

**Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting
held on Saturday 14th December
at the Brisbane International Virginia Palms, Brisbane, Australia**

1. Opening and Welcome

The meeting opened at 10.40am with the President welcoming attendees and thanking them for their attendance.

It was noted that the OSF AGM meeting quorum of 50% of Member Countries was not met. Para 6.2.2 of the Constitution states: *If a quorum is not reached the unanimous support of Members present, and entitled to vote, can agree to proceed providing 3 financial Full Members were present.*

Moved Gilles Rouvray (New Caledonia), seconded Dinesh Parmeshwar (Fiji) that the meeting proceeds with the three Full Members present.

Carried.

2. Attendance

- Jim O'Grady (President)
- Dinesh Parmeshwar (Vice President & Squash Fiji Delegate)
- Carol Kawaljenko (Executive Officer)
- Gilles Rouvray (New Caledonia Squash Delegate)
- Richard Vaughan (Squash Australia Delegate)

Apologies

- Col Clapper : Life Member
- Dale Robbins : Oceania Vice President (retiring)
- Tahiti : Patrick Morelle & Charles Daxboeck
- New Zealand : Jamie Tong
- Cook Islands : Brett Baudinet

Moved Richard Vaughan, seconded Gilles Rouvray that apologies be accepted. Carried.

3. Minutes of the Previous General Meeting

- a. *Moved Jim O'Grady, seconded Dinesh Parmeshwar that the minutes of the 2018 General Meeting held 13 October 2018 be accepted as written. Carried.*

b. Matters Arising

General Business (12b) Regional Course Manager – to assist in increasing the number of accredited coaches OSF should appoint a Regional Course Manager. EOI were invited and the Board duly appointed Jason Fletcher (NZ) to the position. Jason is a member of the WSF Coaching Commission.

4. President's Report

The President, Jim O'Grady, presented a verbal report and apologised for not tabling a written report prior to the meeting. In reviewing the previous 12 months he noted the following highlights:

- Attendance at the Pacific Games for the first time. This event had to be one of the best events attended with outstanding team spirit, friendship and cooperation from Samoa Squash making it a hugely successful event.
- As a direct result of the Pacific Games OSF was able to make a significant contribution towards refereeing in Samoa with the attendance of several assessors who accredited 7 markers and referees.
- The Oceania Junior Championships were held in Australia with entries from Singapore, Malaysia, PNG and Fiji as well as NZ and Australia. Once again this was a very successful tournament which grows in strength from year to year.

- It has been encouraging to see a number of new centres being built in New Zealand and the establishment of the Carrara Sports Complex on the Gold Coast which was a direct legacy of the Commonwealth Games in 2018.
- A very successful Level 1 Coaching Course was held in Fiji with 15 participants and facilitated by Jason Fletcher from New Zealand. The support received from Fiji Squash toward this course is very much appreciated and we hope that it provides a lasting benefit to squash in Fiji.
- The work and support of the OSF Executive, in particular the contribution that Carol makes to OSF. Also recognising Dale Robbins who is standing down. His connection with Squash Australia and his strong management profile added great value to Oceania Squash.

The biggest disappointment of the year was the exclusion of squash from the 2024 Olympics. Once again squash has been unable to secure a place in the Olympics despite huge efforts and financial contributions from all concerned. It now seems a forlorn hope for squash to become an Olympic sport and there is a sense of bitterness that the bid was passed over despite meeting all the criteria stipulated by the IOC.

5. Financial Report.

- a. Financial Report & Audited Statements for 2018/19
OSF is financially stable and in a strong position to implement further development programs. With the exception of PNG all Members had paid their Membership Fees before end of year. PNG is now financial.
WSF SPIN subsidy exceeded expectations, providing further funds for development programs in 2020. Expenditure for distribution of Dunlop Balls included 2018 & 2019 quotas.
Moved Dinesh Parmeshwar, Seconded Richard Vaughan that the 2018/19 Financial Report be accepted. Carried
- b. Approval of 2019/20 Budget
Moved Gill Rouvray, seconded Dinesh Parmeshwar that the proposed Budget for 2019/20 be accepted subject to any changes or additions actioned during meeting deliberations. Carried
- c. Appointment of Auditor for 2019/20
Moved Carol Kawaljenko, seconded Richard Vaughan that Bribie Accounting Service be appointed as the Federation's Auditor for 2019/2020 Financial Year. Carried.
- d. Confirmation of Bank Account Signatories
Moved Jim O'Grady, seconded Richard Vaughan that the following persons be approved as signatories on the Federation's bank accounts held with the ANZ Bank of Australia:
 - Carol Kawaljenko (Executive Officer)
 - Dinesh Parmeshwar (Vice President)*Carried.*

6. Member's Reports

Written reports provided by Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Tahiti were circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Member nations present were invited to speak to their report.

a. Australia

Squash Australia is now operating the National Squash Centre from Carrara on the Gold Coast (a legacy of the 2018 Commonwealth Games). SportyHQ is offered free to clubs & centres around Australia, with 2 staff employed to provide user support. Australia successfully hosted the World Doubles Championships at Carrara in July, along with a World Coaching Conference. The inaugural Australian Club Championships was held at Carrara. An online officiating course is available to Members at a small cost.

b. Fiji

Squash Fiji continues to develop the sport and attract new players with several successful events held. It is difficult to attract junior players with only 2 public facilities in Fiji, however we have managed to implement a Junior Coaching Program sponsored by McDonalds. Fiji's participation in the Pacific Games was a valuable experience for players. OSF conducted a WSF Coach Accreditation Course for 15 participants. We hope to further develop these coaches in 2020. Fiji are looking forward to working with OSF to host the 2021 Oceania Closed Championships.

c. New Caledonia

A new interim committee has been appointed due to the recent resignation of both the President & Treasurer. This Committee will continue until the next AGM scheduled to be held early in 2020. The main focus of the Committee is to improve governance and provide development opportunities for players. Several tournaments were held in New Cal and players competed in several overseas tournaments including the Arafura Games and Pacific Games. The Pacific Games were a huge success with New Cal winning all 7 gold medals.

7. Election of Officers

The following positions were declared vacant:

- a. Vice President – 2-year tenure
- b. Executive Officer – 2-year tenure
- c. Vice President – 1-year tenure (due to the resignation of Dale Robbins)

Vice President (2-year tenure)

One written nomination received from Dinesh Parmeshwar (nominated by Fiji Squash). In accordance with Para 5.5.7 of the OSF Constitution, there being no further nominations Dinesh was duly elected for a further 2 years.

Executive Officer

No written nominations were received by the closing date.

Carol Kawaljenko expressed interest in continuing in the position.

Moved Jim O'Grady, seconded Gilles Rouvray that Carol be appointed for a further 2-year term. Carried

Vice President (1-year tenure)

After discussion it was agreed that Expressions of Interest be invited to fill this vacancy until the 2020 AGM. Executive Officer to advise Members of the vacancy, with closing date of 14 January 2020 for EOI.

Moved Jim O'Grady, seconded Dinesh Parmeshwar. Carried.

8. Tournaments / Events.

a. 2019 Pacific Games – Samoa

The 16th Pacific Games were held in Samoa from 7-20 July 2019. Six of our 10 Member Countries competed – Samoa, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tahiti, PNG and Norfolk Island. Australia & New Zealand were not eligible to compete under the Pacific Games Charter.

Squash Officials were:

International Technical Delegate – Jim O’Grady [appointed by WSF]

Tournament Director – Carol Kawaljenko [appointed by Samoa Squash]

Tournament Referees – Janet Udy, Jackie Hamilton and Chris Buckland (New Zealand and Russell Weatherburn (Australia) [appointed by OSF]

Teams, Singles and Doubles Events were conducted over the 11 days of competition with New Caledonia taking the Gold Medal in all 7 events.

The Pacific Games is a huge commitment and Samoa Squash did an excellent job. Their untiring support and effort to make these Games truly memorable was recognized.

b. Oceania Closed Championships

The 2019 Closed Championships were held in Samoa in conjunction with the Pacific Games. The cost to host the event exceeded the allocated budget, which meant a significant increase in expenditure. It is expected that these costs will continue to rise. OSF & Members need to consider options to reduce costs for the management and presentation of future Championships. Discussion included the need for the rest day activity, the possibility of Presentation Dinner be scaled back to a more informal event and reducing the number of trophies for the event. Trophies make up a considerable percentage of the event costs.

OSF to draft a discussion paper for Members to comment on before any decisions are made.

2021 Closed Championships - Squash is not included in the Pacific Games or Mini Games until at least 2027 so host countries need to be identified. Squash Fiji confirmed that they would host the next Closed Championships in 2021. Dates to be confirmed after considering events already scheduled.

All Member Countries, including Australia and New Zealand, will be eligible to participate. OSF to work closely with Australia and NZ to formulate a suitable standard of play for their inclusion.

c. Oceania Junior Championships

2019 OJC was hosted by NZ at the Remura Rackets Club in Auckland in April, attracting 148 players.

The 2020 OJC will be hosted by Australia at the Carrara Squash Centre on the Gold Coast from 10th to 13th April 2020.

It is important to increase the number of junior players from within the Oceania Region (especially Island Member Countries) competing. Further though on how OSF can assist to be included in Development Project discussions.

d. Oceania Masters Championships

The Oceania Masters Championships will be held in the alternate year to the Oceania Closed Championships/Pacific Games.

The following Host Countries were announced:

2020 – New Caledonia (dates to be confirmed asap)

2022 - Australia

e. Oceania Open

This is an event that has not occurred for some time and could be linked to an existing tournament held in the Region or as a stand-alone event. After consideration Host Countries were allocated as follows:

2020 – Fiji (in conjunction with Warren Yee Memorial)

2021 – Australia

2022 – New Caledonia

OSF to work closely with host countries to consider funding allocations.

f. Tournament Software

OSF purchased the licence for Tournament Software. Initially so that Samoa would have a computerized system to manage the Pacific Games. With no constant internet access available in most smaller island nations this product was deemed the best solution as it allow the user to set up the tournament and download to a standalone computer. OSF will continue to purchase annual licences and offer them to Island Member Countries to use. OSF recently assisted Norfolk Island to set up their draws for the NI Masters. This service is available to other Members if required. New Zealand currently use Tournament Software.

Squash Australia use SportyHQ, a web-based program, that not only runs tournaments but can provide clubs with online bookings, membership payments, website and more. OSF may be able to utilise SportyHQ to implement an Oceania Ranking system if all members utilised it. OSF to discuss further with Squash Australia.

g. Other Events

i. **WSF Doubles**

The future of Doubles in the World Championships and Commonwealth Games is being considered by WSF. Participation at the 2019 World Doubles in Australia was disappointing and professional players have expressed a dislike for doubles. However, many of the regular squash players are keen to play doubles and play it on a regular basis. Doubles is also played at several multi-sport events such as the Asian and Pan Am Games.

At the WSF Executive Meeting in April 2019 there was concern regarding the poor level of entries for the WSF Doubles in Australia. It was noted the cost of staging doubles is expensive. The issue of doubles was recently discussed at the WSF Conference with the possibility of deleting the Mixed Doubles competition at the Commonwealth Games, changing the cycle of World Doubles to every 4 years and changing the dates of the 2021 World Doubles. There appears to have been no consultation with Member Nations (especially Commonwealth Nations) regarding these decisions.

At the WSF AGM the overview of the WSF Strategic Plan highlighted several important growth areas of the sport which included Doubles, in direct conflict with the decision to make changes.

Doubles is played in the Oceania Closed Championships and Pacific Games and OSF is supportive of continuing to include doubles where possible.

The decision of the meeting was for OSF to write to WSF advising their disappointment that Member Nations were not consulted and their continued support of Doubles Competitions.

ii. **Oceania Doubles Championships**

Several Members are keen to have an Oceania Doubles Tournament included on the OSF Calendar. Australia are prepared to host such an event in 2021.

New Caledonia are currently seeking financial support from their Sports Authority to extend the courts at the Dumbea Squash venue to include new courts with moveable walls so they have standard doubles courts. The existing doubles court at Olympic is not to standard and does not have moveable walls. OSF to write a letter of support for inclusion of doubles capability for any extensions to the facility.

iii. **Oceania Calendar**

A draft of the 2020 Oceania Calendar was distributed to those present. After additions and amendments OSF to circulate to Members for further input.

9. **Development Projects**

a. **Coaching**

It is still of concern that there are very few WSF accredited coaches in the Islands. New Caledonia & Tahiti use French Federation coaching program and have several accredited, however it is not aligned with current WSF Coach Education. OSF to make it a priority provide resources to Members to have at least 1 accredited coach in each country by end of 2020.

Regional Course Manager - Jason Fletcher from New Zealand, a member of WSF Coaching Commission, was appointed by Board. He has suggested that OSF form a Regional Coaching Panel made up of representatives of Member Countries. Need to consider the purpose of this Panel and what benefits it would provide. Exec Officer to liaise with Jason for further information.

2019 Courses - WSF Level 1 Coaching Course in Fiji with 15 participants completing their accreditation with Jason Fletcher. WSF Certificates yet to be distributed due to hold up of information being merged across to new WSF Club Locker platform. OSF to follow up with WSF.

2020

A survey of Island Members indicated that several were interested in having a Coaching Course conducted during 2020. Results of survey:

Cook Islands – no interest indicated.

Fiji – further educate new Level 1 coaches.

New Caledonia – 3 accredited under French Federation Coaching Program.

Norfolk Island – interested plus visiting coach for player education.

PNG – interested but need to clarify if they want separate course conducted in multiple venues.

Samoa – basic course in 2018 but no accredited coaches. Need to liaise further.

Tahiti – 2 accredited under French Federation Coaching Program

Vanuatu – no coaches. Not interested at present.

Executive Officer to work with Members to develop a coaching education calendar for 2020 so EOI can be sent out to WSF Course Presenters. Recognised that 2 visits may be necessary to ensure continuity of coaching education. Need to consider flight availability when appointing person to conduct courses.

b. Refereeing

Australia & NZ run their own referee accreditation program. Since 2005 OSF has conducted referee clinics in conjunction with Oceania C'ships or Pacific Games for Island nations and accredited mainly players at these events.

2019

Prior to the Pacific Games in Samoa a OSF referee course was held attracting 9 participants. Of these 9, 4 completed their accreditation during the Pacific Games and were presented with OSF certificates.

2020

Members were surveyed as to their needs for either General Rules or Accreditation Course requirements in 2020. Responses were:

Cook Islands – no indication as to needs.

Fiji – both

New Caledonia – both (need to consider French presentation)

Norfolk Island – General Rules only

PNG – both

Samoa – both

Tahiti – No, partnered with French Federation

Vanuatu – No.

Exec Officer to work with Members to development a refereeing education calendar for 2020 so EOI to source Course Presenters. Need to consider flight availability when appointing person to conduct courses.

Australia have an online Referee course that may be utilised by other countries. There is a fee to use and once participants have completed the online course requirements they attain equivalent to Club Referee status. By utilizing this course interested parties could attain referee qualifications solely by completing the online course. Further investigation is required and information sent out to Members. Exec Officer to liaise with Squash Australia's Education Coordinator.

WSF Officiating Program (New)

This was due for release end of year (2019) but has been delayed. Once released Members to be advised. This may be another option for online accreditation.

c. Youth & Junior Development

To date the majority of players attending the Oceania Junior Championships have been Australia & New Zealand with one or two players from other countries. OSF is keen to increase the number of players from other Member Countries.

Funds allocated to Youth & Junior Development could be utilised as an incentive to send junior players.

The total grant funding to be AU\$2,000. Member Countries to apply for funding, with a maximum of 5 applicants (with no more than 2 from any one country) receiving a proportion of the grant funds. Applicants to be ranked in the top 3 juniors for their country. Applicants to be advised prior to event, but funding paid after the event to ensure participation.

OSF to develop a grant process for allocation of funds and advise Member Countries with funding to apply to the 2020 Oceania Junior Championships in April 2020.

10. Administrative Matters

a. Constitutional Review

OSF Constitution was last updated in 2014 with minimal changes and is due for a major review, especially terms of office. Finding persons to take on positions on OSF is becoming harder each year.

Moved Dinesh Parmeshwar (Fiji), seconded Jim O'Grady (President) that a Constitution Review Committee be set up to review and recommend changes to Constitution to suit the current needs of Oceania. Carried

b. Oceania Website

The current OSF website was set up and administered by Squash NZ for several years. With a change of management at SNZ the website reverted back to OSF and updating and uploading to the website became the responsibility of the President and/or Exec Officer. This has not worked well and a specific person needs to be identified to manage the website or consider Australia's offer to host the OSF on their SportyHQ website.

Australia indicated that it may be possible to host the website not only for OSF but perhaps other countries. The look and feel of the website would change to something similar to Carrara Squash Centre. OSF to explore further options with Australia and provide information to Members.

11. General Business

a. Vale – Gary Robertson

It was with great sadness that OSF learned of the passing of Gary Robertson from Norfolk Island in September 2019 after battling ill health for some time. Gary was deeply involved in Squash long before the Oceania Federation was formed, both as a player and administrator. He was a strong supporter of OSF, being involved in its foundation and as an Officer on the Board for a number of years. He was a proud Norfolk Islander and was the backbone of squash on the island for many years, helping to develop the game and encourage young people to take up the sport. He also strongly supported Norfolk's participation in the Commonwealth Games, Pacific Games, Pacific Mini Games and Oceania Championship events.

His support for squash in the Region, and especially Norfolk Island, was recognized at the meeting.

b. OSFO/ONOC General Assembly

OSF is a financial member of OSFO (Olympic Sport Federations of Oceania) and ONOC (Oceania National Olympic Committees). OSF provides an Annual Report for tabling at the General Assembly held annually.

2019

Dinesh Parmeshwar (OSF Vice President & Fiji President) attended the 2019 General Assembly in Denarau, Fiji. Dinesh reported that the General Assembly Workshop and meeting was mainly geared for Olympic Sports. Although interesting in his opinion it was of little benefit to OSF other than making some contact with other sports.

2020 General Assembly

The 2020 General Assembly will be held in Guam from 14th to 18th April 2020. Annual Reports are due 15 January 2020. Due to costs associated with travel to Guam OSF will not be sending a representative.

c. World Squash Federation

i. **2019 AGM** was held in South Africa on 5 & 6 November. A new initiative, World Squash Officiating, an online platform to provide National Federations with tools to develop refereeing standards was announced, for release in the near future.

ii. **CEO Replacement**

Andrew Shelley has finished his tenure as WSF CEO and William Louis-Marie has recently been appointed as his replacement. William previously held positions with European Games and the International Boxing Association. OSF President to make contact when William is settled into his position.

12. 2020 Annual General Meeting

The next OSF AGM will be held in Auckland, New Zealand. Dates and venue to be confirmed. Anticipated meeting will be held end September, early October. Members to be advised asap.

13. Meeting Closure

The President thanked the delegates and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 3.45pm.

This is to verify that the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting reflect a true and correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

J O'Grady
President