

**ABF Management Committee Meeting**  
**15<sup>th</sup> March 2002**

**Commencing at 7.00pm, K.McDonald Room, Rydges Hotel, Canberra**

**1) Present.**

K McDonald (Chair), D Yovich, E Magner (General Counsel), E. Ramshaw, J. Arkininstall

*Apology:*

J. Greenfeld, V. Brockwell.

**2) Confirmation of meeting held February, 2002**

Minutes confirmed.

**3) Important Matters arising**

*(a) AGM Matters*

Various matters concerning the 2002 AGM were discussed and finalised.

*(b) Final Quotes for the Newsletter*

Quotes from Pilpel and Salmat were tabled, quoting on lighter grade paper. A decision would be made following discussion at the AGM.

*(c) Senior Playoff 2002*

Discussed. Places to be filled by recalling applications.

**4) President's Report**

*(a) Visit by Damiani*

Still awaiting final details, but expected arrival would be mid April. KM would manage various aspects and JA would seek visit with Australian Olympic Committee.

*(b) World Youth Championships*

The MC would seek the opinion of Councillors at the AGM, but favoured proceeding only if funding could be guaranteed.

**5) Treasurer's Report**

*(a) Payment for Directing at Youth Event in Canberra*

To be followed up with Chairman of the Youth Committee to confirm fee and recommendation.

**6) Secretary's Report**

*(a) Seniors for Montreal*

Details finalised. Players pay at venue. Cheque to be forwarded to Z. Nagy.

**7) Legal Counsel Report**

- (a) *Honoraria.*

Discussed. It was decided that published standard of living increase would be applied – that is 3%.

**8) TC Report**

- (a) *ANC Cards on the Net*

To be borne by the host State. Billed by the ABF following data on time supplied by the web master.

- (b) *Franchise Fee for ANC*

This should be presented to the mid-year General Meeting with a reasoned case in favour.

**Action EM/ER**

**Secretariat Report**

No Report

**9) General Business**

- (a) *JOS Accounts.*

This item to be moved from MC Minutes in last meeting to the JOS Minutes.

The meeting concluded at 10.00PM.

D. Yovich

Sec. ABF

**Appendix**

**Main Action Items for MC from 2002 AGM**

Item 10.9 concerned a request by P. Gue and D. Smyth to waive the first year affiliation fee to new members. The MC had considered this and agreed to a \$1 reduction in the fee for the first year. An additional incentive for players reactivating after 1 year was the reduction to \$1 for this. A follow up with the Masterpoint Centre to see if this was productive for the ABF would be made.

**Action DY**

The President provided a brief commentary on his written Report. He expressed some concerns about the effectiveness of the Committee structures currently in place. He also queried the insurance status of the McNeil Library. This would be followed up. The Report was accepted

**Action JS**

P. Gue asked about the legal issues concerning the publishing of Appeals on the web and in the ABF Newsletter. EM would provide a paper on the subject in the next two months.

**Action EM**

The Minutes of the TC would be circulated to Councillors by email.

**Action VB**

DY tabled his Report. A number of issues arose. The changes to the web site required some advice regarding privacy legislation (EM to advise). Web statistics would be forwarded to Councillors (**Action DY**). A search facility would be a good addition to the website as it was becoming more complex (**Action DY**).

Richman suggested that two copies be prepared – one in hard copy as existing, and the second on the website that could be significantly larger with more articles for those prepared to read it online or download for printing. A lighter paper was also suggested as a trial (80gsm standard paper) for one year. Users were to be asked for feedback..

**Action DY/DC**

The venue is booked, including three rooms for the TOU. Brochures have been sent to all States. The venue is Wrest Point Casino. A suggestion is for the next ABF Tournament to be either on the back cover of the brochure, or on the bottom of each hand record during the event. It was noted that all ABF tournaments were to acknowledge the ABF in the name of the event. This was to be copy righted and mandatory for all ABF events.

**Action MC**

It was suggested that the various Masterpoint Committees be renamed to better reflect their duties. Agreed, and will be resolved by MC at next meeting.

**Action MC**

A suggestion was made that clubs that are not currently affiliated to their State Association (and hence not the ABF) be urged to do so with the promise that there will be NO ABF fees for home club members for the first year. This would be only for people registering for the FIRST time with THAT club. There would be an exemption for ABF fees only, not State affiliation fees. The period of no fees would apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April as per current system. DY to draft a letter (vetted by General Counsel) covering the relevant issues, namely

- the arrangement would need to be sanctioned by States
- must be a bona fide club
- must be for the ABF registration year

**Action DY**

It may be beneficial for the ABF to offer to cover any additional costs for air fares incurred by players having to stay on for finals. This would encourage them to purchase the cheapest tickets, knowing the ABF would cover reasonable extra penalties.

**Action MC**

There was cheap accommodation for delegates attending various ABF meetings (President's meeting, Council meeting, etc) on net sites such as wotif.com.au. Should be promulgated for 2003. **Action MC**

It was suggested the ABF merge all reports in Agenda order to allow easier use by all Councillors. To be used in 2003. **Action VB**

A. Richman suggested a way to increase awareness of bridge in the media was to assist volunteers prepare bridge columns for their local newspapers. The volunteer could be paid a small sum to do this work. He agreed to prepare some drafts for the MC to look at. **Action AR**

A possible task of the Marketing Committee could be the preparation of a bridge lesson flyer that could be made available for clubs to use. A starter kit for all clubs to use should be prepared by the ABF (free to clubs if they wanted to use it). An example could be the Joan Butts booklet supplied at a good discount to clubs. It was considered important that the ABF be seen to be providing material and services to players. **Action MC**

M. Hughes commented that he thought the idea of reducing the masterpoint rebate to States (20% of the fees paid) was not productive, particularly a rapid decrease.

He also said that the Salt Lake City matter was not handled well. The MC would formulate a policy whereby offers from NCBO's for an Australian team or teams to play would be clearly and unambiguously managed. The President offered an apology for what had happened in 2002.

**Action MC**

J. Hoffman raised the issue of an increase in the fee for masterpoints. P. Gue suggested that it was better to increase all fees annually in line with inflation as this was going to be more acceptable in the long term than occasional large increases. The last time masterpoint fees were increased was 1994. Fees should be increased at a specific time, such as April 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**Action MC**