

V.A.V.A. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT 1976/77

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This will be my last report as Secretary of the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association, as I have arrived at the conclusion that I have held this position long enough - I hope for the benefit of the Association - and that somebody new should try his hand at it. Needless to say that it has sometimes become a financial burden and embarrassment and worse that it was at all times intruding into private life.

I have the sad duty to announce the untimely death of our Mr. Arijs Lozenicins, Immediate Past President of the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association, Federal Volleyball Executive, International Referee, Coach and trusted friend to many people connected with the sport of Volleyball. He died on September 16, 1977 after a long illness in a hospital in Germany at the age of 43 years. His involvement with sport covers a period of not less than 28 years going back to 1949, when together with his parents he arrived in Australia. His first stay was in Sydney for a few years and his first involvement in sport was with Basketball. In Melbourne he joined the Latvians and at a later stage the Melbourne-Hawks Volleyball Club, as player and as coach. From the beginning he involved himself at Association level, first as coach of the Victorian representative team, followed for a considerable period as Secretary and finally as President of the Association.

He became the Victorian Delegate to the Australian Volleyball Federation Executive and was eventually elected as Records Secretary to the Federation, a position which he held until Easter 1977.

One of his greatest achievements was the technical direction and organization of the First Asian Volleyball Championships held in Melbourne in August 1975, an event which became an outstanding success.

In an equally important role, Arijs has been for many years one of the leading Volleyball referees in Australia and had the distinction of being one of the few International Referees Australia has produced.

To honour his achievements in the sport of Volleyball, Life Membership was awarded to Arijs by the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association in 1975.

As a personal friend of many years, I can only say that his loss can hardly be replaced. We have worked in common together to develop Volleyball in all its aspects. We have not always agreed, but we never lost sight of our common goal.

May his soul rest in peace.

The most important event as far as Victoria is concerned was the appointment of Mr. Thomas A. Santamaria Jr. as State Director of Coaching on a full time basis. A State Government Subsidy of \$ 8000 made his appointment possible. Added to this must be the donation of \$ 2000 by the Melbourne Volleyball Council and a sum of \$ 2500 which has been promised by the Victorian Country Volleyball Council. As the budget for the coach has been set at \$ 15000, it is up to V.A.V.A. to find an additional \$ 2500, a task which should not be impossible to achieve. The services of Mr. Santamaria will certainly be of great benefit to all Volleyball players in the city and country alike.

Victorian participation in the Australian Championships was quite successful as shown below -

Australian Open Championships

Men - VICTORIA

Women - SOUTH AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA in 2nd place)

Australian Youth Championships

Men - VICTORIA

WOMEN - VICTORIA

Australian Junior Championships

Men - (VICTORIA 3rd place)

Women - (VICTORIA 3rd place)


Australian Club Championships

Both titles were won by Victorian representations, only South Australian and Victorian clubs have been involved in this years Championships. Format of these Championships needs a major overhaul at Federal level.

Victoria enjoyed a continuous and substantial growth rate in membership mainly in the country but also in the city. New playing facilities became available in reasonable number adding to administration problems. Clubs and individuals to show in the future more enthusiasm and willingness to assist in the running of the facilities available because - if not taken up now - they will be lost to other sports as for example Basketball, Netball etc.

The Constitution and By-Laws have served their purpose over the last few years within reason, but it has shown also quite clearly that with the development of Volleyball particularly in the country and also in the City, and the appointment of the State Director of Coaching much more thought must be given to the changed conditions and an overhaul of both the Constitution and By-Laws should not be delayed for long.

Finally, let us welcome all new clubs, teams and new faces we have seen this year and let us hope that it stays like this for the future, so that Volleyball may take its place between the ranks of the other sports which it fully deserves. Many thanks to all members of the Executive, clubs and players which have given me their trust and their support in an increasingly difficult task.


W. Gollong
(Honorary Secretary).