President's Report
to 2023 Annual General Meeting

Fantastic news in October when Squash was finally voted in to the Olympic Games program for the 2028 Games in Los Angeles. Such an exciting and encouraging day for our sport. Being in the Olympic will give squash more exposure that surely will raise our profile and bring the game to many more people across the World. What an incentive for all squash players to strive to the ultimate goal of representing their country in the Olympics at long last.

Over the past year OSF has seen our Member Countries continue to rebuild programs after the Covid pandemic. Quite a struggle for our smaller Member Countries who have been working hard to get back to pre-Covid numbers. With travel restrictions now eased and border opened there has been a positive increase in events across the Region, attracting both local and international participants.

Over the past twelve months several Oceania Events have been held and more are planned for next twelve months.

The Oceania Junior Championships, held in Sydney, Australia, in December 2022 was the first of our official events held since the lifting of travel restrictions. The event, offering Under 11 to Under 19 age groups attracted 160+ players from 10 countries, with 6 of our 9 Member Countries represented.

The Oceania Open was a highly successful event held in New Zealand in May 2023 in conjunction with the Auckland Open. The event attracted 180+ players from six countries, over 16 divisions.

The Oceania Closed Championships was recently held in Fiji in early October 2023 incorporating team and individual events for both male and female players. Although numbers were down, it was still a very successful event and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. New Caledonia continued to dominate in the Teams Event, but we saw a few new faces rise to the top in the Individual Events. A big thank you for Squash Fiji for all their hard work in working this a successful event. Without the support of our Member Countries events such as these would not be possible.

The 2023 Oceania Junior Championships will be held in New Zealand in December 2023 as part of New Zealand's Squash Festival. Early indications is that seven of our Member Countries will be sending players to contest their individual age groups.

In 2024 we look forward to the Oceania Doubles on the Gold Coast in February and the Oceania Junior Championships in Melbourne in April hosted by Australia and the Oceania Masters which we are currently finalising details with New Caledonia to host.

Both Australia and New Zealand held very successful major national and international events in the later part of 2022 and in 2023 which is very encouraging and a positive sign for squash in the region.

The Oceania Squash Federation Board are committed to supporting our Member Countries to grow our sport and showcase squash as a vibrant and exciting recreational activity in the Region. In 2022 we formed the Oceania Referee and Coaching Advisory Groups, and we have some dedicated personnel who are keen to make contact with Member Countries to assist in officiating and coach education. We will be working with the Advisory Groups and Members during the next twelve months to increase the number of accredited officials utilising the World Squash Education programs.

I want to thank my fellow executive members, Anna and Dinesh for their contribution and support throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge and pay special tribute to Carol for her 20+ years of dedication to the Oceania Squash Federation. It is an outstanding achievement, and she has worked tirelessly to ensure the Federation has remained active and engaged with its members. On behalf of the entire squash community in the Oceania Region I want to say thank you – you will be missed.

I conclusion I want to also acknowledge the support of the World Squash Federation and congratulate them on the successful bid to become an Olympic sport. I look forward to a positive and rewarding year ahead.

Jim O'Grady

President
Oceania Squash Federation