



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

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of the AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION  
held at the Great Western Hotel, Cnr Stanley & Denison Streets Rockhampton  
on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011** commencing at 6.00 pm

---

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** The meeting opened at 6.23 pm. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Scott Caban (ACT)  
Richard Best (NSW)  
Richard Weir (NT)  
Brian Cook (Qld)  
Raice Tapp (SA)  
Alison Williams (WA)  
Michelle Rowles (Vic)  
Mark Hayes (Tas)

**Observers:** Ron Clayton (WA)  
Ed Jennings (WA)  
Linda McBrierty (WA)  
Ron Smith (ACT)  
Shane Thorpe (Vic)  
Darren O'Neill (Vic)  
Keith Derham (Qld)  
Sandra Fogarty (Tas)  
Paul Gein (SA)

**Apologies:** Heather McKay, Geoff Hunt and Kathy Patterson

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- a) Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Hobart, Tasmania were circulated with the Agenda papers. Mr Best asked that the record show that he had been approached following the conclusion of the meeting to be the Squash

Australia delegate. It was **resolved** (NT/SA) that the Minutes be accepted a true and accurate record.

- b) Minutes of the Selectors Committee meeting held via email on 1 February 2011 and 10 May 2011, Canberra were noted.

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING

- a) *Incorporation:* In response to Mr Smith's question as to which State AMSA will be incorporated in, Mr Irwin said NSW.
- b) *Committee Meetings:* Mr Best raised the issue that there had not been a Committee meeting of AMSA in accordance with the Constitution. Mr Wright said in 2012 meetings with office bearers and members will be held either by video or teleconferencing.
- c) *Operations Manual:* Mr Best said over the past number of years the Operations Manual has been done by Committee. Number of changes made in 2002 and amendments in 2004 and September 2010. Always agreed that Operations Manual was part of the set up By-laws and agreed that any changes go through the States before going in. He said the last official amendment to the Manual was 2002. Any changes after that were *ultra vires*. He expressed concern about the process being followed to-date.

### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 4.1 The President's report for 2010-11 was circulated with the Agenda Papers. The President said in respect of the Trans Tasman Test, Sarah Nelson had withdrawn and her place taken by Sue Williams (Qld). He also reported that Harry Rigby had passed away during 2011. It was **resolved** (Vic/NSW) that the President's report be accepted.

### 5. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 5.1 Treasurer's Report and AMSA Income and Expenditure Statement as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 was tabled by the Treasurer. He reported that AMSA had made a slight loss of \$791 for the year. He said expenditure items included: AMSA jackets for those who traveled to the World Masters Squash Championships in Cologne; perpetual trophies have now been updated and two new ones purchased; development of the new AMSA website and subsidies to the Trans Tasman Test Team. The Treasurer reported that the AMSA bank account had been converted to an on-line account with a \$1,000 a day limit. He said the President, Secretary and Treasurer will be issued with credit cards (\$1,000 limit) to assist with travel/accommodation and stationery expenses as required. Mr Smith (ACT) suggested it would be good to have written guidelines as to what the credit cards could be used for and seek approval from members prior to issue. Mr Thorpe

(Vic) suggested that the Auditor could draft a set of guidelines for approval.

- 5.2 *Incorporation of AMSA:* The Treasurer said the documents were ready to be lodged. He said AMSA would be incorporated in NSW. It was **resolved** (Irwin/Best) that the Public Officer would be the AMSA Secretary. Mr Best said the lodgment of Office Bearers and Minutes of the AGM should be done within 3 months of incorporation.
- 5.3 *Trans Tasman Test subsidy:* The President said all team members receive a subsidy from AMSA to assist in defraying the costs of travel. Ms Williams (WA) said WA members have been out of pocket due to the travel costs to the eastern seaboard with the difference being around \$1,100. She said on behalf of the WA players she had requested a greater subsidy from AMSA. The President said all players receive a \$300 subsidy from AMSA plus the difference in airfares for those traveling greater distances. Mr Best said it had previously been agreed that AMSA pay \$300 per player, with a cost of the total package to AMSA being one half of one year's affiliation fees. He suggested now was an appropriate time to review the guidelines to ensure that players are not disadvantaged. He said the original concept was that if a player needed extra money the state would get the extra funding if required. Mr Best said irrespective of whether it was a home or away series, the cost should be included in total expenditure.

It was **resolved** (WA/ACT) that Trans-Tasman representatives who are selected from "distant states" and thus incur significant extra travel costs, be considered for an appropriate subsidy to achieve the same out-of-pocket travel expenses for a direct return trip to the tournament venue from their home base.

*Electronic Banking:* In response to Ms Rowles' (Victoria) question whether 2 signatures were required, the Treasurer said 2 signatures would be required. He said signatories to the bank account will be the Treasurer, President and Secretary.

*Affiliation Fees:* In response to Ms Tapp's question on the status of South Australia, the Treasurer said South Australia was up-to-date.

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

## 6. ELECTION OF AMSA OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2011-12:

The President declared all positions vacant and advised that only one nomination for each of the following positions had been received. Mr Best noted that Clause 14(2) of the Constitution provides for the position of Registrar to be an AMSA office bearer. The following members were re-elected unopposed:

6.1	President	Peter Wright (Victoria)
6.2	Vice-President	TBA
6.3	Secretary	Debbie Sims (ACT)
6.4	Treasurer	Garry Irwin (NSW)
6.5	Registrar	Ron Clayton (WA)

## 7. ELECTION OF AMSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2010-11

The following members were elected unopposed:

7.1	Publicity Officer	TBA
7.2	Squash Australia Delegate	Richard Best (NSW)

## 8. ELECTION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR 2011-12

The following members were elected unopposed:

Michael Brown (Tas)	(Tasmania/Victoria)
Ron Clayton (WA)	(Western Australia/Northern Territory)
Terry Barlow (Vic)	(Victoria)
Ron Smith (ACT)	(ACT/NSW)
Robert Scott (NSW)	(NSW/Victoria)

## 9. APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR FOR 2010-11

It was **resolved** (Irwin/Caban) that Mr Matthew Yu be appointed as Auditor for 2011-12.

## 10. APPOINTMENT OF A PATRON(S) FOR 2011-12

It was resolved to invite Ms Heather Mckay and Mr Geoff Hunt to continue to be the AMSA's patrons for 2011-12.

## 11. FINANCE

11.1 Determination of AMSA Affiliation Fees for 2012 – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 30 July 2011 was noted. The Treasurer said the current fee of \$2 per person has not increased for approximately 10 years. He recommended an increase to \$3 per person which is in line with inflation and the CPI. Mr Smith (ACT) said he would like to see a budget for at least the next two years

before a decision is made. He was of the view there was insufficient information before the meeting to make a decision. It was agreed that the Treasurer would prepare a budget to cover the next 4 years which would also capture expenditure for the Trans Tasman Tests to be held in Australia and New Zealand. Mr Jennings (WA) said there would need to be real benefits to increase the fees. The Treasurer undertook to prepare a budget for consideration by the end of October. To be circulated via email.

- 11.2 Determination of License Fee/Financial Contribution from the Queensland Masters Squash Association to AMSA for the 2012 Australian Championships to be held in Adelaide, South Australia – Minute from the AMSA Secretary dated 30 July 2011 refers. See item 11.1 above.

## **12. MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENTS**

a) **2012 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Ms Raice Tapp reported that the organizing committee is in its infancy having had two meetings to date. She said arrangements in respect of accommodation and functions were in hand. She said Shane Thorpe (Victoria) had offered to assist with the website. The proposed centres to be used for the Championships are South Adelaide (5 courts) and West Adelaide (5 courts). She said West Adelaide is under an obligation to bring the courts up to scratch and to this end they have received a grant from Squash SA. Consideration is also being given to using the courts at Plympton. Ms Tapp said Masters squash is very strong in Adelaide with 3 pennants per night, with the exception of Wednesday. She said the committee is working hard to canvass SA players in participating in the Championships, including the possibility of suspending pennant for the duration of the Championships.

b) **AMSA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR**

Confirmation of calendar as agreed at 2004 General Meeting:

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
2021	New South Wales

d) **INTERNATIONAL SQUASH TOURNAMENTS**

- 2011 28-29 September – Trans Tasman Test Series – Nelson, NZ
- 2011 30 September – New Zealand Masters Individual Championships
- 2011 Oceania Masters Squash Championships to be held in Norfolk Island, South Pacific from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011
- 2011 PNG Masters & Junior Championships – 28-30 October
- 2012 World Masters Squash Championships – Birmingham – 20-27 July

Mr Best reported that the Squash Australia had spoken with the World Squash Federation concerning Australia hosting the World Masters Squash Championships in 2014. No response has been received to-date. He said Hong Kong is also seeking the 2014 hosting rights.

e) **2011 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS, ROCKHAMPTON - QUEENSLAND**

Mr Cook reported that the first week went well aiming for a 5.00 pm finish each day. He said the Committee tried to ensure all players had 4 matches. Mr Smith said the reason for early finishes was the quick matches due to the Swiss draw. He said players were unhappy and disheartened with the Swiss draw. Ms Tapp was in agreement. She said lower graded players felt it was a long way to travel to lose the first 2 rounds to open players. In response to Ms Rowles question about the standardization of the draws, the President said there is an Operations Manual which sets out how the tournament should be run. He said the AMSA had tried to direct Queensland and was extremely frustrated due to their non-compliance. In terms of an on-line entry form, Mr Smith said it was difficult for older people and those who don't have access to a computer to enter. He was of the view that alternative options should have been available.

13. **OPERATIONS MANUAL**

The President said it is a live document. It was **resolved** (Smith/Thorpe) to form a sub-committee comprising all members and the Registrar to look at the Operations Manual.

14. **WEBSITE**

It was agreed to send a letter of appreciation to the former webmaster, Mr Michael Brown, for his contribution over the years.

Mr Thorpe said Joomla is the base for the new AMSA website. He said the site is a temporary one at the moment, with all the preparation work done in

the background. He acknowledged the work of Ray Strachan from Queensland on its website. In terms of the SA Championships' website, participants will be able to download the entry form and there will be various payment options available.

16: **GENERAL BUSINESS**

16.1 Costs to Participants at Australian Masters Championships – Minute from the NSWMSA refers. Mr Best said there appears to be a move for every state to make a profit and nothing to stop super profits being made. He was of the view that social costs should be contained as far as practicable as some players are unable to attend because of the high cost. He said a budget should be submitted at the AGM showing anticipated income and expenditure. Mr Smith said he gave in-principle support in getting costs down and supported submitting a budget showing how the tournament was going to be run and what the costs will be. The President said that AMSA already has an oversight role in what the states are doing and ensuring that the costs are not prohibitive. He acknowledged that some states are worse off than others in terms of finance and availability of sponsorship. Mr Smith said that states try to minimize costs as far as possible as they are under scrutiny.

16.2 Incorporation of AMSA under the Associations Incorporation – Minute from the NSWMSA refers. See items 3a and 5.2 above.

16.3 Introduction of Succession and Increased Committee Participation in AMSA – Review of AMSA Constitution – Minute from the Richard Best (NSW) refers. The meeting noted that this item had not been sanctioned by the NSWMSA. Mr Best was of the view that AMSA is becoming stagnant due to limited input from members except what is presented at the AGM. As a result, he said, AMSA cannot respond in a timely manner to changing circumstances. Mr Best is proposing that AMSA review its constitution and change its committee structure based on a model taken from Squash Australia as set out in the Agenda papers. Ms Williams (WA) said the role of Vice-President, as it now stands, is essentially a figurehead, changing each year at the end of the Championships. She said if members are considering succession then the Vice-President should be someone groomed to take up the position of President.

It was agreed that this issue be further considered by the sub-committee formed to look at the Operations Manual.

16.4 Strategic Plan and Budget - Minute from the NSWMSA refers. The Treasurer undertook to prepare a budget for consideration by the end of October. To be circulated via email.

- 16.5 Final matches in Teams Series - Minute from Mr Richard Best (NSW) refers. The meeting noted that this item had not been sanctioned by the NSWMSA. Mr Best was of the view that the highest ranked 2 teams did not play each other on the last day of the tournament. Mr Irwin said this was incorrect as the 2 highest ranked teams were always scheduled to play each other on the last day.
- 16.6 Introduction of new AMSA Awards - Minute from the NSWMSA refers. Mr Best (NSW) said AMSA did not currently recognize the contribution of the founder of Masters Squash, Mr Ron Ansell. He suggested that any Member can nominate someone who has developed Masters Squash by having tournaments or increasing members and any other facet of Masters Squash. Mr Smith said appropriate guidelines and criteria needs to be established. It was agreed to refer the matter to the sub-committee. Ms Williams suggested acknowledging someone, through life membership of AMSA, for their contribution to Masters such as running tournaments, participation or administration. Mr Irwin said within the last 30 years there have been 2 members awarded life membership – Mr Ron Ansell and Mr Peter Wright. He said Clause 38 of the Constitution sets out the criteria. It was agreed to refer this matter to the sub-committee for further consideration.
- 16.7 Introduction of new AMSA Sporting Achievement Award - Minute from the NSWMSA refers. It was noted that this item had not been sanctioned by the NSWMSA. Members noted that this was generally done at the state level. It was agreed to refer this matter to the sub-committee for consideration.
- 16.8 Affiliation of Australian Masters with Squash Australia - Minute from Mr Best (NSW). Members noted that this item has not been sanctioned by the NSWMSA. Mr Best said the only way AMSA could secure funding was to affiliate with Squash Australia. He acknowledged that this item has been defeated at the AGM on three previous occasions. Mr Smith said that Squash Australia receives \$1.2 million in funding and out of that Masters receives nothing. The President said that Squash Australia has been asked to put something in writing setting out what the financial benefits would be to Masters but nothing had been forthcoming.
- 16.9 Trans Tasman Representatives – Minute from the WA Masters Squash Association refers. See item 5.3 above.
- 16.10 AMSA Logo – change of logo – email from the Webmaster dated 6 August 2011 refers. It was the view of Mr Thorpe that the current AMSA logo was dated and recommended a new design. It was agreed to put forward suggestions and circulate to Members.
- 16.11 Announcement of the Australian Test Team – email dated 15 July 2011 was noted.

- 16.12 Announcement of the New Zealand Test Team by New Zealand Masters Squash was noted.
- 16.13 More Support for Australia's Best Squash Players – Media Release issued by Senator Mark Arbib on 5 August 2011 was noted.
- 16.14 Oceania Squash Federation Calendar of Events was noted.
- 16.15 AMSA Office Bearers & Committee Members 2010-11 was noted.

## 17. STATE REPORTS

- a) Australian Capital Territory. Mr Caban reported that ACT Masters were now using the National Centre Courts (Lyneham) at their home courts. He said major tournaments and competitions will be played there. Membership has increased over the last 12 months with players coming out of the ranks of pennant competition. The ACT held a very successful March tournament. He said Canberra will be hosting the 2013 Australian championships and an organizing committee is in place. He said Ron Smith was made a life member of ACT Masters.
- b) New South Wales - Mr Best reported that NSW continues in a stable and sound financial position. He acknowledged the support of the ACT players in regularly attending NSW tournaments. He said NSW lost a valued and long standing member, Harry Rigby. He said membership has remained static over the past year.
- c) Northern Territory – Dr Weir reported that there is currently no competition being played due a lack of a squash facility. He said a new squash complex is due for completion in early 2012 and will comprise 12 glass backed singles courts, 6 of which can be converted to 4 doubles courts.
- d) Queensland – Mr Cook reported that tournament numbers and formats appear to remain popular. He said Queensland Masters is in a stable financial position. He said Queensland's focus this year was taken up with the Championships.
- e) South Australia – Ms Tapp reported that SA Masters squash continues to be strongly supported with masters' pennant being run 4 nights a week with 10 competitions. She said SA Masters continues to successfully own and operate a squash centre at Edwardstown. She acknowledged the difficulty in getting SA players to travel.
- f) Tasmania – Mr Brown reported that the Championships in 2010 were a great success due in no small part to the hard work of the organizing committee and volunteers. He said Tassie Masters

continue to run 2 tournaments – Davenport and Hobart. Entry numbers remain steady. He said a significant milestone was Rose Searle stepping down as President after 25 years. He said Rose was made a life member of Tasmanian Masters.

- g) Victoria – In his report, Mr Morsch highlighted the VMSA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. Ms Rowles reported that Victoria's Judith Goadby award was presented to Jill Morsch. Pennant competition remains stable with 13 grades. Finances of the VMSA are in good share due mainly to the success of hosting the 2009 Australian Masters Squash Championships.
- h) Western Australia – Ms Williams reported that WAMS financial status remains buoyant. She said Ed Jennings was the 2010 Squash Australia Administrator of the Year and Vic Thomas was the 2011 recipient of the 'Recognition of Contribution to WA masers' Squash award.

#### 18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Best reported that Roy Whitehead had had a stroke and was doing well in hospital.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm