



OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

Minutes of the 12th General Meeting
Held at the Bayview Eden Hotel, Melbourne, Australia
16th January 2013

Attendance

Delegates:

Adsett	Neil	Tonga
Baldovini	Sebastien	New Caledonia
Breen	Richard	Fiji
Gole	David	Papua New Guinea
Healy	Steve	Australia
Hewagama	Ranjit	Solomon Islands
Jacobe	Cyril	Vanuatu
Johns	Steve	New Zealand
Mainguy	Cyrille	Vanuatu
May	Monty	Guam
O'Connell	Dan	Fiji
Ofati	Foster	Tuvalu
Ofati	Mrs Valemata	Tuvalu
Osborne	Bruce	Australia
Race	Jeff	Northern Mariana Islands
Sacault	Wilfred	Tahiti
Smith	Torgun	Guam
So'onalole	Waikaremoana	Samoa
Stubbings	Troy	Papua New Guinea
Sword	Mrs Madeilene	Cook Islands
Winter	Gerard	New Caledonia
Wong	Hilary	Papua New Guinea

In Attendance

Pollard	Geoff	OTF President
Ricci Bitti	Francesco	ITF President
Ridgeway	Gene	ITF DO, Pacific Oceania
Miller	Dennis	Executive Director, ONOC
Shannon	John	Joint EO, OTF
Smith	David	Joint EO, OTF
O'Rourke	Patrick	OTF

Apologies

American Samoa, Kiribati, Norfolk Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Rick Ninete (Guam), Iakopo Molotii (Tuvalu), June Langton (Samoa).

Welcome

Mr. Pollard took the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming all the delegates to Melbourne. He specially welcomed Francesco Ricci Bitti, President of the ITF, Dennis Miller from ONOC, and Steve Healy from Tennis Australia and thanked Steve in advance for the hospitality of hosting all the delegates this evening at the Rod Laver Arena. He also thanked Pat O'Rourke for organizing the dinner the previous evening. Mr. Pollard then welcomed all the delegates and reminded them of the voting rules that there was only one vote per country. He then noted that 14 of the member nations were in attendance compared to 11 the previous AGM in Fiji.

Mr. Pollard then recorded the above apologies and personal apologies and noted that Waikaremoana So'onalole had moved from a 2nd delegate to a voting delegate with the apology of Mrs. June Langton. Also that Mrs Valemata Ofati (TUV) was their 2nd delegate. He continued by welcoming Joint Executive Officers, David Smith and John Shannon and wished them well in their new roles and looked forward to their working closely together. The delegates were then invited to introduce themselves.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the General Meeting held in Lautoka, Fiji on 24th March 2011, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed. *Moved S. Johns, seconded W. So'onalole. Carried*

Troy Stubbings raised 3 matters arising from the minutes. Under 4.4 he questioned that one of the EO's had to reside in Fiji and whether this was the intent of the motion. Mr Pollard confirmed that this was the intent of the wording and that Fiji accepted this being the case. He then commented on 5.3 Sponsorship and Mr. Pollard commented that this subject was on the agenda later in the meeting. Troy Stubbings went on to discuss coaching in the General Section of the minutes and that there needed to be a stock take of coaching capacity and this needed to be elevated as a key item and critical component of discussion going forward. Mr. Pollard commented that there would be ample opportunity for a fuller discussion on coaching under General Business later in the meeting. It was then agreed that the minutes be amended to include the following wording; "that Coaching is to be made a high priority in the forthcoming year." *The minutes were then carried with this amendment.*

2. Executive Committee Report

2.1 President's Report

Mr. Pollard addressed the meeting and commented that 2012 was a year of transition; a year in which there were changes made to the constitution and the Management structure; a year when the Executive Officer position was advertised with double-figure applications being received. He commented that the decision was made to move forward with the split position of 2 Executive Officers. John Shannon was appointed immediately and David Smith taking up his joint role at his AGM to enable Pat O'Rourke to continue in his role up to this meeting and prepare the relevant documents for this AGM. That he expected David Smith to maintain close relationships with the ITF, John Shannon

to maintain close relationships with Fiji and jointly with ONOC. Mr. Pollard commented that sponsorship continues to be a challenge. He advised that the ANZ Bank advised the OTF that they would not be renewing their sponsorship that had been in place for the last 20 years. Their intent appears to be a heightened focus at the Australian Open and a greater focus in Asia rather than Pacific Oceania. Before the OTF had had a chance to have discussion with the ANZ Bank, they advised the OTF accordingly.

Mr. Pollard went on to comment that Davis Cup had been disappointing with the Pacific Oceania team being relegated to Group 3 but that he was looking forward to good results in April in Myanmar who will be hosting both Zone 3 and 4 Ties.

Mr Pollard mentioned that since the last AGM, the OTF had been registered as a Company in New Zealand rather than just an Association to remove any personal liability. He further commented that 2012 had been the OTF's best ever financial year. The two away Davis Cup Ties in the Philippines and Lebanon had helped the financial result considerably together with a surplus of ANZ Bank grant funds. As a result the current 6 figure reserves were the first time this situation had occurred. He continued on his theme of this being a transitional year with an impending change in the Board and President. He additionally referred to the summary of activity in the OTF and the growing number of events in Pacific Oceania.

2.2 Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Federation's affairs was received
Moved S. Healy, seconded W. So'onalole. Carried.

3. Finances

3.1 Audited Financial Reports 2012

Audited financial accounts for the 2012 calendar year were tabled. Mr. Pollard commented that the Federation now had a turnover of \$300,000, that the Federation had finished the year with cash reserves of \$112,000 and a surplus in the calendar year of \$42,000. He commented that the report had been audited by Barry McMillan and thanked him for this. *Mr. Pollard moved that the accounts be received and this was carried unanimously.*

3.2 Draft Budget 2013

The draft budget for 2013 was tabled and discussed. It is a break even budget and assumes that a replacement sponsor for the ANZ Bank will be found during the year. Clearly if a larger sponsor is found then the proposed programme will be extended. It was commented that Davis Cup will be a different formula financially from previous years. *The Meeting unanimously adopted the budget*

3.3 Membership Fees

The Executive recommended that the fees remain unchanged at \$200 paid bi-yearly (\$400).

4. Membership

It was commented that some nations are slow in paying fees to the ITF and that the Marshall Islands had been suspended as they were 3 years in arrears. Mr. Pollard commented that benefits received far outweighed the cost of the fees.

At this point of the meeting Mr. Pollard invited the president of the ITF, Mr. Francesco Ricci Bitti to address the meeting. He commented that he was excited to be in Melbourne and thanked the OTF for the excellent work that is being done in the region in a very different geographic environment. He remarked that the OTF is typically a development organization focussed on player development and participation.

He then mentioned that in 2013 the ITF will be celebrating 100 years of operation since the ITF was formed in 1913 in Paris and then went on to comment on the various activities that will be held throughout the year to celebrate this historic milestone. He said that there were 210 member nations and as such was one of the most universal International Federations. He went on to comment on the financial benefits that the Olympics brought which was far greater than expected and as such would benefit the regions with the same development budget in place despite the difficult global economic situation. He went on to mention that the ITF spent \$4M from its \$50M turnover with 80% going back to the member nations.

Mr. Ricci Bitti commented on the difficulties that the geographic size of the Pacific Oceania region poses and on how much the ITF appreciates the efforts of the Development Officer and the Regional Training Centre and thanked the OTF for the manner in which funds were and have been spent. He remarked that the next 10 years had challenges and that it was important to attract young people to tennis but that kids today have so many options to choose from including new pastimes.

He then closed his comments by sincerely thanking Mr. Pollard for all his work as President of the OTF and also Pat O'Rourke similarly and additionally for his work on the ITF Junior Committee.

5. Sponsorship

B. Osborne made some preliminary comments re a presentation that Ben Slack would present to the meeting in the afternoon. His presentation would focus on "pitch items" for the OTF to take to potential sponsors and that it was intended for tennis Australia to assist the OTF in this area.

J. Shannon commented that it would likely be easier for each nation to get a sponsor for their individual programmes given that due to the geography getting a regional sponsor will likely prove very difficult. Alternatively individual sponsors could be found separately for Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. He commented that the ANZ

Bank model may not necessarily be the best model. B. Osborne commented that the way forward could well be 2 or 3 sponsors to fill this void.

6. International Senior Teams

6.1 Pacific Oceania Davis Cup 2012

C. Mainguy reported that there had been two away ties in 2012 in the Philippines and Lebanon. Both of these had been lost by Pacific Oceania, which resulted in their relegation to Group 3. He commented that the age of the players was increasing and that there was the need to find younger players. The next Tie was a round Robin in Myanmar in April and he hoped that this would result in promotion to Group 2. He then talked about current and emerging players. J. Race referenced Colin Sinclair from Saipan who is based in Australia and had just gained his first ATP Ranking point in a recent Futures Tournament. He closed his comments by commenting on the lack of commitment of some nations to team development and getting more involved in the region.

T. Stubbings commented that the gap in players' ability and the dearth of potential Pacific Oceania Davis Cup players mirrored the gap in coaching which was clearly linked to funding or the lack of. He went on to say that this is a huge gap and disparity in the coaching ability of coaches across the Pacific Oceania region.

6.2 Fed Cup Participation 2012

Mr. O'Rourke commented that the best women players in the Pacific are studying at college and cannot be released to play as the college semester clashes with the Fed Cup playing schedule, which is the reason that there is currently no Fed Cup team.

6.3 Asia/Pacific Tennis League

C. Mainguy thanked tennis Australia for this league. Pacific Oceania will be fielding a team next week for this event which will occur during the second week of the Australian Open at Melbourne Park. A special shirt for the players had been produced and J. Shannon displayed this to the meeting. D. O'Connell commented that it was excellent to see 2 players from New Caledonia being part of the Pacific Oceania team.

7. Regional Tennis Centre Facility

7.1 Report and Future

7.2 Hire Agreement with Fiji Sports Council etc

J. Shannon reported that a letter had been received from the Fiji Sports Council investigating whether other sports could use the facility. The F.S.C. had been asked to investigate how they could generate extra revenue either through naming rights or multi-purpose sports' usage. J. Shannon noted that he had had a meeting with them and the possible use by volleyball had been discussed due to the fact that

volleyball would likely do little damage to the surface. He further commented that executive approval had been given for volleyball to trial this for 2 months, but nothing had progressed so far. Mr. Pollard commented that “blended lines’ on tennis courts had been discussed by the ITF and that the Junior Committee had recently allowed this.

8. General Business

There being no items of General Business the meeting adjourned for morning tea. At the end of which Mr. Pollard invited both Presidential nominees, Stephen Healy(AUS) and Waikaremoana So’onalole (SAM) to present to the meeting individually and privately about their vision for Pacific Oceania, their goals and prime focus should they assume office. They both responded to questions posed to them by the meeting.

Discussion then ensued with Dan O’ Connell asking Mr. Steve Healy whether he had reviewed the proposal presented by the OTF to link Tennis Australian sponsorship with closer OTF ties with Phil Shanahan and the Margaret Court Tennis Academy. Mr. Healey said he had not seen this proposal, and believed that this must have been reviewed by other Tennis Australian staff without further more senior discussion. Mr. Healy undertook to investigate this but regardless of this both Mr. Healy and Mr. Steve Johns said they welcomed at any stage any proposal to benefit OTF Nations and this would be considered on its merits. Dan O’Connell insisted that the OTF Board should receive a response which was endorsed by the ITF President, Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, that the OTF executive should receive an official response.

Mr. S. Healy left the meeting at 11:45am

9. Appointment of Office Bearers (2013-2015)

9.1 Election of all Officers

Prior to the vote for the President, H. Wong Thanked Mr. Pollard for this tenure as President of the OTF and the enormous amount of work he had done for the OTF. He similarly thanked P. O’Rourke for his work as Executive Officer.

President: The vote for the President was then conducted with 14 delegates eligible to vote. This initial vote resulted in a Tie of 7-7. Discussion then ensued around casting votes but it was reported that the Constitution was silent on this issue.

Following discussion and commentary from Mr. Pollard and Mr. Ricci Bitti a second vote was undertaken. This resulted in Mr S. Healy being duly elected President (10-4). It was minuted that the incoming executive needed to review this part of the Constitution and that a clause needed to be presented to the next AGM covering the procedure for any future tie-breaking vote situation

Vice-President: Mr. Cyrille Mainguy was elected unopposed as Vice President.

Joint Secretaries-General (2 positions): There were 3 nominees for these 2 positions: Sebastien Baldovini (NC); Daniel O'Connell (Fiji); Bruce Osborne (AUS). Following a vote the respective voting was S. Baldovini (11 votes), D. O'Connell (9 votes) and B. Osborne (6 votes) with 1 invalid vote. Sebastien Baldovini and Daniel O'Connell were duly elected.

Committee (4 positions): There were 5 nominees for these 4 positions: Neil Adsett (Tonga); Steve Johns (NZ); Jeffrey Race (Northern Marina Islands); Wilfred Sacault (Tahiti); Torgun Smith (Guam). Following a vote the respective voting was Steve Johns (13 votes), Torgun Smith (13 votes), Neil Adsett (11 votes), Wilfred Sacault (11 votes) and Jeffrey race (7 votes) Steve Johns, Torgun Smith, Neil Adsett and Wilfred Sacault were duly elected.

Mr. Pollard then made a presentation to P. O'Rourke and thanked him for all his hard work over the last 17 years. C. Mainguy then thanked P. O'Rourke for all his work over many years assisting the Davis Cup Team.

P. O'Rourke then thanked Mr. Pollard and commented how much he had learned from him. He remarked on the opportunities that his work with OTF had provided him. He reflected on his times working with 2 previous Secretary-Generals, initially with Mike Dawes then Fenton Coull. He reflected on stepping down from the Committee in 2003 to become the Executive Officer. Also how he had enjoyed organizing Davis Cup Ties in Pacific Oceania and also NZ. He also thanked Tennis NZ and reflected on his time as CEO for 10 years. Also how Tennis NZ had nominated him for the ITF Junior Committee which he joined in 2000.

C. Mainguy, as the incoming Vice-President, then thanked Mr. Pollard for all his dedicated work as President over the last 17 years and made a presentation to him. In accepting the presentation, Mr. Pollard thanked all the members of the OTF for the friendships he had formed and the programme that had been developed over many years and wished the incoming Board every success.

J. Shannon then made presentations to both Mr. Pollard and P. O'Rourke on behalf of the Board of the OTF.

The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

10. ANZ Bank Pacific Tennis Development Programme

10.1 Nations Report on Program in 2012

10.2 Future of program for 2013-including Tennis 10s

10.3 ITF Equipment

Following lunch Ben Slack from Tennis Australia then made a presentation to delegates focussing on sponsorship and Tennis Australia's development programmes. He explained that he was responsible for developing sponsorship partners, not just for the

Australian Open, but outside of this eg Cardio Programmes, Hot Shots. He talked about Mini Tennis and its broad exposure, its community reach and the fact that it can be activated in so many ways.

He stressed that it was important to find a partner who wanted to activate and engage, not just be a silent financial sponsor. The options were either to find a Major Sponsor for Tennis 10s across Pacific Oceania or alternatively a sponsor for each individual nation. Ben commented that the options for the former would likely come from a Bank or Digicel, Toyota, BSP or similarly. The latter option, whilst far broader, would likely result in lesser funds. Ben indicated that he would welcome assisting tailor a presentation document to suit each member nation.

J. Shannon commented that we may need to break any such pitch to island groupings like Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

B. Slack went on to comment that we should review who we are currently partnering with and see whether they would be interested in extending this arrangement. This brought general discussion on how good the ANZ Bank partnership had been for the last 18 years. T. Stubbings commented that the Tennis 10s programme was worth far more than the \$40,000 that the ANZ Bank provided.

B. Slack commented that it didn't really matter what product category a potential sponsor was in but more how we would partner with them and getting their active promotion and participation in the programme. In short how are they going to help us grow the programme, rather than just looking at the monetary angle. He further commented that there seemed to be an absence of data on how many kids are actually participating in the programme, how many programmes, where are they based etc. D. O'Connell commented that a report had always been produced at the end of every year on the Mini Tennis Programme.

B. Osborne commented that we only have reports from 3 nations. He recommended a small working sub-committee to develop a package to present to potential sponsors. Maybe this could be comprised of 1 person from each of the sub-regions.

It was then agreed that the following delegates should form a sub-committee to discuss and formulate a plan on tennis 10s to present to potential sponsors:

- Torgun Smith
- Dan O'Connell
- Troy Stubbings
- John Shannon

With D. Smith acting as a reference point of contact.

Discussion then ensued around the Regional Tennis Centre and the lack of a sponsor. B. Osborne commented that this was another

potential sponsor worth sponsoring and pursuing. T. Stubbing commented that we should be bold enough to approach someone like Roger Federer and ask for sponsorship.

B. Osborne commented that the OTF needed to seriously looking to relive costs out of their budget by trying to get product and services free and referenced the \$10,000 spent on T-Shirts and the high travel costs. Discussed then ensued that if we were able to raise \$100,000-\$200,000 from this programme, how would we spend this? Would it be on elite players, RTC, grassroots, coaches or?

Gene Ridgeway said money should be spent on coaches going to the various islands and spending lengthy time there. There was a need to educate coaches more and get them to use the equipment. They "needed to get up to speed." He also said that competition was important for Tennis 10s and eventually playing fuller length matches. Programmes in both Fiji and Vanuatu grew from 10 and 8 participants to currently 44 and 110 respectively.

It was then suggested that B. Slack circulate via B. Osborne to the OTF members the sponsorship proposal he presented at the meeting.

Dennis Miller, the Executive Director of ONOC, then addressed the meeting and talked about the Olympic Solidarity programme which can be viewed on line via their website www.olympic.org.solidarity. He mentioned that money could be accessed by NOCs and that the funds available had increased this quadrennial from K65 to K80 for NOCs from 1 January. He also mentioned that there were funds from Olympic Scholarships for coaches to travel to improve their knowledge and skills. D. O'Connell was requested to get more information on this from Dennis Miller. Money was available for each nation to apply individually to bring a coach for long periods to their nation.

11. Regional Training Centre

11.1 2012 Program Report

11.2 Scholarships 2013

11.3 Elite Junior Player Support

Gene Ridgeway spoke to his circulated report. He commented that the RTC was in transition and alluded to the report by Frank Couraud. It was important that we decide on the objectives of the RTC and he felt it was important that we set higher expectations for the players at the RTC. They have to play more tournaments and in this regard reference the tournament plan of A. Shannon that had already been circulated, but this cost money and that we needed to double the funds available to support this. He mentioned how important it was to have a stronger linkage to minimize travel costs in gold and silver events in Australia and New Zealand. He said that we needed to rethink the criteria for joining the RTC and also the programme results from those accepted.

S. Johns then asked exactly what was the objective of the RTC and the people in the programme. He felt the objective was too wide. G. Ridgeway commented that he was looking at the possibility of students doing on-line education as the Fiji College hours of 7:30am-3:30pm and the early dusk, limited daily practice times. C. Mainguy said that the report from F. Couraud had identified all the issues surrounding the RTC. He said that the report was a starting point and that the OTF needed to use this report and decide what pathway to take from here.

Both S. Johns and C. Mainguy said there was a need for the OTF executive to review the RTC, decide what its objectives are and revive the RTC. S. Johns said that there needed to be a refocus on the tennis objectives of the RTC and where money was being spent so that everything that was spent was focussed on driving towards those objectives.

D. O'Connell commented that the thinking had always been for the kids to be at the RTC until they were 18 and then to the USA on scholarships and not to send them home when they turned 16. J. Shannon commented that for exceptional PO players that Australia and New Zealand needed to be providing greater assistance for these players to join their programmes. S. Johns said that he welcomed approaches on such special cases. B. Osborne said that such players would need to meet certain criteria and discussion ensued as to then what were the criteria?

Both B. Osborne and S. Johns then said that they welcomed concrete proposals on these best players and additionally proposals for identifying coaches who could benefit from coaching programmes available in Australia and New Zealand. Such proposals they advised should be presented to them formally through the OTF Executive Officer. T. Stubbing questioned G. Ridgeway as to whether he had any relationships with coaches in Australia or New Zealand and that there was a need for him to build such relationships. He questioned whether there should be a budget for developing such a coaching relationship.

G. Ridgeway then commented that the key priorities for the RTC were:

- Getting coaches and improved level of coaching to the RTC
- Sending younger players on more tours to Australia and new Zealand
- Upgrade the ITF house

B. Osborne commented that there were ITF grants available for the best players and that these hadn't been accessed in the past.

12. Junior Competitions

12.1 Pacific Oceania Junior Circuit

12.2 ITF Oceania Junior Circuit Events

12.3 Oceania Closed Junior Championships

G. Ridgeway discussed the review of the POJC. He said that the OTF needed to make some decisions re the format of this as the costs

were escalating. He felt that the profile of the POJC had dropped away due to cost. He said that participation was down in 2012 and suggested that maybe a team's event should be held before or after the POJC. He talked about offering Wild Cards for Cook Island and Fiji Teams; maybe playoffs between nations; to play earlier in the year to have more time to raise funds; to play it before the POJC with the best staying on to save costs; that it would be beneficial having a Qualified Referee at the tournament; that the 2 player rule needs to be looked at (no more than 2 players can represent 1 region); changing from U15 and U18 to U14 and U16 respectively; that there was the potential to put a team in the U14 Junior Davis Cup hence the above suggested change; but that eliminating U18s would limit opportunities for these players.

N. Adsett then asked G. Ridgeway what he intended doing with all the suggestions he had raised. Is it your intention to put a proposal to the Board?

It was then agreed by the meeting that "there should be 12, 14, 16 age groups but also retain 18s. There would be a competition for the latter if there were sufficient players." Also that Doubles needs to be given greater priority rather than just played on the last day. Historically the reason had been around weather concerns and the fact that the singles may not be completed.

It was agreed that it was important that the nations be advised of the new format.

Proposed dates:

- 6-10 May West Pacific
- 12/13-16/17 June North Pacific
- 8-12 July East Pacific

Suggestion was made that everyone came together for a qualifying event to save costs.

- 12-18 August POJC
- 19-23 August OCJC

It was mooted that we should run a team event beforehand in the North Pacific and the qualifying after that as Fiji had previously had 2 weeks of competition starting with U12s.

13. Pacific Oceania Junior Teams

G. Ridgeway commented that the team to New Zealand and Australia were away for 18 days, playing on average 3 matches a day (singles, doubles and mixed); that they had been involved in fitness testing sessions; that Phil Shanahan had been extremely helpful.

14. Open Competition

G. Winter discussed the Oceania Championship Event. It was advised that in 2014 it will be hosted by Australia either in Brisbane or Cairns, though the date had not yet been set. Nations advised that many would be attending this year's Fiji Open (29 May-2 June) in

lieu of the Mini Games in Wallis and Futuna that had no tennis event.

The Executive Officer was requested to email all Nations the information about the Fiji Open.

T. Smith advised that the Guam Futures would be held in the week of the 3 June and that there were 4 Wild cards available for him to allocate.

15. Coaching

G. Ridgeway commented that he was in the process of organizing an ITF Level 1 Coaching Course in Vanuatu from 9-23 February which will be conducted by himself. B. Miller commented that the National Federations should be going to their NOC's for funding and additionally assistance from Olympic Solidarity Funding.

G. Ridgeway said he was hoping to arrange a Pacific Coaches' Conference in Fiji on the back of the OCJC for 3 days. He expected a speaker/presenter from the ITF to be there and that this would be funded by the ITF through the Olympic Solidarity Funds.

Additionally it was commented that there was a worldwide coaching conference in Cancun, Mexico from 5-9 November.

16. General

Discussion took place re updating the Strategic Plan. It was requested that D. Smith engage member Nations following this AGM and request input from them to enable him to compile a updated draft document to present to the Board.

T. Stubbing mentioned that he intended engaging BSP re a proposal for the development of Mini Tennis and Coaching

G. Ridgeway was requested to send a calendar of events for 2013 to C. Mainguy with a cc to the EO.

17. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next AGM would be held in Papua New Guinea in March 2014. T. Stubbing would advise the EO of suggested dates for him to liaise with the President.

The next Executive Meeting would take place in Fiji in August 2013.

The meeting closed at 3:50pm