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## MINUTES OF 9<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEETING held Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 in Apia, Samoa

### 1. Official Welcome

Meeting was opened at 2.10pm by President, Col Clapper.  
President outlined the procedures for the afternoon.  
Cocktails will be held at 6pm on verandah – some VIP's from SPG and 2009 Cook Islands Mini Games Committee invited to attend.  
Constitution of 1 August 1996 is still current and meeting will proceed under existing voting rights – Aus 5, NZ 4, PNG 3, New Cal 1, Samoa 1, Cook Isl 1, Norfolk Isl 1, Fiji 1.  
Welcome letter from J Khan, President, World Squash Federation was read out to all present.  
Everyone was asked to update the Calendar of Events and address list as it circulates during the meeting.

### 2. Registration of Delegates and Attendees

President – Col Clapper (Australia)  
Vice President – Gary Robertson (Norfolk Island)  
Vice President – Butch Gifford (New Zealand) : *arrived 2.20 pm*  
Vice President – Etuale Sefo (Samoa)  
Vice President – Francoise Meira (New Caledonia) : *arrived 2.15pm*  
Vice President – Carol Kawaljenko (Australia)  
Papua New Guinea – Jason Moriarty, Madako Suari  
Cook Islands – Mousie Skews, Edwina Winchester, Julia Kapi  
Fiji – Frank Chan, Dean Landy : *arrived 2.20pm*  
Refereeing Director – Chris Sinclair

### 3. Recording of Apologies and Absentees

Apologies – no apologies were recorded

### 4. Adoption of Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting held 16/10/2005 in Raratonga, Cook Islands

Minutes and briefing were received by Gary Robertson, seconded by Francoise Miera  
Minutes adopted as written by Gary Robertson, seconded by Carol Kawaljenko - Carried

NOTE : Butch Gifford, Francoise Meira, Frank Chan & Dean Landy arrived during consideration of Agenda Item 4.

### 5. Business Arising From Minutes

8 (d) - Report on Col Clapper's attendance at 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games tabled.

9 a (ii) - Chris Sinclair advised this paragraph related to Tournament Director not Tournament Referee. President asked that all position job descriptions be done together. Received Gary Robertson, seconded Mousie Skews - Carried

### 6. Report from the Chair and Officers

Officer's Report tabled and accepted as read. Moved Butch Gifford, seconded Francoise Meira – Carried. President reported that a report will be tabled at 2007 WSF Annual General Meeting.

### 7. Reports from the Convenors of Committees

President advised all reports will be received together, but adopted individually.

#### 7.1 Development and Coaching Committee

Butch Gifford advised there were extra notes to accompany tabled report - will be circulated under separate email.  
Butch advised distance and cost was a major problem. Madako Suari commented that beginner juniors only need encouragement, a racquet and a ball to start playing – doesn't matter if they are broken. PNG advised they would be grateful for any broken racquets or balls for their junior program.  
Moved Butch Gifford, seconded Carol Kawaljenko the report be accepted - Carried

#### 7.2 Refereeing & Rules Committee

Chris Sinclair spoke to tabled report. All previously accredited players have slipped over the past 2 years.  
This needs to be addressed. Moved Chris Sinclair, seconded Gary Robertson the report be accepted - Carried

#### 7.3 Technical Committee

Emailed report submitted by Mike Greig, read out by Col Clapper. Mike stressed that game cannot grow without facilities. Moved Butch Gifford, seconded Francoise Meira the report be accepted - Carried

#### 7.4 Competitions Committee

No report submitted by Greg Hutchings. Greg has left Squash Australia recently and is now working for another organisation.

#### 7.5 Other Committees

7.5.1 Major Games Committee – no report submitted

7.5.2 Disciplinary & Appeals Committee – no report submitted

7.5.3 Masters Committee

Gary Robertson gave verbal report – written report will be circulated at later date. Excellent attendance from Australia, New Zealand and Norfolk Island, with 2 other players from PNG and Cook Islands. It was well run and everyone enjoyed themselves. Current Women's World Champion in 70-79 age group competed. 46 have already expressed interest for 2008. Moved Gary Robertson, seconded Butch Gifford report be accepted - Carried

### 8. Report from Member Countries

#### 8.1 Australia

Written report tabled. Carol Kawaljenko spoke to report highlighting Squash Australia's focus on competition and development activities and representatives working with WSF on Refereeing Development and Doubles. There have been changes in the Administration team - Norman Fry (CEO) has moved on to yachting and replaced by Gary O'Donnell; Greg Hutching (Technical Manager) although no longer employed by Squash Australia is willing to continue to help squash; also have new Administration & Finance Manager. Squash Australia is keen to assist Oceania countries and anyone requiring help is encouraged to contact Carol direct. Moved Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Gary Robertson report be accepted - Carried

#### 8.2 Cook Islands

No written report available – Mousie Skews provided verbal report. Junior programme commenced in 2006 with assistance from OSF with funding for equipment – successful result with 20 kids in first session. Junior Development is still main focus but need assistance to the extent that Dean Landy has assisted in Fiji. All depends of finances available. Preparation is well underway for the Pacific Mini Games to be held in Cook Islands in 2009. Delegate will give presentation to meeting later today. Hope to build new courts, including a doubles court. Congratulations to Samoa on new facilities and having doubles included in the SPG. Last Cook Island Open attracted 120 players. Junior event was included for the first time attracting 15 entries from New Zealand and 10 from Cook Islands. Need refereeing instruction badly but cost is the problem. Junior programme will continue, even if numbers drop to 6 or 7.

Moved Mousie Skews, seconded Madako Suari report be accepted - Carried

On behalf of OSF Col Clapper asked that our well wishes be conveyed to Tui Tuaheu – his loss impacted on Cook Island's results.

#### 8.3 Fiji

No written report available – Frank Chan provided verbal report.

For the past 3 years Fiji has been working on eradicating problems and now have a stable committee. Currently have 7 centres, 16 courts, 120 players - no doubles courts. All courts are privately owned except 2 owned by National Sports Council. Latoka has 40 players and 35 juniors (age 8-16), Suva has 25 juniors (aged 5-15). Encountering problems with junior development – parents using squash for babysitting and showing no interest in helping. All funding is provided by the Association. 2 large companies have been approached to assist with Junior Development. Have brought in Dean Landy to assist with coaching and currently accrediting 10 coaches. Squash is a very expensive sport to play in Fiji so kids usually take up rugby or soccer that can be played in the park. Have a lack of volunteers. There are opportunities to develop junior programs and asked that OSF consider implementation of Junior Championships in Oceania Island Countries – not Australia or New Zealand. Prefer to host the event so 50 kids can compete, rather than paying for 10 to travel to Australia or New Zealand. Although SPG running okay, need to revisit Charter. Fiji brought 4 juniors hoping they could play – but not permitted. May be a medals game but is also opportunity for juniors to participate. Thank you to Samoa Squash for hosting the SPG squash and providing facilities. Mousie Skews (Cook Islands) commented she supports the hosting of Oceania Junior Championships in the Pacific. Dean Landy (Fiji Coach) advised that a junior tournament in the South Pacific could be formatted along the same lines as Australian Junior Championships. SPG good for seniors but there is nothing for juniors. Kids look ahead to represent but no opportunity to do in Oceania. Suggest Junior Championships be introduced every two years for teams and individuals – may be 2 boys & 2 girls in 15 & 19 years. Would be approximately 50 players and quite manageable. Suggest camp at end of Championships for player, coach

and referee education. Total 7-9 days – program already drafted.  
 Moved Frank Chan, seconded Etuale Sefo report be accepted.

#### 8.4 New Caledonia

No written report – Francoise Meira provided verbal report in English. Copy of French version to be emailed to President. New Caledonia (NC) have had many changes. Francoise indicated that she needed 2 years to understand the relationship between NC with the French Federation and organisation of OSF. Still only 7 courts in NC. Not enough to develop squash and tennis is still more popular. Now have 500 registered squash players. If smaller countries can send juniors to NC they'll get him/her to be partnered by an experience NC player. Have rebuilt teams – now have good men's team – same players but new spirit in both mens and womens teams. Fostering juniors by including a junior in the women's team. Asked that Doubles rules be interpreted into French. Have new senior coach, David Navarre, and Greg Corigliano now concentrating on juniors. Gael Gosse has been in France and hopes to complete his coaching accreditation. Next step is PG2011 in NC – will speak of later. If NC had new courts it could further develop the sport, winning medals here means NC now 'know'squash. All the juniors here are welcome to work with the NC teams. Moved Francoise Meira, seconded Carol Kawaljenko - Carried

#### 8.5 New Zealand

No written report available – Butch Gifford provided verbal report. Has been serious times for NZ Squash since Commonwealth Games as they lost a substantial amount of funding, in addition the High Performance Coach and CEO left. They are in the middle of rebuilding and are now working quite well. None of the Junior Development or High Performance Programme will suffer but will impact on coaching in districts. New CEO, Mike Thompson, is from Tonga and was the CEO for Secondary Schools Sports. Mousie Skews commented that he may encourage Tonga back into playing in Oceania.  
 Moved Butch Gifford, seconded Madako Suari report be accepted – Carried.

#### 8.6 Norfolk Island

Written report tabled – Gary Robertson spoke to report. Although numbers are down they have a great new President. Juniors numbers are at 30, and schools are still playing at courts. Problem with parents – they want their kids to have the best racquets, shoes, gear that money can buy as they believe that will make them top players. Disappointment medal hopes at SPG gone with team illness. Moved Gary Robertson, seconded Francoise Meira report be accepted – Carried.

#### 8.7 Papua New Guinea

No written report available – Jason Moriarty provided verbal report. One facility with 7 courts was closed down and squash is in a transitional period. Sent team to Arafura to qualify for SPG – New Caledonia's attendance helped squash qualify. 2007 PNG Open attracted professional players from Australia and Malaysia. Each player/official attending SPG had to pay AUS\$1,000 levy – team sponsored by private mining company. Held coaching clinic for women's team only. No men's team due to disciplinary reasons. Change in SPG Charter has given PNG's nationals a better chance to participate.  
 Moved Jason Moriarty, seconded Francoise Meira report be accepted – Carried.

#### 8.8 Samoa

No written report available – Etuale Sefo provided verbal report. Samoa has had stable membership over the past 2 years. Have focussed on developing juniors and have been successful in attaining a 5 year sponsorship deal from a telecommunications group. Samoa could provide coaching for junior clinic for up to 90 kids. Have been able to purchase racquets and Paul Wright providing restringing facilities. Have secured substantial long term funding from ANZ. Focus has been on SPG. Hope new courts will give boost to squash. Samoa now has a total of 8 courts and 2 doubles courts. Planning to run regular competitions (e.g. every 6 weeks) to retain players. Paul Wright has been to Samoa several times to help Samoan teams prepare for SPG. Need Oceania to have more direct involvement, especially in coaching, junior development and refereeing. Need to raise profile of squash across Oceania. This could be done by holding international tournaments (e.g. PSA/WISPA) in the islands. Dean Landy advised that any island could run a PSA/WISPA event but they would need substantial sponsorship for the event. Moved Etuale Sefo, seconded Jason Moriarty report be accepted – Carried.

#### 8.9 Other Countries

OSF is attempting to get Vanuatu and Tahiti to form a squash association. Francoise advised there are no courts left in Tahiti. OSF to concentrate on Vanuatu through ONOC and OSFO.

**3.45pm BREAK IN NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR COMMITTEE**

**PRESENTATION FROM COOK ISLANDS MINI GAMES**

Mr Nooroa Tou (Bim) attended General Meeting to update OSF on the preparations for the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games. Bim has a background in banking and has been working with SPG for past 18 months along with Committee comprising Prime Minister, Minister of Sport, Minister of Tourism, President Cook Islands and Secretary General of CISNOC. 15 sports will be competing – successful sports not finalised to date. Date for Games is Monday 28 Sept to Friday 9 October 2009. Starting on a Monday to allow for incoming flights to Rarotonga. At the completion of SPG a review of sports will be undertaken to decide on successful sports. Current squash facility is under threat as Catholic Diocese are owners. Committee intends to include squash courts as part of a planned multi-purpose facility, with 2 glass back courts with capacity to convert to Doubles Court. Facility expected to cost approx NZ\$6M. All athletes to be accommodated in main college and primary schools. Col Clapper thanked Bim for his presentation and advised that OSF was prepared to assist in any way to ensure squash is included in Mini Games.

**9. Statement of Financial Accounts**

Audited Statement of Receipts and Payments distributed to all delegates. Delegates referred to Auditor Notes.

**Note 1** – WSF / OSF Coaching Development Grant Funding

Delegates asked to refer to Briefing Submission regarding Grant Funding. Error made in distribution of funds with an over-expenditure of AU\$1,328. Moved Gary Robertson, seconded Carol Kawaljenko that the additional funds be approved – Carried.

**Note 2** – Outstanding Fees

Etuale Sefo advised outstanding fees for Samoa will be cleared shortly.

**Note 3** – SPG Reimbursement

Freight & Eyewear have already been reimbursed, airfare payment in hand.

**Note 4** – Squash Ball Stock : Stock to be used by juniors, coaching etc.

Moved Gary Robertson, seconded Françoise Meira that Audited Statement be accepted.

Carol Kawaljenko queried \$250 for website design, when previous minutes indicated no cost. Col Clapper advised it was final payment and there are no further costs for the website design.

**Approval of Expenses Brief**

Moved Frank Chan, seconded Françoise Meira that expenses directly related to SPG for President, Tournament Director & Refereeing Director be approved - Carried

After discussion it was resolved that the allowance proposed for payment to overseas officials be rejected, due to the OSF's inability to reimburse an amount more in keeping with their out-of-pocket expenses and their significant contribution to the Games. Gifts have been purchased and will be presented prior to referees departure.

**Proposed Budget 2008-2009**

The original proposed budget of \$17,000 has been reduced to \$14,300, however this will reduce the funding available across the board. The only avenue to increase funds at present is to increase the proposed affiliation for both Squash Australia (to \$3,000) and New Zealand (to \$2,200). Butch Gifford advised that Squash New Zealand were prepared to cover the additional increase. Carol Kawaljenko advised that she was unable to confirm that Squash Australia would be prepared to cover the additional \$400 and would have to get confirmation from Squash Aust Board. It was also pointed out that Squash Australia already pays for Carol to attend, whereas New Zealand only have to pay the affiliation fee as there is no expense for Butch to attend as his airfares as Tournament Director are funded by the OSF. Moved Frank Chan, seconded Mousie Skews that the following affiliation fees be set for 2008 and 2009, subject to Squash Australia confirming they are prepared to pay the increased amount:

Australia \$3,000; New Zealand \$2,200, PNG \$550, New Caledonia \$500, Fiji \$500, Samoa \$350, Cook Islands \$300, Norfolk Island \$300 – Carried

## 10. Reports on OSF Championships and Endorsement of future Championship venues & arrangements

### 10(a) South Pacific Games 2007

Butch Gifford gave a short report as Tournament Director. Organisation leading into and during has been fine. Courts are hot and noisy but that was expected. No time to make some necessary changes to various things but it will be handled. Col Clapper advised that a questionnaire will be distributed to players, officials etc to allow everyone to comment and make suggestions for future games.

Carol Kawaljenko suggested that the Competitions Committee should take on the role of reviewing the Rules & Playing Arrangements from comments made and distribute suggested amendments to everyone for comment. No dissent registered.

Col Clapper advised there were difficulties in getting amendments to SPG Charter. Needs to be reviewed to ensure there is no discrepancy / interpretation for future games especially regarding singles accreditation.

All delegates asked to peruse the distributed copy of 2007 SPG Rules & Playing Arrangements for the Squash Competition and make comment.

Certificate of Participation will be given to all players participating in Games. Formal thank you to Gary Robertson for his design and printing of certificates.

### 10(b) Oceania Masters Championships

Gary Robertson advised Masters Report will be distributed by email. Applications to host 2008 and 2009 Oceania Masters were called. Championships awarded to Norfolk Island (2008 – 14 to 18 July) and New Zealand in 2009 in conjunction with NZ National Masters in Bay of Plenty (late November). All present in favour.

### 10(c) Oceania Junior Championships

Discussion Paper on Oceania Junior Squash Championships distributed – Moved Gary Robertson, seconded Carol Kawaljenko that paper be received.

#### **Resolutions**

1. Moved Françoise Meira, seconded Gary Robertson that the increase of players from 5 to 6 as moved at 2003 General Meeting be rescinded and number to remain at 5 - Carried
2. Moved Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Gary Robertson that OSF conduct the 4<sup>th</sup> Oceania Junior Championships as an integral part of Junior Development - Carried
3. Moved Frank Chan, seconded Etuale Sefo that Fiji be given first option to host the Event - Carried
4. Moved Jason Moriarty, seconded Mousie Skews that the proposed change to Rules and Playing Arrangements be circulated to member countries for comment - Carried

### 10(d) Oceania Open

All countries asked to consider holding an Open event in their respective country so that it can be recorded on the Calendar of Events. Doesn't matter if there is no prize money. More important that it is recorded that events are held.

## 11. Reports on Major Games

### 11(a) Pacific Mini Games – covered previously

### 11(b) Olympic Games Inclusion

WSF continues to lobby for squash to be included in 2016 Olympic Games. Lobbying for 28 sports– 26 locked in with additional 2 spots available.

### 11(c) Pacific Games 2011 – Noumea, New Caledonia

Françoise Meira updated meeting on current progress with 2011 Games and handed out T- Shirts and pins promoting the 2011 games. All announcements will be in both French and English. Advised that current situation in Samoa where Samoa Squash Team has a dedicated room and other teams don't will not happen in Noumea. All teams should have access to team rooms. Organising

Committee will consist of 18 – 9 from sporting movement and 9 from NC authorities. There are 28 sports in new Charter and \$56 billion French Polynesian Francs (Approx AU\$6.6M) has been allocated to upgrade facilities. Some contention as to whether doubles should be included as not all countries have doubles courts. Committee has already rejected doubles once. The Charter has been read by all sports in great detail. Two committees have been set up – Sports and Marketing & Information. 22 countries expected to participate. Will need around 4,000 volunteers so with a population of only 240,000 volunteers will be recruited from all over. Squash has worked very hard and this has paid off with squash included as a full sport, not an optional sport. (Note – Squash remains an optional sport under the Pacific Games Charter.)

11(d) 2007 Arafura Games

Written report tabled. Carol Kawaljenko spoke to report. Very pleasing to see both New Caledonia and PNG at Arafura this year. Event only has singles and teams, run over 5 days. Everyone has a great time, both sporting and social. All Oceania countries encouraged to send teams if possible as competition level is very similar to Oceania.

11(e) Pan Pacific Masters to be held in early 2008 on Gold Coast. Expected entries 80-90 for squash event. 30 sports involved in the Games.

12. Report on ONOC and OSFO

Etuale Sefo represented OSF at OSFO Meeting in Samoa. Will email some notes to Col.

Moved Jason Moriarty, seconded Mousie Skews that the OSFO & ONOC briefing submission tabled by Col be received and adopted – Carried.

13. Consideration of Other Business

13(a) Report on Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning Summary and Strategic Objectives 2008-2012 papers tabled. All delegates asked to make comments to Col in next few weeks. Col Clapper to circulate in electronic format after SPG. Carol Kawaljenko requested that everyone ensure they copy their responses to all delegates as this may stimulate ideas and discussion.

13(b) Nil

14. General Business – Deferred to later to allow Election of Officers to be completed.

15. Election of Officers

All nominations for Officers positions were recorded as tabled. Office Bearers positions had closing date whereas Committee positions have no closing date.

Col Clapper referred back to minutes of 2005 General Meeting when he advised that he would stand down as President. Personal and work situation has changed and is keen to continue as President/Exec Officer. Need to ensure positions stay as one as splitting would be more expensive for Federation.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominated By</u>	<u>Accepted</u>
President/Executive Off	Col Clapper	Squash Aust	Yes
Vice Presidents	Carol Kawaljenko	Squash Aust	Yes
	Butch Gifford	Squash NZ	Yes
	Gary Robertson	Norfolk Island	Yes
	Mousie Skews	Cook Islands	Yes
	<u>Vacant Position</u>		
Finance Director	Francoise Meira	Carol Kawaljenko	Yes
	Michael Davis	Squash Australia	Yes

16. Appointment of Regional Vice President to WSF (2 year appointment)

John Holland, nominated by Squash Aust. No other nominees. John duly appointed.

17. **Appointment of Committee Convenors and Members (2 year appointment)**

Following Committees were appointed:

Coaching & Development	Butch Gifford (Chair) - NZ	Ken Watson - Aus
	Darren Barclay - Aus	Dean Landy - Aus
	Jeff Wollstein - Aus	
Major Games	Neven Barbour - NZ	Sarah Fitzgerald - Aus
Rules & Referees	Chris Sinclair (Chair) - Aus	Peter Highsted - NZ
	John Small - Aus	Gye Duncan - NI
	Chris Buckland - NZ	Etuale Sefo – Samoa (late request)
Disciplinary & Appeals	Barry Gardiner (Chair) - NZ	Gerard De Courcy - NZ
Technical	Mike Greig (Chair) - NZ	Neven Barbour - NZ
Masters	Gary Robertson (Chair) - NI	Gower Dallimore - NZ
	Peter Wright - Aus	Mal Tarrant - NI
Competitions	Carol Kawaljenko (Chair) - Aus	Greg Hutchings - Aus

\*\* Countries with upcoming major events, e.g. Cook Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia should consider appointing a representative on Competitions Committee.

**Other Possible Committees**

Was proposed that there be consideration to include 2 other committees – Development & Promotion and Junior Development. After lengthy discussion regarding the success of existing committees, it was moved Butch Gifford, seconded Frank Chan that the appointment of further committees be deferred until existing committees are functioning as they should.

**Appointment of OSF Representatives to WSF Committees**

Developing & Coaching	Butch Gifford / Jeff Wollstein
Major Games	Sarah Fitzgerald
Rules & Referees	Chris Sinclair
Disciplinary & Appeals	Barry Gardiner
Technical	Mike Greig/Neven Barbour
Competitions	Carol Kawaljenko

14. **General Business (Contd)**

14(a) **New Constitution**

Col Clapper advised that if OSF decided to change the Constitution (either under Company or Incorporations Act) we may need to have annual meetings, rather than biannual. Butch Gifford proposed that next General Meeting be in 2 years and in the pursuing 2 years we review all ramifications of changing to Company or Incorporation. Col Clapper explained that under the current Constitution all Officers have a liability exposure. Etuale Sefo suggested that we should look at other Oceania sporting groups prior to any decisions. Any change to constitution deferred until further research undertaken.

14(b) **General Meeting Arrangements**

May need to consider General Meeting to be held prior to start of Games. This would allow delegates to concentrate on meeting solely and there would be time to include workshops if required. May be able to secure funding from IOC to run a separate workshop. All countries asked to discuss and advise Col Clapper of their preference.

14(c) Moved Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Mousie Skews that any further General Business be circulated electronically.

The President thanked all in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5.55pm

Col Clapper – President/Executive Officer