



OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

Minutes of the 15th General Meeting
Held at the Yatule Resort & Spa, Natadola, Fiji
10th April 2016

Attendance

Delegates:

| | | |
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| Breen | Richard | Fiji |
| Dietrich | Jenny | New Caledonia |
| Johns | Steve | Board Member |
| Osborne | Bruce | Board Member |
| Rengill | Ernestine | Board Member |
| Sanft | Carl | Tonga |
| Smith | Torgun | OTF Secretary General |
| Molotii | Asita | Tuvalu |
| Bryard | Francis | Vanuatu |

In Attendance:

| | | |
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| Healy | Steve | OTF President |
| Mainguy | Cyril | OTF Vice President |
| Shannon | John | Joint EO, OTF |
| Smith | David | Joint EO, OTF |

Also in Attendance:

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| Auega | Alemenia | Tuvalu |
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Apologies

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| Haggerty | David | ITF President |
| Sacault | Wilfred | OTF Secretary General |
| Patrick | Celia | Board Member |
| Race | Jeff | NMI |
| Miller | Dennis | ONOC |

Welcome

Mr. Healy welcomed everyone, thanked them for their attendance and said he was looking forward to a good, productive and constructive meeting.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the General Meeting held in Melbourne, Australia on 25th January 2015, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and unanimously approved.

2. Executive Committee Report

2.1 Progress in 2015

Mr Healy made a couple of comments in speaking to his President's Report that had previously been circulated. He said that we have had a great year and that we are on track in terms of a programme being aligned to where we are going. He said that he would shortly ask Bruce Osborne to talk about an exciting new development that has just been announced.

He went on to say that we had quite some discussion on the Davis Cup and Fed Cup; that it had been a great decision to have the Men playing in Davis Cup again and that it was a fantastic effort by the men to win and get promoted to Group III; that Cyrille Mainguy can take a lot of credit for this as the former captain in what he had built and the legacy that he left behind; that when you look at the photos you can see the elation of the team; additionally that Gilles De Gouy had provided a great report on the Event and it is clear that he instils a lot of passion into the team; also the Fed Cup team who will be playing in Thailand next week; a really good effort by them back again in Fed Cup and that it was unfortunate that we played some of the better teams early on in the round robin rather than at the end and we may well otherwise have finished even higher; that it is really good to see in the light of the participation debate the quality of the women and how well we are doing.

He went on to say that Violet Apisah has done fantastically well winning the Australian U16s; that Tennis Australia has not and will not chase any player to play for Australia; that Violet through her parents has decided that she wants to play for Australia; and if you were a parent that you would probably

understand why she would want to do that but that she will always be from PNG and that he hoped that she will do really well and bring great credit to PNG; that she clearly has some real talent as it is very hard to win a national title; also what Steffie Carruthers did in winning 2 Doubles Titles and reaching the final in a 3rd on the ITF circuit is very pleasing and a significant effort so we are making some real strides.

He concluded by saying that our key focus was to try to grow the base of the game in Pacific Oceania. He then invited Bruce Osborne to discuss the progress to date and particularly the Pacific Sports Programme.

Bruce Osborne advised the meeting that we had undertaken a scoping mission in Fiji; that we had been asked by the Fiji and Australian Governments to look at developing a sports programme particularly focussing on women, girls and kids in villages; that he had come across to Fiji with the assistance of John Shannon and Richard Breen and had engaged people from the Prime Minister's daughter to Government Ministers to get their support; we then submitted a proposal to the Australian Federal Government that was hopeful more than assured and that we were lucky to get a grant of \$49k to develop a programme in Fiji; that we had received this news last Monday with a view to commencing the programme on the 1st May 2016; the good news for everyone else is that there are 6 other Nations that are listed on the Government's priority list for potentially future similar programmes; that he is hopeful that the project in Fiji works well and that John Shannon and Richard Breen have been doing an enormous amount of work on the ground in Fiji as a precursor to the commencement of the project; that if we can show that it has been a success then we will be able to apply for other Nations to be similarly granted to do likewise; that whilst we are focussing this time around on Fiji, it gives us the opportunity to broaden that to other countries.

Mr Healy then thanked Bruce Osborne who has driven this project and said that not only is this a fantastic result but that Tennis Australia would provide a matching grant of \$50k to Tennis Fiji so that \$99k will be going into this programme. Bruce Osborne said that Pacific Nations had been listed into categories A, B and C as priority of engagement importance

for these programmes; that the A Nations are the priorities at the moments with the likes of sports like Rugby League and Netball; Rowing is starting up in PNG and Hockey programmes are going into a couple of Nations with all the programmes being based around developing the communities; it's not about performance or trying to create a champion; it's about trying to have an impact on the communities; that Vanuatu has been a recipient in other sports; Fiji with rugby as those programmes have been going for 8 years; that's why soccer has been included this time to 1 Nation as hopefully it will open up the door to other Nations.

Mr Healy said that this is a fantastic result which hopefully we will now be able to translate to other Nations and really make an impact in Oceania.

Mr. Sanft said that a few years ago one of their players attended the Australian Institute of Sport for tennis. He asked whether Tonga could apply for maybe 1 man and 2 women to go to the Institute for a couple of months; that he had been thinking of approaching the Australian High Commissioner in Tonga; is there still such a possibility?

Bruce Osborne responded that the structure of academies is now under the management of Tennis Australia as we now have State and National Academies; that the best players go to these academies for training; the option is just for Australians but we have been in discussions with the ITF as to where the best Pacific kids could come into an Australian Programme but we haven't really got far down this pathway; that we had looked at a couple of alternative academies in Queensland but the ITF found that it was going to be too expensive for them to sponsor the players to come into the academy; we don't have anyone outside of Australia in our academies at the moment; that the programme that Carl Sanft was previously referring to no longer exists; that the programmes now are no longer under the control of the Institute of Sport but rather Tennis Australia.

Richard Breen asked whether he had considered using the RTC for these Junior players. He also mentioned events like the Oceania Championships where players were being given the opportunity to play in competitive events rather than waiting 2

or 4 years for the next Pacific Games; that the ATL was another such example where players can get a high level of competition and exposure and improve their match play and that Tonga could nominate players for this event; that he was of the view that there are other pathways where such talented players can be actively involved in first to elevate the standard of their game; that it is difficult when such players haven't engaged in other activities along the way.

Bruce Osborne endorsed this view that this should be the first port of call for any such talented players up to 18 year old to enable them to develop an Australian ranking and then they have an opportunity but to do this, they have to play a lot of tournaments; that the situation with Violet Apisah is different as she is actually at School in Australia and is studying there; that it is almost impossible for any international player to come across to any of the Australian Academies these days; that this is the responsibility of the ITF and that Tonga should engage Darran Wrighton on such discussions rather than with Tennis Australia and that if we did have one such place for an international player then it is one space than an Australian player misses out on and as such it is very difficult to convince the powers that be that this should happen; that TA provides lots of opportunities for players to come to Australia to play but that any such Tongan players need to be part of the touring squads under the auspices of the ITF for that to happen and that's the direction that he would suggest that Tonga investigates further; that we can talk further outside this meeting to provide you with the contact details and agreed in closing this subject that Richard Breen is right in that the RTC House should be the starting point of any such discussions.

Asita Molotii congratulated Tennis Australia on their PSP work and asked whether there was any opportunity to support the Nations that are highly disadvantaged like Tuvalu; that she believed that Tuvalu has the potential but needs help to make an impact on the community; that tennis in Tuvalu is making an impact; the Tuvalu Government is support but in terms of resources we still need a lot of supportive and have a lot to do.

Bruce Osborne responded by saying that Tennis Australia doesn't do the categorization; that this is done by the Federal Government; that he did seem to recall Tuvalu being up there

either on the A or B priority list; that he foresees that there are at least 6 Nations that we could work with over the next 18 months if we could get some grants.

Carl Sanft said that he had just become President of Tonga tennis a month ago and that Tonga doesn't have a proper coach; he asked whether there was any way that a coach could be supplied to Tonga.

Bruce Osborne said that it was very difficult for a coach to come out to the Islands and leave their home and a very good wage; that they are earning back in Australia much more than they will ever earn in the Islands; that the coaching programme that Darran Wrighton is trying to set up is where we bring coaches across from the Islands into Australia to the coaches conferences where the better coaches run workshops for them so they can upskill themselves in order to be able to deliver programmes better in their own countries.

Carl Sanft commented that Tonga has a coach but they do not feel he is good enough; that he had spoken to AUS Aid and that they would be prepared to provide some funding to get a coach. Bruce Osborne commented that just before he came to Fiji he was in discussions with 2 Australians who had just done their junior development coaching course and they said that they would love to come over to the Nations and do some work; that it would be a short term opportunity and that we would need to try to find some funds to allow this to happen unless Tonga was able to do that; that it's not on our priority list but that there is no reason why we can't have some of these young coaches come to the Islands to assist; that Tonga isn't the only Nation with this issue as Samoa has also asked for something similar; that trying to improve the coaching right across Oceania is one of our key focuses; ensuring also that we have our best players coming back into their respective countries to deliver tennis programmes and unfortunately we haven't had that happen very often in the past.

Richard Breen commented that the ITF held a couple of years ago a coaching and development course and he suggested to Carl Sanft that he contact Darran Wrighton to ask when the next such course will be taking place; that Tennis Fiji had had a similar issue and they were able to engage with the assistance

of Vanuatu Tennis a coach for 3 weeks who charged a lot less and Tennis Fiji just had to find funding to support this and that he had really helped the Fiji preparation for the Games; that there are also many coaches in New Caledonia who may be able to assist. Ernestine Rengiil advised Carl Sanft to discuss this issue with their NOC as there were funds available for such programmes; that Ian Honila was going to FSM who were paying him to coach in the region for 3 months.

Mr Healy concluded the discussion by saying that yes we can try to get a coach for a period of time to upskill but countries need to take advantage of the coaches' conferences and also working with the other better coaches in the Islands and that will lift the standard and that would be a realistic approach to adopt.

Cyrille Mainguy said that Tonga's first approach should be to Darran Wrighton as he is the ITF and that he can then engage others within the Islands as appropriate; also the NOCs as they have a large pool of funds.

Mr Healy wished Vanuatu well in their rebuilding following cyclone Pam and his understanding was that the re-build was well underway; that Tennis Australia was very happy to assist in their recovery from the cyclone damage.

Cyrille Mainguy said that he wanted to officially thank Tennis Australia for all they had done to assist Vanuatu following the cyclone; also the ITF, because they responded very quickly, New Caledonia and the IOC; that Vanuatu is still rebuilding and that with the cooperation of John Shannon, they are going to resurface a couple of courts.

2.2 Presentation of Annual Report

Mr. Healy then thanked Darran Wrighton, in his absence, for the great job that he does; his enthusiasm, passion and commitment to his role is unrivalled; he does a great job and we should all record that here; also thanks to everyone around this table; to John Shannon and David Smith particularly who make all of this happen; for arranging the meeting, transportation etc and that we have all been made to feel

really welcome; and also from his perspective to Bruce Osborne who helps enormously through Tennis Australia.

He went on to say that there are 2 things that we want to really focus on:

- The Hot Shots Programme and building the base of players; that if we can build a broad base then we have a chance to pick out kids who have the ability to become elite players but that to do this we have to have a big, broad base
- That we had discussed at the executive meeting yesterday that governance is an issue; that he wanted to see in every country that people are committed and that they respond to David Smith and John Shannon in a timely manner; that they provide the information that we request from them and that we get a proper governance structure at a simple level in every country because if we are going to help then they need to help us to allow them to be helped; that we need every country aligned with this mission to get the governance right; that everyone across Oceania needs to be aligned with these key strategies.

Carl Sanft said that Tonga was looking at installing a new constitution as their current one was a simple 2-page document; he requested templates so that Tonga could use these examples to improve and upgrade their own. Richard Breen said that Tennis Australia had given Tennis Fiji a copy of their constitution when they were conducting a review. Bruce Osborne said that Tennis Australia was more than happy to assist Tonga in any way possible in this regard and with child protection and vulnerable persons' policies; that TA can provide all these sorts of things and that all Tonga would need to do is adapt the wording appropriately.

Carl Sanft then discussed issues that Tonga had had in the committee management area; he floated certain ideas and whether there was assistance to fund personnel. Mr. Healy said that the executive discussed this very issues yesterday that in several countries there are blockages to information and that it is concerning; that we think that the solution is for Darran Wrighton to find someone in these countries who is actually prepared to commit to the administration and if need be look

to a change of personnel. Cyrille Mainguy encouraged Tonga to approach their NOC for assistance as Vanuatu was given a small assistance to assist their administration.

David Smith then said that it is with pleasure that he presented the OTF Annual Report which was in a slightly different format to previous Annual Reports and that embedded in this report is the Financial Statement for the Year; that 2015 was arguably one of the most successful years in Pacific Oceania history which is a credit to everyone who has been involved.

John Shannon then commented that we now have a new lease for the Regional Training Centre for 7 years; that we are now manning the facility with our own staff; that we are now in total control of the RTC as of 1 March; that Tennis Fiji had just purchased a 40' container; that they are building some spectator seating; that the previous arrangement had not been satisfactory; that the hosting of tournaments and events should be a lot more pleasant.

Mr Healy thanked John Shannon for all his efforts with the lease, the court resurfacing and getting the centre back up to where it should be.

The Annual Report was unanimously accepted.

3. Finance

3.1 Financial Report Executive Committee Report

David Smith spoke to the financial report and said that the OTF again made a financial loss for the year; that this year we are hoping to break even or run at a very slight surplus and the reason for that is the new methodology in how the ITF will be funding Davis Cup; that currently the funding for Davis Cup and Fed Cup is different in that the OTF fund 100% of the Davis Cup air travel; for Fed Cup the ITF currently fund 80% with the Nation responsible for the balance.

From 2016 Nations will now receive an 80% reimbursement of their travel costs for Davis Cup but now be responsible for on-site accommodation, whereas previously Nations were fully responsible for 100% of their travel costs but had their accommodation costs covered; that when you bear in mind

that in recent years the hosting of these Ties has primarily been in the Arab World or distant Asia; that this will have a marked positive financial impact.

He went on to say that the only other thing of note if you went back historically over the last few years is that we used to receive a grant of \$US50k from ONOC; in the last year this was \$US30k; that at one stage this year we felt that we may not get any funding at all but this has now been confirmed at AU\$30k; that the advice over the last week is that the currency amount has changed in that it is AUD not USD which will negatively impact on the budget in the 2016 budget by \$8k.

David Smith then recorded his thanks to Barry McMillan who again did an outstanding job in the auditing of the accounts; that if it is the wish of this meeting not only would he like to write to him formally, which he said he had already done informally, thanking him but additionally inviting him to continue in the role of honorary auditor for the 2016 year; that for our meeting in January there is an extremely tight turn around to get the Annual Report, audited accounts etc completed by the 3rd week in January given our financial year ends 31 December.

Richard Breen commented that he felt it was important that there was a person representing tennis who is not affiliated with their Olympic Committee present at the meeting in Port Vila so that we can strengthen the relationship with ONOC and this may hold us in better stead for next year; he understood that Darran Wrighton had yet to attend any of these meetings. Cyrille Mainguy said that when he was in Vanuatu recently he reminded him of the meeting and he said that he might try to come to the meeting in Port Vila though the week before he is involved with the West Pacific Qualifier; he went on to say that he had written a letter to Dr. Mitchell re the payment being in AUD rather than the customary USD and as yet he hasn't had a response; but they will all be in Port Vila in May and if necessary he will ask the question in person; Ricardo Blas did mention to Cyrille Mainguy that they are withholding monies until their Rio commitment is completed; that now rugby is included, they will have to support a lot more athletes from Oceania; but after Rio they will likely consider providing more funding to Oceania. Bruce Osborne said that he was going to

Port Vila so he said he will likely attend the meeting and could engage as Richard Breen is suggesting.

Carl Sanft suggested that we increase our grant application to \$1/2million and asked why we were only applying for \$50k. David Smith explained that ONOC currently have 3 tiers of funding that can be applied for from all sports and tennis is no different from other sports and the maximum funding that you can apply for in the highest tier, Tier 1, is \$50k; that this tier system was changed about 2 years ago; that in the meeting handouts you can see the letter that went to ONOC, the letter that came back from ONOC saying we had been granted US\$30k only to then find on receipt that it was AU\$30k.

Mr Healy said that there is a chicken and egg situation in that if we can show through the Hot Shots Programme that tennis is growing across Oceania then we have a good case to justify greater funding. He closed by saying that we were next year also looking to combine both the Executive Meeting and the AGM to save cost.

3.2 Budget 2016

David Smith said that the budget presented may likely change once the outcome of the discussions with ONOC are known as also potentially we may get additional funding in July; that we will follow this up in June with ONOC requesting additional funding; also there are a couple of changes in the fee that Fiji will charge all players competing in ITF even. The Fee on the Fact Sheet states US\$50 but Tennis Fiji have only been charging F\$80 instead of F\$100; that this will change immediately and will benefit the OTF by approximately AU\$3,500; additionally the executive meeting yesterday agree that the OCJC levy per player would increase from \$100 to \$160 so this will have a positive financial impact of just over \$3,000.

Richard Breen said that if one of their players is selected for Davis or Fed Cup, then they have no issue about contributing a little bit; that that mentality has to change and that Tennis Fiji go out and try to find sponsors/fundraising to assist this process.

David Smith said that at the executive meeting last November we had agreed to that process and 2016 is the first year where

this contribution is being requested; that Tennis Fiji and Palau have already done that for their players selected for Junior Fed Cup and Fed Cup respectively.

The budget was then approved.

3.3 OTF Membership Fee 2015/16

3.3.1 Update on OTF Membership and Fee Payment

David Smith explained that the OTF Membership was \$200 per year and that invoices for the 2015-2016 (\$400) had been sent to all Nations 15 months ago in February 2015.

Currently we have 6 countries that have not paid their membership fees despite multiple reminders; American Samoa, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga **(EO note-Papua New Guinea and Tonga have subsequently paid their fees following the AGM)**; he said that he had emailed these countries and you just don't get a reply. Richard Breen said he struggled to understand this particularly when a country like the Solomon Islands has 4 kids at the RTC; that it is a disgrace and that the OTF needs to take a stand; that the benefit their kids get at the ITF House and the free training; going on the ITF tours and they can't pay their membership fees.

Bruce Osborne said that this was discussed at the executive meetings yesterday and that one of the opportunities for countries was the AO Pathway and that we have been providing cash grants to countries that aren't financial members and the intent is to change that to the effect that applications will only be considered from Nations who are current financial members of the OTF and as such applications from non financial members will be rejected; that we need to be tougher and ensure that Nations are getting their governance right. Torgun Smith said that in the executive meeting yesterday we had suggested that they approach their NOCs to get help in this area

David Smith said that under the OTF Constitution if a Nation hasn't paid their membership for 3 consecutive years, then their membership is suspended but that we shouldn't have to

go down that pathway; that in 9 months we will be sending out invoices for the 2017-18 biennial.

Asita Molotii said that in the 2007 General Meeting she had raised concerns back then when some wanted to increase the membership fee; that she had said back then that some countries were struggling; that in Tuvalu most of the time the fees are paid out of the Tennis Executive's own pocket; we don't have practices where coaches provide the services and we can benefit; that Tuvalu struggles as they don't have the means to generate revenue; that other countries don't pay their fees but are clearly reaping the benefit of tennis development.

Richard Breen agreed that some Nations have more resources than others but you have to look at the benefits of being a member of the OTF; that Nations reap this multi-fold with all the development programmes and that it's in Nations benefit to find the membership fee; that the recent PSP that Fiji are the recipients of is another OTF initiative and whilst Fiji are the initial recipients, this will spread to other Nations so that they too can benefit; that it wasn't a question of dropping fees to \$5, that \$200 wasn't such a great figure that it was penalizing Nations. Cyrille Mainguy said the AO Pathway applications close in August and that those Nations who haven't paid their membership fee should not even be considered for an AO Pathway Grant and that this needs to be a pre-requisite for consideration of an application.

3.4 Honorary Auditor

Covered previously in discussion on the Annual Report and statement of Financial Accounts

3.5 ONOC Funding Letter 2016

Also covered previously in earlier discussions

4. Constitution

4.1 Notice of Motion from the Vanuatu Tennis Federation

Cyrille Mainguy spoke to the Vanuatu Tennis Federation motion nominating Geoff Pollard for Life Membership of the

OTF in acknowledgement of the long service and involvement with the Oceania Tennis Federation for 3 decades; that Geoff was the OTF President for 20 odd years; that it is a recognition for what he has done for tennis in Oceania; that is the proposal to the floor; that Moana So'onaloale was the first person to be awarded Life Membership at the OTF AGM in Melbourne in January 2015. This motion was seconded by Carl Sanft and was carried unanimously.

Carl Sanft asked whether we give him some sort of certificate or other item recognizing this. Torgun Smith commented that Neil Adsett had written an amendment to the Constitution as there wasn't previously Life Membership recognition and that this is Article 9A of the current Constitution. It was agreed that Geoff Pollard should be invited to the AGM and that a certificate or something similar should be presented to him at the AGM in January.

4.2 Notice of Motion from the Guam National Tennis Federation

Torgun Smith said that this had been raised at the last AGM but was not carried; that he had brought the motion forward as a current Secretary-General and that going back historically the Secretary-General was more involved in the day-to-day running of the OTF but that now with 2 EOs, there was now no longer the need for this role as they do all the work for the OTF; so the motion is to change the 2 Secretary-General positions to just Board Members.

This motion was seconded by Bruce Osborne

The motion was read to the meeting that Article 9.2 of the OTF Constitution is amended to remove all references to the Secretary-General and that Article 9.9 with similar references is deleted completely and any other consequential changes; that the composition of the Board still remain as a maximum of eight (8) directors but that Article 9.2 referring to the Composition of the Board that states "up to four members" be amended to "up to six members" with the 2 Secretary-General positions becoming normal Board Members

That Article 9.2 would now read:

Composition of the Board: *The Board shall comprise a maximum of eight (8) directors as follows:*

- ▲ *President*
- ▲ *Vice-President*
- ▲ *Up to six (6) members*

Mr Healy said that the role of the Secretaries-General has become redundant with both EOs running the day-to-day affairs of the OTF; that this would come into effect at the next election of the Board in Melbourne in January 2017.

For the benefit of the Meeting David Smith also read out Article 9.3 relation to the Election of the Board.

Election of Board: *The Board shall be elected at the General Meeting from a list of nominees nominated by the members to whom such nominees belong. Nominations must be signed by the Secretary or President of the member and the nominee, and submitted in writing to the Executive Officer at least thirty (30) days before the General Meeting. The director positions shall include at least one person from each of Australia, New Zealand, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.*

Mr Healy then put the motion to the floor and this was carried unanimously.

5. AO Sponsorship

5.1 AO Sponsorship

Bruce Osborne advised that Tennis Australia were currently doing their budgets and that Craig Tiley has been able to confirm that the \$50k AO Pathway Sponsorship will continue which is good news with August being the close off date for applications this year; that these applications not only had gone individually to each of the Presidents but the documents are also on our website for downloading.

He went on to say that any approved monies under the AO Pathway Grant must go to a National Federation Bank Account and not the personal bank account of a President or any member of the respective Tennis Federation; that AO Grant monies are only granted by application provided

countries meet the criteria; Bruce Osborne also explained that grants have been given to countries but that they didn't maximize their payout due to their not fulfilling the requirements under the terms and conditions of the grant; that the grant is about the delivery of a programmes to the kids in schools and that it must utilize the Hot Shots Programme; that the grants are specifically for this and cannot be used for any other initiative; that the criteria is very strict on that and the progressive payment are based on reports of what has been delivered; that if you have delivered 5 Hot Shot activities in the schools then you will get your payment; that 8 Nations applied this year and received \$3,000 each; that the previous year 7 Nations applied and got funded up to \$4,000;

He went on to say that unfortunately 1 or 2 Nations didn't complete their programme so didn't receive their full grant for different reasons when they were unable or couldn't complete the programme; that it is about actually delivering the programme in schools and that he needs to be able to sign off on that when he receives the reports; that's why the reports are so important as when the invoice comes from the Nation this can be approved and paid automatically; that the report should include photos of the activity etc; that the good news is that we don't have any money left over as it is always fully granted to Nations.

David Smith said that our concern in raising the above re bank accounts is that there was an issue about 3 years ago with \$4,000 or \$5,000 being sent to Tonga and to this day we don't know who had access to this money or what it was used for. All attempts to get reports or an explanation proved fruitless despite multiple requests. Neil Adsett had been asked on several occasions to investigate this; we know the money was received into a bank account in Tonga but we are still awaiting an explanation of how this was spent and by whom and who had access to this as it was destined for the Junior Development Programme; Carl Sanft undertook to investigate this further and advise

5.2 Other Opportunities

Mr Healy said that we had discussed this in the Executive Meeting yesterday and the challenges that this presents.

Torgun Smith said that we needed to find sponsorship so that we could be more self-sufficient rather than relying on ONOC for funding streams; that John Shannon and Richard Breen will be talking to Fiji Airways re a sponsorship proposal that could involve cash, free tickets, ticket discounts; that regionally in the North, West, East everyone has different companies across their regions and that there really isn't an overall Pacific Oceania sponsor that we could approach; that when we approach sponsors in Guam we want this for our Guam programme not for the OTF; so it is challenging from a regional perspective as it is difficult enough for our own Federation; that we don't want to be reliant on ONOC as when they cut their funding as has recently happened then we need to restructure our programmes.

Richard Breen asked whether it was possible to put together a list of multi-national companies that have a strong presence across Oceania and maybe ask them to be a sponsor of Davis Cup or Fed Cup Team where advertising can be on the players' clothing; that Tennis Fiji had found it hard to get 1 sponsor to sponsor the Federation in its entirety but when they had said to a sponsor that they were looking for a sponsor for a particular event, they found this much easier; that we look strategically at those companies that have a strong presence in Oceania and see whether they can sponsor the Davis Cup and/or Fed Cup team; David Smith said that Davis Cup/Fed Cup Team can have both team and individual sponsors on their clothing; that there were some restrictions around sponsors for Davis/Fed Cup that may need ITF approval if they were in categories where they saw a potential conflict; David Smith committed to email attendees the current rules and regulations in this area.

John Shannon explained to attendees that with all the Junior, Senior, Meetings, ITF and other Events, ITF Tours etc with the ITF and OTF we were collectively purchasing approximately 600 airfares annually; not just the OTF/ITF but also the players coming in to events which would equate roughly to about \$1/2 million in revenue to the airlines; that the way to approach Fiji Airways would be to say to them that this could be a tiered sponsorship; that they could give us a booking code which would enable them to track the volume; that there have been a lot of management changes recently and

that formerly when Tennis Fiji were talking to Air Pacific they were talking to people who couldn't really make decisions and were looking for excuses not to sponsor anything; there are a lot of tickets involved here and that if we present this properly to senior management they have to listen as it is to their benefit; that it's a win-win situation; that previously there was a lot of restructuring happen in the airline and that now is a really good time to re-approach them. Richard Breen said that we also need to keep a good record of the tickets being purchased or potential to be purchased through Fiji Airways; that for the management up the chain if there was an opportunity to invite them to the Australian Open then this would make a huge difference to the relationship; that that is also a possibility to see what can be offered in return as well; that the guys who are making the decision are also benefiting personally. Mr Healy said that this is real life and that Tennis Australia was happy to put them into the President's Reserve at the Australian Open if John Shannon and Richard Breen want to include this in their presentation as part of the package. John Shannon explained that Fiji Airways have an office in Melbourne. Bruce Osborne said that that was a similar arrangement that we had had with the ANZ Bank when they were a sponsor previously and Mr. Healy said he remembered sitting at a table back then with Bob Lyons, the CEO for ANZ Bank-Pacific Region.

Carl Sanft mentioned that he was going to Suva to meet with Coca Cola and that he had put a proposal to the Tongan Government to tax Coca Cola for the damage that their products do to the population and for part of this tax to be redistributed to tennis but that it appears as though any such tax will end up in the Health sector budget; he said that this is one Company across the region that we should be approaching; that we need to find out where their regional office is for the Pacific and find out the best way to approach them.

Torgun Smith said that they have some sponsors in Guam that enjoy the royal box at the Tokyo Open; that the Japan Tennis Association has been giving Guam some royal box seats; that some of the sponsors are keen to go there every day but he explained it couldn't be bought; that it is a "money can't buy" experience; that we could leverage on the Australian Open

Reserve seating as an opportunity to attract large sponsorship. Mr Healy also said that what he had also offered through his counterparts at the other Grand Slams is access to good seats, not necessarily the President's Reserve, for semis or finals at face value, package them up and offer something to a potential sponsor. He concluded by saying that he was willing to assist in any way possible in the discussions that John Shannon and Richard Breen will have with Fiji Airways and with any sponsorship proposal.

6. International Senior Teams

6.1 Pacific Oceania Davis Cup 2105 and 2016

6.2 Australian Tennis League (ATL) 2015 and 2016

6.3 Fed Cup 2015 and 2016

Mr. Healy started by saying that he had discussed the Davis Cup and their results in his opening address to the meeting. David Smith then said that the Women's Fed Cup Team arrived in Thailand yesterday and they play in Group II starting next week; that the Men's Davis Cup Team are playing in Iran in July; that Mr. Healy had already advised earlier that the Davis Cup team last year went from Group IV to Group III; that he also wanted to thank Bruce Osborne and Tennis Australia for giving the Pacific Oceania players the opportunity to play in the Asia Pacific Tennis League (ATL) in Melbourne during the Australia Open last January; that he said for the benefit of everyone at the meeting they need to fully understand and appreciate the level of commitment that Tennis Australia are providing to Nations and tennis players in Pacific Oceania and that attendees at this AGM for the first time are probably getting a sense of this during this meeting.

He went on to say that the Pacific Oceania AT players received accreditation like all players at the Australian Open; they got to change in the same changing rooms as these top players of the world and that you couldn't buy that experience; that Tennis Australia funded all the airfares for the players (approx \$12,000); they funded the prize money and gave Pacific Oceania a contribution of \$4,200 (half for men and women) towards the cost of accommodation, meals etc; that the Women finished 5th and the Men 7th equal in the event which earned us \$5,000 in prize money; so that there was a

nett gain to the OTF of approximately \$4,000; he thanked Tennis Australia.

Bruce Osborne said that the ATL had been a great opportunity especially for our Davis and Fed Cup players who had toiled long and hard in some of the most unpleasant places then to have the opportunity to come and play at the Australian Open in the second week playing against and rubbing shoulders with some of the best players in the World; that our men and women players absolutely loved the experience and we hope that this continues.

David Smith explained for the benefit of those who weren't aware of the event that the quality of the players is extremely high; that it was not an event to play young juniors for experience as they are playing against players ranked in the top 100-200 and many former extremely good top players; players like John Millman (65 in the World) are playing; that this year was a little bit unusual for the Pacific Oceania Women's Team in that due to unavailability with the 3 girls in the USA who would likely have been selected, and a late withdrawal we had Wild Cards from Australia and New Zealand playing; that it was either that or we were faced with withdrawing the team and then run the risk that teams from Japan, who are keen to enter the event, would replace us and we may not get back into the event; that Abigail got the opportunity to play with a girl, Sally Peers, who is returning from injury, who used to be #69 in the World. Cyrille Mainguy agreed that this was a great experience for our players as they are playing against top players; he thanked Tennis Australia for this opportunity for our players; Richard Breen added that this is an opportunity that if lost doesn't mean that the money can be used elsewhere; in essence a "use it or lose it" opportunity and that we would be foolish not to be part of the event with all the benefits that we get from the event.

Mr Healy concluded the discussion by saying that it is a very high standard and the fact that it is "Fast 4s" is neither here nor there; that the standard and the commitment of the players is every bit as high as any other event.

At this point Mr Healy said that from a constitutional perspective the AGM needed to ratify the co-option of Celia

Patrick that was done at the Executive Meeting in November 2015 as per Article 9.5 of the Constitution as below.

Vacancy: *The Board may co-opt any person within the Federation to be a member of the Board if a vacancy arises at any time for any reason. The co-opted member shall serve until the next General Meeting at which time his/her appointment shall be ratified. Should the vacancy be for the position of President or Vice-President then the Board will elect a person from within the Board to act in the position until the next General Meeting.*

He said that we had a vacancy on the Executive Committee that wasn't filled during the January 2015 election; that the Executive had co-opted Celia and she is appointed until this is ratified at the next AGM (as above) which is this one and that we can, by ratification, appoint her to continue to the next AGM which will be in Melbourne in January 2017. This was moved by Cyrille Mainguy and seconded by Carl Sanft and carried unanimously.

Mr Healy then discussed the next AGM in Melbourne in January 2017; that we wanted to combine both the Executive Meeting and the AGM at the same time to negate travel and other costs; he said that it would be good if David Haggerty, the new ITF President, attended the meetings; that we intend checking his availability; that we would want to hold these meetings either in the mornings of the 15th/16th January or the 22nd/23rd January with the executive meeting on the first day and the AGM on the second day (respectively the start of the first and second weeks of the Australian Open).

Discussion was around the timing of the ATL and that this would commence Monday 23rd January. David Smith said that he was asked following the Executive Meeting yesterday to write to David Haggerty giving him the above 2 options and suggesting our preference would be for the 2nd week as it allowed Delegates to then stay on and watch Pacific Oceania play in the ATL Event.

Mr Healy said that the dates were a little bit tricky particularly if they have the sort of things that came out of the woodwork with the corruption issue; he went on to say that there is a possibility of David Haggerty coming out for the Hopman Cup in which case he would be in Australia; that it wouldn't be a probably for the meeting to be held earlier depending on the

availability of everyone else. Mr Healy asked whether we were happy to leave this as an alternative or did the meeting have a preference either way; that he felt it was important that David Haggerty was there and be able to attend the meetings. The consensus of the delegates was that the second week was preferable so they could all then stay on and watch the Pacific Oceania players playing in the ATL.

He went on to say that the new ITF President, David Haggerty, is trying to reiterate the importance of the Regional Associations and that there is a Regional Association Presidents' Task Force that he is part of; that the ITF want at the ITF AGM in the middle of June to give an opportunity for the OTF as a group to present to the ITF Board about the challenges that we face; the sort of things that we have been talking about today; also like trying to get 1 tennis court in Tuvalu; that the good news is that we will likely have quite a few from the OTF Executive/Nations' Presidents that will be there; that he would like the Nations' Presidents to talk to the ITF Board about the issues that they face; that the OTF Regional Association is quite different to a lot of the others; for those of you who don't know there is Europe, Africa, South America, the Americas because it is so large just operates on its own as US, Canada and Mexico and the Asian Tennis Federation; that we are the smallest but geographically the largest and in many ways have quite unique problems and it is a chance to make the Board aware of these; that he would like those who are going to speak up on that as well.

He went on to say that there is also a request from the ITF to respond to a questionnaire re non-World Group Davis/Fed Cup. Mr Healy explained that this was discussed at the Executive Meeting yesterday; that Torgun Smith is part of this task force looking at this; that the Executive considered this yesterday and that that the Executive's recommendation to the AGM for ratification is as follows:

The recommended OTF position was as in red below:

Davis Cup

1. Do you prefer round robin or *Home and Away* as a format **at your current level** / other levels you have played in?

Preference for **current level**: **Round Robin as on our current budget it would be impossible to host without full support from the ITF. Plus there are more matches and experience with the round robin**

Preference for **any other level (s)** (please state the level (s)) your nation has played at in the past: **Group II Home and Away**

2. If you stated in question 1 that you prefer the Home and Away format **in concept**, would you like to see **actual** format change?

At **your level**? YES / NO **Not Applicable**

At **any other level** (please state the level (s)) your nation has played at in the past: YES / NO **Not Applicable**

3. If you **currently play** Home & Away;

a. How much roughly does it cost you to host a tie? **Not Applicable**

b. How much income do you get? **Not Applicable**

c. Please provide a profit & loss statement in connection with hosting a home tie in your country. (This restricted information will only be used by the International Tennis Federation) **Not Applicable**

4. If **you currently play** in a Round Robin group;

a. What does it cost you? **AUD\$8,000. Used to be \$17,000 under the old format**

b. What amount per tie would your NA be willing to contribute towards the hosting costs if it changed to Home and Away? **No more than what it costs us now**

Fed Cup

1. Do you prefer round robin or Home and Away as a format **at your current level** / other levels you have played in?

Preference for **current level**: **Round Robin as on our current budget it would be impossible to host without full support from the ITF. Plus there are more matches and experience with the round robin**

Preference for **any other level (s)** (please state the level (s)) your nation has played at in the past: **Group II Round Robin**

2. If you stated in question 1 that you prefer the Home and Away format **in concept**, would you like to see **actual** format change?
 At **your level**? YES / NO **Not Applicable**
 At **any other level** (please state the level (s)) your nation has played at in the past: YES / NO **Not Applicable**
3. If you **currently play** Home & Away;
 How much roughly does it cost you to host a tie? **Not Applicable**
 a. How much income do you estimate you get? **Not Applicable**
 b. Please provide a profit & loss statement in connection with hosting a home tie in your country. (This restricted information will only be used by the International Tennis Federation) **Not Applicable**
4. If **you currently play** in a Round Robin group;
 a. What does it cost you? **AUD\$8,000**
 b. What amount per tie would your NA be willing to contribute towards the hosting costs if it changed to Home and Away?
No more than what it costs us now
5. If the Round Robin events were changed to require less days and less resources by being just 8 teams per group, in a double draw format, played Friday through Sunday (on Sunday it would be determined which team is promoted and which is relegated, would your NA be willing to host such a group in FC or DC? **We couldn't afford as it runs at a loss. Tight restrictions on advertising to allow nations to seek sponsors to make a profit; Hosting Grant is insufficient**

Torgun Smith commented that the task force that he was appointed to has representatives from each of the 6 regions; that there was some discussion around the commercial hindrances; being able to find sponsors and make money from Davis/Fed Cup; that also there were not enough winners in the events; that there may be 8 or 12 Nations competing but there is only 1 winner; the question of the home and away with 2 Nations and 1 winner; my opinion is that the round robin is good as it gives teams more matches and interaction and if you're not good enough to win, then better luck next year; that some of the discussion was around maybe having more

home and away or smaller round robins like 8 countries with a semi-final and final which would produce more winners; that the OTF is answering this as a group because Pacific Oceania has teams in both Davis and Fed Cup; that to send this questionnaire out to individual OTF Nations is pointless as they do not participate individually; that the executive came to a consensus on what they believed was right for Pacific Oceania; that Tennis NZ will individually do theirs; that the bigger smaller countries have the challenge of making money as it has to be televised; and all these other issues that are a hindrance to playing Davis Cup; with some countries not wanting to have a home Tie as it costs them too much money.

He went on to comment that the other alternative is to make the hosting less of a burden; also he brought up the fact that most of our Nations are Class C Members and under the constitution these countries can't participate individually in the Davis Cup; that the task force group agreed that this needed to change and there needed to be some opportunity for Class C Nations; that there would need to be a constitutional change and change of governance; that he is of the view that David Haggerty wants to work towards getting all Nations a vote; that he and Darran Wrighton are working on a questionnaire to send out to the Class C Nations that asks if you were able to participate in a regional Davis Cup format; maybe something like a qualifying event.

Richard Breen raised the issue that Guam has applied for Class B Membership; he asked what now happens with Guam players; are they still eligible to represent Pacific Oceania. Torgun Smith said that they wouldn't be eligible; that he had received a letter saying the ITF Board has recommended Guam be accepted as a Class B member; the issue of Danny Llarenas was raised in having already represented Pacific Oceania, could he now play for Guam should he so choose. Mr Healy said that the ITF would likely adopt the precedent when a Nation splits into 2 countries; that once you split, pick a side and you have to stay there; that the interesting question is that if Guam doesn't have a team and he wants to continue playing for Pacific Oceania, does that then mean he can never play for Guam.

Bruce Osborne asked whether this was a good time to get New Caledonia involved in the conversation and moving towards their eligibility to play for Pacific Oceania. David Smith

said that the best New Caledonian players will very unlikely every play for France yet they are being denied the opportunity to play for Pacific Oceania so they are losing out both ways under the current situation; that he had tried to address this previously with the former President of New Caledonia, Sebastien Baldovini, and felt progress was being made in those discussions and then it died a natural death; that the discussion with the FFT were that New Caledonia could have a foot in both doors and enjoy the benefit of both alliances with the FFT and the OTF. Jenny Dietrich said that she has been discussing this with the French Federation; that there was an issue around new Caledonian players still being able to compete in the French Championships in France; that if they played for Pacific Oceania there was a concern that they couldn't play again at Roland Garros as for their top players it is important for them to go to France and represent New Caledonia; that she was waiting for an update on this; that any such proposal to the ITF would have to go to them at least 3 months before their AGM. General discussion then ensued around the pros and cons for the New Caledonian players.

6.4 Pacific Games-Updated Rules

David Smith gave some background to the proposed changes. He said that the first Pacific Games were in 1963 and that the tennis rules remained completely unchanged till the mid 90s when he did the first re-write following the Pacific Games in Tahiti in 1995; that subsequently 14 years later in 2009 a minor change was then done and approved at the OTF AGM and these are the current rules that are in the papers for this meeting.

Recently in the PNG Games an anomaly was discovered in the seeding criteria for the Singles Event so what you have in front of you is the recommended changes to the rules to be effective at the next Games in Port Vila in 2017. These changes were discussed by the Executive yesterday and there are 3 areas where changes are proposed to be made:

- The Seeding for the individual event where it is not prescriptive but rather guide lines and a range of considerations are to be used when deciding the seeding

- In the Team's Event that the Host Nation is now no longer automatically seeded and that the seeds are determined based on the strength of the Teams
- That in Doubles that all matches are now played with No-Ad Scoring and a Match Tie Break (10 Points) is used in the Deciding 3rd Set which is the format for almost all Doubles Matches now and this change is to correctly re-align this with what is commonly played

He said that this also gives the Referee the facility to play consolation event as the Doubles Matches would be quicker.

These are the changes that the Executive discussed last November and again yesterday and were fully in support of those changes.

Richard Breen asked the question referencing New Caledonia at the PNG Games where Nickolas N'Godrela was seeded #1 and Julien Delaplane was their #2 player but couldn't be seeded #2 because he was always playing against #2 rather than #1 players for head-to-head results; that in essence he was probably the 2nd best player there; he asked whether that scenario is addressed by the rule change. David Smith said that Richard's understanding isn't totally correct and there is a difficulty in making assessments for seeding as he would always play against #2 players and presumably win those matches convincingly. He said that Richard Breen had been at PNG Games where he personally had been the referee and often New Caledonia had been seeded #1 and #2. The current rules did not stop Julien from being seeded #2. The issue came about when William O'Connell beat Cyril Jacobe in the singles in the Teams Event which then meant that William must be seeded ahead of Cyril Jacobe regardless of the fact that every other match the two ever played Cyril had beaten William. The current rules were prescriptive that the just completed head-to-head was the prime determining factor rather than being a consideration. He said that the new guide lines are in no priority order. Bruce Osborne said that it is now for the captains to put the case for their player(s) so that the seeding committee can come to common agreement.

Francis Bryard then raised the proposed rule change of playing the Match Tie Break (10 Point) in the Doubles in the Teams Event; he felt this was quite a big change and asked whether this type of rule decision could be decided by the Tournament Committee; he understood the change as it speeds up all the matches but he felt for just the Teams Event which is the main event in the Games for a lot of the Nations that the 3rd set is important and should be left as a Tie Break. Mr Healy commented that this Match Tie Break was what was happening all around the World and that Finals of ATP Events come down to a Match Tie Break. Torgun Smith said that these were individual events and agreed that just for the Teams Event (like Davis and Fed Cup) it should remain as 3 Tie-Break Sets. Cyril Mainguy said that he had no issue with the Match Tie Break for Doubles individual events as this would speed up matches which often weren't finishing to 10 or 11pm and then additionally there was always the issue of rain that further held up the schedule.

David Smith said that whatever the meeting decides, it needs to be prescriptive in the rules and not left for individual Committees at respective Games to make their decision on the format; that it is not for the Referee on the day or a committee to make the rules but rather to follow the rules; that there is no issue in retaining the 3 Tie Break Sets for the Doubles in the Teams Event only and that it is for this meeting to decide and agree on.

The meeting then agreed that for the Teams Event the scoring method for the Doubles would remain at the best of 3 Tie Break Sets. David Smith sent that he would now send the updated rules to the Pacific Games Council and circulate these to all Nations.

7. Regional Tennis Centre Facility

7.1 Report and Hire Agreement with Fiji Sports Council

Was taken as discussed earlier in the meeting

8. General Business

8.1 Email from Tahiti re Pacific Games Rules

David Smith explained that this would now be covered in the change to the Pacific Games Rules just approved as they were asking that the Host Nation should not automatically be seeded and that the seedings should be based on the strength of the Teams competing.

8.2 Email from Tahiti re use of Officials at Pacific Games

David Smith said that the issue relating to the fact that Tahiti had sent 2 officials to the PNG Games to be chair umpires; that they had previously been at the New Caledonia Games, where he personally was the Referee, and were given reasonable work at those Games and now why not at PNG.

He went on to say that the Referee assigns the matches day-by-day and that it is very difficult a year after the fact for the OTF to address this; that this should have been addressed by the officials directly through the Referee at the time or alternatively through their Chef de Mission.

That he had written to Tahiti explaining this but would also write to them further following the AGM to reiterate protocol for handling matters like this in the future

8.3 Tonga-Triangular Event involving Fiji, Samoa and Tonga

Carl Sanft said that he would like to float a proposal of an annual event involving Tonga, Fiji and Samoa. He said that he didn't yet have the proposal in written form but that if the other countries are interested then he would be happy to draft such a proposal.

Richard Breen said that Fiji were willing to support such an idea. Carl Sanft suggested that maybe Fiji could host the first, then Samoa then Tonga. Richard Breen asked whether he was asking the OTF to fund such a triangular event to which Carl Sanft said, yes.

Mr Healy said that the OTF was skinny on funds; that the budget says that if we are prudent we will just be in the black. David Smith said that if we were funding such a triangular event then why wouldn't we be doing this for say the Northern Nations.

Asita Molotii said that it was a great proposal but that Tonga needed to write a proposal and then engage the other 2 Nations in discussions outside of this meeting. Mr Breen commented on the fact that in a couple of months we have the Oceania Championships and Samoa has not yet registered any interest to attend; that he was all for providing opportunities for more tournaments but that they should be playing in this event first before we consider another; that Samoa need to be supportive of what's happening around the table before we look at additional events involving them; that Fiji was very happy to support the concept but all 3 countries need to be on the same page and committed to all events in Oceania before others are added in; also the fact that such Nations should be paid up OTF members too.

Carl Sanft said that we could organize something in Auckland without asking for funding. It was left that Carl Sanft would put together a proposal, costings etc.

9. Australian Open Pacific Pathway

9.1 Reports from Nations that received funding in 2015

9.2 Programme for 2016 and beyond

Bruce Osborne suggested that it would be good if the Nations in the meeting who are recipients of the programme give an overview of how it is going in their Nation.

Francis Bryard commenced by saying that Vanuatu had been faced with challenges in 2015 due to cyclone Pam; that they had focussed their AOP programme on the early childhood schools; that the teachers themselves are the ones who are conducting the programme in these schools; that the Kindys also come to the centre to have more structured sessions; that they are now starting to work with primary schools and providing structured sessions directly in the schools; also involving schools at the centre; that last year was a challenge as they started structured sessions in the main island of Vanuatu, Espirito Santo, and that 3 sessions were run involving 300 students from different primary schools; that Pam had interrupted the programme for about 3 weeks but that they had managed to start back the normal programme with Kindys and primary schools soon thereafter; that the intent this

year is to identify “star” primary schools who are really good at the programme with good teacher involvement; that they will have more equipment allocated; that there will be an inter-primary school competition initiated over the next 2 years; that through the AOP we also have a programme in Santo in association with the Vanuatu Government; that AOP is funding the equipment and part of the costs of the coach who is going there; that the Government is sponsoring the travel from Port Vila to Santo; that it is more expensive for us to travel to Santo Island than to Fiji; that Santo is a big Island; that last year through AOP they had introduced the programme to 636 kids and of those 75 are now regular tennis players.

Torgun Smith said that their programme was going well in Guam with one of their challenges being the length of time it takes to receive the equipment; that their programme is in conjunction with the USTA's school's programme and that they have had some equipment and done some training as part of that programme; that they had visited so far about 10 schools; that it is a challenge for them to get the teachers to do the programme; that they leave behind the equipment with the teachers' response being “when are you coming back;” that they are encouraging the teachers to keep on with the programme as Guam Tennis doesn't have the resources to keep going back; that they want to give these teachers the training and the workshops and leave this then with them to implement; that this year they had started an U10 league; that the kids come out on Saturdays and Wednesdays and 3 courts are set up for them with the Hot Shots nets; that if the kids attend 5 out of 6 weeks then they get a Hot Shots T-Shirt; that they have broken this into 3 x 6-8 week seasons; that they have about 60 kids that are coming regularly to the league; that they try to do at least 1-2 schools per school quarter; that we have new kids coming every week and we have 1 court designated as an intro for them to the programme; they had a tournament where they invited all the kids to come wearing their uniforms; that they were given medals and the kids were so proud; that it gave the Federation members an opportunity to see all these kids and realize what a good programme this is.

Asita Molotii said that their equipment was received in Tuvalu in January; that the equipment had been expected last

October and they started their programme late last year; the challenge for them is that they don't have a court of their own that they can use but need to hire the community court; that there are issues around that as they cannot use this court if there are meetings going on there which is frequent; that if they had a court of their own it would make a huge difference; that they had been into the schools only in the main capital; that another challenge is going to the outer Islands; that they are going to ask the outer Islands to pay a fee; but they will still continue to promote their programme on the main Island; that they also went into the disabled organization to promote the programme to the kids there; that the programme is impacting on the communities.

David Smith asked why Tuvalu isn't requesting from the Tuvalu Government a piece of land so that they can then request from the ITF GSDF funding to assist them build a tennis court? Mr Healy said that he had discussed this very point with Asita Molotii over morning tea; she had said that Tuvalu is so small that there just isn't spare land; she went on to say that there is potentially a piece of land that she is trying to get from the Government but that businesses are also wanting this too; that this is the main challenge in Tuvalu; that the AOP and JTI programmes are making a huge difference in Tuvalu; that tennis is now the leading sport in Tuvalu.

Richard Breen said that Fiji was also a recipient of the AO Pathway programme; that the programme started last year in Nadi with 4 schools participating and that they held a tournament where they crowned a winning school; that this year they had done a review of how they wanted to promote the grass roots tennis and how to increase the number of players at a younger level; that the programme is currently being run in Nadi and Lautoka by Sachin Reddy and Krishneel Kumar; that they have chosen one age group of kids to focus on; that normally there are 2-3 classes and they focus on just one class of that age group and provide the programme 2-3 times per week; that they have to keep the age group the same as they have a competition going amongst the schools; that next year the plan is to extend this to Suva introducing regional tournaments for the kids; that a lot of other kids are watching when the programme is happening; that in a couple of weeks they will be running a schools camp that this will be

open for any of the kids in the schools where the programme is currently operating to come and participate; the programme will be for 2.5 hours Monday-Friday in the first week of the school holidays; there will be no charge to the kids as they try to increase the interest levels and numbers in both Nadi and Lautoka; the plan then will be to have a schools' development squad and running after school programmes by invitation; that they don't yet have the numbers that Vanuatu has but they are working on this; that a lot of the kids come with their parents and family and that it is a real community activity.

Bruce Osborne said that this is an overview of what the programme is about and that when he gets the reports and photos, he just loves reading them and seeing the fantastic work that is going on.

He went on to say that the new application will be opening on 1 August and closes on the 14th August; that Darran Wrighton has offered to help any Nation write their application form. Cyrille Mainguy said that he was more than happy to share the proposal that Vanuatu had done previously as an exemplar.

Mr Healy suggested that Vanuatu just circulate this rather than waiting for any requests.

10. Junior Competitions

10.1 Pacific Oceania Junior Circuit

10.1.1 Report 2015 Circuit

10.1.2 2016 Circuit

John Shannon commented that these are the Events that are run every year for the U14s and U16s; that there are 3 regional events, 1 in the North, 1 in the East and 1 in the West Pacific; that the results from these events are used as the criteria for teams to travel to the POJC. That the best players from these regional events are selected to represent their Nation; that the results of the POJC determine who goes on the end of year tour to Australia and to visit the Australian Open.

That this year the North Pacific will be held in Saipan, the West Pacific in Samoa and the East Pacific in Fiji; that the POJC used to have an U18 event but that this has been discontinued.

10.2 ITF Oceania Junior Circuit Events

10.2.1 ITF/Oceania Junior Circuit 2016

10.2.2 New Caledonia, Fiji Events, NMI

10.2.3 Guam ITF Junior Championships

That there are currently 6 ITF Junior Events; 1 in Noumea, 3 in Fiji and 1 each in Guam and Saipan; that there are 2 sub circuits with the 2 events in the North Pacific; then in the West and East we have the event in Noumea which is a Grade 5 then a week later the SPOJC which is a Grade 4 followed by the OOJC, so there are 2 back-to-back events in Fiji, which is a Grade 5 and then in August the OCJC which is a B2 event which involves the development squads from Australia and New Zealand which provide big ranking points to assist players get good ranking points to then assist them into other events and possibly be seeded.

John Shannon said that the intent of the OOJC was an event that could be moved around and hosted in different Nations of Oceania; that we are waiting till after the Games in Vanuatu and that event could then be hosted there.

Richard Breen said that it is really important that these events are supported; that Fiji is more than happy to assist with home-stays.

Bruce Osborne then mentioned the Future Stars opportunity in Singapore in October; that he assumed it would be the best U14 and U16 year old girl that would participate and that they would be in Singapore at the same time that the WTA players are playing; that Australia played last year for the first time and that it was a great experience for the girls to be around the best women players in the World; that there isn't a lot of funding from the WTA but that once the girls get over there they are well looked after; it's a tennis event plus a cultural event; he also mentioned the December Showdown in Australia in December where all the best kids in the Pacific were eligible to play; that it is a fantastic event; that there have been internal rumblings from coaches that Pacific players like Carol Lee are coming and beating some of the best Australian kids; that he had countered by saying that we want the region to be as strong as possible so that they are

competing against the best; that at this stage it is ongoing for later in the year and will continue for a number of years.

Francis Bryard spoke to the POJC and said that several years ago that Frank Couraud had come out to the event and that since then he had seen a lot of improvement since then and that every year the quality of the tournament has improved; that he wanted to congratulate John Shannon and Tennis Fiji particularly for all the work that they have put in to improve this event that has been noticed by a lot of countries and commented on.

John Shannon said that Fiji organizes 7 International Events annually, which he said was quite a lot for a small Nation.

10.3 Oceania Closed Junior Championships

10.3.1 Report 2015

10.3.2 Preparation/Dates 2016

This was taken as discussed earlier in the meeting

11. Open Competition

11.1 Oceania Championship Event

11.1.1 Request from Tonga Tennis Federation

11.1.2 Open and Senior Tournaments in the Pacific

Bruce thanked Tennis Fiji for offering to host the Championships; that Tennis Australia had hosted the event in 2014; that whilst we struggle with numbers and the lack of support from some of the Nations, that it is still a great event; that it is held every 2 years and offers an opportunity for all our best players to compete in between Pacific Games and Mini Games; he urged all the nations to support Tennis Fiji with this event; that it doesn't matter even if you only have 1 man and 1 lady then please make an effort to send them as they will be put into a team so they will get to play in the Team's Event and the Individual Event; that Tennis Australia will be sending a team.

Richard Breen said that Tennis Fiji was proud to host the event and thanked Tennis Australia and Tennis NZ for the support that they were giving. He needed to know how many players/teams were committed as this impacts on the

accommodation being reserved. He further commented that this was an event that New Caledonia originally set up; that this is a great event that we all need to support; that this is an event that is happening in the off season between the Games and Mini Games; from Fiji's side the accommodation and food is provided once you arrive in Fiji; that even if you can't provide a team then please send individual players and they will be put into a team; that he would love to have a member from every single OTF Nation participating; that there has been a lot of positive response; that everyone was welcome to play the Fiji Open as a warm-up tournament; that there was also the opportunity if people couldn't play in the Team's event that they could subsequently join the Event later in the week just to play the individual events; that Tennis Fiji wanted to get a good handle on the numbers attending over the next week or so for their planning.

At this stage a roll call was made around the room to gauge the number of anticipated entries which was as follows:

| Country | Men | Women |
|---------------|-----|---------|
| Australia | 3 | 3 |
| Vanuatu | 2-3 | 2-3 |
| New Caledonia | 3 | 3 |
| Palau | 0 | 1 maybe |
| Guam | 2 | 0 |
| Tuvalu | 1 | 1 |
| Tonga | 3 | 2 maybe |
| New Zealand | 2 | 2 |
| Fiji | 3 | 3 |

It was agreed that the age restriction to play in the Event should follow the ITF guide lines and those for the Pacific Games and that only players 14 years or older should be eligible to play.

David Smith was then asked to email all Nations with information again on the event and asking them to communicate asap their intention to participate and potential number of participants.

Carl Sanft said that Tonga was keen to host the event in 2018 as a prelude to the Pacific Games in 2019. Cyrille Mainguy queried whether their tennis courts would be ready in time; that a decision for the 2018 Oceania Championships would not be made at this AGM but next year closer to the time, probably the January 2017 AGM.

12. General Business-Development Issues

There were no items of general business. Mr Healy made some final comments in reiterating what our emphasis and focus needs to be over the next 12 months or so; that the key was building and broaden our base through Hot Shots; encouraging all Nations to apply for funding through the AO Pathway Programme; lodging an application and Darran Wrighton can assist in this regard; similarly Cyrille Mainguy and Bruce Osborne; that governance was the other key issue and let's try to get on to the Nations that aren't responding in a timely manner and encourage Darran Wrighton to find someone who can take their place if it's not working in the Nation so that we not only get tennis moving but lessen the administrative burden on David Smith and John Shannon who are continually chasing these Nations for responses; that also hopefully we will be able to get some sponsors and that Tennis Australia will do everything that they possibly can to assist.

Mr Healy then thanked everyone and said that it had been a very good, productive and constructive weekend and that there was a very positive energy in the room.

The meeting closed at 12:26pm