

**ABF Management Committee Meeting Minutes  
of a Meeting held January 24/25  
at ABF Headquarters, 4/51 Tennant St, Fyshwick. ACT  
Commencing at 10.00am each day**

**1) Present**

Keith McDonald (Chair), Dennis Yovich (Secretary), Justin Stark (Treasurer), Eric Ramshaw, Eilis Magner (General Counsel), Valerie Brockwell (Minute Secretary)

*Apology*

John Arkinstall

**2) Confirmation of Minutes of December 2003 Management Committee Meeting.**

Confirmed.

**3) Matters Arising**

List of Action Items resulting from December 2003 MC Minutes

Item	Action	Subject	
4a iii	VB	Steve Hurley Trophy	Finalised
4a v1	VB	Bridge Shop/System Cards	Finalised
4a vii	KM	Domain Names Australia	Finalised
4a xi	JS	Mino Pin Travel Proposal	Pending
4a xiii	KM	Bo Bijker – Masterpoints	Finalised
4a xlv	DY	P Evans Captains Report	Finalised
4e	VB	Playoff Trophies photo in Newsletter	In hand. Delete as item
4o	EM	Reply to Qld player (Privacy Act)	Pending
4s	DY	Letter to J Hoffman	Done
4u	JS	Upgrade computer at ABFHQ	Pending
5bi	KM	Respond to L Kelso, G Gaspar, J Collins	Closed. Accepted by VBA
5c ii	KM	Liaise with A Halmos	Finalised
5c iii	JS	Banking procedures for Comm Nations	Pending, but under control
5d ii	DY	Letter to M Scudder	Pending
5d iii	DY	Letter to J Scudder	Document received
5 f	KM	Contact Colin Mitchell	Pending
5f	DY	Letter to B Neill	Pending
5g	JS	Nationwide Prs mailout	In train
5g iii	JA	Spicers	Pending
6a	DY	Article Newsletter on PL Insurance	In train. Certificate of Currency to 31/12/04 on web
6d ii	JS	Webmaster equipment	Pending
7a	DY	Letter to V & C Cummings	Done
7c	JS	D Smyth's work web access	Resolved
7d	JS	Website for Committee papers	Progressing
7e	EM	Legal rider on convenors accom lists	Pending
7f	DY	Ranking Scheme	Pending. Further discussion needed

7g	VB	Contact Wignall & Nakatani	Done. WBF regs required. <b>Action VB</b>
7j	JS	Youth Committee	In train, however, KM to ask D Stern about J Hay's eligibility to win Helman/Klinger MP Award. <b>Action KM.</b>
7k	DY	Letter to Gill re S Khan	Pending
7l	DY	Handbook	To be discussed later in meeting
7n	DY	Alert Regs copies to States & website	Done
7p	DY	ANC Review	To be discussed later in meeting. Letter to be sent to L Kelso re some minor word changes. <b>Action DY.</b>
8b	EM	S Hans visa status	Done
8ci	EM	Entering 2004 Playoffs	Done. More discussion required.
8ci	DY	PQP list in Newsletter	Will be in March issue
8e	JS/ EM	Contract for new webmaster	Pending. Will be finalised by March
8f	EM	Online Bridge Contract	Pending
9a	KM	Licences for ASP and ANT	Pending
9c	ER	Age limit for Seniors	Pending
9e	ER	Screens	Progressing
9g	KM /JS	Spring Nats/GNOT separation (accounts)	JS following up
9h	ER	TC meetings 2004 budget	To be discussed later in meeting
9h	ER/ KM	Zonal Meeting during 2004 SF	Meeting at 5.30pm today
10a	VB	Captains Report J Roberts	Received. Discuss later
10c	DY	MP Manual review	To be discussed later in meeting
10d	JS	P Gue travel proposal	To be discussed later in meeting
10e	KM	MP regs for tours	Pending
10f	DY	Restricted events	To be discussed later in meeting

#### 4) Secretariat Report

##### a) *Engraving of ANC Trophies*

The trophies are in Melbourne. As previously requested, the Convenor of 2004 ANC has accepted responsibility for their safekeeping, will attend to engraving for the 2003 ANC and send the bill to the ANC Treasurer in Darwin.

##### b) *ABF AGM 2004*

(i) The venue for the 2004 ABF AGM confirmed as "Tall Trees Motel" Canberra, the dates being 20/21 March. General Counsel provided the Secretariat with information to be distributed to Councillors within the timelines according to the ABF Constitution. **Action VB.**

(ii) The Treasurer to notify Councillors of the amount the ABF will pay for travel from each State and supply details for Corporate Traveller. **Action JS**

(iii) NTBA has advised the Secretariat that Tim Haubrick will replace Helge Pedersen as Councillor. BAWA has similarly notified the Secretariat the Richard

Grenside will replace Joe Greenfeld.

c) *NPCs Report 2003 Open Team Bermuda Bowl.*

(i) The Secretary to thank J Roberts for his report. **Action DY.**

(ii) A policy decision made that, in future, NPC reports should be sent to the ABF Tournament Committee.

d) *Request from WBF*

The Secretariat to write to the Chairman of the WBF Womens Committee advising that the information required is on the ABF website and how to access the information on the site. **Action VB**

e) *NAB Signatories*

Authorised signatories on the ABF NAB account to be routinely updated at the bank's request in keeping with their new operating procedures. The Treasurer confirmed that this had been done once already. **Action VB.**

5) **President's Report**

*Meeting Dates 2004*

Dates are required for Management Committee meetings in 2004. To be an agenda item for February meeting. **Action DY**

(Potential invited guests are the Youth Committee Chair and sponsors)

a) *ABDA, ATBA, Presidents Meeting Dates*

Schedule dates for meetings with ABDA, ATBA, Presidents. To be an agenda item for February meeting. **Action DY**

b) *Zone 7*

The Z7 Treasurer has undertaken to provide an invoice for the ABF's 2003 Zone 7 dues and the 2004 dues.

c) *Nationwide Pairs*

(i) Quarterly Report for Nationwide Pairs requested. **Action JS**

(ii) The President advised that there was a possibility of NZ entering the Nationwide Pairs following a favorable response from representatives from the NZCBA.

d) *PABF Delegate*

J Greenfeld has advised the President that he is willing to continue as delegate to the PABF on the same basis as in previous years (self-funding when possible to fit in with other commitments).

e) *Arrearage*

Borin debt. **Action JS.**

f) *Contracts*

Contracts required for WJC, IOBC, Nationwide Pairs and licenced events. **Action EM.**

- g) *PQP Notice*  
Notices concerning PQP to be inserted in Newsletter. **Action DY.**
- h) *GNOT Certificates*  
Distribution required of GNOT certificates. **Action DY**
- i) *ABF Library.*  
(i) Treasurer to consult with Librarian re insurance for the Library. **Action JS.**  
(ii) Secretary to acknowledge donation of magazines to the Library by a Canberra player. **Action DY.**
- j) *Availability Form*  
Availability form needs amendment. Eligibility form no longer used. **Action EM/ER**
- k) *Summer Festival*  
(i) The current Convenor's contract continues for 2005 with options for annual extensions. Expressions of interest should be called at the appropriate time. **Action DY.**  
  
(ii) Convenor to be invited to attend May Management Committee meeting. **Action VB.**  
  
(iii) In discussion of structural changes to the Summer Festival (attempts to rejuvenate and increase the profit of the event) the Management Committee accepted the need for radical changes that may have deleterious consequences.  
  
(iv) *NOT News*  
NOT News to be listed as a future agenda item. **Action DY.**
- l) *ABF Liaison Officer*  
The question of an ABF liaison officer being appointed for all ABF events to be an agenda item for next meeting. **Action DY.**
- m) *Spicers*  
The President to follow up sponsorship from Spicers. **Action KM/JA.**
- n) *MP Centre*  
(i) Noted that the Treasurer receives reports of debts owing to the MP Centre.  
  
(ii) MP Newsletter for December 2003 shows 32,066 ABF members.
- o) *2004 Playoff*  
Noted that the President responded to queries about the 2004 Playoff.
- p) *2006 Commonwealth Games Bridge Championship*  
President authorised Corporate Traveller to provide an airline ticket for a meeting concerning the 2006 Commonwealth Games Bridge Championship.

- q) *Letter to WA Solicitor*  
 General Counsel to respond to a solicitor's letter concerning 2004 Playoff, advising that a decision has been reached without regard to any threat of legal action. **Action EM.**
- r) *Code of Conduct*  
 The Secretariat to include Code of Conduct in the next mailout to Councillors. **Action VB**
- s) *Club B4 Events*  
 Club B4 events to be an agenda item for the next meeting. **Action DY**
- 6) Treasurers Report**
- a) *ABF System Card*  
 It is believed that some bridge clubs are infringing copyright. General Counsel to draft a form letter reminding states of the copyright on system cards and a specific letter to be sent to specific clubs concerning potential infringements. **Action EM/JS**
- b) *ABF Alerting Regulations*  
 A similar copyright problem exists with commercial booklets describing ABF Alerting Regulations. The ABF will permit such publications under certain conditions (a disclaimer concerning possible revisions). General Counsel to construct notification, send to DY for transmission to potential publishers. **Action EM/DY.**
- c) *PQP Coordinator*  
 Remuneration of \$500 (\$250 initially plus \$250 on presentation final PQP report). The Treasurer authorised to pay the second installment of \$250 on presentation of a tax invoice. **Action JS.**
- 7) Secretary's Report**  
 Secretary's items will be discussed in General Business
- 8) Legal Counsel's Report**
- a) *2004 Playoff*  
 General Counsel reported that considerable time and effort was expended dealing with matters concerning the 2004 Playoff.
- b) *National Authority*  
 National Authority matters noted in the December minutes has been finalised.
- c) *Legal Advice by ABF General Counsel*  
 EM reported that she had dealt with some matters referred by States. The President reminded the Management Committee that Professor Magner is the legal adviser to the ABF and that States should recruit their own legal adviser.

9) **Tournament Committee Report**

The attached Minutes detail a number of matters discussed in two Tournament Committee meetings held during the Summer Festival.

a) *Selection of a reserve pair*

The Management Committee approved the procedure for selection of a reserve pair when a player withdraws (automatically withdrawing the pair).

b) *Selection of a team at additional events*

The Management Committee approved the procedure for selection of a team to represent Australia at any additional events.

c) *Playoffs*

(i) The Secretary to issue a press release on the entry to the 2004 Open and Womens Playoff. **Action DY.**

(ii) D Stern to advise the Treasurer of the details of all subsidies to the Playoffs. **Action ER.**

d) *ANC*

An attempt will be made to provide an additional display at the ANC for teams results including a handicap (based on a moving average). Matter to be an agenda item for February meeting. **Action DY.**

e) *Travel subsidies for international teams*

The Management Committee approved the recommendation that travel subsidies be dependent on the number of days each player spends at the event. The Treasurer to liaise with each captain to ascertain this number. **Action JS**  
(This issue is to reduce the subsidy when players are not attending the final dinner or playing in side events i.e. they know their stay is for a reduced period).

The Management Committee formally approved the Tournament Committee Minutes.

f) *Additional tournament matters discussed by the Management Committee*

(i) Secretary to publish an article in ABF Newsletter stipulating that deliberate submission of an incorrect score is an offence. **Action DY.**

(ii) Budgetary allocation for subsidies paid to teams representing Australia to be published. **Action JS.**

(iii) Definition of age eligibility criteria for seniors events deferred until definitive regulations obtained from WBF. Agenda item for February meeting. **Action DY.**

(iv) Licence fee for the ANC 2005 to be an agenda item for February. **Action DY**

(v) Gold Point fee increase agenda item for future meeting. **Action DY**

(vi) Noted that the ANT advertises a Novice event despite advice from Chair of the MP Committee that it did not comply with the necessary requirements.

(vii) ER to provide Convenors Guidelines to Management Committee. **Action ER.**

(vii) D Robson to be consulted concerning the potential for the ABF to use the EBU scoring program for pairs events. **Action JS.**

(vii) The proposal from the VBA to run a congress event on Saturday 31 July and conclude with the ANC Victory Dinner on Saturday 7 August approved (JS and ER abstained).

## **10) General Business**

### *a) ANC Review*

The Secretary to distribute the ANC review (with Management Committee comments) to all States and ABF Councillors and the letter from the Secretary of the Tournament Committee including an extract from their minutes. **Action DY**

### *b) 2006 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship, Melbourne*

Detailed report (for submission to the AGM) to be requested from A Halmos on the Commonwealth Games event **Action DY**

### *c) 2005 World Junior Championships*

Secretary to acknowledge receipt of D Stern's email concerning WJC 2005 and request detailed report for the February meeting and for submission to the AGM. **Action DY.**

### *d) Restricted events*

Carry Forward. **Action DY**

### *e) Immigration enquiry*

Completed. Peter Gill delegated to prepare documentation.

### *f) Youth Budget*

Treasurer to discuss at February meeting. **Action JS**

### *g) Single Member Clubs*

Carry forward. **Action DY**

### *h) MP Manual Review*

The Secretary distributed material (in January). Responses awaited. DY to send copy to J Hansen for comment. **Action DY.**

### *i) Gue Travel Proposal*

To be considered with other travel proposals. **Action JS**

### *j) NPC duties*

NPC duties and responsibilities (including changes suggested by D Stern, Z Nagy, J Roberts) referred to Player Liaison Committee. Agenda item for February meeting. **Action DY**

k) *ABF Handbook*

Agenda item for February meeting. **Action DY**

l) *Tournament Committee meetings*

The Management Committee approved significant expenses for at least three meetings in 2004. They suggested that the optimum composition of the Tournament Committee was Chairman, Secretary, technical advisor, and three members (one each from NSW, Victoria and another state). **Action ER.**

m) *Rights of inactive players*

A proposed method for dealing with inactive players entering ABF events is that they should be told that they have one month to become an active member or else their team will lose all masterpoints and PQPs. For further discussion at February meeting. **Action DY**

The meeting concluded at 3.45pm.

**Flying Resolution by the Management Committee (Refer to item 9, TC Report)**

Motion passed by Flying Resolution and effective 8 February 2004

*Motion re Playoffs 2004*

In order to clarify and ratify the decision taken informally by the Management Committee in December, it is hereby moved as follows:.

1. In the light of the fact that the clear intention of the Management Committee was that the closing date for playoff entries for the Open and Women's events would be publicised in the ABF Newsletter and that this did not in fact happen, eligible players were advised individually that the date for reception of entries had been extended until the 16th of January and that the field had been expanded to 18 pairs.

2. In the light of the fact that it is arguable that Michael Courtney could mount a case for estoppel, and in the exercise of the discretionary power conferred by the Playoff Regulations, Michael Courtney's entry to the Open playoff in 2004 will be accepted.

**Action Items resulting from January 2004 MC Minutes**

Item	Action	Subject	
4b(i)	VB	AGM – distribution of notices	
4b(ii)	JS	AGM – Councillors travel	
4c	DY	J Roberts NPC report	
4d	VB	Write to Chair WBF Womens Committee	
4e	VB	NAB signatories	
5	DY	Dates for MC meetings 2004	
5a	DY	Dates for ABDA, ATBA, Presidents meetings	
5c	JS	Nationwide Prs – 1/4ly report	
5e	JS	Borin debt	
5f	EM	Contracts required (WJC, IOBC, NW Prs, Lic events)	

5g	DY	PQP notice in N'letter	
5h	DY	Distribution of GNOT Certificates	
5l (I)	JS	Library Insurance	
5j(ii)	DY	Magazine donation	
5j	EM/ER	Availability form	
5k	DY	Expressions of Interest SF Convenor	
5k(ii)	VB	Invite SF Convenor as guest to May MC meeting	
5k(iv)	DY	NOT News	
5l	DY	ABF Liaison Officer	
5m	KM/JA	Spicers	
5q	EM	Letter to WA solicitor	
5r	VB	Code of Conduct distribution	
5s	DY	Club B4 events	
6a	EM/JS	ABF System Card	
6b	EM/DY	ABF Alerting Regs	
6c	JS	PQP Coordinator	
9c(I)	DY	Playoffs Press Release	
9c(ii)	ER	Playoff subsidies	
9d	DY	ANC	
9e	JS	Travel subsidies for International teams	
9f(I)	DY	Article in N'letter re submission of incorrect scores	
9f(ii)	JS	Publish budgetary allocation for o/s teams	
9f(iii)	DY	Seniors age criteria	
9f(iv)	DY	Licence fee for 2005 ANC	
9f(v)	DY	GP fee increase	
9f(vii)	ER	Convenors Guidelines	
9f(vii)	JS	EBU Scoring Program	
10a	DY	ANC Review	
10b	DY	2006 Comm Nations Bridge Ch'ship	
10c	DY	2005 WJC	
10d	DY	Restricted Events	
10f	JS	Youth Budget	
10g	DY	Single Member clubs	
10h	DY	MP Manual Review	
10l	JS	Gue Travel Proposal	
10j	DY	NPC duties	
10k	DY	ABF Handbook	
10l	ER	TC Meetings	
10m	DY	Rights of inactive players	