

MINUTES

ABF Management Committee Meeting

December 2nd and 3rd 2006

NSWBA Clubrooms, Sydney

9.30am both days

Present: Keith McDonald (President), Richard Grenside (Secretary), Keiran Crow-Mai (Treasurer), Dianne Marler, Andrew Halmos

In Attendance: Elis Magner (Legal Counsel – half days) and Martin Willcox

Apologies: Jane Rasmussen (ABF Secretariat – on leave)

2. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting November 4th and 5th

Confirmed with no amendments

3. Matters Arising

Matters outstanding from previous minutes.

EM	Disclaimer for Bridge Tours – Draft to be written	Ongoing
KCM	Letter to Captains	Ongoing
KCM	Guidelines for notifying of Captains	Ongoing
KCM	3 Year renewal	Ongoing
KCM	License agreement modification and mail out	Ongoing
EM	Check on tax status of JOS and ABF accounts	Ongoing/Moving forward
EM	Write to Oz-One re 'name'	Ongoing/Moving forward
JR	Write to FcM Travel	Pending
	KM to follow through with suspense amount of \$5,000	
KCM	Letter to Captains to include leave availability	Ongoing
RG	Find a writer	Ongoing
KCM	Late Fee P Gue	Ongoing
KCM	Follow up Barrier Reef Masterpoint Account	Ongoing
KCM	Letter to Captains - include Payment for Captain to play	Ongoing
JR	Balance of FFP for AMEX	Ongoing
KCM	Letter to Captains to include statement "MC will decide whether....."	Ongoing
EM	Contracts with Oz-One Players	Ongoing
MW	Scope and Schedule	Ongoing
RG	WBF Capitation Fee increase	Ongoing
KM/JR	Write letter on behalf of Vince Demuy	Ongoing
MW	Write Online Bridge Paper	Ongoing
KCM	To prepare an aged trial balance for the Masterpoint Centre on a once per quarter basis	Ongoing
JR	Transfer of FF earned with AMEX to be transferred to an account where they can be used	Ongoing

4. Correspondence

- (a) Letter from C Mitchell re GNOT Central Coast discussed under separate item.
(b) Email from E Ramshaw discussed. Felt that there should be a Tournament Unit representative at all ABF events.
(c) Request for reports from convenors of all ABF and licensed events. Licenses to be amended to reflect that these should be sent to the ABF Secretariat for forwarding on to interested parties. **Action KCM**
(d) Marketing Committee approval for advertising/marketing grant – agreed that this should include a GST component if applicable. **Action DM/KCM**
(e) Swan River Report – RG to write advising that these should go to the ABF Secretariat. **Action RG**

5. Presidents Report

- (a) KM advised that a meeting between ABF representatives KM and EM and Paul Marston is organized for 11 December. **Action KM/EM**
It was agreed that any financial arrangements for travel/accommodation of the ABF General Counsel for the meeting with Paul Marston be approved by the Chairman of the ABF MC.
Following discussion of ABF MC – agreed that not concerned with marketing ranking scheme overseas but no affiliated club will be authorized to run ranking scheme alone – they either elect to run both or jeopardize their affiliation status.
(b) KM extended invitation to Rabbi Helman to visit the Gold Coast. Rabbi very flattered, unable to attend but offered to send a cheque to augment the Helman-Klinger Prize. KM proposed an “International Friends of the ABF Club” be instituted in order to recognize benefactors such as the Rabbi for their services to bridge in Australia. EM to establish criteria. **Action EM**

6. Secretary’s Report

Tabled

7. Secretariat Report

- Tabled in JR’s absence.
Approach from NTBA to give dispensation to convenors of future ANCs to allow NZ to field a team in the Women’s Interstate Teams, thereby doing away with the bye. This was discussed - with MC agreeing that format should be left as is. Secretariat to notify NT. **Action JR**

8. Treasurer’s Report

- (a) Met with Stern re convening Zone 7 playoffs for 2009. Treasurer asked to get a copy of the costs for the last Zone 7 Playoffs as a comparison. **Action KCM**
(b) Agreed that a closing date (31.1.07) should be added to ad on web site – also advising that budgetary papers can be obtained from KCM if interested. **Action RG**
(c) Fee for use of screens at Open and Women’s 2007 playoffs was approved at \$350. **Action MW**
(d) Player Liaison Committee will circulate a questionnaire concerning format and venue of playoffs after events in 2007. **Action DM**
(e) P Gill’s note concerning possible tie for last place in Open playoffs has been addressed jointly by MW and KCM and a procedure to break ties will be formulated and published. **Action MW**
(f) \$750,000 transferred to term deposits.
(g) Information from Clubs re Directors Indemnity did not prove viable to the ABF. Matter dropped. Clubs to be advised accordingly. **Action KCM**
(h) Query from KM re insurance cover when travelling on ABF business. Agreed that a monthly diary of proposed meetings attended on behalf of ABF should be kept and sent to the Secretariat. JR to send email to Kim Ellaway asking for this information. **Action JR**

9. Legal Counsel Report

- (a) Completed some activities from the Minutes; attended to matters pertaining to the James O'Sullivan Foundation and provided various advice to clubs and individuals concerning matters that were referred to her.
- (b) Continuing to move outstanding matters from previous meetings to a culmination.
- (c) Provided advice to the ABF MC concerning player incident at the GNOT in 2007.
- (d) Prepared wording to cover the use (or not) of the ABF Tournament Unit at 2009 Zone 7 Playoffs.

Legal Counsel was further asked to:-

- (i) Prepare a disclaimer to be added to the Regulations for Playoffs when they are advertised in the ABF newsletter. **Action EM**
- (ii) Prepare a statement covering the understandings applied to the word "published" when referring to individual systems. **Action EM**
- (iii) Check the wording with regard to the use (or not) of bidding boxes at the SFOB. **Action EM**
- (iv) Prepare a letter of appointment for Nick Fahrer as Convenor of the National Viewgraph Unit. **Action EM**
- (v) Prepare a statement with respect to the implementation of a ban on alcohol in Finals of ABF events. **Action EM**

10. Tournament Unit and Committee Report

The reports were tabled with the following action items arising out of the reports:-

- (a) Write to ER to advise that all appeals should be sent to the Secretariat with a copy to the relevant Convenor. **Action RG**
- (b) Write to ER advising that ABF MC decided that entry fees and subsidies will be the same for all playoffs, giving a breakdown of those fees and subsidies. **Action RG**
- (c) MW advised that NT were applying for playoff points for the NT Gold on the basis of a 2 day Swiss Pairs event. MC agreed. MW to advise decision to Phil Gue. **Action MW**
- (d) Playoff finals for Women was amended to "open to all" on the basis of increase of cut off from 58 to 60 PQP's. Web page amended.
- (e) Coming Commitments for consideration by the Tournament Committee are:
 - SFOB – January – in hand
 - Playoffs – March – finalized this meeting.
- (f) Klinger letters – further explanation required. Timing of notification will be advertised following the next TC meeting on 14th January 2007. The decision will be reflected on the ABF Web page and also in the ABF Newsletter.
- (g) MW raised a query regarding OzOne players being able to earn playoff points for overseas successes. Once again the MC declined to endorse this request. This decision will be relayed to the OzOne players who made a further formal request that this be revisited. **Action MW**
- (h) It was agreed that any regulations posted in the ABF Newsletter or on the Web Site should carry a disclaimer. **Action EM**
- (i) Transfer overcalls were discussed at some length. RG asked to write to Laurie Kelso as the Chairperson of the Systems Committee asking him to investigate regulating the use of transfer overcalls in pairs events. **Action RG**
- (j) The Regulations Committee to be asked whether it is time to reinstate ancient principle that only published systems can be played at an event. **Action MW**

KM asked that RG write to Roy Nixon (Chairman of the Marketing Sub-committee) thanking him for his email concerning the advertising/marketing initiative of the ABF and advising that his suggestion to remove the \$ for \$ proviso has been taken up. **Action RG**

Keith McDonald asked that the proposal received from Nick Fahrer be discussed prior to his attendance at the meeting.

- 11. Central Masterpoint Committee Report**
(a) AH tabled report no. 4. KM suggested that members of Migration Path, AH and KM meet in Melbourne as soon as possible to discuss the issues raised by the reports.
Action KM
(b) An email received from Nigel Dutton referring to the display of results on www.bridge-club.org was noted. RG to write to Nigel and thank him for the information. **Action RG**
(c) AH raised matters pertaining to documentation relating to the tendering process. Matters to be reviewed at meeting (11a). **Action MW/JR**

As Nick Fahrer joined the meeting here, Item 14 was moved up on the agenda.

- 14. National VuGraph Unit**
(a) After discussion, the Management Committee accepted the proposal from Nick Fahrer in principle subject to the clarification of the minutiae. Estimated dollar figures in the proposal were accepted.
(b) KM asked that RG write to Eric Ramshaw advising that the MC agreed to the introduction of a National VuGraph Unit, that it will be attached to the Tournament Unit reporting to the Chairman of the unit with Nick Fahrer as the contact. **Action RG**
(c) Events for VuGraph to be as per those laid down in Nick's proposal with the first event being the Gold Coast Congress Open Teams Finals.
(d) It was agreed that any non-listed events wishing to be involved in BBO – should be paid at the rate of \$2.00 per board subject to the event providing their own operators.
(e) RG to arrange for a paragraph in the next issue of AB newsletter announcing the set up of the NVU with Nick as National Coordinator and seeking expressions of interest for state coordinators and operators. **Action RG**
(f) NC of NVU to chase up system cards from the convenors of events as these are needed for display purposes on the web site when running BBO.
(g) KCM to sort out payment details for those involved in the NVU. Nick Fahrer to be paid on a quarterly basis on presentation of invoices. **Action KCM**
KM thanked Nick for his presentation.

- 12. Youth Committee Report**
No formal report available.
(a) A note received from Peter Gill will be acknowledged by RG. **Action RG**

- 13. Women in Bridge Committee**
DM reported on activities since the last meeting:-
(a) Answering queries regarding playoffs and the last train event.
(b) Advertised SF"OB at the Hellenic Club and asked women to support the event.
(c) Assisted with team mates for SFOB.

- 15. Finance Committee Report**
(a) KCM reported that the committee had approved in principle, the purchase of table top scorers. One quotation to hand, another to be sought for comparison.
KCM to make a recommendation to the MC (via email) on the purchased thereof. **Action KCM**

- 16. GNOP**
As requested at the last MC meeting, RG sought clarification from John Brockwell with respect to financing if the event was to run for a restricted field only. No response to date.
RG to chase up. **Action RG**

17. ABF Events

(a) Seniors Playoffs: Following the email communication received from KCM, and after extensive discussion, it was agreed that the subsidies be increased and that the entry fee be reduced. KCM to put the figures together and convey them to the convenor (David Stern).

Action KCM

(b) Open & Women's Playoffs: It was further agreed that the subsidies and reduced entry fees be passed on to these events also. RG to write to Eric Ramshaw and David Stern clarifying what these subsidies and fees will be.

Action RG

(c) GNOT query from Colin Mitchell: KM read out an email from John Brockwell in response. KM will respond to Colin on the decision of the MC to bring Central Coast under the control of the Tournament Unit with Colin or another appointed as the Regional Convenor. **Action KM**
The matter of a team withdrawing from the final of the GNOT in 2007 was discussed. It was agreed that RG write a letter to the convenor for an explanation.

Action RG

(d) SFOB: The pre-circulated report from SM was tabled. It was pointed out that board dealing was not part of the Contract. To be included at time of renewal. As SM has a contract with deliverables, he should be asked to report on those deliverables. The matter of bidding boxes was discussed further. It was agreed that the use of bidding boxes at the SFOB be advertised on the web page, with the proviso that any player who is handicapped in any way may be allowed to either write speak their bids. EM to clarify wording. RG to write to SM thanking him for his report and advising that although the TC recommendation of 6.8.06 was endorsed by the MC, it was not conveyed to him and in order to avoid antagonizing the donor, bidding boxes will be used at the SFOB in 2007. However if the use of bidding boxes in any way impacts the timing for the events the use of bidding boxes in the lower half of the field must be reconsidered. This matter is to be resolved by the Convenor of the SFOB as necessary.

Action RG

RG raised query here about how a trainee could work at the SFOB. It was confirmed that the application must come via the state body.

18. International and Other Events:

(a) 2009 Zone 7 Playoffs: One tender received to date. To be discussed at future meeting.

(b) 2007 World Championships: Will be held in Shanghai on 30th September. As this is a targeted event, 3 teams will be sent from Australia.

(c) 2007 PABF: Will be held in Bandung, Indonesia. Australia will send three teams. In answer to a question from David Stern's captains report, ABF MC will not endorse additional seniors teams, however we may send additional seniors teams if invited to do so by the organizer. These teams will not be called "Australia".

Action RG

(d) 2008 PABF: Australia is hosting this event on the Gold Coast. Nothing further to report at this time.

19. Other Matters

(a) Business Travel Proposals: It was agreed that this matter could be removed from the agenda. Most players book their own travel taking advantage of the myriad of offers available as a way or reducing their personal costs.

(b) SFOB Convenor Contract: To be revisited prior to renewal. Will be discussed by MW and ER who will bring back a recommendation to the MC.

Action MW/ER

(c) Licence Agreements & Reports: It was agreed that all reports should be sent to the Secretariat who would be responsible for circulating them to other interested parties.

(d) ABF Committee Structure: The amended version to be posted on the web site.

Action JR

(e) Alcohol at ABF Events: MC considered responses from states and various interested parties and decreed that alcohol shall not be consumed at the table at any of the following events:-

- Playoffs (Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth)
- NOT
- Finals of the Seniors and Women's Teams at the SFOB
- ANC Teams
- GNOT Finals

Further the MC recommends that licensees consider the implications of this decision and support the position that there be no alcohol at the table for the finals of these events.

RG to write to all states and post this decision on the web site.

Action RG

EM to prepare a procedure for the implementation of this initiative.

Action EM

(f) NZ Code of Conduct: MC recommended that the TC prepare a similar Code for use in Australia and that prior to inception, this code be circulated (via the Player Liaison Committee and the web site) for comment.

Action MW

(g) Captains Report from David Stern: RG to write to David noting his comments about additional teams from Australia. We will continue to subsidise teams if appropriate but only one team will be called "Australia". Further we are happy to talk to Markovics but we will need to refer to his report.

Action RG

(h) Any other business:

(i) Discussion on the best way to market the ABF. Perhaps speak to the chess governing body to see if joint submissions could be made. A study showing the benefits of playing bridge at school level was raised. KM to chase up the tape and get to KCM. Jane to write to the EBU, WBF and ACBL to see if they have any materials that supports this hypothesis.

Action JR

RG was asked to refer both suggestions to the marketing committee for comment.

Letter to include confirmation that marketing committee continue to prepare press releases for print media.

Action RG

List of recipients of press releases to be circulated to the MC.

Action JR

(ii) RG was asked to post the WBF powerpoint presentation on future promotion and development of bridge on the web site with a request that players read it and provide comments back to the ABF MC (by responding to a link on the web site).

Action RG

Meeting Closed at 3.05pm

The next meeting of the Management Committee will be held in Canberra on 27/28 January 2007.