

MINUTES

ABF Management Committee Meeting

NSWBA Headquarters, Sydney

Saturday 1st November 2008

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

In Attendance: Eilis Magner (Legal Counsel)

Apologies: Jane Rasmussen (ABF Secretariat)

Matters outstanding from previous minutes.

JR	Duty Statements in Handbook	Scan/Retype
DM	Coffs Harbour directors report via Convenor	Pending
JR	Criteria for inclusion in Encyclopedia to be sent to KMc	Pending
JR	Barry Turner donated funds into JOS, + honour board	Pending
EM	ABF Notice on Abusive Behaviour – wording for web site	Pending
RN	Youth Budget to be delivered by Nov	Pending
EM	Legal Counsel to update regs on Drug Testing	Pending
EM/RN	ABF rights on MP Centre Contract	Pending
EM/DM	D Weston contract	Pending
EM/RN	Rating scheme document to RN	Pending
DM	Policy on eligibility of transnationals for Playoffs/PQPs	Pending
JR	Report on Nationwide Pairs	Pending
JR	Request financial statement from QBA for GCC	Pending

Regarding female directors at the SFOB, it was agreed that more work needs to be at Club and State level to encourage females to progress their directing experience to National Level. It was agreed that a subsidy (covering accommodation and travel) be offered to any suitable female director wishing to attend the SFOB as a trainee. This offer will be extended to all state bodies wishing to nominate a candidate and remain in force for the next 3 years. **Action: DM**

GST Paper tabled to go on the Web Site for additions/deletions by players in the know and notification to Finance Committee. **Action: RN**

EM/RN to meet with Migration Path in Canberra on 15th November

DM to send copy of email to EM regarding hire of D Weston **Action: DM**

KCM to send note to Youth Committee re his addition to the numbers and chasing a copy of budget for 2009 **Action: KCM**

1. President's Report

(a) Document from FBC of Victoria will be considered at a future time. KM to respond **Action: KM**

2. Secretary's Report

- (a) Email from Anna Gudge to be placed on web minus bells and whistles. **Action: RG**
- (b) Email to all State secretaries reminding them to review their procedures with respect to eligibility of players to participate in ABF/Licensed events. Entries should not be accepted from non-financial members of the ABF. **Action: RG**
- (c) RG to write to John Scudder advising that PQPs are not to be issued to either player in the pair winning the Australian Swiss Pairs as one of them was not financial at the time of participation. Letter to be copied to players affected **Action: RG**
- (d) Discussion regarding replacement of Brian O'Hara as recorder. SM likely to take advice from ABF MC so suggestions agreed **Action: RG**

3. Treasurer's Report

- (a) Term deposits coming up for renewal. Best available interest over 3 months is 6.6%. Will bank interest and reinvest principal on this basis. **Action: RN**
- (b) Licence agreements – GCC signed, Barrier Reef had queries regarding ABF considering income from dinner and sponsorship when attributing licence fee. Agreed RN to respond **Action: RN**
- (c) Coffs Harbour licence signed and in ABF HQ.
- (d) RN to get details for all licence agreements from Secretariat. **Action: RN**
- (e) RN asked that consideration be given to increasing capitation and masterpoint fees. After discussion, agreed that this matter be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and recommendation. **Action: RN**
- (f) An email received from Krochmalik will be considered at the next meeting of the FN. Recommendation to come back to the ABF MC at December Meeting. **Action: RN**

4. Legal Counsel Report

- (a) Security documents for NSBWA loan requiring signature under seal. Will be done on 15th November in Canberra. NSWBA chasing copy soonest. **Action: EM**
- (b) Ratings scheme will be handled in January as agreed with Marston.

5. Secretariat Report

NO REPORT

6. Committee Reports

6.a Tournament Committee Report

Kim Morrison joined the meeting. Discussion points as follows.

- (a) New format for playoffs was considered. Agreed that proposed new format be sent to Player Liaison Committee asking that players be polled **Action: RG**

- (b) ABF MC agreed that prior to taking such a radical step further consideration needed to be given to proposal, therefore TC would be advised that format for 2009 would remain unchanged – ie

1st placed team from playoffs (Open/Women/Seniors) would be given choice of playing at the PABF in Macau, or at the World Champs in Sao Paulo on the understanding that if they chose the latter they would also be required to compete in Zone 7 to be held in either NZ or Australia. **Action: RG**

- (c) Keith will write to Chairman of NZBCA advising same. **Action: KM**
- (d) KimM to attend MC meeting in December. **Action: RG**

6.b Tournament Unit Report
NO REPORT

6.c Central Masterpoint Centre Project

- (a) D Weston in Canberra covering additional duties. Request report from JR on financial information for masterpoint centre. **Action: DM**
- (b) EM/RN to meet with Migration Path (MW) to resolve matters of intellectual property etc on 15th November.
- (c) Ad for Masterpoint Centre Manager to be prepared for review prior to placing in ABF Newsletter and on web site (January 2009). Suggested seek a person on contract basis. Anticipated start date of 1st April. Will accept applicants from all Australian States and Territories as although server will remain in Canberra operating arm can be done interstate. If additional equipment is required, then will be purchased at ABF expense.
- Action: DM**
- (d) Now that DW up to date with current operations, will be given opportunity to work from Sydney if necessary and with prior consultation with ABF Secretariat. **Action: DM**

6.d Youth Committee Report

- (a) MC has now requested that the Committee be augmented with a MC member and at this time the member will be KCM. Committee to be notified and 2009 budget sought. **Action: KCM**

6.e BBO
NO REPORT

6.f Finance Committee Report
NO REPORT

6.g Women's Committee

Reported that a new Womens Bridge Club has been set up on line. Female players can compete at a national level on a weekly basis. Agreed to place information on web site "without bells and whistles". ABF still very much of the view that bridge should be played in clubs. **Action: RG**

7. ABF Events
ANC 2009:

- (a) RN advised that there were some problems with the timings of events. To be sorted and programme to be put together. He confirmed that there would be some mode of transport available for players to/from venue/accommodation.

SFOB:

- (a) No mention of timing for GNP on web site. SM to be asked to remedy. **Action: DM**

GNP

- (a) May be a smaller field in the National Final due to some regions not taking up their spots. Will offer to other areas to see if full quota can be met. **Action: JB/DM**

Playoffs

- (a) Convenor of Open/Womens to be asked for report/budget for approval for December meeting.

Action: RG

8. International Events

2008 PABF

Awaiting report from convenor.

2008 Mind Sports

- (a) RN advised that no subsidies were paid for recorders and none used.
- (b) Agreed that Chief of Mission was a great idea. Well worth pursuing in 2009.
- (c) Agreed that no team captain would be given leeway to delay their arrival at any international event in the future.

Zone 7 Playoffs

- (a) Zone 7 Playoffs will remain in either NZ or Australia. KM to discuss on email with NZCBA Chair. **Action: KM**

Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup:

- (a) Sao Paolo, Brazil 2009. 28 August to 12 September 2009.

Players to be reminded of their obligations regarding participation in events and attendance at medal ceremonies. Some latitude to be given if authorized by Team Captains. Clause to be included in letters to players for 2009 and beyond. **Action: JR/RN**

Agreed in principle that the ABF pre-pay rooms at both events. DM to chase comparable quotes.

Action: DM

9. Other Matters

- (a) Bridge on-line – after discussion it was decided that StepBridge be given permission to sign up Home Club members. This will be capped at 100 players. Willem to be made aware of other qualifications to this decision including the fact that he must be seen to be supportive of getting players to continue to play in clubs if at all possible. Further he must adhere to the 100% rule. Email to be sent to State Presidents advising decision. **Action: DM**
- (b) Cathy Reinmueller attended meeting on behalf of Prince of Wales. She advised that they were seeking a replacement for Angela. KCM responsible for liaison dealing with all matters pertaining to this fund raising exercise. KCM will seek assistance from Val Cummings and Ron Klinger in 2009 to write up hands. **Action: KCM**
- (c) Yeh Cup – email from David Stern seeking contribution to the promotion of this event. After discussion, agreed RG to write to DS/TT asking that consideration would be given to a proposal being received from QBA but not for hospitality. **Action: RG**
- (d) Regarding email from DS re Australia considering replacing St Petersburg as hosts, ABF MC agreed that this is beyond their where with all at this time. **Action: RG**

10. Forthcoming Meetings

Sydney – 13th & 14th December

Canberra – AGM 28th March 2009 with MC meeting 29th March 2009

Canberra – Mid Year Meeting 19th September 2009 with MC meeting 20th September