



A.M.S.A.

Australian Masters Squash Association Inc.

PATRONS

Heather McKay Geoff Hunt

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION

held on Monday, 14 September 2015 at the Royal Perth Golf Club, Perth commencing at 6.00 pm

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The meeting opened at 6.12pm. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:

Peter Wright (President)
Doug Minchin (Vice-President)
Ron Smith (Treasurer)
Debbie Sims (Secretary)
Ron Clayton (Registrar)

Alan Martin (ACT)
Robert Scott (NSW)
Richard Weir (NT)
Shirley Dorricott (Qld)
Louis Morsch (Vic)
Ross Barnden (Tas)
Lorna Harmer (SA)

Terry Barlow (Squash Australia Delegate)

Observers:

Bill Linton (NSW)
Helena Morgan (Vic)
Irene Taylor (Vic)
Glenda Rozen (Vic)
Joseph Rozen (Vic)
Helen Hart (ACT)
Peter Knauth (Qld)
Andrew Sosimenko (Qld)
Garry Irwin (NSW & Life Member)
Ed Jennings (WA)
Linda McBrierty (WA)
Gerard McNally (NT)
Darren O'Neill (Vic)
Richard Best (NSW)
Michelle Griffiths (NT)
Michelle Rowles (Vic)
Sandra Fogarty (Tas)

Apoloiges:

Heather McKay and Geoff Hunt (Patrons), John Wood (SA)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 2.1 Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 8th September 2014, Bathurst, NSW were noted. It was **resolved** (Barlow/Weir) that the Minutes be approved.
- 2.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee Teleconference meeting held 18 December 2014 were noted. It was **resolved** (Barlow/Weir) that the Minutes be approved.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

- 3.1 AMSA – By- Laws – Minute from the Chair, Constitution sub-committee dated 28 July 2015 setting out the changes to the By-laws. It was **resolved** (Dorricott/Minchin) that the amendments to the AMSA By-laws be approved.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 4.1 The President's report for 2014-15 was noted. In addition, the President thanked the host state, WA, for hosting the Championships and the work done by their Organising Committee. He congratulated the Australian Test Team on their selection to play in the Trans-Tasman Test Series to be held in Napier, New Zealand in October. The President then thanked Ron Smith, Chair of the Constitutional sub-committee and his committee, for their work on the By-laws. He said work on the Operations Manual is completed, but being a live document, the work is on-going with refinements being made following each Championship. The President also advised that the AMSA is now an Associate Member of Squash Australia. He said Terry Barlow attended their AGM and will report on that. He said Squash Australia has a new CEO in Richard Vaughan, and he is aware of some of AMSA's needs. With sadness he reported on the passing of Ian Smith, a past Masters' player. In conclusion the President expressed his thanks to the work done by Ron Clayton, Ron Smith and Debbie Sims during the year.

5. FINANCE

- 5.1 2014-15 Financial Statements – Minute from the Treasurer dated 28 July 2015 was noted. The Treasurer reported as at 30 June 2015 there was \$13,460 in the bank resulting in a net operating surplus of \$3,962.56 for the year. Income received included \$6,424.00 for affiliation fees, \$2,500 for the License Fee and \$4.89 in interest. In respect of outgoings, the significant items were \$929.50 for a new AMSA banner; \$191.00 incorporation fee which will be a continuing fee of \$36 - \$40 to lodge the financial statements; \$1,329.60 for AMSA visit to Bathurst 2014 and attendance at social functions. The Treasurer said Victoria is the only State with outstanding affiliation fees.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Martin) that the 2014-15 Financial statements be accepted.

- 5.2 Budget Proposals for Financial years 2015-16 to 2017-18 – Minute from the Treasurer dated 28 July 2015 was noted. The Treasurer said from 2015-16 there are three sources of revenue: License Fee, Affiliation Fees and the Interstate Team Series fees.

In respect of the License Fee, the Treasurer said it was resolved at the AGM in 2014 that the License fee be increased by \$500 for the 2014-15 financial year and increased by the CPI each year thereafter. He said the License fee currently stands at \$3,000.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Minchin) that the License Fee for 2016 be increased by the CPI (1.5%), which will take it to \$3,045.

In respect of the Affiliation Fees the Treasurer said he had asked states and territories to provide him with a list of their financial members which he then compared with the AMSA rankings list of members who have played in a Masters' sanctioned tournament. He noted that you cannot play in an AMSA tournament unless you are a financial member of a state association. He said the figure used to calculate the affiliation fee is the higher of the two figures. He said the 2014-15 fees were based on that assumption and based on the Minutes of the 1991 AGM. Ms Dorricott said in the 1991 Minutes it was only a statement, not a resolution. She said Queensland does not believe it should be paying for everyone who plays in a tournament. She said Queensland is happy to pay for those playing in a Masters tournament. She said Queensland is currently paying for people who are not eligible, such as juniors (Junior/Master tournaments). Ms Dorricott said Queensland has tournaments in outlying areas to encourage players. 22 tournaments are held per year and the QMSA does not charge players to participate.

Mr Best said before 1991, it was \$2 per financial member and visitors to the tournament would attract \$2 fee each time they played. He said NSW charges a higher fee for visitors to a tournament but do have reciprocal rights with other states/territories.

Ms Morgan said Victoria was unaware of the basis on which the Treasurer calculated the affiliation fees and believed it was incorrect. In response the Treasurer said he had asked the states and territories specifically to provide a list of their members. He said he simply used the rankings list to check. He said South Australia has 5 people at the tournament but have 250 registered masters squash players. He said the rankings list would not be close to that and thus accepted South Australia's list of members. He said in the ACT, participants are charged \$10 to play in its tournament, \$4 of which goes to the AMSA.

Ms Dorricott said she did not accept that Queensland should have to pay for people in local centres. She said the list of players sent to Ron Clayton included some juniors. She said QMSA is trying to promote squash.

The Treasurer said the meeting needs to determine the criteria to be used to set the affiliation fees and then appropriate adjustments will be made. He said Victoria have approximately 280 people. Anyone who plays in the Masters Championships has to be a financial member. Mr Irwin said, for example, if you pay a membership fee to the VMSA, then that person is a member and the VMSA should pay the AMSA affiliation fee for that member.

Mr Clayton said the names in his rankings list are as per those given to him by the states and territories and was not aware that some may not be eligible Masters players. Following further general discussion it was **resolved**:

1. At 30 June each year each state/territory to provide a list of all financial Masters members (Smith/Dorricott);

2. Anyone who plays in a sanctioned Masters Tournament will pay an appropriate fee (Smith/Scott)

The Treasurer said he will send out invoices based on the above resolutions.

It was further **resolved** (Smith/Martin) that the AMSA affiliation fee will remain at \$4 per member.

In respect of the Interstate Teams Series, the Treasurer said it was resolved at the 2014 AGM that the Team Series fee be increased to \$180 per team with AMSA to receive \$10 to cover administration costs in running the Teams Series.

It was **resolved** (Scott/Weir) that the Interstate Teams Series fees remain at \$180 per team with \$10 going to the AMSA to cover administration costs for the 2015-16 financial year.

The Treasurer said the President had submitted a claim for expenses of \$4,958, covering a 3 year period. He said normally expenses claims should be submitted in the year it related to.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Weir) to reimburse the President for out of pocket expenses over the three year period as submitted.

It was further **resolved** (Smith/Minchin) that the 2015-16 budget with amendments as discussed be accepted.

- 5.3 AMSA Affiliation Fees - QMSA would like to query the method of establishing numbers for the payment of the AMSA Levy – see item 5.2 above.
- 5.4 Appointment of an Auditor for 2015-16

It was **resolved** (Smith/Dorricott) that Mr Nicholas Smith, Chartered Accountant, be appointed as Auditor for 2015-16. The Treasurer disclosed that Nicholas Smith was his son.

6. SQUASH AUSTRALIA DELEGATE'S REPORT

- 6.1 Mr Barlow reported on Squash Australia's AGM which he attended. He said the AMSA request to be an Associate Member of Squash Australia was approved unanimously. He said there is a new CEO in Richard Vaughan, following the resignation of Garry O'Donnell during the year. He said Richard Vaughan comes through administration in Badminton. He said the new CEO is keen to talk to Masters. In addition, he said Squash Australia is changing their accounting structure in the year. They plan to hold 2 AGMs this year, with the next one in November.

Doug Minchin said he had met with Richard Vaughan about 3 weeks' ago in WA. He said he was very positive and believed Masters had a role to play and was keen to liaise with Masters. The AMSA will be able to have a page on Squash Australia's website. He said one of the new Board Members of Squash Australia is

Dale Robbins who will make a very positive contribution to Squash Australia and a good link to the AMSA.

7. **ELECTION OF AMSA SECRETARY for 2015-2017** (following the resignation of Debbie Sims):

- 7.1 Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 4 August 2015 advising of her resignation from the position of Secretary was noted. There was one nomination received – Michelle Rowles (Victoria). There being no further nominations, Ms Rowles was elected unopposed.

8. **MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENTS**

8.1 **2016 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, DARWIN, NT**

Presentation by NT Masters Squash - Mr Weir said the new sports centre has 12 squash courts designed in 4 pods of 3 courts each. He said the venue is close to the airport and accommodation. He said there is a lot of accommodation in the city centre and at Nightcliffe. The Championships will be run in the first 2 weeks of September (5-17 September). Mr Weir said he is proposing to run a doubles tournament during the middle weekend, providing there is sufficient interest. He said NT Masters will not be able to have access to the Robertson Barracks courts for the Interstate Teams week, so matches will be held at night, some starting at 9.00 pm.

In respect of the functions, the Welcome will be held at Parliament House (to be confirmed); the VIP function will be held either at Government House or the Atrium; Other social venues include Fannie Bay Gaol, Darwin Golf Club and Crocodilis Park. Mr Weir said rather than Wrinkly's the NT proposes to hold a theme night. The Interstate Teams Dinner Dance to be held at the Casino (to be confirmed).

Mr Weir said sponsorship is coming from the NT Government and also Squash NT. He noted that court hire is more expensive, but NT Masters will get 50% of the Bar. He also noted that the AMSA had approved a request that the entry fee be increased from \$65 to \$70.

8.2 **AMSA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR**

Confirmation of calendar as agreed at 2004 General Meeting:

2016	Northern Territory
2017	Victoria
2018	Tasmania
2019	Queensland
2020	South Australia
2021	New South Wales
2022	Australian Capital Territory
2023	Western Australia
2024	Northern Territory
2025	Victoria

8.3 **INTERNATIONAL SQUASH TOURNAMENTS**

10 October 2015 – World Squash Day
12-15 October 2015 – Trans-Tasman Test Series, Napier, New Zealand
16-18 October 2015 - NZ National Masters Individuals Championships

9-13 November 2015 – Norfolk Island Masters Tournament

23-30 September 2016 – World Masters Squash Championships – Johannesburg, South Africa

World Masters Games – 21-30 April 2017

8.4 **2015 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, PERTH, WA**

- Interim review from WA Organising Committee – Mr Minchin reported that overall he was pleased about how everything is progressing and would value any feedback. He said numbers have been good with a total of 515 participants overall. He noted that there had been issues with the cost of the functions resulting in lower than expected numbers to the functions with only 185 attending the Wrinklys and only 4 acts – thus not a lot of support this year. He said as the numbers did not reach 200, WA will incur a \$1,000 penalty.

9. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 9.1 Judith Goadby Award Selection Protocol – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 22 July 2015 refers. Ms Dorricott said she did not know the protocol and felt the whole process was rather vague and there appeared to be no accountability. In response, the President said normally the Secretariat has a list of the nominees and he would use the state bodies who are not conflicted to make a decision. This year it was changed to the Executive making the decision via a telephone hookup. Ms Dorricott said the process should be more open and states should know who has been nominated. Ms Morgan suggested that a list of the nominees be given to state representatives to read their profile and give a preferential vote. The President said it would then have to be voted on at least a week prior to the Championships.

Following further discussion it was **resolved** (Scott/Barnden) that:

- Nominations to be circulated to each state/territory a week prior to the commencement of the Championships;
- each state President (or their nominee) vote on behalf of their state for the Judith Goadby Award using a preferential voting system (1, 2, 3);
- the AMSA President to have a casting vote should be ballot be deadlocked;
- the votes to be collated by the Secretary;
- the President to announce the winner at the dinner dance.

The President said with the creation of the Peter Wright OAM Award for services to Masters Squash, the Judith Goadby Award will revert back to its original criteria, reflecting that Judith was a lower grade player. The Peter Wright OAM Award will be open to all levels of play. The recipient of this Award will be decided by Mr Wright.

- 9.2 Trans-Tasman Representative Players – Minute from Robert Scott, President NSWMSA dated 30 July 2015 refers. It was the view of Mr Scott that as the Australian Test Team is selected on the basis that they are current Australian Champions, and as such they should be recognized by Government as an Australian representative and therefore supported financially by Squash Australia and the Commonwealth Government. It was

agreed to have further discussions about seeking external funding and perhaps setting up a sub-committee to canvas sponsorship for the Test Team.

- 9.3 AMSA Office Bearers & Committee Members 2014-15 was noted. The Treasurer asked that a list of the state Treasurers be included in the list of Office Bearers. This was agreed to.
- 9.4 Squash Australia Appoints New CEO – Press Release dated 4 June 2015 was noted.
- 9.5 Wrinkly's Revue – Mr Minchin said that perhaps the time has come to have a rethink about the viability of having a Wrinkly's Revue. It was noted numbers attending had been trending down for some time. Mr Barnden said he would still like to have a social night, but would prefer a night at a pub. He said people would prefer a cheaper night out. It was agreed to leave the decision with NT for next year.
- 9.6 Individual Championships – The Treasurer said he would like the states to consider whether AMSA should be responsible for running the Individual Championships with the establishment of a sub-committee to do the draw. In response to Ms Dorricott's comment as to whether it is National Titles or a social tournament, the President said the majority of participants are 2nd and 3rd division players who don't want to play the Open events and want to play people at their own level. It was agreed to revisit the issue later in the year.

10. STATE REPORTS

- a) Australian Capital Territory was noted.
- b) New South Wales was noted
- c) Northern Territory – not available
- d) Queensland was noted
- e) South Australia – not available
- f) Tasmania was noted
- g) Victoria was noted
- h) Western Australia was noted

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Squash Australia Annual Awards

The Treasurer said Squash Australia is seeking ways to increase the exposure through marketing and promotional opportunities for sponsors who affiliate themselves with the annual awards. He said proposed sponsorship for Squash Australia could be quid pro quo for the Trans-Tasman Test Series – the cost of which is \$1,750. Mr Scott said that was reasonable and it would ideal if the AMSA could get funding for the Trans-Tasman Test Series as the players are representing Australia.

Mr Minchin said in discussions with the CEO, Richard Vaughan, the funding for Squash Australia has been cut in half and chances of getting any money is remote. If seeking funding for the Trans-Tasman Test Series, it would be better to look at state bodies or externally. Another source of funding would be corporate funding. Mr Best said funding for Squash Australia has dropped by \$2 million and it is up to the CEO to get the

number of participants up to drive any funding. The Treasurer said the AMSA could try for government funding or corporate funding.

11.2 Replacement of Australian Team Uniform and Tracksuits

The Treasurer said he has put forward a proposal to replace the Trans-Tasman Test Series representative uniform and tracksuits for 2017 (date to be held in Australia). Mr Irwin said the same uniform and tracksuit design has been used for the past 22 years and it is time to update them. Mr Scott suggested leaving the matter on the Agenda for discussion at the 2016 AGM. Hopefully by then the AMSA will have a further funding source.

11.3 Funding

The Treasurer said he proposed to approach Squash Australia and the Government to see what sources of funding are available. Also approach Inform Connection for sponsorship. He said any other source of funding will take the pressure off the States to support their representative players. Mr Morsch recommended approaching Inform Connection for the rights to merchandising at the annual Australian Masters Squash Championships.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.