

Mt Lofty League Volleyball Club Inc.

MT LOFTY VOLLEYBALL CLUB

"HOT OFF THE BLOCK"

NEWSLETTER 1

FEBRUARY 2008

IT'S ON AGAIN!

Yes, it's time to dust the cobwebs off those faded shorts; grab the smelly knee pads from the last match in 07 and check out the state of your Mizuno's. Welcome back to a new season of volleyball at Mt Lofty!

PRESIDENTS WELCOME

Firstly, welcome to all of you returning to the Club – and especially our new members. Many of course will be starting Mini League or Junior League in your first introduction to Volleyball. This is indeed, where many of our current senior members commenced their careers so I hope that you enjoy your sport as much as they have, both socially and on the court.

Can I make a special mention of the parents and families of our junior members. We welcome you of course and look forward to our Club enriching 'the journey' that sport, and especially volleyball can bring to your family and friends.

Season 2007 ended on a wonderful note with another successful year for the senior Mt Lofty Volleyball Club in just so many ways.

Our Reserves Men won their Grand Final, both our League Men and League Women competed impressively in their respective finals, and we followed up by celebrating the years achievements and recognising the hard work many people in the club put in at the presentation dinner at the Arkaba on grand final night.

For those of you who attended that night, while it was a little subdued following a couple of disappointments on that day, it was quickly overshadowed by the huge list of achievements acknowledged on that night. Some of these were the massive number of awards our players received at the annual VSA dinner, no less than every MVP in all 6 divisions of state league and reserves, plus team of the year representatives and rookie awards just to name a few. On top of that Mt Lofty was again successful in winning the Skip cup for the second year in a row - this being no mean feat at the best of times. Our men were invited to the inaugural Tri-state tournament in Mildura along with Melbourne Falcons and the AIS, which was highly successful, and one where our club made quite a positive and professional impression - thanks to all participants that weekend.

A number of our women competed in the new format Women's AVL, 2 of which went on to be selected in the re-established national team who travelled to Asia to compete. So as you can all see, our playing achievements were the envy of many.

Another thing the envy of others is the wonderful Committee that this Club possesses. Your Committee currently consists of 11 people -

yes eleven, with a terrific blend of skill, age, players, parents, maturity and prankster qualities. I would like to welcome Judith Shanahan, Judy Graham and Sarah Choat to the 2008 Committee, who add further strength, numbers and quality to our clubs administration. Few if any other clubs would have anywhere near this depth on their committees.

Off the court last year, Emma Kemp conducted a wonderful trip to Victor Harbor for the league women, 12 of you with muscles and shovels did a fund raising sandshift at Mawson Lakes (thanks Mark L for coordinating), we ran numerous fundraising BBQ's, we raised some \$2000 by helping out the Eagle Park Bike Event late in the year (thanks all helpers) and we launched and sold promotional wine recognising our Womens 3 nil win in AVL Dec 2006. We also hosted and event managed the host round for AVL 2007, which those in the know said was close to, if not the best round delivered.

And so we come to season 2008. Another terrific year is on the volleyball horizon. We have already put up our hand to host the SA Open at Heathfield on June 7th 8th and 9th. This will need to be ratified by VSA, but if it goes ahead, we will need plenty of helpers and food and drink suppliers that weekend. Our teams look strong in both quality and number, particularly the women, with training commencing on Tuesday March 4 at the new Mt Lofty Stadium at Heathfield. There will be pizza's after training on this night to kick off the start of our 2008 season assault (and don't forget to mention the invitation for parents to the wine tasting on the first two weeks of training).

So, I for one am looking forward with eagerness to another fantastic year - there is no doubt that with the history, passion and personnel we have in our ranks, that 2008 will be great!

Brian Kempe - El Presidente '08



Josh Lowrie and other sand shifters at Mawson Lakes in 2007.

CLUB! what is the Oxford Dictionary's description??...

- a) thick stick
 - b) bat
 - c) association for pursuance of common interest
 - d) one of the suits at cards
- etc etc

All of the above correct. The point is that c) refers to the flavour of a 'club' where we all have something in common. Whether you are part of a 'club' to play volleyball, coach, interact socially, fundraise or whatever; we are members because we have a common interest – to be involved. We are very much looking forward to seeing that everyone is involved and working together so that Mt Lofty continues to function as one of the best Clubs in Australia!

If you are asked during the year to help out at an event, to fill in for absentees, to take a training or simply mentor a new player – we hope that you will be the Club member that shares their aspirations with others and does so willingly – in fact volunteer ahead of time if you like!!

VOLLEYBALL SA LEAGUE SEASON

Juniors

Junior volleyballers can only play Junior League if you are a member of Mt Lofty or another League Volleyball Club. When you return your membership form and subscription you will be entered into a team. All junior membership forms MUST be in to Caitlin Kempe by Thursday 6th March as the teams will have to be nominated the following week. Matches start Friday 2nd May. The exciting news is that some Junior League matches will be held at the new Mt Lofty Community Sports Centre.

Further information will be circulated by Eldo and Caitlin closer to the start date and we are looking forward to a 'bumper' season.

Juniors Reds

Mt Lofty Volleyball Club encourages all new players and has a programme for juniors who are not part of the Special Interest Volleyball Programme at Heathfield High School but still wish to play Competitive volleyball. The age group is upper primary through to U19.

Last year we entered both a girl and boys team into this competition and hopefully will do the same again this year. If you know of anyone interested please invite them to come along to our first training session.

This year we will be training on the same night as our senior players in the new gym which will give the opportunity for players and parents to become a more integral part of the Mt Lofty Volleyball Club.

Spikezone (Mini League)

This will be commencing later in the year. Judith Shanahan (Committee member) has undertaken to assist the management of this competition together with Caitlin Kempe. Matches start in term 2.

Seniors

The season is due to commence on 12 April 2008 with a draft draw available on 5th March. At this stage, we have sufficient for League Women and Men, 3 Reserves Womens teams and 1 Mens Reserves (well,, nearly!).

Congratulations to Simon Phillips (League men), Emma Kemp/Belinda Huff (League Women), David Eldridge (Reserves

Women) and Renee Healey (Div 3 women) as your coaching crew for 2008. We still have a couple of other positions to confirm.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL BREAK

Some of our Club members have been busy keeping up with their fitness on the sand over summer by competing with the numerous competitions. CONGRATULATIONS to all that competed over the Summer – particularly to Tess Morcom and Eva Hodder who were the only female reps in the Jnr Champs in Queensland. Some results (not all are below):-

SA OPEN

Gold U19's: S. Oerhli/C. Healy

AUSTRALIAN JNR MASTERS:

1st U19's: J. Lowrie/H. Peacock

3rd U19's: S. Oerhli/C. Healy

NATIONAL JNR CHAMPS

Silver U19's: J. Welsh/S. White

AIS START FOR HARRISON PEACOCK

Harry Peacock left SA early in the New Year to pursue an indoor volleyball career starting with the AIS in Canberra. No sooner had Harry arrived in the ACT, he was whisked off on an AIS (Juniors) tour of Europe. Word has it that, after earning his stripes, Harry performed very well and was a valuable contributor as a spiker to the team. While Harry already stands alone with his achievements as an elite athlete, many will relate him to sister Jess, who also studied at and played for the AIS. Peacock is currently a senior member of the Australian National Women's squad and we are extremely fortunate to have her as a member and player of the Mt Lofty Womens League team again in 2008.

AVL Update

Womens AVL for 2008 will follow the same format as it did last year, with a 5 team state based competition over the top of the state league season. There will be 5 rounds, the final round including finals as per last year. One meeting has already taken place in SA to commence planning, and I'm sure there will be others very soon to make sure this once again runs smoothly. Our club hosted the home SA round at Marion last year, the committee is yet to be approached and/or decide on our involvement for this year.

As most of you know, Mens AVL for 2007 met a crossroads, and ended up being only a weekend tournament immediately prior to National Schools Cup (AVSC) in December last year, with 1 hour timed games. During that tournament a forum was held by the AVF for all AVL clubs to discuss 2008, and while it took a while to get the message through, all parties on the day agreed that the old (2004/2005) format, with no TV (to reduce cost significantly) single round robin, etc was what was wanted and the sustainable option going forward. Most agreed that in 2004 and 2005, AVL had gained some momentum, but changes in 2006 pulled the rug out from under most clubs, and most decided to pursue other more affordable competitions in its place. For Mt Lofty, the Mildura Tri-state tournament was one of these, as well as our participation in the Canberra "Good Neighbour" tournament. Early indications from Mildura are that they are hoping for an 8 team competition this year, compared with the 3 teams of 2007. Like Mt Lofty, Mildura are well organised, have a great venue and have great volunteers - it is certainly a tournament we should continue to support. More information as it becomes available.

MISSING CLUB MEMBERS IN '08

Sarah Choat - One of our stalwarts and loyal Club members, Sarah is currently chasing down a dream, playing for Chemnitz in Germany near to Dresden. The team, believe it or not...is called the Fighting Kangaroos. We hope to see her back in the red and blue before too long.



Renae Maycock: Renae left our Club last season to pursue a working career with the Australian Volleyball Federation in Events Management. For those of you who competed in the Australian Schools Volleyball Cup, you may have spotted Renae at the event. She played a very large part in the organisation of this and will do so again in 2008. There is no rest for her as she is busily working on the World Beach Pro Tour event to be held at Glenelg in March, so we know she will be home for a while then. Renae is our Olympic representative who reached great heights with her volleyball career and although now living in Sydney, we know she always has Mt Lofty on her mind!

Anna Maycock: Anna played with us last season, but in the peak of her career she has returned to the European competition in 2007/08. Currently competing for Albi a Div 1 team near Toulouse in France.

The team is doing very well and is still alive in the French Cup after winning both matches in early February. Despite her absence, Anna is the current Australian Senior Womens Captain – a coveted honour for an extremely skilful setter who loves to hear the news from Mt Lofty and is an encouraging voice for any of our players wanting to succeed in a contract in Europe.

Jo Healy: Jo was part of the 2006 Mt Lofty National Womens team win and contributed to the League team for a portion of the 2007 season before she left to represent Australia in U21's Beach Volleyball in Italy. From there Jo has pursued her interests in indoor volleyball by taking up a position in training as part of the Great Britain Senior Womens Volleyball squad and is now living, training, working and studying (online for her Bach in International Studies) in Sheffield while the team trains for 2012.

Mark Eldridge: Mark has been a regular member of the Reserves Mens outfit for a number of years and is being forced to call it 'quits' for the time being due to study and work commitments. Mark is studying for Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering and will be using his time to forward his career and concentrate on his interest in martial arts. We obviously wish him much success and hope that he will be back before too long.

Rowan Fry: Having joined us in League Reserves last year, we enjoyed having Rowan around and were sad to hear that his knees

are not able to stand up to the pressure of regular hard floor sport and this has forced him to make the decision not to play on. It has been great to have him at Mt Lofty and he will be a loss to the Club.

POSITIONS VACANT - VOLLEYBALL

World Tour Referees/Linespeople & Other Function / Event Staff

Adelaide World Tour Beach Event – March 25th. Contact Stephen Long or VSA if you wish to help out during that tournament.

DIARY DATES FOR 2008

Beach Volleyball World Tour



Things are shaping up for this fantastic event on our doorstep. Forget watching the cutdown version on Fox in 12 months time and be there for a taste of the incredibly exciting environment and amazing athletes from all over the world.

Heathfield High School 25th Anniversary - Convention Centre on March 29th

If you haven't already got your tickets, do so quickly by joining the 230 plus people who have already marked this event on their calendar. Go to HHS website for details:

<http://www.hhs.sa.edu.au/siv/index.htm>

Not Pizza Night – Training

As is the Mt Lofty way, pasties (NOT pizza's) will be delivered after the first senior training on March 4th. Please make a mental note to stay an extra while and ring in the new season with the Committee members, coaches, parents and player colleagues.

SA Open

This event will be held on 7, 8 & 9th June 2008. Mt Lofty Volleyball Club have applied to the VSA to host this event at Mt Lofty. Please keep this on your calendar as this will be a major event and we will therefore need all the players (competing!) and others helping with the function.

Club De-briefs –Arkaba Hotel (1st Sat.of each month)

We have decided to try the Arkaba Hotel from 6.30pm. While the other venue was good, we are keen to get more members along and seek some sponsorship as well. The Sports Bar is a good informal venue and yes, foxy on the big screen!



UNIFORMS

Please note for senior players in particular, shorts MUST be of one style and MUST not be faded or have anything on them apart from the motif as VSA and other Clubs have grown weary of 'warning' Mt Lofty players of their undertaking as competitors on this aspect. The Committee has decided that all senior women will be asked to purchase 'Running Bare' brand shorts. Men will require a pair of shorts matching the Lofty AVL style/Heathfield basketball style shorts. We will have pairs of shorts available to buy through the club at trainings, and the cost will be \$25 ea (Need to confirm this with Caitlin!) . Many of you will already have them I suspect, but they must be plain (no numbers etc, plain blue). If you are unsure then bring them to training for them to be OK'd. Other clubs, referees and the Sports Organising Committee deem our club to be one of the worst when it comes to having matching shorts. We have no choice but to rectify this situation.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Seniors (anyone playing League or Reserves)

The Committee has met and agreed that the subs will remain as in 2007 – with a \$50 incentive to assist the Club in fundraising. This means that even though you pay the FULL amount initially, by meeting a minimum requirement for fundraising as set by the committee, you will be entitled to a \$50 rebate at the end of the season. (Note: We are definitely hoping that we can reward more than the seven people last year for their generosity!!)

Juniors (only those playing Junior League)

The subs once again will remain as was for the 2007 season. One slight change will be that these subscriptions will now need to be paid **IN FULL PRIOR to the season commencing**. They must be paid by cheque or cash to Caitlin Kempe (Mt Lofty Sports Centre) who will collect the Mt Lofty Volleyball Club fees and we hope that you find this a convenient arrangement. Details of where / how to find Caitlin are on the form insert.

OTHER GOSS!

Congratulations to **Caitlin Kempe** who has the position of Sports Trainee at HHS this year. Caitlin will sort **Eldo** out for sure!

Word has it that **Stuart Scott** will have to undergo hip surgery in a few weeks time. We wish him all the best for the op and a full and speedy recovery.



Would you believe this::: Spotted in London for Xmas lunch, **Anna Maycock**, **Stu Maycock** and **Sarah Choat** – followed by New Years

at the Eiffel Tower with none other but our OWN **Jimmy Daniell** (ex mens league player and legend!). Also caught up with **Tara Olonga** in London – photo to prove it! Excuse me, but does volleyball help you get around – or what!?!?

Danielle Maycock (former League Women) has relocated herself and partner **Troy Goodman**(to London for 12 months – currently touring in Africa on the way there!)

What do they have in common?? **Sarah Choat**, **Josh Lowrie**, **Belinda Huff**, **Patrick Hazebroek**, **Renee Healey**, **Stuart Maycock**, & **Tony Scott** were the only senior members to take advantage of the \$50 senior fundraising rebate last year! Thanks for your help guys!

Sam Boehm has been reaping some fantastic results on the Australian Beach tour with partners **Chris McHugh** and **Marty Suan** – taking a second place at the recent Gold Coast event. **Marty** and **Sam** won the most recent event.

INVITATION.....

Parents/Players/Supporters!

Mt Lofty League Women were National Champions in 2006 and to celebrate we are promoting Bleasdale Wines with a special label to commemorate the event!

We are still very keen to have you all make an effort to market / sell our bottled wine: Verdelho, Chardonnay, and Shiraz (from Bleasdale's of Langhorne Creek). We cannot expect our junior members to be involved in this of course....but we DID have some expectations that parents/relies/friends would get involved and help with this.

We know that it is sometimes difficult to promote or sell to friends etc if you don't know the product!! So, here is the **invitation.....**

A free wine tasting with cheese will be available on:

Tuesday 4th March & Tuesday 11th March - PLEASE drop in and meet the Committee, have an informal chat and **TASTE the wine. A flyer and order form is attached in case you are not able to make it.**

WINE TASTING 'DROP-IN' 7PM – 8.30PM MONDAY 3rd MARCH & TUESDAY 11TH MARCH – Stay 10mins or 60! MT LOFTY SPORTS CENTRE.

