



A.M.S.A.

Australian Masters Squash Association

PATRONS

Heather McKay Vic Hunt

MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION
held at the Southern Lights Hotel, 19 Kingston View Drive, Kingston
on **Monday 13th SEPTEMBER 2010** at 6.00 pm

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** The meeting opened at 6.16 pm. The President welcomed everyone to the Thirtieth AGM.

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

Scott Caban (ACT)
Dick Best (New South Wales) (7.15 pm)
Richard Weir (Northern Territory)
Brian Cook (Queensland)
Carol Robertson (South Australia)
Michael Brown (Tasmania)
Terry Barlow (Victoria)
Alison Williams (Western Australia)

Observers: Robert Scott (NSW) (7.15 pm)
Virginia Buring (ACT)
Brian Dunkley (ACT)
Murray Gaydon (Qld)
Estelle Gaydon (Qld)
Yvonne Cook (Qld)
Ron Clayton (WA)
Ed Jennings (WA)
Linda McBrierty (WA)
Gaye Mitchell (Tas)
Jilly Morsch (Vic)
Michelle Griffith (NT)
Shane Thorpe (Vic)

Apologies: Heather McKay and Vic Hunt (Patrons)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 8th September 2009, Melbourne, Victoria were noted. It was **resolved** (Barlow/Williams) that the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.
- b) Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on Saturday, 17 July 2010, Canberra were noted.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

- a) Affiliation of Australian Masters with Squash Australia. The President reminded the meeting that on the three previous occasions the motion for affiliation with Squash Australia had been put to members at the AGM and had been unsuccessful. He said it was the view of the majority Masters' members that there would be no benefits to Masters in affiliating and the only reason Squash Australia sought affiliation with Masters was to be able to state that all squash bodies were under their umbrella for the purposes of applications to government for funding grants. This was acknowledged by the former President of Squash Australia, Mr John Holland, at the 2009 AGM.

The President reported that he had recently held discussions with Richard Bowen and Peta Murphy (Squash Australia) who again raised the issue and were keen for Masters to come on board as they had a small window of opportunity to submit their grant applications. He said he was trying to negotiate either a set amount or a percentage of any funds received by Squash Australia to come to Masters. The President said that following those early discussions there had been no further communication from Squash Australia.

In response to Mr Jennings' (WA) query about affiliation fees, the President said there would be no affiliation fee applicable. Mr Brown (Tas) said he was in favour of affiliating with Squash Australia. He was of the view it would benefit all players to have a strong, informed national body. He said Masters needs to go back to Squash Australia with the mechanics of how the affiliation would work. He said in Tasmania all squash players are affiliated with Squash Tasmania. The President said he was waiting on Squash Australia to get back to him.

Mr Barlow (Vic) reaffirmed his position of not affiliating and said that Squash Australia need to put forward an acceptable proposal before the membership accepts. He said there are states that have had bitter experiences with their state bodies.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's report for 2009/10 was noted. The President congratulated the Tasmanian Masters Squash Association for the excellent work done on running the championships, and in particular the work done by Michael Brown and Gaye Mitchell.

The President said 2010 marks a milestone for Masters Squash. He said this carnival is the 30th anniversary of Australian Masters Squash with the Masters Squash Association officially formed in 1981 and the first official tournament being held in Blackwood, Adelaide. He said there was an unofficial tournament held in 1980 in Queensland.

The President said the first Annual General Meeting was held on 13 December 1980 at the Gold Coast in 1980. The President was Ron Ansell (NSW), Vice President Haydn Daly (NSW), Secretary, Joe Dunnage (NSW) and Treasurer Edna Beech (ACT). He took over the Presidency from Ron in 1986.

He said the 1981 carnival included Open, Junior and Mature Age events. Fred Howell from South Australia won the Men's O/35 event and Margaret Zachariah from Victoria became the Women's O/35 champion. He said if you look through the list of past champions you will see current players like Brian Cook from Queensland who won his first national title in 1987 in the Men's O/35 and whose name continually appears on the winners' list through the age groups to the O/60s. Similarly, Bruce Turner and Tom Spark, both from Victoria, won the Men's O/35 title in 1990 and 1991 respectively. Both are current champions in the O/55s and O/50s. Anne Richards, formerly from Queensland and now WA commenced her assault on the championships in 1992, winning the Women's O/35 and is the Women's O/50 current champion. The President said it is also heartening to see some of the 'juniors' now joining the Masters ranks – Peta Murphy and Sarah Nelson to name two – both of whom are current Australian champions in the O/35 and O/40 women's respectively.

The President said we must not forget our oldest champions, Eileen Barnard from Queensland and Chas Renner from WA, the over 75 and over 80 champions respectively. He said NSW's golden oldie, Tony de Bono, won the Men's O/50 title in the unofficial championships in 1980 and has gone on to win the O/55s in 1983 and the O/70s in 1998 and is still competing. It highlights the fact that squash, like many other sports, is not the preserve of the young.

It was **resolved** (Mitchell/Williams) that the President's report be accepted.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1 Treasurer's Report and AMSA Income and Expenditure Statement as at 30th June 2010 was noted. He said for the 2009/10 financial year, the AMSA incurred a loss of \$1,647 which was due to the Trans Tasman

Test being held in Victoria in 2009. He said traditionally AMSA incurs a loss when the Trans Tasman Test is held due to increased expenditure. He noted that some states had paid their affiliation fees after the close of the financial year, and if received prior to 30 June 2010, a small profit of \$245 would have been made. The Treasurer again apologized to the Members generally and Western Australia in particular, for not paying outstanding accounts in a timely manner. He assured the meeting that such conduct would not occur again. He said the outstanding accounts were for the Shepparton Squash and Fitness Centre (Trans Tasman Test) and two perpetual trophies purchased in WA.

In respect of affiliation fees the Treasurer said he was not sure how much effort the states and territories put into providing updated membership numbers. He said it was difficult to believe that the membership numbers remain unchanged each year. He sought the assistance of the states and territories in providing updated membership numbers. Ms Williams (WA) said WA Masters is part of Squash WA and there are a lot of names on a spreadsheet but it would be difficult to provide absolute figures. Mr Barlow (Vic) said one of the problems is not having a direct link to the membership. It was agreed that each state/territory would endeavour to do the best they could.

The Treasurer said he would continue to look at investment options for the AMSA.

In respect of incorporation the Treasurer reported that he could find no evidence that the AMSA was incorporated and said he would like to get legal advice as to which state it would be best to incorporate in, i.e., ACT, Victoria or NSW.

It was **resolved** (Barlow/Weir) that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

6. ELECTION OF AMSA OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2010-11:

The President declared all positions vacant and advised that only one nomination for each of the following positions had been received. Therefore, the following members were re-elected unopposed:

6.1	President	Peter Wright (Victoria)
6.2	Vice-President	Brian Cook (Queensland)
6.3	Secretary	Debbie Sims (ACT)
6.4	Treasurer	Garry Irwin (NSW)

7. ELECTION OF AMSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2010-11

The following members were elected unopposed:

7.1	Registrar	Ron Clayton (WA) (Victoria/Qld)
7.2	Publicity Officer	TBA
7.3	Squash Australia Delegate	Vacant

8. ELECTION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR 2010-11

The following members were elected unopposed:

Brian Cook (Qld)	(Queensland/Northern Territory)
Michael Brown (Tas)	(Tasmania/Victoria)
Ron Clayton (WA)	(Western Australia/Northern Territory)
Terry Barlow (Vic)	(NSW/Tasmania)
Jan Whackett (Qld)	(Queensland/Tasmania)

9. APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR FOR 2010-11

It was **resolved** (Irwin/Weir) that Mr Matthew Yu be appointed as Auditor for 2010-11.

10. APPOINTMENT OF A PATRON(S) FOR 2010-11

It was resolved to invite Ms Heather Mckay and Mr Vic Hunt to continue to be the AMSA's patrons for 2010-11.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Determination of AMSA Affiliation Fees for 2011 – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 31 July 2010 was noted. Members noted that the affiliation fee is currently set at \$2 per person. The Treasurer was of the view that it was not necessary to increase the affiliation fee at this stage.

It was **resolved** (Irwin/Brown) that the AMSA Affiliation Fee be set at \$2 per person for 2010-11.

- 11.2 Determination of License Fee/Financial Contribution from the Queensland Masters Squash Association to AMSA for the 2011 Australian Championships to be held in Rockhampton – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 31 July 2010 was noted. Members noted the current license fee is \$2,500. The Treasurer recommended that the license fee remain at its current level.

It was **resolved** (Irwin/Barlow) that the License Fee/Financial contribution remain at \$2,500.

12. MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENTS

- a) 2011 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, QUEENSLAND

Mr Cook said the carnival in 2011 will be held in the regional area of Rockhampton. He said there is already a website set up which contains information about the centre and accommodation. He said the website can be accessed through the QMSA (www.qmsa.org). He warned that accommodation will be at a premium and is not particularly modern. He said the functions and venues are already organized and will be held in Rockhampton itself. Mr Cook said that all entries for the Championships will be on-line and payment can be made by debit or credit card, although the latter will incur an administrative cost to QMSA.

Mr Cook said the climate conditions will obviously be different to Tassie. The main centre Scottvale Park Squash Centre, run by Sandra and Michael Rowcliffe, has 12 courts and he was hopeful that only one centre would be used for the Individuals. He said there are two back-up centres in Rockhampton and their owners are more than happy to cooperate over the two weeks of the carnival. Shuttle buses have already been organized. Kathy Paterson and Laura Stranks will be running the tournament.

- b) **AMSA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR**

Confirmation of calendar as agreed at 2004 General Meeting:

2011	Queensland
2012	South Australia
2013	Australian Capital Territory
2014	New South Wales
2015	Western Australia
2016	Northern Territory
2017	Victoria
2018	Tasmania
2019	Queensland
2020	South Australia

There was some concern expressed by members about the capability of South Australia to host the Championships in 2012 in light of the fact that South Australian masters players do not appear to support the Championships, evidenced by their lack of participation in recent years. Ms Robertson (SA) said she believed that South Australia could put on a good tournament and has done so in previous years. She said that a lot of masters' squash is played in SA but players will not travel. She said she was very conscious of the fact that SA does not bring any revenue into the other states. She said she has done everything possible, short of filling out their application form, to encourage players to participate. She said she sent a personal letter to all players providing all the necessary information.

Mr Barlow said this raises the question of whether SA has the right to host the championships when not supporting the Championships. He said previously there have been no teams from SA and this year there is only 1 team. He was of the view that this was not good enough as all the other states/territories have supported SA.

Mr Brown said he was in favour of SA hosting the Championships as it would keep them in the fold even though there has been a few years of inactivity. He said it would open a big can of worms by penalizing a state. Mr Cook supported this view. Mr Jennings said the only way of increasing SA participation is by being there and showing them how good it is. Mr Best suggested a letter be sent to the SAMS from the AMSA expressing its disappointment about the lack of support. He said there may have been some internal problems which could have destabilised SA Masters squash. The President suggested this issue could be revisited in the future if their support does not increase but in the first instance, express AMSA's concerns. This was agreed to.

c) INTERNATIONAL SQUASH TOURNAMENTS

2010 23-28 August - World Masters Squash – Germany.

Mr Irwin reported that 42 Australians from most states/territories participated in the championships held in Cologne. He said there was some negativity expressed about the manner in which the draw was run, i.e., it was incompetent. However the last 2 days ran smoothly. He said Australia can boast 2 gold medalists – Geoff Davenport (SA) and Vicky Cardwell (Vic). Marilyn Kennedy (Qld) was a silver medalist while bronze medals went to Michael Brown (Tas), Brian Cook (Qld), Kathy Paterson (Qld), Sarah Nelson (NSW) and Julie Wilson (Vic). He said the players thanked the AMSA for the jackets and he thanked the President for organizing them. Mr Brown said that Gary Irwin was a great help to the players in Cologne. He then asked about the possibility of Australia bidding for the 2014 World Masters Squash Championships. Mr Best said AMSA is not in a position to do so as it is not affiliated with Squash Australia. In response to concern about the scoring system, he said that PAR 11 is not

a foregone conclusion, and it is a matter for the tournament organizers as to how they want to run it. He said the scoring system can also be PAR 15. Mr Cook said it was a world masters' tournament sanctioned by the WSF and was PAR 11. He asked why go through Squash Australia to ask for a world masters squash event. Mr Brown said because the WSF will only talk to the Australian peak body.

2010 22-25 October – New Zealand Masters Individual Championships
2010 6-14 November – Pan Pacific Masters Games – Gold Coast
2011 Oceania Masters Squash Championships to be held in Norfolk Island, South Pacific from 1st to 8th October 2011

e) **2010 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, HOBART, TASMANIA**

Interim review from TMSA Organising Committee – Ms Mitchell (Tas) reported the first week of the championships has been completed without too many problems and the feedback was mostly positive. She said there was some discussion about the draws. In general, she said, information and draws were out early. Functions have been good and well attended. Mr Brown said Ron Clayton's Autodraw system was excellent and makes the running of the tournament easy.

13. INTERSTATE TEAMS SERIES

14. CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION ON WEBSITE

16: GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 Oceania Squash Federation Calendar of Events was noted.

16.2 AMSA Office Bearers & Committee Members 2009-10 was noted.

17. STATE REPORTS

a) Australian Capital Territory – Mr Caban reported that ACT Masters has seen consistently strong numbers for both the Monday and Wednesday night competitions with a steady recruitment of new players coming in at all levels. He said the March tournament was very successful with a record 160 participants. He said a new fixture for the ACT Masters calendar is the ACT/Bega battle for the 'Rashes'. He said this has attracted in excess of 30 players from Canberra and Bega (60 in total). He said the challenge has been going for 2 years and the score is 1 all. In respect of the ACTMSA's financial position, Mr Caban said it is sound with a sum already earmarked for 2013. Unfortunately competition and

reserve fees have had to rise due to the increase in the cost of court hire, balls and other administrative costs.

- b) New South Wales – Mr Best reported that membership has remained reasonably steady and tournament numbers averaged 110 players attending 6-7 tournaments per year. He said NSW Squash administered the World Masters Games which was held at Thornleigh in October 2009 and whilst the offer of assistance from NSWMSA was not accepted the tournament was very successful. He said that NSW's finances are sound. Finally, he reported that Tony de Bono was nominated by NSW Squash and was a finalist in this year's NSW Government's NSW Sports Awards.
- c) Northern Territory – Mr Weir reported that player numbers have stabilized since 2009 post AMSA championships with approximately 40 players turning up each week for competition. He said the major development which has impacted on the Darwin Squash Association facility at Sabine Road is the landlord wanting to demolish the Squash Centre. He said the latest deadline appears to be December and was hopeful of getting it extended to May 2011. He said negotiations have been held with the government to build a new centre. He said all competitions and major tournaments are currently under review.
- d) Queensland – Mr Cook reported on a sad note that Graham Lanham passed away from lung cancer. Looking to the future, Maurice Tait and Cheryl Finlen are engaged to be married. He said Gladstone and Burnvale have received approval to build a new squash centres. Queensland membership is down on last year with 256 current members. Mr Best asked whether it would be possible for the Gladstone submission to be obtained and distributed to the states for information.
- e) South Australia – Ms Robertson reported that squash in SA continues to thrive with four nights of masters' squash per week and 8 divisions with some players playing 2 and 3 times per week. She undertook to endeavour to get more South Australians to the championships.
- f) Tasmania – Ms Mitchell reported that there is good support and membership is steady. She said that Rose Searle will not be seeking re-election as President at the next AGM and thanked Rose for her contribution to masters over 25 years – 17 of which was as President.
- g) Victoria – Mr Barlow reported that all is going well with masters' squash in Victoria with celebrations for the VMSA's 30th Anniversary to be held in Ballarat this year. He said the Masters/Juniors event continues to be well supported with entrants coming from as far as Leeton in NSW. He said the VMSA continues to receive generous support from sponsors, in particular Link Pumps and Grays.
- h) Western Australia – Ms Williams reported that the committee had been very active this year with a new tournament held at Geraldton this year.

She said 2010 also marked WAMS's 30th Anniversary at which Frank Bradley was presented with the "Recognition of Contribution of WA Masters Squash Award" and Dean Williams was made a life member of WA Squash. She said the WAMS's financial status remains buoyant. She said she would not be seeking re-election as Chairman at the AGM in December.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The President reported that the Executive Committee met on 17 July 2010. The minutes of the meeting are in the Agenda papers. He said the Operations Manual has been fine tuned. Mr Best said as the Operations Manual is part of the By-laws they should be circulated to states/territories for approval. He criticized the fact that all the AMSA committees had not met and reported as was a requirement under the Constitution. Mr Best was also critical of the AMSA website saying it was not up to scratch. He said it was appropriate to have all the Individual and Teams' winners uploaded onto the website. He maintained that 50% of the affiliation fees went into supporting the Trans Tasman Test and was of the view that some of that money should go into supporting the website and have better marketing than is the case at the moment. In response, Mr Barlow said that Shane Thorpe (webmaster) was waiting on a program to upgrade the VMSA website and likewise the AMSA website.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.44 pm.