October 3, 2007

Dear BVA Members,

2006-07 was another memorable year for the BVA, highlighted by the success of our winter, spring & summer leagues, along with various large tournaments such as: the Corporate Tournament, the Bermuda Open & the August Spike-Fest.

At the 2005-06 Annual General Meeting the BVA welcomed Rebecca White, Kelly Ross & Chris Walton as to the BVA executive committee as Secretary and Co-Vice President’s respectively. The BVA would like to thank outgoing committee members Donna Smith & Yvonne DeCoute for all of the efforts and work over recent years. The BVA continues to be a member in good standing with Norceca & FIVB, attending conferences in Japan & Aruba later this year.

Winter league ran successfully at Mount St. Agnus Academy. One men’s league & two women’s leagues, same sex, 6-a-side, for a total of 18 teams, ran over 2 nights from October through February.

The BVA Spring League moved to Saltus Field in 2007 from Bernard Park. Spring League is a co-ed, grass league with an A, B & C division. The B division is a 4 a-side league and the C division a 6 a-side league. The A league did not run this season. For another year registration was full to capacity in the B & C divisions.

The 15th Annual Corporate Volleyball Tournament was held in May at Saltus field. This is a co-ed grass tournament open to non-BVA members, 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!

The BVA Summer Leagues are the busiest and most popular of all BVA leagues. Leagues took place on both Elbow & Horseshoe Beach, 5 days a week. Leagues consisted of 1 A division, 2 B divisions & 3 C division co-ed, 4-a-side leagues as well as King & Queen of the Beach Leagues (same sex, 2-a-side). As in 2005-06, the demand for the beach league resulted in the creation of an additional C league which took place at Horseshoe. The BVA would also like to thank Sol Beer for their sponsorship of the BVA Summer Beach Bar. The draw of the sand, sea and social opportunities keep people loving this league.

The summer beach season is also the most popular for week-end tournaments. The summer kicked off with the 4th Annual Makin’ Waves Crap Shoot Tournament at the beginning of June. This is a co-ed, 4-a-side tournament, where the majority of teams are randomly drawn. This is a great way to meet new BVA members!

August saw the 1st Annual Spike-Fest! This consisted of 2 events, sponsored by Sol Beer, including catered food, beverages, DJ and amazing prizes for the taking! The first tournament was an A division, 2-a-side and B division 4-a-side tournament and two weeks later it was a co-ed tournament with the same divisional structure. We are looking forward to the continued success of these events.

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

This summer saw the BVA’s National Teams compete in their 3rd NatWest Island Games in Rhodes, Greece. This was the first time that Bermuda sent men’s & women’s beach 2’s teams to compete along with the 2 indoor teams. The women’s & men’s indoor teams finished 4th & 6th respectively, while the women’s & men’s beach teams both finished 5th.

The Women’s National Indoor Team hosted the 1st Annual Bermuda Open, sponsored in part by the Bermuda Department of Tourism. Teams traveled from Red Deer, Alberta, New York & New Jersey. The Women’s NT would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time as referees, linesmen, scorers, etc. to make this event a success. The BVA is looking forward to this events continued success and would like to thank the Women’s NT for hosting this international tournament.

The NatWest Island Games was also an opportunity to advance our referee program by enabling a local referee to gain valuable international experience.

Special thanks to Gary Leblanc for the construction & maintenance of the BVA’s Horseshoe Bay storage facility.

Overall, 2006-07 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:

- Mandy Palsat
- Sylvie Leger
- Georgina MacDonald
- Tammy Harmer
- JP Fowler
- Darren Maksymetz
- Sharlene Goobie
- George Danes
- Samantha Price
- Suzanne Hennah
- Laryssa Yuel
- Russell Smolsky
- Richard Jansen
- Vadim Kriger
- Sam Peters

Most importantly, we would like to thank the members of the 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