

**AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION  
2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

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

20/21 March 2004 Start Time: 10.00am each day

**1. Identification of Attendees**

1.1. *Present*

QLD Keith McDonald (Chair), Tony Jackman  
NSW Keiran Crowe-Mai (2 votes), Julian Foster (Deputy Councillor)  
ACT Julia Hoffman, Andrew Struik  
VIC Justin Stark, Martin Willcox (Present Saturday only)  
TAS Andrew Richman, Dallas Cooper (Present Sunday only)  
SA Phil Gue, Nicolas Croft  
WA Dennis Yovich, Richard Grenside  
NT Ken Miller (2 votes)

Eric Ramshaw (Supplemental Councillor to be voted on at this meeting),  
Laurie Kelso (Proposed Supplemental Councillor to be voted on at this  
meeting), Eilis Magner ABF General Counsel, Valerie Brockwell (ABF  
Executive Secretary/Minute Secretary).

*President welcomes new Councillors and thanks retiring Councillors*

The President thanked retiring Councillors, David Smyth and Helge Pedersen and particularly noted the retirement of former President of the ABF and Councillor of 30 years, Joe Greenfeld.

Noted that E Ramshaw and L Kelso were present as observers at the invitation of the President during the early part of the meeting.

The President then welcomed the new Councillors, Nicolas Croft and Richard Grenside. The President commented that Tim Haubrick was the second Councillor for the Northern Territory, and because of the ABF policy that funded only one Councillor to the AGM, Tim would be an apology for this meeting and hence K Miller had 2 votes (as per the Constitution). The attendance of Julian Foster as Deputy Councillor for NSW was noted.

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

The *bona fides* of all Councillors were advised in due time by their States.

1.3. *Apologies*

John Arkinstall, Tim Haubrick.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (15/16 March 2003)**

### **2.1. Confirmation**

Confirmed PGue /A Richman.

### **2.2. Matters arising**

-Insurance for the ABF Library still under investigation. The Chairman indicated that the Treasurer was preparing a complete document on all insurances paid by the ABF.

-Marketing promotion brochure development proceeding.

-*Ad hoc* Committee review of the ANC (J Hoffman) to be item 6.23.

-Noted that increased capitation fees effective from 1/4/04.

### **2.3. Chairman's power to vary Agenda as circumstances dictate**

Procedural motion, as above, approved (MWillcox/TJackman).

## **3. Election of Office Bearers**

### **3.1. Election of Supplemental Councillors (E. Ramshaw, L. Kelso)**

E Ramshaw and L Kelso left the meeting.

E Ramshaw re-elected D Yovich /PGue.

L Kelso elected J Stark/ K Crowe-Mai

Both Supplemental Councillors rejoined the meeting. The Chairman congratulated the two Supplemental Councillors on their successful elections.

### **3.2. Management Committee (President, Secretary, Treasurer, two members)**

Noted that whilst John Arkinstall is still a New South Wales Councillor, he has resigned from the ABF Management Committee. The President thanked John for his many years service on the Management Committee. The Council was made aware of the poor health of both John and his 96 year old father. If John's health improves he may be willing to seek office again.

The President vacated the chair in favour of General Counsel.

General Counsel advised that the President had not indicated his intention to resign (according to the Constitution) and was the only nominee.

Consequently declared elected.

The President resumed the chair and advised that both the Secretary and the Treasurer had not indicated their intention to resign, and as the only nominees were declared re-elected.

As J Arkinstall had resigned from the Management Committee, and as there were only two nominees, K Crowe-Mai and E Ramshaw were declared elected to the Management Committee.

#### 4. Appointments

- 4.1. *General Counsel*, Eilis Magner  
Re-appointed.
- 4.2. *Public Officer* - George Jesner  
Re-appointed.
- 4.3. *Auditors* – Norman Chan and Associates  
Re-appointed
- 4.4. *Delegate for PABF*, Joe Greenfeld  
Re-appointed
- 4.5. *Zone 7*, Eric Ramshaw and John Brockwell  
Re-appointed.

#### 5. Executive Reports

##### 5.1. *The President*

The President spoke to his written report and expressed his appreciation of the various contributors to the success of the previous year.

He tabled recent fliers concerning the NSW promotion supporting the Prince of Wales Medical Institute Research and “Bridge for the Young at Heart” (J de Ravin).

The President commented on the excellent “Minibridge Reasearch Project St Paul’s Primary School Manchester – a report by Leah Burman, Consultant Chartered Educational Psychologist”. This research and full report had been commissioned by the English Bridge Union. David Lusk had made the report available to States. A copy was to be sent to all Councillors. **Action DY.**

The President noted the appointment of a new ABF Webmaster, Pauline Gumby, who overcame a strong field for the position. He thanked the previous Webmasters, Valerie and Catherine Cummings for their work. The President emphasized the need for timelier reporting/promulgation of ABF decisions.

Noted that at the end of the calendar year there were 32,066 registered members

Discussion ensued about the Nationwide Pairs. R Grenside commented that only Club Secretaries have been advised. J Hoffman suggested that a flier be sent to all clubs for display on their notice boards with active support from the Marketing and Newsletter Committees. Results and the masterpoints of

the winners to be published in the Newsletter. The President re-emphasized the need to promote the event. The concept is beneficial to players at minimal costs and provides Red Point opportunities for every participant. Report accepted on the motion of K McDonald/K Crowe-Mai.

5.2. *The Treasurer* (including audited ABF Financial Reports)

The Treasurer spoke to his formal report, noting that ABF finances are in a healthy state in spite of the fact that 2003 was a very expensive year for international travel. This was the main factor contributing to the loss of about \$30,000 in 2003. ABF Income is mainly derived from both Capitation and Masterpoint fees.

The valuation of the ABF owned property in Canberra is now \$270,000. The Treasurer will query the valuer on the process of valuation. **Action JS.**

A general discussion took place on the expenses related to international competition.

The Treasurer is pursuing the possibility of an opt-in insurance for Directors and Officers Liability for Clubs. **Action JS.**  
Report accepted K Crowe-Mai/J Foster.

5.3. *The Secretary*

The Secretary spoke to his written report. He noted that the ABF Manual requires further work by others; this was not addressed to the author, who has done a very good job.

Following the ABF's adoption of the Olympic drug policy for its bridge events, the Management Committee has asked the Tournament Committee to prepare a position paper on application of this policy to ABF members.

Mention was made of (i) the finalization of the decision to host the 2005 World Junior Championships in Sydney and (ii) the ratification to hold the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship in Melbourne, (immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games), in 2006.

A review of the future of the ANC was discussed.

Noted that the revised Alerting Regulations are now in operation.

The duty statement for Non Playing Captains will be placed on the website. **Action DY.**  
Report accepted J Stark/K Crowe-Mai

5.4. *The General Counsel*

General Counsel spoke to her written report and added some recent items still under consideration, (IOBC Contract close to finalization, inactive players in ABF events, and privacy issues).

General Counsel noted that each State and the Federal Government has privacy legislation. She will produce a paper for Clubs before the ANC meeting. **Action EM**

Report accepted PGue/M Willcox

5.5. *James O'Sullivan Foundation* (including audited JOS Financial Reports)

The President spoke to his written report. It was noted that JArkinstall had resigned as the independent Trustee and it is expected that the Trustees will appoint K Crowe-Mai as replacement at their next meeting.

JOS Report and financial statements accepted (K Crowe-Mai/K Miller)

6. **Committee Reports**

The relevant Councillors introduced their written reports. Additional discussion is noted below. The President earnestly thanked all contributors.

6.1. *Tournament Committee* - E. Ramshaw

The Tournament Committee met four times during the year and its formal resolutions are included in the report. The Tournament Committee minutes are distributed with the Management Committee minutes. Despite this, some players claim to be unaware of the conditions and method of entry through the web pages for the Playoff. E Ramshaw made a special plea to Councillors to ensure that information from the Tournament Committee was published to all players in their State. Noted a discussion on the age criteria for eligibility to play in Seniors events. Details will be available on the ABF website as soon as details are forthcoming from the WBF. Noted also a discussion on PQPs for Seniors events.

Report accepted.

6.2. *Finance Committee* – J. Stark

General discussion. Report accepted. (K Crowe-Mai/K Miller)

6.3. *Tournament Unit* - E. Ramshaw

The Tournament Unit Report contains some statistics related to ABFR events and events licensed by the ABF. E Ramshaw drew particular attention to the relative entry fees of these events and noted that the Tournament Committee believed that entry fees should rise both to mirror inflation and also to increase the return to the ABF and/or the State licensing the event. Entry fees should approach the benchmark of 75-80c/board/player in 2004/5 even though currently most are in the 60-70c bracket with ABPC Stage III too low at less than 50c. Overall entries to events remained static but participation increased as new events were added.

Report accepted.

- 6.4. *ABF Masterpoint Centre* – J. Hansen  
The Committee commended J Hansen for his management of the Masterpoint Centre noting additional thanks to N Dutton, P Gumby and G Wilson.

Report accepted.

- 6.5. *Systems Committee* – L. Kelso  
L Kelso expects to present a draft of the revised systems policy to the ANC meeting. **Action LK.**

Report accepted.

- 6.6. *Ethics Committee* – E. Magner

Report accepted.

- 6.7. *National Authority* – E. Magner

Report accepted.

- 6.8. *Regulations Committee* – D. Smyth

Report accepted, (J Stark dissenting).

A general discussion ensued on YELLOW systems, slow play, opening points for 2-level openings and mobile phones during bridge sessions.

- 6.9. *Technology Unit* – J. Stark

Additional items discussed were satisfactory upgrading of the technology in the Secretariat, requirement to redesign the website (more user-friendly) and delineation of the responsibilities of the web liaison officer/webmaster.

Report accepted.

- 6.10. *Masterpoint Unit and Masterpoint Committee and Gold Point Coordinator Report*– D. Anderson

The revised MP Manual published on the web should be treated as a draft document. A Struik/J Stark will discuss with D Anderson preparation of a simplified manual for local Clubs. Report accepted.

The Gold Point Coordinator Report noted but not accepted on the motion of J Stark/K Crowe-Mai.

- 6.11. *Player Liaison Committee* – P. Gue

Report accepted.

The Saturday meeting ended at 4.10pm

The Sunday meeting commenced at 10.00am

- 6.12. *Youth Committee* – D. Lusk  
Report accepted.
- 6.13. *Newsletter Committee* – D. Smyth  
Report accepted.
- 6.14. *National Directors Accreditation Committee* – J. Brockwell  
The promotions recommended by the Committee have been approved by the Management Committee. Report accepted.
- 6.15. *State Directors Accreditation Committee* – D. Cooper  
Report accepted.
- 6.16. *Library Committee* – T. Bourke  
Report accepted.
- 6.17. *Governance Committee* – J. Arkinstall  
Report tabled and accepted.
- 6.18. *Masterpoint Review*  
A review is still pending.
- 6.19. *Marketing Committee* – A. Richman  
Noted that JCBL and EBU promotional brochures are on their respective websites. It was suggested that promotional material should include a President's letter. The Committee felt strongly that the NT sponsor, Neilsons, should be contacted. **Action DY**. Report accepted.
- 6.20. *Olympic Liaison Committee* – K. Crowe-Mai  
Report accepted.
- 6.21. *Oversight Committee* – A. Struik  
Councillors agreed that the concept of an Oversight Committee was valuable. Report accepted.
- 6.22. *2003 President's Meeting (Minutes)* – K. McDonald  
Provisional date for 2004 Meeting 19 June in Sydney. Report accepted.
- 6.23. *ANC Review* – J Hoffman  
The Secretary to send the report to all Councillors. **Action DY**.  
Further comments are expected from States and Councillors. General discussion suggested that while individual events may be "Interstate" the overall event should be embraced under the nomenclature "National Championship".  
Report accepted.

## 7. ANC Calendar

### 7.1. 2003 ANC Darwin – P. Nunn

Report accepted and Convenor commended on its quality. Special thanks to be sent to Pam and Eric Nunn. **Action DY.**

### 7.2. 2004 ANC Melbourne – J Collins

Before discussing the report from Jeannette Collins, the Chairman sought leave to brief the Council on a Management meeting the previous night. At that meeting, a copy of the Glen Eira City Council requirements for use of the VBA Clubrooms was tabled. The ANC event was clearly in breach of the limits on “persons allowed” use of the premises at any one time. Advice had been received that such a breach would void the ABF’s Public Liability policy (and perhaps the Directors and Officers Insurance), and have other legal ramifications for both the VBA and the ABF. General Counsel had drafted a letter to be sent immediately to the VBA Secretary. The letter outlined the concerns of the Management Committee and withdrew the commission of the VBA to hold the 2004 ANC. The VBA had until Friday 26 March to respond to the ABF letter. There was a general discussion on consequential action that may be necessary.

The Chairman reminded the Council that the VBA was a constituent member of the ABF and that all that could be done to assist the VBA should be done immediately.

Report accepted.

### 7.3. 2005 ANC Sydney

The Convenor is Bruce Neill. The dates are 15/7/05-29/7/05.

Noted that events cannot be varied (i.e. swapping the order of the Interstate Teams and Butler). K Crowe-Mai and J Foster were to discuss this issue with Bruce Neill and if necessary make a submission to the Tournament Committee as soon as possible.

Report accepted.

## 8. Tournaments and Licensed Events

These minutes reflect formal appreciation to all Convenors.

### 8.1. ABF Managed Tournaments

#### 8.1.1. 2003 Australian Swiss Pairs – B Kelly

Report accepted.

#### 8.1.2. 2003 GNOT – J. Brockwell

The initial entry of 1678 teams reduced to 52 finalists representing 31 regions. Every bridge club in Australia has easy access to this event. Whilst there is a financial cost to the ABF, the value to players cannot be quantified in monetary terms.

Report accepted.

- 8.1.3. *2003 Spring Nationals* – F. Budai  
Innovative ideas may have had teething problems, but will be resolved. Players were appreciative of the initiatives. Queries from the floor re the financial statement included the grouping of three items in one line and the 80% increase in Directors fees.
- 8.1.4. *2003 VCC* – J.Thompson  
Noted a profit of \$1289 for 2003. Report accepted.
- 8.1.5. *2003 2004 Summer Festival* – J.Scudder  
The President informed Council that the 2005 Summer Festival will be the final one that J Scudder will convene. The Management Committee will call for expressions of interest in the Newsletter and on the website. J Scudder will have input into the content of the ad. The Management Committee is also looking at suggestions for radical changes to the restructuring of the Summer Festival. Dates for the 2005 event are 12-24 January. Report accepted.
- 8.1.6. *2003 Senior Playoffs* – D Stern  
Report accepted.
- 8.1.7. *2004 Open & Womens Playoff's* – E. Ramshaw  
Report accepted.
- 8.1.8. *2005 World Youth Championships* – Australia (D. Stern)  
Legal aspects have not been finalized. A query from the floor as to whether Australia, as host nation, gets two entries, was unresolved. Report accepted.
- 8.1.9. *2006 Commonwealth Games – Melbourne* (A Halmos)  
J Stark left the meeting during discussion of this report. The venue has not yet been decided. The President will write to D Robson. A response re Thwaites required. **Action DY**.  
Report accepted. J Stark rejoined the meeting.

8.2. *ABF Licensed Tournaments*

The ABF expresses its appreciation to all Convenors.

- 8.2.1. *2003 Hans Rosendorff Memorial Women's Teams* – Sue Pynt  
Report accepted.

- 8.2.2. 2003 *Barrier Reef Teams* – K. Ellaway  
Report accepted
- 8.2.3. 2003 *Autumn National Teams, Adelaide* – D. Marler  
A query about the license fee from the floor, with complaints from two States, is unresolved. The rationale of license fees should be a future agenda item and should also be referred to the Finance Committee. **Action DY**. Report accepted.
- 8.2.4. 2003 *Sydney Festival* – K Crowe-Mai  
Report accepted.
- 8.2.5. 2003 *Western Senior Pairs, Perth* – Allison Stralow  
Report accepted.
- 8.2.6. 2003 *Golden West, Perth* – Allison Stralow  
Report accepted.
- 8.2.7. 2003 *Swan River Swiss Pairs, Perth* – Hilary Yovich  
Report accepted.
- 8.2.8. 2004 *Gold Coast* – T. Jackman  
T Jackman reported an increase in numbers, especially the Pairs. The 2005 event will be 19-26 February. Report accepted.

## **9. WBF Tournaments**

- 9.1. *Z7 Championships*  
Report accepted.
- 9.2. *Oceania Championships*  
Report accepted

## **10. Independent Organisations**

- 10.1. *ABDA Report* – J. McIllrath  
Noted that this report was written on 22/1/04 since which date item C has been dealt with. The ABDA is on a membership drive, the benefits to a director who joins are beneficial and include a Bulletin which is recognized as a high quality publication. Report accepted.
- 10.2. *ABTA Report* – C. Hadaway  
The Council expressed regrets that there was no report.

## **11. Notice of Motion**

- 11.1. Nil

## 12. General Business

### 12.1. *Honoraria* (Tournament Unit)

The motion (J Stark/J Foster) that the honoraria for the Tournament Unit (E Ramshaw, M Willcox, C Diment) be increased by 3% approved.

### 12.2. *Committees for 2004*

Draft copies were distributed to all Councillors at the meeting. The final Committees list will be distributed by the Secretariat. **Action VB.**

### 12.3. *Mid Year ABF Meeting Date*

8 August 2004.

### 12.4. *Entry Fee for Qualifying Provincial GNOT Heats*

The above item deleted at the request of J Hoffman who initiated it.

### 12.5. *ASE/Windows*

In response to a query, ASE is not on Windows as yet.

### 12.6. *Butler*

D Cooper was advised to write to D Anderson to resolve her query as to whether smaller States can get players into the Consolation Butler at the ANC.

The proposed date for the 2005 AGM is 19/20 March.

The meeting concluded at 3.55pm

