

OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION

FIFTH GENERAL MEETING, NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA OCTOBER 1999

OFFICERS' REPORT

I am pleased to report to the members of the Federation on the occasion of the Fifth General Meeting of the OSF. The report covers the two-year period from the previous general meeting, which took place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in October 1997.

The following officers have represented the Federation over the last two years:

Col Clapper (Australia)	President & Executive Director
Bob Stirrup (New Caledonia)	Vice-President
Ann Simpson (Fiji)	Vice-President
Phil Trenorden (Australia)	Vice-President
Butch Gifford (New Zealand)	Vice-President
David Boyd (New Caledonia)	Vice-President
Michael Davis (Australia)	Finance Director

The Federation operated under a new Constitution, which was adopted at the general meeting in Rarotonga. This made provision for a female Vice President position to which Ann Simpson was elected. It also provided for a Vice President being nominated by the host country of the next Oceania Championships, to which David Boyd of New Caledonia was elected. Ann and David were welcome additions to the Committee.

On behalf of the Federation and all members of the Oceania Squash fraternity, sincere condolences are extended to Ann Simpson on the sudden death of her husband.

Membership of the Federation has remained stable over the past two years. Although a great deal of effort has been focused on attracting Tonga, Tahiti and Vanuatu to rejoin the Federation, it has not been successful to date. Further efforts should continue in this regard as these three countries provide the best prospects for future expansion in the area.

The 1997 Oceania Championships in Rarotonga were highly successful and the Cook Islands Association is to be applauded for their efficient running of the event. Ligue Caledonienne de Squash is also to be thanked for hosting the 1999 Oceania Championship[s] in Noumea.

The Championships enter a new dimension in December 2001 when it will be held in Norfolk Island for the first time and be included in the South Pacific Mini Games. In 2003 this Championship will return to the South Pacific Games programme in Fiji – an achievement for which the Federation has been striving since 1992.

The OSF Masters in Norfolk Island and Cook Islands were extremely successful. With greater co-ordination of Masters activities across the entire region, greater participation from the Masters squash fraternity could be realised.

One disappointing aspect for the region has been the slow growth in the number of junior players. Junior development initiatives will need to be given greater emphasis if the game is to flourish and grow throughout the region. The recently held Australian Juniors which attracted a large contingent of overseas juniors provides encouraging signs for the future, and the Federation will need to develop future strategies that encourage juniors from all parts of the region to compete in junior events in Australia and New Zealand until sufficient support is given to resuming the OSF Junior Championships.

The overall development of the sport in the region over the last two years has been slow, following a long period of declining numbers, particularly in Australia and New Zealand. However, there are some positive signs emerging and we look to the future with optimism for the sport in the Oceania region.

The viability of the sport in Australia and New Zealand is extremely vital to the region, and the support being provided to the region by these two member countries cannot be over-emphasised. The Federation extends its sincere appreciation to Australia and New Zealand for their contribution and support to the region.

This Fifth General Meeting and Oceania Championships is special in that it is privileged to have the World Squash President, Susie Simcock in attendance. The Federation extends a very warm welcome to Susie.

The Federation's financial position is sound although it has a very limited capacity to undertake any programmes of significance. An effort has been made since 1992 to build up a small reserve to cover any financial difficulty that the Federation may encounter and this has been achieved to a limited extent. However, as membership fees have not been increased since 1995, a small increase is proposed for consideration at this general meeting to cover the Federation's operation to 2002.

The financial accounts of the Federation covering the two-year period to 30 June 1999 have been duly audited for presentation at the general meeting. Sincere appreciation is extended to the Auditor, Mr Peter Hurwood F.C.A. for performing the audit of the Federation's accounts.