

**OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION**  
**EIGHTH GENERAL MEETING**  
**RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS**  
**OCTOBER, 2005**

**OFFICERS' REPORT**

Once again, I have pleasure in presenting this report on behalf of the Officers of the Oceania Squash Federation for the two year period from June 2003 when the Federation last held its General Meeting in Suva, Fiji at the time of the 12<sup>th</sup> South Pacific Games.

The following Officers of the Federation were elected at the Suva meeting and held office for the two year period:

Col Clapper (Australia)	President & Executive Director
Gary Robertson (Norfolk Island)	Vice President
Butch Gifford (New Zealand)	Vice President
Paul Speedy (Papua New Guinea)	Vice President
Bob Stirrup (New Caledonia)	Vice President
Carol Kawaljenko (Australia)	Vice President
Bernadette Raffe (Cook Islands)	Vice President, by appointment as Cook Islands host representative for the 2005 Oceania Championships

Significant impacts, initiatives and issues affecting the Federation over the last two years include the following:

1. A number of standing committees continued to operate to support the Federation's objectives. Sincere appreciation is extended to the Convenors and members of the various committees. The following Convenors were appointed at the Fiji Meeting:

Butch Gifford (New Zealand)	Coaching & Development Committee
Neven Barbour (New Zealand)	Major Games Committee
Greg Hutchings (Australia)	Championships Committee
Chris Sinclair (Australia)	Rules & Referees Committee
Mike Greig (New Zealand)	Technical Committee
Peter Wright (Australia)	Masters Committee

In addition, Barry Gardiner (New Zealand) was appointed at a later date to the Disciplinary & Appeals Committee.

A number of the Convenors have also served in the dual role of representing the Federation on the WSF standing committees.

2. The Federation also fulfilled its obligation to the WSF with the appointment of representatives to the WSF Seeding Panels:

Dawn Moggach (Australia)	Ladies Panel
Geoff Hunt (Australia)	Men's Panel
Peter Wright (Australia) and Gower Dallimore (New Zealand)	Masters Panel
Dean Landy (Australia)	Junior Men's and International Doubles Panel
Dave Clark (New Zealand)	Junior Women's Panel

Appreciation is extended to the representatives in supporting the Federation at the International level.

3. The number of member countries remained unchanged at eight, namely:
 

Australia	New Zealand
Cook Islands	Norfolk Island
Fiji	Papua New Guinea
New Caledonia	Samoa

Efforts continued to attract new members to the OSF & WSF, however, these are small island countries with a low population base, no squash facilities and limited economic resources. The task is extremely difficult and will require government funding in each instance to establish the necessary court facilities.

The Federation's member countries must be congratulated for their continued support of the OSF and commitment to developing Squash in the region.

4. General meetings of the Federation continue to be held on a ~~bi-annual~~ basis. However, with the proposed move for the OSF to become a company, it is likely that the legal requirement will necessitate future meetings on an annual basis.
5. Special appreciation is extended to Australia and New Zealand for their contribution to the region, especially in the area of financial and resource support.
6. The Oceania Championships continue to be a major event in the region for our smaller member countries, and its extension to include Men's, Ladies and Mixed Doubles in the programme is an important step in expanding the Sports appeal. The policy of linking the Championships to the Pacific Games and Pacific Mini Games, wherever possible, has enormous benefits for the Sport, as well as enhancing the quality and content of the Games programme. This was highlighted in Suva where Squash was recognised as one of the most successful and well conducted sports of the Games.
7. The Inaugural Oceania Men's Open Championship was held in conjunction with the 2004 Squash International & PNG Open in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The event was an outstanding success. The Second Oceania Men's Open Championship also took place in Port Moresby as part of the "2005 Steel Industries Squash International". This year's International attracted increased sponsorship and public attention as well as quality player participation – being elevated to a 1.5 Star PSA event. Crowds continued to fill the Squash facilities. The International was officially opened by the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Sir Paulias Matone. Local championships were held alongside the International and saw a record 192 entries from around PNG and Northern Australia. Congratulations to PNG for staging a great event. The PNG initiative has been extremely successful and a concept that other member countries should study and consider adopting. The Federation continues to strive to develop a co-ordinated elite player circuit throughout the region, and the PNG initiative is a step in this direction.
8. The OSF has actively encouraged, and assisted, where appropriate the Host Squash Association and Games Organising Committee to ensure participation of Squash in the Pacific Games and Pacific Mini Games, and that the appropriate resources are provided. This approach is needed to continue in not only for the Pacific Games in Apia in 2007, but also for the Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga in 2009 and the Pacific Games in Noumea in 2011. The construction of new court facilities in Apia, Samoa for the XIIIth

Pacific Games should provide an enormous boost to Squash in Samoa, not only during the Games, but as a long term investment in the sport.

9. Elite players from the Oceania region continue to make an impact on the world scene, particularly Australia's Rachael and Natalie Grinham, ranked Nos. 1 and 4 respectively in the WISPA rankings, and David Palmer at No. 3 in the PSA rankings. Australia and New Zealand in particular continue to invest significantly in elite player programmes, which is extremely important for the development of our sport.
10. Masters Squash continues to play an important role in the region. The Federation has continued to appoint, each year, a host country to stage the Oceania Masters Championships. The 2005 championship attracted 150 entries and was hosted by the Victorian Squash Federation, with the event being held in Melbourne, Australia. The opportunity for greater co-ordination across the region of Masters Squash activities still exists, and remains a challenge for the incoming administration. We extend best wishes to Norfolk Islands who will host the 2006 Oceania Masters Championships.
11. Junior development remains a difficult challenge for the region, although some progress is being made by a number of member countries. Greater co-ordination of programmes and better utilisation of the limited resources available is a matter for the incoming committee to address, including the re-establishment of an effective Oceania Junior Championships event, which can only benefit the development of junior squash in the region.
12. The Federation has continued the practice of producing OSF Newsletters and Calendar of Events as a means of providing information to countries in the region and interested organisations and individuals. The development of an OSF website (<http://oceaniasquash.biz/>) has also been undertaken as a means of disseminating information and awareness of the Federation's activities. Unfortunately, progress has been restricted due primarily to funding constraints. Appreciation is extended to Eric Hagan for his contribution on a voluntary basis in getting the website established.
13. An initiative of the Federation has been the establishment of a Coaches Register and Referees Register. Jeff Wollstein in particular, and Roger Flynn must be thanked for their work in developing the profile for the Coaches Register, which is scheduled to be launched on the OSF website. Similarly, appreciation is extended to Chris Sinclair, Bill Patterson and the Victorian Referees Association for their work in establishing the Referees Register. Both these registers are seen as valuable information resource for future years.
14. The Federation has continued to maintain a close working relationship with its peer body, the World Squash Federation, and has received excellent support and co-operation from both the WSF Officers and its Administration. The OSF is also extremely grateful of the financial assistance provided for specific initiatives, particularly funding assistance towards refereeing development in the region, and the recent grant for coaching development. The OSF has also been very capably represented on the WSF by our Regional Vice-President, Gerard De Courcy, and by a number of representatives from our region serving on various WSF standing committees.
15. Although some of the OSF Standing Committees have had a relatively quiet period over the last two years, others have been extremely active. In particular, Chris Sinclair has been working actively to promote the awareness of refereeing throughout the region, improving the knowledge of the rules of the game generally, and upskilling refereeing standards. Another very active Committee has been the Coaching & Development Committee, and in particular Butch Gifford and Jeff Wollstein. Special thanks to those for their enormous contributions over the last two years.