

OTTAWA AND DISTRICT SQUASH ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 AT 7:15 P.M. at  
The RA Centre Ottawa  
2451 Riverside Dr, Ottawa, ON

Present:

Name / ODSA Position / Home Club

Voting attendees:

Mikola Czich / President / NDHQ-RA-CASC  
Lars Roberts / Secretary / Cascades  
Norm Brie / Refereeing Coordinator / OAC  
Steve Wren / ODSA Jr committee lead / Sporthèque  
Lesley Kelly / Women's League Coordinator / RA  
Denis Theriault / club rep, ODSA CUP Coordinator / Sporthèque  
Christian Yeon / club rep / Orleans  
Patrick Lyons / club rep / Carleton  
Al Smith / club rep / RA  
Al Pritchard / club rep / Nepean  
Heather Wallace / club rep & pro / Goodlife  
Jim Kenward / club rep / OAC

Observers:

David Morrish / club pro / RA  
Talha Rasheed / RA  
Viola Hennessey / RA  
Richard Yendall / Squash Ontario  
Jack Cornett / GL  
Jan Ladner / GL

Regrets:

Steve Gobel / ODSA Treasurer / RA

Roll Call

The President called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM and voting delegates were identified. The President declared the meeting open with quorum.

## Agenda

The agenda was accepted as drafted. Additional items, as required, would be discussed at the end of the meeting as items from the floor.

## President's Comments

The President opened the meeting with some short comments on the state of squash in the National Capital Region. General sense is that it's in good shape. The numbers of squashers in Rankenstein have grown and the Open City League has grown to seven divisions.

## Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was given by the President in the absence of Steve Gobel. He provided an overview of the state of the ODSA account. He reported that the ODSA continues to be in sound financial health, with a standard of 6 months operating costs available if needed. It was noted that since we did not fund the Junior Program significantly last season, there were more funds available than would have been anticipated. The President noted that the Women's City League program would be asked to contribute \$10 more/person (up to \$15 per player) this season in order to begin to close the parity gap between Open and Women's CL contributions towards ODSA operating of funds. He also noted that the advertising aspect of our website has yet to yield significant income and could be an area worth exploring.

## PORTFOLIO REPORTS

### Open City League

The following comments and discussion were made WRT Open City League for the upcoming season:

Team declarations have been called for submission due date; October 1.

ODSA will continue to use PAR 15 scoring for City league. (except for Div.1)

Division 7 will run again this year. Manually by Alan Smith, unless Steve and Brian are able to work it into the online system. TBD

Running of The Open CL would remain a two man effort. Mikola Czich would remain the lead coordinator with Steve Oakey and Brian Eldridge running the web based schedule and standings.

36 teams continues to be the magic number for 6 full divisions, 42 for 7 full divisions

1 up 1 down system to continue. First session included.

\$150 per team league fee

Start date; October 15<sup>th</sup>

## Women's City League

Lesley Kelly reported that the Women's League is expected to run with similar total #s when compared to last season with some optimism for growth. The RA will be the main location for women's CL with La Sporthèque hosting on some occasions.

## ODSA CUP

Denis Theriault offered to run the ODSA Cup again for the upcoming season. He was thanked by the board for his last year's efforts. He expects to run the tournament with an earlier start date this season. Some comments from last year included:

- Online payment system worked for him.

- Sporthèque to offer a payment option via their website again this year.

- \$10 per player continues to be the tourney fee.

- Juniors were not well-represented in past but they are welcome

- "A" players the toughest to recruit and play matches in a timely manner.

In addition Mikola Czich suggested that Adrian Duzucki's name be worked into the title of the ODSA Cup in memory of his contribution to the ODSA squash scene and reputation as a talented up and coming young squash competitor. There was consensus around the table to work Adrian's name into the ODSA Cup's title.

## Juniors

On the wide ODSA junior front Steve Wren reported that:

- A restructuring of the junior program management occurred late last season.

- The program continues to be fairly successful.

- Maxim Leclair to assist with the Junior Program at La Sporthèque.

- Junior program will continue to seek ODSA sponsorship for various activities and programs in the ODSA.

- Carolyn Hayden was stepping down from organizing the Grand Prix Events.

- First GP event this season to be held at Goodlife.

- OAC has a Squash Ontario Gold event 18-20 Oct 2014. A call for helpers would be made.

Each club reported briefly on the extent of their club's junior program.

## ODSA Website

The ODSA real-time online ranking system, developed by Brian Eldridge and being re-worked by Steve Oakey, is running smoothly. Juniors are also included in real-time updates (ages not visible). Filters provide easy access to pertinent information. Nicolas Grenapin will continue on as web-master. Battle to keep the odsa.ca site current and discussion ensued on how to give the site a more updated look and feel.

## Officiating:

Norman Brie has offered to be the officiating rep again this year. There will be an attempt to slot in an officiating clinic before the start of the 2014-2015 city league season. (November 4th, 2014). It was noted that the higher levels within city league prefer not to have referees while the lower levels are more consistently using referees. An enthusiastic and lively discussion ensued on how to encourage greater participation. Policing, monitoring, regulating along with a change of culture were key points of note.

**Secretarial Note / Concern:** If no concerted effort is made by the ODSA to change the status quo, we will be in the same situation next year. This topic will be raised again at future ODSA exec meetings.

Some recommendations included:

At least one player from each city league team should attend the officiating clinic prior to the league start in mid October.

That the link to the Squash Canada online refereeing course be added to the ODSA site and that league participants be strongly encouraged to take the course. \$30.00 cost/player.

Include the referee in the result submission for city league.

## 2014-2015 ODSA Executive

The proposed slate for the ODSA Executive Committee was presented to those attending the AGM as per the table below:

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name / Club</u></b>
President	Mikola Czich / NDHQ-RA-Cascades
Treasurer	Steve Gobel / RA
Secretary	Lars Roberts / Cascades
Open City League / Coordinator	Mikola Czich / NDHQ-RA-Cascades
Open City League / Scheduler	Brian Eldridge / RA
Junior Coordinator	Steve Wren/ Sporthèque
Women's City League	Leslie Kelly / RA
Officiating Co-ordinator	Norman Brie / OAC
Web Master	Nicolas Grenapin / RA
ODSA Cup	Denis Theriault / Sporthèque
Rankings Co-ordinator	Steve Oakey / RA
Tournament Co-ordinator	Mikola Czich / NDHQ-RA-Cascades
Public Relations Coordinator	empty
Member at Large	none

The above slate, to serve as the 2014-2015 ODSA Executive Committee, was unanimously supported by the AGM attendees.

## Near Term Tournament Schedule

The following tournaments were mentioned as in the near term horizon:

Rust Remover (at Carleton U) 3-5 October 2014

Goodlife QV PSA + Amateur Open 6-9 November 2014

## OTHER BUSINESS

2014-2015 tentative tourney schedule was provided and has been posted on the ODSA web site

No open tourney would be hosted by OAC this season.

Season's first tourney (Rust Remover) to be hosted at Carleton University October 3-5

Jim Kenward brought forward the Sq Ont sanctioning issue from last season's aborted OAC Open (one individual who signed up for the OAC tourney last season was confused about sanctioning/tourney fees).

Sq Ont rep encouraged reps to solicit Sq Ont membership by players to assist Sq Ont in gathering an accurate "head count of current players" in order to receive governmental funding. It was suggested to him that a 1\$ membership fee might encourage participation. He also discussed the opportunity to create an Ontario-wide ranking system that would be controlled by Sq Ont.

In a low cost attempt to promote squash as an activity practiced by many in the ODSA area, Mikola handed out Happy Squasher bumper stickers to club reps. These were free of charge. Club reps were encouraged to pass them out freely to players who would display them proudly.

Viola provided a brief overview of the upcoming Women's Team Tourney, in support of Project North. 56 players. Sold Out.

Steve Wren noted that Sporthèque is considering hosting a Summer Open instead of their recent end of season tourney.

Jim Kenward moved that the ODSA recognize Samantha Cornett for her Excellent effort (finishing second) at this year's Pan AM games in Mexico. All supported.

## ACTION ITEMS

- Leslie Kelly to take the increased women's CL fee structure news to the women's league members.
- Norm Brie to coordinate a date and location for a rules clinic.
- Mikola Czich to talk to Steve Oakey and Brian Eldridge re division 7 inclusion.
- Patrick Lyons to ask UNI students if they want to attack the ODSA website as a project.
- Patrick Lyons volunteered to draft letter wrt expansion at the Orleans East Recreation Centre, encouraging them to consider squash as a sporting option to add to their facility.

## Meeting Adjournment

There were no additional items of business. Meeting adjourned at 21:30 PM.

*original signed by*

Drafted By: Lars Roberts/ ODSA Secretary

*original signed by*

Reviewed By: Mikola Czich / ODSA President