

**ABF Management Committee Meeting
15/16 December 2001
Commencing at 10.00am at 26 Blair Street Bondi**

1 Present

K McDonald (Chair), D Yovich, J Arkinstall, E Ramshaw, E Magner (General Counsel), V Brockwell (Minute Secretary).

2 Confirmation meeting of held November 2001.

Minutes read and confirmed.

3 Important Matters arising

MC Minutes

a) The aim is to update minutes for the web within 3 months of the meeting. **ACTION DY/EM**

b) *ABF Manual*

Applications received from Ron Klinger, Susan Allen and John Brockwell. DY to inform all three saying that the matter will be held over until January meeting as the advertisement in the ABF Newsletter was published later than anticipated. **ACTION DY.**

c) *Workers Compensation.*

Discussed under “Insurances”, 10 (a).

4 President’s Report

a) *Letter to Chinese with invitation to 2002 SF*

Letter dispatched. No reply received to date.

b) *Convenor Guidelines to be revised*

Pending. **ACTION KM**

c) (i) *Open Team for Salt Lake City.*

Considerable discussion took place on a range of issues pertaining to the WBF “attraction” event in Salt Lake City. The MC accepts that the invitation from the WBF was for the Australian Open Team. It believes that any team purporting to be the current Australian Open Team must contain four of the six players who attended the Bermuda Bowl in Paris. An immediate email was dispatched to T Brown and P Gue with a request to respond to the MC meeting by noon on 16 December.

Addendum – P Gue’s reply to above.

Received Sunday, tabled and discussed.

Reply by KM to J Damiani's letter

I apologise for the delay in replying formally to your letter of 9/11/01 concerning the "attraction" in Salt Lake City. I regret to inform you that it is not possible for more than three of the six players who represented us in Paris to participate in Salt Lake City. In these circumstances, the Management Committee of the ABF, at its meeting of 15/16 December, reached the decision that it is unable to endorse any players as the Australian team. The Committee noted that you stated that you "prefer to cooperate with the NBOs in the designation of their players". While the Committee is supportive of your general objective, it has decided that it must decline the invitation to nominate pairs.

We note that the WBF web page currently lists an Australian team. The names that appear there were not put forward by the Management Committee of the ABF.

VB to send the letter to J Damiani, cc J Wignall. **ACTION VB.**
Copies of this letter to be included in DY's reply to P Gue. **ACTION DY.**

KM will respond to M Hughes email. **ACTION KM.**

The MC will review its policy and procedures pertaining to invitations to Australian teams at its January meeting. **ACTION DY**

R Klinger, D Howard and J Roberts correspondence tabled and dealt with by KM.

(ii) B Noble correspondence tabled. President has responded. The issues arising will be considered.

d) *Gold Point Coordinator.*

D Anderson correspondence. DY to write letter of appointment for D Anderson as Gold Point Coordinator from 1/1/02. DY wrote to V Muntz on 3/12 thanking him for his long and distinguished role and received a response indicating that the duties of the GPC are addressed in the MP Handbook (#1.6?). DY to insert note in Newsletter and on ABF web page and notify convenors of gold masterpoint events. **ACTION DY**

e) *Visit by Dennis Robson*

A further email received from Dennis Robson. DY has just received a response from I McKinnon and will advise D Robson. **ACTION DY.**

f) *BB/VC*

Correspondence from Alida Clark and P Marston tabled concerning payment of recorders. The ABF policy is to reimburse the cost of recorders. The MC resolved to refund \$170 for A Clark. (DY/ER) No other payment approved for A Clark. Write to T Chadwick to ask if the Open Team also used recorders and if so who paid the cost. **ACTION VB**

g) *M Thomson Request*

Emails from M Thomson re his request to enter the 2002 Playoff with K Bagchi. DY to convey the MC's refusal of this request to Matthew. **ACTION DY**

h) *Guidelines for Committee Opening Playoff Entries*

The MC resolved to accept all entries received before the sub-committee sat during this meeting but to accept subject to immediate rectification entries with defects in entry fee, system, or Declaration (EM/DY, JA dissenting). One entry received after the closing date but before the entries were opened was accepted.

i) *Representative Seniors Team*

Email from (NPC) Z Nagy tabled. Seniors team would prefer to compete in the WBC, Montreal, rather than the NZ Nationals. Resolved that if all outstanding Seniors Team monies owing to the ABF are repaid, \$5000 (as noted in November Minutes) be paid from ABF funds and \$5000 from the International Players Fund to the Senior Team (in total for the 6 players + NPC) to attend the WBF event in Montreal. ER dissenting.

j) *Telco Gold MPs*

The MC reviewed the masterpoint status of the Telco Pairs. It had taken advice from D Anderson. The MC reiterated that the Telco would be a gold pointed event. The Secretary to advise the Gold Masterpoint Coordinator. **ACTION DY**

k) *Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup*

Captain's reports received (Ted Chadwick for the Open Team and Paul Marston for the Women's Team). DY to document and formalise requirements for captains and teams representing Australia. Thank you letters to both captains. **ACTION DY.**

l) *Letter received from Secretary of ABF TC, J Brockwell, regarding submission by P Marston on Point-a-Board Teams for VCC.*

The MC endorsed J Brockwell's letter.

5. Treasurer's Report

a) *Income Tax Status for ABF*

D Walker received a reply from the ATO that the letter had been sent in error by the Department.

b) *Advertising Costs in Newsletter.*

Advertising rates to be increased by 10%. To be advertised in next Newsletter (January) and apply to the following issue (March). Rates to be reviewed again in November 2002.

ACTION DY (cc D Cooper, S & D Lusk)

c) *Request from NSWBA for Youth Funding*

Current claim from NSW for payment as subsidy to youth participation in country congresses. Before the claim can be accepted the history of grant subsidy to be researched by DY **ACTION DY**

d) *Payment to Gill*

The *ex gratia* payment is noted in the MC November Minutes. Additional payment will be considered only if detailed accounts are submitted.

e) *Bank Reconciliation as at 31/10/01*
Tabled.

f) *Public Liability Costs.*
Discussed under “Insurances”, item 10 (a).

6 Secretary’s Report

a) *ABF Manual*
Dealt with in 3a

b) *Bridge Shop Affiliates*
Contract amended by EM . DY has instructed the webmaster to provide access as a link rather than an item on the front page.

The MC resolved that the contract proposed by the Bridge Shop should be signed by the President on behalf of the ABF.(DY/ER) **ACTION KM.** VB to set up a 3 monthly check that a report is received from the Bridge Shop – first one due at end March. Carried.
ACTION VB

c) *Youth Committee Issues.*
Report by David Lusk tabled. DY to write to the Chairman of the Youth Committee to reinforce the MC desire that funding for youth events be restricted to that authorised in the November Minutes but offering some assistance with the cost of the Tournament Director for the youth selection event. Also to seek permission for an edited version of the report to be forwarded to States for comment. **ACTION DY.**

The MC received an offer from K Crowe-Mai that he would replace P Gill as an ABF Youth Coordinator with his salary paid to the NSW Youth Fund. Forward to Chairman of Youth Committee. **ACTION DY.**

d) *On line Cheating*
Response from N Justice forwarded to the correspondent.
KM to write a article for ABF Newsletter on general issues pertaining to on-line bridge.
ACTION KM

e) *Masterpoint sub committee*
Responses to Gue paper forwarded to B Neill.

f) *Letter to V Muntz*
See 4(d).

g) *Australian Bridge – Pairs Masterpointing.*
Responses from P Marston and D Anderson tabled. No further action.

h) *Chariots.*
Refer to 9(c)

i) *J Hansen remuneration*
Increase of 3% approved effective 1 August 2001. (DY/KM) **ACTION DY.**

j) *Time allocation by webmaster for Sydney Festival*
Email from C Cummings tabled. DY to inform webmaster that estimates of time allocation are necessary in order that the ABF may invoice individual events for web services. Items such as brochures should be submitted through DY but regulations should be submitted direct by ER. **ACTION DY.**

k) *Letter from EBU re Commonwealth Games (15/20 July 2002).*
DY to circulate the information received to MC and respond to the EBU **ACTION DY .**

7. General Counsel's Report.

a) *Regulations Committee*

Report received from B Neill.

b) *Declaration of Eligibility*

Appointment completed . "Statement by a Supplier" form and letter of appointment filed at ABF HQ. The MC noted that the Declaration to be returned to M Wilkinson was published after the conclusion of most events with consequent poor compliance.

c) *Jane Tyson letter re player withdrawal from ASP*
Sent.

d) *Sandy Bay BC/TBA*

EM outlined the progress to date in the matter. R Penny had provided pertinent clauses of the TBA Constitution. EM advised firstly that the authority of the TBA to deal with the Murphy appeal is now clear and is not a matter for the National Authority. Secondly that the National Authority will meet in Canberra in January to consider the matters raised by the Boyd incident. **ACTION EM**

e) *Echelon Contract.*

DY resolved (seconded ER) that KM be authorised to sign the Echelon contract as soon as it is cleared by legal counsel. **ACTION KM/EM**

8 Tournament Committee Report

a) *TC Meeting*

The MC resolved that the entry fee for the 2002 Playoffs be \$140.00. (ER/DY)
The entry fee had been approved by flying minute and is now confirmed.

b) *TC Minutes* (November meeting)

The Minutes of the TC meeting 13/11/01 were considered and approved for distribution. Items included the format of the 2002 Playoffs; PQP awards; venue and format of the 2002 and 2003 SN; correspondence on a Point-a-Board event; correspondence and seeding of the ABPC. **ACTION VB**

c) *Telco Gold Masterpoints*

Refer to 4(j)

d) *Masterpoints for 2000/2001 Youth Championships*

MP Committee progressing these matters.

e) *Attendance at Youth Committee during SNOT*

ER was unavailable for the time of the meeting.

f) *Tournament Unit Succession*

The list of duties of the TU Chairman and times involved are in preparation. An (incomplete) working document was tabled.

f) *Bagchi letter re eligibility to represent Australia*

VB to contact J Wignall re clearance of K Bagchi's eligibility from the WBF Credentials Committee. **ACTION VB**

g) *Franchise events*

ER tabled a discussion paper on franchise events and franchise fees requested by the Nov MC meeting. The MC agreed to consider the implications this paper and its recommendations for decision

The correspondence on the franchise agreements for the Sydney Festival and ANOT require clarification on the length of the agreement and some matters that ensued subsequently (web access and insurance).

DY to correspond with convenors on possible breaches of the conditions as queried by ER. **ACTION DY**.

Franchise events needs to be an agenda item for the January meeting. **ACTION DY**

h) *International target events*

ER tabled a working budget for potential target international events during the next four year cycle 2002-06.

i) *Entry to 2002 Playoff*

The sub committee reported 15 entries for each of the Open and Womens events..

j) *ANC Darwin*

DY to request from J Tutty a draft report detailing convenor, venue and budget for the February MCM with a view to presenting the report to the AGM.

ACTION DY

k) *N Dutton and P Smith Letters*

The request for an open WA event (GP/PQP) was referred to Tournament Committee

ACTION ER

9. Secretariat Report

a) *List of correspondence distributed to MC since last meeting.*

Tabled.

b) *P Gill (youth Coordinator)*

Automatic salary deductions to cease at end December. **ACTION VB.**

Ex gratia payment of \$500 to PG . **ACTION VB.**

c) *Chariots*

20 chariots received at ABF HQ.

d) *Library Purchases*

Arranged by T Bourke in UK. Delivery in progress.

e) *Brian Soutter query*

VB transmitted ER's response to the query.

f) *Committee Reports*

Reports were requested from all Committees.

The following reports were received:

(i) D Cooper (Newsletter)

Quotes for printing and distribution (9000 copies, 24 pages camera ready) to be obtained by DY (from PM and from Perth) and JA (Sydney). DY to inform D Cooper.

ACTION DY/JA.

(ii) J Hansen (MP Policy)

Content noted,

(iii) P Gue (Player Liaison)

The Committee will meet during the Summer Festival. MC members requested to advise PG of any matters worthy of discussion.

(iv) B Neill (Regulations)

Refer 7a

(v) D Anderson (Masterpoints)

Refer 4 (d) & (j), 6 (e), (f) (g) and 8 (d)

J Brockwell (National Director Accreditation)

Assessment of directors did not result in any promotions.

g) *Bali/Paris*

VB updated the meeting on the current state of the finances. The application to the Indonesian Embassy for a refund of visa fees for Bali was refused.

h) *Resignation of K Lee*

Noted with regret. KM and VB have responded to K Lee.

i) *Oceania 2002*

Planning still in progress. Probable dates 1-9 May.

j) *Insurance Matters*

Reg Willis notified the Secretariat that claims of about \$140,000 had been met during the year. This will impact on the cost of the renewal of the Public Liability Cover.

k) *Golden West*

The Convenor, D Dale will send a report.

l) *VCC*

Deposit of \$1000 paid as deposit for venue of 2002 event.

m) *PABF*

MC to determine financial details. Agenda item for January meeting. **ACTION DY**

n) *Financial data*

A list of all cheques written and banked on behalf of the ABF by VB since the last meeting tabled.

10 Other Business

a) *Insurances.*

JA delivered a report on outstanding insurance matters. Noted that this had been a time consuming task.

Workers Compensation

– wc for the Secretariat/Summer Festival being put into place – brokers info requests satisfied/premium adjustments in place.

– wc for SA paid for last year and a fine refunded from WorkCover

- ongoing wc for Tas/WA dependant on ownership of these events.

– wc for ANC is to be the responsibility of the host state

- ER to advise convenors and insert in ANC Handbook

o policy to be in place and presented to ER min of 6 months before event.

o to cover convenors, directors, caddies and all ancillary staff with a note on the need to protect the ABF's position.

Voluntary Workers

– Despite several efforts, the broker has been unable to source a policy that will protect over 65's/ cost of premium has risen.

Public Liability

Premium increased and likely to do so next year. Decision taken to renew pending formal advice from Counsel (estimated cost approximately \$1500) on ABF exposure in actions taken against clubs. **ACTION EM.**

- General insurance pack for Secretariat equipment etc.

- Premium for 2002 to be paid by VB **ACTION VB**

- Issue of whether it was more effective of whether to use one or two still to be resolved.

b) *Date of next MC meeting*

26/27 January 2002 in Canberra at Rydges – email to NZCBA. **ACTION VB.**

c) *Armidale BC*

The note from Bruce Tier tabled.

e) *ABTA/ABDA.*

VB to request draft reports from ABTA and ABDA for the February MC meeting with a view to their presentation to the March AGM **ACTION VB.**

The meeting concluded at 3pm Sunday.

**James O’Sullivan Foundation Meeting
Commencing 2pm Sunday 16 December at 26 Blair Street, Bondi.**

KM tabled a list of the outstanding loans.

Outstanding loan portfolio examined.

Sapphire Coast Bridge Club

Application received from Sapphire Coast BC – VB to write requesting a formal proposal.

ACTION VB.

Townsville Bridge Club

Application received and referred to Chairman to action. **ACTION KM.**

Port Macquarie Hastings Bridge Club

Cheque received (3/12) for \$6031.67 to discharge loan. KM to confirm this figure in writing to the club Treasurer. ACTION KM.

Coffs Harbour Bridge Club

Repayment schedule sent to club.

Tamworth Bridge Club

Payment received in December (\$500 principal, \$550 interest).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.15pm

PRESS RELEASE

Entries for the 2002 playoff closed on Fri 14/12 at 4pm as advertised contemporaneously in the September ABF Newsletter and on the ABF web site. The Management Committee determined that it would accept all entries received before the committee convened to consider the entries. Entries with defects such as lack of entry fee, system or Declaration were to be accepted subject to immediate rectification of the deficiency. One entry was received after the closing date but before the entries were opened. This entry was accepted.

Fifteen entries were received for each of the Open and the Womens Playoff.

The list of entrants will be published by the ABF Secretary on the web site and in the Newsletter in due course.