

SQUASH AUCKLAND INC
44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2007
At Oakridge House, Carrington Road, UNITEC,
Mt Albert, Auckland
At 6.30pm

Apologies:

Apologies were received from the following clubs voting delegates: Auckland Squash Centre, Eden Epsom, Franklin, Howick, Kumeu, Navy, Titirangi, Waiuku, Warkworth Barry & Rowena Mortimer.

Board Apologies: June McCabe

Life Member Apologies: Gower Dallimore, Wilma Halling, Alison Childs, Elaine Penney

Present:

Board/Squash Auckland Management:

Chair: Bob Dey
Board: Kirk Richardson, Paul Cameron, Tim Marshall, Pam Gilbert, Paul Wright
Squash Auckland: Trudy Englebretsen (General Manager)
Jason Kay (Development Officer)
Paula Browning (Accountant – Sport Auckland)

Voting Delegates:

Belmont	Not Present	Browns Bay	Johan Van Der Vyver
Devonport	Dietmar Londer	Eden Epsom	Not Present
Franklin	Not Present	Grammar	Not Present
Henderson	Francie Paterson	Herne Bay/Ponsonby	Mark Roberts
Howick	Not Present	Kumeu	Not Present
Manurewa	Karen Hadfield	Maramarua	Not Present
North Shore	Pat McHugh	Panmure	Pam Gilbert
Papakura	Keith Hobman	Red Beach	Not Present
Remuera	Aileen Buscke	Royal Oak	John Endean
Airforce	Andrew Bannan	Navy	No Present
Shepherds Pk	Not Present	Silverdale	Not Present
Te Kauwhata	Not Present	Te Papapa	Not Present
Titirangi	Not Present	Waiuku	Not Present
Weymouth	Allen Nicholson	Warkworth	Not Present

Life Members:

Mike Greig

Observers:

Rochelle Hobbs (HD), Ricardo Stanley (PK), Heather Findlay (GR), Mark Waldin (BB), Marj Barnett (NS), Debbie Sims (DV), Glen Hurley (PM)

Welcome:

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

Item 1 – Roll Call

Apologies were tabled and taken from the floor and a roll call of voting delegates was taken.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM held 9th November 2006 & Special General Meeting held 15th February 2007 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record of the proceedings.

Bob Dey/Dietmar Londer
Unanimous

Item 3 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 9th November 2006 or Special General Meeting held 15th February 2007.

Item 4 – Chairman's Report

The Board has had a complicated year; they decided not just to review last Strategic Plan but to go through a complete review, the new direction geared towards club assistance. The Squash Auckland financial year ends September 30 so there was little time to achieve Strategic Plan outcomes however the new website will be launched soon which includes the move to administer interclub on line.

Squash Auckland is now in the position to achieve its strategy through the combined skills of the General Manager and new Development Manager who starts Monday 19th November.

The Chairman's Report was tabled for acceptance.

Bob Dey/Rochelle Hobbs
Unanimous

Item 5 – Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2007

Chairman – Squash Auckland finished the year with a surplus due to good management. The last couple of years ended in a deficit.

Life Member Mike Greig congratulated the Association for making a healthy surplus. The only other possibility is a deficit which would mean certain death.

NV (by proxy) – The statement of accounts is not accepted by Navy Squash; they should not be abbreviated and should not be external to the annual report as this is tardy. Chairman explained that it was not intended that the statement of accounts be separate from bound document but rather a printing error.

HB – raised question about sponsorship and grants. Has the Income received matched expenditure?

Paula Browning (accountant) –referred to page 6 of the Notes to the Financial Statements which shows the balance of any gaming money that was not spent at the end of the year. (\$33,185)

It was moved that the tabled Annual Report and Statement of Accounts in the format presented be accepted.

Bob Dey/Rochelle Hobbs
Unanimous

Item 6 - Election of Members of the Board

Paul Wright, Pam Gilbert & Bob Dey were elected onto the Board at the 2006 AGM. Kirk Richardson & Paul Cameron were co-opted onto the Board in 2006 just prior to the AGM. June McCabe and Tim Marshall have completed 2 years and will stand down. Tim Marshall was nominated for re-election; Paul Cameron was standing for nomination. Written nominations received for Tim Marshall and Paul Cameron. As per constitution both members were duly elected.

Paul Wright resigned from the Board after completing 1 year of the 2 year term. Thus leaving one vacancy from which nominations were taken from the floor,

Nominations received from the floor were Glen Hurley (PM), Rochelle Hobbs (HD), and Tanya Laurence (RM).

DV -Proposed that you should be able to vote against people running for election and this should be included in a review of the constitution. Chairman said this would be considered by the new Board.

Tanya Laurence from Remuera Rackets was elected to the remaining vacancy for an elected Board member. Tanya has a background in marketing. Rochelle and Glen were thanked for standing for the board.

Item 7 - Election of an Auditor

Hayes Knight were thanked for the work they did on the accounts. It was moved that Hayes Knight be retained as the auditors for the 2008 financial year.

Bob Dey/John Endean
Unanimous

Item 8 – Election of an Honorary Solicitor

It was moved that Mike Sumpter be reappointed as the Honorary Solicitor to Squash Auckland.

Bob Dey/Pat McHugh
Unanimous

Item 9 – Increase Affiliation Fees for 2007

RO – against any further increase SEM, there has been an increase of ~ 23% over last 2 years. Clubs have difficulty sustaining their own operations.
RO cannot see how Squash Auckland can justify charging more when RO is not getting quality service.

RO - The 2008 budget has a significant difference in depreciation.
Paula Browning (Accountant) explained that the successful ASB Charitable Trust application funded \$60,000 worth of new computer equipment and a new website. These assets are written off over 3 years, hence the increase in annual depreciation from the current year.

Mike Greig (Life Member) suggested that any change in SEM is meaningless in relation to trust funding which could dry up so is important to ensure money is set aside for the future. But the Association should keep chasing as hard as they have in 2007.

Paul Cameron (Board Member) highlighted that the idea is that this year has been spent liaising with clubs and the future focus of Squash Auckland is to help clubs help themselves, Squash Auckland's role is to ensure that the clubs get the support they need.
The increase in SEM of \$2 is to ensure that Squash Auckland can invest in the clubs and the people.
Basically it is the chicken or the egg scenario; clubs need to support Squash Auckland so this can happen.
For clubs to get the support they need, they must invest up front.
Squash Auckland is heavily reliant on trust funding, which if not received could potentially shut down the organisation overnight.

RO indicated that clubs are investing up front and have been for many years.

The new Strategic Plan was highlighted, clubs were consulted and the focus is on assisting clubs.

MR asked how much the \$2 SEM increase contributed to the total income. GM stated that the \$2 SEM increase contributes an additional \$6,000 to Squash Auckland's budget.
General view was that this was a small total sum.
MR also asked how much do other Districts SEMs contribute to the total income, GM outlined that most Districts receive 20-25% from SEM's. Squash Auckland's SEM's contribute to 20% of the total budgeted income. Squash Waikato is the only one of the larger regions whose SEM is lower than Auckland's. Waikato's SEM figure has not changed since 1997 and this is because Waikato has the reserves it may need if funding variables occur.

HB - $200 \text{ SEM} \times \$2 = \400 (for bigger clubs) will not affect club viability.
We are operating in an inflationary environment therefore the increase is acceptable.

Mike Greig –suggested that the other option rather than increasing SEM's (if not accepted) is to increase interclub fees.

DV – prices rise, things get more expensive, biggest problem is clubs don't do their job and get players in and squash has old tired facilities, if clubs lose players it is their fault and clubs should look at how to turn it around. Clubs need to achieve results, Squash Auckland is there to help clubs and Squash NZ is there to help Squash Auckland.

NS - increasing interclub fees is not a good idea; players already complain about having to pay interclub fees and having to travel etc. Some members do not play because the fees are too high.

GM – increase in interclub this year was to pay for the pre-paid envelopes supplied to clubs to ensure results cards could be returned.

MR – read in the paper that Squash Auckland received community post envelopes.
GM confirmed this was true, 500 envelopes were received approx 1 month ago.

Heather Findlay – every club charges interclub fees differently. When playing interclub for RM she feels the interclub fees are reasonable, other clubs set a fee and include other costs. But she doesn't think the fee is too high.

HD has had double the number of interclub teams in the competition this year, fees were not an issue.

Paul Cameron (Board Member) –whether interclub grows the game or is killing the game (members can't get on the court during interclub time etc) is unknown. A Strategic Plan goal is to make relevant competition happen and interclub will be part of the review.

NV (by proxy) - vote against the SEM increase unless the budget numbers are broken down.

Kirk Richardson (Board Member) – The Board need to ensure that there is enough money so that if we don't get trust funding that the game/assn will continue.

Saying no, makes it more painful in the future. At some point the SEM will need to increase, whether it is \$2 this year, \$5 next year etc.

RM – can it be increased this year and not go up next year?

Chairman – The Board cannot say it won't go up, the decision is for this year, the association can't be held to a decision that is a year away.

RO- \$108,000 working capital this year which is \$26,000 up on last year. Squash Auckland should go to clubs later when the money is needed. Building reserves is a contingency not urgent.

Chairman – the Board has looked at the overwhelming amount of money that comes from trusts and given the propensity for the trusts to change the way they think Squash Auckland may not be able to pay staff and sustain operations.

Board felt that it ought to adopt prudent financial practices and relying on a 'maybe' source of income is not prudent.

The Board could say don't employ new person whose job is to help clubs? What do you do?
Funding system will be looked at in the New Year and the Board to view funding sources.

When looking at the increase for an individual rather than clubs \$2 is not over the top 10% for one year, 20% over 2-3 could be considered a lot but the money is taken at less than the rate of inflation.

The Board is trying to take the sport, the association and the clubs forward. If clubs don't like this they say no to increase in SEM and tell the Board to find some other way of running things, and say that they don't have confidence in Board's ability to think.

Proposal to increase Affiliation fees to \$23 + GST be accepted.

Put to the vote:

33 votes for

11 votes against

Motion carried

Item 10 – Receive and approve budget

NV -vote against the budget unless the numbers are broken down. NV feel that clubs need to have visibility where the money is being spent

HD- question what NV are requesting, the board is responsible for the budget, the clubs approve SEM increase.

PM – NV is being pedantic; the accounts show the right level of information.

Mike Greig (Life Member) asked what the alternative is to the budget not being accepted. Chairman said alternative is holding a Special General Meeting for budget as requested at last year's AGM, however that was because the budget was presented at the AGM and not 2 weeks prior as has been done this year.

Motion put forward to accept the budget.

Bob Dey/Keith Hobman
Unanimous

Item 11 – General Business

MR– funding and grants with Squash Auckland. MN want to know what Squash Auckland is applying to and for what because clubs do not get funding if parent body is funded. Chairman – this is not a practical way of working.

DV – should be the other way around the club should tell Squash Auckland.

Paul Cameron (Board Member) – it is not about who should tell who, Clubs and Squash Auckland need to work together if funding is a key item for the club, it is not a case of working separately.

RO- Assisting clubs with getting trust funding would be a huge boost to clubs to help them getting value for money.

WM -How will the Development Manager prioritise the work as there are many clubs?
GM stated that both the DM and GM have Club Development roles to play and will be working with clubs to determine their needs and a time frame which is achievable. Squash Auckland will not be 'pulling clubs across the Line' it will be investing time and resource in those willing and able to help themselves.

HB – concerned that Squash Auckland will be inundated with work. GM said it has not happened yet, but that would be the goal.

PK – support received from GM and Chairman has been fantastic last year, pleasure to work with Squash Auckland, it has been a great year for PK management, board structure, players and coaching.

Communication has evolved over the last year. PK President, Keith Hobman takes his hat off to the Board and GM for what has been achieved.

PM – thanks Squash Auckland for their work over the past year, communication has flowed, the clubs did not receive regular communication and there was no sight of the previous board, this has significantly changed. Now when you ring office you get answers without being fobbed off. Thank you to Jason for the work on interclub. Look forward to having Steve on board.

PM mentioned that the new GM receives constant requests for information from the last GM which is disheartening. These requests take too much time and need to cease.

RM – thank you to Trudy, Board and Jason for work during the year.

NS – thank you, we are confident of the move forward and hope the GM stays for a few years.

HD – Trudy & Jason and Paul Wright – thank you. Help provided to put HD back on the map has been appreciated.

WM – intention of voting no against the SEM increase but was impressed by argument for increase put forward by the board who offered insight to where it can go and impressed. Performance is expected.

Heather Findlay –this has been one of the best years for Squash, interclub results come in on time, draws are done promptly and players are happy.
As a volunteer of Squash Auckland the support received from the GM has been very helpful.

Meeting closed – 8pm

Bob Dey

Chairman