October 6th, 2011

Dear BVA Members,

2010-11 was a very successful year for volleyball in Bermuda, highlighted by the development of Bermuda’s Junior National Teams, the introduction of local coaching certification and continued expansion of BVA leagues & tournaments.

The BVA is most proud of the establishment of its Youth Committee in 2010-11. This group, led by Stacey Madieros-Cooke and Bill Bucky, worked tirelessly to create Bermuda’s Junior National Teams and to manage their participation in the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (“ECVA”) Championships. The Junior Boys are coached by Mark Hamilton and participated in the ECVA event in Anguilla. The boys lived up to their potential and came home with a Silver Medal. The Junior Girls, led by Donna Smith, participated in the St. Martin ECVA event and came away with the Bronze Medal. The BVA would like to give special thanks to NORCECA for their financial assistance which allowed our teams to travel and participate. The involvement of Bermuda’s youth represents the future of volleyball in Bermuda and we are very excited about what lies ahead.

The BVA is also working on creating better coaches and referees to push the sport forward. The BVA continued with its annual Bermuda Referee Clinic turning out some great local referees. We are also excited about our local referees representing Bermuda in International Competition. Congratulations to Karen Jones who this year refereed at the NatWest Island Games. We look forward to her making an impression in international refereeing.

For the first time, the BVA offered a Bermuda Level 1 Coaching Certification program to all of its national & junior national team coaches. We are looking forward to expanding this to high school coaches, etc in the near future. The coaching program was lead by Juan Cartagena, the NORCECA Elite coach, whose job it is to travel to various island and assist with their volleyball programs. Juan has been invaluable in pushing the BVA forward and we would like to thank him as well as NORCECA for making it possible. Two of our local coaches also travelled overseas to participate in the USA Volleyball Coaching programs. Bill Bucci is now a Level 3 USAVB coach and Stacey Madieros-Cooke a Level 1 USACB coach.

Now for the bread & butter of the BVA, our leagues & tournaments. Participation and enthusiasm remains strong and we are excited that leagues continue to grow and our membership is keen to keep the ball flying! Winter league continues to grow with the popularity of the co-ed leagues. Spring league was also full to capacity while an extra beach league was created on Sunday’s to try and accommodate the overflow of teams from Summer League. The organization of our leagues & tournaments are spearheaded by our Vice-Presidents, Karen Jones & Amy Chan. Their job would be impossible were it not for the volunteer league directors who keep things running each night.
Our outdoor season is also highlighted by our various grass & beach tournaments which continue to prove their popularity. Special thanks to all of the grass & beach tournament sponsors for making these week-end events what they are (Barritts, Makin Waves, Coppertone, Amstel, Corona, WKD).

Our adult national teams were also busy in 2010-11, with their season highlighted by the Bermuda Open and the NatWest Island Games in Isle of Wight. The Bermuda Open, sponsored by the Bermuda Dept of Tourism, welcomes teams from the US & Canada in April. The event was well attended and matches were broadcast by BSN both on the internet and on TV. Both the adult & junior teams participated with the adult teams winning the silver in both the men’s and women’s divisions. The Island Games in the Isle of Wight was another great experience for Bermuda’s teams. The women finished in 5th place and the men 8th.

Overall, 2010-11 has seen the sport of volleyball continue to grow in popularity and become a bigger part of the Bermuda community. We intend to keep this moving forward. To that end, the BVA has worked to nurture relationships with its Sponsors and Partners.

This year we have negotiated a deal with Warwick Academy to make that school the main hub for volleyball in Bermuda. While we will continue to work to grow volleyball in other schools we saw the need to consolidate as many BVA events in one location as possible. Moving forward, the Spring League and most if not all of the Winter Leagues will be held at Warwick Academy. This allows us to keep all our equipment in one place during those two seasons and gives us a home base from which we can grow.

The BVA has also continued its relationship with BGA, who have been sponsoring our leagues and tournaments, and our partners, Docksiders and the Dept of Tourism. This summer the Dept of Tourism showed continued support for the BVA by partnering with us and Beach Tennis put on “Beach Smash”, a joint Volleyball and Tennis event. The two day event started off well but the weather got the better of us on the Finals day. Regardless, this is an event that the BVA will look to expand by bringing in International teams and making Beach Smash a staple of the summer program. These partnerships have worked well and we will be seeking even more sponsors in the future so that we can expand Youth and Junior development.

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:

- Kevin Harney
- Alex Hunter
- Adam Veriker
- Heather Wearmouth
- Yvonne Dacosta
- Amy Chan
- Rory McLaughlin
- Mark Harris
- Sebastian Iax
- Carole Collard
- Valerie Le Port
- Jon Noseworthy
- Adam Birch
- Vasilena Lacheva
- Sonya Darakova
- Manny Faria
- Paulo Arruda
- Elisabeth Rae
On behalf of myself and Mike Bengson (who is currently attending the NORCECA volleyball congress in the Dominican Republic) we would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, National Team Committee & Youth Committee.

The BVA is a 100% volunteer run organization and the following people’s commitment, energy and passion for the sport of volleyball are examples to all of us in the volleyball community.

**BVA Executive Committee**
- VP’s – Karen Jones, Amy Chan
- Treasurer – Paul Bohus
- Secretary – Terri Palmateer
- PR Rep – Adam Veriker
- Equipment / Merchandise Manager – Katie Lawrence
- Past President – Lisa Leblanc

**National Team Committee**
- Chairperson – Chris Lemieux
- Treasurer – Brad Meindersma
- Team Manager – Alex Hunter
- Men’s Coaches – Bill Bucci & Gary Leblanc
- Women’s Coaches: Jose Pena, Juan Cartagena, & Juanita Blee

**Youth Committee**
- Chair – Bill Bucci & Stacey Madieros-Cooke
- Boys Coach – Mark Hamilton
- Girls Coach – Donna Smith
- Boys team manager – Rebecca Sousa
- Girls team manager – Amy Renton
- Treasurer – Janice Bucci

Thanks and see you on the court!

Elisabeth Rae & Mike Bengson
Co-Presidents, Bermuda Volleyball Association