

David S Mandel



6 Linlithgow Avenue
Caulfield North
VICTORIA 3161
AUSTRALIA
+61 419 330 781
davidm@chastain.com.au

Squash Australia

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I played Squash at Club level for thirty years in the England, the USA and mainly Australia, until my body would no longer allow it. When I was given the opportunity in 2014 to be elected to the Board, to give something back to **MY** sport, I jumped at the chance. And in March 2015, the Board elected me to be President, a role I have been fulfilling since then.

My skills and experience were gained from over 25 years of working for multinational companies in the UK, USA, and Australia, with my final role as CEO of a 600 people, \$100+ million revenue, five manufacturing plant, packaging business in Australia. The career path was Finance / Treasury leading to general management. Today I am a Company Director to a number of organizations, public, private and Government.

Some of those positions have direct benefits for Squash Australia, being a Director of Commonwealth Games Australia and Chair of the Governance & Audit Commission of the WSF. Those roles and my network and experience has helped deliver for Squash Australia and Squash in Australia the following highlights since 2014, working with the staff, Board and myriad of volunteers:-

- The highest priority for me is that the participation declines of the last thirty years bottomed in 2013/14 at 104,000 and participation has now risen to about 184,000
- Revenue has risen from \$1.65 million in 2014 to about \$2.7 million for Squash Australia, reflecting the significantly improved standing of the sport with Sport Australia
- Squash in Australia has a national Squash Centre for the first time, as a legacy of Goldoc and reflective of the positive relationship with Commonwealth Games Australia.
- There is a World Squash Federation event in Australia each year, and for the next three years as a result of the stronger relationship with the WSF
- Skilled people now populate most of the volunteer positions on the Working Groups and committees of the board, giving of their time and skills to make a valuable contribution to the success of the sport.

- The professionalism of Squash Australia staff has risen significantly, and when combined with the doubling in number, has been recognised across the Australian sporting landscape
- Squash Australia gained approval for and has implemented over the last three years the 2016-2022 strategic plan, which has measurable deliverables for each program.
- My personal drive for a collegiate behaving board and improved communication across Squash in Australia.

I do not claim these successes as all mine. Some I influenced, and some I influenced the people who achieved them. But they all happened on “my watch”.

Over time, as Squash Australia has become operationally stronger, tensions have grown within the sport on the roles, responsibilities and deliverables of each level within the sport. As an outcome of the national conference in June, the sport has the best opportunity ever of resolving those tensions and becoming a bigger and better Squash in Australia.

I ask you to give me the opportunity to help achieve the next major step-up for the sport.

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