

**AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

By Skype

Saturday 9th May, 2020; 10am

1. Identification of Attendees

1.1. Roll Call

ACT:	Roy Nixon (out-going Treasurer), Ian Thomson (in-coming Treasurer)
NSW:	Julian Foster, Rob Ward (in-coming MC Member)
NT:	Mairead Kelly
QLD:	Therese Tully
SA:	Adel Abdelhamid (in-coming MC Member), Barbara Travis
TAS:	Dallas Cooper (out-going MC Member), Malcolm Sherlock
VIC:	Kim Frazer (Secretary), Christopher Leach
WA:	Allison Stralow (President), Robina McConnell
Supplemental Councillors:	Laurie Kelso, Peter Reynolds (in-coming Supplemental Councillor)
Legal Counsel	Geoff Chettle
Executive Secretary:	Jane Rasmussen
Deputy Legal Counsel:	Prof Michael Bryan
Apologies:	Judy Herring (NT)

1.2. President welcomes new Councillors and thanks retiring Councillors

The President thanked all of the retiring councillors for their time on the ABF Council: Marianne Bookallil A.C.T, Richard Wallis QLD and Richard Douglas N.S.W. Sadly Bill Lockwood S.A. passed away earlier this year and condolences were sent.

She welcomed the new councillors: Rob Ward N.S.W. Barbara Travis S.A. and Ian Thomson A.C.T. She noted that the new QLD councillor will be appointed in May.

Welcome also to Peter Reynolds, as the new Chair of the ABF Tournament Committee who will be elected as a Supplemental Councillor. She thanked David Morgan who was elected as a Supplemental Councillor and Chair of the Tournament Committee in 2015. He has resigned due to health issues.

Retiring and new ABF Management Committee Members –

Richard Wallis replaced Therese Tully in 2019 and notified the ABF he did not intend to contest the 2020 election.

Bruce Neill was an observer and then elected President in 2014-2018. He then served as President Emeritus until 2020.

Dallas Cooper was elected as an Ordinary Member in 2014 and notified the ABF she did not intend to contest the 2020 election.

Roy Nixon was elected as an Ordinary Member in 2007 and then Treasurer from 2008. The Constitution states no person may serve as an officer in the same for more than eight consecutive years except by a specific resolution of Council. A motion to elect Roy to the ABF Committee of Honour will be presented to this meeting.

1.3. Bona Fides of each person present voting or observing

Julian Foster will hold the third vote for NSW

Therese Tully will hold both votes for Qld

Michael Bryan will be attending as an observer & Deputy Legal Counsel

1.4. Apologies

Judy Herring – N.T.

1.5. Election of supplemental Councillors

1.5.1. That Peter Reynolds, Tournament Committee Chairman, be elected as a supplemental councillor.

Carried

1.5.2. That Laurie Kelso be re-elected as a supplemental councillor

Carried

1.6. Chairman's power to vary Agenda as circumstances dictate

The Chairman intends to ask council to approve a motion that all business apart from the business on the agenda of this meeting be deferred to a Special General Meeting at a date and time to be confirmed, tentatively set for November 21-22.

2. Minutes of 2019 General Meetings

2.1. Confirmation of Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting

The President asked the meeting to accept the minutes of the 2019 AGM as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Robina McConnell **Seconded:** Dallas Cooper **Carried.**

2.2. Confirmation of Minutes of 2018 Mid-Term Meeting

The President asked the meeting to accept the minutes of the 2019 mid-term meeting as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Robina McConnell **Seconded:** Barbara Travis **Carried**

3. Election of the Management Committee

As all nominated officers were elected unopposed, the President announced the following positions and appointments:

President - Allison Stralow (WA)

Secretary – Kim Frazer (Vic)

Treasurer – Ian Thomson (ACT)

MC Members: Adel Abdelhamid (SA); Rob Ward (NSW)

4. Appointments

4.1. General Counsel – Geoff Chettle

The meeting agreed unanimously that Geoff Chettle be re-appointed as General Counsel

4.2. Public Officer – Julia Hoffman

The meeting agreed unanimously that Julia Hoffman be re-appointed as Public Officer. The President noted that If council, states & territories agreed to adopt the new constitution as proposed at this meeting, the position of Public Officer would become redundant.

4.3. Auditors – Synergy

The meeting agreed unanimously that Synergy be re-appointed as auditors.

5. Executive Reports on 2019

5.1. The President

The President advised the meeting that coverage of 2019 would be included in a deferred report at a later time and as such her report has focussed on the impacts & actions taken around the CV-19 crisis.

The meeting engaged in some discussion on re-opening & were advised that a national set of guidelines were under development, however each state & territory will be responsible of its own post CV-19 recommendations to clubs.

The President agreed to follow up with TBIB with respect to any public liability insurance implications which might be impacted upon re-opening of clubs.

Action: AS

There was general acknowledgement by the meeting on the extensive work undertaken by various Tournament Organisers and support personnel on subsequently cancelled events. Particular mention was made of the organisers of the APBF and the ANC. It was noted an attempt would be made to hold the APBF in a subsequent year and that negotiations regarding cancellation fees were on-going with the Perth Convention Centre.

The President thanked the states & territories for their co-operation in supporting rescheduling of the ANC rotation, and to South Australia for accommodating the proposed out-of-rotation slot in 2022.

The meeting received a short update from Laurie Kelso on the take-up of BBO bridge by clubs.

The President asked the meeting to acknowledge the work of Laurie Kelso, Matthew McManus & Peter Cox in negotiating with and establishing the ability to run online bridge tournaments, and for their on-going support of these.

5.2. The Secretary

Deferred

5.3. The Treasurer

- 5.3.1. ABF Financial Report
- 5.3.2. James O’Sullivan Financial Report
- 5.3.3. Review of Operations 2019 - income
- 5.3.4. Review of Operations 2019 – expenditure
- 5.3.5. Actual Vs Budget 2019
- 5.3.6. ABF Profit and Loss Jan-March 2020
- 5.3.7. ABF Profit and Loss Jan-March 2019 and Revision 1 to ABF Financial Plan 2019 to 2021
- 5.3.8. ABF Fees Deferral

The treasurer spoke to the above pre-circulated reports highlighting particular areas of interest. He noted in FY20:

- The SFOB revenue had declined due to the impact of the bushfires which resulted in refunds due to cancellations.
- Some early impact from CV-19 in masterpoint fees.
- Some increases in Youth Week income & expenses due to the location of the 2020 event.
- A reduction in technology spend against budget due to some delays in activating the project.

The President acknowledged the significant amount of work undertaken by the treasurer in preparation of these reports and general management of the ABF accounts.

6. **Motion to elevate Mr Roy S. Nixon to the Committee of Honour**

In accordance with Section 25 of the Constitution, Mr Roy S. Nixon be elected to the ABF Committee of Honour.

Proposed: A. Stralow. Seconded: C. Leach

EXPLANATION:

Mr Roy Nixon was the President of the Bridge Federation of the Australian Capital Territory from 2006 to 2017. In 2007 he became an Ordinary Member of the ABF Management Committee and in April 2008 he was elected as the Treasurer of the ABF, a position he held for 12 years. Roy worked diligently to always make sure the budget balanced and to stay up-to-date on accounting standards and tax laws. This resulted in the ABF implementing new standards that ensured a smooth audit at the fiscal year-end.

A brief statement cannot do justice to his efforts on behalf of the ABF and bridge in Australia. It is with considerable pleasure that we move a motion for his elevation to the Committee of Honour for his outstanding service.

Carried

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7. Resolution to amend Constitution

In accordance with Section 26 of the Constitution of the ABF:

That the Constitution of the ABF be replaced in its entirety with the document entitled 'Proposed ABF Constitution 2020' as circulated to the ABF Council on 9 April 2020.

Proposed: Kim Frazer Seconded: Allison Stralow

Carried

8. General Business

The following dates were agreed:

- SGM & Mid Term Meeting - November 21st, 2020 (Sydney)
- 2020 AGM - April 17-18 (Canberra)

Meeting Closed 11.35am

Kim Frazer
Secretary, ABF