

MINUTES

ABF Management Committee Meeting

ABF Headquarters, Fyshwick

Sunday 29th March 2009

Present: Keith McDonald (President), Roy Nixon (Treasurer), Dianne Marler (Secretary) Richard Grenside, Keiran Crowe-Mai

In Attendance: Jane Rasmussen (ABF Secretariat)

Apology: Eilis Magner (Legal Counsel)

Matters outstanding from previous minutes.

JR	Duty Statements in Handbook	Scan/Retype
EM	Legal Counsel to update regs on Drug Testing	Pending
EM	Legal Counsel to draft response to KH	Pending

1. President's Report

- (a) Executive summary of website statistics received.
- (b) Write to Sheridans for a quote for 2000 Gold and Silver and 5000 Gold and Silver medallions. Die to be returned and stored with Sheridans. **Action: JR**
- (c) National Directors – inactive. Secretary to write to JB **Action: DM**
- (d) Chair of TU to be invited to July MC Meeting. **Action: DM**
- (e) Kiama Bridge Club Opening 1st May. JR and KM to attend.
- (f) President to thank B Neill for Tim Seres Scrapbook. **Action: KM**
- (g) Acknowledged receipt of new office bearers for TBA.
- (h) MC does not action material sent anonymously.
- (i) VBA - ABF to act as facilitator. (see attached)
- (j) Send Marketing report to all States **Action: JR**

2. Secretary's Report

- (a) Secretary has resigned and MC appointed DM as ABF Secretary. RG to remain as ordinary member of the MC.
- (b) Invite G Quittner to next MC Meeting. **Action: DM**
- (c) MC ratified M Bourke as Captain of the Women's team to play in Sao Paolo.
- (d) All convenors reports to be sent to Chairs of TC and TU.

3. Treasurer's Report

- (a) MC approved Co-convenors of the GNP to each receive \$2000.
- (b) Finance Committee minutes (see attached)
- (c) Subsidies for Macau, \$2700 and Sao Paolo \$4300.
- (d) Youth Committee budget endorsed by the Finance Committee.
- (e) MC noted that the audit report was sent to the Finance Committee
- (f) Ranking scheme matters need to be finalized. **Action: EM**

4. Legal Counsel Report

No Report

5. **Secretariat Report**
No Report
6. **Tournament Committee Report**
(a) Report on SF changes to be tabled at May MC Meeting. **Action: DM**
7. **Tournament Unit Report**
No Report
8. **Central Masterpoint Centre Project**
(a) MB to oversee project
(b) Re-send information re: online submission of Masterpoints. **Action: JR**
9. **Youth Committee Report**
No Report
10. **Women's Committee**
No Report
11. **ABF Events**
(a) Other Senior Teams to play at PABF – ABF will pay entry fee. Notify D Stern. **Action: DM**
(b) SF deadlines need to be adhered to. Board replication tender to be placed on website.
(c) MC approved the GNOT Budget for 2009.
(e) Bridge for Brain to be scored online.
(f) Nationwide Pairs promotional material to be sourced.
12. **International Events**
Zone 7 Championships
(a) Open Team may need to compete in Zone 7 in Macau. Subsidy to be \$1500. All communication to be via Captains.
(b) Richard Grenside has been appointed ABF Representative and Delegate to Macau.
(c) President to write to J Wignall and A Stuck re: Zone 7 Playoffs.
13. **Forthcoming Meetings**
Sydney – Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May 2009
Canberra – Saturday 18th and 19th July 2009
Canberra – Mid Year Meeting 19th September 2009 with MC meeting 20th September
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|------------|---|-----------|
| 1b | Quote for Medallions | JR |
| 1c | National Directors – inactive | DM |
| 1d | Chair of TU to July Meeting | DM |
| 1f | Thank B Neill for T Seres Scrapbook | KM |
| 1j | Send Marketing report to all States | JR |
| 2b | Invite G Quittner to next MC Meeting | DM |
| 3f | Ranking Scheme | EM |
| 6a | SF Changes for May Meeting | DM |
| 8b | On line submission of Masterpoints | JR |
| 11a | Notify Stern of Self funded Senior teams to have entry fee paid | DM |

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 6 March 2009, Gold Coast

Present: Roy Nixon (Chair), Keiran Crowe-Mai, Julian Foster

1. Subsidies for Macau and Sao Paolo

Keiran said that he was aiming to get subsidy information to FC members by no later than 20 March, ie before the Open and Women's Playoffs commence. (It was subsequently agreed after the meeting that Julian would do the first draft of a subsidy recommendation – **since meeting this has been done.**) We will get a recommendation to the MC meeting to be held in Canberra after the AGM on 29 March. Information can then be made available to players through the Captains.

2. Guidelines covering purchase and use of ITC and other equipment for use by ABF officials

The Treasurer said that he was still working on a draft of these guidelines and would circulate them intersessionally for comment. This was being drafted in response to a request made by the MC at its January 2009 meeting.

3. TC recommendation on entry fees for the finals at Summer Festival of Bridge

The Minutes of the ABF Tournament Committee meeting of 18 January 2009 once again re-affirmed that teams which qualify for the NOT, NWT and NST finals should not be required to pay additional entry fees (ie they pay an entry fee at the beginning of the "event" and that should be all they are required to pay). At its September meeting the FC had said it would revisit this issue in 2009 for the 2010 SFOB. The FC understands that the TC is continuing to review the basic format of the SWPT and the NOT and will await the outcome of those deliberations before making any further decision on this matter. meanwhile the Treasurer will send a note to the SFOB Convenor indicating that the FC must be consulted on the SFOB prices for 2010 before any information is made public. **(since done)**

4. Summer Festival of Bridge Pricing Structure

In light of 3 above, the FC decided to defer further discussion of a review of the present pricing structure used for the SFOB until we know more about the likely event schedule and formats.

5. Youth Committee Budget

A draft budget prepared by Griff Ware as Acting Youth Committee Chair was received by the Treasurer and Keiran (in his capacity as a Youth Committee member) and will be circulated for intersessional approval and a recommendation to the MC for its March meeting. **The Youth Budget has been approved intersessionally by the Finance Committee.**

6. Licensed events

The FC expressed its disappointment that the required reports from Licensed Events were not being submitted on time and in the required format. At its January meeting, the MC had

instructed the Treasurer to write to the Convenor of the VCC noting their report was very late and fining them for various breaches of the license conditions. This had been done. The FC will now look at whether other event Convenors had breached the licence conditions.

The FC also noted that some of the earliest license agreements will be coming up for their first renewal in 2009 (eg ANOT). Having licenses on different renewal periods was administratively inconvenient and it was decided that we will try and bring all agreements onto the same three year period with effect from 2011. We can then review all of them together at that time for consistency etc.

7. Subsidies for Restricted/Novice events

In January 2009, the MC met with Ken Miller, Convenor for this year's Barrier Reef Congress to be held in Cairns on the June long weekend. There was further discussion about the License Fee being charged for the BRC. Ken was advised that the ABF was not going to change its current policies and charges for license fees. However, mention was made by the Treasurer of the FC's plans to utilise the monies generated by License Fees to increase the Restricted/Novice players travel subsidies to attend national level licensed events. For example, such support had been given to various players that won a designated restricted/novice event to play in the NT Gold for the past 2-3 years. It was agreed that an appropriate designated event for 2009 for the BRC would be the Gold Coast Congress and the Treasurer should discuss with the GCC organisers how best to market the giving of up to \$2,000 in travel subsidies for the BRC. This has been done and the Treasurer will follow up with Kim Ellaway on who the winners were and whether the offer is being taken up and by whom. **(Now also done)**

The FC discussed its longer term plans to use the increasing funds generated by license fees for marketing and promotion of restricted bridge. It was decided that the FC would discuss this with the Marketing Committee. Also if other licensed event Convenors wished to do so they could also apply for similar subsidies for their restricted events stating which target event would best suit their purpose. **(The organisers of the VCC may approach the ABF shortly about this matter.)**

8. Matters held over from previous FC meetings and not discussed

Simplifying the MP charges between different types of masterpoints
Alan Woods Ranking Scheme
Capitation and masterpoint fees

Roy Nixon
Chair, 25 March 2009



Open Letter to Victorian Clubs

Dear Clubs and Bridge Players in Victoria

As you will know, at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bridge Federation held on Saturday 28 March 2009 a resolution concerning the administration of bridge in Victoria was considered. By agreement that resolution which proposed to invoke the powers of the ABF conferred under Clause 29(3) of its constitution was withdrawn.

There was general acceptance, however that it would be appropriate to move towards the establishment of a new organisation to promote, control and advance the game of contract bridge in the State of Victoria. It is now envisaged that the current constituent from Victoria, the VBA, will in accordance with clause 29(2) of the ABF Constitution propose that it withdraw from the Federation and name the replacement constituent association.

There is some work to be done before this can be achieved. The ABF has offered to be the facilitator for the process of change. This requires an initial agreement that all affiliated clubs in Victoria will appoint delegates to elect an Executive. The Executive shall comprise the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Match and Tournament Chair and 5 other Executive members. The Executive once appointed will be responsible for implementation of the new organisation.

It is proposed that each club in Victoria will have one delegate while every club, which has more than 100 home club members, will have an additional delegate for every extra 100 or part thereof such members. Once the delegates have been determined they will be asked to nominate names for the Executive. The list of nominations will then be circulated to all the delegates who will have to register their votes to a sealed box in Canberra. This box will be opened by a legal representative of the ABF, the votes will be counted and the results declared.

The Executive so elected will convene a Special General Meeting within 6 months after their election and at that meeting they will put forward a constitution for consideration and adoption with or without amendment. They will at the same time report to members on other matters.

There was agreement that:

1. The new Association has no claim on any assets owned by the VBA.
2. A contract will be signed with the VBA to ensure that there is payment of an agreed annual fee for all State titles which will be conducted by the VBA. It is proposed that the initial term of this contract should be 3 years from 1 January 2010.

3. State Capitation fees for 2010 will be paid to the new association (by whatever name is determined).
4. The ABF will consider a loan to provide start up funds, at the same interest rate as that applying to loans from the James O' Sullivan Foundation.
5. The Masterpoint rebate paid to the State body will apply to the first full month after the Executive of the new body has been appointed.
6. The arrangements for the VCC will be maintained until the current License Agreement expires.
7. The VBA will be responsible for the selection of representative teams for the 2009 ANC.

The ABF's involvement will be limited to fostering the establishment of the proposed new constituent organisation.

All ongoing decisions need to be made by bridge players and officials from Victoria.

Keith Mc Donald.
President (ABF)