

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes

**Tall Trees Motel, 21 Stephen Street, Ainslie
Canberra**

15/16 March 2003

Start Time: 10.00am each day

1. Identification of Attendees

1.1. Roll Call

QLD	K McDonald (Chair) (1 vote): T Jackman (1 vote)
NSW	J Arkinstall (2 votes): K Crowe-Mai (1 vote)
ACT	B Carmichael (DC) (1 vote): L Parker (DC) (1 vote).
VIC	J Stark (1 vote): M Willcox (1 vote)
TAS	D Cooper (1 vote): A Richman (1 vote)
SA	D Smyth (1 vote): P Gue (1 vote)
WA	D Yovich (2 votes)
NT	K Miller (2 votes)

E Magner General Counsel (present Saturday), E Ramshaw (Supplemental), V Brockwell (Minute Secretary)

1.2. *Bona Fides of each person present voting or observing*
Confirmed.

1.3. *Apologies*
A Struik (ACT), J Hoffman (ACT), H Pedersen (NT), J Greenfeld (WA)

The Chair welcomed new Councillors, Keiran Crowe-Mai (NSW), Ken Miller (NT) and Martin Willcox (VIC) and thanked retiring Councillors, Michael Hughes (NSW), Jody Tutty (NT), Laurie Kelso (VIC) and Michael Kent (Supplemental).

A procedural motion proposed (TJ/PG) that the order of agenda items may be varied. Carried.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (16/17 March 2002)

2.1. *Confirmation*
Confirmed. (DS/JS). Carried.

2.2. *Matters arising*

Library Insurance (item 5.1)

Has not been resolved. **Action J Stark.**

Bridge in the media (item 10.3.8)

Has not been dealt with. **Action A Richman.**

Marketing (item 10.3.9)

The Management Committee has agreed to allocate funds for a starter kit. David Stern will produce a leaflet.

3. Election of Office Bearers

3.1. No election in 2003

4. Appointments

4.1. *Public Officer* - George Jesner

Endorsed. **Action V Brockwell**

4.2. *Auditor* – Norman Chan and Associates

Endorsed

4.3. *Delegates for PABF, Zone 7*

Joe Greenfeld nominated and endorsed as Delegate for the PABF. **Action V Brockwell**

John Brockwell and Eric Ramshaw nominated and endorsed as Delegates for Zone 7.

At this point, a general discussion took place on the Zone 7 Championships in Tahiti scheduled for 4-9 May. The size of the Womens field is a concern and travel arrangements are not easy. The ABF has made a commitment to provide some finance or technical support to the event. (For further information, refer to item 10.8).

5. Executive Reports

5.1 The President

The President provided a brief commentary on his written report.

The Management Committee is attempting to licence out more events.

A questionnaire on the 2003 Playoff format was circulated at the event. The questionnaire appeared on the ABF website without due order and process.

The new Nationwide pairs needs further marketing by the ABF and assistance from States.

There are some concerns about the effectiveness of the Committees structure. The ABF cannot fund the cost of travel to meetings of all its Committees. The Management Committee last night revised the Committee structure and added two new *ad hoc* Committees, the Oversight Committee and the ANC Review Committee. The Secretary to write to the Chairs all 2004 Committees outlining the goals they will hopefully achieve in 2003 and also individually inform all non Councillors whose names appear on the new 2003 Committees list of their appointments. **Action D Yovich.**

It was agreed that the ABF profile needs to be lifted at grass roots level. Report endorsed.

5.2 *The Treasurer*

J Stark spoke to his tabled report.

The ABF has made an operating profit of \$102 006 for the last financial year. This needs to be addressed in context, as 2002 was the low-cost end of the 4-year cycle for international player travel and representation.

Higher expenditure on insurance premiums noted especially Public Liability, which was 50% dearer than the previous year. It was reinforced that it is the responsibility of State Associations to be accountable for their insurance obligations in order to take advantage of the Public Liability insurance funded by the ABF.

Contingency factors have been considered and budgets planned for the possible staging of two major events in Australia, the World Junior Championships in 2005 and a bridge event prior to the Commonwealth Games in 2006. It is hoped that each event will either break even or make a small profit.

The Treasurer's Report accepted.

5.3 *The Secretary*

D Yovich spoke to his tabled report outlining various issues both routine and significant for bridge in Australia. The Management Committee met seven times in 2002 incurring heavy demands on the time of the members. The Secretary expressed the hope that the ABF Committee structure will be more effective in 2003 than in previous years.

Report accepted.

5.4 *The General Counsel*

Professor Magner spoke to her tabled report, outlining the role of General Counsel and briefing Council on the need for her Professional Indemnity

Insurance.

Most constituent associations of the ABF had complied with the request to provide copies of their constitutions.

General Counsel advised that the definition of a member in the ABF constitution (the counsellors) has escaped attention for some time and that the members of the ABF number 16.

General Counsel thanked P Gue for his work in getting appeals decisions on the web. Council agreed with the principal that all appeals should be published in event bulletins according to the guidelines set down by General Counsel.

A number of legal issues have been dealt with by General Counsel including an incident at the Summer Festival and advice on the recent Playoffs.
Report accepted.

5.5 *James O'Sullivan Foundation*

The Treasurer spoke to his JOS report and the independently audited precirculated financial statements of the JOS Foundation. The Foundation made an operating profit of \$3 624 for the last financial year. Five loans were approved in 2002 with one loan being paid off in full. The current interest rate is 5%. The Trustees have determined that loans will be limited to \$10 000 whilst there is a large level of borrowings, as the Trust needs to be able to service multiple requests in the future.
Reports accepted.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 *Tournament Committee*

E. Ramshaw spoke to his precirculated report.

The Tournament Committee has developed a codex over the last year that identifies the resolutions of the meetings that appear on the website. However, lengthy delays in the release of Tournament Committee minutes cannot be avoided due to the requirement for the Management Committee to first endorse the Tournament Committee minutes.

The Tournament Committee is always looking at a review of PQP and Playoff structures. Nomination for the Playoffs this year were organised through the website.

In reply to a criticism by a Councillor of appeals panels, it was noted that there is as yet no appeals panel list on a national basis.

In response to a query about the structure of the 2004 Playoffs, ER advised that it would be pairs. The format is not yet resolved.

The Tournament Committee report accepted.

6.2 *Finance Committee*

No report.

6.3 *Tournament Unit*

E. Ramshaw spoke to his precirculated report. He monitors the origin of entrants to ABF events, (presented in table form), but financial data is not addressed until the effect of GST stabilises.

A general discussion followed on (i) entry fees, (ii) Veterans category and (iii) Guidelines for Convenors. The DOB of players in various categories needs to be captured.

Report accepted.

6.4 *ABF Masterpoints Centre*

Report tabled. A query as to why the Sandy Bay Bridge Club was not in the “deleted club list” remained unresolved

J Hansen proposed, and the Management Committee accepted, the creation of a most improved player award.

The Council wished to record its appreciation to J Hansen for his most efficient running of the Masterpoint Centre.

Report accepted.

6.5 *Systems Committee*

No report.

6.6 *Ethics Committee*

The Ethics Committee did not meet during the year and no matters were referred to it.

Report accepted.

6.7 *National Authority*

Professor Magner spoke to her precirculated report and outlined the function of the Committee.

The National Authority met once during the year to consider a matter raised by a registered player from Tasmania.

Report accepted.

6.8 *Regulations Committee*

No activity.

6.9 *Technology Unit*

D. Yovich spoke to his precirculated report and reinforced several points. A meeting with EBU President, Dennis Robson, in February was enlightening as he explained the EBU's involvement with On Line Bridge.

An area of controversy has been the uploading of system cards on to the ABF website for team members participating in the ANC. A stronger regime of limitations needs to be imposed on States. Beginning in 2003, all ABF website services will be charged to the event concerned.
Report accepted.

6.10 *Masterpoint Committee*

D. Anderson's precirculated report tabled. No queries
Report accepted.

6.11 *Ad-hoc Masterpoint Committee*

No report.

6.12 *Player Liaison Committee*

P. Gue tabled the report that included Bruce Neill's summary on the questionnaire relating to Playoffs and associated events.

A further questionnaire by Ron Klinger is referred to in item 5.1 of these minutes.

The Player Liaison Committee did not meet but used e-mail to raise and discuss issues.

6.13 *Youth Committee*

Precirculated report discussed at length.
Report accepted.

6.14 *Newsletter Committee*

D. Cooper spoke to the precirculated report.
Report accepted.

6.15 *National Directors Accreditation Committee*

J. Brockwell's precirculated report discussed. Two directors have been re-graded. The Secretary (via the Management Committee) to write to those concerned. **Action D Yovich.**
Report accepted.

6.16 *State Directors Accreditation Committee*

No report. E. Ramshaw advised that control of this Committee had now been passed to D Cooper.

6.17 *ABTA Liaison Committee*

No questions on the precirculated report.
Report accepted.

6.18 *ABDA Committee*

Precirculated report endorsed. Noted that J. McIlrath will address the May Management Committee meeting in Sydney. **Action VB.**
Report accepted.

6.19 *Library Committee*

T. Bourke's precirculated report discussed. The Secretary to seek an answer to a question of whether the ABF has paid money for data entry and, if so, what impact has this had on the working of the Library. **Action D Yovich.**
Report accepted.

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6.20 *Governance Committee*

No written report. JA noted that a Code of Conduct is required.

6.21 *2002 President's Meeting*

The full minutes of the 2002 President's Meeting was included in the compendium. No queries.

The Saturday meeting ended at 4.30pm.
The Sunday meeting commenced at 10.00am.

7. ANC Calendar

7.1 *2002 ANC Hobart*

The Executive Secretary apologised that the Financial Report (circulated to Councillors by email) had been omitted in the AGM hard-copy compendium.

ANC Convenor's Report tabled and discussed.

D Cooper advised that the Hobart ANC made a small loss and objected both to the amount and recent receipt of a bill from the ABF Secretariat for the engraving of ANC trophies, (the responsibility of which was undertaken in Canberra once the trophies had been returned in January). K Miller asked whether the ABF would meet the cost on this occasion. It was pointed out that this would set a precedent as it is laid down that the engraving of ANC trophies is the responsibility of the host State. The Treasurer suggested that the ABF make a donation to Tasmania of \$313.50 being the same cost as the engraving. Council endorsed this suggestion. **Action V Brockwell.**
Report accepted.

Council rejected the suggestion that trophies remain at ABFHQ and

reiterated that they should always be sent to the venue for each ANC.

7.2 *2003 ANC Darwin*

K Miller spoke to the precirculated report. About 100 bookings have been received so far for accommodation. The website is updated regularly. Noted that there has only been one previous ANC in Darwin. This was underwritten by the ABF. The ABF has provided a float for the 2003 event. Report accepted.

8. Tournaments and Licensed Events

8.1 *2002 Australian Swiss Pairs*

Precirculated report tabled. Noted that players had difficulty getting flights out of Launceston on the Sunday night. In answer to a query about the number of directors at the event, E Ramshaw explained that the guidelines are well established. There is a requirement for one director per 30-35 tables. Noted that the Scorer is also a director and helps out when available. Report accepted.

8.2 *2002 GNOT*

Precirculated report tabled. In answer to a query E Ramshaw advised that the ultimate objective is to increase the number of teams in the final, but this will only happen gradually. Report accepted.

8.3 *2002 Spring Nationals*

Precirculated report tabled. Noted an observation from a Councillor that the Profit/Loss account statement does not include GST.

The Spring Nationals Convenor, Frank Budai, will meet with KM/JS in Sydney in May to help streamline Convenors Guidelines. A *pro forma* document on the financial methodology required by the ABF will result. Report accepted.

8.4 *2002 Hans Rosendorff Memorial Women's Teams*

D.Yovich spoke to the precirculated report. The Convenor aims to maintain the high attendance of players from the Eastern States. Report accepted.

8.5 *2002 Barrier Reef Teams*

Precirculated report tabled. No queries. Report accepted.

8.6 *2003 Summer Festival*

Precirculated report tabled.

The Chair advised Council that he and the Treasurer last night met with the Convenor, John Scudder, to discuss how this event can again make a profit. (The Convenor is currently reporting a loss of about \$7000). Contributing factors were:

major bushfires in the ACT that especially affected the walk-ins; the outlay of about \$10 000 on capital equipment; problems with the Hyatt; staging the Swiss Pairs at the NCC; an increase in hospitality; slight downfall in entries; and the high cost of the viewgraph.

J Scudder has agreed to prepare a report. When received, the Player Liaison Committee will be asked for comment. The Marketing Committee may be able to assist with publicity for the Summer Festival with special emphasis on attracting overseas visitors.

The Management Committee to again meet with J Scudder in May.
Report accepted.

8.7 *2003 Gold Coast*

T. Jackman spoke to the precirculated 2002 Gold Coast Report and also tabled a report on the very recent 2003 event. For the latter, an increase in numbers was considerably higher than expected, except in the Seniors. The event once again was very successful and remains extremely popular with the players.
Report accepted.

8.8 *2002 Autumn Teams, Adelaide*

Financial statement precirculated.

D Smyth gave a verbal event report. The ANT was run for the first time by SABF in 2002 and made a small loss. It was staged in a hotel, however, following some criticism of the venue, the 2003 event will be moved to a different hotel, The Grosvenor. The event needs the support of interstate players.
Report accepted.

8.9 *2002 VCC*

Precirculated report tabled. Noted that the 2002 VCC increased by 9 teams. Appreciation expressed to Jenny Thomson.
Report accepted.

8.10 *2003 Playoff's*

E. Ramshaw gave a verbal report. The event was held in early March and ran smoothly, no appeals. However, the players did not like the format.

8.11 *2002 ANC Hobart*

Dealt with in item 6.1.

8.12 *2002 Sydney Festival*

Precirculated report tabled. No balance sheet provided. The numbers were down a little. There may have been resistance from some players to the Hakoah venue. The 2003 event will be held at the NSWBA.
Report accepted.

8.13 *2002 Golden West*

Precirculated report tabled. No balance sheet provided. D. Yovich informed Council that the event was run as a Swiss Pairs for the first time. This format was well liked and will continue.
Report accepted.

The Chair extended heartfelt thanks to everybody who had submitted reports to this AGM.

As per A Richman's suggestion at the 2002 AGM, most reports were sent electronically to all Councillors prior to the meeting with an option to receive an email copy of the agenda-order "AGM Presentation (985 KB)" in the week leading up to the meeting. A bound hard copy of the "AGM Presentation" was available for each Councillor at the meeting. Council decreed for the 2004 AGM that all reports be received at the ABF Secretariat by 31 January in order to allow earlier distribution and therefore more reading time. This means that the 2004 Summer Festival and 2004 Gold Coast Congress will not be able to submit reports for the 2004 March AGM and should not be included in the agenda.

A suggestion that the AGM be truncated to a one-day meeting was not resolved.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 *Capitation Fees for 2004*

The Notice of Motion was circulated to all State Associations. To date, five States have responded in writing as follows:

QLD (yes)

WA (yes)

TAS (yes)

NSW (yes)

SA (Councillors require more information at the meeting)

Noted that GST is inclusive in the \$12 the motion should be amended to reflect that. The amended motion reads.

“The capitation fee for each registered player with the Australian Bridge Federation is set at \$12.00 including GST for the financial year 2004 and thereafter until further notice.”

Following further discussion, the amended motion was carried with abstentions.

10 General Business

10.1 Honoria (Tournament Unit)

ER/MW left the room for discussion of this item.

Proposed (JS/DY) that Tournament Unit honoraria be increased by 3%.

Carried **Action V Brockwell**.

10.2 Restructuring of the Tournament Committee

The Management Committee and AGM determined that the Tournament Committee was too large to meet effectively in person and decided that it be divided into:

(i) A group to meet in person (E Ramshaw, J Brockwell, D Stern and B Thompson).....and

(ii) A group to be consulted (P Gue, W Lazer, R Penny, M Willcox.

When any of the consultative group are available on-site they are invited to the meeting.

10.3 Committees for 2003

The draft Committee Structure for 2003 was circulated and discussed.

10.4 Mid Year ANC 2003 Meeting Date

As a cost-saving exercise to the ABF, the Management Committee preferred that the 2003 mid year meeting take place in Sydney rather than Darwin and be held the same weekend as the President's Meeting allowing one day for each meeting. (Refer to September 03 Management Committee Minutes item 4b).

Council rejected this suggestion.

Consequently, the mid year meeting will be held in Darwin as a one day meeting on Saturday 26 July from 10.00am-4.00pm. It is ABF policy to pay the airfares of two Councillors from each State, however, the Chair requested all Councillors to strive to get to Darwin through their State bodies either as players or NPCs of State teams. Secretary to inform all Councillors and State Secretaries. **Action D Yovich**.

10.5 World Youth Championships – Australia 2005

D. Stern's precirculated report discussed. Negotiations are proceeding, however it was stressed that we should not proceed unless we can ensure

that the event will be successful, the financial risks are minimised and the operational risks are manageable.

Report accepted.

10.6 *Commonwealth Games – Melbourne 2006*

The Treasurer has contacted Dennis Robson, President of the EBU for further information.

George Gaspar remains supportive but has declined the invitation to head the Committee. . Once a Committee is formed, J Stark and E Ramshaw are to be members to represent the ABF. Contingency of \$100 000 has not been agreed to by the ABF.

10.7 2 *004-2005 Playoff notification.*

Too late for 2004, but for 2005, players want to know the format, venue, date. The list should be any player who has received PQP. The panel is twice the number of PQP as players eligible to play in the Playoff. By 30 June we expect there to be sufficient data available for any player to know where they stand.

10.8 *Z7 Tahiti.*

VB reported on a discussion with the President of Zone 7, John Wignall.

- (i) There is no schedule as yet.
- (ii) The expected number of womens teams is 3-4. No reply as yet from New Caledonia, but Tonga is not sending a team. If no New Caledonian team, Tahiti may provide two teams. The situation in the Open is similar.
- (iii) Arie Guersen is available.
- (iv) All the infrastructure is in place.

Council extended heartfelt thanks to Andrew and Sandra Richman for the attractive venue and their personal input

Meeting close 3.15pm.