



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

Minutes of the **TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
of the AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION
held at **Moorabbin Squash Centre**
on **Monday 14th SEPTEMBER 2009** at 6.30 pm

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** The meeting opened at 6.40 pm. The President welcomed everyone to the AGM, in particular John Holland (President, Squash Australia).

Present: Peter Wright (President)
Garry Irwin (Treasurer)
Debbie Sims (Secretary)

Phil Kowalick (ACT)
Dick Best (New South Wales)
Richard Weir (Northern Territory)
Brian Cook (Queensland)
John Holland (South Australia)
Rose Searle (Tasmania)
Terry Barlow (Victoria)
Alison Williams (Western Australia)

Observers: Robert Scott (NSW)
Marisa Zavattaro (Qld)
Ron Clayton (WA)
Ross Barnden (Tas)
Sandra Fogarty (Tas)
Kathy Paterson (Qld)
Helena Morgan (Vic)
Michelle Griffith (NT)
Linda McBriety (Vic)
Shane Thorpe (Vic)

Apologies: Heather McKay and Vic Hunt (Patrons)

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2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 7th September 2008, Darwin, NT were noted. It was **resolved** (Holland/Best) that the Minutes of the meeting held 7 September 2008 be accepted.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Mr Best (NSW) raised the issue of amendments to the Operations Manual and noted that following the Championships in Perth in 2007 it had been agreed that amendments to the Operations Manual would be made and put to the Members for approval. He said that this had not been done. Mr Wright said that a number of the items raised were addressed at the time, e.g., no more than 16 people in a draw. He undertook to ensure that any amendments would be put in the Operations Manual and a draft sent to the States/Territories for approval at the next Annual General Meeting.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.1 The President's report for 2008/09 was noted. Mr Wright congratulated Terry Barlow and his organising committee for their excellent job in the organisation of the 2009 Championships. He said the ranking system continues to improve thanks to the tireless work of Ron Clayton.

Mr Wright said this year Australia played host to the 2009 Trans Tasman Test Series held in Melbourne and Shepparton. He congratulated the Australian team on their 3 test win over New Zealand to retain the Vic Belsham trophy for the second time in a row. He said that Garry Irwin will be reporting separately on the Trans-Tasman Test.

In respect of upcoming events he said Sydney will host the World Masters Games in October. He said he is waiting on a response from Karen Clonda in respect of the men's and women's seedings. 23-28 August 2010, Cologne Germany will host the World Masters Squash Championships. He noted that this date was close to the Australian Championships to be held in Tasmania that year.

Both the ACT and NSW Masters celebrated their 30th Anniversary this year. Dick Best and Ken Sinclair were made Life Members of NSW Masters Squash. Harry Rigby retired from ownership of the East Lismore Squash Centre, after 50 years. Harry had participated in the Australian Masters Squash Championships in his later life over the last 20 years or so, and was a runner up to Vic Hunt in the over 75's and 80's. On a sad note, Mr Wright said 2008 and 2009 saw the passing of Otto Hart aged 84, who participated in many Australian Masters Championships, Ian Hocking (NSW) and Alan Pyburne (Qld). All will be greatly missed.

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Finally, Mr Wright thanked Debbie Sims and Garry Irwin for their assistance and support during the year. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to Ron Clayton and Duncan Constable (Co-Registrars), Michael Brown and Brian Roby (Webmasters), the Selection Committee (Jan Whackett, Brian Cook, Ron Clayton, Michael Brown and Terry Barlow).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 5.1 Treasurer's Report and AMSA Income and Expenditure Statement as at 30th June 2009. Mr Irwin tabled his report for 2008/09. In summary he said AMSA had made a small profit of \$347 for the year. He said there was \$16,000 in the account. He said that in the years that the Trans Tasman Test is held AMSA posts a loss due to monies expended for the Test. He said there had been no large expenditure items apart from what is listed on the front page of his report. Mr Barlow suggested that the time was right to look at putting the money into a short term investment account. Mr Irwin undertook to make further investigations about term deposits. It was **resolved** (Cook/Best) that the Treasurer's report for 2008/09 be accepted.

6. ELECTION OF AMSA OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2009-2010:

The following office bearers were elected unopposed:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|
| 6.1 | President | Peter Wright (Victoria) |
| 6.2 | Vice-President | Rose Searle (Tasmania) |
| 6.3 | Secretary | Debbie Sims (ACT) |
| 6.4 | Treasurer | Garry Irwin (NSW) |

7. ELECTION OF AMSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2009-10

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 7.1 | Registrar | Ron Clayton (WA) |
| 7.2 | Publicity Officer | TBA |
| 7.3 | Squash Australia Delegate | John Holland (SA) |

In respect of the position of Registrar, Mr Best said Clause 14(2) of the AMSA Constitution permits one Registrar only, not two. Mr Clayton said that he had been ably assisted by Duncan Constable and believed they worked well together. Mr Clayton (WA/Victoria) was elected as Registrar. Mr Clayton said he would enlist the assistance of Mr Constable as and when required.

8. ELECTION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR 2009-10

It was noted that Clause 40 of the AMSA states that "A Selection Committee consisting of nominated delegates of five (5) *ordinary members* with the

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Association's Registrar as ex-officio Chairperson, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting".

The following selectors were elected unopposed:

Michael Brown (Tasmania)	(Tasmania/NT)
Ron Clayton (WA)	(WA/NT)
Brian Cook (Qld)	(Victoria/WA)
Terry Barlow (Victoria)	(NSW/Tasmania)
Jan Whackett (Qld)	(NSW/Qld)

9. APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR FOR 2009-10

It was **resolved** (Irwin/Kowalick) that Matthew Yu, AMSA's current Auditor, be reappointed for 2009-10.

10. APPOINTMENT OF A PATRON(S) FOR 2009-10

Members noted that Ms Heather McKay and Mr Vic Hunt were the Association's current Patrons. Mr Wright reported that Ms McKay and Mr Hunt had indicated their willingness to continue in that role. It was **resolved** (Best/Wright) that Ms McKay and Mr Hunt be reappointed as Patrons for the Australian Masters Squash Association for 2009-10.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Determination of AMSA Affiliation Fees for 2010 – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 4 August 2009 was noted. It was **resolved** (Irwin/Kowalick) that the AMSA Affiliation Fee for the 2009-10 remain at \$2 per player.

11.2 Determination of License Fee/Financial Contribution from the Tasmanian Masters Squash Association to AMSA for the 2010 Australian Championships to be held in Hobart – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 4 August 2009 was noted. It was **resolved** (Irwin/Best) that the License Fee contribution from the Tasmanian Masters Squash Association to AMSA for the 2010 Australian Championships be set at \$2,500.

12. MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENTS

a) 2010 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, TASMANIA

On behalf of the Tasmanian Masters Squash Association, Mr Ross Barnden reported that the Championships will be held in Hobart from 6-17 September 2010. He said it will be run out of Eastside

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Squash Centre which is an 8 court centre. He said there will be a marquee set up for food and refreshments. Tattersall Park will be used for the Individuals and Team dinner dances. Mr Barnden said accommodation could be tight as the Antarctic Division have booked half the accommodation for that period. Other options are currently being investigated. He said the use of a second centre will depend on the number of entries, with Sandy Bay courts at the University a possibility. A shuttle bus will be running so players will be able to socialise at the one centre. In response to questions about the cost, Mr Barnden said that he expected costs to be similar to those at the current championships. He said that brochures had been given to all states and territories.

b) **AMSA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR**

Confirmation of calendar as agreed at 2004 General Meeting:

2010	Tasmania
2011	Queensland
2012	South Australia
2013	Australian Capital Territory
2014	New South Wales
2015	Western Australia
2016	Northern Territory
2017	Victoria
2018	Tasmania
2020	Queensland
2021	South Australia

c) **2009 TRANS TASMAN TEST SERIES**

a) 2009 Trans Tasman Test Series in Victoria, Australia. The Team Manager, Mr Garry Irwin, reported that Australia had successfully defended the Vic Belsham Trophy for the second time in a row. Australia won all three tests quite convincingly. He said that Jason Mudge (SA), Paul Bushel (ACT), Gaye Mitchell (Tas), Brian Cook (Qld) were undefeated in the series. In respect of the off-court functions, he said all players attended the various functions. He thanked the management of all the centres the Tests were played at for their assistance and said that players and supporters were well looked after. He said he had received positive feedback from both the Australian and New Zealand teams. Mr Irwin said in 2011 the Test will be held in Nelson, on the south island of New Zealand. He said he would circulate a full written report.

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Mr Cook raised the suggestion of putting together a history of Vic Belsham for the benefit of all representatives. Mr Irwin said he had a complete history of the Trans Tasman Test since it started in 1994 and undertook to prepare a summary.

Mr Wright thanked Mr Irwin for his work in managing the Test Team and thanked Mr Barlow and his committee for their contribution.

The Australian team selected to contest the 2009 Trans Tasman Test Series was:

Age Group	Male	Female
35-39	Jason Mudge (SA)	Sue Davis (Qld)
40-44	Paul Bushel (ACT)	Kylee Hammett (Qld)
45-49	Dale Robbins (Qld)	Sue Williams (Qld)
50-54	Tom Spark (Vic)	Anne Richards (WA)
55-59	Bruce Turner (Vic)	Gaye Mitchell (Tas)
60+	Brian Cook (Qld)	Marilyn Kennedy (Qld)

Team Manager: Garry Irwin

Assistant Team Manager: Michael Brown

The New Zealand Team:

Age group	Men	Women
35 - 39	Scott Gardiner (Cant)	Leilani Rorani (Waik)
40 - 44	Gary Duberly (Auck)	Vicki Beker (BOP)
45 - 49	Mark Millar (Wgtn)	Kathryn Austin (BOP)
50 - 54	Mark Waldin (Auck)	Karen Walton (Cant)
55 - 59	Lawrence Skurr (Cant)	Freda Walker (Cant)
60+	Rangy Marshall (Cant)	Kaye Jackson (Auck)

Manager: Judy Cooper (Waikato)

d) **INTERNATIONAL SQUASH TOURNAMENTS**

2009 World Masters Games - Sydney, Australia. Mr Wright said that some 28,000 people will be participating in the Games due to start on 10 October 2009 and going through to 18 October. 400 of those will be playing squash with quite a number of entries from Canada, South Africa, Asia and the United Kingdom. He noted that it had been quite difficult for Masters Squash to have any involvement with the squash component. He said he was currently waiting on feedback from the Squash

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Committee on the Men's and Women's seedings. He said the scoring will be a PAR 11 system.

2010 World Masters Squash – Cologne, Germany. Mr Wright said the tournament will be held from 23-28 August 2010. He said the website is not yet up and running.

e) 2009 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

Interim review from VMSA Organising Committee. Mr Barlow reported that entries for the Championships totalled 560 for the two weeks. The Individuals had just over 300, 86 of those from Victoria; 420 entries for the Interstate Team Series with Victoria fielding 120 teams. He said in the Individuals there had been 39 events and 23 Divisions in the Interstate Team Series. He noted that there had been an error in respect of the Teams Entry fee: it should have been \$150 per team and not \$155 as stated on the team entry form. He said the states/territories would be reimbursed. Mr Barlow said the functions to-date had been very well attended – 230 for the Welcome Function; 330 to the Individual Dinner Dance; 360 expected to the Wrinkly's Revue and 450 to the Teams Dinner Dance. He said that Victorian Masters had been extremely lucky with the generous sponsorship from the naming rights sponsor, Link Pumps and also Greys and Hi-Tech.

Mr Barlow expressed his concern about the lack of participation from South Australia. He said SA had two teams which subsequently withdrew. Mr Barlow also raised the issue of players who were only participating in the Interstate Team Series not putting in their official registration for the Championships. He said the states/territories should ensure that all their players complete the necessary paperwork to assist with such things as catering.

He said AMSA should look at having a perpetual trophy for the Women's 75+ and the Men's 80. Mr Wright said this was something the AMSA Secretariat would follow up.

Mr Wright said the Championships had been very professionally run and gave special thanks to Terry, his Organising Committee, Ron Clayton and Helena Morgan for their efforts before and during the Championships.

13. INTERSTATE TEAMS SERIES

- a) MANUAL CRITERIA was noted.
- b) TEAM COMPOSITION was noted.

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14. CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

Championship results will be put on the website on a daily basis. Mr Irwin reported that Michael Brown had been working on upgrading the website. Shane Thorpe offered to liaise with Michael to assist with the upgrade. He said the website could be set in such a way which would allow colours and logos to change in line with which state/territory is hosting the Championships. Proformas would be available and simple to operate. The newsletter could be incorporated. The site can be tested during the 2010 Championships.

15: GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 Affiliation of Australian Masters with Squash Australia – Minute from Richard Best (NSW) dated 31 July 2009 refers. Members noted that this matter has been considered on two previous occasions. On both occasions the motion to affiliate had been defeated. Mr Best said that with the government having greater involvement with the staging of major events it would be an appropriate time for AMSA to affiliate with Squash Australia. He said there would be no cost to AMSA, however the World Squash Federation and Squash Australia policies would have to be adhered to. Mr Holland (President, Squash Australia and President, SA) supported affiliation with Squash Australia. He said the only onus would be to abide by the WSF and Squash Australia policies. He acknowledged that there would be no benefits flowing to AMSA if it affiliated. He said it would benefit Squash Australia if all squash bodies were on board and expressed his concern that the sport was not united. He said that the issue of drug testing had been raised previously and explained that only the top 6 athletes would be tested and would not impact on Masters Squash.

In response Mr Barlow said that over the last 30 years Masters has always been in control of its own destiny and would not be prepared to relinquish that. He said Squash Australia is not offering any benefits to Masters. Mr Holland said that Masters would have access to everything Squash Australia has developed such as IT and insurance policies. Mr Barlow said that Masters has been operating very successfully without affiliating and, as pointed out, there would be no benefit to Masters. Ms Patterson (Qld) raised the problems with Queensland Squash and the local pennant competition in Brisbane. In response, Mr Holland said that the Sports Commission was concerned about what was happening in Queensland. Mr Scott (NSW) said that players themselves have had to secure additional funding. He was of the view that funding cannot be obtained without the support of the national body. He supported affiliation with Squash Australia. Mr Barnden (Tas) reported that Squash Tasmania is not performing well. He said that Masters squash is strong in Tasmania and was supporting the juniors. Mr Wright said

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that Victoria has been putting a lot of money into juniors and each state/territory is doing what they can.

Mr Wright said that AMSA does not wish to become involved in the politics of squash and would wish to distance itself from the politics of the game.

The motion (Best/Holland) that the Australian Masters Squash Association affiliate with Squash Australia was put to members. Following a show of hands the motion **was lost**. 4 votes against the motion, 3 votes in favour of the motion and 1 abstention.

- 15.2 Duty of Care – letter from Richard Tapp dated 8 December 2008 refers. Mr Tapp has written to AMSA concerning the duty of care that he believes AMSA owes to participants of its national championships and is not delivering. Mr Tapp has cited a number of instances where his wife (Raice) has been “a repeat victim of opponent inflicted injury following physical contact”. Mr Best said that there is a lack of understanding on the part of Raice on how the rules fit together. He suggested referring the matter back to South Australia to arrange a meeting with Raice and a qualified tournament referee to go through the rules with her.

Ms McBriety (WA) reported that Richard Tapp had been videoing all of Raice’s singles matches. She said that her opponents were unaware the matches were being videoed. Ms Williams (WA) said opponents should be made aware that the match will be videoed and be given an opportunity to consent or not to the videoing.

Mr Wright undertook to follow through with the referee and report back.

15.3 Australian Masters Squash Association’s Constitution. Mr Best said he had become aware that the AMSA’s Constitution, which was modeled on the Model Rules and modified by a sub-committee of the Association, had new changes which needed to be implemented. The Model Rules ratified by the NSW Office of Fair Trading will come into force next year and should be looked at between now and then. He said all state and territory sport and recreation organisations, including the Australian Sports Commission had had input. Mr Best asked whether the Association was incorporated, and if so, who was the Public Officer. He asked whether put return had been put in each year. He suggested the AMSA Secretary should be the Public Officer. The President said he would follow the matter through.

Mr Best was also of the belief that AMSA did not pay enough due regard to its Constitution with insufficient Committee meetings as required under the Constitution.

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- 15.4 Interaction with the Oceanic Masters Squash Federation. This item submitted by New South Wales. Mr Best was of the view that there should be better liaison between the Australian Masters and the NZ Masters to ensure that events don't clash or held too close together. He noted that the Australian Masters Championships are held at the same time each year. The President said the dates for the Australian Masters are locked in. The NZ Masters Championships are always held in the last week in October. He said it would be appropriate for Australian Masters to reinforce those dates to try and ensure there are no clashes.
- 15.5 Request by ACT Masters Squash to host the 2013 Australian Championships – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 5 August 2009. Members noted that the NSW is scheduled to host the Championships in 2013 and the ACT in 2014. ACT have requested a swap with NSW as the ACT will be celebrating its Centenary in 2013 and the ACT Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government is working towards delivering a program of activities in 2013 to celebrate its centenary. Among the ideas put forward is a Trans Tasman Centenary Sporting Challenge including sports such as cricket, league, union, netball, hockey etc. The Trans Tasman Test would fit very neatly into the challenge. NSW have indicated that they are happy to swap. This was ratified by members.
- 15.6 Squash Australia's Board – Summary of key items and decisions of the meeting held 11 July 2009 was noted.
- 15.7 Regulation 39 – Players' Clothing – amendments approved by Squash Australia at its meeting on 11 July 2009 was noted.
- 15.8 Oceania Squash Federation Calendar of Events – August 2009 was noted.
- 15.9 AMSA Office Bearers & Committee Members 2008-09 was noted.
- 17. STATE REPORTS**
- a) Australian Capital Territory: Mr Kowalick reported that ACT Masters was in a sound position and continues to grow. Currently have two competitions, Monday and Wednesday nights. Masters is attracting new players, both top and lower grade players. He said ACT Masters is in a sound financial position. He said ACT celebrated its 30th Anniversary in March. The tournament held an Invitational Open which included such players as Sarah Fitz Gerald, Paul Bushel and Jeff Bond. He said it is hoped to continue with the same format in 2010.

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- b) New South Wales: In summary the President reported that NSW Masters was in a sound financial position. Membership has remained reasonably constant. He said that NSW also celebrated its 30th Anniversary with Life Membership conferred upon Ken Sinclair and himself. They join Haydn Daly and Jan Whackett as the organisation's only Life Members.
- c) Northern Territory: Dr Weir reported that the 2008 Australian Championships were a resounding success. However NT Masters player numbers have dropped substantially since the Championships. He said that NTMSA have run 3 competitions since September 2008 and is currently in the fourth season.
- d) Queensland: Mr Cook reported that QMSA's membership remains steady with 307 current members. Tournament numbers and formats are as previous years and still remain popular. On a sad note he said that Alan Pyburne passed away earlier in the year. As a member of the 80+ age group he attended most of the tournaments and remained very competitive.
- e) South Australia: Mr Holland reported that Masters Squash continues to thrive in South Australia. He said that several 'Whistle Stop' tournaments have proven successful during the year and the introduction of the Matrix has ensured that games are relatively evenly matched. He said there has been only a small take-up among Masters players of the Player Referee Accreditation Program (PRAP). He said PRAP is an excellent program for players to brush on the rules of the game. Mr Holland said the Pennant and tournaments continue to be the main objectives for SAMS.
- f) Tasmania: Ms Searle reported that Masters squash continues to grow in Tasmania. The two major tournaments are well represented. Membership is currently around 80 members. She acknowledged the achievement of Gaye Mitchell in winning not only the Over 55 title in Darwin but also the Over 55 World Masters title in Christchurch. She reported that the Masters financial position is healthy which provide confidence going into the Australian Championships in 2010. Ms Searle noted the sad passing of Ian Hocking this year. Ian and played squash for many years and represented Tasmania on a number of occasions.
- g) Victoria: Mr Barlow noted that this was his last report as he was stepping down as President. He thanked the AMSA and all state and territory committees for their assistance during his 9 year presidency. He said the VMSA has been working much closer with Squash Victoria. He said tournaments still remain the most financial area with all tournaments being profitable while keeping the costs down for members. He said the VMSA is currently

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looking at expanding the Pennant Competition from 2 to 3 seasons a year and introducing international scoring. Ms Morgan said the first tournament in 2010 will be using the PAR 11 system of scoring.

- h) Western Australia: Ms Williams the new WAMS' Committee biggest aim is to communicate better with masters players. She reported that Friday night Masters continues to be the main Masters event during the year. She said the number of tournaments each year continue with a slight increase in participants. Ms Williams reported that a new 8 court squash centre was opened in April with the financial backing of some well-known Masters players. She noted that WA Masters will be celebrating 30 years in 2010.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms Patterson (Qld) questioned the reason behind having 8.30am matches. In response Mr Barlow said the reason was to give both players and workers time to attend the functions. Ms Searle said that traditionally the first matches were scheduled later following the Wrinkley's Revue. Ms Morgan said it was difficult to get players to be on time for their matches.

Mr Kowalick (ACT) said the ACT will be hosting the Australian Open over the following 4 years commencing in 2010. He sought the assistance of other states and territories to publicise the event amongst their members.

Mr Cook (Qld) raised the issue of the scoring system, in particular PAR and asked which way Masters was leaning. In response Mr Wright said that Masters were using the 9 point game (Hand in and Hand out). Queensland were generally critical of the PAR system saying it made the games too short, particularly for the lower grade player and did not mix well with Masters. Mr Best noted that a NSW survey of squash players rejected the PAR 11 scoring system and settled for the PAR 15 system. Mr Wright said that the Australian Masters will remain with the status quo.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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