



A.M.S.A.
Australian Masters Squash Association Inc.
PATRONS
Heather McKay Geoff Hunt

MINUTES OF THE FORTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION INC.
to be held on **Monday 17 October 2022**
at Karadinga Sports Centre, 576 Montague Road, Modbury North SA
commencing at 6.00pm

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The meeting opened at 6.19pm. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Peter Wright (President/Life Member)
Terry Barlow (Vice-President)
Ron Smith (Treasurer)
Michelle Rowles (Secretary)
Garry Irwin (Registrar/Life Member)
Julie Medway (ACT)
Davina Harding (NSW)
Wendy Beard (NT)
Helen Watkins (QLD)
John Wood (SA)
Garry Hulme (TAS)
Lou Morsch (VIC)
Roger Campbell (WA)
Doug Minchin (Squash Australia Delegate) (Non-Voting Member)

Observers: Terry Brookes (WA)
Andrew Elliott (QLD)
Dianne Elliott (NSW)
Ed Jennings (WA)
Andrew Koerbin (TAS)
Linda McBriety (WA)
Darren O'Neill (VIC)
Robert Scott (NSW)
Irene Taylor (VIC)
Greg Thompson (NT)
Annette Wood (SA)

Apologies: Heather McKay and Geoff Hunt (Patrons)
Ron Clayton (Life Member)
Gerard McNally (Webmaster)
Richard Best (NSW)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 2.1 Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5 October 2021 via Zoom were noted.
It was **resolved** (Barlow/Morsch VIC) that the Minutes be approved.
- 2.2 Minutes of the AMSA Executive Committee held on 12 October 2021 were noted.
It was **resolved** (Barlow/Morsch VIC) that the Minutes be approved.
- 2.3 Minutes of the AMSA Executive Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2022 were noted.
It was **resolved** (Barlow/Morsch VIC) that the Minutes be approved.
- 2.4 Minutes of the AMSA Executive Committee held on 29 March 2022 were noted.
It was **resolved** (Barlow/Morsch VIC) that the Minutes be approved.
- 2.5 Minutes of the AMSA Executive Committee held on 6 September 2022 were noted.
It was **resolved** (Barlow/Morsch VIC) that the Minutes be approved.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 4.1 **The President's Report for 2021/22 was noted.**

It was **resolved** (Hulme TAS/Harding NSW) that the President's Report for 2021/22 be approved.

5. FINANCE

5.1 2021/22 Financial Statements

Mr Smith reported that the operating profit for the year was \$2,840.41 (in 2020/21 a profit of \$14,210.48 was reported).

At the 30 June 2022 there were 1,582 members affiliated with AMSA. This resulted in AMSA receiving \$6,328 from the States/Territories with all member States/Territories fully paid up.

It was resolved (Campbell WA/Watkins QLD) that the 2021/22 Financial statements be accepted.

5.2 Budget Proposals for Financial Years 2022/23 to 2024/25

Mr Smith presented the budget proposals for the financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25

Revenue

Mr Smith advised that there are four primary sources of revenue: License Fee, Affiliation Fees, Interstate Team Series fees and Website.

1. Licence fee

It was **resolved** (Smith/Hulme TAS) that as the 2021 Championships were once again postponed by the COVID outbreak, the Licence Fee for the 2022 Championships remain at \$3,262, the same amount as previously agreed and the Licence Fee for the 2023 Championships in NSW be set at \$3,581.

2. Affiliation Fees

The current affiliation fee is \$4 and is based on information supplied by member States/Territories.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Watkins QLD) that the AMSA affiliation fee will remain at \$4 per member for the 2022/23 financial year and all State Treasurers are to advise the AMSA Treasurer of the number of financial members in their state as at 30 June 2022 as well as anyone who played a sanctioned Masters tournament during that year.

3. Interstate Teams Fees

Mr Smith advised that some states have requested an invoice and this can be provided if requested.

It was **resolved** (Smith/Campbell WA) that the Interstate Teams Series Fee remain at \$210 per team for 2023 Championships with \$10 being retained by AMSA and \$200 to be paid to the Host State.

4. Development and Maintenance of the AMSA Championship Website

It was **resolved** (Smith/Hulme TAS) that the annual website fee of \$1,600 remain for the Championships to be held in NSW in 2023.

Expenditure

Mr Smith advised that the following items of expenditure are included in the budget:

1. AMSA 40th Anniversary Celebrations – Adelaide 2022

AMSA celebrated its 40th anniversary at the Stamford Grand Horizons Cocktail Lounge on Saturday 15 October 2022. AMSA provided a selection of finger food and beverages. The actual cost was \$8,500.

2. Trans-Tasman Test Series 2023

At the date of preparation of this paper it is not clear whether there will be a TTT series in New Zealand in 2023 or 2024. I have assumed that the series may go ahead and therefore included the costs in the out-year budget for 23/24.

2022/23 Budget

Mr Smith presented the 2022/23 budget.

Mr Elliott asked if the AMSA had sufficient funds going forward if the Trans Tasman was also held next year. Mr Smith advised that there would be sufficient funds to cover another Trans Tasman next year and going forward.

It was **resolved** (Smith/ Harding NSW) that the budget for 2022/23 be approved.

5.3 Appointment of an Auditor for 2022/23

It was **resolved** (Smith/Barlow) that Mr Nicholas Smith, Chartered Accountant, be appointed as Auditor for 2022/23.

5.4 Sponsorship Agreement – Inform Connection Pty Ltd

Ms Rowles advised that Inform Connection have recently made some changes to their business and will no longer be operating their Apparel division. On this basis, the Sponsorship Agreement will end at the end of these Championships.

Mr Wright requested a letter of thanks be sent to Steve and Lisa Walton of Inform Connection thanking them for their support of AMSA and the Trans Tasman over many years.

Ms Rowles advised that the AMSA Executive will be sourcing a new supplier of uniforms for the Australian Trans Tasman Test Team.

6. SQUASH AUSTRALIA DELEGATE'S REPORT

6.1 Mr Minchin provided an update on Squash Australia as detailed in his report.

It was **resolved** (Hulme TAS/Harding NSW) that the Squash Australia Delegates Report be accepted.

Mr Wright thanked Mr Minchin for his work during the year and asked if Mr Minchin would be happy to continue in the role for the next year. Mr Minchin advised that he would be happy to continue.

7. ELECTION OF AMSA OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2022-24

The current positions of President, Treasurer and Registrar have completed their current terms. These positions are declared vacant and available for election.

7.1 President

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

7.2 Treasurer

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

7.3 Registrar

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

8. MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENTS

8.1 2023 Australian Masters Squash Championships, Dural, New South Wales

Ms Harding provided a presentation for the 2023 Australian Masters Squash Championships in Dural, New South Wales.

The following was noted:

- The championships will be held from 4-15 September 2023.
- Currently have 5 sponsors and are working on a further sponsorship.
- Squash Centres will be Dural (12 courts) and Thornleigh (7 courts) . Thornleigh has just had a major upgrade.
- All functions have been booked.
- There is a range of accommodation available within reasonable proximity to the courts.
- A video has been created and Mr Wood was requested to make it available on screens during the teams week. The video will also be uploaded to the AMSA website.

8.2 AMSA Tournament Calendar

The AMSA Tournament Calendar was noted as follows:

2023	New South Wales – 4-15 September
2024	Australian Capital Territory
2025	Western Australia
2026	Victoria
2027	Northern Territory
2028	Tasmania
2029	Queensland
2030	South Australia
2031	Western Australia
2032	New South Wales
2033	Australian Capital Territory

Mr Wright advised that if the next Trans Tasman Test Series is played in New Zealand in 2023, the next Trans Tasman Test Series in Australia would be in 2025. If this is the case, ACT and WA would need to swap to enable the Trans Tasman Test Series to be hosted by WA in 2025. Mr Campbell advised that WA would be happy to host the Trans Tasman Test Series and Mr Smith advised that ACT would be happy to swap. However would need to know very soon if this is the case to allow sufficient time for planning and booking of venues.

Mr Wright advised that New Zealand Board need to meet and discuss and should be able provide a response within the next month.

It was agreed that the AMSA Executive will revert to WA and ACT once the outcome is known and the updated calendar will be communicated to the States.

8.3 International Squash Tournaments

The following international squash tournaments were noted:

2022

- 5-13 Feb – 33rd NZ Masters Games – Dunedin NZ (5-7 Feb)
- 23-30 Apr – 18th Australian Masters Games – Perth WA (Squash dates TBA)
- 13-29 May – 10th World Masters Games – Kansai, Japan (19-28 May – Kyoto)
- 28 July-8 Aug – Commonwealth Games – Birmingham, UK
- 21-27 Aug – 15th World Masters Squash Championships – Wroclaw Poland
- 9-11 Sept – NZ Masters Championships – Wellington NZ (TBC)

1-8 Oct – Alice Springs Masters Games – NT (Squash dates TBA)

2023

TBA – Arafura Masters Games – Darwin NT

12-20 May – Asia Pacific Masters Games – Jeollabuk-do, South Korea
(Squash Dates TBA)

Ms Rowles to send an email to all States requesting tournament dates for 2023. These dates will be listed on the AMSA and Squash Australia websites.

8.4 **2022 Australian Masters Squash Championships Adelaide South Australia Interim Review from the SAMS Organising Committee**

Mr Wood advised that it was good to be able to finally host the championships and was a great opportunity to be able to host the Trans Tasman Test Series.

There were some issues with the Individual Presentations last Friday, however we will have this all fixed for the Teams Presentations this Friday.

Ms Wood advised that there was an issue with a player's ranking and she was unhappy with the way that Mr Wood and others were spoken to by this person.

9. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

9.1 **Age Determination Change Proposal**

QMSA proposed that the determination of age for the championships be calculated as the age you turn in that calendar year (age determined as of 1 January each year). This would make it more efficient for calculating ages and would be consistent no matter when the Championships are held. This year is a good example of how moving the Championships to October can affect player's eligibility in age groups.

Mr Wright advised that the World Masters Squash Championships utilise the age as at the date of the tournament.

QMSA put forward a motion that the determination of age for the championships be calculated as the age you turn in that calendar year (age determined as of 1 January each year). Seconded Beard NT

For 2 Against 11

The motion was lost.

9.2 **Update of Operations Manual**

Mr Smith advised that Version 6 of the Operations Manual incorporated proposed changes to the Operations Manual and he had received feedback from Tasmania requesting some further changes.

It was agreed that these changes would be incorporated and resent out to the States for ratification following the meeting.

9.3 **2026 World Masters Squash Championships**

Mr Irwin advised that the AMSA Executive were considering the possibility of putting in a tender to host the World Masters Squash Championships in 2026. Darwin is considered an attractive location for hosting the championships.

Charlottesville (USA) had 16 courts and 5 courts in another centre and Poland had 32 glass back courts (approximately 17 of these were utilised). Darwin have 12 courts and 2 glass courts could be erected on the basketball courts next to the squash courts. Mr Irwin advised that this would be a sufficient number of courts.

The cost of putting in a tender is approximately \$30k and funding would be procured via a Government grant.

Mr Irwin to investigate and advise the closing date for tenders.

It was **resolved** (Irwin/Hulme TAS) that the AMSA Executive undertake an exploratory feasibility study of hosting the 2026 World Masters Squash Championships.

9.4 AMSA Office Bearers & Committee Members 2021/22

Noted

10. STATE REPORTS

10.1 Australian Capital Territory was noted

10.2 New South Wales was noted

10.3 Northern Territory

Mr Thomson advised that the current President resigned 6 weeks ago. A new President has now been appointed that a full report will be available next year.

10.4 Queensland was noted

10.5 South Australia is now available and will be distributed

10.6 Tasmania was noted

10.7 Victoria was noted

10.8 Western Australia was noted

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Individual Championships Draws

Mr Smith advised there were a number of learnings from these championships and some items were overlooked, including:

- First draft of the draws were not sent to the States.
- Starting times for Monday and Tuesday of 40 mins was too long and as such matches were running too far ahead of time.
- Deficiencies in the disciplinary process.
- The conditions of entry to include a minimum of 3 matches are guaranteed.

There has also been a lot of discussion around the construction of the Individual Championships draws, including:

- Players who may wish to play in the Open event do not get the opportunity to do so.
- Players are put into open events who should not be due to their standard.
- Some players may like to still play in the Individual Championships rather than the teams but would like to play in a graded event based on their standard rather than age. This could be mixed or separated by gender.

It was noted that the World Masters Squash Championships have one event for all age groups and it was questioned given the Worlds and the Australians are prestigious events, whether we should follow the same format.

Mr Barlow advised the Interstate Teams Series format moved from being aged based to a graded event back in 2003 (Gold Coast) which has been a very successful initiative. We need to continually evolve to provide a format to attract as many players as possible.

Ms Harding suggested that as a first step we should conduct a survey to find out what people want. Ms Rowles advised that we have the database of players back to 2018. It was suggested that we could include those who are no longer playing and States could provide details of these people.

It was resolved (Harding NSW/Elliott QLD) that the AMSA Executive undertake a survey of the wider group of squash players (past and present) to gain feedback on their preferences for the format of the Individual Championships.

11.2 Disciplinary Matter – Linda Roberts

Mr Wright advised that Linda Roberts from WA had verbally abused himself, John Wood, Annette Wood and others on a number of occasions during the Individual Championships. Linda was asked to leave the Tournament Control office and refused. In his 40 years of the Australian Masters Squash Championships, Mr Wright had never experienced anything like this.

A Disciplinary Committee was appointed and he thanked them for their time over 2 days to deliberate on the matter. The Disciplinary Committee found Ms Roberts guilty of verbal abuse and the AMSA Executive endorsed the findings of the Disciplinary Committee and also requested an apology to the South Australian Organising Committee.

Mr Wright advised that the response received from Ms Roberts did not specifically include an apology to the South Australian Organising Committee and contained defamatory remarks to him personally and others.

Mr Wright expressed his disappointment regarding the decision of the Executive Committee following the response received from Ms Roberts and the lack of support from the Western Australian Committee.

As a result of this unpleasant situation, Mr Wright advised of his intention to stand down as President following the conclusion of the Championships.

There was discussion about zero tolerance for poor behaviour and concerns were raised regarding the defamatory nature of Ms Roberts response and the need for it to be investigated. The Disciplinary Procedures of the AMSA need to be reviewed to ensure that procedures are in place to address any issues in the future.

It was **resolved** (Elliott QLD/Beard NT) to seek legal opinion in relation to the alleged defamatory comments made by Ms Roberts.
For 7 Against 1 (WA)
Note voting was only taken from States and Territories

The meeting closed at 8:31pm.

Addendum

Item 11.2

In discussion with the AMSA Executive, Mr Wright advised that he will be continuing as President of the AMSA. The AMSA Executive fully supports Mr Wright's decision.

In discussion with the AMSA Executive, Mr Wright does not wish to take any further action in relation to the motion moved by QLD seconded by NT in the best interests of AMSA and its members.