

**Oceania Squash Federation**  
**Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting**  
**held on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**1. WELCOME**

Meeting was opened at 2.10pm by Mr Jim O’Grady (President). Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting with special mention to World Squash and Col Clapper (OSF Life Member).

**2. ATTENDANCE**

The following people attended the meeting via the Zoom link:

OSF	Jim O’Grady (President), Dinesh Parmeshwar (Vice President), Anna Togolo (Vice President), Carol Kawaljenko (EO),
Australia	Robert Donoghue (CEO)
Cook Islands	Achaal Narayan (Vic President)
Fiji	Gerard Young (Secretary)
New Cal	Gilles Rouvray (President)
New Zealand	Martin Dowson (CEO)
PNG	Anna Togolo (President)
Samoa	Filia Iosefa (President), Samantha Manu
Tahiti	Charles Daxboeck (Vice President)
WSF	Zena Wooldridge (President), William Louise-Marie (CEO)
Others	Col Clapper (Life Member)

**APOLOGIES**

The following apologies were received:

Norfolk Island	Ginny Walker (President)
Referee Advisory Group	Chris Buckland (Referee Advisory Group)
Fiji	Michael Irava (President)

Moved : Jim O’Grady; Seconded : Carol Kawaljenko that apologies be accepted.  
Motion carried.

**3. MEETING PROCEDURES**

The OSF Constitution states that at least 50% of OSF Member Countries constitutes a quorum at General Meetings. It was deemed that the meeting could proceed with eight Member Countries represented.

Meeting Rules were outlined requesting attendees to mute their microphone when not talking to avoid outside noises affecting the meeting.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 4.1. The minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Minutes of meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were distributed to all attendees. It was moved Jim O’Grady and Seconded Charles Daxboeck that the 2022 Minutes be accepted as written.

#### 4.2. Matters arising from previous Minutes

##### 4.2.1. Vanuatu Membership (Agenda Item 11)

2022 meeting agreed :

- that outstanding Membership Fees be written off;
- Vanuatu remain an Associate Member, at no cost, with no voting privileges;
- OSF would pay their 2023 WSF Membership; and
- their status would be reviewed at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Jim O'Grady noted that although OSF would prefer to retain Vanuatu as a Member it is unfair on other Member Countries. EO advised there is no structured competition or committee and only social play as restricted access to courts. Tahiti commented if they are not doing anything to further squash there was no point paying out monies that could be used for other projects. It was agreed that OSF write to Vanuatu advising that OSF will cease paying their WSF membership. OSF to continue to maintain a relationship with Vanuatu in case their situation changes in the future.

##### 4.2.2. OSF Advisory Groups (Agenda Item 13.1)

It was confirmed that Advisory Groups for Coaching and Refereeing were formed. Further discussion on Advisory Groups was deferred to Workshop discussions.

##### 4.2.3. Squash Levels

OSF had contact with Squash Levels and their representatives made direct contact with Member Countries. Australia & New Zealand have adopted the squash levels system and some other Members were interested. This is something that individual Member Countries need to decide on.

## 5. **WORLD SQUASH UPDATE**

Zena thanked Oceania for inviting WSF to attend the AGM and noted it was extremely useful to attend and read the reports.

The inclusion of Squash in the LA2028 Olympics has been very exciting and although a surprise for most, WSF has been working under the radar with the IOC for the past 18 months. There is a lot of work to do to capitalize on this opportunity now squash is part of the Olympic family. Further discussion regarding the selection process and funding are currently underway. The sport program decision for 2032 will be taken before LA2028 so we can't sit back and wait to see how LA2028 goes before we start planning for 2032. WSF needs to work with Squash Australia and PSA to ensure squash is maintained for 2032 Olympics in Australia. Communication and social media platforms are very important and WSF is working closely with PSA and LA2028 to raise the profile of squash. World Squash TV is a major factor in taking our sport out to the world and it should be used where possible to promote regional events. SquashTV will broadcast the 2023 Oceania Junior Championships and World Mens Squash Team events in December.

WSF is working closely with Squash Australia and the Commonwealth Games to find a solution for the 2026 games. It is important to make our sport flexible and adaptable.

Tahiti raised the question regarding Padel and its continuing popularity. Squash 57 is to squash what Padel is to tennis. WSF needs to raise the profile of Squash57 to counteract the Padel concept. Squash57 needs to be used as an extension of squash, both in keeping squash players playing, getting more female players and improving occupancy of courts particularly at off-peak times. Where squash is concerned we need to extend the market, like developing outdoor courts where the climate fits and where squash can provide a cheaper and more visible option to indoor courts. WSF is exploring options.

WSF thanked New Zealand for hosting the upcoming World Mens Teams and also Tahiti, Samoa and Cook Islands who will be competing in their first ever World Championship.

On behalf of WSF, Zena, expressed her thanks to Carol for her work over the past 20 years for the Oceania Region and also Jim for his very valuable input into meetings and decisions as a WSF Continental President.

## 6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*The President's Report was distributed prior to the meeting.*

Jim noted the fantastic news that squash would be included in the 2028 LA Olympic Games and recognised the opportunity to bring the game to many more people and raise the profile of the sport. Squash Fiji were thanked for their hard work in making the 2023 Oceania Closed Championships a successful event. Exciting 12 months ahead on the OSF Tournament Calendar with New Zealand hosting the World Mens Team and the Oceania Juniors during their Squash Festival in December, the Oceania Doubles and 2024 OJC in Australia and the Oceania Masters in New Caledonia. Really encouraging to see national events increase now that we are all back to normal operations.

Jim thanked the Board for their work during the past 12 months.

Move : Jim O'Grady, Seconded Martin Dowson that President's Report be accepted.

## 7. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### 7.1. Financial Statements

*The 2022/23 audited Financial Statements were distributed to attendees prior to the meeting.*

It was noted that not a lot happened in the last financial year, for various reasons.

There was an opportunity to have a coaching workshop in conjunction with the Oceania Closed but with only 3 countries being represented in the Team Event it was not considered financially viable to go ahead with this. With no questions forthcoming it was moved Carol Kawaljenko and seconded by Jim O'Grady. that the 2023 financial statements be accepted as prepared. Motion accepted.

### 7.2. 2023/24 Budget Approval

*The proposed 2023/24 Budget was tabled for comment.*

Oceania Closed Championships will be one of our main expense areas this financial year. Junior Development Grant higher due to 2 OJC's occurring in this financial year (Dec 2023 in NZ & April 2024 in Australia).

Moved: Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Gilles Rouvray that the 2023/24 Budget be accepted subject to any changes or additions actioned during meeting deliberations. Motion carried.

## 8. **MEMBER UPDATES**

Annual Reports received from Member Countries were distributed and tabled at the meeting. Delegates were invited to speak to their reports if they so wish.

8.1. Australia - Squash Australia had a very busy and rewarding year with several new projects launched - Squash Stars (introducing children and schools to squash); new Membership Model launched in July and a Seven Network partnership formed where squash events will be broadcast live and free-to-air on 7Plus. Australia hosted the World Juniors in Melbourne which was a great success.

8.2. Cook Islands - Squash competed in Cook Islands Games attracting participants from 10 islands; 2 Business House tournaments, the Cook Island National and CI Open were very successful. Junior Development Program introduced with specialized coaching and weekly practice sessions attracting 10 enthusiastic juniors.

8.3. Fiji - Past year been quite eventful. Several tournaments held including Junior event in February, Fiji Open in June, Oceania Closed Championships in October. Juniors looking forward to competing at the OJC in New Zealand.

- 8.4. New Caledonia - Player numbers have increased during the year. Junior training program continues for 8 promising juniors. Pleased with our success at the Oceania Closed Championships in Fiji and looking forward to the OJC in Tauranga.
- 8.5. New Zealand - Squash NZ renamed to *Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa*. Very successful Festival of Squash in December 2022 has re-ignited interest back into squash. Looking forward to 2023 Festival which will incorporate NZ Open, OJC and Worlds Mens Teams. National Coaching Conference reinstated in 2023 and an invite extended to any interested coaches from other Oceania countries to attend the planned 2024 Conference.
- 8.6. Norfolk Island - Continues to provide squash opportunities for local players including club competition and junior after school program. Elite junior, Timi Snell, continues to excel and improve and looking forward to competing at the OJC in New Zealand. Annual Norfolk Masters to be held in November.
- 8.7. Papua New Guinea - Junior Development Program very successful. A large Junior contingent competed in the 2022 OJC in Sydney and preparing to travel to NZ to compete in 2023 OJC. Due to funding restrictions could only send 3 players to Oceania Closed Championships in Fiji. Mt Hagen squash revived with 2-week coaching clinic.
- 8.8. Samoa - Competed in the recent Oceania Championships in Fiji which was a great opportunity for players to come together and revive the Samoa spirit. A successful Business House Tournament held following the relaxation of COVID restrictions. Regular local tournaments attract around 30-40 players. Looking to recruit a full-time Junior Development Program Coach to attract younger players to the game. Samoa expressed their thanks to World Squash and OSF for considering their late request for competing in the World Teams Championship.
- 8.9. Tahiti - Junior Squash School continues although facility access is a major problem. Several tournaments were held, including Tahitian International attracting 15 international players. Due to committing to the World Mens Teams Championship in NZ Tahiti was unable to field players in the Oceania Closed Championships. Junior players attended a training camp at Daisy Hill, in Brisbane. The 2027PG project to build a new racket sports complex is under threat due to change in Government and this has put squash's inclusion in the 2027 Pacific Games at risk.

## 9. ELECTIONS

The President thanked the outgoing Board Members – Dinesh Parmeshwar and Carol Kawaljenko for their support over the past 2 years.

### 9.1. Voting Entitlements

Members were reminded that each Member Country Delegate and Board Member is entitled to one (1) vote each. Carol Kawaljenko agreed to be scrutineer, foregoing her entitlement to vote. Zoom polling system being utilised for voting for the Vice President position which allows only one vote per delegate. It was agreed that as the alternate PNG delegate was not present, Anna would need to exercise her Board vote plus PNG vote. To facilitate this Anna will use the poll for her Board vote and text her PNG vote separately to Carol.

9.2. Vice President (2 year appointment)

The Vice President position was declared vacant as Mr Parmeshwar's term of appointment had been completed. Nominations for Vice President received by the closing date of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were :

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>	<i>Date Nomination Received</i>
Dinesh PARMESHWAR	PNG Squash	25/10/23
Reginald PAL	Squash Fiji	23/10/23

Reginald Pal was not able to attend the meeting due to other commitments so Gerard, the Fijian Delegate, spoke briefly on his behalf.

Dinesh Parmeshwar expressed his thanks for the opportunity to speak to the meeting. He has enjoyed his time on the Board and is keen to continue now that there is a lot more work with the squash's inclusion in the Olympics. He looks forward to working with the new OSF Board if his nomination is successful.

The Poll was published and voting delegates asked to vote. After all votes had been lodged the poll result was uploaded electronically. At the completion of polling Mr Parmeshwar received the majority of votes and was declared the Oceania Vice President for a 2-year term until the 2025 AGM.

9.3. Executive Officer (2 year appointment)

Carol Kawaljenko had advised the Board that she would not be re-nominating for the position. One nomination for the position of Executive Officer was received from Robert Donoghue, CEO Squash Australia. This nomination was supported by Squash NZ with the view of Squash Australia and Squash New Zealand sharing the responsibility of this role on a rotational 2-year basis.

Squash Australia's CEO spoke to the proposal regarding utilising resources from Aus & NZ to undertake the role. Australia to take on the role for the first 2 years.

There being no alternative proposition it was moved by Martin Dowson, and seconded by Jim O'Grady, that the nomination be accepted and the OSF Board to work with Australia & New Zealand for a smooth transition.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. World Mens Team Championships

An opportunity was given to some of the smaller Member Countries to nominate teams to compete in the upcoming World Mens Team to cover a withdrawal after the closing date for entries. As Tahiti, as a full member of WSF, had already committed to competing several other Members were contacted regarding their interest. Samoa and Cook Islands expressed interest and Squash NZ and OSF worked closely with them to collate all the relevant information and put forward a proposal to the upcoming WSF AGM for them to become full members of WSF and therefore eligible to compete. The outcome of these deliberations will be known on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November. This is a fantastic opportunity for 5 Oceania Member Countries to compete and will be invaluable in raising the profile of squash in the Region.

### 10.2. Federation Records

With Carol leaving the organisation there is a need to consolidate records into a Cloud storage system so that all Oceania files can be stored in the one area and multiple personnel can access them. On investigation it appeared Google may be the best option. To utilise Google free-of-charge, OSF would need to become a registered incorporated society. Further investigation needs to be undertaken and the Board will work with Australia & New Zealand to come up with a solution. Once a system has been established all OSF files will be transferred across.

### 10.3. Life Membership

Mr O'Grady thanked Carol for her long association with the Federation. Although it was outside the Constitutional timeline for proposing Life Membership, the President sought and received agreement from all Member Countries prior to the meeting that life membership be bestowed on Carol Kawaljenko in recognition for her 20 plus years with the Federation.

Mr Col Clapper, OSF Life Member, spoke of his association with Carol and her dedication to OSF over the years.

Moved Mr Jim O'Grady, and seconded by Col Clapper, that Oceania Squash Federation Life Membership be bestowed on Carol Kawaljenko. Motion carried.

There being no further business for the Annual General Meeting Jim thanked Zena and William for their attendance. The 2023 AGM was formally closed at 3:30pm.

All Member Countries delegates were requested to stay for the OSF Workshop which would follow the AGM.