



OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

Minutes of the 16th General Meeting
Held at the Bayview Eden, Melbourne, Australia
21-22 January 2017

Attendance

Delegates:

Baudinet	Brian	Cook Islands
Bryard	Francis	Vanuatu
Breen	Richard	Fiji
Dietrich	Jenny	New Caledonia
Hsieh	Mae	Guam
Ietimeta	Baan	Kiribati
Langton	June	Samoa
Snell	Jonno	Norfolk Island
Manea	Ruth	Tahiti
Osborne	Bruce	Australia-Board Member
Patrick	Celia	New Zealand-Board Member
Rengiil	Ernestine	Palau-Board Member
Sanft	Carl	Tonga
Tan	Lydia	Northern Marianas Islands
Wong	Hilary	Papua New Guinea

In Attendance:

Healy	Steve	OTF President
Mainguy	Cyril	OTF Vice President
Pollard	Geoff	OTF Life Member
Sacault	Wilfred	OTF Secretary-General
Smith	David	Joint EO, OTF
Smith	Torgun	OTF Secretary General

Also in Attendance:

Dent	Steve	ITF Executive Director of Professional Tennis
Haggerty	David	ITF President
Langton	Chris	Samoa
Snell	Jo	Norfolk Island

Stubbings	Barbara	Papua New Guinea
Vaka	Sione	Tonga
Wilson	Steve	ITF Executive Director of Communications & Int Relations
Winter	Gerard	New Caledonia
Wrighton	Darran	ITF Development Officer

Welcome

Mr. Healy welcomed everyone, thanked everyone for attending, commented on the large attendance at the AGM and hoped that everyone was having a great time at the Australian Open. Mr Healy then introduced a few special guests: David Haggerty, the President of the ITF, Steve Wilson, ITF Executive Director of Communications & International Relations, Kris Dent the ITF Executive Director of Professional Tennis and Geoff Pollard, OTF Life Member.

At this stage Mr. Healy said that he would invite David Haggerty to say a few words and then would go around the table to invite everyone to introduce themselves and say a few words about tennis in their respective Nation.

David Haggerty commenced by saying that it was an honour and a privilege to be here to meet with everyone. He then apologized for missing the meeting last April but that he was excited to be at this meeting to listen, learn and understand what Oceania's needs are; that you all will see from the papers circulated that the ITF have done some funding with the GSDF and made some more significant increases; that the ITF believes very much in this Region and we think the region has a lot of potential; that we also know that this region has lots of need; that you are under-resourced; that the reason Kris Dent and Steve Wilson are here is also to take on board a lot of your ideas and listen over the next 2 days as to how we can help tennis in your region. He then thanked everyone for this opportunity and looked forward to getting to know everyone better

At this stage Mr. Healy invited each attendee around the table to introduce themselves, their role in tennis in the region and a little bit about tennis in their Nation.

Apologies

At this stage Mr. Healy called for apologies and the following were recorded:

Fujiyama	Woelly	Solomon Islands
Race	Jeff	NMI
Schuster	Raymond	Samoa
Shannon	John	Joint EO, OTF
Skilling	Sterling	Federated States of Micronesia
Young	Billy	American Samoa

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the General Meeting held in Natadola, Fiji on the 10th April 2016, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and unanimously approved.

2. Executive Committee Report

2.1 Progress in 2016

Mr. Healy highlighted a few things from the President's Report in the Annual Report. He commenced by saying that it was a very chequered history when he began as President and that he believed that we had achieved a lot in the last few years and that he wanted to thank everybody around the table and on the Executive for their support; that he believed that we have a clear direction for the OTF and that he feels a great harmony and purpose in this group; that there are so many great stories of how you keep tennis going in your Nation and that as a group we are very happy to help and support you in any way that we can; that he wanted to thank all those who have served on the Executive of the OTF and done a great job for the OTF for the last year; that he wanted to thank the ITF and David Haggerty who had shown a willingness to listen to the smaller Nations and give us greater assistance; that we know in this OTF group that a small amount of money goes a long way.

Mr. Healy went on to say that one of the features for him last year was that many from this group attended the ITF AGM in Zagreb. There was Richard Breen, Cyrille Mainguy, Torgun Smith, Celia Patrick, David Smith and Steve Johns which really shows that this region is engaged and that he knows how much David Haggerty and the ITF appreciated everyone making an effort to attend and that we were all made to feel

extremely welcome; that one of the issues with this region is trying to improve the quality of the players; that the women have really stood up as a couple of years ago there was a lot of debate as to whether we should enter a Fed Cup team; that the women have really led the way and shown that this region can produce great players; that it was also worth mentioning an Australian tennis player Destanee Aiava who has a Samoan background; that at just 16 qualified in Brisbane for a WTA Event; then in the 1st round beat Bethanie Mattek-Sands which is an incredible effort for a 16 year old and also played her 1st Grand Slam; so he continued that this region can take some pride in her development as well; that he wanted to record here the passion and commitment of Darran Wrighton that makes such a huge difference in the region and I know that he genuinely cares about these athletes and the development of tennis in the region; also our Executive Officers David Smith and John Shannon do an incredible job and that it was terrific to see David receive an award at the ITF AGM in Zagreb for Services to the Game and well deserved as he has been a great servant of the Game over many years and of course the OTF; and also John Shannon and that this would be the very first meeting of the OTF that he had attended where John Shannon wasn't present; that he has not been well; that John shares that commitment and passion and that he is an extraordinarily committed man; he gets a lot of things done that keep this organization going; that he wanted to record his thanks to John and best wishes for a speedy recovery. He continued to say that the ITF has offered a 1-off governance package that the OTF needs to take advantage of; that this is one of the 2 major strategies that we have to try to assist the smaller Nations with some governance; that our other priority is to really build our tennis playing base; that through Hot Shots or Tennis 10s we can give so many children in Oceania the chance to be introduced to tennis and to learn and play the game and to make the sport sustainable in Oceania; that if we can do that then we would have laid a great platform for the future of tennis in the region; that finally he thanked Bruce Osborne who shares the same passion and commitment that he talked about earlier in the Oceania Region; that he not only does a great job here in Australia but also travelling around. Mr Healy said he was indebted to Bruce Osborne and thanked him for the great job that he does.

5. Finance

5.1 Financial Report 2016

David Smith then presented the Financial Report as previously circulated. He explained that in the 2016 set of accounts there were the costs of 2 AGMs, this one in Melbourne and also the AGM held in Natadola, Fiji in April 2016. He also mentioned that historically we had received a grant of \$US50,000 from ONOC but that in the last few years this had progressively been reduced to \$US30,000; that the OTF will be applying for further funding from ONOC following this meeting; he continued by saying that Luca Santilli from the ITF has been communicating with Ricardo Blas from ONOC advising him that the ITF were increasing their investment in the Pacific and asking ONOC to do similarly. It was commented that part of the reason for the reduced funding was that ONOC were focussing on Rio Olympic Sports. David Smith mentioned that we did receive an additional US\$4,000 following the Rio Olympics taking the total received in 2017 to \$US\$34,000 and that tomorrow on the agenda was a discussion on how Nations needed to be building strong relationships with their NOC and seeking funding to assist them with the various projects involving their players; that they need to be applying for funds from their NOC rather than expecting handouts from the OTF. Richard Breen commented that it was really important that the OTF have a high presence at the ONOC AGM in April. Mr. Healy then commented that the OTF had run at a loss for the last few years and that we have run our cash down so that it was important in 2017 that we run a very "tight ship." He commented that there were additional funds from the ITF coming to the OTF this year and he thanked the ITF for this; that we needed not only to run a tight budget but also build up our cash reserves for the future.

5.2 Budget 2017

David Smith opened by saying that it was very positive to see the ITF increasing their financial commitment to the region and that this was evident in the overall monies that the ITF will be investing in Pacific Oceania in 2017; that it was also very positive that the ITF have increased the Regional Grant; that subsequent to this meeting we will be circulating a Position Description for an OTF Projects Administrator whose task will be to assist Darran Wrighton with the administration of projects

across Pacific Oceania. The budget was then approved as submitted.

5.3 OTF Membership Fee 2017/18

David Smith explained that the current fee is AUD \$200 per year and that invoices for the 2017-18 years(\$AUD400) would be emailed over the next month. The meeting agreed to leave the membership fee at its current level

5.3.1 Update on OTF Membership and Fees Payment

David Smith also advised the meeting that every Nation is current with their membership fees

At this stage of the meeting Kris Dent, ITF Executive Director of Professional Tennis, mentioned that there were 2 main projects that they were currently working on; the review of Davis Cup and Fed Cup and also the professional pathway, which is the Juniors and the Pro Circuits. He mentioned that 2 years ago the ITF undertook a review of pro circuits and that this year the ITF had been doing the same with Junior's and as a result they will be putting together key recommendations for change which will help address some of the many severe challenges facing them. He then mentioned that there are a lot of reports on the ITF website should anyone wish to read them

He then gave a presentation on the Player Pathway and the Pathway Review. Bullet Points of the presentation are as follows:

1. Conclusion
 - a. Prize money not significantly risen in real terms except for top 150 women and distribution generally inefficient in tennis
 - b. There are many "professional" players but only 8-10% cover their expenses, before coaching costs
 - c. Event growth is in Europe only
 - d. Player numbers are growing
 - e. Time taken to increase from 1st ranking point to top 100 is increasing
 - f. Large % of Juniors playing up
2. Key Player Findings
 - a. Junior player numbers doubled between 2000 and 2015 but 70% boys and 60% girls are unranked
 - b. Both tours are getting younger and retention is 40% of age eligible players who are leaving on a regular basis.

- c. 7% boys and 19% girls in Junior top 100 and <1% & <2% Juniors ranked outside Junior top 100 go on to reach Pro Top 100
 - d. It takes longer to transition from Juniors to Pro and rapid transition to top 100 is increasingly rarer
 - e. >5% girls & >10% boys in Junior top 100 & growing number in top 250 play 50% of the calendar year competitively
3. Key Event Findings
- a. Junior Event Numbers doubled since 2000 with growth mostly at G4 & G5 levels resulting in excess job opportunities. He said there were globally too many of these events and that also they weren't geographically well distributed
 - b. Limited Regional Tournament Pathways
 - c. Large inequalities in Regional Ranking Points. Juniors in Europe and Asia have access to more points
 - d. Median cost of playing was \$1k and \$5k and is greater for lower ranked players and those outside Europe and South America.
4. Pathway Recommendations
- a. Increase prize money which is already being phased in
 - b. Revise structure at entry level
 - c. Create true professional playing group
 - d. Introduce target number of job opportunities at each stage of pathway
 - e. Retain opportunity for entry
 - f. Maintain global spread
 - g. Revised play up rules for Juniors
 - h. Revised play down rules
 - i. Introduce capping of 7 days for events-Monday to Sunday
 - j. Introduce minimum integrity standards
 - k. New Transition Tour between Juniors & Futures
 - i. Capped qualifying-16 or 32
 - ii. Capped Main Draw size- 16 or 32
 - iii. Reduced officiating requirements with the intent for National Officials to take a more prominent role to help reduce costs
 - iv. Prize money or hospitality at \$10k
 - v. ITF Merit Ranking and ranking points, linked and complimentary to ATP & WTA tour ranking

systems. Tours to set aside spaces for players with ITF Merit Ranking

5. Player Numbers
 - a. True professional group served by Tours, Challengers and Futures Events
 - b. Existing pro circuit catering for an agreed maximum number of players
 - c. Managed through a weekly job opportunity approach
 - d. Professional number to be modelled with a starting point of 750 men & 750 women
6. Integrity Measures
 - a. Accreditation at all events
 - b. Player only areas
 - c. Perimeter access
 - d. Courtside spotters
7. Next Steps Timeline
 - a. October-November 2016
 - i. Update to Committees
 - ii. Update to ITF Board
 - b. October-February 2017
 - i. Phase 2 Modelling
 - ii. Final Consultation
 - iii. Committee Updates of Modelling
 - c. March 2017
 - i. Final Committee Approval
 - ii. Final Proposal to Board for Approval
 - iii. Proposed changes to take effect in 2019
8. Nations' Consultation
 - a. Crucial that we take everyone with us through the change:
 - i. Nations, Regions and Key Stakeholder Consultation
 - ii. Opportunity to feed into the final Board Approvals in March 2017
 - iii. Ensure understanding and buy in

Kris Dent then presented some slides on the review currently underway on Davis and Fed Cup. That a review had been underway for the last 2 years on these 2 large global events which are quite different from other forms of tennis; that the money that we create from these events goes back into the development of tennis; that it is fair to say that these events

haven't met their full potential and that the ITF was looking to address that at all levels of the events. The 4 areas that the ITF is focussed on are:

1. Ensuring that we are marketing and promoting properly
2. That we have created the optimum format
3. Looking at a more effective and better player strategy and linked to this sponsors, broadcasters, digital and other partners
4. Competition structure itself

That the ITF is looking at different Finals staging model; that the Home and the Away Finals is great for both these Nations but doesn't reach the level that the ITF would like to see; that the ITF receives 10% from revenue generated from ticket sales from the Final; that the ITF's ability to redistribute the value that a Final brings is very limited; that the ITF is looking at staging the Final in a pre-determined location and operating a bidding process so that financial bids are available in April and at the AGM along the lines of the ATP Tour Finals and the WTA Championships. The benefits are the expectation of \$10M of new income; that it will allow the ITF to create a true World Cup of Tennis Final; that at the moment we don't find out who the finalists are until the middle of September; that this only gives 2.5 months to organize an event; that we believe there are huge benefits but we also want to progress in a way that ensures that we have all the information to assess; that is why we are going through a bidding process run by a 3rd party; that between now and the AGM this process will have been finalized and we will have all the information to present before we make any final decisions; that we are also looking at other changes like playing formats from the best of 5 to the best of 3 sets; should we move to 2 days rather than 3 days; should we introduce the opportunity for a 5th player to join the team; that the ITF is looking at all elements regarding the format of the competition; that we are also looking at what the "below World Group" structure should look like; that the Davis Cup task force is looking at all options in this area; that part of this is looking at a Class C Event to hopefully be introduced in 2019; also the ITF is looking at player friendly schedules as far as reducing the number of practice days, arrival/departure times etc so that it doesn't impact their ATP schedule; so that come the AGM in August a package of changes will be presented.

Mr Healy then said that at the Executive Meeting yesterday we did identify a couple of issues to discuss with the ITF whilst they are

at this AGM. He said that we would finish the agenda and then use the available time to discuss those issues.

6. Sponsorship

6.1 AO Sponsorship

Bruce Osborne told the meeting that the AO Sponsorship was now in its 3rd year; that it's been an amazing opportunity for Nations to apply for grant assistance of both funding and equipment; that there are some amazing things happening across the Nations with the help of the programme; that he was looking forward to hearing from each of the Nations that had received funding for a couple of minutes on how their programme is running; that he will be fighting really hard with Tennis Australia to ensure that we will be able to continue this programme.

7. Regional Tennis Centre

7.1 Report on the RTC Courts, Facility Management and Lease

Darran Wrighton commenced by saying that last year Tennis Fiji had taken on the management of the Regional Training Centre with Tennis Fiji Staff; that historically the ITF/OTF had leased the courts from the Fiji Sports Council with FSC staff; that the ITF are paying for the lease of the courts; that it is for Tennis Fiji with the help of the OTF to take care of the day-to-day staffing of the facility and the overall management of the facility; that there has been a marked improvement in the condition of the facilities; that there has been an upgrade in the signage, tiered seating and the overall presentation of the facility; that they have also invested in full time ground staff there. Richard Breen commented on the split of the investment costs of both Tennis Fiji and the OTF and that this was challenging to Tennis Fiji and that the cost split may need to be reviewed.

7.2 2016 Development Officer Report

7.3 2016 ITF Pacific Training Centre

Darran Wrighton then presented a slide show of what has been happening in the Region and some of the recent successes since he has been in the DO role in comparing 2014 to the current year. He commenced by showing the flight routes between the various Nations and also the

cost of respective travel. He then proceeded to give some facts and figures relating to 2016

- *ITF in Pacific Oceania in 2016*
 - 16 Nations in 2016, 2 Nations suspended.
 - 15 Nations part of JTI program (12 in 2014)
 - 3 Regional Championships - 15 Nations represented
 - 1 Pacific Oceania Championships - 13 Nations represented
 - Oceania Championships - 10 Nations represented
 - 6 ITF Junior Circuit events
 - 9 Girls / 4 Boys with ITF rankings
 - Highest ITF Rankings: Girls – 443 - / Boys - 908
 - 14 and under circuit 2016 - 7 events - 12 Nations – 51 boys / 33 girls
 - Davis Cup, Fed Cup and Junior Fed Cup teams in 2016
 - ITF/OTF Pacific Training Centre – 9 players on Scholarship
 - Summer Scholarship – 7 Players
 - Access Program - 3 players
 - Tennis Fiji Partnership program – 4 players
 - 9 Nations directly benefited from Training Centre specific programs
 - 5 DO visits in 2016 – Tahiti, Norfolk Island, Vanuatu, Guam, Saipan
 - Development of National Sporting Structure Project – Micronesia – Using Pacific Training Centre Senior Coach as expert.

- *Participation Levels ITF Events*

Players Entered / Nations Represented

	2014	2016
• Guam Grade 5	16/3	14/5
• Saipan Grade 5	19/3	14/5
• New Caledonia Grade 5	14/1	19/7
• Fiji Grade 4	15/5	18/8
• Fiji Grade 5	12/5	20/8
• Fiji Grade B2	10/5	19/9
<i>Totals</i>	86/5	104/9

- *GSDF Touring Program 2016*

- January – Albury / Wodonga – Margaret Court Cup / Victorian Grass Court Championships

- 12's/14's/16's 19 players / 4 coaches – 9 Nations
 - July – Brisbane Rod Laver Lead In and Rod Laver Championships
 - 12's / 14's – 8 players / 1 coach – 5 Nations
 - December – Melbourne – Australian Nationals "December Showdown"
 - 12's / 14's - 12 players/4 coaches - 6 Nations
- *Summer Scholarship*
 - 7 players invited to live and train in Fiji for 3 months.
 - Played Oceania Championships and 4 ITF events.
 - 3 Nations included that are traditionally not involved with the centre.
 - Resulted in 3 players gaining first JWR
 - Increased the amount of Pacific Players entering in ITF events and making better use of Pacific Training Centre as a resource for the whole of the region.
 - Coach from Tahiti involved as Centre Coach for duration of project.
- *Challenges in 2016*
 - Head Coach's contract was not renewed from May onwards. Development Officer had to remain in Fiji from May to October and combine roles.
 - This meant DO could not travel to NPRC or EPRC and events had to be run by tournament committees with no official ITF tournament director.
 - DO could also not travel to GSDF Tour in July meaning one Pacific Coach had to take responsibility for full tour. No major issues but level of care was lower than preferred ratio.
 - Two Tennis Fiji Players were removed off full scholarships for disciplinary reasons. Continue to train part time but not resident at the house.
 - One player who had been given increased opportunities for development decided to leave the centre in August as it was "too hard for them" to combine studies and training (after reaching career high of 909)
 - Ongoing issues with administration competencies of Pacific Nations.
- *Achievements 2016*
- Increased usage of the Pacific Training Centre by more Nations across the Pacific

- This led to a total of 13 players with ITF Rankings during 2016
- All Regional Championships completed without presence of DO at two of them allowing the POJC to run as usual.
- Increased credibility of centre attracted the Regions best players to train full time; 3 new players 2016.
- In 2017 possibility of potentially 10 new players aged 11 and 12 starting at Centre from 4 Nations due to improved credibility.

Darran Wrighton advised that the ITF had employed a Head Coach at the Pacific Training Centre. He mentioned that 2016 had been a challenging year as the Centre had lost the Head Coach and the Assistant Coach for similar reasons. He went on to say that this impacted on his ability to travel as he had to run the Centre but that he was hopefully of visiting every Nation in 2017; that the ITF had appointed a lady in her mid 30s, Roxanne Clarke, from South Africa as the new Head Coach at the Pacific Training Centre. He advised that she had played Fed Cup for South Africa; that she had been ranked as high as top 200 Juniors; played Division 1 College and that she is also a Tutor; that she had started 2 weeks ago and had spent a week in New Zealand; that it is good that a woman has been selected to show women in the Pacific what they are capable of achieving.

Richard Breen commented that the initiative with the Summer Scholarship Programme was an excellent one; also that the introduction of the U14s Circuit was a great initiative; that the travel subsidy provided by the ITF was great as it offered players the opportunity to get more match play.

8. General

At this stage Mr. Healy raised several matters that he wanted to discuss with the ITF that were discussed at the Executive Meeting yesterday; that we will formally write to the ITF but it will also give David Haggerty the opportunity to respond

- With the GSDF player grants there was a general feeling that there were a number of grants that were just too small to be significant in the end; that the grants that will now be given under the new ITF initiative will be \$US50,000; that it's more money to fewer players; that it would be unlikely that Pacific

Oceania would have a player that would meet the new ITF player grant criteria; that we would be asking the ITF to look at a 2nd tier grant that would maybe be a smaller amount of money but would go a long way for one of our players. David Haggerty responded by saying that this was a reasonable request; that the ITF have tried to develop more of a strategy; that we have had a change of leadership in the Development area and that this is also an opportunity to review what you are doing; that the Grand Slams have been very supportive of the ITF for a number of years; that the ITF has increased the development fund by \$2M this year; that there was an increase in expenditure to the Pacific Region; that the intent of the increased GSDf grants was to make them meaningful; that some of these players when they make the top 100 pay money back into the fund; that he felt it was a very reasonable request for the Pacific Oceania Region to maybe have a grant availability at a 2nd tier player level of say US\$25,000; David Haggerty said that the ITF would be open to considering that; David Smith advised David Haggerty that we have one Pacific player, Abigail Tere-Apisah, who would benefit from that; that she is currently ranked 447; that it was his view that she had the ability to become a top 200 and even 100 player but that she just lacks travel money to go to tournaments; that she had just won the Queensland money event; that in the last year she has gone from unranked to 447 in the World; that on the current criteria of age for the GSDf grant she sits just outside this; June Langton then make similar references to a Samoan player, Steffi Carruthers who had been playing on the professional circuit for the last few years; that she had been trying to get a sponsor and that she had applied and received a funding grant of US\$2k a couple of years ago; Richard Breen commented that there needed to be a way to get money to them now rather than still talking about this in 4 years time when it will be too late for these players. David Smith asked David Haggerty how we could progress this. He advised that next week the GSDf Board would be reviewing the programme that the ITF have submitted; that once this is approved the

ITF would be sending out the forms to apply. Richard Breen asked whether the application came from the OTF or the specific Nation. Carl Sanft commented that there should be other Development Officers based in Pacific Oceania as the region was too wide spread

- The second item raised by Mr. Healy related to the MOU between the ITF and OTF which is basically an alignment document relating to the projects in the Pacific. He said there was an operational issue that we needed to discuss in relation to the project funding and the ITF paying 75% on approval of a project and the remaining 25% on completion of it. Mr. Healy said that the OTF just doesn't have the resources in the bank to be able to fund this 25%. It was the intent to write to the ITF to explain this issue. He went on to say that the one-off governance grant would be of huge assistance to the OTF; that the issue for the OTF is that we won't get together again until 2018 and we can't afford to arrange another meeting with the travel costs etc; that we will be asking the ITF to allocate the \$15k to the OTF which we would use next year; that we would have a special session on governance for this OTF group of Nations and that we would need the 2017 allocation to be spent in 2018
- Finally Mr. Healy said he wanted to give David Haggerty a chance to talk about Class C Nations and what the ITF has in mind

David Haggerty started by saying that it was very important to him that every Nation has a voice; that this was his manifesto and his belief; that he had reached out to a lot of countries as he was trying to become the ITF President; that he has had a chance to meet with the Presidents of quite a few Nations within the Pacific Region and we really want to make a difference; the fact that you are not a Class B Nation doesn't mean that you are not important; that you don't have a voice-you do have a voice; that one of the things that he asked Nations to consider is that the ITF offers for Class B and C Nations a hotel room at our AGM for 4 nights and also for 2017 the ITF also offers a \$500 airfare allowance towards the trip; that the ITF would really like 1 delegate from every Nation to come; that we saw from the Pacific Oceania map shown earlier Pacific Oceania is not the most centrally located region in the world; that we haven't recently had an AGM in this

region but the 2017AGM will be in Vietnam and if Nations could come it would be great; that the OTF should have a 2nd meeting on the ITF; take your airfares, take your hotel rooms and come and have a meeting; all the food is paid for; the rooms are paid for; that if you could have your meeting there, good; if not we will ensure that the money is accrued so that you can use it when you need to; but that I think it would be a good chance for all of you to see what the ITF does on a worldwide basis; that it really enriched our AGM last year when we had about 9 Class C Nations attend; that they were able to talk and express their views and it is very important; that as tennis in your Nation develops, you can become a Class B Nation if you so choose; there is a cost but everyone is most welcome; take advantage of what we are offering as the airfare contribution and the accommodation is more than you pay in membership fee; that he would be so proud if everyone was at the AGM in Vietnam; that you would be able to share experiences and some of the other Nations that are there may be able to help you

Mr Healy then commented that the governance session could be run during the AGM if there were sufficient Pacific Nations' attending; he confirmed that the dates were the 1st-3rd August in Ho Chi Minh City

In closing the meeting for this morning session Bruce Osborne then outlined all the details for the dinner/evening session at Rod Laver.

Mr. Healy then thanked everyone for their attendance and said it had been a very positive and constructive meeting; that it was a great indicator of where the OTF is at; that unfortunately he cannot be at the meeting tomorrow but that Cyrille Mainguy will chair the meeting in his absence. In closing Mr. Healy mentioned that at the AGM last year Mr. Geoff Pollard was awarded a Life Membership of the OTF and he then made a presentation to Geoff Pollard which was followed by a photo of all attending

Day 1 of the AGM closed at 10:54am

Day 2 of the AGM, Sunday 22nd January, commenced at 8:35am with Cyrille Mainguy as the Chair. He thanked

everyone for attending and said that today would focus on development matters

Cyrille Mainguy commenced by saying that yesterday we left off with the Regional Training Centre and asked whether anyone had any questions for Darran Wrighton. There were none.

9. International Junior and Senior Teams

9.1 Pacific Oceania Davis Cup 2016

David Smith advised the meeting that both Fed Cup and Davis Cup would be held in 2017 in July in Tajikistan and Sri Lanka respectively and that the OTF would be going out to Nations towards the end of March/early April seeking nominations for both teams

9.2 Davis/Fed Cup Task Force-Update

Cyrille Mainguy then invited Torgun Smith, who was a member of the task force, to update Nations. He commenced by thanking David Haggerty for inviting him to be on the task force; that it was positive to see the ITF concerned about Class C Nations and also supportive of a Class C competition; that the details and the format is not in detail yet. Cyrille Mainguy mentioned that throughout the year there are many opportunities for our Junior players but that for years we had been talking about pathways for our senior players; that the Oceania Championships were a result of this; that this Class C Davis Cup or whatever it is finally called is a great opportunity for our Senior players and our home-based coaches; that for the juniors to see that after the junior pathway that there are more competitions; he said that he was very hopeful that this initiative will occur. Torgun Smith then explained what a Class C member was and that they are currently ineligible to compete in Davis and Fed Cup; that this was an opportunity for Class C Nations to compete in a Davis Cup-like format competition that was ITF supported and funded; that the Pacific and Africa were the two regions that had the most Class C Nations; that it would end up being a regional competition. David Haggerty said that the intent was to have as many countries participate as possible and then proceeded to discuss potential options that the task force would likely look at; the overall intent in the format would be to find something that was competitive and cost effective; that the intent at the moment is for Nations to give the ITF input as

what they see as the ideal format; at this stage the start of any such competition would likely be 2019 though David Haggerty said he would personally like to see this in 2018 even if it was started on a smaller scale and expanded.

Torgun Smith said that one of the motivations is that for Davis Cup and Fed Cup, of all the Nations of Pacific Oceania, only 4 players can participate in any one year and that this type of event would give everyone a chance to participate.

Cyrille Mainguy said that this type of event could even be used as a selection event for Davis and Fed Cup Teams. He then reviewed the questionnaire that had been received from the ITF with the meeting and the preferred options for Pacific Oceania that had been advised to the ITF.

9.3 Junior Fed Cup 2017

9.4 Junior Davis Cup 2017

9.5 International Teams Events and Captains for 2017

David Smith advised that we had received nominations for Junior Fed Cup and Junior Davis Cup in New Delhi, India. He said that over the next week the intent was to finalize who the respective teams were; that we would be seeking nominations for the captain for the Junior Davis Cup Team immediately after this meeting. Cyrille Mainguy told that meeting that in 2017 Pacific Oceania would have Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Junior Davis Cup and Junior Fed Cup teams competing in the respective competitions.

10. Australian Open Pathway

10.1 Report from Nations that received funding in 2016

Bruce Osborne set the scene by explaining that the programme was both funding and equipment grants; that Norfolk Island were the last to get their equipment in 2016 and it took nearly 5 months for the boat to finally arrive with their equipment and that they would be starting their programme this school year.

The following Nations then gave a 2 minute overview to the meeting of their programme: Guam (Torgun Smith); Norfolk Island (Jonno Snell); June Langton (Samoa); Ruth Manea (Tahiti); Carl Sanft (Tonga); Francis Bryard (Vanuatu). Brian Baudinet also gave insight into the importation/Customs process to assist Nations. Bruce Osborne also commented that Tennis Australia is also happy to provide support/letter of approval for Nations that need approval from respective Education Authorities to allow the programme to run in their

schools. Bruce Osborne closed the discussion by saying that every time he receives a report/photos, he thinks to himself that the programme and the work being done by Nations across the pacific is absolutely brilliant

10.2 Programme for 2017 and beyond

Bruce Osborne said that the current programme runs until July 2017; that at the end of July providing Tennis Australia approves the budget we will call for applications for 2018; Nations would be notified in August if they have been successful. A video was then played of the programme with various stakeholders interviewed.

Bruce Osborne then went on to say that the PSP Programme is something that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has set up specifically in the Pacific with currently a number of different sports involved; that tennis was invited as an innovation sport for 1 year only and the Australian Government nominated Fiji and that Tennis didn't have any choice in the country allocation; since the programme has been running and been found to be very successful, the Government is now looking at extending this into another 2 or 3 Nations and they categorize the Nations in accordance with the relationship with the Australian Government into Category 1, 2 and 3; that over the next 4 years we are hopeful that we might be able to expand the programme into another couple of Nations and also continuing on with Fiji would also be one of our priorities; that you can see from the video that that was only 6 months work with an amazing amount of work having gone into the programme; a special thanks to Richard Breen and his team in Fiji who have done an amazing amount of work in such a short period of time and it just shows you what can be done with a concerted effort and a good team around you. Richard Breen then made some comments on the programme and said that the AO Pathway programme was the initial stepping stone that Tennis Fiji had used to establish the programme; that for the first time for 20 years he had seen when he was driving from the airport in Suva, kids who were playing tennis

10.3 JTI Subsidy Grants

Darran Wrighton commenced by saying that one of the initial challenges he had was actually breaking down what JTI was; everyone knew there was some money and equipment available from the ITF; that people weren't always sure how they should use it; that they weren't always sure when money was coming into their account; that Nations didn't seem to

understand that they couldn't receive the equipment and the funding without some things that the ITF needed from them; like reports; that he was aware that over the years the reports have been quite time consuming; however it has been a useful audit for the ITF to better understand the status of the respective Nation; the good news is that the DO has been working hard with the ITF in London who manage the programme to see whether the report can be reduced with the focus being more on the key statistics that we really need to see; that the report has now been reduced in size; that he had made the decision that JTI would be an entrance pathway; that it would also be an aspirational pathway for children who were already playing tennis; that he had advised Nations that they can use this money for setting up weekly competitions; that this money can be used for national training squads for 12-14 year old better juniors; that we need to now get some structured competition.

Darran Wrighton then presented and talked to the following on what a competition structure should look like comprising 5 tiers

- Stage 1 – Red 10 and under
 - Nations to host weekly participation Tennis 10 Red competitions at specific Venue
 - Nations to finish AOPP schools program with interschool competition
 - No scores kept for Tennis 10 competitions
 - First to 10 points – alternate scoring, 1st and 2nd Serve
 - Graduate to enter Stage 2 events -Six times yearly in selected nations.
- Stage 2 – Orange / Green and 12 and under
 - Nations to hold 6 events throughout the year
 - Orange / Green / 12 and under event
 - Orange 1st to 4 games – deuce sudden death. Round Robin to play offs
 - Green 1st to 6 games – 2nd deuce sudden death – Round Robin to play offs
 - 12 and under – 1st to 6 Games – advantage played. Placement Draw
 - 1 or 2 day events

- Draws must consist of minimum numbers to receive funding.
- Stage 3 –14 and under circuit
 - 14 and under Circuit.
 - 14 and under Circuit – Placement Draw – 2 sets + super tie break if 1 set all.
 - Open to 11 years and older – can play in 12's event as well if 12's held at same time.
 - 14 and under circuit – Minimum entry numbers to receive funding
 - 60% Subsidies offered to top players from POJC as a priority, if other Nations wish to nominate players they would have to have played in 12 team's event or POJC to qualify. Rewarding Nations who are developing players not just randomly entering players for experience.
- Stage 4 – Regional Championships 12's teams / 14 and under / 16 and under
 - 5 days
 - 12's Team event = 3 Singles and 1 doubles – 2 sets + super tie break if 1 set all. Round Robin against all Nations.
 - 14's event-2 sets + super tie break if 1 set all.
 - 16's event 3 tie break sets
 - Singles and doubles
- Stage 4 (con't) – POJC
 - 12's Team event = 3 Singles and 1 doubles – 2 sets + super tie break if 1 set all. Round Robin against all Nations
 - 14's and 16's scoring format as per Regional Championships
 - Incorporating separate teams event
 - 2 weeks duration
- Stage 5 - ITF Junior Circuit
 - Under 18
 - Format as per ITF Circuit regulations
 - Talented Pacific Players invited to “Summer Scholarship”

- More players coming through the Pacific Competition system at a higher standard.

Darran Wrighton then went on to present another Powerpoint detailing what this proposed Junior Circuit would look like:

- Pacific Oceania Development Series
 - Background
 - In previous years there had been activity and match play sessions as part of the JTI grant but little specific tournament structure.
 - With the new 12 and under team competition being introduced in 2017 there is a need for every Nation to develop players with the standard to play in this event.
 - The involvement in the JDS is not optional – if a Nation wishes to receive JTI funding then they will have to commit to the Development Series or prove they are already providing this type of competition.
 - Nations not completing the events will have their JTI subsidy reduced accordingly.
 - Event Dates
 - Event 1: 24th / 25th / 26th February JTI report period #1
 - Event 2: 28th / 29th / 30th April JTI report period #1
 - Event 3: 30th/1st / 2nd July JTI report period #2
 - Event 4: 1st / 2nd / 3rd September JTI report period #2
 - Event 5: 27th / 28th / 29th October JTI report period #3
 - Event 6: 1st/2nd/3rd December JTI report period #3
 - Guidelines
 - Events will include a compass draw for a minimum of 8 players at Red/Orange/Green players.
 - NB this is the only format that will be used for these events.

- Guidelines for ages to enter each event
- Red – 6 to 10 years old
- Orange - 7 to 10 years old
- Green - 9 to 11 years old
- Scoring formats:
- Red – first to 10 points
- Orange – 2 sets of 4 games with match tie break if 1 set all
- Green – 1 set of 6 games
- Guidelines
 - Payment – Federations will have \$100 per event included as part of their subsidy or \$100 per event reduced from their subsidy after each event date.
 - Federations can opt to use tournament planner and send the link of the event to the DO or they can manually use a draw and send the final results of each event as a scan to the DO after each event.
 - The Development Series is an integral part of the Pacific JTI program in 2017 alongside National Training Squads at 12 and under and 14 and under.
 - Nations can use any of the 3 days listed per event to run the competition.
 - It is not anticipated that more than 2 courts will need to be used for the event.
 - Duration of the each event: (8 players)
 - Red: Should not take longer than 1 ½ hours
 - Orange: Should not take longer than 6 hours N.B. time reduced if more courts available.
 - Green: Should not take longer than 6 hours NB time reduced if more courts available.
 - All draws give players 3 matches

Following the presentation, there was general discussion with several Nations seeking clarification around certain matters specifically pertaining to their players/funding which Darran Wrighton then answered and clarified. Torgun Smith asked whether the presentation was up for discussion or a fait accompli. Darran Wrighton advised that the presentation was the intended structure moving forward but was happy to tweak it if necessary. Brian Baudinet asked where the opportunities in this proposal were for the senior players and was advised that this would be

covered further down the agenda. The issue of access to the OTF tournament software for running tournaments was raised by June Langton and attendees were advised that this is available for use by any Nation with the OTF and or the DO happy to provide appropriate training and access to the software; that this could be done as a clinic linked to an AGM or even at the Mini Games in Vanuatu given that these events are likely to be attended by most Nations. Darran Wrighton again explained that this proposal is the intended structure he wants to see adopted across the Pacific recognizing that there may need to be slight modifications for the situations of different Nations; he went on to say that in the Pacific there were at most 4 Nations that have this type of structure in place; he wanted Nations to try this structure for a year then tweak it if necessary. Darran Wrighton then said that he would circulate the presentation to Nations.

11. Open Competition

11.1 2016 Oceania Championship Event and 2018

Cyrille Mainguy then invited Richard Breen to talk to his report on the Oceania Championships that had previously been circulated. He said that in participation it was bigger than the Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.

Richard Breen opened by thanking Tennis NZ and Tennis Australia for the financial support that they gave to Tennis Fiji to assist them host the event. He then said that judging from the comments circulating in the room that there doesn't appear to be enough tournaments in the Pacific after the kids have finished the ITF Circuit; he then commented that the Oceania Championships, initiated by New Caledonia, is a really important tournament for the Region; that these Championships in the off-2 years of the Pacific Games are ideal to keep momentum going in the Pacific for senior players; he thanked everyone for the support that was provided to help make the event a successful one; that he hoped that at some stage in the future that every Nation of Pacific Oceania would be represented; he commented that the spirit of the event was fantastic and that the making of composite teams also helped the event's success; that he would love to see tenders go out for 2018; that the time frame that Tennis Fiji had to arrange the event was short; he said that Tennis Fiji was keen to host this event again in 2018; that he felt there should be a deadline for when tenders are put in.

David Smith then said that he would put together a set of guide lines for hosting the Oceania Championships to circulate to all Nations as Nations need to understand the impact of their obligations and responsibilities in hosting such an event; the structural requirements that they need in terms of infrastructure (eg minimum court numbers required); that there would be a close off date for applications which the OTF Executive could then review and evaluate.

Richard Breen said that his report highlighted the difficulties and challenges that Tennis Fiji had in hosting the event and any prospective Nation would do well to read this; it also documented how Tennis Fiji felt the event could be enhanced and improved. Bruce Osborne commented that the hosting of the event is an arduous task and that you did need a lot of hands on deck to manage the event and it was not something that any Nation should take on lightly. Gerard Winter then explained to the meeting that the original intent of creating the Oceania Championships was so that the best players of the Region could play against each other every other 4 years with the intent being to invite Australia and New Zealand to make it even stronger than the Pacific Games; that all Nations of the Pacific need to be making the effort to attend these Oceania Championships. Cyrille Mainguy endorsed these comments and said that the senior players were once juniors with a lot of money formerly invested in them. Gerard Winter said that all Nations need to commit to play and from time to time there will be exceptions as to why respective Nations' top players may not be able to attend. Bruce Osborne said that there are some amazing positive benefits that come out of hosting the Oceania Championships and that Tennis Fiji won 2 Bronze medals for the first time ever and that as a result he was sure that this would result in financial benefits following from their NOC as they have shown that they are able to compete at that level and thereby get funding to support them in the future. He also said that it would be good to have expressions of interest from Nations to host this event beyond 2018

11.2 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu

11.3 Open and Seniors Tournaments in the Pacific

Francis Bryard then did a presentation on the Vanuatu Mini Games. In inviting Francis to talk Cyrille Mainguy said that Vanuatu is not yet ready to host the event but that tennis would be ready.

Francis Bryard then presented an overview of where Vanuatu Tennis is at in terms of the preparation for the Games

- Tennis venue-
 - 6 new courts will be built at the new venue by a Chinese Company based in Vanuatu with the expectation of completion September/October
 - 1 show court in the middle with a seating capacity for 300 people
 - That there will be a separate practice/warm up venue some 5 minutes from the main venue
- Organization
 - That Bruce Osborne will be the technical delegate
 - That the intent was to train officials and other logistic personnel so that after the Games there is a local people asset in place
 - That Francis Bryard will be the Competition Manager
 - That the expectation will be that the OTF will assist the VTF with officials; referee, chief of officials etc
 - That they are planning to train 25 line umpires and 120 ball kids with 45 of these coming from the development programmes. David Smith commented that the number of linespeople looked light in number and the number of ball kids looked much more than would be needed.
- Schedule
 - Typical of all the Games with the plan to start on Monday 4th December; Sunday free unless there is bad weather; Closing date Friday 15th December with the finals planned for the same day as the Closing Ceremony. David Smith commented that it was very risky to have the finals on the same day as the Closing Ceremony and that it should be a day earlier (Thursday) in case there is bad weather other you would not be in a position to present some individual medals
 - He then outlined the Nations that to date had committed to play in the tennis competition (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Guam, New Caledonia, Norfolk is, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Is, Tahiti, Tonga, Vanuatu). Entries would close on the 4th November 2017
- Regulations

- Would be the same as previous Games based on the rules updated and approved at the OTF AGM on the 10th April 2016
- Information will be on the Mini Games Website

The meeting was advised that the proposed regional U14 event that was intended to occur at the same time would not be happening; that instead of the Junior Event, Vanuatu is proposing to host a senior event as a preparation for the Games; that Nations will be invited to come and play on the new courts with dates to be confirmed.

Cyrille Mainguy commented that at this stage it appears as though the opening Ceremony will be on the 4th December and the closing ceremony on the 15th December. Brian Baudinet commented that December was a difficult month to host the event; that the Cook Islands hadn't yet put in an entry because Tennis Vanuatu cannot confirm the actual dates.

Cyrille Mainguy reiterated that the dates that he just mentioned had been set since last year and in response to a question from Hilary Wong confirmed that December is the rainy season in Vanuatu; he commented that originally the Games were intended to have been held in August but due to delays were pushed out to December; that funding had been ever more delayed and he reiterated that the hosting of the Games will be a challenge for everyone; that the sleeping accommodation will be classrooms; that the competition venue will be great but that everything around it will be the Pacific way; he commented that every other region in the world is hosting junior events in their Games and that the Pacific and Oceania are the only region that are not hosting junior events; that there had been major resistance from some of the sports including tennis; that golf will be the only junior event in the Mini Games; that of all the 5 rings, our Pacific Games are the only Games that don't have continental participation (NZ and Australia); that Australia and NZ will be invited to participate in some sports in Vanuatu as occurred in PNG.

12. Junior Competitions

12.1 Pacific Oceania Junior Circuit

12.1.1 2016 Circuit

Report taken as circulated; Darran Wrighton said that there is more money being invested by the ITF into the regional Championships and that he was hopeful of reducing the cost of travel to Nations; that there might be an opportunity to have some accommodation grants as well

12.1.2 2017 Circuit/Dates

Report taken as circulated

12.1.3 WTA Future Stars-Singapore and beyond

Report taken as circulated

12.1.4 Under 12s

12.1.5 POJC

Report taken as circulated

12.2 ITF Oceania Junior Circuit Events

12.2.1 ITF/Oceania Junior Circuit 2016

Cyrille Mainguy commenced by saying that we have Junior ITF Circuit events in Saipan, Guam, Fiji and New Caledonia; that the dates have already been set for these events for 2017. June Langton asked whether Samoa would be able to apply for a Grade 5 Event; she was advised that the intent of the OOJC was that it could rotate to other Nations provided the criteria was met and the timing would always be so that there was a small circuit involving these events so that players could travel from week 1 to week 2, 3 etc the following week(s); she was advised that Samoa could apply to the OTF to host this event in 2018. Torgun Smith commented that Kris Dent had said that the ITF would be open to more such events in our area given the inequity of the current geographic spread of such Junior Grade Events.

12.2.2 New Caledonia, Fiji Events, NMI

Report as circulated taken as read

12.2.3 Guam ITF Junior Championships

Report as circulated taken as read

13. Pacific Oceania Junior Teams

13.1 ITF Teams to Australia

Darran Wrighton said that the programme is better than it has ever been before; we are seeing players coming through the programme to ITF Junior Circuit Events; that if the MOU between the ITF/OTF is agreed the OTF will take control of the running of this as a project; he stressed to everyone the need to keep to the guide lines circulated;

that he needs to know when players who are on these tours are arriving and leaving; that on all the paperwork we distribute we state that we would prefer that parents do not travel with the players; that the rationale is that coaches do not feel that they are able to do their job 100% when the parents are there as players are distracted; that given that the cost is \$2,000-2,500 per player, we need these kids to be focussed without parental distraction; the coaches that we have now: Olivier, Anne, Francis, Cyril are great coaches and we need to be giving them the opportunity to do the best job that they can without distraction; that parents need to understand that this level of play is higher than the Regional Championships or the POJC; that the players often leave at 6am and don't return till 9pm and we had an issue in December where relatives were bombarding the hotel with their presence in the evening. Cyrille Mainguy reiterated that it is important that we know when the kids are arriving as when he was in New Zealand in December he only found out the day of arrival that a player was arriving. Barbara Stubbing said that Tennis Australia have a very good policy re parents travelling with their children. Torgun Smith said that the USTA have something similar. It was suggested that the OTF take these 2 best practices and come up with a suitable document

13.2 Future Teams/Tours

Covered in earlier discussions

14. Coaching and Player Development

14.1 New Head Coach Appointment

At the end of last year the ITF went through a recruitment process for a Head Coach for the Pacific Training Centre; that there were over 40 applicants with the narrowing down to the final two applicants, one from Kenya and one from South Africa; that Roxanne Clarke has been hired for this role and she started 2 weeks ago; that she has played Fed Cup for South Africa; she was formerly a top 200 Junior; Division 1 player and coach in the USA; she is also a tutor for ITF education; she is eminently qualified and it is good to see a women in this role and showing other women that there are similar pathways that they can aspire to

14.2 Coaching Courses/Coach Education

We are aware that this is an area that we haven't been able to do as effectively as we would have liked; that there are lots of reasons for this with the two main ones being

resources and distance; that we did have a Regional 1 Coaching Course in 2014; that since that time Darran Wrighton said that he had taken a more 1-on-1 role with coaches as he has visited each country to mentor them and show them ways that they can improve their practice; that we have also done a community coach's workshop in Vanuatu; that he would like to see if he can arrange another Regional 1 Coaching Course somewhere towards November; that Nations need to understand that these courses are competency based; that it is not just a question of turning up and expecting at the end of the 10 days that you will get a coaching qualification. Applicants need to have a background in tennis, that they are already involved in your Federation as a volunteer or assistant coach and they intend to continue coaching thereafter in your Federation

14.3 Coaching Resources

Darran Wrighton said that through Tennis Australia there is a wonderful resource called "Bounce." Bounce is an online platform that will bring about a fun and interactive learning environment to further develop the learning journey as a coach. Created by Coach Development, Bounce will improve the already world leading qualifications, by providing far greater professional development opportunities. Important that Nations nominate who is going to be their Junior Co-ordinator so that Darran can build a relationship with them. Bruce Osborne said that the Grand Slam Coaches Conference is held annually prior to the Australian Open and that if Nation had coaches that they wished to advance that he was happy to support their attendance and cover their fee for the Conference. They would be responsible for their airfares and accommodation; that such coaches would be recommended to Bruce Osborne by Darran Wrighton; that their also might be subsidies for qualified coaches to attend the worldwide coaches conference in Asia (there is some uncertainty about the location and it is likely to change) later in the year; maybe cover their accommodation but Nations would need to go to their NOCs for the airfare

14.4 Project Pôle

Jenny Dietrich commenced by referring delegates to the circulated documents on Project Pôle; that 7 years ago we did have a Pôle with focussed intensive training for players in the Pacific combining tennis and studies; that it took place at the Noumea Tennis Complex, the same venue as for the 2011 Pacific Games; that this project was paid both by parents and also the New Caledonian Government; it lasted 4 years; that it stopped for the girls who were part of the project either because of their studies or that they had different goals; the level was very high; part of the project then was Anaëve Pain; that we have decided to start the project again to enable young players to get intense tennis training and subsequent opportunities in the ITF Circuit Events; that the French Tennis Federation has provided help; also from the New Caledonian Government; that we are also asking for help from the OTF and the ITF to start the project in 2017; special thank you to the OTF Board for putting this project on the agenda.

Gerard Winter then detailed the project by firstly explaining the French system and also the structure of the coaching system in New Caledonia; that with the system in place it is impossible to miss a talented player; that with his background of 25 years working for the French Tennis Federation his main mission has been to send to the National Centre talented players in the age grouping of 11.5-13 years of age; that he had said that all the players that the various French Territories had sent to the French National Centre, not one had got to the highest level; that their system does not produce top players when you come from overseas; that with the Pôle we can help 1 or 2 kids; we cannot help a lot as we also have our job for the French Federation and the Ligue; that the coaches are already paid so no additional monies are required; that the intent is to detect kids around 10 years of age and do a programme with them for a maximum of 2-3 years; the programme will start in February 2017 with assistance from the New Caledonian Government and the French Tennis Federation; that Jenny Dietrich will be the online Education Co-ordinator assisting Gerard Winter as she was 7 years ago; that between the training sessions, a teacher comes to the Centre to assist with their studies so that by 5:30-6:00pm they are finished for the day; that the New Caledonian Government is contributing \$15,000 and we are expecting

to get money from the French Tennis Federation plus the parents will need to contribute.

Richard Breen then asked whether the OTF endorsed the fact that there might be other pathways outside the Regional Training Centre to develop talented players; additionally that it is also endorsed by the ITF and not done in isolation; that it is done in partnership with that collective support; also whether there is any support financially from the OTF and ITF separate from the Training Centre.

Bruce Osborne said that we have tried many things and that some of the best Pacific players have come to Tennis Academies in Australia; that it hasn't worked out as well as we would have hoped as players were not of a standard that they needed to be; that the Pacific kids felt that they were not part of it and the Australian kids didn't want to practise with them as they didn't think they were of a high enough standard and as a result it fell over; he went on to say that he applauded Gerard and Jenny for this programme as it is a fantastic opportunity; that when Frank Couraud was in Australia a couple of years ago, they had toured Australia to see if this opportunity was available again; that the private academies are there but it is very expensive (A\$35-50k); that this is a great opportunity for 1 or 2 kids in the Pacific to see whether they can make that huge step up to the top level in tennis and that the OTF should be supporting this. Torgun Smith commented that he supported the programme and that this was a great opportunity for our talented kids and that the OTF should support this; Darran Wrighton said that the concept is fantastic but that if you look at the way it is framed at the moment the actual investment of the parent is \$20k; that the cost to the OTF is \$19.4k per player; that if you look at a tour of 8 players + a coach to tour Australia/New Zealand, the cost is \$25k; that at this age, it is a lot of money to be invested; that the expected achievements are unlikely; that it is assuming that anyone who comes into the programme is going to adopt the French education system and how this would sit with someone from an English education background; Francis Bryard said that he doesn't see the connection between the Regional Tennis Centre in Fiji and the Pôle Project; comments were then made that it was a different pathway completely; he said that we need to

make sure that the project is not detracting from the Regional Training Centre.

Barbara Stubbing said she supported the project for the 1 or 2 elite players as both Abigail and Marcia Tere-Apisah were taken out of the Pacific Training Centre as that didn't work for them. There was further discussion and Cyrille Mainguy summarized by saying that the project was going ahead and that New Caledonia was seeking the endorsement and support of the OTF; that it was great that New Caledonia wanted to help and support other players from the Pacific and that he didn't think we should be trying to "kill" the idea; then we should be working together as a group to make it better and to see how we can work also with the RTC to create an alternative elite pathway; that this isn't another ITF Pacific Training Centre but a New Caledonian initiative to offer assistance to elite players of the region; Cyrille Mainguy then explained his personal situation in relation to the training of his son, Clement. Ruth Manea expressed her view that the New Caledonia pathway was a different one to the Pacific Training Centre and for Tahiti they have had experience of both pathways and outlined different Tahitian players who had taken the elite pathway.

Cyrille Mainguy then said that there would be further discussions with the ITF and OTF to see how we can support this; that everyone had seen the OTF Budget with little money available

At this stage of the AGM, David Haggerty needed to leave for another meeting and he was invited by Cyrille Mainguy to make some closing remarks.

David Haggerty started by saying that it seems that the Pôle Proposal under discussion seems to make sense to most people and that it appears as though the intent is to move forward with it. He said that he would talk to the French President when he arrives tonight re the Pôle Project; that he applauded everyone on this project and wished everyone success; and that you are taking your destiny into your own hands and he encouraged that. He then thanked everyone for the chance to sit with everyone yesterday and today and to be able to listen to your concerns, challenges, ideas and plans; to see a lot of good things that are being done; to see the challenges that you have with limited

funds as you try to develop tennis in your region; and what is our job; is it to develop top players; also to develop tennis participation across the board; that tennis changes lives and really makes an impact on individuals; that for different Nations success will shape up differently; for some it may be your top players going to University in the USA or Australia and getting a great education from tennis; sometimes we all think that success is the #1 player in the world or in the top 10; that it is great to have people on the tour but that the way we make tennis strong is by having a lot of people play tennis; and your initiatives with your Juniors, Hot Shots and the U10 programmes and the progression of the tournaments that you are talking about really makes a difference; I see the passion that each of you have which is why you are here and tennis wouldn't be the same if it wasn't for passionate volunteers and executives working together to grow the game; that I thank you so much for the opportunity and hope you continue the conversations that you are having; and I would encourage you if you have the chance to please come to Vietnam to the ITF AGM in August where you can have more of these discussions together and network with people and learn from other countries around the world; so thank you very much for the invitation and the hospitality and I look forward to seeing you all in another meeting in the not too distant future; and I apologize that I have to leave now but I have another meeting at Melbourne Park. Thank you everyone.

At this stage Brian Baudinet was invited to speak about sponsorship which was on the agenda yesterday. He commenced by saying that he and David Smith have had discussions over a period of time about possible sponsorship for the OTF after the loss of the ANZ a few years ago and he then presented a Powerpoint that he had worked on with his local BSP Bank Manager; that most Nations in the Pacific have BSP except the French Territories and the Northern Nations; that this proposal is for all of the Pacific and for the OTF; that the local BSP Manager has promised to pass this on for their 2018 Budget; in simple terms in Year 1 we have asked for an investment of A\$150,000 and in Years 2-5 A\$100,000 per year. Brian Baudinet then went through the slides of the PowerPoint explaining that it was based on Tennis 10s; the presentation explains who we are and the number of Nations, the programme and its spread to reach 20,000 children; that in Brian's view he feels that the Bank may give us 50% of what we have requested; that he had deliberately inflated the asking

figure, that in their local Cook Island Branch the BSP grant about \$300k annually; that he doesn't think the asking figure is out of the ball park; that this request for 2018 needs to be requested of them by August 2017 and we would expect to know the outcome by October/November 2017; that if we are successful, the grant will come to the OTF and be distributed to all Nations. Barbara Stubbings said that the BSP was a major sponsor for PNG Tennis

15. Administration/Projects/New ITF Initiatives

15.1 OFSO Workshops for National Associations

15.2 Governance Projects-New Initiative

Cyrille introduced this topic by saying that the ITF are providing a grant of \$15k for governance projects/training; that we may look to engage OSEP/OSFO to possibly provide a training programme in this area. Bruce Osborne suggested that delegates look at the OSFO/OSEP website where you can see the courses that they currently run; these are not just governance courses but additionally cover a wide range of other topics; that you may wish to consider delivering in your own Nations

15.3 Facilities/Special ITF Grants

Cyrille Mainguy commenced by saying that all Nations would have received a letter from the ITF detailing the information for special grants. Darran Wrighton then explained that the Facilities Grants now go to the ITF not the GSDF; that if you are intending upgrading your facilities ensure that in your submission there is included some background behind it; obtain quotes and do some of the background information first; that they are not hand-out funding and any grant need to match what you already have available locally; that you also need to demonstrate to the ITF that there is an ongoing tennis programme and players who will actually be using these facilities. On a comment that there was some detail lacking in the letter from the ITF, Bruce Osborne said that as Nations send in requests the ITF will likely refine and revise their criteria which will evolve over coming years

15.4 International Player Grants for Girls (17-22), Boys (18-23)

Cyrille Mainguy said that this topic was covered yesterday when Kris Dent was here and did his presentation

15.5 National Audit and Movement from 2015 Audit

Darran Wrighton started by suggesting that Nations should do an internal audit which would include how many players you have playing tennis; how many players we have involved in

Regional Championships; how many players did you have that qualified to the POJC; all these statistics will help you measure your progress; that there is a basic spread sheet available that can be populated; that you can then sit down and look at the figures and do comparisons on the year before; this will show whether you are increasing your playing base
Bruce Osborne said that what Darran Wrighton highlighted in his presentation yesterday is invaluable to all of us; that this information is invaluable when we are talking to our own NOCs or Governments; that it's not for us to sit here in judgement but to be able to assist you when you need to go outside seeking funding or other assistance

16. General Business

16.1 General discussion

Brian Baudinet commenced by thanking the OTF for listening to the Cook Islands, Tahiti and Tonga so that we are able to play the East Pacific Championship in Auckland this year. He then suggested that an award be made to Dan O' Connell for his work in the Pacific and that we should recognize him for the vast amount of work that he did for us; he proposed that he be recognized in some way but acknowledged that as he had not attended an AGM for some time, he was unsure how this should be done. Richard Breen said he supported this particularly as he was from Fiji and that Dan O' Connell was a Past President; that he realized the last few years become very contentious but that it did detract from all the great work that he had done in the Pacific over many years. Cyrille Mainguy said that he agreed with Brian Baudinet; he commented that Dan O' Connell had left through "the back door" if he can use that terminology; but that he started everything in the Pacific and came as the first Development Officer; Cyrille Mainguy went on to say that he was in his first touring team; he then suggested that the Executive should discuss how best this recognition could be made; that the suggestion is taken on board which he was sure that everyone in this meeting would support; that he needs to be recognized but how needs to be discussed further by the Executive. Brian Baudinet said he was very happy leaving this to the executive to decide over the next 30 days but also wanted to know if there was anyone who was against his suggestion. When asked if there was anyone against, there was no one. It was suggested if anyone had a particular suggestion as to how, this could be submitted to the OTF Executive for consideration, but regardless the OTF

Executive would discuss this with a view to deciding on what it considered appropriate.

Torgun Smith said that we needed to include officiating on the agenda with a view to developing Pacific officials; that this is a big part of running tournaments; that a Guam Official, Swami, is officiating at the Australian Open as a line umpire and had made it to the semi-finals of a Grand Slam.

David Smith commented that positions in the officiating team for the 2 Auckland WTA and ATP Events had been kept open for Pacific Officials with Sachin Reddy(FIJI) and Caroline Dupuy (CAL) having just officiated in the last two weeks as they did similarly last year. Also previously we had Stefan Szegedi as a line umpire at both these events from Samoa for 4 consecutive years. He went on to say that Sachin did an exceptional job and was very highly rated. Brian Baudinet suggested maybe at the next AGM a short video on officiating be presented. Bruce Osborne said that Tennis Australia had offered Sachin Reddy last year attendance at a Chair Umpire's Academy

17. Next Meeting (proposed)

17.1 OTF AGM 2018-Where/When?

Cyrille Mainguy thanked Tennis Australia for assisting hosting this AGM and to Bruce Osborne in particular for arranging the hospitality and other assistance for delegates; that we normally come to Melbourne every 2nd year and the alternate year that we have normally held the AGM in Fiji. He then said that the Executive had discussed the 2018 AGM and that we were going to evaluate the pros and cons of holding this either in Auckland or Port Vila; that there were some countries particularly the North Pacific where any future potential hosting would be cost prohibitive. That we will be checking the calendar for appropriate dates and that we would also want to invite David Haggerty to again attend next year.

Cyrille Mainguy then thanked everyone for their attendance and in closing said that he and a group of OTF Nations attended the ITF AGM in Croatia; that he then encouraged member Nations to attend this year's AGM in Vietnam

The meeting closed at 11:40am