

Minutes, (Record-of-Meeting)
ABF Management Committee Meeting
28/29 April 2001
Commencing at 10.00am, Qantas Club Lounge, Sydney Airport

1) **Present**

K McDonald (KM) (Chair), D Yovich (DY), T Brown (TB), J Arkininstall (JA), E Ramshaw (ER), E Magner (EM) (attended Sunday only), V Brockwell (VB) (Minute Secretary)

2) **Confirmation of Minutes of meeting held February March 16/17, 2001**

Confirmed.

3) **Important Matters arising**

(a) *Open, Women, Seniors Playoff Issues*

ER reported on the Zone 7 Playoff in CHC and advised that the successful teams (Travis and Noble) had completed Declarations of Availability. The Noble team enquired whether it was possible to have a playing captain. The Management Committee (MC) reiterated its policy that Australian teams in international competition must have a non-playing captain. Neither team had completed negotiations for NPC but all potential captains were acceptable to the MC. (TB absented himself from this discussion). A notice of the closing date for the Playoffs is to be inserted in the ABF Newsletter and Australian Bridge.

ACTION DY.

(b) *Bridge on the Web* (Nick Justice follow up)

Deferred.

(c) *ANC Helpers* (Finalise Fee Structure)

Deferred.

(d) *PABF Singapore, BB/VC Bali, WJC Brazil.*

TB abstained from discussion on this item. Subsidy of \$1500 per player agreed plus the cheapest available airfare. ER to contact the Open and Womens teams to verify the captains and authorised to approve any of the names in 3a. ER/VB to contact teams for Availability Declarations for Bali. **ACTION ER/VB.**

(e) *Stern Calcutta*

Still pending. Resolution urgent. **ACTION TB.**

4) **President's Report**

(a) *Visit to meeting by J. Scudder* (and his contract).

J Scudder discussed two main issues with the MC.

(i) Summer Festival: The MC determined that the balance of the contract and any future contract be negotiated with "Echelon" (J Scudder's trading company). The MC indicated that it would consider an extension of the current contract immediately.

Note: The fee increase was approved before J Scudder arrived, this advice to be

confirmed.

ACTION VB

(ii) ABF Manual: With regard to the production of a manual for the ABF similar to that of the NZCBA, J Scudder would respond to a formal brief from DY with detailed costings .

ACTION DY

Also discussed:

(iii) The interest of Nick Fahrer/The Bridge Shop in sponsoring either an international team for the Summer Festival or a trophy or naming rights. The MC asked J Scudder to pursue the discussion with N Fahrer.

(iv) The rumour that an Australian player intends to provide a number of teams from Switzerland remained unsubstantiated.

Visit by representative from Corporate Traveller

Sarah Manning arrived to discuss the operation of Corporate Traveller with the MC. In particular she advised that bookings made by players on the ABF AMEX card are available as a corporate report at the beginning of each month. The April report may be the first one available since she only assumed responsibility for the account at the beginning of the month. S Manning to provide this report to TB who will circulate to the MC. The potential for Australian teams to use group travel and/or packages that include air fare and accommodation components was explored. **ACTION TB.**

(b) *Letters from VBA re VCC*

Two letters from VBA tabled. The VCC brochures, which have been distributed already, do not acknowledge the VBA. The proprietary rights of a State Body discussed. KM to write to VBA, (ER dissenting), that for 2002 the VBA logo will appear on the brochure. The advice should reiterate that the VCC is an ABF event run by an ABF appointed Convenor and run under the ABF's auspices and regulations. A State Association's logo appears on the brochure only as a courtesy. **ACTION KM**

Noted that VBA has not paid the ANC fine for late entry in respect of the 2000 event. The Treasurer to follow up. **ACTION TB.**

(c) *Letter from VBA re their State capitation fee (\$10).*

Noted.

(d) *Request from Convenor of VCC*

The request for the award of PQP to new Seniors Event on a similar basis to that accorded the new NSWBA seniors event referred to the Tournament Committee. ER to poll Tournament Committee for urgent consideration. **ACTION ER.**

Request from convenors, (Jenny Thompson, Frank Budai), for letter of appointment and authority to operate a bank account (using the ABF GST facility) referred to EM for legal advice. **ACTION EM.**

- (e) *Collation and updating of ABF Tournament Regulations*
 These are out of date, in need of revision. Passed to Ron Klinger's Regulations Committee in May 1998. EM produced a plain English version of an incomplete draft of the Tournament Regulations in January 1999 and a Regulations Committee was given a charter to continue this review in April 1999.
 When the sub-committees responsibilities are addressed later in this meeting this will be automatic. Noted that the regulations are to be approved by the MC before publication.
- (f) *D. Stern Report on Senior Playoff*
 Discussed in 3a
- (g) *VB salary* (deferred from March meeting)
 Increase of 5% CPI approved from date of appointment (1st March). Letter from TB to VB and D Walker. **ACTION TB**
- (h) *Z7 in future years*
 Deferred.
- (i) *AB article on 50% board rule*
 The MC noted that the board rule is number of matches less one divided by two). Questions relating to the board rule referred back to the Tournament Committee for further consideration and clarification with input also from the Player Liaison Committee. It was reiterated that for the 2002 Playoffs all players PQPs will count. **ACTION ER.**
- (j) *Visit by WBF President*
 Expected in Australia on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the first week in November and may proceed to New Zealand or the NZCBA may send representatives to Australia. The ABF should take care of Jose Damiani and his expenses from arrival in Australia to departure.
 Best venues for discussion could be lunch/dinner.
 Suggested exposures include:
 (i) Ministry for sport (Minister or the Department Head)
 (ii) AOC officials and IOC officials.
 (iii) Media interview (with brief to interviewer on size of bridge population, net technology, Olympic participation etc.) with video copy (J Damiani, ABF & J Wignall)
 (iv) Sponsors and public relations (Damiani philosophy spend money to get money).
 (v) Arrange a visit to the French Embassy or Consulate.
- (k) *Positive Marketing of ABF*
 A strategy needs to be put in place to market the positive achievements of the ABF.
- (l) *Letter from K Crowe-Mai* (NSWBA)
 NSWBA requested discounted advertising of ABF events in the Newsletter.
 The ABF does not feel obliged to provide a discount for the already cheap rate. Secretary to advise. **ACTION DY**

(m) *Indonesian Matters (MC Minutes Aug(7h) & Sep (q) 1999)*

The items below were inadvertently omitted from the web version.

Item 7h “An invitation to Indonesia to send a team to the Summer Festival will be funded on the same basis as their invitation to Australia. VB to write to the Indonesian Bridge Federation. JA dissented from this view. ACTION VB”.

Item q “Indonesian situation. JA moved that ABF rescind invitation to the Indonesians. No seconder. Motion lapsed. KM to write to all State presidents stating the ABF position. Will be reviewed at December meeting. ACTION KM.”

DY to rectify minutes on the web. ACTION DY.

5) Treasurer’s Report

(a) *NSWBA Loan – 1st April payment*
Received.

(b) *Haughie email re airfare to Sydney*
Approved. ACTION TB.

(c) *D. Stern request re extra reimbursement for provision of comestibles for Senior Playoff*
Approved. ACTION VB

(d) *N. Dutton re expense for travel to President’s Meeting*
Approved. ACTION DY

(e) *Public Liability insurance claim in NSW*
Being handled by the ABF’s broker and underwriter.

(f) *PABF Entry Fees for Open, Womens and Youth Teams.*
Due immediately. TB to remit payment. ACTION TB.

(g) *Bank Reconciliation.*
Done.

(h) *Email to TB from DW Howard*
TB expressed his concern that the President had answered correspondence from DW Howard which he would not have answered because DW Howard was not entitled to sensitive information concerning the finances of the newsletter. A robust discussion took place.

(i) *Letter from Bush*
Financial records are a matter of public record available to members at their expense. DY to seek clarification from Mr Bush about his precise requirements. ACTION DY

The meeting closed at 5.00PM.

The Sunday meeting opened at 10.05AM.

6) Secretary's Report

- (a) *D. Anderson's resignation as an ABF Councillor.*

Resignation as Councillor noted with regret and appreciation of his contribution. However, D Anderson will continue as Chairman of the Masterpoint Committee.

- (b) *Press Release from A. Gudge*

The MC expressed its concern over a matter of protocol that WBF material released directly to interested individuals and not via NCBOs. KM to write to Mr Damiani.

ACTION KM.

- (c) *Peter Wood's letters*

KM has responded to P Wood's complaint about difficulties in obtaining venue of preference at the SWPT. The MC recognised that meeting the preferences of seeded players is a difficult matter and one that needs further discussion with the Summer Festival seeding committee. **ACTION KM.**

P Wood's second letter expressed the idea that it should not be necessary for Australian participants in ABF events to be playing members of the ABF. The notion was rejected. DY to inform P Wood. **ACTION DY.**

- (d) *BFACT/George Jesner*

G Jesner petitioned BFACT re the prospect of affiliating his club with NSWBA rather than his own state body (BFACT). It was reiterated, (as per Presidents' Meeting Minutes), that state boundaries are sacrosanct. Item for next Presidents' Meeting for further discussion. **ACTION DY.**

- (e) *Letter from Bob Robertson (re Tournament Directors)*

A problem will arise when D Anderson moves interstate. There will then be only one State Director in SA. It is an ABF requirement that a State Director conducts State competitions. B Robertson requests that the ABF waive these requirements. The meeting requires more information. DY to write to B Robertson. **ACTION DY.**

- (f) *Letter from M Kent re Gold Coast Congress*

Some of the points contained in M Kent's letter to the MC were discussed informally at the AGM. DY to respond to MK. **ACTION DY.**

- (g) *Paul Marston's Proposal*

JA, as delegated by the MC, met recently with P Marston and circulated a report of that meeting to the MC. After careful consideration, the MC does not wish to proceed with Mr Marston's proposal at this point of time. DY to write to P Marston. **ACTION DY.**

At this point in the meeting, a discussion took place about whether it was appropriate for the ABF to respond, in *Australian Bridge*, to recent articles that have appeared in print

re the board rule for ABF events. Decided in the negative 3/2.

- (h) *Acceptance by NSW of franchised Senior's event*
DY tabled a letter from J de Ravin confirming that NSWBA had agreed to pay the franchise fee and to accept all other terms and conditions relating to the staging of the new seniors event, (Sydney Seniors Teams), as set out in DY's letter.
- (i) *Letter from David Harris re Commonwealth Games Bridge Championship 15-20 July.* (Noted that the dates of the CGBC, Manchester, will clash with the ANC in Hobart.) Clarification needed as to the form of competition and whether the number of players to be subsidised by the EBU will be four or six. DY is (i) to write for elucidation and (ii) to forward the "likely acceptance slip" forthwith. Referred to TC. **ACTION DY.**
- (j) *Letter to DY from R Penny.*
Expenditure approved for teaching tour of Tasmania on \$ for \$ basis as per R Penny's letter. DY to respond and also point out that this process is automatic provided that the application is written on State Association letterhead and addressed to the Secretariat where the records are kept. **ACTION DY**
- (k) *Letter from Jillian Hay re representing Australia.*
One of our eligibility requirements is that a player must reside in Australia for a period of at least 12 months. Whilst J Hay has met this requirement, the position is confused because she represented New Zealand in the 2001 Zone 7 Championships held 14-17 April. The first step is for the ABF to consult J Wignall, Chairman of the WBF Credentials Committee, (re Reg 8.9c2 on the web). DY to write, cc NZCBA/ABF Secretariat. Also to write to J Hay. **ACTION DY**
- (l) *Email from A Gudge re Gitelman's proposal.*
Deferred. To be dealt with under Bridge on Web.
- (m) *Letter dated 28/3/01 to JA from AOC*
A letter from the AOC was tabled stating that it would keep the ABF informed about any progress regarding our application for membership. JA authorised to respond expressing the MC's disappointment at the lack of progress. **ACTION JA.**
- (n) *Advice from A Gudge*
The content of the email re the proposed seniors event (akin to the Transnational Teams) to follow the World Seniors in Bali was noted. The ABF will only fund our representatives in the World Seniors Championship. The Declaration of Availability will include a general statement about the ABF subsidy.
A proposal for the likely costs of sending Australian teams to Bali to be presented by TB to the next MC meeting plus whatever package deals are available from Corporate Traveller. **ACTION TB.**
- (o) *Director's Accreditation.*
Re Alan Gibson – The MC approved J Brockwell's report to the AGM. DY to write to A Gibson advising him that he has been appointed a National Director III and noting the recommendation in the report that further experience, preferably at the Summer Festival,

is required for further advancement. **ACTION DY.**

7) **Legal Counsel Report**

(a) *Playoff Regulations and Advice*

The MC expressed gratitude for the recent written advice by EM on the qualification of seniors teams for the 2001 Seniors Playoff.

(b) *Legal Issues re Olympic Admission*

EM will consider and report to next meeting. **ACTION EM.**

(c) *Discrimination Issues.*

EM will prepare a paper for MC (after conferring with JA). **ACTION EM/JA.**

(d) *Friends of Youth Bridge.*

The MC received the report of the General Counsel on the progress of negotiations with a view to the establishment of a bank account to be called the Friends of Youth Bridge Account and authorised T Brown (i) to sign the contract that was placed on the table, and, (ii) to open an account in accordance with the contract. **DY/TB**

(e) *Email from R Klinger*

The email, requiring information about the terms of reference and powers of the Regulations Committee, tabled and raised for discussion. EM to respond to Mr Klinger. **ACTION EM.**

8) **Tournament Committee Report**

ER advised that the Tournament Committee hasn't met since January. The next meeting is planned for Friday 18th May prior to the commencement of the Autumn National Teams. The situation is still unsatisfactory in regard to systems for the Playoff being completed in the approved form.

(a) *PQP declarations*

The current Declaration for players who earn qualifying points, whilst satisfying our legal requirements, does not work in practice. It is clumsy and requires significant administration, e.g. the Summer Festival requires in the order of 150 Declarations. EM is aware of the need to redraft the document and advised that it is appropriate to put it on the web for people to be able to register within a specified time. **ACTION EM.**

(b) *State Director's Committee*

ER circulated a questionnaire on behalf of the State Director's Committee on 9th April to all State Secretaries on behalf of the State Directors' Committee seeking a base of information from which the Committee can extend. Awaiting responses.

(c) *Convenors letter of Appointment*

Dealt with under 4(e). EM will draft a letter of authorisation. **ACTION EM.**

(d) *Zone 7 Report (Council and Laws Commission)*

ER attended the 2001 Z7 Championships in Christchurch, the Z7 Council meeting and the Z7 Laws Commission meeting.

Z7 Council Meeting: J Wignall chair, also present, two delegates from NZCBA, one from Tonga, and two from Australia. Significant issues:

- (i) The Byrne Cup (for the Open Championship) which had been lost, was replaced by a cup which the Council determined will be engraved, starting from 2001, with the name of the NCBO, not the name of the teams.
- (ii) The Zone subsidised the entry fees of New Caledonia and Tonga and decided to pay the WBF fees for Tonga for the next five years.
- (iii) 2003 South Pacific Championship is scheduled for Australia at a venue to be determined. It may include a Senior event although this may be better organised separately.
- (iv) Any discussion of terms of equalisation between Australia and New Zealand was deferred due to lack of costing information.
- (v) Entry into the Winter Olympics (proposed for Turin 2006) requires significant alteration to the WBF cycle of events as it is unlikely that more than 6-8 teams can be accommodated; the WBF intends to retain an event for which all NCBOs may enter a team.
- (vi) Entry to the IOC requires constitutional change to bar racial discrimination, drugs (including alcohol and tobacco into the playing area before, during and after a session) and allow access to the International Court of Arbitration for sport.
- (vii) Junior policy organised on a Zonal basis could attract sponsorship from “e-Bridge” (which had offered sponsorship to the WBF); there is potential for net matches in categories such as University, under-20, schools.

Z7 Laws Commission: This meeting proposed that ER make minor alterations to the WBF Code of Practice for Appeals Committees to become Z7 Code and the ABF could adopt this as part of its tournament regulations (after resolution with some minor potential conflicts with the ABF Appeals Regulations). A Guersen to draft a discussion paper of various Laws with a view to amendment of these Laws in the next edition of the Laws; to be sent to Gratton Endicott for Zonal recommendation. ER to write a short article for the ABF Newsletter on the Z7 Laws Commission meeting. **ACTION ER.**

In addition, DY will announce in the Newsletter a meeting of the National Authority scheduled for July. The National Authority seeks submission of matters for discussion.

ACTION DY.

9) **Secretariat Report**

Secretariat correspondence incorporated into Secretary’s Report, Item 6.

Other points noted:

- (i) the resignation by W Scott as Councillor, replaced by L Kelso.
- (ii) Stralow team ratified for Transnational Teams, Bali.
- (iii) Jody Tutty new NTBA President
- (iv) WBF levy paid.
- (v) ABF Newsletter deadlines always 26th of the even months.

- (vi) 2002 ABF Calendar completed, circulated and posted on web.
- (vii) List of Committees, Councillors and Other Office Bearers, State Secretaries and State Presidents updated, circulated and posted on web.
- (viii) Entry for Australian Open/Womens Teams submitted to PABF.
- (ix) Announcement reHong Kong Intercities 7-12 August to go on web. **ACTION VB.**

10) General Business

- (a) *Discrimination Issue*
Referred to General Counsel. **ACTION EM**

- (b) *Email Issue*
EM advised there is implicit permission in law for a body such as the MC to forward emails to other members of the MC

- (c) *Dissemination of MC and ABF Information*
Dealt with.

- (d) *Other business*
 - (i) Noted that an under 20's team (not ABF-funded) will attend the NZ Nationals in July.
 - (ii) The Universities proposal (circulated by A Gudge) did not receive any support from the MC.

Meeting closed at 3.15PM to consider the Committees structure (notes for which taken by DY).
ACTION DY.