

Victorian Country Volleyball Council

1984 -- RECORD SECRETARYS REPORT

The duties of Record Secretary to the VCVC over the past twelve months have diminished to a considerable degree, in fact they are almost non-existent. This is a result of the transfer of registration responsibilities direct to the VAVA.

A complete report, similar to that presented to past conferences, will be produced by the VAVA for their AGM early next year, so detailed statistics will not be presented here.

On a general basis though, it is disappointing to note that three country Associations have dis-affiliated with the VAVA. These are Wangaratta, Stawell and Benalla. On the positive side, a warm welcome is extended to the Trafalgar Association, who have joined us this year for the first time.

Benalla was a very new Association, and in my opinion were not prepared for what was involved in running an Association. Their demise is due to such a small number of players showing insufficient interest to ensure the continuation of their activities. I believe they will go out of existence in the very near future.

In the case of Wangaratta and Stawell, the warning lights had been flashing for some time, and finally they have been extinguished. Wangaratta in particular, lacked the administrative expertise and interest to survive. I suspect Stawell was in the same situation.

There have been 'rumblings' from a few other Associations about the so-called 'SOCIAL' endeavours of players. I will challenge any administrator to argue that this is not an excuse used to cover up lack of leadership and in-efficient administration. Claiming that players are only 'social' and not interested in advancing their volleyball is short-sighted, and a mis-representation of the facts.

Simply ask the following questions to gain a true picture of whether or not these so-called social players are really social:

1. Do these players compete at the same time every week, in accordance with a formal draw?
2. Do these players go to the trouble of wearing a like uniform?
3. Is a progressive ladder maintained for their matches?
4. Do they compete in a finals series to determine the eventual winner?
5. Are officials used to control their matches - referee, scorer, etc.?

If the answers to these questions are YES, and they usually are, then where is the 'social' aspect? They are indisputably competitive players.

If you are having problems with some areas of your association, then ask these questions. Also ask if they are prepared to organize their own competition and run a separate association - 'social' players! - hogwash.

It is also pleasing to note that some associations are growing again. Geelong is a good example. This appears to be the result of a determined effort to promote and efficiently administer their operations. The major growth is in the sub-junior ranks, which augers well for the future.

Some Associations are still losing numbers. A fairly close scrutiny of one of these, the Bendigo Association, shows a diminishing interest by teachers in the secondary schools. This is brought about to a large degree by the swing to the current 'glamour' activities of indoor cricket and indoor tennis. It is interesting to note that to play these sports takes little skill and physical stamina, but costs something like four times that of volleyball each week. Little can be done to counter the trend to these new activities, apart from glamourizing and administering our sport with the utmost in confidence and efficiency. As far as re-generating interest in the school system, we need a distinct push to interest more teachers, or a change in attitude by existing teams/clubs, whereby the team/club 'adopts' a school and promotes the junior element in that school. This of course means extra work for some members in a team/club, which is against the trend of wanting everything for little and giving nothing in return.

I am confident that we will win in the long run. Volleyball is here to stay, but needs that more professional approach to graduate from the minor sport we always were, to the major sport we nearly are and all know it can be.