

APPENDIX C

**OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION
11th GENERAL MEETING
BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA
OCTOBER, 2011**

PRESIDENT & OFFICERS' REPORT

I have the pleasure of presenting this President and Officers' Report of the Oceania Squash Federation (OSF) covering the two year period from September 2009 when the Federation's last General Meeting was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The presentation of this report at our 11th General Meeting marks a significant occasion for the OSF, with the anticipated adoption of a new constitution and governance structure, which is aimed at steering the Federation through the next decade.

Highlights of significant events and activities, together with planned activities in the near future, are summarised below.

1. The Officers elected to manage the Federation's affairs over the past two years were as follows:

President	Col Clapper (Australia)
Vice Presidents	Butch Gifford (New Zealand) Mousie Skews (Cook Islands) Carol Kawaljenko (Australia) Mal Tarrant (Norfolk Island) David Boyd (New Caledonia)
Regional VP to WSF	David Navarre (New Caledonia)
Executive Director	Col Clapper
Finance Director	Michael Davis (Australia)

Sincere appreciation is extended to fellow Officers for their contribution to the operation of the Federation.

2. A warm welcome is extended to Vanuatu who joined as a Full Member in 2011. We look forward to a long and rewarding partnership with Vanuatu Squash to further develop the sport in that country.

The OSF is now supported by nine countries/territories as full members of the Federation, namely Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Only Australia and New Zealand retain full membership of WSF while the other countries are Associate Members of the world body funded by the OSF.

Nui, Tahiti and Tonga are Affiliate Members of OSF and prospects are encouraging for Tahiti to upgrade to full membership in the next twelve months following the construction of squash courts in the country.

The support provided by its members is greatly appreciated, particularly that from Australia and New Zealand.

3. Statistical information was recently collected to develop a profile of Squash in the region and reflects the following:

Total population in Oceania	35,426,995
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Population of OSF Full Member countries	33,815,067
Number Squash Courts - Singles	2,634
- Doubles	43
Number Squash Centres	763
Number Registered Players	38,103
Estimated Number non-registered Players who play on a regular basis	326,880

These figures indicate that a large percentage (almost 1%) of the total population in Oceania play squash on a regular basis, and raise the issue regarding the potential for greater sponsorship for the sport in our region; an issue to be progressed by the incoming administration.

4. The OSF Standing Committees continue to provide specialist advice to the Federation. These committees are aligned to their respective WSF standing committees and also contribute to the WSF through OSF appointed representatives.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Convenors and Members who have served on the following Standing Committees over the last two years:

- Development & Coaching
- Major Games
- Championships
- Referees & Rules
- Disciplinary & Appeals
- Technical
- Masters Squash
- Marketing

Appreciation is also extended to those representatives from the Oceania Region who have served on the various WSF Committees.

5. The most active Standing Committee over the last two years is the OSF Refereeing & Rules Committee.

Due to the confined area in which the game is played, refereeing and the interpretation of the rules of both the Singles and Doubles Game is an important aspect of our sport. It requires ongoing education of our players and officials to expand their knowledge of the rules and their ability to mark and referee matches effectively.

The OSF is fortunate in having highly qualified people on the Committee who also make a significant contribution to the world body.

There are over 230 markers and referees accredited across the region while Oceania now has 6 fully accredited Regional Referees.

The WSF is to be commended for sending an international refereeing assessor to the 2010 and 2011 Australian Open to assess our local referees.

A great deal of work has been undertaken to develop an appropriate CBTA program for Oceania and special thanks must go to John Small and Chris Sinclair for their efforts in this area.

The current practice of assessing and accrediting players at Pacific Games/Pacific Mini Games and Oceania Championships has continued. However, this practice will need to be re-assessed in view of its effectiveness and the need for each country to gain self-sufficiency in refereeing and marking in addition to other technical support areas without having to rely on Australian and New Zealand officials at major events in their country.

6. General Meetings of the OSF have been held on a biennial basis in accordance with the existing constitution and at the venue of the Pacific Games/Pacific Mini Games, or Oceania

Championships. However, members believe that there is now a need for these meetings to be conducted annually and preferably on a dedicated weekend without interruption from other activities. This has been provided for in the new constitution. However, it is equally important that all member countries commit to having a representative attend these Meetings.

7. A Workshop & Extraordinary General Meeting of the OSF was held in Auckland, New Zealand in November 2010 to consider the future structure and operation of the Federation. This entailed a comprehensive review of the constitution and governance structure which has existed since 1992. As a result, a new constitution will be presented for consideration at an Extraordinary General Meeting in Brisbane and I strongly recommend its adoption. The new constitution includes provision for a streamlining of the governance process, more effective administration, and allows for the Federation to become an incorporated body.

Following its adoption the Vision & Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives 2010 to 2015 will need to be reviewed by the incoming administration to comply with the new constitution and incorporation requirements.

8. Youth & Junior development continues to be the greatest challenge for our Region. The Squash fraternity generally is ageing and unless effective programmes are put in place for our young players the sport will continue to decline. The region does not have an Oceania Youth & Junior Championships which is both disappointing and must have an impact on the future development of the sport. The lack of support for the 4th Oceania Junior Age Championships is of concern and with the introduction by the WSF of a Junior ranking system will need to be addressed by the incoming administration as a high priority.

The lack of adequate coaching resources and on-going competitive opportunities for our young players makes it extremely difficult to retain interest and commitment to Squash. Our sport continues to have a high attrition rate in the youth area.

There also appears to be a general lack of commitment to steer our youth into other areas of our sport, thereby potentially restricting its growth.

9. Coaching and development initiatives, particularly for our smaller countries, continue to be hampered by the lack of funds. The WSF also has development initiatives which cannot be implemented until the world body receives an injection of funds, which is unlikely to occur until the Olympic bid position becomes clearer. A closer working relationship is needed between the OSF and its member countries to develop proposals which have the potential of obtaining AusAid funding.

A comprehensive submission for a Coaching Education Program commencing in PNG with follow-up implementation in other developing countries was lodged with the Commonwealth Games Federation. The submission is still being considered.

The incoming administration also needs to explore assistance opportunities that the Australian and New Zealand Governments are prepared to fund through Squash Australia and Squash New Zealand.

10. Squash was one of the 27 sporting disciplines in the recently concluded XIV Pacific Games which took place in New Caledonia. Over 3,500 athletes from 22 countries competed in the Games and were supported by 4,700 volunteers who did a magnificent job. 65 athletes and officials were involved in the Squash program.

Over 150,000 spectators attended the Games which were officially opened by French President Nicholas Sarkozy. On numerous occasions the Squash galleries were packed to capacity, particularly when New Caledonia was competing.

Six countries competed in the Squash program (the minimum requirement) which included a Men's and Ladies Teams Competition, Men's and Ladies Singles Competition, and Men's, Ladies and Mixed

Doubles Competition. The Men's Teams competition had a full complement of six teams. However, it was extremely disappointing that only two countries nominated for the Ladies Teams competition.

Congratulations are extended to New Caledonia who dominated the medal count with 7 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze medals. Fiji followed with 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals and Samoa with 1 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.

Congratulations are also extended to Lyle Marsters of Cook Islands for receiving the prestigious Phillip Cridge Most Improved Player Award.

Technical Officials from Australia assisted local officials with the running of the Squash Competition and joined the "Pacific Attitude", while the on-court competition was very competitive the event ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all those involved.

There were, however, a number of significant issues that have been identified arising from the event which are covered in separate reports to be considered at this meeting together with a number of proposals for adoption. A comprehensive review of the Squash programme is also required to meet Pacific Games Council requirements.

Appreciation is extended to all the technical officials involved in the Games Squash Competition, the volunteers, the Pacific Games Council and Games Organising Committee for all their support and faith in Squash as a Games Sport. New Caledonia is also to be congratulated for the excellent squash facilities which remain as a permanent feature from the Games.

11. The XV Pacific Games will take place in PNG in 2015 and Squash is one of 32 sports on the list for possible inclusion in the Games program. Although new squash facilities will be constructed in Port Moresby, Squash is not at this stage guaranteed a place in the final 28 sports on the program as it is an optional Pacific Games sport. On-going lobbying will be required to consolidate its inclusion.

12. The 10th Oceania Squash Championships were held in conjunction with the XIV Pacific Games and trophies presented at the Farewell Function organised by New Caledonia Squash. Thank you New Caledonia Squash.

13. The 11th Oceania Squash Championships will be held in Norfolk Island in 2013 as a stand alone event as Squash is not included on the 2013 Pacific Mini Games programme.

14. The 2017 Pacific Mini Games has been awarded to Vanuatu and Squash is not included on the Games programme. Lobbying has already commenced to influence Vanuatu to change its position, and this will need to be continued by the incoming administration.

15. Four countries from Oceania competed in the XIX Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India - Australia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island and PNG. Regrettably Fiji could not compete due to the suspension of its country from the Commonwealth for political reasons. It is hoped this will be resolved prior to the next Commonwealth Games in Scotland.

Congratulations are extended to Australia and New Zealand for their outstanding success at the Games, winning medals in the following events:

Women's Singles	Australia	Bronze Medal
Men's Doubles	Australia	Silver & Bronze Medals
Women's Doubles	New Zealand	Gold Medal
	Australia	Bronze Medal
Mixed Doubles	Australia	Gold Medal
	New Zealand	Silver Medal

Joelle King of New Zealand was recognised for her success at the Games by being selected to carry the country's flag at the Closing Ceremony.

A significant milestone was also reached by Norfolk Island by winning its first ever match in the Commonwealth Games Squash Competition with a first round win in the Men's Doubles Event.

16. The 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games will be held in Samoa and Squash is one of the sports on the Games programme. Samoa Squash is already making preparations for the Games and are seeking the construction of additional Singles and Doubles courts. OSF assistance is also being sought.

All our commonwealth member countries are encouraged to take the opportunity of sending players to the Games.

17. The Arafura Games is held in Darwin, Australia biennially and has developed into a significant sporting event. Squash is a competition sport in the Games and attracts competitors from both Oceania and near Asian region. It provides an opportunity for our players to match their skills against their Asian counterparts. The 2011 Squash competition was again a very successful event and attracted a wide range of entries.

18. Although almost every member country now conduct a national open championship a considerable amount of work still needs to be done to develop a cohesive circuit across the region for touring players. Australia and New Zealand are to be congratulated for the work they have put into developing effective circuits in their areas, and this now needs to be expanded to embrace other countries.

The principal event for the region is the Australian Open in Canberra, which now attracts the best PSA and WISPA players in the world. Congratulations to ACT Squash and Squash Australia for staging a very successful event in 2011, building on the success of 2010.

The 2010 Oceania Open Championship was held in Port Moresby and plans were in progress for a significant increase in prize money for the 2011 Open. However, due to delays in court completion this year's event has been forced to be rescheduled to 2012.

The OSF is committed to working closely with our member countries to develop a strong professional circuit in the region.

19. The promotion and development of Masters Squash is an essential element of our sport in the region. Australia and New Zealand in particular attract large numbers to their Masters tournaments.

The 17th Oceania Masters was hosted in 2010 by the Samoa Squash Rackets Association and held in Apia during the Tevila Festival.

The 18th Oceania Masters is being held in Norfolk Island in 2011 with a good number of entries and enjoyable time to be had by all.

Cook Islands Squash will host the 19th Oceania Masters in 2012 and will welcome players in the friendly Island way.

20. New Zealand was the proud host of the World Women's Team Championship in November last year at Palmerston North with 16 nations competing in the event. The event was an outstanding success and the New Zealand organisers are to be congratulated for their superb conduct of the event. Extensive television coverage was given to the Championship.

It was also a great occasion for Oceania with the Australian Women's Team taking out the Gold Medal and New Zealand gaining 4th place.

21. Australia hosted the 2010 World University Squash Championships in Melbourne. The event was an outstanding success and the organisers are to be congratulated. The university environment is an area of enormous potential for Squash and should be given greater emphasis by the incoming administration.

22. Australia and New Zealand invest significantly in elite player development with the assistance of Government funding. It is an extremely important area of our sport and ensures that our elite players are given every opportunity to realise their potential and perform to their best ability in world events.

The inclusion of prospective players from our smaller countries into the Australian and New Zealand system in some form is an area to be explored by the incoming administration.

23. The OSF website now holds a comprehensive amount of information and is receiving a considerable number of hits.

Appreciation is once again extended to Sandie Davis for maintaining the site.

24. The Squash Ball Agreement with Dunlop International provides squash balls for all OSF competitions and for our smaller countries to use in local events, youth and junior development.

The current agreement expires in 2012 and will need to be renegotiated in the near future.

25. The OSF continues to maintain its membership of the Olympic Sports Federation of Oceania (OSFO) and the Pacific Games Council (PGC). It also maintains a close relationship with the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) and the various NOC's, especially in the smaller countries.

Over the years I have established close relationships with many of the delegates from various sporting bodies and NOC's to further the interests of squash in our region. The OSF has also played an active role on these organisations both to advance sport generally in the region and maintain the awareness and profile of our sport. We have also been committed to the objectives of these organisations and it is recommended that this practice be continued by the incoming administration.

26. The OSF has continued its support of the WSF and the assistance provided by Andrew Shelley and the WSF is appreciated. The OSF is also committed to the WSF achieving the Olympic "dream".

27. The Federation's financial position has been secure; however, with the small amount of income it has limited reserves and remains financially vulnerable and extremely limited to undertake programmes in the region.

Special appreciation is extended to Australia and New Zealand who carry the bulk of the financial burden.

The adoption of a new constitution will have significant implications on the financial structure and will need to be resolved at the Brisbane meeting.

Appreciation is extended to Michael Davis who has been the Federation's Finance Director since its inception. Mike is stepping down at this General Meeting.

28. The financial accounts for the financial period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2011 have been duly audited for presentation at the 2011 General Meeting.

Sincere appreciation to our honorary auditor, Peter Hurwood F.C.A. for once again undertaking the audit. Peter has advised that he is not available to continue as honorary auditor.

29. My sincere thanks go to all those who have supported and assisted me over the last two years as well as the many years that I have been in the position of President and Executive Director. I

especially thank the Officers and Convenors of the Standing Committees for their contribution. I must also thank my wife, Lorel for all the support and assistance she has given to both myself and the Federation, without which I could not have fulfilled my duties to the OSF to the extent required.

Finally, it is a privilege to present this report to the Meeting.

Colin J. Clapper AM
President & Executive Director