



OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION Presidents Report 2015

This is OSF's 24th year of operation and the year has been positive one with the future of Squash in the region looking strong. At the 2014 Annual Meeting the Tahiti Squash Federation was accepted as an affiliate member of the Federation that brings our membership to ten affiliate countries/territories (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu and Tahiti). The lack of facilities in other countries and territories in the Region is a major barrier in increasing the membership in the near future.

There are over 700+ squash centres spread throughout the Oceania Region that attract many players to the sport, either competing in regular competition or playing recreationally with family and friends. Several new squash facilities have been constructed recently, including a world-class facility in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and in Samoa where the Commonwealth Youth Games were held recently.

A broad range of tournaments have been available to squash enthusiasts with major events attracting players from across the globe. The re-introduction of the Australian Open has been a welcome event and together with other major tournaments being held in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Norfolk Island, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Tahiti throughout the year, elite players to juniors have had plenty of competition available.

The 2015 Oceania Closed Championships was conducted in conjunction with the 15th Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. This was a very successful event with PNG hosting 25 countries competing in 28 sports. The squash event was very successful with entries from Tahiti and Tokelau for the first time. The new facilities were of a high standard and OSF look forward to PNG Squash hosting top level tournaments at these facilities in the future.

The 2015 Oceania Junior Championships were hosted by New Zealand in the South Island town of Invercargill. The Championships marked the end of a three week mini-circuit which included both the Australian and New Zealand Junior Opens. After the success of the 2014 Championships on the Gold Coast a similar format was followed with junior test matches between Australia and New Zealand incorporated in the lead-up to the event. The 2016 Oceania Junior Championships will be held from the 15th – 18th of January on the Gold Coast in Australia.

A major focus of the Federation has been the development of coaches and referees within the Region. A Coach Education Pilot development program was conducted in Fiji in late 2014. Final assessments will be conducted in November when it is anticipated up to six Fijian coaches will receive their coaching accreditation. OSF would like to take this opportunity to thank the Commonwealth Games Federation for their generous grant to undertake this program. It is anticipated that the next Coach Education Program will be undertaken in early 2016.

In conjunction with the Pacific Games Organising Committee a Referee Accreditation Program was conducted in Papua New Guinea prior to the commencement of the Games with final assessments being undertaken during the Games. Congratulations to PNG Squash who now have 5 Oceania Club Referees and 3 Oceania Doubles Accredited Referees to assist them in their development in future years.

Still one of our major difficulties in Oceania Squash is regular dialogue with our South Pacific countries. We need a reliable point of contact in each country if we are going to be able to put resources into these countries to develop the game of Squash.

Squash Australia have a new CEO Richard Vaughan and we look forward to a close working relationship with Australia and New Zealand to develop our plans for the game in our region.

Butch Gifford a Life Member and past Vice President of Oceania Squash passed away this year and we acknowledge his contribution to our Federation.

My thanks go to our Executive Officer Carol Kawalijenko for her continued time and efforts in administrating the workings of the Federation.

Neven Barbour
President
Oceania Squash Federation