

OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION

Minutes of the 2016 - 25th General Meeting

held at Jetpark Hotel & Conference Centre, Auckland, New Zealand
on Saturday, 19th November 2016

1. **Meeting Opened** at 10:15 am by Mr Neven Barbour (President OSF).
Neven welcomed the delegates to Auckland.

2. **Attendance**

<u>Officers</u>	
<i>President</i>	<i>Neven Barbour</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Jim O'Grady</i>
<i>Executive Officer</i>	<i>Carol Kawaljenko</i>
<u>Delegates</u>	
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Richard Vaughan</i>
<i>New Caledonia</i>	<i>Fabian Dinh</i>
<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Jim O'Grady</i>
<i>Samoa</i>	<i>Norman Wetzell</i>
<i>Tahiti</i>	<i>Patrick Morelle</i>
<u>Observers</u>	
<i>Tahiti</i>	<i>Rebecca Morelle</i>
<i>Samoa</i>	<i>Jordan Chewlit</i>

3. **Apologies**

<i>Vice President</i>	<i>David Navarre</i>
<i>Life Members</i>	<i>Col Clapper & Murray Day</i>
<i>Fiji</i>	<i>Ravi Singh</i>
<i>Norfolk Island</i>	<i>Rob Rowston</i>
<i>Vanuatu</i>	<i>Yannick Jacobe</i>
<i>OSF Reps</i>	<i>Gerard DeCourcy (WSF Disciplinary & Appeals Committee)</i> <i>Chris Sinclair (WSF Rules & Refereeing Committee)</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Dale Robbins (Australia – Vice President Nominee)</i>

4. **Minutes of the Previous General Meeting**
 - a. The minutes of the 2015 General Meeting held on 21 November 2015 were accepted. *Moved: Jim O'Grady; Seconded: Carol Kawaljenko*
 - b. Matters Arising - Nil

5. **Confirmation of Voting Entitlements**
Election of Officers - There being only 1 candidate for each of the two vacant positions it was deemed that voting was not required.
Membership Fees – not required as current level of fees recommended.

6. **President's Report** - Tabled
Neven pointed out that the hardest and most difficult job for OSF is to maintain effective communication with Member Countries. OSF & Member Countries need to continue to grow squash in the South Pacific and get value for money from the funds accumulated over the past 4 years. Our major goals need to be increasing player numbers, improving the standard of current facilities and construction of new facilities.

Many Federations try to promote the game at the wrong end and concentrate on competitions and elite players. We need to get young people (7 – 19 yrs) to play squash, get on a court and enjoy themselves. They are the future of our game. School programs can be successful in bringing in new players. Organisations need to change the way they think and promote our sport, and try to offer young people of today what they want, eg use of technology.

Being his last term as President, Neven thanked the support of the Members and the OSF Officers over the past 4 years.

Moved: Norman Wetzell; seconded: Richard Vaughan.

7. Financial Report

a. Financial Report & Audited Financials

Current funds on hand - \$66,539. Development projects are planned to assist Member Countries however we must ensure that this funds is used conservatively to ensure longevity for programs required. The needs of Member Countries have to be considered and projects implemented that will benefit the Members.

Moved: Richard Vaughan; seconded Fabian Dinh that the financial report be accepted. Motion passed by show of hands.

b. Membership Fees

i. Outstanding 2016 Membership Fees

Moved: Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Norman Wetzell. that Vanuatu's membership fees be waived until they re-establish their Association. Motion passed by show of hands.

ii. 2016/17 Membership Fees

Moved Carol Kawaljenko; seconded Neven Barbour that the current level of Membership Fees would be maintained for 2016/17. Motion passed by show of hands.

c. Approval of 2016/17 Budget

Moved: Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Norman Wetzell that the tabled 2016/17 Budget Proposal be accepted, subject to possible changes from outcomes of Workshop discussions. Motion passed by show of hands.

d. Appointment of Auditor for 2016/17

Moved: Neven Barbour, seconded Fabian Dinh that current Auditor be retained for 2016/17 audit. Motion passed by show of hands.

8. Member's Reports - tabled

- a. Australia
- b. Cook Islands
- c. New Caledonia
- d. New Zealand
- e. Samoa
- f. Tahiti

All member reports were accepted as read.

9. General Reports - tabled

Referee Convenor's Report - *accepted as read.*

10. Motions – Nil received

11. **Election of Officers**

The following nominations were received by the due date (20th October 2016):

- a. **President** - Mr Jim O'Grady (nominated by New Zealand Squash)
- b. **Vice President** - Dale Robbins (nominated by Squash Australia)

In accordance with Paragraph 5.5.7 of the OSF Constitution, there being only 1 nominee for each position the nominees were duly appointed until the 2018 General Meeting.

12. **Other Business**

a. Bank Signatories

With the change of Office Bearers it was deemed necessary that the current signatories of the Oceania Squash Federation with the ANZ Bank Australia be reviewed. The following persons were nominated as signatories:

President : Jim O'Grady (New Zealand)

Vice President : Dale Robbins (Australia)

Executive Officer : Carol Kawaljenko (Australia)

Moved: Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Neven Barbour that the above signatories be accepted. Motion passed by show of hands.

b. Motion of Thanks

Jim O'Grady (incoming President) moved a motion of thanks to Neven Barbour for his valuable contribution to the Federation during his term as President of the Federation. He expressed appreciation for Neven's support and his dedication to the sport through his experience as a player and administrator over many years. Those present showed their appreciation by applause.

13. Meeting Closure : 10.50am

OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION

Record of Discussions from the 2016 Workshop

held in conjunction with the General Meeting in Auckland on 19th November 2016

In Attendance

Jim O'Grady (OSF President), Neven Barbour (Outgoing OSF President), Carol Kawaljenko (OSF Executive Officer), Richard Vaughan (Australia), Patrick & Rebecca Morelle (Tahiti), Norman Wetzell & Jordan Chewlit (Samoa), Fabian Dinh (New Caledonia)

World Squash Federation Update

The 2016 WSF Annual General Meeting was held recently in Hong Kong. Oceania was represented by Neven, with Jim representing New Zealand and Richard and David Mandell from Australia. The incoming WSF Board are all new with no ongoing officers from the previous Board. Sarah Fitz-Gerald from Australia was elected as Vice President along with Pablo Serna (Columbia), Gar Holohan (Ireland), Huang Ying How (Malaysia) and new President Jacques Fontaine (France). There is a high expectation from members for change and there will be challenges for the new Board. Olympic Bid is still high on the Agenda and with Paris lobbying for the 2024 Olympics squash may have a chance for inclusion if France are successful.

Role & Function of OSF

OSF's role within Oceania is to promote and try to grow the game of squash with assistance from Member Countries. We need to work together to develop not only our players but also our coaches and referees.

Communication

Communication is vital in the Oceania Region and Members are reminded that they need to communicate more effectively with OSF. We need more articles to upload to the OSF website especially posters for upcoming events, local newspaper articles referencing squash and results of Championships held. It is recognised that many of our Members have Facebook pages and upload information onto these – this information could also be sent to the OSF webpage. A link to Facebook pages could be included on the website for broader distribution.

Oceania Membership

All countries/territories within the Region that have squash facilities are Members of the Federation and there is little likelihood that we will increase Membership for some years. A statistical comparison between 2011 & 2016 noted that over the past 5 years we have lost overall 7 squash centres across the region and 26% of our available singles courts.

Oceania Championships

Tahiti will host the 2017 Oceania Championships in Papeete in September 2017. Arrangements are well underway and a formal invitation from OSF will be sent to each Member Country early in 2017. OSF is working closely with Tahiti to ensure that all information relating to the event is forwarded to Members, including confirmed dates, accommodation arrangements, transport, flight arrangements, proposed functions and updated Championships Rules & Playing Arrangements.

Early in 2017 Member Countries need to make a decision as to whether they intend to send a team as the event cannot go ahead without some commitment from Members. New Caledonia and Samoa have already indicated that they will be sending teams.

Member Countries are encouraged to start negotiations with potential sponsors and government officials to attempt to source funding to send teams. If there is any way the OSF can assist Members in securing financial support they are encouraged to contact the Executive Officer for assistance.

As the Championships will be a stand-alone event (ie not associated with the Pacific Games or Mini Games) until at least 2025 and not bound by Pacific Games rules the Rules & Playing Arrangements will be amended to meet our needs. Further consideration for players eligible to represent a country but are unable to play in their own country due to lack of facilities (eg Tokelau) will be explored. Australia and New Zealand may be invited to send teams if a minimum number of Member Countries are not met. OSF will work closely with Australia & NZ to set an applicable player standard to make the event competitive for smaller Island Nations if they are invited to compete.

2019 Oceania Championships – Samoa has expressed interest in hosting the Championships in 2019. OSF will work with Samoa to come to a formal agreement for 2019.

Oceania Junior Championships

Scheduled to be held at the Henderson Squash Centre in Auckland from 14th to 17th April 2017. Entry details can be sourced through the Oceania Website on the Event Calendar.

Proposed dates from Australia for the 2018 OJC were considered too close to Xmas/New Year. Executive Officer to work with Australia to agree on more suitable dates.

Development Issues

Australia

Squash Australia outlined several ways they may be able to assist with coaching, refereeing and schools programs. A proposed WSF Coach Tutor Training Course and WSF Coaching Course to be held Townsville in March 2017 was offered as a possible resource. WSF have confirmed that training Programs are currently only published in English. New Caledonia & Tahiti would need resources translated into French. Samoa would be interested in a coach going into Samoa rather than sending someone to Townsville.

Australia outlined an Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Partnership Program that may be of benefit to smaller Member Nations. Further details to be sourced and distributed as soon as possible.

Schools Programs are delivered through Australia's SquashOz program. This program and resources are available for other Member Countries to utilise.

Referee program is an online program and available also. OSF currently use Australia's referee system to accredit at Oceania specific levels.

New Zealand have similar resources available.

Coaching

OSF is looking for a suitable candidate to be appointed as the Oceania Regional Course Manger for the WSF Coach Education Program. New Board to consider.

OSF Representation on WSF Committees

OSF needs to review how, and for what period, persons are appointed to represent Oceania on WSF Committee. All current OSF representatives will be advised that their tenure as a representative for OSF will cease as of 1st December. New appointments or re-appointments to these positions will be considered in the new year.

2017 General Meeting

Officers need to consider the best time to hold the meeting so we can potentially increase attendance. It appears that NZ may be the best option as all countries have direct flights (except PNG).

It is anticipated that WSF will announce their AGM date early in 2017. Several events have already been scheduled in late October/early November

22-29 Oct Cook Islands International Open

4-5 Nov Squash Australia AGM

and traditionally New Caledonia have their Open Tournament, Norfolk Island Masters and C'wealth Games Meeting will be held in Australia.

The date and venue for the 2017 meeting will be discussed and a suitable date selected by the Board.