



Volleyball Australia Newsletter – 2006/3

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General Manager's Introduction

With the event review report supporting a significant restructure of the AVL for 2007, Clubs and the AVF has already commenced planning for the 2006 season with a number of initiatives to be included to build towards the 2007 product.

The implementation of the SportingPulse partnership is well underway with a National Training day to be held in Melbourne on April 11. This will allow AVF and State representatives to better utilise both the available web site and management packages. It is envisaged the full rollout to Clubs and Associations will occur in the next couple of months, following rollout to the Member States.

The AVF has recently confirmed the participation of NZ (3 teams) and Fiji (2 teams) at the upcoming Junior Championships. The AVF will also be working with Volleyball NZ to supply officials for the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup later in the year.

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

Andrew Scotford
General Manager

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Events Review Report

The Event Review Report, prepared by Jenny Becker, has been circulated to the wider Volleyball community for comment on the recommendations. Although the report was written after a protracted period where input from the broader Volleyball community was sought, the AVF acknowledges that often there is a tendency to respond to proposed initiatives rather than a general request for input. Accordingly, before the AVF Board considers the Report the AVF sought comments on the final recommendations. The comments are to be provided by COB, March 31, 2006.

The report is available at:

<http://www.avf.org.au/avf/AA/2005/AVFEventsReport.pdf>

A sincere thanks to all those people who provided input into the report and took up the opportunity to speak with Jenny over the 3 months in which comments were sought. The AVF Board will be considering the report and any final comments in its planning for 2006/07 and beyond.

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Sport Development Report

SASI offers scholarship to female coaches

The South Australian Sports Institute (SASI), in conjunction with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), has advertised a new initiative that provides a coaching scholarship to a targeted female coach. Funded as part of the ASC National Coach Scholarship Program, this scholarship offers the opportunity to sports that have programs based at SASI to apply for the opportunity to have a targeted female coach, who is deemed to be capable of becoming an elite level coach, to work at SASI for a twelve-month period in a full-time or part-time capacity. With the AIS Beach Volleyball Program also based at SASI and the application documentation indicating that it is preferred if the national federation and high performance staff have an involvement in the program of the scholarship coach, any application from the AVF is likely to have a very good chance of being successful. Anyone interested in applying for this scholarship is invited to contact Tim Shannahan via email (sdm@avf.org.au) to obtain further information and/or the relevant application forms.

Coach Presenters & Assessors Process has positive start

Earlier this month a workshop was held in Canberra to commence the process of implementing a national presenters and assessors structure to support the AVF Coach Education & Development Program. The six individuals selected via an application process to drive this process came together to plan the training processes that underpin this structure and will meet again in July for a follow-up workshop. The aim is to deliver the first training program for presenters and assessors in early 2007. One of the participants, Andrew Gintowt (NSW) offered the following comments on the workshop:

“(The) workshop was hard work. Definitely had the right people involved and certainly the decisions would be reasonably accepted as legitimate by the states.”

The equivalent process for Referee Education & Development commenced this past weekend in Melbourne. Further information about the outcomes of this workshop will be available in next month's AVF Newsletter.

National Review of Coach Training Programs

With the AVF's Level 2 Coach Training Program due to be reviewed and submitted to the ASC for another four year endorsement early in 2007 it is the intention of the AVF to commence a review of the entire Coach Education & Development Program in the coming month that will ideally result in the development of training programs at the Introductory and Level 3 stages, in addition to improving the existing Level 1 and Level 2 programs. It is also intended for this review to address the issue of when should separate training programs be delivered for each discipline and when can a consolidated training program adequately address the needs of both disciplines.

Anyone interested in being involved in this review process and providing their views to assist in developing a logical progression for coaches through the training program pathway is invited to indicate this to Tim Shannahan (sdm@avf.org.au).

March's Club Development E-newsletter

The next edition of the AVF Club Development Newsletter will be circulated at the end of this month via Member State Associations.

Winners of prizes of volleyball equipment in the Madison Sport prize draw for February were:

Newcastle Volleyball Assn. (\$500)

University of Queensland Volleyball Club (\$200)
Darwin Volleyball Assn. (\$100)
Perth Coastal Volleyball Club (\$100)
Mandurah Volleyball Assn. (\$100)

That three of these clubs/associations are previous winners indicates the great chances of success offered in this prize draw due to so few entries being received for each draw. Many clubs/associations have entered one draw, but have not completed the requirements for entry in subsequent prize draws, despite the e-newsletter specifying that a new entry must be submitted for each draw. Therefore, if your club has a need for volleyball equipment the easiest way to obtain it could be an entry into the May prize draw.

If you do not receive the e-newsletter directly from your Member State Organisation, they can always be accessed via the AVF Club Development web page at: www.avf.org.au/avfclub/

AVF Website – Where To Play

There have been further additions to this section in the past month, with 32 listings now in this section. However, the AVF target remains 50 by the end of June. 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) or complete the questionnaire identified in every edition of the AVF Club Development E-Newsletter and submit it to the AVF.

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AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball National Centre of Excellence

Beach Volleyball trials new Performance Analysis technology

Over the course of the summer, the AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball program has been developing an analysis system to help coaches get the most out of our athletes.

During the full trial of the analysis system at the Australian Open in February we were able to work closely with the coaches and tailor it to each of their specific needs in order to maximise its usefulness.

The system is designed so that any one component can be used at any level of complexity. It involves live capture video data (taping of a match) and the ability to collect data on a handheld computer.

The video and the data are then combined using specific software to then view any aspect of the match almost instantly. We can see for example, the points and touches of Josh Slack through to all the plays of Tamsin Barnett who passed a cross-court jump to the middle of the court, then hit-a-kill wide off the net to the deep diagonal corner, with a cross-court retreating blocker! But as well as this, the data can be used to determine opponent tendencies to help create the 4 or 5 points each set that must be made on serve.

Designing this system to be used at so many different levels, by so many different people, and in such extreme conditions, has presented a lot of challenges.

The AIS/AVF/SASI has sophisticated professionals who have invested a significant amount of time developing the system and finding solutions. This is something that has far exceeded anything done by Australian beach volleyball and will increase the advantage Australian athletes have in this area compared to the rest of the world.

Australia is proving to be a world leader with the effective use of technology in beach volleyball, helping the sport to become a leader in Australian and world sport.

Birthdays

April

Nicole Sanderson – 1 April

Injuries

Update

Summer Lochowicz: improved range and flexibility. Not planned to resume sand sessions for 2 weeks

Allister Lyne: Progressing well.....resumed modified training loads back on the sand.

Scholarship Coach

Steve Benson – AVF Scholarship coach is in Adelaide to provide assistance to the AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball and SASI Volleyball Programmes. Steve is providing coaching support in both disciplines, Beach Volleyball as well as Indoor Volleyball. He will be in Adelaide until 14th April.

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Volleyball Team Australia Men (VTAM) Program Update

General

During the months of March, April and May, AIS / Volleyball Team Australia Men will concentrate on training at the AIS in Canberra. The focus will be a little different for the three main groups, in training, during this period. Some competitions, such as ACT State League and the Junior Trans Tasman, will feature a team of combined age groups, from the AIS Squad.

Athletes in the 89 – 90 Youth Team

This group is still very much in the learning stage, with regard to Program skill models and systems. Physical training has recently increased for this group of athletes, together with the older scholarship holders. The increased emphasis in this area is in response to injuries which develop in athletes with a young training age. The changed emphasis also arose out of a need for greater power and core stability, the need for which was reflected during the recent Europe Tour. This group of athletes have also commenced competition in the ACT State League. They defeated Belconnen Volleyball Club in their first round on the 15th March 2/1: 23/25, 25/20, 25/22. Belconnen have been a strong competitor in recent seasons.

Athletes in the 87 – 88 Junior Team

This group is firmly focused on improvements that are required before they play in the Asian Junior Volleyball Championships in Iran, in September. The athletes have been using feedback from their matches against France and Slovakia, particularly in the area of power attack, to work on their spiking power during training, over the next few months. This group provides support for the 89 group in ACT State League. Their major lead-up competition for Asian Championships will be a series in Canberra, at the AIS, against the Chinese Junior Team, just prior to departure for Tehran.

Senior Athletes

With just one senior athlete in the Training Centre at the present time, all members of the Program are eagerly awaiting the return of the other senior players in mid-May. Head Coach Russell Borgeaud is pleased to report that all of the professional players in Europe are progressing well at this stage in their respective seasons.

He was also impressed with the site of the proposed AIS European Training Centre in Italy and the potential for the AIS Volleyball Program to access this facility in a number of different ways, over the next few years.

Upcoming Competition

March ACT State League – Wednesday evenings – various AIS Squad
April ACT State League – Wednesday evenings – various AIS Squad
May Thailand Junior Nationals – 1st – 11th
May – 89 National Youth Team

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National Junior Program

'88 National Junior Women & '89 National Youth Boy's Squad

Soon after the last E-Newsletter and having put in place the necessary arrangements and bookings for the scheduled tour to Taiwan (April 18 – 26) for the International Youth Volleyball Tournament, the Junior Program was advised by the tournament organisers that the event would be postponed until further noticed due to budgetary problems at their end.

For the selected athletes, the news was a disappointing blow especially for the 89 National Youth Boy's Team debuting in the Green and Gold.

In the wake of this bad news, the Junior Program went in search of a replacement competitive opportunity for both the '88 Junior Women (NJW) and the '89 Youth Boy's (NYB) teams in lieu of their postponed tour to Taiwan.

In the past week, Thailand Volleyball Association has answered the call for help and has subsequently invited the two teams to participate in their upcoming Thailand Jr. Men & Women Volleyball Championships scheduled for May 2 – 8 in Bangkok, Thailand.

For the '88 NJW, this will be a perfect opportunity of the team to gain much wanted game experience against teams with a similar style of play to which they will face against this coming October in Thailand at the 13th Asian Jnr. Women's Volleyball Championship.

The travelling team for this tour will be announce in the April edition of this E-Newsletter.

'90 National Youth Girl's Squad

With Easter nearing, the final preparations are being put in place for the squads' Easter Training & Selection camp in Canberra that will see the participants not only learn about the techniques and skill models used by Volleyball Team Australia but they will also be competing for a spot on the touring team to New Zealand later this year to contest for the "Jenny Kirk" Junior Trans Tasman Cup.

'87 National Junior Men

In other breaking news, and through the assistance of Volleyball Team Australia, the '87 Junior Men (NJM) will now contest a friendly series against their Chinese counterparts – China Junior Men's Team – in Canberra this September en route to 13th Asian Jnr. Men's Volleyball Championship in Iran. The series against the Chinese will give the '87 NJM the perfect preparation to contest the championship and to qualify for 2007 World Jnr. Men Championship.

Key Competitions in 2006

- May 2 – 10 Thailand Jnr. Men & Women Volleyball Championship - Thailand
- Jul 16 – 22 "Murray Mansfield" Junior Trans Tasman Series - Canberra
- Sep 2 – 9 Friendly Series with China Junior Men's Team – Canberra
- Sep 13 – 21 13th Asian Jnr. Men's Volleyball Championship – Iran
- Aug/Sep/Oct "Jenny Kirk" Junior Trans Tasman Series – New Zealand (TBC)
- Sep 29 – Oct 10 13th Asian Jnr. Women's Championship – Thailand

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Bob Crudginton Appointed to Lead Women's Volleyball Review

The AVF is very pleased to announce that independent consultant, Bob Crudginton, has been appointed to lead its Review of Women's Volleyball in Australia, the first stage of which is due to commence next week. Bob has an extensive background in elite sport having coached the Australian Softball Team to podium finishes at the 1995 and 1998 World Championships (i.e. Junior and Senior respectively) and the 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games. Bob was the High Performance Manager for Diving in the lead-up to the 2004 Olympics Games, where Australia's Diving athletes delivered a record six medals.

In recent years, through his company Performance Analysis, Bob has undertaken a broad range of management consultancies for organisations such as the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), the Australian Shooting Association, and the Queensland Academy of Sport. The AVF is confident that Bob's people-centered approach to the delivery of peak performance and his background in elite Women's sport will be an asset to the review process and help to deliver the best possible outcomes for Women's Volleyball in the future.

Bob will be supported in his role as project consultant by the AVF's newly-appointed Women's Volleyball Review Committee which will be comprised of the following people:

- Andrew Scotford – General Manager, AVF;
- Adam Sachs – High Performance Manager, AVF;
- Jackie Fairweather – Senior Sports Consultant – High Performance Improvement, ASC;
- Boris Georgieff – VTAW Coach and President, Queensland Volleyball Association (QVA); and
- Pauline Manser – Former VTAW athlete, Beach Volleyball Olympian and Board member, Volleyball Western Australia (VWA).

The Women's Volleyball Review will commence next week (i.e. Monday 3 April 2006) with Bob undertaking a desk-top analysis of the performances of Australia's Women's Volleyball Teams in international competition in recent years, including comparisons with benchmark performances from other elite teams (both Volleyball and non-Volleyball).

From there, Bob will commence the process of requesting, receiving and collating feedback in the form of written submissions from key internal and external stakeholders in Women's Volleyball against a range of areas including:

- Quality of athletes (physical, technical and psychological);
- Depth of talent (i.e. internal competition);
- Quality of coaches (technical, tactical and people management);
- Level of resources (daily training environment and international competition);
- Leadership and management (coaches, administrators (AVF, AIS, ASC, etc.);

- Culture of success/failure (learning to win/lose);
- Integration and effectiveness of underpinning structures; and
- Other/external factors (FIVB, AVC and Sydney 2000 Olympic Games).

The updated Terms of Reference for the Women's Volleyball Review will be posted on the AVF website shortly. Further information about how to get involved in the review process will be distributed via the AVF website, Member State Associations and the Volleyball Enthusiasts email list in the coming days. Anyone wishing to be added to this list should contact AVF High Performance Administrator, Phong Nguyen, on email: nguyenp@ausport.gov.au

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