her left shoulder following surgery on her right after last year's Olympic Games.

## AVF High Performance Workshop

The AVF will conduct a two-day High Performance (HP) Workshop in conjunction with the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in Melbourne during December 2005. The Workshop comes at the end of a difficult year which has been punctuated by significant change in most areas of the High Performance Program (HPP). Now that all key staff positions have been appointed, the HP Workshop will provide an important opportunity for key stakeholders within the HPP to ensure that they are on the same page and moving forward with a clarity of vision that will enable the AVF to continue to achieve outstanding results in international competition in addition to the establishment of a robust and sustainable underpinning structure for the VF's HPP in the future.

**Adam Sachs**  
**High Performance Manager**  
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## Volleyball on television

The 2005 Australian Volleyball League and the 2005/06 Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour will be on shown on SBS and Channel Ten respectively over the next few months, check your local guides. Both programs will then be repeated on Fox Sports.

### Schedule for Australian Volleyball League on SBS

Women's Bronze Medal,	Sunday Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 11:00am
Men's Bronze Medal,	Sunday Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am
Women's Gold Medal,	Sunday Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am
Men's Gold Medal,	Sunday Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup> @ 11.00am.

### Schedule for 2005/06 Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour on Channel Ten

Round 1	Sun 11 December @ 4:00pm
Round 2	Sun 1 January @ 4:00pm
Round 3	Sun 15 January @ 4:00pm
Round 4	Sun 26 February @ 4:00pm
Australian Championships	Sat 11 March @ 4:00pm

Volleyball Australia is proudly supported by:



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