

OTTAWA AND DISTRICT SQUASH ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE MEETING - Minutes

Held at the OAC / Boardroom

1900 hrs, November 13, 2017

Present

Mikola Czich, President / NDHQ, CASC, RA
Rob Walsh, Treasurer / CASC, RA
Luz Osorio, Secretary / Carl
Steve Oakey, ODSA Webmaster & Rankenstein / RA
Greg Archi, ODSA Cup Coordinator / OAC
Cathie Wood, Women's League / RA
Chris Yeon, ORL Rep / ORL
Steve Gobel, RA Rep / RA
Stephen Neal, OAC Pro & Rep / OAC

President's Comments

Mikola Czich opened the meeting welcoming all and thanking all for their continued efforts in the ODSA squash scene. He sensed the general squash scene in the ODSA remained strong with well programmed Open and Women's City Leagues as well as many Open Tournaments planned around the region throughout the season. Rankenstein has been working well for our Open City League as well as our player rankings. Of significant note, Rankenstein has been adopted by the Kingston and South Western Ontario squash areas. This would likely lead to wider player rankings, particularly across Eastern Ontario and the Outaouais.

Financial Report

Rob Walsh (new ODSA Treasurer) confirmed that signing authorities had been fully changed over at our financial institution. (TD Canada Trust Pretoria Branch) Our current treasurer (Rob Walsh) became the lead signing authority with our president (Mikola Czich) and secretary (Luz Osorio) as secondary signing authorities.

Invoices for the ODSA Open City League and ODSA Women's City League were in the process of being sent out to club reps.

ODSA remains in a stable financial situation with no significant expenses foreseen in the near future.

League Start Up Reports (Open and Women's)

Open City League was off to a good start with 40 teams. (6 teams per Div except for Div.7 where there were only 4 teams) Worth noting was a new team from The Smiths Falls squash club. Although it was considered far by some, Mikola asked that we welcome them as full members of our squash region. He also noted that Smiths Falls was ready to travel more than any other team in the region. Teams that need to travel to Smiths Falls will only have to travel once in a while, depending on the luck of the schedule draw. Start times in Smiths Falls would be no earlier than 7 PM and some flexibility would be expected.

Secretarial Note

Since the release of the meeting minutes, with the addition of two teams from the RA, Open CL has grown to a full 7 divisions (42 teams).

Cathie Wood gave an update on the women's league situation. The league was still strong, however it had lost several players as it started this year. A possible reason for the participation drop might include the increase in fees required to maintain a steady state relationship with the RA.

Discussion ensued about efforts between women's league and ODSA to promote and grow the women's league. It was stated in the meeting that the women's league reps would come up with ideas and suggestions to grow the league, and send them to the ODSA exec for review and help. The ODSA was committed to helping grow the women's league in the region.

Adrian Dudzicki ODSA Cup Review

Greg Archi gave an update on his progress in setting up the Adrian Dudzicki ODSA Cup. He explained that he would use SportyHQ to run the tourney, allowing people to pay as they registered and monitor their progression in the tourney as time progressed. He expected to have the setup complete for the beginning of Dec.

Website Update

Steve Oakey gave an update on the ODSA website. All known season events were web posted. He advised that he had given account access to Ralph Shillington for junior events coordination; to Stephanie Bazin for Women's event coordination and to Luz Osorio for regular updates.

ODSA News Promulgation / Social Media

Luz Osorio talked about the new ODSA Monthly E-Newsletter. The plan is to have the newsletter sent out to active squashers at the beginning of each month. All recipients will have the option of unsubscribing from the newsletter and other notices. All notices and newsletters will be sent out using the ODSA logo and league colors, using Mailchimp.

Junior Activities and Funding Requests

There was no junior committee representation however Mikola did provide some short comments on junior activities.

- There was a reasonable sized junior squash community in the area.
- The ODSA Junior Committee was active in coordinating junior activities like Grand Prix tourneys and coordinated info and travel to out of area Jr Tourneys.

Ad hoc funding requests have been received on occasion for individual and group efforts. It was acknowledged that we did not have and written guidelines for such requests and their development would likely be worthwhile.

It was suggested that any junior funding requests should be funneled through the ODSA Jr Committee.

For the time being requests would be considered on a case by case basis.

Ottawa Squasher of the Year

Mikola mentioned the need to choose an Ottawa 2017 “Squasher of the Year”. This award is made in conjunction with the Ottawa Sports Awards banquet which will be held on 31 Jan 2017. There is a need to have an open call for nominations. The ODSA newsletter, the ODSA web site and other encouragement (like word of mouth) would be used to call for nominations. Nominations need to come with some substantiating words detailing the nominee’s 2017 accomplishments.

Women's Activities

Luz Osorio gave a summary of the women's Howe Cup trip that recently took place in Washington D.C.

Stephen Neal expressed concern about women's interest in squash within the community, especially for young women that are just ending their junior career. We talked about having the women's league hosted at the OAC every 4-6 weeks and opening it up to all women outside the league, as a show case and drop-in hit. The intention is to have those women who are not in the league, become involved once they see how the league operates.

Luz Osorio and Cathie Wood will coordinate with Stephen Neal to get it setup.

Additional items

- Stephen Neal talked about the possibility of organizing an annual Ottawa/Montreal/Quebec City team tourney, with the intention that every city would rotate hosting the event every year.
- We talked about sending a notice to all ODSA squashers about the upcoming RA masters tournament and the upcoming rules clinic at the RA.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

minutes drafted and signed by

Luz Osorio / ODSA Secretary

minutes vetted and signed by

Mikola Czich / ODSA President