



October 27, 2016

Dear BVA Members,

The 2015-2016 year saw some challenges and changes within the organization as we continued to develop volleyball on the island and abroad. During the year, the executive board witnessed the departure of Ariel Mierzejewski as co-president, David LaHuta and Alex Cabe as vice presidents, Kristina Mierzejewski as PR Representative, and Shiloh Whalen as Merchandise Manager. Sophia Sontag was appointed interim Co-President along with her responsibilities as Youth Development Chairperson and Referee Chair. The board welcomed the arrival of Tiago Ferreira as Vice President, Alana Rathburn-Swiss as Vice President and Merchandise Manager.

Participation in the various leagues remained consistent and all four summer tournaments were well attended. Sponsorship overall was down, but the BVA was still able to provide good events.

With the help of Bill Bucci, we were happy to certify 5 new referees, as well as recertify 2 referees through our Referee Certification Program.

The Bermuda Open, sponsored in part by Bermuda Tourism Authority, was postponed to 2017. The funding that was awarded to the BVA for the 2016 event has been guaranteed for 2017. A Bermuda only tournament was run in its place, still allowing the National Teams to warm up with some local competition before travelling to some overseas tournaments.

The BVA also welcomed back FIVB international coach Trevor Theroulde for the month of October. He worked closely with the National Teams indoor and beach teams during this time. Along with both indoor and beach skills clinics for the general membership, we were also able to get him into the schools working with both our middle and high school level children. We are very pleased with his contribution to our organization.

Our youth program showed continued growth with the continuation of our After School Program (ASP) in our government primary schools. We received an increase in the Youth Development Grant from government for the ASP. The ASP's success was largely due to the continued hard work of Sophia Sontag and members of the JNT.

The Bermuda Volleyball Association sought to represent, promote and continue the development of volleyball during a time of considerable transition. This year once again represented challenges with more turnovers on the Executive mostly due to members leaving the island. The BVA has continued the utilization of social media in an effort to reach its membership. We are pleased with the success so far.

[www.bermudavolleyball.bm](http://www.bermudavolleyball.bm)



We would like to say a big thank you to Danielle Miller, David LaHuta, Ariel Mierzejewski, Kristina Mierzejewski, Alex Cabe, Tiago Ferreira and Shiloh Whalen for their hard work and dedication to the BVA. They gave of their time, passion and expertise over their tenure. A very special thank you goes out to Sophia Sontag who has been such an integral part of the BVA for the last several years. She has given an incredible amount of time and energy to growing volleyball in Bermuda. She has always shown such selflessness and dedication and we will miss her tremendously.

The 2016-2017 year will see an increase in youth programs and initiatives, and a greater international presence with our national teams with an increase in the number of tournaments they will be participating in. As a membership based organization, the BVA relies heavily on your participation and feedback which is integral to our continued growth and success. We cannot do this without a good team in place and need your help in order to grow volleyball as the #1 family sport in the world. We look forward to an excellent year of volleyball on the island and off.

Sincerely,

Stacey Madeiros-Cooke – Co President

Sophia Sontag – Co President