



# OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

**Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**  
**Held at the Bayview Eden Hotel, Melbourne, Australia**  
**25<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

## **Attendance**

### **Delegates:**

Adsett	Neil	Tonga
Dietrich	Jenny	New Caledonia
Hsieh	Mae	Guam
Johns	Steve	New Zealand
Mainguy	Cyrille	Vanuatu
Nelson	Christopher	Northern Marianas Islands
Osborne	Bruce	Australia
Reddy	Sachin	Fiji
Rengiil	Ernestine	Palau
Sacault	Wilfred	Tahiti
Schuster	Raymond	Samoa
Stubbings	Troy	Papua New Guinea

### **In Attendance**

Healy	Steve	OTF President
Ricci Bitti	Francesco	ITF President
Margets	Juan	ITF Executive Vice-President
O'Connell	Dan	OTF Secretary-General
Wrighton	Darran	ITF DO, Pacific Oceania
Shannon	John	Joint EO, OTF
Smith	David	Joint EO, OTF
Smith	Torgun	Board Member

### **Apologies**

Richard Breen (Fiji)

### **Welcome**

Mr. Healy welcomed everyone to Melbourne and to the Australian Open. He commented that the tournament had gone well so far and that Tennis Australia had been blessed with good weather and that 8 of the 10 sessions up until last Friday were attendance records. Also that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week they were moving into the juniors, Wheelchair and the Asia/Pacific Tennis League and wished everyone a pleasant evening at the tennis this evening and the rest of the week.

Mr Healy then welcomed the President of the ITF, Mr. Francesco Ricci Bitti and the Executive Vice-President of the ITF, Mr. Juan Margets and invited the former to say a few words.

Mr Ricci Bitti opened his address by saying that he welcomed being at the OTF AGM and thanked Mr. Healy for inviting him to the meeting. He acknowledged the difficulties in the region due to its geographic size and the cost of travelling within the region. However he felt that the ITF was doing well in keeping tennis alive across the world where some other sports were struggling. He particularly thanked Tennis Australia and tennis New Zealand for the work that they are doing but also acknowledged that not everything that the ITF would like to do has yet been done due to limited resources. He also said that he was here to listen and looked forward to being part of the meeting.

Mr Healy continued by advising that he would need to leave the meeting at about 11:30am and that the OTF Vice-President, Mr. Cyrille Mainguy, would assume the chair.

## **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the General Meeting held in Lautoka, Fiji on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed. *Moved S. Johns, seconded N. Adsett. Carried*

Mr. Dan O'Connell commented that in the meetings earlier in April 2014 that we agreed to enter a Pacific Oceania Fed Cup Team into play in 2015 if the Men's Davis Cup team lost the Davis Cup tie, which they subsequently did. He commented that this wasn't recorded in the minutes. Mr Healy said that he wanted the meeting to be constructive and the fact is that Pacific Oceania has a team in both Fed Cup and Davis Cup in 2015 and the earlier discussion was that a Fed Cup Team would be included subject to a satisfactory strong team being available. N.Adsett commented that his recollection was that the meeting was supportive of a Fed Cup Team being entered but that no decision was made and that the intent of the meeting was that this proposition would be looked into further as we lacked information about dates and player availability. Mr. Healy then commented that a discussion did take place but that no resolution was made.

Cyrille Mainguy commented that there was a discussion and that he had commented that if the Men's Davis Cup Team wasn't promoted that we should consider entering a Fed Cup Team in 2015. His view changed following the fact that the Men's Team was almost promoted losing the play-off and he had said to the Team, who were very disappointed, that he would recommend to the executive that they be given another chance.

Mr. Torgun Smith commented that he recalled that there was a general consensus the OTF should consider entering a Fed Cup Team but as we didn't know who would be available that this would be investigated further before a final decision was made due to lack of knowledge around player availability.

Torgun Smith then proposed an amendment to the minutes as follows, "that there was a consensus that the OTF would field a Fed Cup Team if the Men's Davis Cup Team failed to gain promotion subject to there being a competitive Fed Cup Team." Mr. Neil Adsett then commented that he felt Torgun Smith's recollection was closer to what he recalled but didn't recall a consensus being made. That his view was that such a decision was "all in the air."

The meeting then agreed unanimously to approve the above amendment to the minutes of the April AGM and with that the approval of the minutes.

## **2. Executive Committee Report**

### **2.1 President's Report**

### **2.2 OTF Annual Report**

Mr. Healy presented his report as read as he did the Annual Report. Both reports were approved as read.

## **3. Constitution**

**3.1** Cyrille Mainguy spoke to the motion from the Vanuatu Tennis Federation that "nominees for the Board of Directors must be a national and full time resident of the country that has nominated them." Mr. Troy Stubbing commented that it would depend on what the definition of national means. Torgun Smith commented that the motion could probably be better worded and queried what was the definition of a full-time resident? Cyrille Mainguy then withdrew the motion and said that he would work with Torgun Smith to improve the wording cognisant of the comments from the floor.

**3.2** Neil Adsett then presented the two motions from the Tonga Tennis Association for the inclusion of clauses into the constitution for the appointment of a Patron and also Life Members of the OTF. He said that the intent was to tidy up a proposal made by Tennis Fiji with the intent to recognize long service to the OTF so that we have a patron and Life Members. He advised that he had previously circulated these motions to the Board and that these were the consensus following that process. He recognized that the wording was long but that also was precise. Mr. Francesco Ricci Bitti said he was in favour of everything, however, that the constitution of the OTF (a Regional Association) should be aligned to that of the ITF, suggested that the clauses could be simpler and also queried the intent of the difference between a Patron and a Life Member. He further commented that the constitution should be made as simple as possible and just have Honorary Life Members and that the 10 articles proposed should be simplified.

Mr Healy commented that the proposal was for a Patron to be appointed for up to 5 years and that a Life Member would be for life. Mr Steve Johns commented that a patron is often a figurehead role whereas a Life Member recognizes contribution of a member over many years.

Mr. Ricci Bitti commented that the figure of patron is not included in the ITF Constitution and that a Regional Association cannot have wording in their Constitution that is markedly different. However Honorary Life Members were included in the ITF Constitution. That it would be the ITF that would need to change its Constitution and that the motion for Patron is not consistent with other Regions. After considerable discussion Neil Adsett agreed to withdraw the motion referring to the insertion of clause 9A into the Constitution (Patron of OTF) and amend this motion by deleting Clause 9A. Mr. Raymond Schuster commented that we should have Life Members and Honorary Members.

The meeting then moved to discuss the insertion of Clause 9B as presented into the Constitution and this was approved with unanimous agreement.

Following discussion the meeting unanimously agreed to waive the 45 day notice period and approve Moana So'onalole being awarded the distinction of Life Membership of the OTF and that a letter should be sent to Moana duly advising and congratulating him.

#### **4. Appointment of Office Bearers**

Mr. Healy commented that as there were insufficient nominees for the available positions, that no vote would be required and declared the following duly elected the OTF Board of Directors:

President	Mr. Steve Healy (AUS)
Vice President	Mr. Cyrille Mainguy (VAN)
Secretary-General	Mr. Torgun Smith (GUM)
	Mr. Wilfred Sacault (TAH)
Committee	Mr. Steve Johns (NZL)
	Mr. Bruce Osborne (AUS)
	Ms. Ernestine Rengiil (PAL)

##### **4.1 Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

The Meeting unanimously agreed to again ask Barry McMillan to be the Honorary Auditor for the forthcoming year. D. Smith advised that he would be attending the lunch today and would ask him then (*subsequently agreed by Barry*).

#### **5. Finance**

##### **5.1 Audited Financial Reports 2014**

This was approved as read and D. Smith thanked Mr. Barry McMillan for his work in auditing the accounts in a timely manner to coincide with the meeting.

##### **5.2 Budget 2015**

Mr Darran Wrighton commented that that we needed to be more specific as to what the hosting grants were for. He suggested that it should go towards the Fee for the Referee and the Sanction Fee so that we know what is being paid by the ITF. He said that he is being asked

by both ONOC and also the ITF to be more specific about the detail of the projects and exactly what the money is going towards. He went on to comment that he is excited by the prospect of the Junior Fed Cup and that the criteria for the selection of the Junior Fed Cup Captain needs to be determined and finalized. When we made the criteria for the Junior Fed Cup he advised that every nation was approached and advised of the criteria that they had to meet. He also advised that the ITF had increased the Pacific Coach Development Fund Budget which will enable coaches to travel. This year this had been used to provide much needed laptops and other tennis coaching equipment. He advised that it wasn't specifically allocated to projects but as he travelled to countries and saw a specific need then he would allocate funds to this need. He also said that it was important that we separate the costs to the OTF from the overall cost of the project.

Mr. Healy asked how there could be some degree of ownership and transparency over the spending of these hosting grants. He didn't wish there to be an administrative burden but rather evidence that the money was appropriately spent. John Shannon gave comments on how the hosting grant was used for events in Fiji and that in the past they had never had to pay for a Referee as that was performed by the Executive Officer (Pat O'Rourke) and was part of his overall Position Description. It was advised to the meeting that an ITF Junior Tournament cannot be organized without a minimum of a White Badge Certified Referee. Discussion followed with Torgun Smith advising that it was common practice for this grant to go into the common fund to assist in the running expenses of the event. That the expenses of the Referee were far more than the value of the hosting grant.

Comment was made re the exchange conversion of US to AUD amounts in the budget that didn't align correctly on a couple of lines. Mr. Healy suggested that in future an exchange rate be put on the Budget and also the date of this rate. The Budget was then unanimously approved.

### **5.3 OTF Membership Fee**

D. Smith advised the meeting that the only membership fee that currently remained outstanding for the 2013-2014 period was that of Nauru, despite multiple reminders and that if this is not paid this year then under the Constitution their membership would be suspended.

Discussion then ensued as to whether the Membership Fee should be increased or remain the same with Cyrille Mainguy suggesting an increase due to the budget deficit; Torgun Smith advising that some countries are struggling to pay; D. Smith advised that a \$100 increase would only amount to an increase in revenue of \$2,000 which would make a small impact on the budget deficit.

Discussion then ensued around the sponsorship of both the Davis Cup and Fed Cup Teams with Troy Stubbing asking whether there were

opportunities here. D. Smith advised that in his experience that most countries were already doing this. Mr. Margets advised that countries can sell the Identification Sponsorship of their team without restriction (excepting tobacco, alcohol, betting companies). The other option was for hosting countries to gain sponsorship through the actual hosting of the event from local sponsors.

Troy Stubbing commented that the OTF hadn't stratified their sponsorship/marketing opportunities. D. Smith said that if Troy Stubbing had sponsors who would be interested in sponsoring Pacific Oceania Teams that he would undertake to email him information on Davis Cup and Fed Cup Sponsorship to enable him to sound out prospective sponsors for both Davis Cup and Fed Cup. He explained the types of sponsorship (both team and individual sponsors) that were available and would forward a powerpoint to this effect. Mr. Ricci Bitti suggested that the OTF needed to be realistic cognisant of the size of the region, what the OTF has to sell, advised that any sponsorship should be linked to corporate social responsibility. Otherwise the OTF will spend a lot of time and effort with little reward. He also commented that in the Pacific Oceania Region Junior sponsorship may be more easily targeted. John Shannon advised that Tennis Fiji was working very closely with the Fiji Government who are very keen to promote tourism and they have been assisting with International events and monies they provide to respective tournaments assist the tournament to more than breakeven which then goes into the general Tennis Fiji funds to assist their tennis programme.

Mr. Healy commented that the OTF did prepare a presentation for the ANZ Bank in both Australia and Fiji and that Andrew Walker was available to assist in any way that he could. Raymond Schuster referenced financial issue with the Marshall Islands and Nauru and commented that in his view it was a matter of membership dying rather than the OTF growing; that Samoa is struggling to promote Tennis in Samoa due to the lack of funds as they have only just recently been able to pay their ITF Membership Fees; that they were struggling in Samoa to attract sponsorship due to the high profile nature of rugby which attracted most of this.

It was also advised to the meeting that the Marshall Islands continue to remain suspended due to the non-payment of membership fees and that an effort should be made to return them to membership. D. Smith also advised that there were 3 member Nations (Kiribati, Nauru and the Solomon Islands) that he had just been advised by the ITF of their forthcoming suspension if their ITF fees remained unpaid. D. Smith would write separately to each of these nations reminding them of this. Mr. Ricci Bitti said that the OTF needed to adjust its expenditure to its financial position and advised that, whilst the budget was already set for 2015, it was likely in the immediate future that there would be an increase in the grant to Regions.

Mr Healy commented that, whilst he realized that any increase wouldn't make a huge impact on the budget, the OTF fees hadn't

moved for 4 years and that if small increments are not made then any future change could seem more extreme. Neil Adsett commented that Tonga were struggling to pay and floated a two-tier fee. Mr. Margets commented that the ITF was operating in a deficit and had its own financial challenges. However the ITF was available to offer financial advice with the staff that they have and that this was a way that the ITF could realistically help the OTF.

Darran Wrighton commented that there appeared to be a culture in the Region where there was free tennis activities provided by nations. He felt that participants in these activities in the Region should be encouraged to pay something and this is a concept that should be promoted to assist the financial position of regional Nations, even very small amounts. This is a principle that needed to change and this would assist the role of the respective coaches in each Nation. Discussion ensued on the financial challenges facing Nations with Darran Wrighton advising that balls and racquets were currently being provided free of charge. Cyrille Mainguy suggested that Nations needed to work more closely with their NOCs as all grants following the London Olympics had increased by 30%.

Mr. Ricci Bitti commented that he wanted to bring a sense of reality to the meeting; that tennis has made a lot of progress under his presidency and that when he became President that there were 140 Nations globally. Now there are 210, though not all are active. He said that the commentary by some delegates that tennis was dying was inaccurate; yes, he agreed that tennis had challenges but that this was nothing new; that the OTF and individual Nations needed to look at what they could do and focus their efforts. We needed to be cognisant of the facilities, coaches and competition that is available and put in place programmes and strategies linked to this. This is the message he wants to give that it is important in the respective areas of the world that we are practical and concentrate our efforts on what we can do and realistically achieve, concentrate our priorities and adjust ourselves accordingly.

Raymond Schuster commented that we are all volunteers and that we are doing the best that we can. What we are asking for is assistance to take tennis to the next level and that the cost of travel within and out of the Pacific is very expensive in comparison to Europe. Mr. Healy advised Raymond Schuster that he could make an application to Tennis Australia through the AO Pathway Grant for financial and/or equipment assistance. Darran Wrighton commented that just putting money into Nations is not the answer but rather how resources are used to grow systems and structure so that these can be sustained over many years rather than a short term fix. Mr. Healy commented that the message from Darran Wrighton was clear in that there was a principle at the heart of the issue in that parents should be encouraged to contribute, even if this was only a very small amount.

It was then agreed that the membership fee remain unchanged at \$200 paid bi-yearly (\$400).

## **6. Sponsorship**

### **6.1 AO Sponsorship**

### **6.2 Other Opportunities**

Bruce Osborne discussed the AO Sponsorship and that almost \$60,000 worth of grants had been provided to 7 Nations over the last 6 months; that this was an ongoing project and would be still available this year. Mr. Healy suggested that Samoa talk further to Bruce Osborne about possible future grant opportunities.

## **7. International Senior Teams**

### **7.1 Pacific Oceania Davis Cup**

Cyrille Mainguy commented briefly on the Davis Cup Team and that the players did very well, being beaten by a better team on the day in the play-off for promotion to Group III.

### **7.2 Asia/Pacific Tennis League**

He commented that the ATL had been a great initiative for the men and that they had won more matches last year than the year before and that he was hopeful of a further improvement this year and that it was really positive to see a Pacific Oceania Girls' Team in the ATL headed up by Abigail Tere-Apisah. He hoped that the eligible girls playing would be available for Fed Cup and invited delegates to come and watch the players and support our teams over the next 2 days.

### **7.3 Fed Cup 2015**

Darran Wrighton asked if we have any confirmation yet of who would be available for Fed Cup. D. Smith commented that 4 of the 5 top girls in the Pacific were invited to participate in the ATL but were unavailable. He said that he had previously flagged his concern months ago when entering a Fed Cup Team was first mooted. He said at this stage he was unable to advise any player availability but that process would start over the next couple of weeks. He also said that there were multiple challenges getting Abigail to Melbourne for the ATL in cost, airfares, visas and that up until 2 days ago we didn't think she would be in Melbourne until Bruce Osborne with Tennis Australia's assistance resolved the visa issue. D. Smith commented that participation in the ATL is basically cost neutral in that reimbursement by Tennis Australia is only on the actual costs of airfares etc incurred rather than a grant.

Dan O' Connell commented that he wasn't against the ATL but rather against putting OTF money into the event. He said that whilst he loved the French speaking countries participating at the ATL he felt the selection process was not open and queried how many countries were contacted. He went on to say that he agreed that in the past the captains had the selection say and he often queried why a captain would choose this or that player.

Cyrille Mainguy then referred to the last Board meeting where the 3 selectors were appointed and that the selection panel actually involved 6 people from 5 countries; that he and the other selectors involved knew all the players and often selection was based on player availability. He said it was the same problem every year in that all the best players were initially contacted and it is normal for there to be multiple unavailability because the Davis Cup is a Seniors' not a Junior



Event. He went on to say that he was happy to contact every country but he actually knows that many countries do not have suitable players.

Darran Wrighton then commented that he was worried for Fed Cup this year in that we have a Fed Cup Captain and he believed guaranteed players. And that were we at a stage when we didn't know who these players are going to be and that we could be sending a team of 16 year olds to a senior event. Will we have the best players available? D. Smith commented that this was the concern he raised in the middle of last year when this was first suggested. Darran Wrighton thought he understood that the reason we were pushing Fed Cup was because we believed that the best players would be available

S. Healy asked whether we had the best players available to play Fed Cup, otherwise is there any point in putting a Fed Cup Team into the event. D. Smith advised that he couldn't give an immediate answer as he hadn't yet asked re Fed Cup availability, however, he advised that the 5 top players in the Pacific were emailed to check their availability to play in the ATL and 4 of them said they were unavailable. He said that 3 of them were in College and given that they would be into their college year when Fed Cup took place, the same unavailability answer for Fed Cup may also be the case.

Mr. Healy then said that we need to set a date for players to make a commitment to make entering a team worthwhile he advised that to withdraw an already entered team risked suspension. Darran Wrighton said that if the top four players aren't available, should we then still be sending a Fed Cup Team. The week of the event is the 13-18 April in India.

Steve Johns said that we have just spent the last 45 minutes talking about the fact that some delegates think that tennis is in decline in the region and that there needed to be more investment at grass roots tennis. Now we are talking about potentially entering not our best teams into events that cost \$10,000 - \$20,000; that we shouldn't be sending a Fed Cup Team just for the fact of sending a Fed Cup Team.

Bruce Osborne asked who were the selectors and was advised that these were Cyrille and the 2 EOs. He also said that he was sorry to say this but that you can email all the Nations but you would be lucky to get responses back from half of them.

Mr. Healy said that we should find out firstly who of the top players is available; Darran Wrighton recommended the criteria for selection (e.g. having played college tennis, ITF Ranking etc) which would be self-limiting for any possible nominations from Nations. He was happy to assist with the selection criteria. D. Smith was asked to write to potentially the top players re their availability and separately to the Nations. Mr Healy reiterated that we needed to know by mid-February who was available.

At this stage as Mr. Healy had to shortly leave the meeting with Mr. Ricci Bitti, item 10 (as below) of the agenda was brought forward for discussion on the agenda papers, with items 8 and 9 being discussed subsequently after their departure.

## **8. Regional Tennis Centre Facility**

### **8.1 Report on the Resurfacing of the RTC Courts**

John Shannon advised that the ITF would be contributing US\$20,000 towards the project. He advised that he visited the Fiji Sports Commission in Suva back in December, had a 90 second meeting and was told that the CEO was on 80 days maternity leave and that no one would make a decision in her absence; that he was calling them daily requesting a meeting; that the Fiji Government had a new parliament in November with a budget announced in December; that there are now new allocations of money and that he is expecting a positive outcome as he has a good relationship with them; John Shannon advised that he is expecting the Fiji Government to match the ITF \$20,000 so there could be a shortfall of maybe US\$8,000. He expects to know more over the next couple of weeks; that he would be following this up as the resurfacing needs to be done in the next few months.

### **8.2 Progress on the Lease with the Fiji Sports Council**

John Shannon advised that the lease expires in 2016. He is not expecting any issue in its renewal though there could be an annual rental increase. The lease fee is currently F\$16,000. The increase could be up to a 20% increase but they have never exercised to that degree in the lease. The current lease has an option for an increase after 3 years. He also said that there was a good landlord/tenant relationship. It was commented that the courts were being used more than ever and that it was being seen as a tennis facility for the community at large.

## **9. Strategic Development Plan**

### **9.1 Presentation of the Strategic Development Plan 2015-18**

Darran Wrighton advised that as part of the submission to ONOC we needed to have a specific Strategic Plan addressing the various criteria that they require; that funding is now 3 tiered and that any submission now needs to include a strategic plan. We seek the top tier funding and that there are boxes that we need to tick to ensure that we meet the criteria to access the top tier funding. He advised that a working party had put together the tabled plan using the same structure that we had used previously; that a small working party was put together to see what needed to be reassessed and updated; that this plan will assist with the criteria that ONOC seek to help justify their commitment and understand the OTF's intent; he commented that the working party had commented that this version of the plan could be modified as it was quite a lengthy document and that there could be ways that this could be changed; that ONOC had provided copies of other Sporting Codes' plans and that this could be used as a subsequent blueprint and we could present a revised and updated plan next year when we request funding. Steve Johns suggested that the length of this implies more that of an operating or management plan as in his view a strategic plan would be much shorter and probably 1 page of what we

are trying to achieve with a particular focus on what the OTF is doing to develop and grow tennis in the region. For example it could be that we are trying to increase membership by 5% and player participation similarly. Darran Wrighton commented that this was similar to the ITF 5 year plan though the ITF had recently come up with separate plans for Nations at the lower end of development. Cyrille Mainguy said that the meeting needed to endorse the plan so that this could then be submitted to ONOC to seek the funding. The meeting then endorsed this plan and recommended that this be subsequently reviewed to redefine the plan to something simpler.

## **10. General Business**

### **10.1 Requests from Tennis Fiji**

Dan O'Connell said that a letter to the ITF President was on the agenda last year and that it was to be discussed at this meeting regarding a 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam. He suggested having a discussion as a group and the OTF might suggest writing a letter to the ITF and the ATF with copies to all our member Nations that the content would be that we all want voting rights and that we all want a 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam; that if we have common agreement that within 1 month we write to both the ITF and the ATF re both the above items.

Mr. Ricci Bitti then mentioned three points:

- That the 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam was never discussed at the recent ITF AGM.
- He felt that the letter from the ATF was perhaps influenced by the fact that the President of the ITF is about to change.
- That it was not worth wasting time sending a letter on something that has no basis and is just populist

He went on to say that the Grand slams were there because of history, tradition and the fact that they have done and are doing the right thing every year and that they are investing back into the Game, for the players and facilities. He felt that the ITF understood the situation better than the people who wrote this letter; that there was no space in the calendar for a 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam; that the privilege is there because they deserve it historically; that tennis is the only sport that 4 Regional Championships (Grand Slams) and 1 Teams Event (Davis Cup). He questioned what is possible and said that some people could come and put on the table the same money as a Grand Slam, but the probability is very unlikely; that what is unrealistic in this letter are the profits being suggested; that the current Grand Slams are reinvesting all the profits that they earn in the development of the Game and in facilities, coaching etc.; that it was not for him to comment on how they spend the money. You could argue that they invest too much back into their own country but regardless, it is going back into the Game; that this document was never discussed in Dubai and to suggest that the revenue of the ITF could be increased by \$50 Million is totally inaccurate.

Mr. Ricci Bitti then referred to the letter from Anil Khanna and said that the governance part was dealt with very seriously in Dubai; that the ITF Governance Group has worked very hard and some of the proposals were approved and others were not. He advised that the

letter from Anil Khanna was not receivable by the ITF from a constitutional viewpoint as Nations themselves need to write not the Regional Association; that Anil Khanna forgot to mention that different members have different voting rights and that Associate members have no voting rights; that the countries with no or 1 vote are the countries that are struggling to pay their fees; that there had been a huge session on governance at Dubai; that the criteria to increase voting rights was discussed in substantial detail; now there is a limit of 3 terms on the Board (12 years). He concluded by saying that the letter from Anil Khanna was not a great letter but rather a populist one.

He then commented on the Davis Cup and Fed Cup Proposal and that his thoughts are that the OTF should do what you can do and work to try to have a Junior Davis Cup and Fed Cup every year; that it was not useful for the region to be in Davis Cup and Fed Cup if you don't have a competitive team at a decent level; that it was better to develop at Junior Levels a system that if the outcome was positive then you automatically get your competitive Davis Cup and Fed Cup Teams; that he didn't like hearing the discussion about Fed Cup player availability.

Dan O'Connell commented that the Grand Slam events are the best in the world. Six years ago Tennis Australia received \$383M from their government to develop the Margaret Court Arena; that we are not going to get anywhere if our word isn't heard; that we should encourage the ATF's initiative for a 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam; that it is important that we develop our sport worldwide; we should encourage them to come up with a constitutional way where we can all vote; that as islanders we need to have our voice out there to be heard and this is our only opportunity for this to happen; that in 2009 the Grand Slams gave the GSDF more money than they do today; that the money received in the last 5 years is less than 5 years ago; that we should have a vote to go to the ITF Executive Board and the ATF; that we write to the ATF to continue their work to get equal voting rights and their proposal for a 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam.

Mr. Ricci Bitti suggested asking Anil Khanna rather than wasting the ITF's time; not to waste time asking me as I have already given you the answer. Mr Juan Margets spoke and pointed out the "Grand Slam" is a registered trademark and in reference to Anil Khanna's comments said that as tennis people it is our duty to make a judgement on what someone is offering.

Mr Healy then commented by saying that Tennis Australia is very fortunate that it receives support from the Victorian Government but with that comes responsibilities; the Government puts money into Melbourne and Olympic Park Trust but Tennis Australia pays more rent as the facilities are better; the money doesn't go to Tennis Australia; that Anil Khanna is on a presidential campaign and that he should be asked how all this is going to happen which would be a realistic question of him; It's easy to throw ideas out there; Australia would like a Golf major or for India to share their Cricket Revenues but you have

to be realistic.; that he was very proud of what Tennis Australia has done in the region in the last 2 years in stepping up and doing something practical; that the energy and the passion of the people around this table needs to go into the realities; happy to agree to disagree; regarding voting rights I have said it here, at ITF Meetings, at Regional Meetings that there is a huge amount of merit in trying to gain a vote for the smaller Nations but it does need to be considered in terms of the overall voting structure of the ITF and the consequential changes that this would produce; that those Nations that put in the most money and resources into the ITF need to have a proportionate say; there needs to be a balance struck; that the GSDF contributions came out of them giving up the Grand Slam Cup and that they had to go and find the money which was not initially the understanding; that Tennis Australia puts all the money that is made back into the game; there are many demands on our money but Tennis Australia provides substantial events with Futures, Challenges etc which are open to participants from all countries of the world; that anyone who knows me all my life knows what my priorities are that I care very deeply about our sport, the OTF but of course Tennis Australia and if I didn't care about that I wouldn't be president of Tennis Australia and able to represent the OTF at the ITF; that I try to represent the OTF at the ITF and represent it well and I am proud of what I have done to date. Sure, we would all like it to be more

Dan O' Connell then said that he was asked to write a Davis Cup and Fed Cup Proposal and that Mr. Healy was to present this to the ITF. Mr. Healy reiterated what he had previously advised that under the Constitution it wasn't possible to do this; that we should be lifting the standard at the junior level and actually focussing our time and effort on doing things that are possible. Mr Ricci Bitti said that there were only 2 Regions (Pacific Oceania and the Caribbean) that have regional Nations in Davis Cup and Fed Cup. The ITF made this decision to help these nations as they could never have out together a team individually on their own. Dan O' Connell argued that the proposal didn't conflict against the Constitution and that it was an avenue to hopefully get \$40,000.

Torgun Smith asked Mr. Ricci Bitti whether the proposal for Class C members to get a vote was still going to be progressed. He responded by saying that the 1 vote is not the issue. It is the resulting impact on members with 1 vote who would then expect to go to 2 votes and a category is likely to disappear. The ITF needs to better understand the impact of this. He said that 1 vote cost \$5,000, an Associate Member \$500. He said that the ITF Constitution Committee have been asked to find out if there is a solution. That the solution maybe simple in that the Country has to apply to eliminate a category not a Regional Association. Torgun Smith also discussed alternate development funding sources in partnership with the Grand Slams. He suggested that the ITF could request the Grand Slams put an additional \$1.00-\$5.00 fee on each ticket sale which would then be put towards the ITF World development of tennis, a proposal he had previously raised in 2013.

Torgun Smith said that the GNTF was told that they had to have a 4 year term of office otherwise they would be kicked out of the NOC. Mr. Ricci Bitti said that they cannot do this and this is just interference by the NOC.

Mr. Healy and Mr. Ricci Bitti left the meeting at 11:50am and Mr. Cyrille Mainguy assumed the chair.

Dan O'Connell then said that we needed to decide whether the OTF writes a letter or not. Darran Wrighton queried what is stopping individual nations writing a letter. Steve Johns then commented that we actually need to understand what we are actually asking for and he didn't believe it did the OTF any favours by writing to the ITF saying that we must have this 5<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam particularly when we have just been told by the ITF President that this isn't going to happen. He said that in essence we are requesting more money and that the ITF President had made it very clear today that there just isn't more money.

Discussion continued with Mr. Raymond Schuster saying that whilst he supported the concept however if the concept wasn't receivable from the ATF to the ITF then how can the OTF write in support of this proposal. Torgun Smith commented that the ITF has no control over the Grand Slams so the OTF can have even less influence. Neil Adsett then commented that this proposal is just a full on waste of time and we shouldn't be wasting any more time discussing this at the meeting and that it was just a load of nonsense. He then requested the chairman to move on with the agenda as we had dealt with this issue more than sufficiently. Mr. Juan Margets said that Torgun Smith's understanding of the relationship between the ITF and the Grand Slams is quite close to his; that the Grand Slams are independent Bodies and suggested that if the OTF wishes to write a letter, then it is the OTF's judgement but you need to be very clear to whom this would be written. Cyrille Mainguy commented that we need to work closely with Tennis Australia for them to use their influence to assist Pacific Oceania and similarly the Grand Slam countries.

Dan O'Connell again suggested writing a letter requesting more support but the feeling of many delegates was that they didn't actually understand what they were voting for so then why write a letter. Discussion ensued with Dan O'Connell saying the OTF needs to write a letter "asking for help, support and money in any way" with Bruce Osborne saying that individual Nations needed to write the original letter suggested, not the OTF and that his personal opinion was that a letter shouldn't be written as this will bind all the Nations particularly those that do not favour this. Cyrille Mainguy said that if any vote was to be had then it needed to be on the original Tennis Fiji proposal not some new proposal and that Tennis Fiji were now changing the original content of what was being requested. Steve Johns said that there was nothing on the agenda that the OTF was to make any decision or that a vote was to be taken, only that the Tennis Fiji letter was to be

discussed. With that the chairman closed discussions on this subject and the meeting moved on.

## **10.2 Request from Tennis Cook Islands**

Cyrille Mainguy commented that the Cook Islands had requested that Brett Baudinet be their delegate at the last minute but unfortunately he was part of the ATL team and he is at training so cannot speak on this though there had been an email circulated by Brian Baudinet. Darran Wrighton opened his comments by saying that he had come into this role with a request for him to look at the travel grant system and the hosting of the EPC and that this had been looked at during the previous AGM last year in Fiji; there had been an email circulated by the Cook Island that morning in response to previous communications; that it was disappointing that the Cook Islands in proposing this document is neither at this AGM nor at the previous AGM in Fiji when these changes were being discussed; that it had been discussed at some length at the previous AGM taking into account demographics and financials. He commented that he had come up with a 4 year rotational cycle to cut down the travel cost which would impact them positively every second year; that these far eastern Nations would get an increase in their travel grant to close to 60% whereas most nations receive about 45%; that the things that they had requested we had actually gone a long way to meeting those requests; that he had gone a long way towards assisting the Cook Islands then 3 weeks before the Eastern Pacific Championship they advised that they couldn't attend; that they had asked us to change the system then they tell us that they cannot come; that what they are asking now is that they want to be included in the hosting of the EPC but Darran Wrighton continued that this is hard to achieve for both Tahiti and the Cook Islands to be hosts and that this needed to be put on the table so that other Nations better understood this. He went on to explain that there are 3 concerns: firstly the practical side that there 3 age groups with 6 separate events over 5-6 days, boys and girls, singles and doubles with some 96 players; that he had some concern over the number of courts that they had available, the distance between the courts, and that he needed to do more research on the number of courts available which is why it would have been good to have someone from the Cook Island here to answer this question; He was advised by the meeting that there were a couple of schools with 2 courts each that were resurfaced about 3 years ago; Darran Wrighton agreed that based on this information that they potentially have the courts to host the event. The other issue was the financial aspects of travelling; additionally he had researched the likely cost per player to attend and that this was on average between US\$1750-\$1850; that in the last EPC there were 62 players with no representative from the Cook Islands; the year before there were also 62 players with representation from the Cook Islands; yet in 2012 we had 72 players with no Tahiti or Cook Islands; that we had to look at the number of players that travel from countries; he continued to explain to the meeting the numbers previously sent by EP countries over recent years; that if the EPC was held in the Cook Islands then EP countries might only financially be able to send 1 player per age group; that if the EPC was held in the Cook Islands then

probably only about 4 players would be from other countries; he continued to say that he hadn't been to the Cook Islands and that he was looking at this from the financial aspect, that we had tried really hard to assist and he suggested that the current model is a happy medium as the cost issue is the challenge and he also expressed again disappointment that the Cook Islands were neither at this AGM or the previous one to present and speak to their case; that they had been communicated with following the last AGM; that he had to consider all 4 Nations not just the Cook Islands; that he had also mooted having the competition in Auckland from a cost perspective and whether this was a good idea to take the hosting out of the Pacific Islands; that the Cook Islands was still being given the chance for their best players to attend, maybe not all their players but certainly the best ones.

Discussion continued with it being stated that if the EPC was held in the Cook Islands then there would be substantially less participation and countries like Tonga, Samoa and American Samoa would only likely send 6 players instead of 20. Neil Adsett suggested to the meeting that we note the request of the Cook Islands but that we advise them that we couldn't agree to it. He also said that the Auckland option was attractive to Tonga but Cyrille Mainguy commented that the feeling of the previous AGM was that the event should remain in the Pacific Islands. John Shannon said that the current situation is very practical. Neil Adsett summarized the feeling of the meeting by saying that the status quo should continue as the costs for the EPC to be held in the Cook Islands would be prohibitive and would result in less attendance. Dan Wrighton then commented that many of the issues in the email from Brian Baudinet had already been addressed and that he had changed things so that they received more money and were able to travel to Fiji.

It was also commented that over the last 20 years due to the cost of travel in the region the Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga had only hosted 1 ITF Junior Event. Also that the following countries had never hosted an event; Kiribati; Tuvalu; Nauru; FSM; Palau; Solomon Islands; Papua New Guinea. This clearly should that we haven't been uniform to everyone but at the end of the day it is a cost issue which is why they haven't hosted ITF Junior Events.

Juan Margets prior to leaving the meeting at 1:20pm and wishing every a good last segment of the meeting said that it was healthy to see differences of views; that we all shared one common thing and that was our passion for tennis; and that his involvement at the ITF was more with professional tennis rather than the development side of the game and that every time he goes to these types of meetings it helps his understanding of the holistic aspect of tennis.

## **11. Australian Open Pacific Pathway**

### **11.1 Reports from Nations that received funding in 2014**

### **11.2 Program for 2015 and beyond**

### **11.3 ITF Equipment**



Bruce Osborne reported on the grant programme to date and advised that Guam has passed back 25% of their grant; that the reports coming in had indicated that there were so many varied programmes in place; that it had taken some time for the equipment to arrive with some bonus equipment included; and that there was still another 6 months of the programme to run. Additionally any countries who were seeking more funding to continue with their programme next year would need to reapply when the new funding round commences in the middle of the year; that he had received reports from 6 of the 7 countries given funding. The scale of the funding grants allocated to countries recently varied between \$2000-4500. He said that he expected the forward process would be that he would be seeking new funding applications by the end of April/early May.

Various Nations then commented on their programme initiatives to date with Fiji saying that their focus had been on community tennis. As an example many kids (30-40) who lived behind the RTC were taught how to use the equipment for the very first time; that it wasn't a structured programme. That they had been working closely with Primary Schools and particularly 7-8 year olds who are seeing a coach every week; that there had been a focus on learning how to play the game; that they are all doing rallying and hand-eye skills.

Torgun Smith said that in Guam they were visiting 7 schools. The goal was to visit each school (9-10 year olds) 3 monthly. That the forward plan was to hold clinics with 1 class at a time with 1-2 coaches working with 30 kids at a time. Additionally they were holding free public clinics on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd Saturdays and similarly on Saturday afternoons for teachers at 4pm focussing more on the learning of technique.

Neil Adsett said this funding had given their coach heart in that there was some funding available; that their coaching initiative in Tonga had taken them to 5 schools and that they had organized a 3-day National Championship with some 200 children involved. People were asked to contribute 10 cents.

Vanuatu explained that there had been 3 components to their initiatives; that the tennis community had received funding and equipment in September; their Kindy Tennis Programme which had been a joint initiative with the Ministry of Education which had a high focus on training the trainer; they had identified 5 early childhood centres and that already 2 sessions had been done; additionally the programme focussed on tennis performance; that they had selected the best 4 kids from the 2 programmes to be trained by Cyril Jacobe.

Darran Wrighton commented that he had been talking the ITF and Tennis Australia about rolling out a more structured programme across the Pacific, a bit like the old ANZ Programme the coaching programmes being more channelled to schools and the competitive side; and that he would like to see the 4 core lessons of the programme directed by a coach to be developed across the school system throughout the Pacific; it was mentioned that Tennis Australia already have coaching

manuals ready to distribute to Nations; Darran Wrighton said that Tennis Australia could assist markedly with advice on programmes and that there was a great opportunity to get involved with the schools with a supportive mechanism; additionally he mentioned that he had done coaching workshops at the end of the Pacific Championships; that he could look at coaching workshops as part of coach education; that December had been the start of coach education in the Pacific as this had been absent for some time; he mentioned that he was now classed as an ITF coaching tutor and can deliver ITF programmes; that the level 1 course had only just been finished and that it was a very big commitment to do this course and that competency outcomes were the key rather than just participation; he was keen to do regional coaching programmes and initiatives. He really had only now just got the RTC where he would like it to be and said that he hadn't conducted enough workshops for coaches over the last year but that this would assume a focus this year. Cyrille Mainguy then referenced the programmes available through OSEP and how Vanuatu had accessed this.

Darran Wrighton then said that the majority of countries had received their coaching equipment for 2015 and that \$37,000 had already been despatched; that nations were asked to decide what type of equipment they needed, however, without the JTI reports that this had proved difficult to deliver and that at this stage only 2 out of 12 reports were still outstanding. It was important that through these reports that he sees the activities happening and the progress being made.

Steve Johns left the meeting at 1:35pm

## **12. Regional Training Centre**

### **12.1 2014 Development Officer's Report**

### **12.2 2015 ITF/GSDF Development Budget for Pacific Oceania**

Darran Wrighton referenced his written report and said that Pacific Tennis isn't in a period of decline but a period of re-evaluation with lots of good things happening. He said his change is to use the passion and energy that is evident across the Pacific to help them improve on what they are currently doing; maybe changing some of their coaching practices and also how the Federation operate; that he can only focus on the things that he can change and his report presents an accurate picture of what he sees currently happening. Troy Stubbings said that the biggest challenge facing the region is the quality of coaches in the region; that we still had the old coaches and that there were no new coaches coming through. Darran Wrighton commented that Fiji with its centrality was now hosting 3 ITF and 3 Regional Events and that Fiji had a schooling system at a reasonably high level in the Pacific, a 6 court centre and that the costs are reduced as these top players are already in Fiji; that he would like to have another Grade 5 event in the Pacific or move the current Grade 5 to the East Pacific; that he could see why Fiji was picked with its transport links and player development

Dan O' Connell expressed concern if the intent was to drop 18 year old kids out of the ITF house that the College programme would pretty much disappear. Darran Wrighton said that that isn't the intent and that the only event that they are not participating in is the POJC; that they are involved in all other events in Fiji and the Pacific; that the number of matches that the 18 year olds were playing per year had increased from about 20 to now 40-50 and all had travelled to either Melbourne, Albury and/or the Vanuatu Regional event except 2 players with qualifying results issues; that the criteria to travel was now very prescriptive; that players at the RTC had to earn the right to travel rather than this be automatic; that the level of the 18 year olds at the ITF House in recent years had been more representative of the recreational level rather than competitive level of players; that the 18s were cancelled recently due to a lack of numbers.

Darran Wrighton referenced the circulated copy and that the GSDF projects had increased from K144 to K255 and that there had been overall an increase of 18% since he started in the position; that the ITF are allocating more money for International player travel; that the Training Centre has now a larger budget to work with; that all the projects mentioned in the budget are designed to benefit the Nations; he referenced item 7 where he is looking to set up a <14's circuit with 2 Island nations having reciprocal events with players receiving points and the ITF assisting these players with travel; that country like Saipan, Guam, Vanuatu and Fiji already have Junior events and it could just be that we nominate such events as part of this circuit; that he was hoping to get more <16's players involved in the WP ITF Events in 2015; that he would like to get off the ground for the 2015 POJC that the ITF pay a full air ticket for a team manager/coach for countries who send 8 players or more; would be a good incentive for countries producing a lot of players.

The meeting complimented Darran Wrighton on the excellent work that he is and has been doing. Darran Wrighton commented that his remit this year at the RTC was to make sure that the players were representative of the best players in the Pacific; that Nations and the ITF were asking about the credibility of the centre; that 7 of the 12 players at the RTC qualified at the POJC for the touring teams; that another positive is that Andrew and Yanni now have a better understanding of how a performance centre should work and that they had improved over the year with conditioning programmes, tactics, playing styles, periodization where you are doing different things at different times and leadership; that they have confidence and Darran feels that he can now go away and the centre will continue as normal; our limitation is our competitive opportunities.

Darran Wrighton commented that the RTC gym had been upgraded and that there was currently more equipment; that he was planning to introduce summer scholarships and invite the top 3 players in the <16's Boys and Girls and perhaps some other ones that they feel have some talent to come to the RTC House for 3 months from the beginning of June till the end of August to live and train at the RTC; that they have some funding to send players to New Caledonia; also

they could play the 4 ITF events; they would put a big emphasis on their doubles play so that they could get their first ITF point; that they may not want to come all year round but that these 3 months fit in with their summer break; he then went on to say that he would support Andrew Mailtorok being used as the Junior Fed Cup Coach in Malaysia as he had already done several tours to Australia; that he understands what is required at this level and has also worked with all 3 girls; that his appointment would also give the centre more international credibility; that he was looking at how he could refill the centre as many of the potential 12-13-14 year olds are likely to come from NMI, Saipan and Tahiti; that they might not take a place at the centre as they may feel more comfortable in their home nation; that he was looking to work with other countries so that they are developing players at a higher level; that he was looking to do a talent development camp the week before the WPC and EPC; as a result of this they may prove suitable to take a place at the RTC; he was looking at giving other countries opportunities for shorter periods. Cyrille then congratulated Darran Wrighton and commented on his work and that everything was moving forward in a very professional way.

Wilfred Sacault left the meeting at 2pm.

### **13. Open Competition**

#### **13.1 Oceania Championship Event**

#### **13.2 Next Oceania Championships**

#### **13.3 Pacific Games**

#### **13.4 Open and Seniors Tournaments in the Pacific**

Bruce Osborne then talked to his report and commented that the standard of tennis was high; that they played the fast 4 format which enabled them to play a lot of matches in a short time; that players had quickly adapted and that it was the same format as used at the ATL; he expressed his concern regarding the forward continuance of the event as there had been a lack of support from some countries despite the fact that TA had said that countries could put 1 player forward and that they would combine country entries where needed. Ernestine Rengiil said that she was unaware of the event being held or that there was such an event. Cyrille Mainguy said that that was surprising considering that it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that the event had been held over the last 6 years and that it was well publicized on the OTF website; that it was held every 2 years between the Pacific Games; that the intent was to hold an extra competition for Seniors between the Games given that there are already a lot of events for Juniors.

Discussion ensued over the nations that could afford to host as player/teams are responsible for their travel costs to the event and then the host nation is responsible for funding the event including accommodation, transportation, food etc. Then further discussion over which nation could host the next Championships. John Shannon commented that most of the countries at the table would financially

have difficulty doing that. It was mentioned that New Zealand was on the table to host the next event in 2016. It was agreed that at this stage this wasn't confirmed but that New Zealand should be engaged to confirm whether they are able to host the event in 2016. Samoa mentioned that they are not keen on hosting the event. Troy Stubbings then updated the meeting on progress with the Pacific games in Papua New Guinea. He said that 7 of the 9 courts are being resurfaced; the courts are being laid in synthetic grass which is an ITF approved surface; that 12 countries have nominated tennis teams; that to date there are 48 male and 44 female players; there will be 7 events; that they are way behind with venue preparation but they will get there; that the clubhouse is being upgraded and that squash could be there as well; that the Referee will be Stephen Gibson from Australia; that there was an issue with sufficient officials; that they were looking to appoint someone on a 3-4 month fixed term contract to coordinate everything from February through till July; that Troy Stubbings was talking to Tennis Queensland as to what assistance they could provide; that there were 4 main feature courts in the front and 3 just a little behind in the second bay; that the PNG organizing committee would assist with airfares for suitable officials. John Shannon advised that the Fiji Open would again be held at the end of May this year. Bruce Osborne advised that the ITF B1 event would again be held in Koyoong at the end of March; that this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ranking senior's event in the World with high ranking points at stake.

#### **14. Junior Championships**

##### **14.1 Pacific Oceania Junior Circuit**

##### **14.2 ITF Oceania Junior Circuit Events**

##### **14.3 Oceania Closed Junior Championships**

Torgun Smith advised that Guam was again on the Junior Calendar for the week commencing May 25<sup>th</sup> with a similar wildcard arrangement as last year; that the Pacific Oceania player with the best points in the Saipan and Guam preceding events would be given a wildcard to the Guam Futures main draw.

John Shannon referenced the Junior Events held in the Pacific with the new Grade 5 OOJC which was held back-to-back with the SPOJC which was a Grade 2 event plus also the Junior event in New Caledonia; that New Zealand hadn't sent anywhere near their allocation of players which was explained due to a change of management personnel at TNZ which was a one-off that won't recur in 2015; that they didn't quite fill the draw which had been disappointing due to the NZ lack of entries; that this was a high prestige event and that many of the players that had played and won this event were now professional tennis players. John Shannon also advised that the OOJC had been moved to the week before the OCJC in 2015 due to the dates of the Pacific Games.

#### **15. Pacific Oceania Junior Teams/POJC**

##### **15.1 ITF Teams to Australia**

##### **15.2 Future Teams/Tours**

Discussion then moved to the Regional Pacific Championships and the dates that were advised were as follows:

- WP Championships 4-9 May
- NP Championships 15-20 June
- EP Championships 10-15 August (Fiji)
- POJC 17-26 August

Darran Wrighton commented that the circuit was a great success last year and that there was a better representation of the best players; that the standard of players was better than that of previous years. He advised that the POJC format for 2015 would be:

- A 10 Day event
- Event 1 would be a 4 day Singles Round Robin-would determine seedings for Event 2
- Event 2 would be a 4 day Singles and Doubles Event using the seedings from Event 1
- Event 3, which we didn't have last year, would be a 2 Day Doubles Only Regional Event

That coaches wanted regional points scoring but that it wasn't always apparent how this points scoring operated. Re the clash with the NP Championships and the Grade 5, we might have players that maybe preferable to play in New Caledonia than qualify for the NPC where if you have an ITF ranking you are almost guaranteed that you are going to qualify. Darran Wrighton said that he had sent a lot of information about the guide lines for these events and that they cannot be run unless people follow the guide lines as Kiribati said they were sending 10 players but only finally turned up with 3.

Darran Wrighton advised that they have changed the programme and now have a definitive programme; that in the past it seemed to him that it was a cultural exchange programme rather than a performance programme; that in 2014 we played in Albury and got invited to play in Brisbane in all the top academies in Brisbane; that a team went to New Caledonia; then in December the team was involved in the Australian National Junior Championships; that one of the Tahitian 12 year olds won the 2<sup>nd</sup> draw (a Compass Draw) which means he is representative of the 33<sup>rd</sup> player in Australia; that there are other players that Darran outlined that are representative of similar Australian players; that as more trips are made to Australia and we are involved in more high level events that these results will be even better; that the touring programme from one POJC till the next is a continuous programme with an attraction on any hard court events.

Dan O'Connell commented that it was important that the DO was at Regional ONOC Meetings

## **16. Coaching**

### **16.1 Coaching Courses**

### **16.2 Coaching Resources**

Darran Wrighton commented that 14 coaches were at the Level 1 Fiji Course with some just doing the first 4 days of the course. The level 1 course itself sent down to 12 coaches; that it was a 12 day very full on course; that it was not just about competency of playing but your ability to pass on information in a group environment as well as having a basic knowledge of the rules etc; of the 12 participants that 7 had passed; that Darran advised that he was now qualified as a tutor. Bruce Osborne said that it was important that we have the criteria that prospective coaches attending these courses have to reach and attain; that we need to nominate someone regionally to be a figurehead as a coaching director; doesn't necessarily need to be someone hands-on but that they need to have a background in coaching; that they need to have an idea of what coaching education is about; once we have that in place we can get recognition as an Oceania Regional Certification at ITF Level 1; that the focus now was to get more Level 2 coaches; that we needed to get a data base of what each coach was doing across the region; that we needed people to lead activities; doesn't necessarily need to be coaches; that he is loading up coaches in the Islands with resources on an E-Stick; that he will encourage everyone to be part of the on-line E-Coach Programme; that he had set up his own workshops in Micronesian and Tonga and was able to do some 1 Day courses.

## **17. General Business-Development Issues**

### **17.1 General Discussion**

The meeting then moved to discussion on the reimbursement of Dan O' Connell's ticket to attend the AGM. Dan commented that he was from the USA but that he was a Fiji citizen and that he wanted to be listed as a Fiji citizen as that was his nationality. He went on to comment that all executives had always had their airfare paid in full and this had been done in the last two years and questioned why this wasn't now being paid in full.

D. Smith advised that back in October he had been directed only to reimburse executives attending the AGM from their home Nation to the AGM (Melbourne) return. Troy Stubbings commented that he was surprised that we would be paying any airfare from a country outside a member Nation particularly given the challenging budget that it has. Ernestine Rengiil commented that it seemed unfair for the ticket not to be paid and that procedures around this needed to be clarified. Bruce Osborne commented that there had been a lack of disclosure that Dan O' Connell was going to live in the USA when he put his nomination originally for the Board and his subsequent shift to the USA immediately after the 2013 election; that the executive would need to pick this up as a procedure at a subsequent meeting to define the rules for reimbursement of airfares. Neil Adsett asked Dan O' Connell when he paid for his ticket whether he was not going to be fully reimbursed. D. Smith confirmed that this had been the case when Dan O' Connell had requested that D. Smith arrange his ticket but that he had replied suggesting Dan O' Connell arrange his own ticket and advised him that only the Fiji-Melbourne-Fiji segment would be reimbursed. So he confirmed that Dan O' Connell was aware of this. Dan O' Connell then

said that he had come to the meeting to challenge the system. Torgun Smith commented that Dan O' Connell should have let all the executive know at the time that he wasn't happy prior to purchasing his ticket; Dan O' Connell said that he could probably be reimbursed by Fiji Tennis but that this didn't seem fair. It was then agreed that the executive needed to pick this up as a procedure and provide clear guide lines around this.

There was then a general reflective comments around the table with delegates giving general commentary on their attendance and happenings in their Nation with Torgun Smith advising that Guam was looking to build 4 new courts this year. Ernestine Rengiil expressed thanks to Tennis Australia for the assistance around her visa when at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour it still looked as though this wouldn't be timely granted. Dan O' Connell commented that there were 12 kids on scholarships in the USA. Darran Wrighton commented that 4 kids had gone to the USA from the RTC in the last year. Neil Adsett then thanked Cyrille Mainguy for the manner in which he had chaired the meeting in the President's absence; also David Smith and John Shannon referring to the former in the professional manner in which he has gone about his role; John Shannon wished those leaving the Board his best wishes. Darran Wrighton said as his final comments that he is looking forward to bringing on new projects to the Pacific over the next year; thanked everyone for their help; that he wanted to see results and what was the best for the region. David Smith thanked Cyrille Mainguy for his chairmanship and particularly thanked Bruce Osborne for everything that he had done in assisting the region over the last 12 months. Cyrille Mainguy welcomed the new Board Members, thanked the outgoing members; thanked Darran Wrighton for his work; similarly both Executive Officers; thanked Bruce Osborne and Tennis Australia and commented that he was looking forward to the next 2 years.

## **18. Next Meeting**

The next Meeting were then confirmed as follows:

- 2015-Executive Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> August
- 2016-AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> April preceded on the 9<sup>th</sup> April by the Executive Meeting

**The meeting closed at 4:10pm**