

Y.M.C.A.

Camp St

Ballarat 3350

12/7/76

Dear Mr Mansfield,

Please find enclosed two cheques, one for \$20 as payment for Olympic bus and one for \$294 for our registration fees. Our Association would like to know just what happens to this registration money as it comprises a large percentage of our annual income and it appears to us to be just money wasted as far as actual material benefits to our players are concerned. We are interested in knowing how much of the \$2, \$1 levy goes to UAVA & for what and how much is retained by VVC & for what major purposes. In other words, we wish to know in what ways does our payment of \$294 assist our Association.

Hoping you can clarify these matters

Yours sincerely,

Christine Hynd

4/8/75

Mrs C. Hynd,  
Secretary,  
Ballarat YMCA Volleyball Association,  
c/o Y.M.C.A.,  
Camp Street,  
BALLARAT. 3350

Dear Christine,

Thankyou for your recent letter and cheques for registration and Olympic B. I will forward these on to the appropriate sources.

I was surprised you are querving the fees being charged for registration and the purpose to which the money is put. Right from the start of considering the forming of the VCVC and the introduction of State wide registration fees, the Ballarat Association has been represented at all meetings by members of your Executive. At these meetings, the necessity of charging fees and the purpose to which the monies would be put was fully tossed around before being agreed upon, so I would have assumed your Association was, and still should be, fully aware of the situation. In fact, during the formation stages, a Mr Tom Stevens and myself travelled to Ballarat one night, specifically to discuss this matter with your Executive. However, I will attempt to give you a brief outline again, on situation up until the present.

In October 1973, after having attended VAVA meetings as a Bendigo delegate for some time, I was elected to a position on the Executive. I had been continually dismayed at the inefficiency and one sided approach to the sport by the VAVA as a whole, so in November I presented a proposal to completely re-organize the administration of the sport in Victoria. I sent a six page letter to each Association in the country, outlining the proposal and seeking support, because I knew it would be opposed in the Metropolitan area. I urge you to dig up this letter from your files, as it contains the reasons for the re-organization and the imposition of State wide fees for registration. I would also add that I was in a little hot water from the VAVA for my actions, as I did not have approval from the Executive to send this letter. However, that was the first wave of resistance.

In June 1974, I sent another letter to each Association outlining the progress to that time and proposing the formation of the VCVC. In July, a steering committee was formed and in August, the full Council was formed. If you cannot locate the two letters I have mentioned, I will send you a copy, as they provide the basis of why we are now paying the registration fees on a State wide basis.

I can assure you that the fees paid are not 'just wasted', and if your Association is looking for 'material benefits', worth \$294, you will be looking for a long time. In one way, the payment of fees can be likened to payment of taxes - very few people can claim to receive 'material benefits' to the value of tax paid. I'm quite sure I don't, but I accept that I must pay to have the country or town administered for me in some shape or form, just the same as my registration fee helps to administer my sport in this country.

Your \$294 this year is distributed as follows:-

\*\*\* \$20 to VCVC to cover postage, printing and Secretarial costs. This amount is more than is required to run the VCVC at the moment, and as a result, the bank account is steadily growing. The purpose to which these excess funds will be put is entirely up to the VCVC, of which you form part. It may be that it could be put towards the expenses of coaches and referees clinics in various areas as required. Or the fee may be reduced, which will not allow funds for anything except postage, etc. Would this be a wise move?

\*\*\* The AVF share cannot be stipulated exactly because they use a sliding scale as a levy on the State as a whole. The scale is 43c per senior player for the first 400 seniors and 25c per junior for the first 400 juniors, reducing then to 33c and 22c for the next 400 seniors and juniors respectively. The scale reduces further in blocks of 400 players, but I am not sure of the actual rates. I would estimate about \$57 of the \$294 would go to the AVF.

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Government subsidies, the remainder being made up out of delegates and players own pockets. It should be obvious that Australian participation in these conferences and tournaments is one of the few ways the sport can progress within the country. The AVF has always been in receipt of registration monies, but only from a few Victorian Associations, prior to 1974.

\*\*\* The remainder of the money goes to the VAVA, to cover similar expense to the AVF, but on a larger scale. For instance, there are more State teams to support than National teams, and there are more Interstate meetings than International meetings. Also, in Victoria's case, the State Association is far larger and far more active than its sister states.

Since 1974, a few of the major things that come to mind, which the VAVA has been able to do because of the re-organization firstly, and afford to do secondly, are:-

1. Host a Japanese team tour which included one country centre
2. Provide referees clinics and coaching clinics - two referees clinics have been run in country centres this year.
3. Hosted the First Asian Games which included matches in three country centres. The benefits to Victorian volleyball from this venture just cannot be expressed in dollars and cents. For instance, the number of teams competing in Bendigo Volleyball increased from 42 to 57 between competitions, the reason being the Asian games promotion - or rather, that's all we can put it down to - we managed to gain an extra night in the stadium because of this.
4. Maintained liaison with the higher bodies to keep abreast of latest developments in the sport.
5. Directly subsidised the 1976 Country Championships to the tune of \$250 with no strings attached.
6. Assisted in maintaining all State teams, of which there are now six. Over the last four years or so, there have been country players in the State teams and even more so in the training squads. Several country players have been in State teams on overseas trips.

Furthermore, I understand negotiations are well advanced in obtaining services of an overseas coach (Phillipino?) as a full time officer of VAVA. This person is not intended as a State coach, but rather to provide coaching assistance to Victorian associations and Victorian schools. In order that the VAVA can make the appointment, they must be able to guarantee about half of this person's salary and expenses (estimated to be about \$8000), the other half coming from a State Government grant. It is obvious that registration fees for Victoria of about \$3000 will go nowhere near the required \$8000, so this difference will be made up by levying the schools (Education Department) and other users of the person's services.

That, therefore, is a summary of where your money goes and what it does. As I said earlier, you will not receive \$294 worth of 'direct assistance' from either the AVF, the VAVA or the VCVC. Your present enjoyment of the sport has been made possible by efforts of these bodies, which you are now supporting. If your Association sees it differently to this I personally think it a narrow-minded and selfish approach, to which the development of the sport in Ballarat will be grossly retarded. From my past association with Ballarat players and administrators, I don't believe this is the case and I certainly hope it never gets to that state, but I hope this letter will clarify the situation for those that are unsure.

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Yours in 'Volleyball'.

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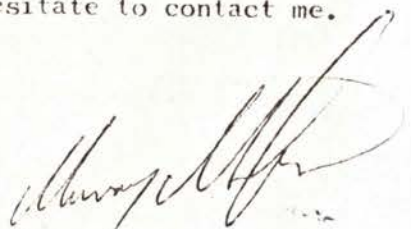
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Murray Mansfield

Records Secretary.