

Draft Minutes of the Squash Wellington Annual General Meeting

Monday 25 March 2024 at Khandallah Tennis & Squash Club

The Meeting started at 6:30pm with a welcome from E Sanchez-Brown (Chair).

In attendance were:

Squash Wellington:

Emma Sanchez-Brown, Malcolm Thomas, Bryan Smith, Damien Lower, Russell Henderson

Wellington District Club Representatives:

Michael Chung (Island Bay), Ann Smith (Hutt City), Kevin Gardner (Kāpiti), Peter Bowers (Tawa), Nicola Ward-Thomas (Tawa), Paul Filer (Upper Hutt), Vance Kapene (Wainuiomata), Kaleb Allardyce (Wainuiomata), Shelby Burns (Wainuiomata), Scott Renner (Mana), Alex Chalaron (Club Kelburn), Melanie Morris (Red Star), Hinerau Marete (Red Star), Tracy Mears (Khandallah)

Life Members:

Mark Millar

Apologies were received from Brett Simon (Upper Hutt), Mike Slape (Life Member), Steve Scott (Life Member), Ray Southey (Life Member), Sandra Tinkler (Life Member) Samantha Reyes (SWN Board), Matt Green (Tawa)

The chair welcomed the life members in attendance, being Mark Millar

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion to accept the Minutes of the Squash Wellington AGM of 27 March 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting was put and **carried**.

K Gardner/P Bowers

Chair's Report

The Chair spoke to her previously circulated annual report of Squash Wellington Activities. In particular,-

- a) recognition was paid to following achievements in the 2023 season:
 - Masters Representative team in Invercargill. Well led by Bryan Smith. Great result to get 3rd overall – finished above their seeding
 - Sam Atkin's Masters title
 - Matt Green's efforts in the Masters Trans Tasman team
 - Oliver Dunbar's and Maiden-Lee Coe's results and selection in NZ Junior team
- b) Funding challenges were noted for Rep teams, expenses higher due to inflation making travel and accommodation more expensive;

- c) MySquash/Squashlevels/Affiliation Fees was noted as taking a lot of time and effort from the Board, especially for the General Manager for queries/updates. Michael Chung (Island Bay) noted that he really liked Squash levels but he expressed concerns about the quality of communication from Squash NZ. Paul Filer (Upper Hutt) noted that the Squash NZ webinar for Squashlevels was very useful and recommended that everyone watch the video as some questions raised were answered during the webinar.
Action: General Manager to circulate the webinar link.
- d) The representative squad programme was noted as continuing to grow and deliver. All camps are well attended and team spirit very strong. Also noted that it was great to see Masters splitting into 2 squads due to the popularity of the squad programme, it is hoped that Juniors and Seniors will follow next year.

A motion was put to adopt the Chair's report and **carried**.

M Millar/A Smith

General Manager's Report

Russell Henderson (General Manager) spoke to his previously circulated written report. Made special mention of the volunteers in the region. Also singled out Emma as Chair (calm and level headed), Malcolm as Finance officer (been a huge help to GM), current board members (Bryan, Damien and Samantha), all convenors (Nicola, Gemma and Bryan). Noted that there is a big buzz about juniors at the moment with the Head Juniors series going well and the huge news that New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships are held in Wellington this year (based at Hutt City but also supported by Wainuiomata and Upper Hutt).

Kevin Gardner (Kāpiti) asked how many board members were stepping down and up from the board and whether there was enough numbers, reply was 2 are stepping down and 2 stepping up.

Michael Chung (Island Bay) asked whether Squash Wellington had considered the mobile hitting walls. Reply was that yes it had been looked into and we have a funding resolution passed to apply for funds to get the walls.

Kevin Gardner (Kāpiti) asked which funders the Board approached in 2023, reply was Pelorus Trust, Pub Charity, NZCT, TAB NZ, Grassroots Trust and Lion Foundation. Malcolm Thomas (Board) also responded that we are working with Nuka Ora and who other sports use to ensure we target the right funders. Emma Sanchez-Brown (Chair) also mentioned that the board is looking into the professional funder to help with grant applications.

A motion was put to adopt the General Manager's report and **carried**.

M Chung/N Ward-Thomas

2023 Financial Report

Malcolm Thomas on behalf of the Board spoke to the previously circulated financial report. Made note that it was a privilege to be on the Board, and thanked past and present Board members.

Mr Thomas advised that the basis for the a loss of \$13k in 2023 was mostly a result of increased expenses and less success in grant funding.

The increased expenses were an increase in GM salary to meet the standard of living costs, increase in coaching services (although noted that this is the first time in a long time that they have increased) and goods & services which was mostly around travel/accommodation for events.

Peter Bowers (Tawa) asked how much Nuka Ora charged for the report, answer was \$750.

Peter Bowers (Tawa) asked whether the report was audited/reviewed, answer was it was not required.

Michael Chung (Island Bay) asked why it was not audited/reviewed, answer was cost. Previously the Board got the review done at a significantly discounted price but that resource was now no longer available.

Peter Bowers (Tawa) asked what was Crombie-Lockwood/Gallaghers contribution to Superchamps income, as it is a great initiative and encouraged all clubs to use them

Malcolm Thomas (Board) - \$4,935 was received in 2023

Peter Bowers (Tawa) – In previous years the Board removed the fees as Crombie-Lockwood/Gallaghers covered those costs, so why was a fee introduced this year for each team

Russell Henderson (GM) – The new fee was to partly cover contribution to teams who won districts and then travel to nationals

Malcolm Thomas (Board) – Noted that he is aware that Crombie-Lockwood/Gallaghers values their relationship with Squash Wellington

Peter Bowers (Tawa) – with better premiums and more flexibility, and with an extra court and a revaluation at \$3 million, our premium increased to \$15,000 pa. AON came back at >\$40,000 and with no flexibility.

Peter Bowers (Tawa) – as a revenue generator for SWN, getting more clubs to use Crombies will likely increase the kick back received which is ongoing - no need to keep applying each year like grants.

Malcolm Thomas (Board) noted that one of the Term Deposits was split at the end of last year to ensure that the Board had enough cash on hand to meet expense obligations. Emma Sanchez-Brown (Chair) also mentioned that the Board was working through other banking options

Tracy Mears (Khandallah) queried the increased coaching costs, Russell Henderson (GM) answered that coaches faced increased costs in 2023 (fuel, equipment, etc) and that this was the first increase in 2-3 years.

Peter Bowers (Tawa) acknowledged Club Kelburn's income and was great to see the club doing well and noted the decrease in club membership across some clubs, which will affect the affiliation fees.

Ann Smith (Hutt City) noted that casuals membership continues to be popular, so while full membership subscriptions were not necessarily growing, casual membership is. Indicative of the current climate.

Tracy Mears (Khandallah) made mention their numbers has changed mainly from a grading list clean up. There were previously a lot of members still on the grading list but were no longer playing competitively or at all.

Emma Sanchez-Brown made mention of Martin Dowson's help to get Club K part of Squash Wgtn.

A motion was put to adopt the financial report as a true and correct record of Squash Wellington's 2023 financial position and **carried**.

Annual Subscriptions

The Chair advised that the Board did not propose any increase in club subscription rates to Squash Wellington. As the affiliation fees are now received via Squash NZ under the new affiliation model then Squash Wellington (and 2 other districts) would have got a lot less this year, however Squash NZ agreed to fund the same amount as previous year for 2 years.

Club Remits

The Chair advised that the Board had not received any remits from clubs to put to the meeting.

Election of Board Members

The Chair advised that from a maximum of seven members, there were four vacancies on the Board upon the completion of her term and the resignations of Emma Sanchez-Brown and Malcolm Thomas.

Two nominations were received from clubs (Vance Kapene, Wainuiomata, and Ann Smith, Hutt City) and as such are automatically elected in accordance with the constitution. A motion to note the election of Vance Kapene and Ann Smith was put forward and **carried**.

K Gardner/P Filer

No objection was made to Emma Sanchez-Brown continuing as chair for the rest of the meeting, given that the new Board had not yet convened formally to elect a new chair.

General Business/Matters Arising from the Floor.

Peter Bowers mentioned that he raised the concern around lack of junior numbers at last year's AGM and did not see any mention of what is being done in the Annual Report. Emma Sanchez-Brown said work had begun especially around the NZSSC being held in Wgtn this year and the appointment of a Junior Convenor (Gemma Gee)

Peter Bowers – we need to integrate schools with the clubs. Emma Sanchez-Brown – yes, methodology and how to connect needs to be worked through. Once Gemma settles in then more work can be done.

Peter Bowers – suggested a workshop be held to brainstorm, if we do not get more juniors then this will have a big flow on effect. Emma Sanchez-Brown – players are moving up, and there has been a big increase in Womens/Juniors squash especially at Hutt City and the Wairapara.

Ann Smith – mentioned that there have been weekly/monthly hui and this has enabled new equipment to be procured, this year the next step with progress.

Michael Chung noted that there has been a drop off in membership numbers in 2023, E Sanchez-Brown – this was likely to be contributed to cost of living and general competing with other sports/events.

Vance Kapene made mention of the departing board members Emma Sanchez-Brown and Malcolm Thomas, and passed a vote of thanks via way of acclamation.

Russell Henderson thanked Khandallah for hosting the AGM.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.