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OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION
"OSF"
REPORT TO THE WORLD SQUASH FEDERATION'S
2010
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Squash generally in the Oceania Region has emerged from a long period of steady decline to relative stability over the last 12 months, and in many areas there are positive signs of solid growth. An indication of this has been the demise of court facilities in urban areas being replaced with new facilities in growth areas.

With initiatives such as greater exposure to top ranked players, grass roots to top level coaching and development programs, and effective management, the OSF is extremely optimistic that our great sport will significantly increase its prominence in the region in the coming years.

Highlights of the region's activities over the last 12 months and immediate future include the following:

1. Full membership of the OSF remains at 8 countries/territories while there are encouraging signs of further membership from one and possibly two countries.
2. The VIII Pacific Mini Games were held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in September/October 2009 with five countries/territories competing in the Squash Program. Unfortunately one country withdrew due to the Games' player eligibility criteria. Hosting of the Games in Cook Islands necessitated the construction of new squash facilities which guarantees the long term future of the sport in that country.
3. Preparations are now progressing for the XIV Pacific Games to be held in August/September 2011. The Games are being hosted by New Caledonia and Squash is included in the program of sports. Additional facilities will be constructed to provide for teams, singles and doubles events.
Under the Pacific Games rules, Australia and New Zealand are ineligible to compete in the Pacific Games and Pacific Mini Games.
4. The Oceania Squash Championships are combined under the umbrella of the Pacific Games and Pacific Mini Games when Squash is included in the Games program. As the next Mini Games will be held in 2013 in Wallis & Futuna where no squash facilities exist, the 11th Oceania Squash Championships will take place in Norfolk Island.
5. The Australian Capital Territory Squash Association hosted a highly successful Australian Open in August 2010 in Canberra, Australia and attracted a quality field of top PSA and WISPA players. Spectator attendance and media coverage of the event augurs well for the future of the Australian Open at the Canberra Convention Centre. It also provides an opportunity for the OSF to facilitate a co-ordinated professional circuit in Oceania based around the Australian Open.



The official ball of OSF

- Following the Australian Open (Singles Events) players then moved to Melbourne, Australia to compete in the Australian Doubles Championships.
6. Squash Australia is co-ordinating arrangements in association with the OSF and WSF to host the World Coaching Conference in 2011. The Conference will take place in Canberra, Australia during the period of the Australian Open Championships. Consultation with the WSF is being conducted to determine if the conference should be widened to include "Development" which would add another dimension to the WSF's progression of the sport. Further, combining with a Refereeing & Rules Conference could provide a unique "Festival of Squash" in Oceania and is worthy of consideration by the WSF.
 7. In November 2010 the OSF is convening a Workshop followed by a Special General Meeting to undertake a thorough review of the OSF Constitution and Vision & Mission Statement & Strategic Objectives 2010 to 2015. The purpose of the review is to structure the Federation's governance and operational arrangements together with strategic objectives to meet the demands of the region for the foreseeable future.
 8. Masters Squash is an important element of Oceania Squash, attracting large numbers to Masters events particularly in Australia. Samoa Squash is hosting the 17th Oceania Masters in conjunction with the country's traditional Tevila Festival.
 9. Junior & Youth development remains a major challenge for the OSF and region generally. The lack of funding to provide adequate coaching resources and opportunities for young players makes it extremely difficult to retain the players in Squash and compete against better funded sports. This is seen as a major challenge for both the region and the WSF. A number of countries in the region are working hard on junior development with very limited resources.
 10. After an absence of some time, the Oceania Open has recommenced and is being held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in September, 2010. It is anticipated that this will become an annual event and co-ordinate time-wise with the Australian Open to provide the back bone of an attractive PSA/WISPA circuit in Oceania.
 11. The administration of Squash in Fiji has been through a difficult period and is currently being administered by an Interim Committee. However, this has not impacted significantly on local activities together with the emergence of a number of very promising junior players who are now in need of higher level coaching.
 12. Significant events in New Zealand have included:
 - The introduction of a new IT platform throughout the country covering a membership database, grading system, online interclub competition structure, online results entry and web booking for courts;
 - A restructuring of Squash New Zealand's National Office;
 - Appointment of a new CEO in December 2009;
 - Hosting of the World Women's Teams Championships in November 2010 in Palmerston North;
 - Hosting of the World Deaf Championships in October 2010 in Palmerston North;
 - The New Zealand Open held in the Bayfair Shopping Mall in August 2009; and
 - Former World Squash President Susie Simcock honoured by the IOC for promotion of women in sport.
 13. Norfolk Island continues to conduct a very successful Masters Championship each year, and have plans well advanced to host the 18th Oceania Masters in 2011 and look forward to entertaining visitors and players from throughout the world.

Norfolk has also developed a solid core of junior players and will be represented at the Delhi Commonwealth Games.

14. Samoa Squash have a program of activities both completed and scheduled for the coming months to ensure its players are kept active.
15. The World University Squash Championships took place at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia in 2010 and were well conducted with support from Squash Australia and the Victorian Association.
16. The OSF is supported by a number of standing committees which are aligned to the WSF standing committees. These committees play a valuable role in the region and in contributing to the WSF through OSF appointed representatives.
17. The OSF continues to maintain its membership of the Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO) and the Pacific Games Council (PGC) in addition to having secured close links with Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC). It plays an active role on these organisations which increases the profile of Squash and contributes to the development of sport generally in the Oceania region.
18. The OSF remains committed to maintaining a close relationship with the WSF and in supporting its strategic objectives in the development of squash throughout the world. It also supports the objectives, where appropriate, of OSFO, ONOC and PGC in addition to those of its member countries/territories.

Colin J. Clapper AM
President & Executive Director
31st August, 2010.

David Navarre
Oceania Regional Vice President
31st August, 2010.

