

OTTAWA AND DISTRICT SQUASH ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD 09 SEPTEMBER 2008, 7:30 P.M.
AT THE RA CENTRE
2451 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, OTTAWA, ON, K1H 7X7

PRESENT:

Mikola Czich, President, In the Chair (NDHQ/RA)
Gabriel Thibault, Vice President & Treasurer (U of Ottawa)
Susan Carbone, Women's City League (RA)
Lori O'Brien, Junior Coordinator (OAC)
Penny Glover, Secretary (RA)
Richard Young, Website, (GL - QV)
Andrew Szczeszynski, (Barrhaven)
Steve Gobel, (RA)
Chris Yeon, (Orleans)
Nicolas Dupont, (Sporthèque)
Cal Pritchard, (Cascades)
Cliff Hayes, (CDN)
Barb Byrne, (RA)
Danielle Shaienks, (RA)
Barbara Fischer, (RA)
Charles Emond, (Nepean)
Denis Thériault, (Sporthèque)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Brian Eldridge, ODSA Cup
Eric Johnston, Rankings
Janice Lardner, Juniors, GL -QV
Jennifer Birch-Jones, Officiating

1. Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and voting delegates were identified. Current Executive members have one vote each and an additional vote if also a club representative. The Chair declared the meeting in quorum. .

2. Agenda

The agenda was approved with an addition under Other Business: Women's Team Tournament 27-28 September.

3. Minutes

On a motion by Lori O'Brien, seconded by Gabriel Thibault, the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of 27 August 2007 were taken as read and approved. There were no matters arising from the 2007 minutes.

4. President's Report

The President indicated that last season had been a good season for squash in the Ottawa area, even though there had been a significant turnover in the ODSA Executive. He thanked the people present, as well as absentees, who had made Ottawa a good squash community. He mentioned the friendly matches which had taken place with Montreal and Cascades and indicated that he hoped this would continue this season.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented written report on last season's activity indicating a small reduction in the closing as compared with the opening balance. There were no questions on the report.

Barbara Byrne asked what was the Association's policy on applying for funding. The President replied that there was no formal policy and any applications should be addressed to the Executive through the President.

6. Portfolio Reports

Open City League

The President reported that Dan Madge had moved from Ottawa recently & he provided the report. The President indicated that the season had run well in spite of some clubs having several defaults. Ottawa University had joined the league in Division 5 and moved all the way up to Division 1. Discussion took place regarding the placement of teams to ensure they are at the appropriate level. It was suggested that the League Coordinator should have the ability to move teams up more than one division when they were clearly misplaced. Steve Gobel suggested these move only be made after the first session. It was agreed that Club Pros. would be asked to assess their teams and provided guidance as to the level, especially versus last season. The new season would start on the first Wednesday after Thanksgiving.

The President indicated that he had committed to assisting Cascades to be part of the league. If necessary, he would run a 'manual' Division 7.

Charles Emond indicated that Nepean Squash Club was struggling somewhat and mentioned the City of Ottawa's plan to convert two closed courts to fitness without consulting the Club. This would reduce the facility to four courts. He was in discussion with the City but was not sure the Club would be able to field two teams as a number of players were migrating to Barrhaven. He also mentioned that he felt that outside bodies such as ODSA would have limited influence in the discussion and that the Club felt it would be able to negotiate something.

Some discussion took place regarding match start times. Charles indicated that with the pressure on Nepean courts they would prefer start times to match court times so that there was no 'vacant' time.

Cliff Hayes indicated that he had heard there might be a new sports centre in North Kanata and the President asked him to provide a contact if possible. He also indicated that the Canadian Club was struggling.

Women's City League

Susan Carbone indicated that the Women's League was active with 9 teams over the Fall and Winter, although this was down from 10 the previous year, and round-robin play over the summer. Levels 1 & 2 were solid with some fluidity at the 3 and 4 levels. There were some challenges in the distribution of players across the city and asked for everyone's support in promoting the women's league throughout the city as 85-90% of the players were from the RA.

She proposed a motion that the President write to member clubs asking them to encourage their members to participate in Women's City League. The President indicated he would do this without the need for a motion. She also indicated that the League was having difficulty in having clubs provide courts, the bulk being provided by RA with Sporthèque and OAC assisting. Goodlife was provided only courts outside the normal season. The President indicated that he would work with the League on this matter. Susan circulated a poster and Richard Young indicated he would put the information on the website. In response to Lori O'Brien, Susan indicated that the league permitted spot-sharing.

Susan reported that Women's City League would start on September 25. Susan Carbone raised the matter of the distribution of squash balls under the Squash Ontario program. She felt that the process had been changed without any notice to the League. Her contention was that balls had always been distributed based on participation. The President indicated that distribution should be based on financial contribution to the ODSA.

After much discussion, Richard Young proposed that 2 dozen balls be provided this season. Penny Glover sought a consensus from those present and it was agreed that Women's City League be provided with 2 dozen balls this season.

The President acknowledged that two dozen balls would be provided this season even though he disagreed with this action.

ODSA Cup

Again, this had been a very successful event. The President indicated that Brian Eldridge wished to be replaced as the organizer and Neil Tubb's name had been mentioned. The President agreed to follow up.

Juniors

Lori O'Brien reported on a very good year for Junior Squash in Ottawa. The introduction of a Grand Prix circuit had been very successful. Over 70 players had participated with all clubs represented. It will be run again this season. She mentioned that 10 players had attended a high school tournament and 8 players went to Barrie, placing third.

General participating in tournaments outside Ottawa was very good with 15-20 players often travelling. Eight juniors had gone to Victoria for Junior Nationals and all had finished in the top half of players. Girls had achieved number two spots in the U13 and U19. Travelling in larger numbers had encouraged more players.

Lori requested people to seek prizes for junior tournaments and to support upcoming money-raising initiative such as the annual Christmas Wreath Sale and T-Shirt sales. She also indicated that Lisa MacIlwee was collecting surplus racquets and eye guards for the High School Program at the Walter Baker Centre.

ODSA Website

Richard Young reported that there had been no transitional pains when he took over and the site was stable. He still relied occasionally on Brian Eldridge for assistance but generally the site worked well.

The President raised the issue of the sponsorship logos on the site which had not been paid for and suggested efforts be made to obtain payments or remove them from the site. Susan Carbone agreed to assist in this effort by way of individual follow-up with advertisers. It was suggested that positive criteria be developed to encourage advertisers to stay such as leveraging the junior program.

Richard Young asked everyone to keep him informed of accomplishments of squash players so they can be featured on the site.

Officiating

Penny Glover reported that Jennifer Birch-Jones was unable to attend the meeting and reported briefly for her on the activity last season. A number of rules clinics and one officiating clinic had been held. We will be trying to hold an officiating clinic again this year as well as rules clinics.

The President stated that the Association encouraged all levels of league to have matches officiated, including the top levels who prefer not to officiate their matches.

Cliff Hayes suggested that the Association maintain a small library of CDs about the rules and officiating.

Tournaments

The President indicated that there was no Tournament Coordinator as such. He had given Richard Young the most recent update on local tournaments for the website. He indicated that the only outstanding date was that for the OAC tournament.

Rankings

In Eric Johnston's absence, the President noted that the system was working well, being regularly updated by Eric. Denis Theriault asked about the software and Mikola indicated that it was a system that had been developed by Eric and although it was old it was still functional.

7. 2008/09 Executive

On a motion by Charles Emond, seconded by Andrew Szczeszynski, the following people were unanimously appointed to the positions indicated:

President:	Mikola Czich
Vice President/Treasurer:	Steve Gobel
Secretary:	Penny Glover
Junior Coordinator	Lori O'Brien
Women's City League	Susan Carbone
Open City League	Gabriel Thibault
Rankings	Eric Johnston
Officiating	Jennifer Birch-Jones
Website Coordinator	Richard Young
Member-at-Large	Nicolas Dupont

8. Other Business

Open Masters Women's Team Tournament

Viola Hennessey reported that the RA in Ottawa was hosting this tournament on the 27/28 September. Previously it had been held only in Toronto. 8 teams were anticipated. She encouraged people to send a team from their club.

The President indicated that the Association would provide some sponsorship of the tournament based on the number of entrants. Viola indicated that African Art Zwadi Imports of Toronto was the major sponsor as it had been for two years.

Rust Remover Tournament 3-5 October

The President indicated that he organizing this and it was being held at the Nepean Sportsplex. John Larabie was being approached to make sure that as long as 12 people are registered, courts will be provided free.

Friendly Exchanges

The President referred to the successful exchanges with Montreal last year and indicated they wished to return this year. A match with Central Region was attempted but had not succeeded.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. on a motion from Andrew Szczeszynski, seconded by Gabriel Thibault and carried.

Prepared by
Penny Glover / Secretary

Reviewed by
Mikola Czich / President