



OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION 2014 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Oceania Squash Federation (OSF) continues to coordinate and promote the sport throughout Oceania, in association with its member countries.

OSF entered its 23rd year of operation with positive signs for the future of Squash in the region. We were delighted to accept the Tahiti Squash Federation as a Provisional Member in 2014. This brings our membership to ten countries/territories (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk island, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu and Tahiti).

With 700+ squash centres spread throughout the Oceania Region the sport attracts in excess of 33,000 players who compete in regular weekly competitions. In addition to these there are many more players who play squash with their family and friends recreationally.

Squash enthusiasts have had the opportunity to compete in a range of tournaments, elite to juniors, across the Region during the year. There has been continuing development of events across the Region with major tournaments being held in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Norfolk Island, Cook Islands, New Caledonia and Tahiti.

Oceania Regional Championships were a major focus of the Federation during the year.

Norfolk Island hosted the 2013 Oceania Closed Championships. These Championships are exclusive of Australia and New Zealand to allow the smaller island nations the opportunity to compete at an international level (sometimes for the first time outside their own country) and assist in securing funding for their players to develop their game further. Once again New Caledonia proved too strong for the other countries competing, although Samoa was close to causing an upset in the Men's Team Event.

Papua New Guinea will host the 2015 Oceania Closed Championships to be held in conjunction with the Pacific Games. Three new state-of-the-art courts (convertible to two doubles courts) will be built in Port Moresby for the event and it is anticipated that all of our smaller island nations who are eligible to compete will be participating.

The 20th Oceania Masters Championships were also held on Norfolk Island in late 2013. This is a well-established annual championships which attracts players from across the Region, including Australia and New Zealand. The 2014 21st Oceania Masters Championships was held in October in conjunction with the Alice Springs Masters Games, a long running annual multi-sport Masters competition held in central Australia.

The 2014 Oceania Junior Championships, held on the Gold Coast in Australia, was very successful with in excess of 150 junior players from 10 to 19 years of age competing over 4 days. In conjunction with this event New Zealand and Australia played a Junior Test Series as part of their junior development programs to give junior players further exposure to international competition.

The 2015 Oceania Junior Championships will be held in Invercargill, New Zealand forming a mini-series including the Australian and NZ Junior Opens.

The Oceania Region had strong representation at the recent Glasgow Commonwealth Games with Australia taking home 2 gold and 1 bronze and New Zealand a bronze medal. Players from Papua New Guinea and Norfolk Island also competed.

Likewise at the World Masters Squash Championships in Hong Kong, Oceania was well represented with players from the Region taking 8 Gold, 7 Silver and 6 bronze.

Oceania will be hosting the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa in 2015 and we look forward to strong representation from our up-and-coming juniors.

Oceania is fortunate to have a number of highly qualified referees including 5 World Accredited Referees who make a considerable contribution to the ongoing development of 'The Rules of Squash'. After many years as the OSF Refereeing Coordinator, Mrs Chris Sinclair, resigned from the position in June, but we are happy to advise that she has agreed to continue after a couple of months hiatus. OSF thank Chris for her many years of dedication to refereeing in the Oceania Region and look forward to working with her once again.

In May we were fortunate to have WSF host their annual Ambassadors Program in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. This was a very successful event with Cameron Pilley and Low Wee Wern spearheading the program with the assistance of Australians Marc Forster (Coach) and Nathan Turnbull (Referee). In addition to staging exhibition matches and running clinics with school children Cameron and Wee Wern also trained with players from the PNG national squad. This experience was no doubt invaluable to the PNG players who competed at the recent Commonwealth Games.

Oceania Squash remains committed to fostering and promoting squash in the Oceania Region and supporting WSF in the governing and development of squash across the world.

Neven Barbour
President
Oceania Squash Federation