



**Cambridge Boston Volleyball Association, Inc.**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019-2020**

**Annual Meeting: Thursday, May 21st, 2020 at 7:00pm (Virtual)**

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# COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

## I. Board of Directors (“Board”) Elections and Board Composition

For the 2019-2020 season, the Board maintained an identical structure and composition to the Board of last season. Board elections took place in May 2019. A transition meeting followed in the same month.

This year's Board consisted of the *Executive Board* (“E-Board”):

**Commissioner:** Brian Chau (A)  
**Deputy Commissioner:** John Santa Maria (A)  
**Secretary:** Chris Moyer (C)  
**Treasurer:** Marcio Correa (C)

The remainder of the Board consisted of:

**Indoor Committee Chair:** Isen Calderon (A)  
**Outdoor Committee Chair:** Tim Hanlon (C)  
**Player Development Committee Chair:** Hayden Smith (AA)  
**Ratings Committee Chair:** Adam Fogel (A)  
**Tournaments Committee Chair:** Tom Hanrahan (B)  
**Social Committee Chair:** Robin Shannon (B)  
**Webmaster:** Jack Perry (B)

Please note that the letter succeeding the board member's name is the session for which they represent. According to the *Policy & Procedures*, the Board should be represented by at least one member from each session (i.e. AA, A, B, C, and D). Following the Board elections, the board was in need of a **D-Session At-Large Representative**. The Board continued to search and reach out to potential candidates throughout this current season to identify this Board member, but without any success. Therefore, the Board operated without this At-Large Representative for the full season.

In addition, the Executive Board made a decision to add **Webmaster** as a position to the Board as it was clear that this function needed a dedicated individual. Jack Perry joined the Board in the fall by Commissioner's appointment as the newest member of the current board and has been responsible for keeping the website calendar and information up-to-date.

## II. 2019-2020 Indoor Season Awards

It is a CBVA tradition every season for us to celebrate the contributions and successes of select members of our community. The following members were nominated and voted for the awards below:

**Joe Gage Leadership Award:** Brian Chau  
**David Hildebrandt Mentor Award:** Oliver Souyavong  
**Marco Ugalde Spirit Award:** Lucia Song  
**Ally Award:** Jaron Mercer

**Most Improved AA Player:** Narindra Peaks  
**Most Improved A Player:** Carlo Gallimberti  
**Most Improved B Player:** Andrew Krischer  
**Most Improved C Player:** Kristina Lingertat  
**Most Improved D Player:** Rushil Shah

Please join me in congratulating the above award recipients for their contributions to the league and their successes and growth as volleyball players and athletes!

## III. Goals for the 2019-2020 Season

This season, CBVA maintained the three overarching goals from the previous season and prioritized its activities around the same three primary strategic goals/guiding principles:

1. To develop and expand the volunteer base at CBVA.
2. To strengthen community within CBVA.
3. To strengthen outreach to the Greater Boston LGBTQ and sports communities.

## IV. Key Highlights

### Growth in Membership

CBVA continues to be one of the most popular places to play volleyball in the Greater Boston area! This is all thanks to a dedicated board of directors and the league's members who continue to make up this incredibly supportive community. We continued to see a high demand in our number of memberships for the current season, which continues to trend upwards. To highlight the recent growth that CBVA has experienced in membership and popularity, the graphic below summarizes total annual membership over the last 6 years:



Even though the current season had been cut short abruptly by COVID-19, the number of active members had already exceeded that of any recent seasons. We owe this success to the availability of and partnership with the King School, which allows us to have up to 54 players for any given session. The ability to secure and maintain this venue will be core to the success of future indoor seasons.

**Financial Strength**

CBVA has been able to maintain a very healthy financial position (please see *Financial Report* below) this season. The various members of the board of directors have done a phenomenal job to ensure that most, if not all, league operations have run on at least breakeven. In other words, CBVA has been able to be both cost-conscious and successful in ensuring great participation in each area of the league’s operations (i.e. filling indoor sessions, clinics, and tournaments on a consistent basis), which translates into revenues that can more than cover the costs of operations.

CBVA has been able to grow our available cash to close to \$40,000 with a current net income this year of over \$17,000. This provides an optimal level of reserve funds should the league experience any significant changes or financial hardships, such as a need to replace the indoor net system that had originally cost over \$15,000 to secure several years ago or a loss of the current facilities. Future boards should continue to be conscious of maintaining this level of reserve funds on hand when planning the annual budget each season.

**Focus on Streamlining Processes**

The board continued to commit time and energy this year to streamlining the processes and procedures that keep CBVA afloat and running each year. This ranges from a constant revision of the board and league structure, updates to the policies and procedures, and more intentional record keeping processes (e.g. recent cleanup and move to Google drive for documentation) to maximize the league’s sustainability.

## V. Looking Forward

It was as much of a pleasure this year as it was last year to serve as your Commissioner. This year's board, which remained mostly the same from the previous season, has outdone itself once again. Behind the successful operations of CBVA are the committed efforts of each and every board member, who chose to dedicate their personal time to the success of this league. I don't think that any of them will disagree with me when I say that they do it because of the incredible community that CBVA has been, is, and will be for many of our members - that safe space where we can celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community and our combined love for the sport of volleyball. On behalf of the board, I would also like to thank you all for contributing to this amazing community, whether it is through volunteering, mentoring, or simply being a member and being there for each other. Indeed, 2020 has been a challenging year already with COVID-19 and more than ever, it is critical that we continue to reach out and rely on each other.

As CBVA continues to grow, we are excited about the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead of us. However, in recent months, the board has also had more discussions about the need to refocus on our identity as an LGBTQ sports organization. Thanks to CBVA's structure and organization around indoor volleyball, many players have sought out CBVA as another place to play volleyball. However, we have to also remember that as a league, our mission is to serve the LGBTQ community and we must never lose sight of that. Therefore, I urge the incoming board to maintain this focus for the upcoming year.

Another aspect of growth is the need for capacity building. Without the ability to serve, the operations of the league could fall apart. As we move close to hitting the 400-member mark for indoor membership, the board will require the support from more of you, more than ever, to continue to provide what it has provided in years to come. Once again, consider this my final, last ditch effort to call for all of you to become more involved in running this league.

I am so proud of and grateful for all that the board and our members have done in the two years that I have served as CBVA's Commissioner. This has been one of the most humbling experiences I have had to be able to lead a tremendous organization that means so much to so many of us. As I step down from the board, I have every intention to remain active as a player and as a volunteer to the league. Believe me when I say that CBVA is incredibly lucky to have John Santa Maria as its Commissioner next season; he is one of the most dedicated and knowledgeable people that I know with respect to anything and everything CBVA. I am confident that he will lead the new board, which will be fresh with a lot of new energy, to give us one of the best seasons yet with CVBA. So, until then!

Humbly Yours,

Brian

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Financial Report – Marcio Correa, Treasurer

As of May 5, 2020, CBVA has a net income of \$17,080 for the current fiscal year, which ends on May 31, 2020. The income statement has been included below:

#### CBVA Income Statement, FY Ending 5/31/2020

<b>Revenues</b>		
Season Membership Fees	\$	13,380.64
Indoor Session Fees	\$	29,635.50
Summer League 2019	\$	4,004.00
Clinics	\$	3,705.00
Tournaments	\$	5,025.00
Race for the Tiara <sup>1</sup>	\$	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>55,750.14</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative	\$	(2,717.11)
Season Membership Fees <sup>2</sup>	\$	(504.54)
Indoor <sup>3</sup>	\$	(19,346.21)
Outdoor	\$	(524.81)
Summer League 2019	\$	(3,683.14)
Clinics	\$	(2,303.32)
Tournaments	\$	(4,317.38)
Social/Events	\$	(4,094.62)
Race for the Tiara	\$	(1,178.65)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(38,669.78)</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,080.36</b>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Race for the Tiara revenues did not materialize due to cancellation from the COVID-19 outbreak.

<sup>2</sup> Transactional costs from Paypal.

<sup>3</sup> Indoor season lasted from September 2019 to March 2020 due to COVID-19 outbreak.

As it currently stands, CBVA has a total of \$66,599.40 available cash across all of its asset accounts, although it should be noted that the *Boston Beantown Classic (BBC)* and *Joe Gage Memorial* accounts are designated for specific purposes and cannot be used for CBVA’s routine operations.

The BBC account is a cash reserve that has been grown by hosting the annual NAGVA-sanctioned tournament and serves the specific purpose of seed funding each year for organizing this tournament. The Joe Gage Memorial account funds were donated in memory of the late Joseph Gage. Those funds are to be used for memorial purposes in conjunction with Cambridge Public Schools.

<b>Accounts</b>		
CBVA	\$	36,085.47
Indoor Cash Box	\$	100.00
Cash to be Deposited	\$	3,240.00
<b>Total Cash Available for Operations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>39,425.47</b>
BBC	\$	24,507.93
Joe Gage Memorial Fund	\$	2,666.00
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>66,599.40</b>

CBVA also has a deposit with the District Hall (venue) that can be used from the cancellation of Race for the Tiara. These funds will remain allocated to the events/social budget for the next fiscal year and will need to be utilized within 6 months of the original event.

**Recommendations**

As CBVA continues to grow in membership and services, the number of transactions will also increase. CBVA’s revenues in the last couple of years has placed the organization into a tax bracket that requires a more rigorous reporting process. This means that financial and transactional accuracy must be recorded with timely precision. It is therefore recommended that CBVA partner with a professional accountant specializing in non-profit tax reporting.

**Communications Report – Chris Moyer, Secretary**

**League Communications**

CBVA continues to utilize LeagueApps for operations and the secretary’s email address for individual and small group communications. The secretary receives emails that are forwarded to other board members to respond (e.g. play inquiries, tournament refunds). These two systems have worked well in conjunction and will be transferred to the incoming secretary.



A league calendar was also embedded onto the website in an effort to streamline the most updated information regarding the league's offerings. This calendar has been kept up-to-date by our webmaster and should continue to be the practice for membership to check for the most updated information regarding play sessions, tournaments, and other events. This was in an effort to "declutter" our social media (specifically, Facebook) and has appeared to work quite well this season.

### **Bi-Monthly Newsletter**

This year, CBVA was unable to sustain the bi-monthly newsletters that became very popular with our membership. The secretary was unable to produce the newsletters as planned this year due to many personal priorities and time constraints. The takeaway is primarily for the incoming secretary to not take this lightly as newsletters have proven to be time-consuming to put together. However, content can in fact be easily managed by asking members of the league to write articles about particular news topics.

### **Promotional League Video**

This project was started in the previous season and never came to fruition due to the aforementioned time constraints. However, the contact for the Emerson College student who has worked with CBVA in the past is available if this project is desired to be resumed. He has shared that he would be willing to come in and shoot/edit some additional footage for the league if needed.

### **Recommendations**

The communications systems and plans appear to be effective in relaying the most necessary information to our membership. It is recommended that an "unsubscribe" link is always provided for members to opt out of any league-wide communications. This is prompted by the board receiving several emails from members asking to be unsubscribed.

# CBVA WEBSITE

## Website Maintenance – Jack Perry, Webmaster

The **webmaster** position was newly introduced this season and was intended to alleviate the strain on other board members who had previously volunteered to pick up this slack.

The primary accomplishments of the webmaster this season included:

- Onboarding (e.g. acquiring access to the website, learning about the website structure and tools).
- Regular maintenance:
  - Curating and creating calendar events for indoor/outdoor play, social events, tournaments, and clinics.
  - Adding and updating content for league ratings.
  - Fielding ad hoc requests from other board members for website updates.

## Recommendations

Next year, CBVA hopes to move beyond regular website maintenance to find greater opportunities to improve the CBVA website. Currently, the website contains significant amounts of duplicated information (e.g. descriptions of player levels appear in several different places). This has made maintaining accurate information across the website difficult and time-consuming. To alleviate this, the board will be looking at restructuring some of the major sections of the website and focus on removing duplicated content.

Secondly, there still remains several pages worth of outdated or neglected content. The board will evaluate what should remain, be updated, or be removed.

Thirdly, the board would like to identify and implement other enhancements to the website going beyond day-to-day information. The plan is to crowd source from the membership and look toward the CBVA community for inspiration. One such idea is to find a way to showcase our charitable contributions to local LGBTQIA+ causes in the community on our website.

# COMMITTEES

## **Indoor Committee – Isen Andrew Calderon, Indoor Chair**

The 2019-2020 indoor season was very successful despite the early closure. The board continued to work with Ben Rubinger, indoor committee chair from the previous season in fine-tuning TeamArrange (TA) to improve the logistical efficiency of our indoor sessions. This was intended to simplify the court managing process, making it more accessible and easy to use for court managers.

Due to popular demand, CBVA also decided to continue to offer a third open play session on Saturdays from 3:30-5:30pm as a permanent fixture to our offerings.

### **TeamArrange (TA)**

After last season's successful implementation of TA, this season saw the use of TA as the primary tool for court managing with improved interface and ease of use for court managers. Several updates were rolled out during the fall. Despite a few setbacks early in the season, CBVA saw the wide adoption and use of TA throughout all sessions. TA has continued to provide us with several advantages, such as:

- Transparency in the creation of teams with respect to player level (ratings).
- Simplified process for team creation (automatic team randomization, taking into consideration positional preference with flexible room for adjustments when needed).
- Integration with the membership database on LeagueApps.
- Waitlist functionality (automatic random number generator determines cutoff for overflow.<sup>1</sup>)
- Team display on separate tablet.

<sup>1</sup> With Saturday open play sessions being more popular than ever, CBVA has had to cap sessions at 54 players and disallow subsequent sign-ups into the session. With the waitlist functionality, player sign-ups for succeeding sessions can now be streamlined to accommodate/prioritize players that have not played or been cut-off in prior sessions. The overflow of players from one session can now be automatically entered into a lottery (i.e. random number generator) to determine who makes the cut-off, instead of manual input for randomization, thus improving efficiency and reducing bias.

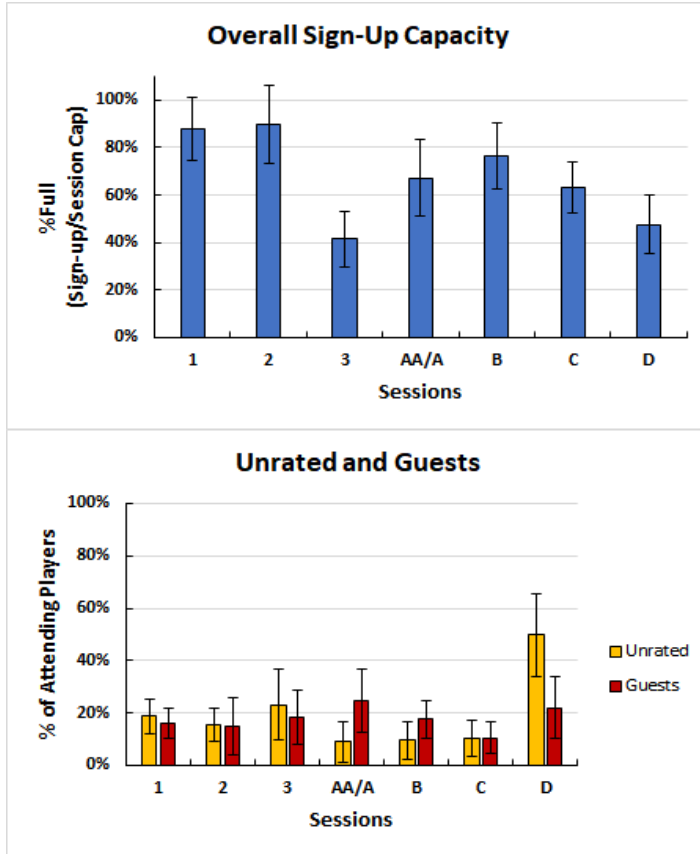
### **Logistical/Inventory Updates**

First-aid supplies remain updated by occasional purchases done to refill contents (mainly ice packs and ibuprofen). It should be noted that due to early closure experienced in Spring 2020, the supply refill in March 2020 was not fulfilled.

CBVA made some additional replacement purchases to enhance the membership experience this season, including new scoreboards, new antennas, a new ball cart, and a dolly for the net system. In addition, CBVA also purchased a new net to test fit into our current system. There has been significant wear and tear noted regarding our current nets. Unfortunately, due to the early closure of the indoor season, we

were unable to further test fit the new net. This will need to take priority at the opening of the next indoor season.

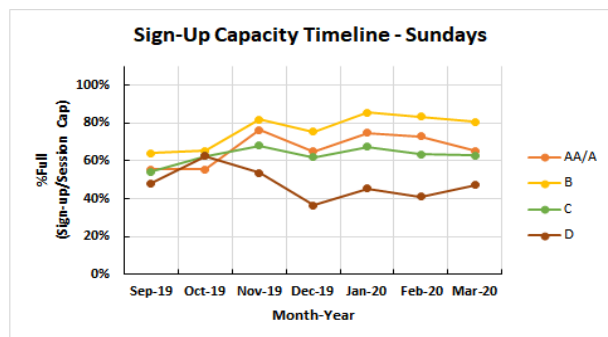
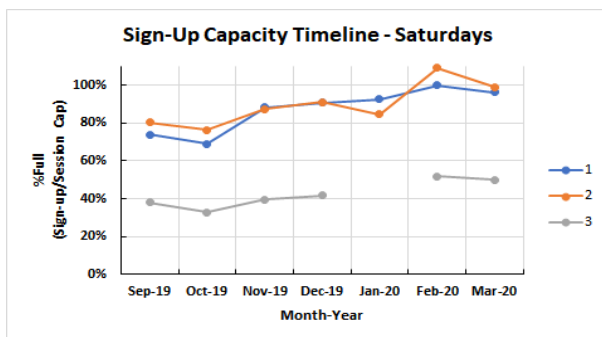
### Key Statistics from the Indoor Season (2019-2020)



Based on the cumulative data acquired using TA this past season, CBVA can now monitor a breakdown of capacity use in each session. The first two Saturday open play sessions continue to be the most popular offerings (averaging ~90% capacity of the maximum 54 player cap). The third Saturday open play session, however, only saw limited success in attendance (~40%).

Notably, sessions across the board also had, on average, at least 10% (and in most cases, much more) unrated or guest attendees, which can be challenging to court managers when it came to formulating team compositions. This is especially true for open play.

Between January and March, CBVA also experienced a significant increase in attendance for our first two open play sessions, reaching full capacity on numerous occasions. Sunday's rated sessions continue to be highly attended as one of the staples of the league's offerings, providing competitive play for all players.



## **Recommendations**

Despite the increased participation from new court managers this season, there has always been a limited supply of court managers. Solicitation for court managers continues to be a challenge. CBVA was able to utilize social media (i.e. Facebook) as the primary vehicle for signing up court managers, but this has pitfalls. The incoming board should continue to examine how best to tackle this long-standing challenge.

With the use of TA as the primary court managing tool, there still remains discrepancies that exist between TA and LeagueApps in membership data. The refresh time for the membership list is not in real-time, so the membership list on TA may be delayed by up to 24 hours. In addition, member names do not always reconcile between the two applications, which also causes lapses in updates. This should continue to remain on the forefront of TA's development.

CBVA would ideally want to focus on updating and addressing the maintenance of our equipment this spring. However, the season was abruptly cut short. The first order of business is to replace the current nets. Furthermore, it seems that some of the new antennas bought from the previous season have been mishandled and may need to be revisited in the coming season. Moreover, midway through this season, the league saw a drastic decrease in the number of available volleyballs yet again, despite replenishing them in the beginning of the season with new ones (donated by Boston Beantown Classic, purchased by CBVA).

Overall, the indoor season has been a fun experience for me, and I hope for everyone else as well. It has been a pleasure to have worked and served everyone in the CBVA community as the indoor committee chair this past season. I hope the increased visibility of the board has inspired more and more members to participate in making CBVA continuously successful.

## **Outdoor Committee – Tim Hanlon, Outdoor Chair**

This season, CBVA offered outdoor play three times each week on Tuesday evenings, Thursday evenings, and Sunday afternoons/evenings. Attendance continues to be weak on weak days, but Sundays have seen a sizable increase in participation. With the availability of 4 nets and the introduction of a more regular doubles net, players have been able to enjoy the various forms of volleyball that can be played in the outdoor format. The summer-only membership continued to be available to new members for the summer season at \$15, which lasts until the end of August when the outdoor season typically concludes.

At the conclusion of the 2019 outdoor season, the equipment remained in good condition. However, the storage box over the season has started to deteriorate and will need to be replaced. In addition, the nets have continued to deteriorate despite being newly purchased. As with seasons past, lawn care remains a concern. The committee will continue to work to address this issue with the City of Boston.

## Recommendations

With the increase in participation and offerings for outdoor play, the maintenance and management of a constantly in-flux player base, especially on Sundays, has proved to become increasingly challenging. As a result, the board should look into implementing a “court managing” system similar to that of indoor in order to alleviate the stress on the outdoor chair or a select few members to open and close.

Equipment maintenance will also need to be addressed. With the uncertainty around the COVID-19 outbreak, CVBA is unsure about the exact start of the upcoming outdoor season. Members should continue to pay attention to Facebook announcements and the website calendar for more information about when play is safe and ready to resume.

## Ratings Committee – Adam Fogel, Ratings Chair

This year's ratings were conducted in the same manner as they were in the previous season by a panel of raters from all levels of play. The raters were:

- AA:** Pete Biencourt, Chi Yin Li, Matthew Sadowski
- A:** Paul Le, Qiao Liu, John Santa Maria, Isen Andrew Calderon
- B:** Dietrich Warner, Peter Boskey, Ying Kai Chan
- C:** Matthew Colvin, Mac Chinsomboon

Towards the end of the season, the ratings committee opted to add supplemental raters in order to help with a backlog of needed ratings: Hayden Smith, Tom Hanrahan, and Jack Perry. However, they did not conduct any ratings as the season was cut short due to the impact of COVID-19.

CBVA continued to use the committee-based, rolling ratings system that Yankee uses, where players are ranked relative to other players at a given ranking. This ensured that ratings were assigned in due time (usually within a two-week turnaround) and helped to sort new players to the appropriate level more efficiently. This season, the frequency of ratings decisions declined as the season progressed. This was an appropriate trend, as it reflected the requirement for an influx of new ratings at the beginning of the indoor season, which eventually tapered off as ratings were issued.

This season, the panel of raters completed a total of **81** new ratings to members. We tabled **55** members for discussion at future ratings sessions. We uprated **15** members, downrated **4** members, and maintained the ratings for **7** members upon requests for ratings movement from existing members. We also started assigning ratings to all guests at the beginning of the season. This was eventually moved to assigning ratings on an ad-hoc basis later further in the year.

This year, the board also introduced the following to the ratings protocols:

- Limit on the number of re-rate requests per season.
- Cooling-off period between ratings requests.
- New Yankee ratings to map to CBVA ratings; this increased the level of CBVA C to “Yankee C- to low Yankee C”, the level of CBVA B to “Yankee C to low Yankee C+”, the level of CBVA A to “Yankee C+ to Yankee B-”, and the level of CBVA AA to “Yankee B and higher”.

The first two items did create a bit of a “push” where members felt their ratings were on a clock and would apply for re-rate requests at the first opportune moment. The changes in CBVA ratings vs. Yankee ratings were done to keep the level of play competitive as the committee generally felt as though Yankee ratings have slipped. This was primarily done to keep B and C levels more competitive as certain players had provided feedback that the level of play has slipped in both of these sessions in recent seasons.

### **Recommendations**

There appears to be a need to develop stronger engagement from members of the ratings committee. As in years past, CBVA experienced a delay in rating C (and at times, B) session players due to a lack of response from raters. As a result, many of the C and B session ratings ended up being done by A and AA players, which is not ideal. It is recommended that the ratings committee for the upcoming season focus on finding dedicated C session players and engaging them more in the ratings process.

In addition, this season saw the increased use of downrates to balance sessions in order to maintain the appropriate level of competitiveness for Sunday sessions. Understandably, downrate decisions are not taken lightly by the ratings committee. CBVA would also like to use downrates sparingly in order to balance and maintain the overall level of competitiveness. Given the success that CBVA has seen with this tool to strengthen the competition in each session, it is recommended that this practice remain in place and be used as needed.

Finally, it is recommended that the ratings committee chair weigh in more often on ratings. The ratings chair this year was often passive in order to allow panel members to come to a decision. However, this in turn affected the timeliness of ratings.

### **Player Development Committee – Hayden Smith, Player Development Chair**

#### **Reflections on Recommendations from the 2018-2019 Season**

The mentorship program was discontinued as it seems that more organic mentoring was more effective.

The demand for clinics remains high. The board opted not to book extra time on Sundays this season, but this remains an option, such as from 10:00am to 12:00pm, specifically for larger clinics that may need

more than just the small gym. This would also be ideal if AA/A were to need the full capacity on a consistent basis.

## Clinics

This season, all clinics were taught by Nick Bryant. Nick has been highly-regarded by clinic attendees and has continued to provide CBVA with an excellent rate, which has allowed clinics to stay at a remarkably low cost of \$15 for each 2-hour clinic. Attendees also had the option of a discount purchase at \$50 for a “5-pack”. Sign-ups continued to be done primarily via LeagueApps, although drop-ins were available, capacity permitting.

A summary of the clinics offered and attendance is shown below. Due to high demand, clinics sometimes went above the ideal limit of 21 attendees:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>LeagueApps</b>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<b>Total</b>
Passing and Serve/Receive	Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019	10	7	17
Serve-receive Games/Reps	Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019	3	8	11
Hitting	Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019	11	10	21
Setting Basics (not just for setters!)	Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019	16	3	19
Broken Plays	Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019	2	4	6
Defense and Blocking	Sunday, October 27, 2019	10	6	16
Speeding Up the Offense	Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019	10	10	20
Free Ball Plays	Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019	5	2	7
Passing and Serve/Receive (review)	Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019	9	3	12
Rotations and Team Play	Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019	7	5	12
Ball Control Basics	Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020	6	6	12
Serving and Passing Basics	Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020	11	8	19
Offense (1 of 3) Hitting Basics	Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020	14	7	21
Defense (1 of 3) Passing Hard Driven Balls	Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020	15	6	21
Float and Spin Serves with Receive Reps	Sunday, March 1, 2020	21	6	27



Setting Basics	Sunday, March 8, 2020	10	3	13
Offense (2 of 3) Out of System and Back Row	Sunday, March 15, 2020	0	0	0
Defense (2 of 3) Blocking Basics	Sunday, March 22, 2020	0	0	0
Offense (3 of 3) In System and Quick Hits	Sunday, March 29, 2020	0	0	0
Defense (3 of 3) Digging and Diving	Sunday, April 5, 2020	0	0	0
Rotations and Free Ball Passing	Sunday, April 19, 2020	0	0	0

## Recommendations

CBVA offered some Saturday clinics during the third session time slot of 3:30pm to 5:30pm, given that the demand for open play during the same time has been lower than in other sessions. However, those Saturday clinics were poorly attended. It was thought that open gym attendees would see there is a clinic and attend the clinic. However, the opposite happened: the clinic attendees saw that there was an open gym and preferred to play. It is recommended that clinics should be kept to Sundays during the AA/A timeslot when an open gym is not available.

The 21-person limit was also not enforced. In general, this was not a problem. There was only one session where we had over 21 people show up (27), which was a bit problematic from a numbers perspective. The concern is that attendees may feel that it limited their opportunities to acquire enough repetitions during the 2-hour timeframe. It should be noted, however, that no formal complaints were made. Nonetheless, this should continue to be monitored in the upcoming season.

CBVA did not try this year, but another possible idea is to run small "friendship tournaments" on the third court during AA/A session in the spring where lower-level players (i.e. C/D, maybe B) can form teams and compete. The higher level players can volunteer as coaches for each team. An additional idea is to have team coaching sessions or clinics aimed at helping a team grow together in preparation for NAGVA or Yankee tournaments, for instance.

## Tournaments Committee – Tom Hanrahan, Tournaments Chair

This season, CBVA hosted two outdoor tournaments and three indoor tournaments, with one cancelled indoor tournament due to COVID-19:

### Outdoor:

- Provincetown Quads Scramble
- Death Drop Doubles Tournament

**Indoor:**

- Halloween Scramble
- Jingle Ball
- Valentine's
- Green Bean

This summer, we returned to Provincetown for our Quads Scramble tournament with over 30 participants and guests. CBVA members Tony Bertoldi and James Kirk helped organize the event, which included six teams and a fun weekend away for all. The summer ended with our Death Drop Doubles Tournament which included seven teams of CBVA members and guests combined.

The Halloween Scramble was open to all levels and was successfully filled with 54 players, all of whom were CBVA members. This tournament was a great chance for new members to become acclimated with our CBVA tournament format and many players returned for future tournaments.

The Christmas Tournament was tailored towards our C and D level players, with a ratings cap in place for each team. The tournament was also filled with nine teams, all of whom were CBVA members.

The Valentine's Tournament was held in February and was tailored towards AA/A/B rated players, with a team roster restriction on C and D level players. This year, we opened the tournament up to guests and successfully filled the tournament with nine teams.

Unfortunately, our two-day Green Bean Tournament was canceled this year due to COVID-19. Prior to the formal cancellation, we had nine teams registered and a social event planned at Cathedral Station.

All tournaments ran at least at breakeven and were able to generate additional revenue for CBVA, as well as introduce some new members to the league. We made every effort to tailor tournament styles and level of play to accommodate all members.

This year, we continued to implement gift card prizes for all tournaments. In addition, the Halloween Scramble, Jingle Ball Tournament, and Valentines' Tournament had a budget that allowed the committee to provide lunch for participants free of charge.

**Recommendations**

If returning to P-Town, it is recommended that CBVA utilize connections within the league's network to reserve beach space for the tournament. Open scramble tournaments are difficult to organize due to the range of participants and preferred positions. With that said, they also tend to be the most popular. Teams for scramble tournaments were always vetted through board members beforehand; it is recommended that this is kept in place to provide the best balance for teams. Another idea is to utilize "Captain" volunteers who hand-select their teams prior to the Scramble.

Due to an increased demand in tournaments, it is recommended that one additional indoor tournament be added if logistics/planning allow.

Please note that financial documents for tournaments have not been included, but can be provided if requested.

## **Social/Events Report – Robin Shannon, Social/Events Chair**

The social committee was tasked with organizing and hosting the following events this year:

- End-of-Year BBQ
- Welcome Back Party
- Hologay Party
- Race for the Tiara (RFTT)

### **End-of-Year BBQ**

The end of the 2018-2019 season was marked by this End-of-Year BBQ held at the Danehy Park in Cambridge, MA with assistance from one of our members, Ben Rubinger. Food and drinks were provided within a budget of \$300. We were able to set up outdoor nets in order to allow members to make teams and play. There was also a thank you announcement for the conclusion of the season and award recipients were presented with their awards and gift cards (cumulative value of \$150).

### **Welcome Back Party**

CBVA hosted a welcome back party to celebrate the first day of the indoor season for 2019-2020. We extended the hours to account for lunch and announcements with a budget of \$300 to provide lunch and other refreshments for our members.

### **Hologay Party**

On December 14, 2019, CBVA hosted our annual holiday party at the Cathedral Station in the South End. The initial budget allotted for this event was \$2,000. This year, there was a photo booth, which many of the members enjoyed. The photo booth was done by Hotshots, service was for two hours for \$750. The service included a customized CBVA logo on the photos. Prizes were given to members who won the challenge for Best Dressed. Food was provided in the form of appetizers, entrées, and desserts, which Cathedral Station provided for a fee. The overall feedback for this event was incredibly positive and members who attended reported enjoying the party. We estimate that over 70 people attended this party.

## **Race for the Tiara (RFTT)**

Due to COVID-19, RFTT did not take place as scheduled on March 21st, 2020. The event was scheduled to be held at District Hall. As of now, there is no refund from the venue on the deposit, but a credit for up to 6 months to schedule another event at the same location remains available. Ticket prices were increased to \$30 this year as venue expenses had increased, since the event can no longer be held at Machine. A special thank you goes out to members who have been heavily involved in the planning of this year's event: Marcio Correa, David Cummings, and Rick Doyon (who was going to host this year's event).

We would also like to extend a thank you to members who have volunteered to perform this year and look forward to their return when RFTT is finally rescheduled:

- Marcio Correa
- Rick Doyon
- Tim Hanlon
- Chris Thomas
- Anthony
- Saudy Hernandez & Sarawut (Andrew) Thimachai

## **Recommendations**

RFTT is an enormous event that requires significant planning and coordination. For future iterations of this event, it is recommended that the Social/Events Chair team up with members to ensure that planning starts as early as possible. In addition, the Machine night club is no longer available as a venue for the future, so securing a venue as early as possible is critical. As of now, there are no CBVA funds allocated for this event unlike other social events. In the past, Machine has been very generous and provided the league with the venue, DJ, and bartenders for 4-5 hours on a Saturday night for around \$600. This allowed CBVA to offer cheaper ticket prices in addition to donation of the proceeds to either match or exceed the cost of the event. To make sure that this is a charitable event in the future, the donations to the charitable organization should exceed proceeds in excess of expenses. After contacting over 20 locations in Boston for the event, District Hall gave the most affordable price that could also hold at least 250-300 guests. However, the costs are still significantly more than the venue as CBVA also had to pay for staging, bartenders, and the DJ separately.

Future considerations for this event should include:

- Allocating a small portion of CBVA funds to this event in the budget.
- Utilizing grants and writing to other organizations and businesses to solicit donations.
- Fundraising during the regular season to support the costs of RFTT, such as:
  - CBVA dance.
  - CBVA banquet (e.g. dinner with raffle prizes).
  - Fundraiser tournament to support RFTT.