

OTTAWA AND DISTRICT SQUASH ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE MEETING - Minutes

Held at the OAC / Boardroom

1900 hrs, May 14, 2018

Present:

Mikola Czich, President / NDHQ, CASC, RA
Rob Walsh, Treasurer / CASC
Luz Osorio, Secretary / Carl, OAC
Ralph Shillington, ODSA Jrs / ORL, OAC
Debbie Witham / RA
Michael Che / UOtt
Stephen Neal / OAC

President's comments

Mikola welcomed attendees and started the meeting with some opening remarks. He commented that it had been a good season for our Open City League with 7 divisions with full teams in each division for most of the season. We had a lot of tournaments, (almost once a month) that were well attended. Plans are being made for at least 3 summer tournaments this year. (OAC, Cascades and RA).

Mikola encouraged clubs to consider affiliating with Squash Ontario by becoming members of Sq Ont using the new individual member model. (\$10 per club player with a minimum of 20 players) At this point, Luz asked if it was the intention of ODSA to affiliate with Squash Ontario next season. Mikola indicated that it was not in the immediate plan but he would be agreeable to paying a small membership fee to Sq Ont to formalize the relationship with Sq Ont and the ODSA.

Many seemed interested in hearing about Squash Ontario's cost and benefits so the topic was deferred to later in the meeting, as these were only the opening remarks.

Luz announced to the members present that she intends to submit her name for the 2018-2019 season as president.

Financial Report.

Rob gave an update on the current ODSA season financials to date. There were about \$6500 brought in from Open City League, Women's League and The ODSA Cup. We are showing a \$700 surplus for this FY although some expenses only come out every two years. Mikola highlighted that this is the first time in 2-3 years nearing the end of the FY in a surplus situation. (Two summer tourneys being held in this FY, would likely request sponsorship and thus reduce the surplus slightly.)

Rob needs to confirm with Steve Gobel and/or Steve Oakey whether our sponsors have made the season payments (Control the T, Racket Science)

League Reviews – How did thing do?

Steve Oakey was not present but it was noted that the City League ran without major issues. Any questions/disputes were handled by Steve without any escalation.

The board noted and thanked Steve Oakey (in his absence) for running the ODSA Open City League smoothly. The board also acknowledge an email from Smith Falls thanking ODSA for welcoming them into the ODSA Open City League. They are looking forward to participating again next season.

Women's League

Luz gave an update on Women's league. The Women's league took a hit this season due to the rate increase which caused the loss of students and young players. However, the WCL committee has taken steps to rectify this issue by preparing well ahead for next year's season.

The WCL has secured the RA, OAC, Sporthèque and Nepean for next season. They will also look at Carleton to host them every 5-6 weeks.

Rankenstein

The ODSA thanked Steve Oakey and Brian Eldridge for their continued support on the ranking system.

Adrian Dudzicki ODSA Cup Review

Greg Archi was not present at the meeting but the ODSA acknowledged that the ODSA Cup ran smoothly and that it was a positive addition to recognize winners in every category.

Junior Activities

Ralph gave an update on Junior Activities. Many ODSA juniors attended several tournaments. (local, provincial, national and international)

Sporthèque hosted a Quebec and Ontario joint junior tournament with attendance from both provinces. Some juniors also played in the Quebec circuit traveling to Montreal on their own resources.

Squash Ontario sponsored 10 players and one coach to attend the last Silver tournament in Vaughn ON.

The ODSA junior committee is hoping to subsidize two team travels next year.

Nine juniors attended Canadian Junior Nationals with Squash Ontario support.

Orleans hosted a successful junior camp with Hadrian Stiff. They are planning to host it again next year. Squash Ontario has shown interest in partnering with Orleans to host the camps.

It is expected that there will be summer camps in the area hosted by OAC, Sporhèque and possibly RA.

Website update/ ODSA News/ Social Media

Luz gave an update on the Website, ODSA News and Social Media. We have kept our communication flowing with the monthly newsletter which have been well received by the community. Luz read out loud a positive review which was received after the May newsletter.

We continue to keep the website and social media pages up to date.

Luz discussed the idea of doing fundraisers for next season to fund more programs that will help grow our sport in the community. The first fundraiser will be held in June. Rory Gardiner (GOOD) will be giving several concerts in the city and he has agreed to have one night dedicated to raising funds for ODSA. The board agreed to host this fundraiser on June 24th. The tickets will sell for \$12 of which \$2 will go to Rory and the rest to ODSA. Luz will promote the event in the next newsletter.

Funding Request – Ottawa U

An Ottawa U student team recently traveled for a Jestors University tournament. Patrick Long covered the team entry fee, a total of \$266. Mikola requested that the ODSA consider covering this cost as a subsidy and reimburse Patrick for this expense. All were in favour.

Next Season Activities

Luz has been speaking with Squash Ontario about activities to grow the squash community especially in the junior and women's areas. Squash Ontario has a number of programs and subsidies that ODSA can benefit from. However, to benefit from this, we need to be affiliated to Squash Ontario. Luz would like to have ODSA affiliated moving forward. For this to happen, all clubs must also be affiliated.

RA and Goodlife are affiliated and Orleans hopes to affiliate next season. The OAC is interested provided that the cost and benefits show that it makes sense. Jamie Nicholls from Squash Ontario will be in town between June 20-24. Luz suggests having a meeting with him and with all the club reps so that he can clearly state the benefits and costs of affiliating.

As part as next season programs, Luz will be reaching out to the school board physical education coordinator to talk about having schools bring children to the clubs for lessons. This would be on the parent's dime while the clubs can charge about \$5/kid. Luz will be coordinating this with a long-term goal (2-5 years) of having school teams with a school tournament at the end. The idea is to attract new players to the game that would not be introduced to the sport otherwise.

Luz plans to reach out to Carleton U about hosting an open house at the beginning of each school term for women only. The purpose will be to build a Carleton U women's team that can also join the women's city league.

Luz was asked to reach out to Heather Wallace about bringing the women's league together instead of having her league separate. She agreed to making this effort.

Luz proposes that a portion of the funds obtained from women's league be designated to women's activities such an end of season women's only tournament. Mikola indicated that if a women's only tourney was held they would be eligible for ODSA tournament sponsorship similar to all ODSA open tournaments. Members of the board were supportive of this approach.

Luz will start a racket donation effort to support beginner programs (grade school, high school, women)

Additional items

- Stephen talked about the lack of collaboration between pros in the city. Mikola suggested having a social gathering/dinner with all the club pros to bring them together and discuss collaboration. The dinner would be hosted and paid for by ODSA at a moderately priced restaurant. The board supported this idea.
- The plan for holding the ODSA AGM is to hold it early in Sep 2018. The exact date, time and location was to be determined.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.


minutes drafted and signed by

Luz Osorio / ODSA Secretary


minutes vetted and signed by

Mikola Czich / ODSA President