

**OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION (OSF)**

Minutes of the Fifth General Meeting of the Oceania Squash Federation (OSF) held in Noumea, New Caledonia on Wednesday 6 October 1999 at 2.30 p.m.

**1) Official Opening by the Chair:**

The Chair, Col Clapper, declared the Meeting open, welcomed all representatives in attendance, apologized for the late start to the Meeting and indicated that should all agenda items not be completed in the afternoon, a time later in the week will be set aside to cover the remaining agenda items.

Col Clapper also extended a warm welcome to World Squash President, Susie Simcock, and expressed the appreciation of the OSF for Susie having taken the time in her busy schedule to be present in Noumea for the Oceania Championships and OSF Meeting.

**2) Attendees and Registration of Delegates:**

The Attendance Roll was circulated and the following attendees recorded.

Col Clapper	President, OSF
Anne Simpson	Vice President, OSF
Butch Gifford	Vice President, OSF & New Zealand Delegate
David Boyd	Vice President, OSF, President & Delegate New Caledonia
Robert (Bob) Stirrup	Vice President, OSF & Treasurer, New Caledonia
Paul Speedy	Delegate, PNG
Derek Hunter	Representative, PNG
Mousie Skews	President and Delegate, Cook Islands
Keith Gillions	Representative, Cook Islands
Reginald Pal	Vice President and Delegate, Fiji
Dinesh Pameshwar	Treasurer and Representative, Fiji
Jilyin Wong	Representative Fiji
Etuale Sefo	President & Delegate, Samoa
Garry Downes	Representative Fiji
Norman Wetzell	Vice President & Representative, Samoa
Heimata Karika	Representative Cook Islands
By Special Invitation:	
Susie Simcock	President, World Squash Federation.

**3) Apologies:**

The following apologies were recorded.

Phillip Cridge	PNG
Robert Skews	Cook Islands
Phil Trenorden	Australia
Michael Davis	Treasurer, OSF
Gary Robertson	Norfolk Island

**4) Minutes of Previous General Meeting:**

Col Clapper advised that the Minutes of the Fourth General Meeting of the OSF held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 21 October 1997 had been circulated to all Members in both draft and final form, and that the following amendment is to be made to the final copy; in that Phil Trenorden (Australia) should have been recorded as an apology.

Moved Etuale Sefo, Seconded Bob Stirrup that the Minutes as circulated in final form, including the amendment, be adopted. **CARRIED.**

5) **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Commonwealth Games:

Susie Simcock reported on the success of the participation of Squash in its first appearance in the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, in which Doubles (pairs and mixed) was a big hit with almost 30 countries competing in the various squash events. Susie also stressed the potential for small countries to compete in the Commonwealth Games and that Manchester will be building a special facility for squash for when it hosts the Games.

Susie Simcock also encouraged Oceania countries to participate in the International Squash Festival to be held in Melbourne in 2001 and briefed representatives on other activities being undertaken by the WSF.

Tonga, Vanuatu and Tahiti membership of OSF:

Discussion took place on the latest position concerning efforts to re-affiliate the above countries with the OSF and re-establish squash in these countries.

It would appear as though no Association currently exists in Tonga. Agreed that approaches be made to the National Sports Federation in Tonga. Col Clapper and Butch Gifford are to explore the possibilities of either an Australian or New Zealand firm sponsoring timber flooring on the court, which currently has a concrete floor.

No response to approaches has been forthcoming from Vanuatu. The country has 2 sets of 2 courts at the Visa Club and Tennis Club. The courts are apparently in good condition. It was agreed that further efforts should be made to encourage the sport in Vanuatu.

Tahiti is in a similar position to Tonga in that there is no organisation or promotion of the sport. The country has 2 sets of 2 courts. Further efforts are to be made via the French Federation to encourage Tahiti to become involved.

The Meeting agreed that all remaining items of business arising from the Minutes would be covered elsewhere during the Meeting.

6) **The Chair and Officers Report:**

Col Clapper presented the Chair and Officers' Report covering the two-year period from the previous general meeting of the OSF.

Moved Butch Gifford and Seconded Mousie Skews that the Chair and Officers' Report be received and adopted. CARRIED.

7) **Reports from Chairs of Committees:**

A copy of the 1999 Oceania Report presented to the 1999 general meeting of the WSF by Ron Griffiths, OSF Vice President to the WSF, was tabled at the Meeting.

A report from Margaret Campbell, Chair of the OSF Rules & Referees Committee, was distributed for consideration.

Moved Butch Gifford, Seconded Mousie Skews that the above reports be received and adopted. CARRIED..

Butch Gifford presented a verbal report on the activities of the Development Committee. Butch informed the meeting he had spent one week in Samoa to develop players, and was faced with having more children to coach than available squash rackets for the children to use. A letter was sent to the WSF for possible support, which was forthcoming. Susie Simcock then presented Etuale Sefo with a quantity of squash rackets to be used by the junior players in Samoa. Etuale expressed thanks on behalf of Samoa Squash, informed the meeting that this gesture will be a real incentive to the young squash players of Samoa and that this type of support will help to counter competition from other sports such as Rugby and Tennis, which are strongly supported in Samoa. The Meeting recorded its appreciation to Susie Simcock, Ted Wallbuton and the WSF for the support given to the Oceania region.

Susie informed the Meeting that this was the type of challenge about which the WSF wanted to hear.

The meeting agreed that squash balls should be another project that could provide considerable assistance to the junior development programme in the region.

8) **(a) Statement of Financial Accounts:**

The Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1999 was distributed for consideration at the meeting.

Moved Bob Stirrup, Seconded Etuale Sefo that the report be received and adopted. CARRIED.

**(b) Auditor's Report:**

The Audit Report covering the two-year period to 30 June 1999 was also distributed for consideration at the Meeting. Moved Bob Stirrup, Seconded Etuale Sefo that the report be received and adopted and that a special vote of appreciation be extended to Peter Hurwood, the OSF honorary auditor. CARRIED.

**(c) Approval of Expenditure:**

A report was tabled by Col Clapper concerning procedures for approval of expenditure in connection with the Oceania Championships and OSF General Meetings to ensure full compliance with the Federation's financial and audit requirements. Moved Mousie Skews, Seconded Bob Stirrup that expenditure be incurred by the OSF in respect of -

- The OSF appointed 1999 Oceania Championships Tournament Director's airline, travel and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in connection with the championships;
- The President/Executive Director's travel (airline and internal), accommodation and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in connection with the general meeting, championships and hosting; and
- Function costs associated with the championships, general meeting and hosting be subject to negotiations between Col Clapper and David Boyd, and with the aim to limit such costs to approximately AUS \$1,000. CARRIED.

**(d) Proposed Budget 2000-2001:**

Col Clapper presented a report on the proposed budget and setting of membership fees for 2000 and 2001 to the meeting.

Moved Bob Stirrup, Seconded Mousie Skews that membership fees for 2000 and 2001 be set as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>2000 Fee \$A</u>	<u>2001 Fee \$A</u>
Australia	E	1,350	1,350
New Zealand	D	740	740
PNG	C	330	330
New Caledonia	B	245	245
Cook Islands	A	170	170
Norfolk Island	A	170	170
Fiji	B	245	245
Samoa	A	170	170

CARRIED.

9 **(1) OSF Championships - Oceania Championships:**

A report was tabled on the 1997 Oceania Championships in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on behalf of the OSF by Butch Gifford, Tournament Director. The report was received and noted.

David Boyd, Bob Stirrup and Butch Gifford provided a verbal progress report on the 1999 Oceania Championships in Noumea.

Major issues arising were as follows:

- Agreed that ranking of top 16 players only in Men's and Ladies be determined and released following the championships. Butch Gifford and Mousie Skews agreed to undertake the task.
- Three perpetual trophies have been located and brought to the Championships by Paul Speedy. The perpetual trophies cover the Men's Open, Men's Teams and Ladies Teams events. The perpetual trophy for the Ladies Open event is still missing.
- Team accommodation charges are to be paid to Bob Stirrup who will settle with the Hotel *Le Stanley*. Other hotel expenses are to be settled directly with the Hotel by Team Managers/Players;
- The social evening on finals' night is not included in the entry fee and will cost 3,500PFf per person;

- The team entry fee was set at US\$50.00 per person. Agreed that extra players would be charged 5,000 PFF, subject to review by Bob Stirrup of extra players who are not members of the official team. Mousie Skews reported that the entry fee in Rarotonga was NZ \$40.00 per person. Col Clapper agreed that the Officers would review the procedures for setting of entry fees for future Oceania Championships.
- Bob Stirrup advised that the championships were costing over US \$100,000 to stage. This included the provision of mini-buses for each country at a cost of NZ \$1,000perh bus.
- Col Clapper agreed to check the South Pacific Games Charter regarding entry fee arrangements for Norfolk Island in 2001 and Fiji in 2003.
- The recorded list of previous winners as published in the official championships programme is to be corrected, in that the second and third placed positions in the Ladies teams event in 1997 should read Fiji (2) and Cook Islands (3) and not Samoa (2) and Fiji (3) as printed.
- The rules of play for the 1999 Championships as distributed are to be clarified in respect of the allocation of points and determination of winning teams for the Men's and Ladies teams competition. Col Clapper read out a draft of the proposed allocation, which was endorsed.
- Agreed that marking of matches shall be by players alternately from the competing teams in the order 2,1,4,3 and that neutral umpires are to be provided from the adjoining court.
- Agreed that both the marker and referee should keep progressive scores.
- Agreed that Team Managers are to jointly present the completed sheets to the Tournament Director (Butch Gifford) or Assistant Tournament Director (Bob Stirrup) and lodge any disputes at that time for immediate resolution, if possible.
- Future rules to cover the provision by all competing countries of their National Flag and a recording of their national anthem to the host country for ceremonial use.
- Bob Stirrup advised the meeting that US\$10,000- had been paid to one of the TV channels for extensive coverage of the championships. However, the TV channel was on strike and was likely to be on strike for the full duration of the championships.
- Col Clapper tabled a consultation draft of the Oceania Championships Regulations to be considered for adoption for future Oceania Championships. The draft is not fully completed but feedback is sought by Col Clapper from member countries on what has been drafted to-date. It was agreed that the proposed regulations should be referred to as guidelines to allow more flexibility in their application. Col Clapper will progress the document further prior to the next Championships in Norfolk Island.
- Fiji representatives provided a video on progress in Suva regarding organisational arrangements, construction of facilities, etc. for the 2003 South Pacific Games. Col Clapper advised delegates interested in viewing the video were welcome to stay immediately after the meeting.
- A letter from Gary Robertson, President, Norfolk Island Squash dated 31 July 1999 was read to the Meeting by Col Clapper outlining reasons for Norfolk Island not being able to send teams to Noumea for the 1999 Championships and in respect of the participation of squash in the 2001 South Pacific Mini Games. The contents of the letter were noted and the absence of Norfolk Island from the championships noted with regret.

### **(2) Oceania Masters Championships:**

- Etuale Sefo advised that the 1999 Oceania Masters is scheduled to take place in Apia from 9 to 13 November 1999. Enquiries had been received from players in New Zealand.
- Mousie Skews advised that the year 2000 Oceania Masters is scheduled for 21 to 24 June, 2000 in Rarotonga. Robert Skews will be coordinating the event.
- Col Clapper informed the meeting of the World Masters to be held in Melbourne in October 2001 and that it would be a great opportunity for Oceania Masters players to participate.
- Col Clapper advised the meeting that the venue for the 2001 Oceania Masters was still to be determined.

### **(3) Oceania Junior Championships:**

- Col Clapper expressed concerns at the lack of a junior championships in the region and the need to foster junior development programmes which will encourage young players to the game.

- Bob Stirrup spoke about the merits of sending junior players to Australia and New Zealand for specialized development and experience.
- Resolved unanimously that to assist in the development and encouragement of junior players in the Oceania region each Men's and Ladies team will be required to contain at least one junior player (i.e. Under 19 years of age).
- Resolved that the OSF and Fiji Squash Association will explore the feasibility of holding an Oceania Junior tournament as part of or during the period of the South Pacific Games. Fiji representatives reported that the availability of squash courts will not be a problem as 8 courts are available in Suva and 4 new courts are to be constructed for the Games.

**(4) Oceania Open Championships:**

- Col Clapper stated that it was disappointing that member countries did not take up the opportunity of using the Oceania name for their open event.
- Approval was granted for Fiji to use the Oceania name in conjunction with the 1999 Fiji Open, which will be promoted as the Fiji and Oceania Open.

At this stage Col Clapper adjourned the Meeting and the delegates agreed to resume the meeting at 4.00 p.m. on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1999.

**The Meeting resumed at 4.10 p.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1999.**

**10 (1) South Pacific Games:**

- Col Clapper commended Fiji on the video and indicated that he was very encouraged with progress to date.
- It was agreed that the OSF would work closely with the Fiji Squash Association on arrangements for squash participation in the Games.

**(2) South Pacific Mini Games:**

- Agreed that the OSF will seek to obtain details of the Games programme as soon as possible, especially the proposed timing of the Games.
- Resolved that the OSF will check the eligibility criteria for the Games, and seek to clarify the situation where a player is born in the country, still has residential status of the country, but does not have 5 years residency in the country.

**(3) Commonwealth Games:**

- Col Clapper supported Susie Simcock's earlier comments on the success of squash as a participant sport in the Games for the first time, and encouraged Oceania member countries eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Games to aspire to compete in the Games. Col also emphasised the potential financial opportunities for member countries through participation.
- The Meeting congratulated Derek Hunter for having reached the final of Men's Plate Event.

**(4) Olympic Games:**

- The Meeting noted the earlier comments made by Susie Simcock concerning progress made by WSF towards squash being accepted as a participant sport in the Olympic Games.

11) **Consideration of Other Business:**

Protective Eyewear.

- Col Clapper presented a paper and proposed regulation on protective eyewear for junior players, advising that a similar regulation had been adopted in Australia and New Zealand.
- Concern was raised by a number of delegates at the lack of information and availability of eyewear product in the region. Col Clapper agreed to investigate the problem and see whether product distributors would distribute brochures and samples throughout the Oceania region.
- Resolved to adopt the proposed regulation in principle only, pending the results of distribution of product, etc. **CARRIED.**

12 **General Business:**

- Resolved that the existing format of the OSF Newsletter was well received and should continue.
- Col Clapper stressed the importance of a comprehensive Calendar of Events, and encouraged each member country to keep the OSF informed of key events in their country.
- Agreed that further initiatives be undertaken to encourage participation from the large Polynesian bases in Australia and New Zealand, particularly Auckland. Progress on the initiative is to be reported at the next general meeting.
- Agreed that the Officers consider restricting team numbers in the Oceania Championships to 5 players per team (one of which is under 19 years), and that only these players be eligible to participate in the teams and individual events in Norfolk Island. Concern was expressed at the capacity of Norfolk Island to handle a large number of players on the 2 available courts. Col Clapper agreed to discuss the matter with Gary Robertson.
- The Officers were also requested to review special plate events for the individual championships, on the basis that most players travel long distances at considerable expense and look forward to participating as much as possible in the championships. Col Clapper agreed that this would be addressed in relation to Norfolk Island and Fiji.
- Resolved that a Refereeing Workshop be conducted in Norfolk Island immediately prior to the start of the championships, and that some form of certificate be introduced for the Oceania region for refereeing and coaching. These could be presented at the conclusion of the championships. The Rules & Referees Committee to be asked to develop the proposal further with introduction in 2001.
- Resolved that Butch Gifford and Keith Gillions explore the possibility of a South Pacific squad, possibly made up of Polynesian players located in New Zealand, competing in the Cousins Shield. Col Clapper to explore a similar concept with Squash Australia.
- Resolved that the concept of neutral referees for Oceania Championship matches be continued.
- The meeting recorded its congratulations to Naluge Guy (PNG) on her world ranking.
- Agreed that recognition be given to the need for an OSF training scheme, that it will take time to develop juniors to an appropriate level to compete in the Oceania Championships and that this will need to be taken into consideration for future Championships.
- Col Clapper informed the meeting on the OSF's and Squash Australia's position concerning current promotions organised by Peter Deakin.
- Col Clapper informed the meeting on the current position concerning incorporation of the OSF.
- Col Clapper presented the OSF logo and briefed the delegates on its design and use. Resolved that the logo be adopted. **CARRIED.**
- Etuale Sefo advised the meeting that Western Samoa is in future to be referred to as Samoa.

13 **Election of Officers:**

- All Officer positions of the OSF were declared vacant. Nominations were then called for all positions.
- Col Clapper was nominated for the position of President and Executive Director by Squash Australia and seconded by Butch Gifford. **CARRIED** unanimously.

- Resolved that the OSF review the provisions of the Constitution concerning the number of Vice-Presidents. It was resolved unanimously to waive the existing restriction of five Vice Presidents. **CARRIED.**
- Anne Simpson advised the Meeting that she was unavailable for renomination as a Vice President as she was unsure of her future commitments.
- The following Vice Presidents were elected unanimously:
  - Phil Trenorden (Australia)
  - Butch Gifford (New Zealand)
  - David Boyd (New Caledonia)
  - Bob Stirrup (New Caledonia)
  - Mousie Skews (Cook Islands)
  - Wati Swan (Fiji)
  - Gary Robertson (Norfolk Island) was elected to the appointed Vice President position.
  - Michael Davis was elected to the Finance Director position, being the only formal nomination received.

**14 Election of Committee Chairs:**

- The following appointments were endorsed:
  - Greg Middleton (Australia) Chair, OSF Coaching Committee
  - Butch Gifford (New Zealand) Chair, OSF Development Committee
  - Ron Griffiths (Australia) Chair, OSF Major Games Committee
  - Susan Devoy (New Zealand) Chair, OSF Disciplinary Committee
  - Margaret Campbell (Australia) Chair, OSF Rules & Referees Committee
  - Chas Evans (New Zealand) Assistant Chair, OSF Rules & Referees Committee
  - Greg Hutchings (Australia) Chair, OSF Championships Committee
  - The Chair of the OSF Masters Committee to be appointed by the Officers.

**15 Venue and Date of Next Meeting:**

- Resolved that the next General Meeting of the OSF take place in Norfolk Island in 2001 during the period of the South Pacific Mini Games.

**16 Close of Meeting:**

- Col Clapper extended appreciation to all those in attendance and for their contribution to what was a very productive meeting.
- Delegates again wished to record their appreciation to Susie Simcock for participating in the meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October.
- Col Clapper extended on behalf of all delegates sincere appreciation to Ligue Caledonienne de Squash, and in particular David Boyd and Bob Stirrup and their band of loyal workers for hosting the meeting and the championships, and congratulated them on doing an excellent job.
- Col Clapper declared the meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

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Chair

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Date

