**SQUASH & RACQUETBALL VICTORIA – BOARD MEETING**

**18:00 Thursday 22/10/2020 via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

1. **PRESENT:** Sarah Fitz-Gerald (President) [SF], Karen Cagliarini [KC], Leon Faustini [LF], Judy Kool [JK], Kevin Quick [KQ] and Paul Vear (Interim General Manager) [PV]
2. **APOLOGY:** Olivia Coles [OC]
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held 23 July 2020:** Accepted.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
   1. Board Skills Audit – LF to identify any skill weaknesses in the current Board.
   2. Review Of Metro Melbourne Interclub Pennant Competitions - PV and Peter Wright have discussed and following Club Circuit meeting on 22 October, PW will contact PV.
   3. Board Workshop - Not seen as a priority at this stage given the COVID-19 situation.

**6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT - SF**

* 1. Squash Australia AGM – Will be held in Brisbane on 22 November. It is unclear if The Forum will go ahead but it was noted that the Presidents want to hear from the Working Teams, about future Constitution changes, as well as details regarding Grants and Funding. Final documents will be circulated to the States on 31 October.
  2. Communication and Unity -All Presidents agreed that this is of major importance.
  3. Richard Vaughan Resignation - It is understood that SA would appoint a new CEO by January. Current staff and Board members will take on extra work in the meantime.

6.4 Grant Funding and SA Staff - SA has been requested to ensure that the State bodies are fully aware of any funding applications being made by SA on their behalf.

6.5 SPORTYHQ – An investigation regarding access to members’ details is being carried out.

* 1. Motion for Squash Australia AGM – It was agreed that the following Motion would be listed for the forthcoming SA AGM - ‘That anyone nominating for an elected Director position on the SA Board must be nominated by their own State or territory of usual residence.’

6.5 Squash Australia Events Calendar – SF proposed that SA implement the principle of protected dates, not only for their events, but for each State’s benefit as well.

**7. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT - PV**

7.1 COVID-19 - Regular contact has occurred with members to provide updates on COVID-19 regulations.

7.2 MSAC **–** Limited activity due to lockdown although the squash facilities have been upgraded. Only restricted HP programs can be conducted and HP Manager Raj Nanda recommenced sessions for a limited number of our elite junior players (no one under 15 years) at MSAC. Due to the cancellation of the Australian Junior Team’s Championships and the COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria, Cassie Thomas and Selena Shaikh resigned as our State Team Coaches as their contracts for 2020 were to finish on 31 October.

We have recently received a statement that we owe MSAC for invoices going back to July 2019. This is being investigated.

Our electricity provider Blue NRG has indicated that our last 3 accounts have been for approx $280, but no one has been in the office for almost 4 months. MSAC is following this up for us.

7.3 State Government and VicHealth Funding Grants/Packages **-** We are currently streamlining our system of recording data on our grants and packages, plus allocation of staff salaries, desired outcomes, and reporting responsibilities.

At present we have 16 individual grants and packages that we have secured, or have submitted applications for. We are working through options on who will be the key person responsible for each grant and package as well as what additional support they may require to appropriately service them.

We have been successful in securing $60,000 from the State Government’s Business Survival Package (Round 1). We have also submitted an application for $50,000 (Round 2). In addition, we were successful in securing a $10,000 State Government Business Support Grant.

We also received an allocation of $37,500 from the VicHealth for the GPIS program. We have applied for two VicHealth Reconnection grants for a total of $25,000. The first is titled ‘Straight from the Gallery’”podcasts, and the second is an expanded version of the Game Show.

7.4 S&RV Website/Social Media-We have produced a myriad of stories on various squash and racquetball identities, circulated different types of Government grants available to clubs and businesses, plus our monthly newsletter. Meredith has taken over from My Sport Live with the social media role, with support from Sarah. Prayansh is undertaking a review of our website and will present his findings for the Board to consider.

* 1. 2020 Events Calendar **-** Events scheduled for the remainder of 2020 have been cancelled. The 2020 Junior Christmas Cup and the 2020 Victorian Junior Championships have been moved to 17 and 23-24 January 2021 respectively, although still subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

We have produced a draft of the 2021 Events Calendar, working off the dates proposed for 2020, and circulated it to all event promoters for their responses by 30 October. We want to bring back the principle of protected dates, plus we will not be taking on any new events until we are absolutely certain when our venues/clubs will be allowed to reopen and we are aware of any restrictions applying.

7.6 Squash Australia State Performance Pathway Coordinator (SPPC)-Raj Nanda has been appointed the Coordinator for Victoria and Tasmania.

7.7 Metro Melbourne Interclub Pennant Competitions **–** The earliest reopening will likely be late November. PV is developing a Survivor style competition for both sports to be available for all of our venues over December/January. Hopefully, it will lead into our Autumn metro interclub pennant competitions, and our regional inhouse competitions. The Survivor competition will be graded, initially for several weeks and played at the player’s own venue, then progressing to zone, regional and State finals.

7.8 Squash Australia Loan **–** It was agreed that we make an initial payment of $5,000 ASAP**.**

7.9Mornington Shire Sports Capacity Plan**-** Nothing further on this development at this stage.

7.10 Club and Venue Survey**-** We have been involved in a Vicsport Squash and Racquetball Participant Review Survey. We received 309 responses.

We have decided to establish 3 separate focus groups as follows:

\* current members playing in competitions to identify customer experience touchpoints and improvement ideas.

\* club leaders and centre managers to identify ideas and opportunities to grow squash and/or racquetball participation.

\* casual players to co-design a workshop to identify ideas for social squash programs.

We are also looking at conducting a youth focus group.

7.11 Squash Australia Executive Directors Council Meetings **–** Being held weekly. The proposed additional insurance charges, which would have cost Victoria an additional $5,000 have been dropped by Squash OZ. Also, it has been agreed that SA and the States will work closely towards unifying the sport at the national level. The first meeting will be held on 27th October.

7.12 Latrobe Valley Squash Project **-** The tender advertising for the upgrading of the Latrobe Leisure Churchill Squash Project has commenced and will close on 29th October 2020. It is anticipated that construction could begin mid to late November 2020, with an estimated completion date in May 2021. The Latrobe Valley Squash Club, comprising members from the now closed Moe and Morwell squash venues, is currently based at the Churchill centre, but they are still seeking funding to upgrade and reopen the old Moe courts.

7.13 Bryan Bird**-** It was agreed that an award named in his honour be created.

7.14 2020 Affiliation Fees Update**-** Summary of Affiliation Fee Data as at 30 September 2020.

* Total number of affiliated members in 2019 was 3,284 who paid $164,000.
* Total number of affiliated members to date in 2020 is 1,564 who have paid $64,267.

So, we have a shortfall of 1,720 members and $99,733 in payments

**8. FINANCE REPORT**

The financial reports as at 30 September were tabled. It was noted that there will be adjustments in the October accounts for affiliation fees in Income to cover credits for those clubs that have paid for the full 12 months for 2020, plus to various expenditure items.

**9. NEW GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE**

The interview process remains on hold for this position due to COVID-19 regulations. SF indicated that she has been in regular contact with the proposed interviewees, but three of the original 12 have now found other employment. PV indicated that he would remain in the Interim position until the new GM had commenced.

**10. MULTIBALL**

KQ advised that the MultiBALL unit remains housed at Ballarat and is waiting on responses from them on questions from PV. LF will follow up with the Ballarat club.

**11**. **STRATEGIC PLAN**

KC provided an update on the SP. She will complete the Plan and forward to Ian Chalmers for comment prior to presenting at the next SP meeting Thursday 5th November.

**12. WORKING GROUPS REPORTS**

* Funding Advisory Group – Nothing to report.
* Coaching Advisory Group – KC has obtained Squash Australia’s database of Victorian coaches.
* Participation Advisory Group – Nothing to report.

**13. CORRRESPONDENCE –** Nil.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

Racquetball Rebels – details regarding the history of the Racquetball Rebels, along with the following website details, were provided to the Board.

<http://www.squashvic.com.au/w/participation/juniors/racquetball-rebels>

**15. NEXT MEETING –** 6:00 PM on Thursday 26 November 2020. Meeting finished at 8:00 PM