

Office Bearers 2005Executive

Robin Bryant (Aus) ~ President
Nigel Skelt (NZ) ~ Vice President
Geraldine Brown (Aus)
Warren Yee (Fiji)
Fabien Kaddour (New Caledonia)
Leao Akeripa (Samoa)

Office Staff

Secretary General (started July 2005)
Corinne Barnard

Development Officer
Lynne Scutt

Bookkeeper
Donna Millington

Delegates

International Badminton Federation
Robin Bryant

**Life Members**

Heather Robson
Roy Ward

Committees 2005Development CommitteeCourt Officials Committee

Peter Cocker (Chair)
Yogen Bhatnagar

Tournament Committee

Ian Williamson (Chair)

Presidents Report

Whilst Oceania has had troubled times, difficult births often lead to very robust children. Oceania I believe is now well on the map and as an organisation has been placing its feet firmly on the ground of sport in Oceania and within the international arena and is growing.

Formation Meeting

The meeting in January 2005 that formed the new incorporated body was both positive and decisive. The opportunity to interact with the Australian Minister for sport and senior AOC and ONOC people put the sport in a very positive light.

This meeting was followed up with the process of incorporation being finalised in Victoria Australia and setting up the nucleus of the office in space provided, gratis, by Badminton Australia at Altona.

ONOC General Assembly - Brisbane

The first public exercise for Oceania was attendance at the ONOC General Assembly in March. We were able to give a presentation about the sport and the meeting gave us a very good opportunity to interact with people from each NOC in the Pacific. The process was eased by the use of IBF racquets and shuttles which we were able to give to each representative. As a result we were noticed and were able to get firm contacts with each NOC.

Preliminary Activities and Early Priorities

Whilst the organisation was bedding down and following this meeting Lynne Scutt's tasking was looked at very closely. As Development Officer she was asked to focus on support for Samoa and Fiji to attend the Commonwealth Games and participate in the Thomas and Uber Cups Preliminaries.

She was also asked to start identifying people in Australia and New Zealand who formerly came from the Island Members and may be playing badminton.

Other priorities were establishing contacts with our former members and work on ways of getting the game going in these areas.

Lynne has been very successful and is to be congratulated on the outcomes. Samoa and Fiji will both be attending the Commonwealth Games and this will be the first time that we have had all our members, including New Caledonia participate in the Thomas Uber Cup preliminaries. A major milestone and a substantial step on the way to making sure we have a full complement of teams for the next South Pacific Games.

We were able to get badminton included in the Australian Youth Aid Development Fund program run by the Australian Sports Commission and Ausaid. Our first project was to target people for work in Samoa. Regrettably we were unable to find a person to take up this post for 6 months. Nevertheless we will continue to try to utilise this program for development, not only in Samoa but in other NOC's

Potential New Members

This coming event will give us an opportunity to focus on our priorities for the next 3 years. We must particularly look to securing badminton into the South Pacific Games. Work is progressing strongly in terms of making contact and encouraging PNG, Solomon's, Cook and Nauru to embrace the game more fully. In part we are being aided by equipment that has been allocated by IBF, however having Corinne and Lynne available to continually push the issues is starting to have some small effect.

French Territory Members

Fabien Kaddour has been quietly working on the French Territories in an endeavour to recruit them into the sport and membership of Oceania. There are some issues we will need to work out with France to ensure they

are able to be full participants without losing any entitlements to funding from that source.

Staff Activity

The organisation was initially staffed by Lynne Scutt, Development Officer and a bookkeeper, Donna Millington, was appointed part time to handle the finances using MYOB.

It has been quite a year in the development of Oceania. Corinne Barnard is now on strength as part time Sec Gen from August 2005. She had the opportunity to attend the last IBF Council Meeting in Kuala Lumpur and was allowed to attend most of the Committees as well as meeting up with the other Sec Gens and the new IBF Staff. Corinne will be focussing on key development issues for Oceania and working with Geraldine and her Development Committee to find both further development opportunities and funding sources.

Lynne Scutt is doing very good work particularly with Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia. It is the hard work that she has put in that has given us a first, all members will participate in the Thomas and Uber Cup, we are making special arrangements for New Caledonia, This will be a good development opportunity for them and a lead up for the Commonwealth Games. NZ, Aust, Fiji and Samoa have entered teams. That took a lot of hard work to make that happen.

Committees

We have formed Committees along the lines of the IBF Committees. Still a bit overweight with NZ and Aust people but we are getting there. However some interest from people in the Pacific has been shown. It will be a major exercise to build their confidence such that they want to take part.

Finances

Statements audited by Thornton and associates will be provided to the meeting.

IBF now require audited statements for acquittal of their grant money.

IBF have agreed with our arguments and decided not to reduce our funding progressively as will apply to other Confederations. They have increased the base amount for the remaining 3 years of this quadrennium granting us an additional \$79,000US over the period.

Oceania Congress and in conjunction with NZ a coaching/court officials conference. Paisan Rangsitipho Chair of IBF Events Committee is also attending some of the time.

The Future

Our first Congress will give us an opportunity to focus on our priorities for the next 3 years. We must particularly look to securing badminton into the South Pacific

\$US	2005 (000's)	2006	2007	2008	Total
Asian Badminton Confederation	\$250	208	167	125	750
African Badminton Federation	\$150	125	100	75	450
European Badminton Union	\$250	208	167	125	750
Oceania Badminton Confederation	\$50	42	34	25	151
Pan American Badminton Confederation	\$200	167	132	100	599
TOTAL	\$900	750	600	450	2700
New Oceania Amounts post Dec 2005 IBF Council	\$50	60	60	60	230

We need to work very closely with ONOC to secure the remaining money required to develop the sport in the confederations region and ideally move to the goal of having each member represented at the Olympics. With the new IBF rules, that is a goal that can be realised. In addition IBF support through equipment and IBF Training Centres makes a substantial change over the past quadrennium.

Website

Our website is now fully operational and provides a good medium for communicating in the region. Oceania has arranged to have its own domain name.

Major Events

The Oceania Championships and the Preliminaries for the Thomas and Uber Cups are being held in Auckland in February 2006. We have been fortunate to be able to hold these two events back to back, with an

2006. 2007 is processing in terms of making contact and encouraging PNG, Solomon, Cook and Nauru to embrace the game more fully. In part we are being aided by equipment that has been allocated by IBF, however having Corinne and Lynne available to continually push the issues starting to have some small effect.

We must also not lose sight of the fact that badminton is to be seen to be strong in the region, Australia and New Zealand must make substantial inroads into the international world with both their players and their events. Oceania has a responsibility to assist where possible.

Both our principal funding agencies

I would like to thank all the members for their support, good humour and contribution to the growth of Oceania. I feel very proud to come from this region. We are diverse in culture but our relationships are very strong and friendly. One of my small dreams is to see our Oceania teams carry some of our culture into the international arena with the very special singing talents that we have particularly in the South Sea Islands. Thank you very much.

**Robin Bryant
President**

Secretary General

Overview

The 2005 year was one of great changes for the organisation after the move of the office and base from New Zealand to Melbourne, Australia in early 2005.

I came into this role in July and took on a new role as Secretary General.

With the transition from New Zealand to Australia there were unfortunately files, policy documents and financial statements missing and so in many cases we as an organisation are starting from scratch with some areas.

Head Office

- Established the Oceania Badminton Confederation office in the BA Williamstown office.
- Shared ADSL line with Badminton Australia
- Shared use of Desk top Computer – 2006 purchase a laptop computer for Secretary General
- Dedicated phone / fax line and number
- Photocopy – day to day provided free of charge
- All files and documentation stored in filing cabinets or on computer files

Staff

- Part Time Secretary-General (2 days per week), Corinne Barnard (contract to July 2006)
- 1 full time Development officer (funding to June 2006)
- Part time Book keeper (Donna Millington)

Finance, Planning and Policy Development

- Standardized documents (guidelines/processes, entry forms) and review of Oceania circuit;
- Budgets for 2006-2008

- Policy documents for Business, financial protocols. Regulations for running of Oceania Teams event, responsibilities.
- Development of the website
- Effective communication with members regular e-news –
- Administrative support for events hosted in Oceania region



Tournaments

OBC co-ordinates the major calendar for all members.

- Thomas Uber Cup Preliminaries 2006
- Oceania Championships 2006
- NZ International 2*
- Australian International A
- NZ and Australia provide for 4 additional A events
- 2 Members on rotation provide for 2 B events each year
- Commonwealth Games Melbourne 2006

These international events form the basis of the **Oceania Circuit**

- Oceania is looking at developing its own ranking system however if it could be "spun off" from the IBF system efficiencies would be gained.

Every 4 years Oceania conducts the South Pacific Games (SPG). Aust and NZ are not included. Badminton is currently in the event but 6 countries need to enter to maintain

playing status. This is an important event for development in the region.

NZ has been listed to be awarded a **World Juniors Championship in 2008** if it wishes to conduct an event

Key Achievements

- Oceania new constitution in 2005 consistent with current IBF Model.
- Organisation is Incorporated in Victoria Australia.
- Developed closer working relationships with funding partners: IBF and ONOC
- Secured IBF funding for 3 years. The decision was made at the IBF meeting in KL in December 2005 to increase our funding. We will now get a minimum of US \$60k per year instead of the declining amounts we had originally been awarded. That will be reviewed again at the next meeting after we have submitted audited accounts
- Set up website Oceania has registered the domain name oceaniabadminton.org the website is run by a major IT company in the region SportingPulse. Both Badminton Australia and Badminton New Zealand are using their facilities. SportingPulse is supported by ONOC to provide services to sport generally. The Website is actively managed www.oceaniabadminton.org and used as a communication tool.
- Professional administrative head office
- Sponsorship \$5,000 of the Fiji Fintel International upgrade from B to A Grade event.

Challenges

- Managing priorities and allocating appropriate time and resources to these often competing priorities;
- Meeting the needs and expectations of members

- Coping with the wide range of reporting and compliance – very similar demands for all Continental Confederations which are much larger and better resourced.

IBF

Wang Loh Poh and myself (one of Warren Yee's Committee Members) were engaged in many of the Council Committee meetings and presentations at the IBF meeting in KL late last year and I had the opportunity to interact with the Secretary Generals from each of the other Confederations and was able to meet up with all the staff and coaches from the IBF Training Centres. I gathered many ideas on co-operation with the other confederations that will help us build the base in our small confederation.

Badminton will be rebranding the sport around the name Badminton International and we should be looking to comply with all bodies that are not in that form.....ie change OBC to Badminton Oceania in the near future.

IOC have awarded Olympic Scholarships to IBF to be used for the Training Centre participants. These amount to \$1800 per month per player.

Sally Yee, a very well known entertainer in Asia has been appointed as badmintons first ambassador.

The sport will change its scoring system to 3 x 21, rally point, only one serve in doubles. This will be mandatory for all world ranking events from Feb 1 and to be voted on at the IBF AGM in May so we are going to see a huge change to the sport as a whole

Looking Forward – Key Focuses –2006

- The next 12 months will be interesting for the sport in the lead up to Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games in March. Oceania has 4 teams represented NZ, Australia, Samoa and Fiji. This is a unique opportunity for the sport in the Region to take this

- opportunity to showcase the sport, to build participation and ensure there is a legacy for badminton.
- The next step in the coming months with the website is to shift up a level with SportingPulse and develop an Oceania Portal to allow more administrative functions to be undertaken including ranking lists, event management and results distribution.
 - Oceania would like to put around a newsletter similar to the other confederations. There is an amount of common material that could usefully be co-ordinated between the confederations and IBF.

Thank you to the Member Associations for another good year in badminton. I think the flow of communication is improving and we need to continue to work on priority projects for the benefit of the sport internationally.

Finally I wish to thank the Lynne, Robin, Geraldine in particular for your support and significant contribution throughout the year.

Corinne Barnard
Secretary General

Development Officers Report

Current Programmes

1. Olympic Solidarity conferences every 2 years in Oceania countries
2. Court Officials conference in NZ – Feb 2006 during TUC preliminaries
3. Training Technical Officials for South Pacific Games 2007
4. Coaching Assistance with Commonwealth Games teams for South Pacific Countries
5. Australia and New Zealand are embarking on a targeted program of encouraging top level non elite club players from major clubs in Aust and NZ to patronise the B events in the Pacific Islands

Proposed Development Programme (subject to funding availability)

1. Working with Australia and New Zealand to strengthen the public profile of the sport
2. Promoting the sport to existing and new members the priority being
 1. **Existing** Nauru, Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands
 2. **New** Vanuatu, Tahiti, Wallis Fortuna, American Samoa, Papua New Guinea
3. Ensuring the South Pacific Games includes badminton
4. Building a solid administrative base for the sport in the region
5. Work with the developing countries to search out sponsorship opportunities for the key events
6. Ensure the Committee structure works and is inclusive of new members which requires building confidence

Oceania Region Development Events held annually (controlled by Australia and NZ)

Under 15 Teams and Individual (Invitational Oceania and near Asia)
 Under 17 Teams and Individual Aust/NZ and an Oceania Team
 Under 19 Teams Aust NZ
 Australian Closed Teams and Individual (Clendinnen Shield)
 NZ Closed Teams and Individual (Wisden Cup)

Results from Junior Oceania team at June Bevan...

Members Country Reports

New Zealand**Australia**

2005 was one of significant change in Badminton Australia with an increase focus on **Junior Development** and an extensive review of and change within the **High Performance Program**.

In late 2004 and early 2005 Badminton Australia developed its 2005 – 2009 Strategic Plan. One of the key components of the Strategic Plan is to look at the grass roots of the sport, to ensure the sport is developing, that clubs are dynamic and growing and that there is increasing participation in badminton at all levels. BA continues to work with the State/Territory Badminton Association to ensure development of the sport.

In July Badminton Australia was fortunate to recruit **Corinne Barnard, Junior Development Manager**. Her first six months in the role saw a re-energised and focused Junior Development Committee and the successful planning and delivery of an **Olympic Solidarity** funded National Course with key focuses on training and development for coaches and court officials. We were fortunate to secure a quality coach educator in the form of Mohan Subramaniam from the USA, ably supported by Tjitte Weistra from New Zealand. Guest presenters from the Victorian Institute of Sports and Exercise Research Australia gave presentations on innovations in elite sport.

Corinne's week is shared with her other role as **OBC Secretary General**. The OBC office has had its first year in its new location in Williamstown. Corinne and the OBC office are welcome additions to the Badminton Australia office environment.

Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games impacted significantly on the workload of the

Badminton Australia office during the period – particularly the recruitment processes for volunteers and technical officials recruitment and training. This event together with the support for the three annual Oceania international events hosted in Australia (Ballarat International in June, WA International in July and the Australian International in August) kept the office staff of Susan Dobson and Tania Luiz extremely busy with the administrative functions associated with such events.

Badminton Australia undertook a major review of the High Performance Program which culminated in a new HP model being implemented – one which is underpinned by sports science and is supported by a range of professional sports science services. Badminton Australia recruited **Claus Poulsen** as the new **National Coach** who brings to the program significant experience from the Dutch and Danish national high performance systems. Initially the key focus is on the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Stuart Borrie
National Executive Director

New Caledonia

In 2005, the Ligue de Badminton de Nouvelle-Caledonie organised its 10th Noumea International. This tournament is a B IBF event. About 80 players were entered in three grades : A, B and C, from Australia, Austria, Fiji, New Caledonia and New Zealand. The great winners were : Stuart GOMEZ (Aus) in men's singles, Renee FLAVELL (Nzl) in ladies singles, Ross SMITH / Glenn WARFE (Aus) in men's doubles, Renee FLAVELL / Belinda HILL (Nzl) in ladies doubles, Scott MENZIES / Renee FLAVELL (Nzl) in mixed doubles. OBC contributed to the success of this event by allocating 50 dozens of shuttles.

For the first time, caledonian players contested the June Bevan in Melbourne in March. Six of our youngsters were associated to three fijiian colleagues to

constitute the first team of Oceania, supported by OBC. In the team event, Oceania finished 13th on 17th, after having won its pool of ranking with three won ties. In individuals, some of our players managed to pass two rounds in the main draws. Players were pleased to compete in this kind of event where they learnt a lot. Lynne was the manager of the team and gave a precious help.

For the 20th birthday of Ligue de Badminton de Nouvelle-Caledonie, 13 players were sent to the Fiji International in August. This is an event well known by Caledonians. Our players contested the A (international) and B grade draws with success. One title in mixed doubles for the International, and the five titles in B grade.

The development officer, Lynne SCUTT, came twice in the year. She focused on national and development squad trainings. In some occasions she visited the clubs in the North in the goal of discovering badminton there, and giving them basic trainings. The North of territory is the less developed part of New Caledonia in badminton. The Lynne's stays were much appreciated by all the players.

A coach clinic was held in May with a teacher from French Federation. This clinic which lasted a week offered five new coaches to New Caledonia. These successful candidates were given the french diploma of badminton coach.

The Ligue counted for 2005, 420 registered players from 11 clubs all around the country. Figures show that 50% of the players come from the South which is the main pole.

Fabien Kaddour

Samoa

Fiji

**Summary of IBF meeting in KL
December 2005**

The New Look IBF has two major objectives;

- a) **Badminton to remain in the Summer Olympic Games.**
- b) **Badminton to become the No.1 Racquet Sports in the World.**

It is also IBF's intention to remain transparent in all its dealings, be focussed on all its projects and be united under one umbrella. I would like to brief you on some of the IBF projects and programmes that are being formulated to achieve our objectives.

1. IBF at its EGM at Kuala Lumpur on 1st Dec 2004, and again at the AGM in Beijing on 8th May 2005, passed a resolution stating that the Olympic income from the International Olympic Council after each Olympic will only be used for development purposes. IBF has received praise for this decision from some of the IOC members as it is what IOC would like every international federation to do. Following this decision, IBF in 2005 contributed cash and equipment to the five Continental Confederations.

In 2006, the cash contribution is to be scaled down. This is to enable and train the Continental Confederations to be self sufficient eventually.

2. In 2005, IBF started three training centres in Saarbrücken (Germany), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Guangzhou (China) for training of players from the developing and less developed countries. The players are trained for two months at these centres and all expenses incurred for the training, including accommodation, food, coaches and other related expenses, are borne by IBF from the Olympic funds. The players or their respective associations only pay for the expenses incurred for the player's transport to and from the centre.

So far 150 players from over 60 countries have benefited from these training centres. We are very fortunate that the Olympic Solidarity programme has now agreed to recognise two of our centres, Saarbrücken and Guangzhou, as centres for Olympic Solidarity Scholarship holders. IBF is now redoing its set up to cater for this new and most valuable recognition.

3. IBF is now coordinating the activities of the five Continental offices so as to produce a World Plan for operations. This will ensure that the development programmes will meet the demand of each specific area.

4. To further promote the game and to ensure we are in line with our objectives, IBF is now wanting to make the game more friendly to the TV, media, spectators and above all to the players. IBF is aware that TV stations are not able to predict the length of time a game would last, which is necessary for them to estimate their time for satellite bookings etc.

At present it takes anything between 15 minutes and two hours to finish a match. Some have complained that IBF is too old fashioned and that the rules have been similar for nearly 70 years. The most reflecting factor has been the injury to most of our top players. This is due to the demands of the game on the individuals.

During Sudirman Cup in May 2005, IBF hired the firm which records the speed of cricket balls and the tennis serves to measure the speed of badminton smashes. To the amazement of many, the fastest speed of the men's smash was measured at 342 km/hr, and the women's at 296 km/hr. This when compared to the tennis serve of around 270 km/hr, makes badminton the fastest racquet sport in the world. It must also be noted that in badminton, a player sometime smashes as many as 10 times or more within a rally. This again makes badminton one of the **MOST EXTREME SPORTS IN THE WORLD**.

5. To ensure that we will address most of the demands by making the least changes, IBF at its Council Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in Dec 2005 decided to adopt the rally point scoring system, (similar to that used by the volleyball) playing to 21 points to the best of 3 games. At 20-all, there is a deuce and the person who gets two consecutive points wins the game. If the score remains at 29-all, then the tie break is utilised and the person winning the 30th point is the winner.

In this case the player has to concentrate on every point as every mistake will be a point to the opponent. In the doubles, only one serve is allowed. This scoring system was tried out during the invitational World Cup in Yiyang, China in Dec 2005 and the result was very encouraging.

The players were still not familiar with the new set up, however, they had to concentrate on every point as any mistakes they make gives a point to the opponent. The matches were much shorter and the media, TV and the spectators were happy. The games were much closer then expected and this kept the crowd excited. The finals with five matches were over in four hours

which included the presentation of prizes to the winners after every match.

6. IBF has now recognised that entertainment should be part of its tournament set up. IBF has now appointed its first Ambassador for badminton, Ms. Sally Yeh, a popular singer from Hong Kong China. There was good response to this from the media and fans in three of our recent events in 2005, namely in the World Championship in Anaheim, USA in August; the Hong Kong China Open in November, and the Official Opening Ceremony of the IBF Head Office in Kuala Lumpur in December. Badminton received excellent media coverage of articles and photos from the entertainment section as well as the sports writers.

7. IBF is planning to introduce more statistics to the game, for example, the speed of the smash, the number of strokes per rally, and other relevant information to keep the spectators and TV audience interested as well as provide information about the sport.

8. IBF is also looking into seeking the help of experts to train commentators for badminton. Our TV agents for Asia, Total Sports of Asia is also the distributor of the World Wrestling Federation TV rights for Asia and has arranged for IBF to meet with the WWE personnel to further explore the possibility of such training.

9. TV rights have been sold for Asia and Europe while rights for other areas are maintained by IBF to promote the game in the Pan American and the African region before selling them. Efforts have been well received in the PanAm region and we could soon expect badminton on TV in these regions.

10. The events department is also looking into ways of making the game more attractive to the younger generation. You may have experienced some delays in the ranking and in the draws. This is due to IBF now going on to a system of IT information set up of its own. We expect some teething problems and ask for your understanding as we will soon be in a different league with regards to this matter. Supervised by its Administrative committee, IBF is pursuing a paperless set up in all its offices. This may take a long time to achieve but we are working towards it. You could very soon be able to get all the necessary information about any matter from the website.

11. The events committee is also looking into the possibility of reducing the number of days for holding an event. By reducing the days, the organiser can reduce cost, a better presentation of the game can be considered and sponsors can be easily attracted to participate.

12. IBF is aware that to make the game more popular, it must be more TV-friendly. To make this a reality IBF needs to have more events than what it has now; the World Championship, the Thomas/Uber cups and Sudirman Cup. IBF is now planning to introduce a Professional League for three months of the year so as to get good TV coverage. Details of this will be made available to all during the next IBF AGM. The intention is to start this league in 2009.

13. Every Council member has been instructed to ensure that they are familiar with their respective IOC members from their countries and are to provide regular information to the person or persons on behalf of IBF. This is to ensure that there is a good rapport between IBF and IOC members.