



# A.M.S.A.

## Australian Masters Squash Association Inc.

PATRONS  
Heather McKay Geoff Hunt

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of the AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION  
held on Monday, 12 September 2016 at the Darwin Squash Centre commencing at 6.08 pm

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### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The meeting opened at 6.08pm. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Present:** Peter Wright (President)  
Doug Minchin (Vice-President)  
Ron Smith (Treasurer)  
Michelle Rowles (Secretary)

Scott Caban (ACT)  
Robert Scott (NSW)  
Richard Weir (NT)  
Andrew Sosimenko (Qld)  
Jillian Morsch (Vic)  
Gaye Mitchell (Tas)  
John Wood (SA)  
Ed Jennings (WA)

Terry Barlow (Squash Australia Delegate)

**Observers:** Richard Best (NSW)  
Sandra Fogarty (Tas)  
Christine Goodman (Qld)  
Michelle Griffiths (NT)  
Garry Irwin (NSW & Life Member)  
Helena Morgan (Vic)  
Linda McBrierty (WA)  
Gerard McNally (NT)  
Darren O'Neill (Vic)  
Paula Smith (NSW)  
Annette Wood (SA)

**Apologies:** Heather McKay and Geoff Hunt (Patrons), Ron Clayton (Registrar)

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015, Perth WA were noted. It was **resolved** (Weir/Barlow) that the Minutes be approved.

- 2.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee Teleconference meeting held 14 July 2016 were noted. It was **resolved** (Smith/Minchin) that the Minutes be approved.

- 2.3 Minutes of the Executive Committee Teleconference meeting held 9 August 2016 were noted. It was **resolved** (Smith/Minchin) that the Minutes be approved.

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil to report

### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 4.1 The President's report for 2015-16 was noted.  
The President congratulated Richard Weir and his organising committee on putting on a fantastic tournament here in Darwin.  
The President advised that Ron Clayton has retired as Registrar and Selector and acknowledged the wonderful contribution that Ron has made and that he will be sorely missed as a member of the AMSA Executive. He advised that Ron is willing to help out wherever he can.  
The Trans Tasman Test Series will be played in Victoria next year and will be calling for expressions of interest for the position of Australian Team Manager in October with a view to appointing someone by December.  
The President also congratulated Doug Minchin on his recent appointment as a non-executive director of the Squash Australia Board.  
The President acknowledged the passing of three Masters' stalwart players, Elwyn Griffiths (NSW), Brian McKay (ACT husband of Heather) and Jim Archindoulous (SA).  
The President acknowledged Heather McKay and Geoff Hunt as our Patrons.  
In conclusion, the President expressed his thanks to the Executive Committee and Debbie Sims and Shane Thorpe for their work and support over the past 12 months.

### 5. FINANCE

- 5.1 2015-16 Financial Statements – Minute from the Treasurer dated 20 July 2016 was noted.  
The Treasurer reported as at 30 June 2016 there was \$9,439.66 in the bank resulting in a net operating deficit of \$4,020.72 for the year. The loss was solely attributed to the Trans Tasman test held in New Zealand in late 2015.

Mr Smith advised that the Audit Report was omitted from the AGM reports distributed prior to the meeting and tabled the report at the meeting

It was **resolved** (Smith/Caban) that the 2015-16 Financial statements be accepted.

- 5.2 Budget Proposals for Financial years 2016-17 to 2018-19 – Minute from the Treasurer dated 20 July 2016 was noted.

#### Revenue

The Treasurer said currently there are three sources of revenue: License Fee, Affiliation Fees and the Interstate Team Series fees.

**Licence Fee**

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 is currently \$3,045.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Sosimenko) that the License Fee for 2016 be increased by the CPI (1.3%), which will take it to \$3,085 for the 2017 Australian Masters Squash Championships to be held in Ballarat Victoria.

**Affiliation Fees**

The current affiliation fee is \$4 and is based on information supplied by Member State/Territories. It was agreed at the 2015 AGM that this fee will remain at \$4.

At the 2015 AGM it was agreed that the States/Territories provide the Treasurer with the list of all financial Master members as at 30 June of the year leading up to the AGM. The list was to include anyone who plays a sanctioned Masters tournament. This would form the basis for invoicing affiliation fees and appropriate adjustments could be made in one on one discussions with the Treasurer.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Jennings) that the AMSA affiliation fee will remain at \$4 per member for the 2016/17 financial year and all State Treasurers to advise the number of financial members as at 30 June 2016.

**Interstate Teams Fees**

At the 2015 AGM it was agreed that the Interstate Team Series fees remain at \$180 per team with AMSA receiving \$10 per team to cover administration costs and the balance to be paid to the host State by the AMSA Treasurer. The budget figure is based on 100 teams.

It was **resolved** (Scott/Jennings) that the Interstate Teams Series fees remain at \$180 per team with \$10 going to the AMSA to cover administration costs for the 2016/17 financial year.

**Alternate Sources of Revenue****Individual Championships**

At the AGM last year, the Treasurer raised the question of whether AMSA should be responsible for preparing the draw for the Individual Championships. It was agreed to revisit the issue later in the year.

Currently the Operations Manual provides that the Host State Management Committee is responsible for the draws/days of play/match schedule. However a list of entrants by gender, age, open and graded divisions are to be forwarded to the AMSA President, Registrar and Selectors (if necessary) for approval and fine tuning and ranking in consultation with the Tournament Director for the Individual Championships

This year the Individuals draw was prepared by AMSA Executive in consultation with the Host State and the States received a draft draw prior to it being published for review and comment.

Mr Scott requested that all states continue to receive the draft draw for review in future years.

Mr Scott also suggested that AMSA should look at ways to better manage the costs associated with the Trans Tasman Test by way of sponsorship rather than charging a \$5 fee per individual for the AMSA to manage the Individual Draws.

The President advised that he is currently working with Victorian Tourism regarding sponsorship for the Trans Tasman Series in Ballarat next year but also highlighted the issue of ongoing funding for future years.

Mr Barlow suggested that AMSA should consider other ways to support the Trans Tasman series outside of membership fees. He also noted that the budget figure for the Interstate Teams Fees payable to AMSA were very conservative and would more than likely be higher than 100 teams, which would generate additional income for AMSA.

Ms Mitchell advised that she likes that the states do the individuals draw and then for AMSA to oversee it. She also acknowledged that currently there is an experienced AMSA Executive but this may not be the case in future years as the Executive changes.

The President advised that over the last 4 years, the compilation of the individual draws was very challenging for the Host States and that they were not always constructed in line with the Operations Manual. This has resulted in numerous queries and complaints. The AMSA Executive are abreast of the requirements of the Operations Manual and this year the President did not receive one email or phone call regarding the draws.

Mr Scott suggested that there should be a small committee that does the individual draw. Mr Minchin suggested that the host state be included in the tournament draw

Mr Smith advised that there was a small committee consisting of himself, the President, the Registrar, Helena Morgan and Garry Irwin as well as Gerard McNally, the Tournament Director from NT. He advised that these people were selected that they were experienced in doing draws and he worked closely to Gerard McNally in a consultative manner. The States and the Tournament Director have the final sign off.

Refer item 9.3 for resolution.

### **Sponsorship**

At last year's AGM the NSW President put forward a view that the Australian Test team (current Australian champions) should be recognized by Government as an Australian representative and therefore supported financially by Squash Australian and the Commonwealth Government. It was agreed to have further discussions about seeking external funding and perhaps setting up a sub-committee to canvass funding for the Test Teams.

Mr Jennings advised that this is an important function and the Vice-president should take responsibility for this important task.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Scott) to set up a small sub-committee of State representatives (who have a vested interest in this) including members of the AMSA Executive to seek Government and other sponsorship funding opportunities to help support the test players.

## Other

### Expenditure

#### **Squash Australia Annual Awards Sponsorship**

Since 2004 Squash Australia has presented national annual awards in recognition of the support and effort of many dedicated personnel within the squash community. The awards acknowledge the preparation and conduct of squash operations and tournaments as well as the accomplishment and dedication to the sport by athletes and include senior athlete of the year, Volunteer of the year and distinguished Service Award.

Squash Australia are seeking ways to increase the exposure through marketing and promotional opportunities for sponsors who affiliate themselves with the awards.

At the 2015 AGM, we had a discussion around the opportunity to seek reciprocal support from Squash Australia to support the AMSA national championships and the many State tournaments for a like amount. The outcome of that discussion was that it was highly unlikely we would get support from Squash Australia as they were very short of funds.

Subsequently an amount of \$1,750 per annum was included in the out years of the rolling budget with a further discussion to take place at this year's AGM.

The projected expenditure of \$1,750 per annum would mean that without offset funding AMSA would have very limited funds available to meet its obligations by the end of the financial year 2018/19.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Jennings) that AMSA would not proceed with sponsorship of Squash Australia Annual Awards.

#### **Replacement of Uniforms for the Trans Tasman Test 2017**

The budget for the 2016/17 includes expenditure of approximately \$4,500 to modernise and replace the existing Australian uniform for the Trans Tasman Test Series.

It was suggested that AMSA approach a clothing manufacturer to support the Trans Tasman Team and possibly give them rights to provide clothing for future championships during the life of the sponsorship arrangement.

Mr Scott advised that each state is responsible for looking after its own merchandise for the Championships.

Mr Barlow agreed and advised that each state has the right to do a deal with their own merchandising contract. To enter into this type of arrangement would limit the negotiation opportunities of the states. He also suggested that the Trans Tasman Test Uniform does not need to be exclusive to the Test Players and that it could become an AMSA uniform that anyone can wear.

### 2016/17 Budget

Mr Smith presented the 2016/17 budget

It was **resolved** (Smith/Caban) that the budget for 2016/17 be approved

#### 5.3 Appointment of an Auditor for 2015-16

It was **resolved** (Smith/Jennings) that Mr Nicholas Smith, Chartered Accountant, be appointed as Auditor for 2016/17.

### 6. SQUASH AUSTRALIA DELEGATE'S REPORT

6.1 Mr Barlow reported on Squash Australia's AGM in October 2015. There are two new members on the Squash Australia Board. He also advised that Squash Australia have engaged independent consultants to prepare a detailed report which covers many areas and is looking forward to receiving their final report. He also advised that Squash Australia have increased their communication and there was great coverage via Fox Sports of the recent championships in Hong Kong.

Mr Minchin advised that the Squash Australian website has been overhauled and now contains a lot more information. He also advised that he was impressed with the new team including the new Board Members who are trying to develop squash in Australian and are working closely with the Government.

It was **resolved** (Barlow/Scott) that the Squash Australia Delegates Report be accepted.

### 7. ELECTION OF AMSA OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2016-2018

The current positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer have completed their 2 year term. These positions are declared vacant up and available for election.

#### 7.1 President

There was one nomination received - Peter Wright – nominated by Western Australia. There being no further nominations, Mr Wright was elected unopposed.

#### 7.2 Vice-President

There were 2 nominations received

- Terry Barlow – nominated by Victoria
- Doug Minchin – nominated by Western Australia

A ballot was conducted and Mr Barlow was elected.

#### 7.3 Treasurer

There was one nomination received – Ron Smith – nominated by ACT. There being no further nominations, Mr Smith was elected unopposed.

#### 7.4 Registrar

There was one nomination received – Garry Irwin – nominated by Western Australia. There being no further nominations, Mr Irwin was elected unopposed.

#### 7.5 Selectors

There were two nominations received

Terry Barlow – nominated by Victoria  
Jason Davies – nominated by New South Wales  
Ron Smith – nominated by ACT  
Michael Brown – nominated by Tasmania.

As insufficient nominations were received, nominations were also received from the floor from:

Andrew Sosimenko – nominated by Queensland  
Doug Minchin – nominated by Western Australia

On the basis that ACT do not have any players eligible to play in the Trans Tasman Test, Mr Smith withdrew his nomination. Therefore, the Selectors are:

Terry Barlow (Victoria)  
Jason Davies (New South Wales)  
Michael Brown (Tasmania)  
Andrew Sosimenko (Queensland) and  
Doug Minchin (Western Australia).

## **8. MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENTS**

### **8.1 2017 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, BALLARAT VIC**

Presentation by VMSA – Mr Barlow thanked Mark Thurkle for putting together the DVD for Ballarat 2017. The DVD was presented to the AGM.

VMSA has conducted a tournament in Ballarat for many years attracting around 280 at its peak with current numbers of approximately 200. He advised that Ballarat will be a great place to host the Australian Masters Squash Championships next year.

The Ballarat Squash Centre at Wendouree has 12 courts. There are 4 courts at a school just 10 minutes from the Wendouree courts that will be utilised for the teams. There will be a shuttle bus running between the courts.

There is a great bus service which operates from the airport to Ballarat as well as a train service from Melbourne.

All the major functions have been booked and the theme night will be an iconic show in Ballarat called the Blood on the Southern Cross.

Mr Barlow advised that all plans are on track and the Committee are working hard to ensure that the tournament will be a great experience for the players.

### **8.2 AMSA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR**

The AMSA Tournament Calendar was agreed as follows noting that 2022 will held in Western Australia and 2023 will be held in Australian Capital Territory

2017	Victoria
2018	Tasmania
2019	Queensland

2020	South Australia
2021	New South Wales
2022	Western Australia
2023	Australian Capital Territory
2024	Northern Territory
2025	Victoria
2026	Tasmania

### 8.3 **INTERNATIONAL SQUASH TOURNAMENTS**

The following international squash tournaments were noted:

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

7-9 October 2016 – NZ National Masers Individuals, Otago

28-30 October 2016 – Belgium Masters Brugge, Belgium

7-11 November 2016 – Norfolk Island Masters

9-11 December 2016 – Welsh Masters, Cardiff, Wales

21-30 April 2017 – World Masters Games, Auckland, New Zealand

4-15 September 2017 – Australian Masters Squash Championships, Ballarat, Victoria

29 July – 4 August 2018 – WSF World Masters, Virginia USA

World masters in 2020 – The President advised that he has received an email from Squash Australia – could be a change of venue if it progresses.

Mr Scott advised that NSW discussed matter at their AGM last year and agreed to put together a business plan with further discussions to take place in the future.

Mr Weir advised that the President NT Squash is very interested in hosting the event in NT

### 8.4 **2016 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS – DARWIN NT**

Interim review from NTMSA Organising Committee

Mr Weir advised that the Individuals went very well. The courts have been very full all day and this week will see people playing during the evenings as well.

He advised that the Welcome function and the Individual Dinner Dance both went very well. However, some people booked for the Individual Dinner Dance and did not pay. This issue is still being addressed this week.

Mr Weir also raised that there had been some despairingly comments in regard to one of their players, John Goodchild. He felt that their comments were not fair on John or the Committee and was very disappointed that that has happened.

The numbers for the events have been excellent

- Individuals Dinner Dance – expected 180 – 240 attended
- Territory Night have over 240 attending
- Teams Dinner Dance – expected 360 – looks like figures of over 400 will attend.

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1 Life Membership – Ron Clayton – Minute from the AMSA President dated 5 August 2016  
The President nominated Ron Clayton for Life Membership of the AMSA in recognition of his significant contribution to Masters Squash.

It was resolved (Wright/Scott) that Life Membership is conferred upon Ron Clayton in recognition of his significant contribution to Masters Squash  
Carried

The President will attend the WA tournament in March 2017 in Busselton to make a formal presentation to Ron Clayton. It was confirmed that the presentation will be videoed and loaded onto the AMSA website.

- 9.2 Trans-Tasman Test Series – Amendments to eligibility criteria for the Team Manager and the Test Team – Minute from the AMSA President dated 5 August 2016

Mr Barlow asked if the Selection Committee would be involved in the selection of the Australian Team Manager.

The President confirmed that the Selection Committee would be involved in the selection of the Australian Team Manager.

Suggested amendments to the eligibility criteria for the Team Manager and the Test Team were presented.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Barlow) that:

- The amended eligibility criteria and duty statement for the Australian Trans Tasman Test Team Manager is accepted,
- The eligibility criteria for the Australian Trans Test Team is amended as tabled,
- Selection of a Team Test Squad will occur as tabled, and
- The Selection Committee will be involved in the selection of the Australian Trans Tasman Test Team Manager

- 9.3 Operations Manual – Proposed Amendments to the Operations Manual – Minute from the AMSA President dated 5 August 2016

### **Individual Championship Event**

Refer Item 5.2

It was **resolved** (Smith/Wood) that the Individual Championship Event draws be managed by AMSA in consultation with the Host State Tournament Director. AMSA will establish a Committee to construct the Individual Championships Event draw in line with the guidelines of the Operations Manual. The States will be provided with a copy of the draft draw for review and final sign off will be by the Host State Tournament Director.

It was noted that the Operations Manual is to be updated to reflect this change.

### **Individual Championship Eligibility Criteria**

This year a number of entries have been received from players who are not a financial member of a state or territory or country Masters Squash Association. The Conditions of Entry clear state that the "Individual Championships are open to all competitors 35 years and over who are current financial members of a registered Masters Squash Association in a state/territory/country. Unfortunately the wording is not repeated on the official Entry Form which has led to players entering without reading the Conditions of Entry.

It was **resolved** (Scott/Wood) that the official entry form be amended to include the following statement:

The Individual Championships are open to all competitors 35 years and over who are current financial members of a registered Masters Squash Association in a state/territory/country.

It was noted that the Operations Manual be updated to reflect this change.

### **Wrinkly's Revue**

It was **resolved** (Scott/Wood) that it be left to the individual state/territory as to the type of midweek function to be held with the approval of the AMSA.

It was noted that the Operations Manual be updated to reflect this change.

- 9.4 Appointment to the Board of Squash Australia – Doug Minchin – press release from Squash Australia and letter of congratulations from the AMSA dated 26 July 2016 was noted.
- 9.5 AMSA Office Bearers & Committee Members 2015-16 was noted.  
The Treasurer asked that a list of the state Treasurers be included in the list of Office Bearers.

## **10. STATE REPORTS**

- a) Australian Capital Territory was noted  
Membership numbers have been dropping since 2011. Not sure what we can do and will discuss with other states any strategies we can implement.
- b) New South Wales was noted  
This year NSW utilised a different way of putting together the State titles, including a free top for all players. Numbers increased from 158 to 195 this year.
- c) Northern Territory was noted  
Anzac day tournament numbers were down this year. This was expected due to the Australian Masters Squash Championships being held in Darwin this year.
- d) Queensland was noted  
They are to increase participation levels and will conduct surveys to see what their members want.
- e) South Australia was noted  
SA paid off their squash centre this year. They are now considering adding additional courts. They were also very happy with the increased numbers travelling to Darwin this year.

- f) Tasmania – not available  
Tasmania are experiencing low membership but it has remained steady. Squash in Tasmania is struggling overall.
- g) Victoria was noted  
Membership has remained constant and the Committee are heavily involved in organising the Australian Masters Championships in Ballarat next year.  
Jill Morsch received Life Membership at the recent AGM.
- h) Western Australia was noted  
The State Masters 35/40 and 45/50 had 8 men in each section for the first time this year.  
It looks like Busselton will close next year.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 11.1 World Masters Squash Championships

AMSA have donated 2 perpetual trophies for the World Masters Squash Championships.

Mr Best asked who had these perpetual trophies been awarded to in Hong Kong.

It was agreed that the details of the awards be included in future President's report and on the website.

### 11.2 Election of AMSA Executive Office Bearers

Mr Barlow raised the matter of the need for the election of AMSA Office Bearers to be staggered ie one year should be the election of President, Treasurer and Registrar and the other year should be the election of the Vice-President and Secretary. To bring this into line, Mr Barlow suggested that the current term of Vic-President be for one year.

It was **resolved** (Barlow/Caban) that the current term of Vice-President be for one year.

It is noted that the Constitution is to be updated to reflect the staggered election of President, Treasurer and Registrar in one year and Vic-President and Secretary in the next year.

### 11.3 Trans Tasman Test Series Inclusion of Over 65 Age Group

Mr Minchin suggested that the Trans Tasman Test Series be extended to include the Over 65 age group.

It was agreed that AMSA would approach New Zealand to see if they were agreeable for this to occur.

### 11.4 Peter Wright OAM Award

The President advised that the award was awarded to Brian Cook this year and was presented to Brian at the Individuals Dinner Dance last Friday night.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

### Addendum

Richard Best received the Judith Goadby Memorial Award this year. It was announced at the Teams Dinner Dance on Friday 16 September 2016.

