Volleyball Australia Newsletter – 2006/1

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General Manager's Introduction

How quickly we get into a new year!

2006 is shaping up as another great one for Australian Volleyball with the Men's World Championships in November in Japan and the AIS Beach Volleyball program now in full swing.

The Christmas/New Year break has not seen a stop to the Volleyball activity both for spectators and TV viewers alike, with the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour wowing crowds in Scarborough (WA) and Glenelg (SA) and the increased TV coverage of VBVT and AVL receiving many positive comments.

The outcomes of the event review, undertaken by Jenny Becker, will be considered by the AVF Board in February and this will be circulated to the community over the next few months. The AVF will also be revamping the website in 2006 and this will also incorporate websites, event and club management facilities for all affiliated Clubs and associations.

For all the latest information about Australian volleyball continue to check the AVF website: www.avf.org.au

Andrew Scotford
General Manager
Email: gm@avf.org.au

Competitions & Events Program

Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour

For all the latest information on the Tour see the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour website – www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au.

The remaining Tour dates are:

Feb 17 – 19 Surfers Paradise, QLD (Australian Championships)

Vodafone Australian Junior Beach Volleyball Championships

The 2005 edition of the Junior Beach Championships was held in Broadbeach, Qld from January 16 – 18, 2006.

With nearly 80 teams competing from around Australia the competition was fierce with traditional beach rivals Qld and SA battling it out for the honour as the champion state and claiming the Andy Burdin trophy. This year Queensland took the trophy from SA, the first time in 5 years.

Congratulations to QVA on the running of a successful event and for more information go to:

http://www.qva.org.au/events/austjnrbeach/2006AustJnrChampsfrontpage.htm

Sport Development Report

National Sport Development Workshop

Two very productive days were spent in Adelaide late last year by the various Sport Development personnel of the AVF and Member States. It was also beneficial to have Marcia Endacott of the ASC in attendance to provide examples of successful programs delivered by other national sporting organisations, which will hopefully result transfer into our own programs. Those in attendance provided direction for the AVF in terms of the resources and programs that need to be implemented to enable Member States to grow the sport and better service members.

On a lighter note, congratulations to Andrew Shears of VVI, who won the annual Sport Development Challenge. This year's challenge was Ten Pin Bowling, with Andrew a convincing winner, although Stuart Davis of VWA provided some competition.

Having won last year's Golf Day, Andrew is now two from two and suggestions have already been put forward as to what this year's event should be in an effort to dethrone Andrew.

Spikezone® given green light for final year of ASC funding

The ASC has informed the AVF that the performance of the Spikezone program in the past year has been of a standard to justify the continuation of funding for a third and final year. While the membership targets for the year were not achieved, the ASC viewed the program as still performing very well given its resource constraints and continues to view Spikezone as one of the better performing programs amongst the second tier sports in Australia. The continued sponsorship of Vodafone for the program was also a significant positive in the eyes of the ASC.

Carla Hoorweg awarded 2006 ASC NOSP Scholarship

Congratulations to Carla Hoorweg (NSW) who has been awarded an ASC National Officiating Scholarship Program scholarship for 2006. Carla's scholarship will enable her to work towards attaining an International Referee accreditation. Her intended program will include attending an International Referee Candidate Course in Morocco, before refereeing at various international matches both in Australia and abroad to complete the practical requirements.

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 (sdm@avf.org.au).

National Junior Program

December Training Camp Wrap-up

In December the National Junior Program held its annual youth training camp in Bendigo following the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup. The camp saw over 100 enthusiastic male (born after January 1, 1989) and female (born after January 1, 1990) athletes from across Australia eager to be part of the next age group of athletes to represent Australia and wear the Green and Gold: '89 National Youth Boy's (NYB) and '90 Youth Girl's (NYG) squads.

For those athletes selected to continue, their next activity will be a tour to Taiwan for the '89 NYB Team and a Training & Selection camp for the '90 NYG Squad in Brisbane during the Easter holidays.

In addition, at the completion of the camp twelve male athletes were invited to a January camp at the AIS with the view to receiving a handful of fulltime AIS Volleyball Scholarships on offer.

The National Junior Program would like to thank Murray Mansfield for organising the camp and all the coaches involved for donating their time and expertise in the development of Australia's group of junior athletes.

Key Competitions in 2006

- 16 – 22 Jul "Murray Mansfield" Junior Trans Tasman Series - Canberra
- 13 – 21 Sep 13th Asian Jnr. Men's Championship – Iran
- Sept / Oct (tbc) "Jenny Kirk" Junior Trans Tasman Series – New Zealand
- 1 – 9 Oct 13th Asian Jnr. Women's Championship – Thailand

Round 3, Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour, Glenelg Beach, SA 6-8 January, 2005

Summer Lochowicz (AIS/QAS), Athens 2004 Olympian, and Tamsin Barnett (AIS/VIC), Sydney 2000 Indoor Volleyball Olympian, have made it a record 3 from 3 in the finals of the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour.

After just a few months together as a team, Lochowicz and Barnett are shaping up to be the team of the year. It was a tough battle on the deep sands of Glenelg Beach against the experienced combination of Kylie Gerlic (AIS/SASI) and Stacey Kloeden (AIS/SASI).

After securing the first set quite easily, Lochowicz and Barnett were taken by surprise when Gerlic and Kloeden stepped up to the task and won the second. In the final and deciding set, Barnett took over at the net and sealed the victory for her team, winning it 15:9.

The men's final was an absolute scorcher! Julien Prosser and Brett Richardson from NSW won through in the blazing hot conditions to put them back on top of the Tour table, beating South Australian's Andrew Schacht (AIS/SASI) and Josh Slack (AIS/SASI) in 2 sets.

Towards the end of the match, Schacht was feeling the heat and his usually dynamic spiking game was being shut down at the net by the young Richardson.

Women's Final results

S. Lochowicz (AIS/QAS)/T. Barnett (AIS/VIC) [1] **def.** S.Kloeden (AIS/SASI)/K.Gerlic (AIS/SASI) [3]
Result: 2:1 (21-17, 19-21, 15-9)

Men's Final results

J. Prosser (NSW)/B. Richardson (NSW) [1] **def** J. Slack (AIS/SASI)/A. Schacht (AIS/SASI) [2]
Result: 2:0 (28-26, 21-14)

Volleyball Team Australia Men (VTAM) Program Update

The AIS Men's Volleyball Team has offered a number of new scholarships for this year and has retained 7 full time residential athletes from the previous year. In a busy year planned for the VTAM/AIS program, including the World Championships in Japan in November, the team is excited and ready for what the New Year holds.

The 2006 Scholarship Holders include:

First	Last Name	State	DOB
SHANE	ALEXANDER,	QLD	7/01/1986
BENJAMIN	*BELL*	*QLD*	*24/02/1990*
ZANE	CHRISTENSEN,	QLD	19/07/1985
JARRYD	CHRISTENSEN,	QLD	22/08/1988
JOHN	DEKKER,	QLD	9/05/1988
PHILLIP	DESALVO,	VIC	11/03/1985
TOM	*EDGAR*	*QLD*	*21/06/1989*
NICHOLAS	GOLDSBROUGH-REARDON,	VIC	24/04/1987
MATTHEW	HUNT,	SA	14/08/1987
FRED	*MARSH,*	*ACT*	*26/12/1988*
TRAVIS	PASSIER,	QLD	26/04/1989
GREG	*SUKOCHEV,*	*SA*	*18/02/1988*
WILLIAM	THWAITE,	QLD	8/09/1987
ADEN	TUTTON,	SA	6/12/1984
ADAM	*WHITE*	*QLD*	*8/11/1989*
AIDEN	*ZINGEL*	*NSW*	*19/11/1990*

Shading & Italics indicates new scholarship holders

The AIS Men's Team off to Europe

On Sunday, 22 January the AIS Junior Athlete's (U21) will depart for a 3.5 week tour of Europe to provide the athletes with International playing experience ahead of the 13th Asian Junior Men's Championship in September and for a portion of the players, the 2006 World Championships in November. Three additional athletes have been asked to join the travelling team, Steve Wallace, Josh Thorpe and Alex Rogers.

The team will begin their tour in Sweden, travel on to France and then through to Slovakia all playing against national teams and staying in their respective National Training Centres. This will help to prepare the team for future International tournaments and expose them to a variety of different playing styles that they would not have been exposed to previously.

The temperatures in Europe are extremely cold so it will not only be a culture shock for the athletes but also a climate shock. In Slovakia temperatures may get down to -5 degrees during the day.

AIS / VTA Coaches Russell Borgeaud, and Andrew Strugnell will stay on after the tour to visit Senior National Team Players currently on professional contracts to meet with their coaches, assess any injuries and ensure they are on track for the World Championships.

The Team will return to Australia with Scholarship Coach, Stephen Benson on the 14th February and will then return to their home states for a few days rest before starting training again on Monday 22 February. While the AIS coaching staff are still in Europe, local coach Greg Tompos will be taking the new recruit AIS athletes through their paces until the AIS coaches return in early March.

For the latest results and match reports check out the AVF Website: www.avf.org.au

Travelling Team:

- Shane Alexander (QLD) – Capt.
- Jarryd Christensen (QLD)
- John Dekker (QLD)
- Nick Goldsbrough-Reardon (VIC)
- Matthew Hunt (SA)
- Travis Passier (QLD)
- Alex Rogers (NSW)
- Greg Sukochev (SA)
- Joshua Thorpe (TAS)
- William Thwaite (QLD)
- Aden Tutton (SA)
- Steven Wallace (VIC)

Head Coach: Russell Borgeaud
Assist. Coach: Andrew Strugnell
Trainer: Stephen Benson (AIS Scholarship Coach)
Physiotherapist: Fiona Gutschlag

AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball National Centre of Excellence

Training is in full swing at the National Centre of Excellence, in preparation for the remainder of the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour.

International Coach arrives

Brazilian Carlos Galletti, better known as 'Alemao' arrived at the National Centre of Excellence in Adelaide early January to take up his appointment as the AIS / National Women's Beach Volleyball Coach. Alemao will play an integral part in assisting our women teams to success on the National and International circuits and then onto Olympic glory.

Getting to know Alemao

Alemao comes with a lengthy association as a player from age thirteen in Brazil. At the age of 21 Alemao became a pro Beach volleyball player who collected many titles including a gold medal at the World championships in Rio de Janeiro in 1995. After two shoulder surgeries which forced him into retirement, Alemao started coaching in California in 1998 with athletes including Holly Mc Peak. In more recent times, Alemao was asked by the Greek Federation to be Head Coach of the Greek National Beach Volleyball Teams from 2000 – 2004, which included the Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 Olympic Games where he was working with Shelda Bede and Adriana Behar, their six time World Champions and two times silver Olympic medallists.

AIS Women's Beach Volleyball Camp

Following on from Round 3 of the Vodafone Beach Volleyball National Tour at Glenelg Beach, all six AIS scholarship holders got together for their first AIS/National camp under the direction of newly appointed Brazilian coach, Alemao. Having only just arrived into Australia and still battling jet lag, Alemao lead them through a rigorous amount of individual technical offensive and defensive drills, with high intensity and high repetition focus. Athletes responded in a positive way with lots of contacts, ball touches and started to grasp some of the Brazilian training methodology. This in turn has given the girls a new approach to their training and preparation for the world tour and we hope that this is the first stepping stone to some positive results.

AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball Athlete Inductions

As part of the formalities with the new AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball program, athletes must go through an 'athlete induction'. This was held on 9 & 10 January in Adelaide where all scholarship holders and coaches attended. Sessions included going over key points of the scholarship, including their entitlements & benefits, program objectives, code of ethics, ASDA, Nutrition & Alcohol & Drug sessions to name a few. This ensures both coach and athletes know what to expect from the program and the athlete is aware of the responsibilities he/she has for the duration of the scholarship.

Performance Analysis

The positive partnership of the AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball can be highlighted with the impact of the various partners in the area of Performance Analysis.

With the assistance of Alexis from AIS, Tim Rawlins from SASI and the collective experiences of the AIS Coaches, the system is on track for the full test in National Championships in February 2006.
Many thanks to the Australian Institute of Sport and South Australian Sports Institute for their commitment and full on engagement in this process.

At this stage with cooperation from the Websoft Software Company [Snapper] and Target Plot [VollEspy] we have been able to integrate the 2 applications to form a powerful database for Statistical Benchmarks as well develop an effective Video Editing tool for our sport. Further refinement of the system is scheduled for the St Kilda Event.

In addition, we have managed to install specific hardware on site at the National Centre of Excellence, which will enable the Athletes and Staff to have access to matches and training sessions in their own time at various locations on the site, such as the Athletes Lounge, Various meeting rooms as well as from the Coaches desk.

AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball will increase it's capacity to access and manage its video footage from the Daily Training Environment and Library of National and International Matches. Beach Volleyball is a large user of Video Analysis Information which require enormous amounts of storage capacity to maintain a library of high quality footage and relatively quickly.

This system will be cooperative and assist the Snapper/VollEspy System providing exclusive rights to the National Programme Staff, Athletes and Stakeholders which will be the state of the art information which we believe is not currently available in any other Beach Volleyball nation.

Report from the Vodafone Junior Masters

The Vodafone Junior Masters in Glenelg was a great opportunity to put our two youngest members of the AIS squad together and let them loose on the best of the rest of the young talent in Australia. John Byron and Travis Moran went into the Under 23 tournament very clear on making individual gains and determined to keep working on those things throughout the tournament despite the opposition, conditions or the score.

The tournament was a different sort of challenge (compared to senior tournaments), not just because of some of the opposition teams, but simply the challenge they set for themselves of treating each game as being the most important (the final) and they were *expected* (by the coach) to win every game.

The first day saw Byron/Moran play four games, which was a new experience for Travis. They both new it was important to keep playing an aggressive style of game that would work for us at a higher level. On the first day this worked well, with the first three results ending up 2-0 in their favour and the last game of the day was a 2-1 win.

Day 2 saw Travis start the day a little restricted in his movement due to tightness in his lower back. John saw this as an opportunity to pound more second balls, taking some pressure off Travis to sideout regularly. The second game of the day saw Byron/Moran match up against Boehm/Maycock who were also undefeated at that stage of the tournament. The outcome of the game had no consequence for either team, as they would meet each other in the final later that day. However, for the guys to make the most of this tournament every game was treated as the final. They won the game very easily in 2 sets.

The final saw the guys continue where they left off in the last game, totally dominating the first set (keeping Boehm/Maycock to single figures). But neither John nor Travis was totally happy with the execution of some of their skills (setting in particular). The second set was a much tighter affair and a strong reminder to the guys to be prepared for anything from your opposition after beating them convincingly (especially against good players like Stuart Maycock and Sam Boehm).

After losing the second set due to a few unforced errors towards the end, John and Travis were determined to re-set, start again and put the end of the last set behind them. This was a process that each player has been working on and it was great to see them determined to focus and deliver on the "next point". In the end, they won the third set easily to win the championship.

John and Travis found the Australian Junior Masters to be a most enjoyable event. They felt they improved their skills in match conditions and were excited about winning every game and the tournament.

2006 FIVB WORLD TOUR

In depth planning has commenced for the 2006 FIVB World Tour.
The 2006 World Tour consists of ;

- 15 Events for Women [incl 3 Grand Slam Events]
- 16 Events for Men [incl 3 Grand Slam Events]

Australian Teams will have specific goals of finishing the 2006 Season will sufficient Technical Rankings points to be eligible for direct entry into the first block of World Tour Events in the 2007 FIVB World Tour forming the 2008 Olympic Qualification Season and improved seeding averages of our teams.

For many of our teams we need to improve results in the first 4 of the 2006 World Tour events to ensure we get entry into the major events of this Season which are the Grand Slam Events in Switzerland and Norway.

Our Benchmark event for the Season is the Grand Slam event in Austria in August 2006.
At this stage of the planning we have 3 Women's teams and up to 5 Men's Teams focussed on participation in the first World Tour Events scheduled for Dubai, UAE in April.

The planned return to competition for Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson is scheduled for the China World Tour Event in May this year with the continued improvement of Nicole from her injury.

Volleyball on TV

This summer will see Volleyball and Beach Volleyball on TV. The Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour continues on Channel Ten but also, keep an eye on Fox Sports for coverage on other Volleyball events from around the world.

Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour on Channel 10:

Round 4 (St Kilda) - Sun 26th Feb, 4-5pm
Aust Champs (Surfers) - Sat 11th Mar, 4-5pm

Note: all above times are EDST. Please check your local guides.

Volleyball Australia is proudly supported by:

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This newsletter is produced by:

Volleyball Australia
PO Box 3323
Belconnen, ACT 2617

Phone: 02 62476633
Fax: 02 62476722

Email: info@avf.org.au
Website: www.avf.org.au