October 7, 2009

Dear BVA Members,

2008-09 was another successful year for the BVA, highlighted by upgraded organization and expansion of our winter, spring & summer leagues, along with the summer volleyball tournament series.

At the 2006-07 Annual General Meeting the BVA welcomed Chris Lemieux and Kristin Thomas as to the BVA executive committee. During the year the Executive Committee appointed a Vice President, Wendy Million to the committee. We are also bidding a farewell to Lisa LeBlanc who has acted a Co-President for the past 8 years. Her commitment to the furthering the sport of volleyball is to be commended.

The BVA continues to be a member in good standing with Norceca & FIVB, and will attend the NORCECA congress later in 2009 in Guatemala.

BVA Leagues were once again in high demand in 2008-09. The indoor season was highlighted by the re-introduction of the co-ed division, for which participation exceeded our expectations. This revitalized division increased the total indoor participation to 250 people playing across 3 nights and 4 divisions.

The BVA’s A, B & C Divisions of Spring League, sponsored by Cerveza Sol, was another success; having 30 teams for B 4’s, and 18 teams for the 6 a side C league. Yet again, registration was full to capacity. The BVA is always looking at ways to better use the space and purchase additional nets to accommodate the enthusiasm of Spring League. The BVA would like to thank Cerveza Sol for their sponsorship of the BVA Spring League!

The 17th Annual Corporate Volleyball Tournament was held in May at Saltus field with an excellent turnout of 40 teams. This is a co-ed grass tournament where companies, schools and community clubs get a chance to compete against each other in a friendly event. We would like to thank Barritts for their continued sponsorship of this event!

As expected, the BVA Summer Leagues, sponsored by Amstel Pulse, proved to be the most popular of all BVA leagues. The co-ed, 4-a-side leagues consisted of 1 A division, 2 B divisions & 2 C divisions, as well as 3 King & Queen of the Beach Leagues (same sex, 2-a-side) with a total of 133 league teams plus 42 King and Queen Participants. The BVA would like to thank Amstel Pulse for their sponsorship of the BVA Summer leagues and their commitment all summer long!

Over the last couple of years the BVA has focused efforts on growing the summer volleyball tournament series. Sponsorship & tournament structures have enabled the BVA to offer music, food, drinks and many more prizes thereby creating a better weekend tournament experience on our ever-
so-beautiful beaches. We would like to extend a special thanks to all of the sponsors for our summer tournament series:

- 6th Annual Makin’ Waves Beach Crap Shoot Tournament - Sponsored by Makin Waves
- Corona Beach Volleyball Tournament – Sponsored by Corona
- Coppertone Beach Volleyball Tournament – Sponsored by Coppertone
- Amstel Beach Volleyball Cup – Sponsored by Amstel Pulse
- 3rd Annual SPIKE-Fest – Sponsored by Sol

The new addition to the summer tournaments was the Coppertone event in which the BVA teamed up with BGA and the Bermuda Cancer & Health Centre. The BVA donated 100% of the tournament proceeds to the Bermuda Cancer & Health Centre to aid in their programs.

The BVA also supports various other programs including youth, referee, coaching and national team programs.

A Youth Development Program was developed for a High School Player of the Year (“HSPY”) Award program that awards both MVP awards and overseas camp bursaries for local high school players. This year the BVA sent 3 young ladies to the US to volleyball camps to jump start their volleyball knowledge and enthusiasm. Congratulations to the following individuals:

- Female MVP: Kristen Heyliger (BHS)
- Male MVP: Ian Bucci (WA)
- Bursary Winners: Caitlyn Westhavor (BHS), Nikki Thomas (MSA) & Sarah Maybury (WA)

An informative referee theory clinic was held September, 2008. Students completed their practical portion of the course and qualified as Bermuda Certified referees. After receiving qualifications, referees began to referee the BVA Winter League. A second referee clinic is scheduled for this upcoming October with 18 new potential referees ready for the challenge.

A coaching certification program was introduced this year with the intent to enhance the knowledge and abilities of Bermuda’s coaches including national and high school level coaches. Congratulations to Nancy Mattola (CedarBridge), Donna Smith (BHS) and Bill Bucci (NT / Warwick Academy) for successfully obtaining their USA Level 1 coaching certification.

In a continued effort to provide Bermuda’s youth with the equipment necessary to learn and love the sport of volleyball, the BVA donated new indoor net systems to CedarBridge Academy this summer.

The National Team (“NT”) Program is an independent, self-funded branch of the BVA. The NT host many fundraising events including tournaments, wine tastings and boat cruises to raise funds. The continued success of the National Team Program is directly attributed to the National Team Committee & Coaches. The BVA would like to thank them for the dedication and commitment to the program.
The NT season was a busy one as Bermuda participated in the first and second rounds of the FIVB World Championships Qualification Tournament in St. Martin (W), St. Lucia (M) & Trinidad (W) as well as the NatWest Island Games in Aland, Finland. The Women’s Team would like to thank Schroders for their continued support.

In 2008-09, the BVA embarked on another Strategic Planning exercise in which a 3 year plan was developed under the direction of the BVA Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The outcomes of this strategic planning exercise will be seen in the upcoming year, as new programs will be introduced and old programs expanded.

Overall, 2008-09 has seen the sport of volleyball continue to grow in popularity and become a bigger part of the Bermuda community.

We would like to thank all league directors who assisted the committee in various leagues throughout the year. Without their assistance, the BVA leagues would not be possible:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Darren D. Maksymetz</th>
<th>Jennifer Ferguson</th>
<th>Joanne Bielby</th>
<th>Carole Collard</th>
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<td>Lemieux, Christopher</td>
<td>Elisabeth Rae</td>
<td>Wendy Million</td>
<td>Robert Rego</td>
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<td>Adam Birch</td>
<td>Kathryn Lawrence</td>
<td>Tom Brennan</td>
<td>Jon Noseworthy</td>
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<td>Sharlene Goobie</td>
<td>Andrew Soares</td>
<td>Mike Bengson</td>
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Most importantly, we would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Their commitment, energy and passion for the sport of volleyball are examples to all of us in the volleyball community.

Thanks and see you on the court!

Elisabeth Rae  
Co-President  
Bermuda Volleyball Association

Lisa LeBlanc  
Co-President  
Bermuda Volleyball Association