

**Minutes of a meeting of the James O'Sullivan Trust.
ANA Hotel, Gold Coast, 22 February 2003 commencing at 10.00am.**

Present

K McDonald (Chair), J Stark, D Yovich, E Ramshaw, N Chan, D Walker, V Brockwell.

Apologies

J Arkinstall, E Magner.

Despite attempts to obtain data from NAB, an outstanding deposit to the JOS account has not been traced to date.

JOS made a profit of \$3654 for 2002. This is slightly less than 2001, mainly due to the fact that interest rate has been kept low.

It was noted that the loan from the ABF should be repaid.

The JOS financial statements signed by the President and Treasurer pending confirmation of the unknown deposit.

The JOS meeting closed 10.15

**Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting 26/27 February 2003
ANA Hotel, Gold Coast, Queensland commencing at 10.15am**

1 Present

K McDonald (Chair), D Yovich (Secretary), J Stark, (Treasurer), E Ramshaw, V Brockwell (Minute Secretary).

Apologies

J Arkinstall (due to illness), E Magner (General Counsel) attended from 3.30pm on Saturday.

Auditor, Norman Chan and accountant, Don Walker joined the meeting.

ABF Financial Accounts

The ABF financial accounts were tabled showing a profit of \$102,000 for 2002. Noted that, for the first time, the ABF has reached \$1,000,000 in retained funds.

The meeting noted the request from the auditor that the ABF building in Fyshwick ACT be valued.

A discussion ensued about the problem the auditor/accountant faced due to the inconsistencies in presentation of financial reports from convenors. A *pro forma* document will be provided to all convenors authored by F Budai, J Stark and K McDonald.

Financial documents signed by Chairman and Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked N Chan and D Walker for their attendance. The visitors left the meeting.

Proposed ranking scheme

The meeting was now joined by J Brockwell, Q van Abbe, R Busch, J McPheat and M Willcox to outline a proposed ranking scheme.

Quentin van Abbe and John Brockwell explained that the ranking scheme was designed to reflect a players current performance. It would in no way conflict with the ABF masterpoint scheme. More data would be required than for the masterpoint scheme which is a reflection of lifetime performance.

Participating clubs (and congresses) would need to submit their full results electronically to a ranking centre. Simple conversion programs would need to be added to the various existing scoring systems to make them compatible. Marketing to and interaction with clubs would be necessary to make the scheme truly nationwide. Field testing, using data from a small number of Melbourne clubs, has been successful. Costs were not addressed at this stage.

The Management Committee gave philosophical approval to the idea. The Chairman asked Q van Abbe to prepare a paper including (i) advantages of the scheme and (ii) technical details of software compatibility required and (iii) criteria involved in making ranking changes, and (iv) some indication of costs. The guests left the meeting.

The Minute Secretary was absent during the addresses by the next two guests, Dennis Robson, President of the EBU, followed by David Stern Chair of the ABF Youth Committee. (These minutes to be provided by the ABF Secretary).

ACTION DY.

Online Bridge

The meeting welcomed Denis Robson who obliged the meeting by providing details of the contract between the EBU's and IOBC for online bridge.

On the issue of the Commonwealth Games bridge, Denis Robson had the following comments:

- Any specific questions about organization, etc should be sent directly to Denis Robson
- In Manchester, there had been two sponsors who contributed £30,000 and £10,000 respectively (the latter to be spent on Youth bridge but not associated with the Games)
- Important to have a good Chairman and an enthusiastic committee
- Provision of good entertainment at Manchester was a big factor in the success of the event
- There were no major commercial sponsors
- Require a good editor for the Daily Bulletin
- Do not offer accommodation (although the accommodation in Manchester was greatly appreciated)
- The cost would be about \$75,000

On other matters, Denis Robson said the EBU Development Plan would be available late in 2003 and he was prepared to provide a copy to the ABF.

“Minibrige” was an extremely effective teaching method for beginners.

He would provide what demographic information he had, if someone would email him for the data.

The President expressed his and the Management Committee's thanks to Denis making his time available to assist the ABF.

World Youth Championships

David Stern was welcomed to the meeting to outline progress with youth bridge, and in particular the 2005 World Youth Championships.

David said that a Committee consisting of Keith McDonald, John Wignall and David Stern was handling the liaison with the WBF.

The existing contract that the WBF has was not satisfactory and needed changing before acceptance by Australia.

David suggested the invitees would be Panos Gerontopolous, Brian Senior (Bulletin) and John Wignall.

The budget of \$80,000 should be sufficient if the other conditions were accepted by the WBF.

A contract with the WBF needed to be signed before proceeding further.

It was most practical to hold the event in Sydney immediately following the ANC so that technical personnel (and possibly some players) were still there.

There should be side events with Gold Points.

John Wignall had written to Panos re the contract.

David said that Australia had the necessary personnel to manage the event technically and in all other aspects.

The President thanked David for attending the meeting.

The ABF meeting resumed at 1.00pm, VB taking the minutes.

2. Confirmation of the meeting held 26/27 January 2003.

Minutes confirmed.

3. Important matters arising

a) Notice of Motion for AGM

Deferred. Refer to General Counsel's report, item 8b.

b) Nationwide Pairs

Progressing, (letter sent to all clubs). List this topic as a permanent agenda item.

ACTION DY.

c) Online Bridge

DY to continue negotiations with Nick Justice, (the On-Line Bridge Coordinator), for a 2 year contract. All correspondence to be copied to the ABF Technology Committee. In due course, DY to place an ad in the Newsletter calling for expressions of interest for an assistant for on-line support @ \$10,000 pa. Maximum input from the ABF would be 50% (\$5,000). **ACTION DY**

d) *Playoffs 2003*

Defer until Sunday under Tournament Committee Report.

4. President's Report

a) *Supplemental Councillors*

L Kelso to be nominated as a supplemental councillor. **ACTION JS**

The Chair reported Michael Kent's resignation as a supplemental councillor and thanked him for his work in that capacity.

Noted that voting for supplemental councillors is by full council, not by states.

b) *Newsletter right of reply and Newsletter issues.*

Hold over until next meeting. **ACTION DY.**

c) *Summer Festival of Bridge*

A letter dated 14/2/03 from J Scudder, Director of Echelon Trading, tabled. Echelon Trading wishes to take up the option of convening the 2005-2007 Summer Festival. DY to write a holding letter to J Scudder pending further discussions at the proposed March meeting between ABF/J Scudder in Canberra. **ACTION DY**

d) *Letter of complaint against director at Gold Coast Congress*

Refer to the Convenor of the event. **ACTION DY**

(Copy of letter given to General Counsel for her records).

e) *Clash with Quarter Finals of NZ Nationals and Stage I of ANC Butler*

Following requests from M Prescott and S Browne, the Management Committee considered the possibility of auto entry into Stage II of the 2003 Butler for those players who qualify for the final stages of the NZ Nationals. A decision was reached that apart from use of the substitution rules for Stage I, no further consideration be considered at this time.

f) *2004 Playoffs*

Noted that following a query from R Klinger, it was confirmed that the 2004 Playoffs will be by pairs.

g) *Klinger re Playoff methods*

Response to be published in next Newsletter. **ACTION ER/JB**

h) *Andrew Richman follow up*

Closed. The Secretary received no responses from clubs.

5. Secretariat report

a) *WBF*

Notification of player suspended from all WBF events to be sent to ABF convenors. **ACTION VB**

b) *Half Year ABF meeting*

(Refer to September Management Committee minutes item 4b)

To be an agenda item for AGM. **ACTION DY**.

c) *Error in ANOT Seniors Swiss Pairs Brochure*

Brochure states "both players should be 55+ as at 1 January 2003". The date should be 15 May 2003. Convenor has been informed.

d) *TC Minutes*

September minutes released accompanied by (i) legal note and (ii) note that the table in the minutes has been amended. Resolutions sent to ABF website for posting.

e) *Summer Festival*

Financial report 2002 received.

Complaints re non enforcement of the use of ABF system cards by players.

DY to write a letter to convenors of all ABF events reminding them that directors should do a cursory check of system cards. **ACTION DY**.

A letter from a Summer Festival participant addressed to the ABF Secretariat has been referred to the Summer Festival Convenor for reply.

f) *GNOT*

Financial report circulated to KM, JS, D Walker.

Re the email from D Anderson subject GNOT certificates:

(i) The Committee agreed that certificates for teams that win regional finals should be set in place in 2003. J Hansen to be asked to produce and distribute the certificates.

(ii) The Committee agreed with D Anderson that B4c red masterpoints should not be issued for qualifying sessions.

DY to inform D Anderson and J Hansen of the above decisions **ACTION DY**

- g) *South Pacific Championships*
Emails from R Klinger answered by Secretary of Tournament Committee.
- h) *PABF*
Confirmation from T Nakatani, 5-15 June, Manila, Philippines.
The Youth Committee will most likely recommend that a youth team should not attend due to security conditions. Wavers may need to be signed.
For Open and Womens teams it will be necessary to draw players attention to the advisory statements issued by the Australian Government. General Counsel will draft a waiver for players to sign. **ACTION EM.**
- i) *Letters from WA player and BAWA re Playoff subsidies.*
KM to respond. **ACTION KM.**
- Noted an unresolved discussion on the advantage of having a 2004 Playoff convenor resident in the venue city.
- j) *Presentation pack of cards from 2002 PABF, Bangkok*
Thanks to P Gue for bringing back the presentation box of cards which will be housed in the ABF library.
- k) *Seniors PQP List*
A problem in the above PQP list noted. KM to contact Peter Chan. **ACTION KM.**
- l) *Secretariat financial report and all correspondence to Management Committee since last meeting.*
Tabled.

The Saturday meeting closed at 4.30pm
The Sunday meeting commenced at 8.00am.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) *Travel to meetings*
All Management Committee members will use the cheapest available airline tickets (non refundable).
- b) *Budget, Tournament Unit Chairman*
Budget for Playoffs received from Chair of the Tournament Unit and approved.
- c) *Subsidies for Zone 7, Tahiti.*
There will be 14 people (two teams, two NPCs). Subsidies will be at least the airfares determined by the Treasurer plus any intra Australian travel required.
Exact subsidies to be determined at the March Management Committee meeting.
ACTION JS.

d) *Subsidies for PABF*

Need to be determined. **ACTION JS.**

e) *Masterpoint Centre Report*

The Treasurer reported that he has actioned this item and also had a discussion with J Hansen about cards and reports (certificates).

f) *Library Insurance*

Pending

g) *Refunds from Montreal Seniors Team*

The ABF is still awaiting payment from two members of the team. VB to send letter on behalf of President, to be followed by formal letter (content to be determined) if not paid by 5 March. **ACTION VB.**

h) *Hobart ANC.*

Financial report still not received. JS to write to President of TBA. **ACTION JS.**

i) *ABTA Insurance.*

This should be the responsibility of the ABTA as that body is not affiliated with the ABF. Treasurer to write to ABTA President, L Harkness. **ACTION JS.**

m) *Commonwealth Games*

To be a standing agenda item. **ACTION DY.**

n) *PQP Coordinator.*

Payment of \$250 approved subject to authorisation by Treasurer. Report from M Wilkinson required. **ACTION JS.**

7. Secretary's Report.

a) *Nomination of alternate*

Refer to item 3(l) of January MC minutes. Further statement to be circulated by DY for clarity of data and to prevent any misunderstandings. **ACTION DY**

b) *PABF NPC Report*

Still not received. Further consideration by Management Committee if report not received at the AGM.

c) *Web charges for ABF events*

DY to obtain information from webmasters. **ACTION DY.**

d) *Forest Bridge Club*

Human rights (language information). Article has been published in ABF Newsletter. DY requires further information from JA. **ACTION DY.**

- e) *Letter to convenors*
Completed. Litigious matters must be approved by General Counsel.
- f) *PQP – Senior players DOB*
Completed. Web site and MP Centre informed.
- g) *Licence Fee*
The Butler licence fee is 10% of the masterpoint fee. Licence details to be finalised. DY sending payment details. **ACTION DY.**
- h) *SNOT venue 2003*
DY to re-send his letter to K Crowe-Mai. **ACTION DY.**
- i) *On line Newsletter*
Email from UK. **ACTION DY.**
- j) *Playoff Format*
DY to follow up with J Brockwell. **ACTION DY.**

k) *AGM*

AGM agenda discussed and approved. VB to ask for the following special reports for the AGM:

(i) D Stern on the prospect of Australia hosting the WJC.

(ii) J Brockwell on the assessment of a trainee director at the 2003

Summer Festival. (iii) J McIlrath for ABDA report. **ACTION VB.**

8. Legal Counsel's Report

a) *Redraft of Declaration of Availability.*

Completed to this date (and sent to ER for review), however further action pending re drug policy.

Noted that the drug policy should be on the website. DY to liaise with JA and request a statement of our drug policy. **ACTION DY.**

b) *Notice for AGM.*

Completed. Refer to the Constitution for notification times.

c) *Patent Query*

Pending. The patent query will be referred for further legal advice. **ACTION KM.**

d) *Rights of ABF players*

General counsel had completed report, apologized for not precirculating it, copies would be provided to members of the management committee after the meeting. The General Counsel gave a verbal background report. **ACTION EM.**

e) *Appeal Procedures*

Completed. Process noted.

f) *Minutes to web*

Recently updated.

g) *Licence Agreement*

General Counsel's draft now finalised. For further circulation following approval of the Management Committee.

h) *ABF brochures*

General Counsel advised that the standard clause relating to the refusal of an entry needs updating in the brochure and tournament regulations. **ACTION EM.**

Complaints to Recorder

A complaint received about the unseemly language continually used by a player attending the Gold Coast Congress should be referred to the National Recorder.

Note:

The Minute Secretary left the meeting at this stage of the meeting. The ABF Secretary took the minutes from this point on.

9. TC Committee Report

- (a) ANC Handbook. Pending.
- (b) Licence matters. Still require additional information (for example balance sheets, etc). **Action. ER**
- (c) Playoff. S. Browne is eligible but not entitled to a subsidy (Sydney resident). Hospitality to be provided – total cost approx \$600. ER/VB to check cost of polished wood trophies. The name for the Senior trophy (DH?) to be considered at next meeting. (**Action. ER**). DY to consult DH. **Action. ER/VB/DY**
- (d) Edwards convention card problems. DY to write to Edwards asking him if he can resolve printing issues. **Action. DY**
- (e) Konig withdrawal. ER to follow up and resolve with TC. **Action. ER**
- (f) Playoff. As ID and MW were not coming to the Playoff, Chris Diment to be asked to ensure results are placed on web in timely manner. **Action. ER**
- (g) Senior Playoff. Only the top 48 players (and ties) on Seniors list are eligible. Eligibility of Chan in question as points were won when he was not 55. A footnote to the published list of PQP's was to be added on the net, and to read: **“The fact that a player has PQP's does not make them eligible for the panel. The panel is defined as the number of players to be considered for the Playoff.”**
With regard to Chan eligibility, KM is to phone him after EM has advised on Regulations concerning Senior Playoff. **Action. KM**
- (h) The Eligibility form is not working and can be eliminated for qualifying events but included in nomination for the Playoff. Consider a method that includes player names on results slips for qualifying rounds and disclosure of date of birth on entry form for players who wish to transport Open to Senior PQP. EM is to develop a suitable form. **Action EM.**
- (i) (S) ANT entry form corrections concerning Senior eligibility to go on web and in Newsletter. **Action DY**

10. Other Business

- (a) Eligibility Regs for Playoff. (Refer to 11h).
- (b) Authority for cheque signing. Deferred.
- (c) Commonwealth Games. See above. To be a recurring Agenda item. **Action DY.**
- (d) Fee for scorer at ANC to be \$250. Future fee to be reviewed.
- (e) NPC Duties. DY to finalise list and present for next meeting. **Action DY.**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 3.30pm.