

MINUTES
of the
BADMINTON OCEANIA CONFEDERATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
held via Phone / SKYPE
9pm (NZ time) on Wednesday 16th November 2016

Present via SKYPE: Geraldine Brown (GB), Julie Carrel (JC), Loke Poh Wong (LPW), Johanna Kou (JK), Michael Alezrah (MA), Lynne Nixey (LN)

Present via Phone: Nigel Skelt (NS), Gail Eraio (GE)

Apologies: Amanaki Fakakovikaetau

Geraldine welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that IT issues were once again a small issue for the meeting. GB thanked everyone for taking the time and asked for patience given the issues.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 24th July were discussed and confirmed

Matters Arising

Constitution – JC will talk to that further under her report.

JC noted that Badminton Oceania had been contacted by Solomon Islands just today and that they were commencing the process to become a member.

No other matters arising.

Finances

Finance report had previously been tabled to the Executive Committee and there were no questions on this.

NS - noted that our finances were in very sound shape and JC was congratulated on her management of these.

Secretary General's Report

JC spoke briefly to her report. She noted that she had a productive meeting with JK and the New Caledonia committee while in Noumea discussing the Oceania Championships recently. Nadia Bleaken has had recent visits to both Tonga and the Cook Islands and this had been very beneficial with their development programmes.

JC noted that we are receiving more and more positive reports back from Member Associations and it is encouraging to see the development being undertaken. Fiji and Guam are posing some small issues but this is being worked through by our Development Staff.

Reserves Policy

A draft of this had been distributed to the Executive Committee.

JC noted that there was no standard template available on a Reserves policy and she had spoken to many organisations about what different Reserves policies were.

Currently Badminton Oceania has an account with \$120,000 in reserve. This is a starting point to keep building on.

A recommendation had been made that we should have two years of working reserves held. However, it was noted that if we lost all funding and had no money coming into Badminton Oceania then we would not retain the current level of staffing and programs currently run would be curtailed. Staff currently have a period of 4 weeks' notice in their contracts. There are some commitments that Badminton Oceania would have (ie Office Rent), that we would be obligated to retain. If we followed the Reserves Policy as per the draft, the fund would eventually build up to \$250,000.

GB - \$150,000 is plenty to be held as a Reserve. NS - the amount of \$150,000 is a reasonable fiscal policy. Both JK & MA agreed that this amount was good to have in reserves.

All agreed that \$150,000 was the ideal amount. It was agreed to accept the Reserves policy with an amendment to cap the Reserve amount at \$150,000 which is \$100,000 held as a cash reserve with \$50,000 additional funding.

JC is to amend the Reserves Policy, distribute to the Executive Committee and distribute via email for final approval.

Constitution

The revised draft constitution is currently with a Constitution review expert who is looking over this and will come back to us with any queries or suggested amendments.

GB queried how we could ratify this new constitution prior to the AGM so that it could be effective for that AGM. Following discussion with the BWF it would appear there may be some issues with this.

JC - believed that we have a SGM prior to the AGM but that the constitution would be effective from 2018. GB – we need to align for 2017 to fit in with BWF and align with the BWF General Council elections.

GB – Queried could we do an electronic SGM? Discussion was held on this – the existing constitution which we work under does not mention electronic means of voting/meetings – probably because these options were not available when the constitution was written. Does not mean that this is not possible. JC to seek advice to see if there is a way to get the constitution approved through an SGM that will enable us to have a new constitution application for the 2017 AGM.

There were no other matters arising from the Secretary General's Report.

Technical Officials Subsidy Policy – approval

LN spoke briefly to the TO Subsidy policy which had been distributed to the Executive Committee for their approval. There had been an amendment made from the policy distributed to the TO Committee. The Executive Committee agreed in principal to the policy but asked that this was re-distributed to the TO Committee for their final approval of the amendment. Once the TO Committee approved, it would be adopted as policy.

Technical Official Committee Chair

Peter Cocker has resigned as Chair of Australian Technical Officials but will remain as Chair of Badminton Oceania Technical Officials Committee (BOTOC). Australia will elect a new Chair at their upcoming AGM. This is a better option for Badminton Oceania as it ensures that the Chair of BOTOC is fully independent from all countries.

JC & LN met with Peter Cocker to review the Technical Officials criteria, qualifications and policies. New criteria for both Oceania and Pacific Officials were drafted and these will be reverted to the BOTOC members for review and finalising before being adopted.

New Members

As previously mentioned, Solomon Islands have now engaged with us and we will work towards finalising their membership. GB asked if this was possible for the next BWF council meeting in March – this will be worked towards but there is a lot of work involved and this may be too tight a time frame.

Papua New Guinea has been accepted in principal as a member by the BWF and will be fully accepted once the time frame is met – this should be very soon.

BWF Plans and Budget – due 09 December

JC is currently working on these and will revert to the Executive Committee once these are finalised. NS noted that as per usual, he was certain that JC had this completely under control as per normal.

Workshops

JC & LN attended Referees Workshop in Kuala Lumpur. This was followed by the Continental Events meeting. This was attended by JC, LN & LPW. LPW reported on this advising the new BWF Event structure was discussed. The most significant point for Oceania events is that they must now be sanctioned 9 months prior. JC is working with countries to ensure this is actioned. Confirmation in writing has been requested from the BWF that it is now acceptable to have Oceania Team Champs and Individual Champs in the same week – once this has been received, a plan for Oceania Champs for the next four years will be distributed.

Para Badminton

Working on holding a BWF sanctioned Para Championships in Western Australia next year. This will be the first BWF sanctioned Para event in Oceania. GB advised there is plenty of money available from the BWF for Para. JC – we received \$20,000 from the BWF for the Australian Para Champs and Training Camp to be held in November which has 20 entries made up of 5 x Australian states, 1 x NZ player and 1 x Tonga player. JC to continue work in this area for additional funding aligned with development and events

General Business

JC asked JK if the representative from France had arrived in Noumea yet? He is to arrive on 22 November for 2 weeks. He is meeting with the New Caledonia Committee and will report on all news / programs / development and activities. It is hoped he will discuss facilities as New Caledonia have no dedicated Badminton facilities and their venues are too small.

JC advised that France had offered to send 5 people to run Oceania Champs – this has been declined as Oceania is more than capable of running their own Oceania events.

FBA can make no decisions currently as there has been a new President elected. It would appear the new President then resigned so they are in limbo until their next AGM in March.

JC noted that we need to get the Shuttle-Time program into the curriculum in New Caledonia schools and perhaps the representative from France would be able to assist with this.

MA – no general business to raise. Tahiti is very happy with the work of Leo Cucuel who is now employed by them. All going well in Tahiti.

GE – no general business to raise. Made a visit to the Badminton Oceania office on Tuesday.

NS – no general business to raise. NZ is currently undergoing a constitution change and review.

LPW – Australia has their AGM next week. No challenge for Geraldine Brown as President. LPW is being re-elected to the Board. Badminton Australia has received a donation for Oceania teams to attend Sudirman Cup – a subsidy amount has been offered to Tahiti, New Caledonia, Fiji and Guam and is dependent on them also committing to the Oceania Champs as well. NZ and Australia did not get offered the subsidy. It was noted that NZ would definitely attend the Oceania Champs.

JC – no general business to raise.

Meeting finished at 22:10pm