

Approved Minutes of the Squash Wellington Annual General Meeting

Monday 27 March 2023 at Squash@UpperHutt

The Meeting started at 6pm with a welcome and karakia from A Smith (Chair).

In attendance were:

Squash Wellington:

A Smith, C Sayer, E Sanchez-Brown, S McKenna, M Thomas, R Henderson

Wellington District Club Representatives:

M Sayer (Island Bay), B Smith (Hutt City), A Izzett (H City), Kev Gardner (Kāpiti), Peter Bowers (Tawa), Nicola Ward-Thomas (Tawa), Samantha Reyes (Thorndon), Sam Niles (Thorndon), Brett Simon (Upper Hutt), Damien Lower (Wainuiomata)

Life Members:

Mark Millar, John Harrison, Judy Harrison

Apologies were received from E Williams (Hutt City), M Green (Tawa), S Scott (Life Member), J Tait (Masterton), J Steventon (Martinborough), H Grimmett (Otaki)

The chair welcomed the life members in attendance, being John and Judy Harrison and Mark Millar

[Minutes of previous meeting](#)

A motion to accept the Minutes of the Squash Wellington AGM of 28 March 2022 as a true and correct record of that meeting was put and **carried**.

M Thomas/B Smith

[Chair's report](#)

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

- a) recognition was paid to following achievements in the 2022 season:
 - M-L Coe (Mana) and O Dunbar (Tawa) both of whom had represented New Zealand at the World Junior Championships in France and been accepted onto a national emerging talent development programme
 - O Dunbar as the Squash New Zealand Most Improved Junior and National U15 champion
 - Jack Shearer (Island Bay) as the Squash New Zealand Development Coach of the Year
 - The Thorndon Club as Squash New Zealand Club of the Year
 - The Thorndon Club and Tawa as respective men's and women's B grade Superchamps Champions
 - M-L Coe and M Green as nominees for Nuku Ora awards
- b) continued growth in engagement between Squash Wellington and its clubs through various channels was noted;

- c) growth in popularity of the Squash Wellington Development Squads was noted; clubs were thanked for their role in supporting the concept and encouraging their members' participation
- d) financial contributors to Squash Wellington were acknowledged, especially A-Z Flooring, Yellowhammer and Skillsoft
- e) financially the 2022 result was a surplus after two successive years of losses, thanks to higher sponsorship and grants, including a \$20,000 Lion Foundation grant for the General Manager's salary received in December 2022 to be applied in 2023.

General Manager's report

R Henderson (General Manager) spoke to his previously circulated written report, apologising for its omission of the Darren Slape award in the list of award winners. In particular, he commended club captains and committees on their hard work and respectful engagement with Squash Wellington and their members during the very challenging Covid-affected environment in the 2022 season. R Henderson thanked the Board, convenors, coaches and the wider squash community for their invaluable support and wealth of knowledge as he grew into the initial District Administrator role then took on the more demanding General Manager role in May 2022.

K Gardner (Kāpiti) commended the General Manager's sensitive communications with clubs during the Covid restrictions.

P Bowers (Tawa) commended the detail and format of the financial report.

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

Brett Simon/K Gardner

2023 Financial report

M Thomas on behalf of the Board spoke to the previously circulated financial report. Mr Thomas advised that its format had change based on Nuku Ora advice pertaining to appropriate reporting formats for a charity.

Mr Thomas advised that the basis for the positive result was an increase in sponsorship income and \$20,000 additional grant funding.

P Bowers (Tawa) commended The Thorndon Club on its growth in membership.

B Simon (Squash@UpperHutt) drew the attendees' attention to the significant growth in Club Kelburn membership and queried whether the new Squash New Zealand affiliation model might affect membership numbers at Club Kelburn and Thorndon.

A motion was put to adopt the financial report as a true and correct record of Squash Wellington's 2022 financial position and **carried**.

M Sayer/S McKenna

Annual subscriptions

The Chair advised that the Board did not propose any increase in club subscription rates to Squash Wellington.

Club remits

The Chair advised that the Board had not received any remits from clubs (aside from a Life Member proposal, to be dealt with separately) to put to the meeting.

Constitution

The Chair reminded the attendees that the executive role of District Manager had been disestablished and a new role of General Manager had been established. Accordingly, references in the Squash Wellington constitution to District Manager were now outdated. Accordingly, the chair put a motion to update all references to District Manager in the constitution to General Manager, which was carried.

A Smith/S Niles

Election of Board members

The Chair advised that from a maximum of 7 members, there were 5 vacancies on the Board upon the completion of her term and the resignations of S McKenna, C Sayer, A Hape and C Rukuwai.

Since only two nominations were received from clubs (Samantha Reyes, The Thorndon Club and Bryan Smith, Hutt City) they were deemed elected in accordance with the constitution. A motion to note the election of S Reyes and B Smith was put and **carried**.

A Smith/ E Sanchez-Brown

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

Life member nomination

P Bowers (Tawa) spoke to the Tawa Club's remit that Squash Wellington confer life membership on Mike Slape for his significant contribution to the district and the clubs with which he has been associated (Collegians and Tawa). M Slape's previous roles on the Squash Wellington Board, including periods as Treasurer and President were commended, especially for his contribution towards financial and governance reform. At the club level, Mr Slape's contribution towards junior development were warmly acknowledged.

A motion was put to elect M Slape to life membership of Squash Wellington, which was **carried**.

P Bowers/M Millar

The Chair offered her congratulations on behalf of those present to Mr Slape.

General business

P Bowers suggested that with only 41 graded junior girls in the district, 20 of whom are in the Wairarapa, there is a significant grassroots development problem. Mr Bowers suggested that the Board lacked strategic focus on growing the bottom of pyramid and sought a 15 year forward focus in any initiatives to address it. The General Manager advised that the Squash Wellington 2023 Annual Plan involved relationship building with schools to develop interest amongst groups of school friends in squash.

The attendees held a general discussion on how best to address the problem, including by understanding what some clubs are doing right with a view to wider replication.

M Thomas sought that acknowledgment should be made of Squash Wellington's establishment of a professional new base at Club K, this being a good opportunity to collaborate with a permanently staffed squash venue and afford greater visibility of and squash community access to our General Manager.

A Smith as outgoing Chair made a valedictory speech acknowledging the General Manager's positive contribution to district, his enthusiasm, his desire to hear the voice of our people and reduce the administrative burdens on club volunteers. She counselled that he continue to lean on the expertise of the community to continue his professional growth and thanked him for his company and wisdom.

Ms Smith acknowledged that the new Board would be in safe hands and wished it every success. She thanked the outgoing Board members Storm, Aaron and Christine for their sound contributions. A Smith thanked C Sayer at length for her enthusiasm and industry as a Squash Wellington board member.

C Sayer responded by acknowledging on behalf of the Board the multiple leadership qualities displayed by the outgoing Chair during her time on the Board. C Sayer noted that her time as chair was transformative for Squash Wellington in that her personal warmth and commitment to inclusivity had rendered the squash community a welcoming environment whose ownership was vested in a wider range of participant types than ever before. C Sayer thanked the Chair for the significant personal service the Chair had rendered to the district on a purely voluntary basis as well as for the mutual friendship and support.

Meeting closed at 7.23pm with a karakia.