

OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION (OSF)

Minutes of the Sixth General Meeting of the Oceania Squash Federation (OSF) held in Norfolk Island on Sunday 9 December 2001, commencing at 8:45 a.m.

1. Official Opening by the Chair

The Chair, Col Clapper, declared the meeting open, welcomed all representatives in attendance, apologized for difficulties that have occurred in scheduling the meeting during the activities of the South Pacific Mini Games, and confirmed that the amended date for the meeting was advised at the Squash Technical Meeting held on 3 December. Col Clapper also extended a warm welcome to World Squash President, Susie Simcock for coming to Norfolk Island for the Games, and her support of squash in the Oceania region.

2. Attendees and Registration of Delegates

The Attendance Roll was circulated and the following attendees recorded.

Col Clapper	President & Executive Director
Gary Robertson	Vice President, OSF, President Norfolk Island Squash and Norfolk Island Delegate
Bernadette Raffe	Vice President, OSF and Cook Islands Delegate
Butch Gifford	Vice President, OSF & New Zealand Delegate
Fiona Manoa	Samoa Delegate
Paul Speedy	President, PNG Squash & PNG Delegate
Wati Green	Vice President, OSF & Fiji representative
Esther Williams	President, Fiji Squash & Fiji Delegate
Bernard Esquedin	President, New Caledonia Squash & New Caledonia Delegate
By Special Invitation	
Susie Simcock	President, World Squash Federation

3. Apologies

The following apologies were recorded.

Etuale Sefo	President, Samoa Squash
Sandie Davis	Vice President, Squash Australia
Mousie Skews	Cook Islands
Chris Sinclair	Chair, OSF Rules & Referees Committee

4. Minutes of Previous General Meeting

Col Clapper advised the meeting that the Minutes of the Fifth General Meeting of the OSF held in Noumea, New Caledonia on 6 October 1999 had been circulated to Member Countries in both draft and final form.

Moved Gary Robertson, seconded Bernadette Raffe that the Minutes as circulated, be adopted. CARRIED.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Tahiti, Tonga & Vanuatu Membership of OSF

Initiatives to encourage Tahiti, Tonga and Vanuatu to affiliate/reaffiliate with the OSF were discussed. It was resolved that efforts to gain their membership should be continued.

The meeting agreed that any remaining items of business arising from the Minutes would be considered elsewhere during the Meeting.

6. **Report from the Chair and Officers**

Col Clapper tabled the Chair and Officers' Report covering the two-year period from the previous general meeting held in Noumea in October 1999. Following brief discussion on the report, it was Moved Gary Robertson, Seconded Paul Speedy that the Chair and Officers' Report be received and adopted. CARRIED.

Col Clapper then invited Susie Simcock to address the meeting, in which she covered a range of issues, including:

- Susie was in her last year as President of WSF
- 116 countries were now members of the WSF
- High priority for the WSF was still to achieve Olympic participation
- The WSF was a member of the IOC
- Development activities included digital technology, including "Play Squash on the Internet"
- Dunlop was looking at developing a larger ball (6% larger).

Col Clapper expressed appreciation to Susie and the WSF for the benefits Oceania Squash obtained from the agreement between the WSF and Dunlop. This included balls made available for the Mini Games in Norfolk and rackets for squash development in the region. Col also expressed appreciation for the WSF Development Grants provided to Cook Islands and Samoa.

7. **Reports from the Chairs of Committees**

A report prepared by Neven Barbour as OSF Regional Vice President to the WSF and presented to the recent WSF Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia was submitted to the meeting.

A report from Mike Greig, Chair of the OSF Technical Committee, was tabled for consideration.

A report from Chris Sinclair, Chair of the OSF Rules & Referees Committee, was tabled for consideration.

A report from Greg Hutchings, Chair of the OSF Championships Committee, was tabled for consideration.

Butch Gifford provided a verbal report on activities of the OSF Coaching & Development Committee. Development programmes submitted by Cook Islands and Samoa had been supported, for which WSF development grants had been obtained. Netball had developed an excellent analysis form, which Butch was reviewing to see if it could be applied to Squash in the OSF region.

Moved Gary Robertson, seconded Paul Speedy that the Committee reports be received and adopted. CARRIED.

8. (a) Statement of Financial Accounts for the Period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2001:

The Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2001 was distributed for consideration at the meeting. Also distributed was an Expenditure Approval statement confirming policy arrangements previously adopted in respect of reimbursement of costs for the President, Executive Director and Tournament Director to attend Oceania Championship events and General Meetings of the Federation.

Moved Bernadette Raffe, Seconded Fiona Manoa that the Financial Statement be received and adopted, and that the Expenditure Approval Statement be endorsed. CARRIED.

The Auditor raised in the Financial Report the variation in membership dues by a number of countries between the amount set and the amount received by the OSF, and that the amount set for dues should be the net amount payable to the Federation. The variations occurred when electronic transfers were involved.

The Meeting RESOLVED that variations be accepted, where Bank transfer fees are involved, on the basis that member countries meet the cost of fees incurred at the member country end and the OSF meets bank fees incurred at the OSF end.

The meeting noted that Rule Books and Coaching material had been provided to member countries at the cost of the OSF.

(b) Auditor's Report:

The Audit Report covering the two-year period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2001 was also distributed for consideration at the Meeting. The previous audit report was for the period concluding 30 June 1999. Moved Bernadette Raffe, Seconded Fiona Manoa that the report be received and adopted and that a special vote of appreciation to Peter Hurwood be recorded for once again undertaking the audit of the OSF accounts in an honorary capacity. CARRIED.

(c) Report on the Financial position of the OSF:

Col Clapper reported to the meeting on the financial position of the OSF, and tabled a report, which included a proposed budget for the 2002-2003 period. Col reported that the Federation's finances were generally sound, although it was very limited in its capacity to undertake any significant projects due to the Federation's extremely low funding base. Col also stated the OSF recognized the financial difficulties being experienced by most of the member countries, and this factor had been taken into account when considering OSF membership fees for the 2002-2003 calendar years.

Accordingly, it was being recommended that membership fees for the 2002 and 2003 calendar years be unchanged from those set for calendar years 2000 and 2001. However, Col indicated that members should anticipate an increase in fees for the 2004-2005 calendar years. Members ENDORSED the report.

(d) Proposed Budget and setting of Membership Fees for years 2002 and 2003:

Col Clapper presented a report on the proposed budget and setting of membership fees for calendar years 2002 and 2003 to the meeting.

Moved Paul Speedy, Seconded Gary Robertson that the proposed budget be adopted and that membership fees for calendar years 2002 and 2003 be as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>2002 Fee (\$AUD)</u>	<u>2003 Fee (\$AUD)</u>
Australia	E	1,350	1,350
New Zealand	D	740	740
PNG	C	330	330
New Caledonia	B	245	245
Fiji	B	245	245
Cook Islands	A	170	170
Norfolk Island	A	170	170
Samoa	A	170	170
Motion CARRIED.			

9. Reports on OSF Championships and endorsement of Championship Venues for 2002 and 2003:

(a) Oceania Championships:

The meeting endorsed the principle of conducting the Oceania Championships within the South Pacific Games and South Pacific Mini Games wherever possible.

Col Clapper reported on discussions which had taken place with representatives of Palau, as to the feasibility of including squash in the 2005 South Pacific Mini Games. However, due principally to logistical issues the inclusion of Squash will not be possible. Bernadette Raffe advised that Cook Islands would be interested in hosting the Oceania Championships in 2005. The meeting expressed its support for a Cook Islands bid.

The meeting also endorsed the 2007 Oceania Championships being included in the 2007 South Pacific Games programme in Samoa.

(b) Oceania Masters Championships:

Gary Robertson reported on the difficulties brought about by the demise of airlines in the region, which resulted in the cancellation of the 2001 Oceania Masters in Norfolk. The meeting expressed its support for the 2002 Masters to be hosted by Norfolk.

Bernadette Raffe advised that Cook Islands would consider hosting the 2003 Oceania Masters, and Esther Williams advised that Fiji would be interested in hosting the event in 2004.

Col Clapper advised that the Oceania Masters was a popular event and well worth promoting, and that allocating hosting venues beyond 2004 would be progressed.

(c) Oceania Junior Championships:

Col Clapper advised the meeting that this was an area of disappointment, and if squash was to develop in the region a solution to an effective junior programme is needed, with a junior championship as the pinnacle event. Consideration had been given to optional formats, funding arrangements, etc. but no conclusions had been reached at this stage. The meeting agreed that further work was needed in this area of the sport.

(d) Oceania Open Championships:

Col Clapper informed the meeting that this was another area of disappointment, as member countries appeared to be disinterested in taking up naming rights. The meeting agreed that the approach and process to this event would need reassessing.

10. Reports on Major Games:**(a) South Pacific Games**

Esther Williams and Wati Green reported on preparations being made for the 2003 South Pacific Games in Suva, Fiji. Approximately 35 sports will be included in the Games; \$41M is being spent on facilities; over 4,000 competitors are being catered for; a new multi purpose gymnasium is being constructed; University facilities will be used to accommodate athletes. The Games are scheduled to commence on 19 June and extend into July 2003.

Col Clapper advised that the OSF would proceed to appoint the Tournament Director. Esther also asked if the OSF could look at the refereeing position for the Games.

Col Clapper reported to the meeting on negotiations that had taken place with officials of the South Pacific Games Council concerning proposed alterations to the Games Charter. Col tabled a submission presented to Ricardo C. Blas, President of the Games Council, enclosing proposed changes to the Charter relating to Squash. Col was invited to speak at the Council meeting on the changes. The proposal is for the changes to be effective for the 2003 Games in Fiji. A decision by the Council has been deferred.

The meeting endorsed the submission and actions taken to effect the changes proposed to the Games Charter.

Fiona Manoa informed the meeting that Samoa had been successful in its bid to host the 2007 South Pacific Games in Apia. Col Clapper informed the meeting that Etuale Sefo had advised that Samoa was hopeful of having a new squash complex constructed for the Games, including a doubles court so that doubles events could be offered in the squash programme.

The meeting congratulated Samoa on its successful application to host the Games in 2007.

(b) South Pacific Mini Games

Gary Robertson reported on the Sixth South Pacific Mini Games in Norfolk, where approximately 1,000 competitors and officials were taking part. The Games started on 3 December and will conclude on 14 December, 2001 with 10 sporting disciplines being

involved. Squash was one of the more popular sports and was being well received. Six countries were involved in the Squash programmes, and very few difficulties had been encountered to-date.

Col Clapper reported on the assistance given by the WSF to obtain squash balls for the Mini Games, and that these had been provided by Dunlop under an agreement with the WSF. Col advised that he had written to Dunlop and the WSF thanking them for their support of the Games. The meeting endorsed the action taken and recorded its appreciation.

Col Clapper reported that all the Oceania trophies were on display and the Phillip Cridge Memorial Trophy was to be presented for the first occasion. The trophies had attracted considerable public interest.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Norfolk Island Organising Committee for a magnificent job in planning and running the Games, and to Gary Robertson and his helpers in particular for their efforts with the Squash programme.

Col Clapper referred to his earlier comments concerning the inability to have squash in the Seventh Mini Games programme in Palau, but that every effort should be made for the inclusion of Squash in the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games, where the venue is yet to be determined. The meeting endorsed this approach.

(c) Commonwealth Games:

Col Clapper reported on progress for the 2002 Commonwealth Games to be held in Manchester, England in which Australia, New Zealand and PNG will be Oceania countries competing in the Squash programme.

Col also advised that the 2006 Commonwealth Games will be held in Melbourne, Australia and that this will be a great opportunity for many Oceania countries to have representatives in the squash programme.

(d) Olympic Games:

Col Clapper referred to comments made earlier by Susie Simcock on efforts by the WSF for the inclusion of Squash in the Summer or Winter Olympics.

11. Consideration of other Business:

(a) Report from Cook Islands and Samoa on outcomes of WSF Development Grants:

Bernadette Raffe and Fiona Manoa reported on the junior development programmes made available from WSF grant funds. Schools were targeted with boys and girls in the 8-13 year age bracket.

Cook Islands was including a junior tournament with its Cook Islands Open. However, difficulties have arisen with the closure of the Edgewater courts, leaving only 2 operational courts in Rarotonga.

Butch Gifford reported that additional squash rackets were available for the programmes in Cook Islands and Samoa, if required. Rackets could also be made available to other approved programmes.

(b) Proposed WSF sponsored Regional Conference, Fiji 2003:

Col Clapper reported that an application from the OSF to the WSF for funding (US\$3,300) to conduct a regional conference had been approved. The funding was being made available through the WSF from the IOC Olympic Solidarity Fund.

Details of the conference were still to be developed. Col proposed that he would work with the Development Committee on a suitable programme. The meeting endorsed this approach.

(c) Phillip Cridge Memorial Trophy:

Col Clapper reported on progress in obtaining the Phillip Cridge Memorial Trophy (perpetual and replicas) to be awarded to the most improved player each 2 years from the Oceania Championships. Paul Speedy explained how the trophies had been hand carved from timber from Phil Cridge's district in the shape of a drum. Col thanked Paul for his efforts in arranging the trophies.

The meeting endorsed the actions taken for the OSF to acquire the trophies and award replica trophies to most improved winners.

The meeting also resolved that in selecting the most improved player from the 2001 SP Mini Games, each competing country was asked to submit a nomination.

A Panel consisting of Bernadette Raffe, Paul Speedy and Gary Robertson was elected to judge the nominations with the presentation to be made at the individual finals presentations.

(d) Refereeing Development:

Col Clapper reported on progress being made on Refereeing Development in the Region, including the distribution of resource material to member countries. Col also emphasized the need for more progress in this facet of the sport.

12. General Business:

(a) Calendar of Events:

Col Clapper sought the co-operation of representatives to have their member countries provide information on a regular basis for inclusion in the OSF Calendar of Events.

(b) World Squash Day:

Col Clapper reminded representatives of World Squash Day on 12 January 2002 and encouraged all OSF member countries to be pro-active in promoting the day.

(c) Membership Mailing List:

Col Clapper distributed the membership list for representatives to check and note any alterations. Col stressed the importance of member countries maintaining their details up-to-date at all times.

(d) Possible Funding for Naluge Guy:

Paul Speedy reported that a considerable amount of money had been invested by PNG in Naluge Guy to assist her in improving her game.

Naluge's world ranking had improved from 89 to 65 in the twelve month period. The 25 year old was awarded Sportswoman of the Year in PNG and had a very high profile in the country. Paul sought help from the OSF to see whether sources of funding assistance were available, including SP Games Commission Solidarity Funding, as continued PNG funding was difficult to find.

Col Clapper agreed to assist PNG's support of Naluge wherever possible.

13. Election of Officers for the ensuing 2 year period:

All Officer positions of the OSF were declared vacant. Nominations were then called for all positions.

- Col Clapper was nominated for the position of President and Executive Director by Squash Australia and seconded by Gary Robertson. CARRIED unanimously. Col indicated that he thought it was time to step aside and is not anticipating to be a candidate for election in 2003.
- The following Vice-Presidents were elected unanimously 2,4,6,8,10.
 - Sandie Davis (Australia)
 - Gary Robertson (Norfolk Island)
 - Butch Gifford (New Zealand)
 - Bernard Esquedin (New Caledonia)
 - Bernadette Raffe (Cook Islands)
- Esther Williams (Fiji) was also elected to a Vice-President position, by appointment, with the 2003 Oceania championships being hosted in Fiji under the umbrella of the Twelfth South Pacific Games.
- Michael Davis (Australia) was elected unanimously to the position of Finance Director.
- Neven Barbour (New Zealand) was elected unanimously to the position of Oceania Regional Vice-President to the WSF.

14. Election of Committee Chairs for the ensuing 2 year period:

The following appointments were endorsed:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Butch Gifford (New Zealand) | - OSF Coaching & Development Committee |
| Neven Barbour (New Zealand) | - OSF Major Games Committee |
| Greg Hutchings (Australia) | - OSF Championships Committee |
| Chris Sinclair (Australia) | - OSF Rules & Referees Committee |
| Susan DeVoy (New Zealand) | - OSF Disciplinary Committee |
| Mike Greig (New Zealand) | - OSF Technical Committee |

The Chair of the OSF Masters Committee to be appointed by the Officers at a later date.

15. Venue and Date of Next Meeting:

The meeting resolved that the next General Meeting of the OSF take place in Suva, Fiji in 2003 at a date and time to be set by the President and Executive Director during the period of the South Pacific Games.

16. Closure of Meeting:

Col Clapper extended appreciation to all those in attendance and for their valued contribution to the development and operation of squash in the Oceania region.

Col also extended on behalf of all visiting delegates, officials and squash players, to Gary Robertson and the Norfolk Island Squash fraternity for the warm hospitality and assistance provided during their stay on the beautiful island.

Col Clapper declared the meeting closed at 10.30 a.m.

Chair

Date

Attachments Tabled:

1. Notice of Sixth General Meeting.
2. Minutes of Squash Technical Meeting advising date of General Meeting
3. Registration of Delegates
4. Minutes of Fifth General Meeting
5. Officers' Report
6. OSF Report to WSF Annual General Meeting, October 2001
7. Technical Committee Report
8. Rules & Referees Committee Report
9. Championships Committee Report
10. Statement of Receipts & Payments & Audit Report
11. Expenditure Approval Report
12. Proposed Budget 2002-2003
13. Submission to South Pacific Games Council on proposed changes to Games Charter
14. Election of Officers Nomination Forms