

## **Minutes of the ABF Management Committee meeting held at the ANA Hotel, Surfers Paradise on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> and Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2005**

Present: Keith McDonald (President of the ABF), Dr Eric Ramshaw, Richard Grenside (Acting Secretary), Kieran Crowe-Mai (Treasurer),

In attendance: Eilis Magner (General Counsel), Val Brockwell (ABF Secretariat).

Apologies: Dennis Yovich

The meeting commenced at 0955 concluding on the Sat at 4.00pm

Meeting recommence at 9.27am Sunday, concluded 2.03 Sunday afternoon.

### **Item 2)**

Confirmation of minutes held Jan 2005,

Dr Ramshaw brought up the failure of Youth rebates to be formally minuted.

### **Item 3)**

Matters arising

- Action Items:
- Item 2. Amendments to Dec Minutes now finalized
  - Item 4d Presidents meeting scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Discussion on whether New Zealand should be admitted to ANC as if a state, one team in each category.
    - Agenda for Presidents meeting
  - Item 4c. D Smith correspondence, referred to the-Committee meeting in May
  - Item 4g. Spicers, progressing forward
  - Item 4i. Borin matter, pending legal counsel report.
  - Item 4J. D Anderson, for discussion later in meeting
  - Item 5h. S Hurley, finalized, letter sent
  - Item 5c. Istanbul, RG to check with DY matters re B Travis
  - Item 5d. Super Congress. For discussion as item 10c this meeting
  - Item 7a. B Travis (Estoril) actioned, B Travis to be advised
  - Item 7b. NT Report, RG to check whether done. Re 2004 Melbourne ANC RG to contact
    - Jeanette Collins for report.
  - Item 7d. Pszczola. KCM Ongoing
  - Item 7e. Respond to SABF President, actioned, proposed change of dates for ANOT not Permitted.
  - Item 8c. Public Officer queries, see EM Report.
- December MC Meeting
- Item 8b. Distinguished Talent Visa. RG to talk to DY

### **Item 4**

## President's report

### General:

- i. i. The President tabled a letter and set of questions from Mr Ron Klinger. The President and the MC were disinclined to answer as most of the question was controversial in nature.
- ii. ii. VB was asked to obtain a copy of the past contract with John Scudder re the Summer Festival and forward to all members of the MC. The parameters of the festival event need defining
- iii. iii. Received a request from the NTBA for a subsidy/loan to purchase a dealing machine for use at the various Darwin and Alice Spring events. . The MC approved a James O'Sullivan Trust loan at 5% immediately, however declining the request for a grant.

### World Youth Championships.

- iv. iv. D.Stern's Interim report on the World Youth Tabled
- v. v. Kim Neale proposed as Event Secretary to World Youth Championships. Actioned
- vi. vi. RG to liaise with Bernie Waters re Visa applications for Youth Teams and overseas personnel

### **Item 4a:**

#### 2005 ANC

- i. i. Approval granted for Teams event to be held at NSWBA clubrooms subject to certain conditions
- ii. ii. Letter to be sent to Bruce Neill & Alex Yezerki. EHR opposed motion
- iii. iii. Bruce Neill to provide report for AGM with a programme for presentation at the AGM
- iv. iv. RG to chase up 2004 Melbourne ANC financial records
- v. v. RG to chase up 2004 Butler Franchise fee
- vi. vi. RG to send note to Hansen those copies of fees paid to be forwarded to VB

### **Item 4b.**

#### Playoff's.

- i. i. Declarations handed to EM by VB for scrutinisation (see EHR report)
- ii. ii. T-Committee to establish correct procedures re entries
- iii. iii. John Lester's Australian passport sighted
- iv. iv. VB to check that all players are ABF Members
- v. v. Reserve teams to submit both declaration forms + Systems etc.
- vi. vi. EHR to gather data for reserves
- vii. vii. No entry fees at this stage
- viii. viii. All Players advised of Venue, all subsidies established, Seamus Browne not to receive subsidy
- ix. ix. RG to seek assurance from David Stern that all is in place, Seniors is David's total responsibility
- x. x. M-Committee supports advice of teams by EHR
- xi. xi. Entries accepted and published on receipt of entry rather than the previous practice of entries published only on the closing date P Gumby to be advised.
- xii. xii. Club and current ABF number required for J Courtney
- xiii. xiii. Refund cheque's sent after event, 1 cheque per team.

Management Committee appointee:

Proposed that Martin Wilcox be approached by K-Mac as to willingness to serve on MC.

**Item 5.**

Secretariat Report

- i. ABF Teaching subsidies: The present subsidy of a maximum of \$1500.00 is to be calculated on the basis of 50% of the net costs.
- ii. The meeting approved an increase to \$2000.00 for the teaching subsidy. KCM to advise all states
- iii. Request from WBF re receive copy of the Annual General Report showing ABF membership.
- iv. Figures to come from John Hansen, forwarded to John Wignall
- v. PABF delegates meeting to be held in Seoul at the Olympic Parktel on Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> July. Yossi Greenfeld to be advised
- vi. BFACT donation for Summer Festival was discussed, proposed that for 2005 the donation be 10% of MP fees reducing by 2.5% per year to expire in 2009, copy to Scudder with authority to pay the 10%, copy to Sean Mullamphy.
- vii. Honoraria paid to Tim Bourke as requested 2/2/05. Actioned VB
- viii. Library report tabled
- ix. Email from John Roberts tabled re request for approval as Captain of the Australian Youth Team for the World Youth even in August. Matter to be referred back to David Stern and David Lusk... MC voted in favour of ratifying both the Youth Team and its Captain. Actioned EHR
- x. Request received from John McIlrath for permission to hold a Super Congress, Deferred to general Business (xi)
- xi. Star Womens: Email from John Wignell tabled Any suggestions to ABF Newsletter, Mary McMahan?
- xii. Commonwealth Nations Bridge Event, biographies wanted for notable personnel, eg: John Thwaites
- xiii. Directors Fees for Australia Youth Championships in Canberra, KCM to follow up responsibility for payment
- xiv. World Youth, KCM to liaise with D.Stern re bank accounts etc.
- xv. Corporate card, Amex, KCM to look into and liaise for the creation of new cards.
- xvi. Secretariats financials tabled. Approved

**Item 6**

### Treasurers Report:

- Tabled
- i. As at the commencement of a tournament Youth Players irrespective of student status are entitled to a 50% reduction in entry fees for all ABF and Licensed events, copy to Web Master
  - ii. The Minutes of the T.C. meetings of 18<sup>th</sup> Nov and 9<sup>th</sup> Jan were Tabled
  - iii. The Management Committee supported the Treasurers action in notifying the master point centre of the new rates for M.Points effective 1/4/05 whereby each category of master points have 5c added to the cost of each master point awarded.
  - iv. Public Liability Insurance, the Treasurer recommended that this remain at \$10,000,000.00. Approved
  - v. License Fees to be set at 5% includes GST of entry fees, effective 1/9/05 for a period of 3 years.
  - vi. Financial Reports, the treasurer tabled the financial reports for 31/12/2004. The Management Committee noted the profit and the treasurer is to provide a full report in due course. Mr Don Walker of Bird Walker McDonald briefly attended the meeting for the signing of the financial reports as prepared and audited by Norman Chan and Associates.
  - vii. Conveners to be advised of the cut off dates to provide financial statements for tournaments
  - viii. RG to determine whereabouts of the WA license fee agreements and forward to KCM. D Yovich the likely source.
  - ix. Treasurer tabled reports for Master point centre; the Management Committee requested that in future details of license fees be listed by event within states.

### **Item7**

#### Secretaries Report:

D Yovich unable to attend meeting

### **Item 8**

#### Legal Counsel Report

- i. J.Borin's Estate, probate search required, cost to ABF
- ii. EM Tabled a report on inappropriate behavior of appellants towards appeals committee members. EM to continue investigation as to whereabouts of Certificate of Title for NSWBA as registered mortgage expires 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005
- iii. EM to send to RG, National Authority decisions on Kibitzers
- iv. EM to advise B.O'Hara as a recorder of requirement to keep recorder reports for every ABF event and to advise EM even if Nil.
- v. D.Stern letter to EM tabled re Corporate Governance application

### **Item 9**

#### Treasurers Report

- i. Entry Fees for Youth. The MC confirmed the following proposal. That all players under 25 tabled, that the resolutions therein be approved and forwarded to the Web, state secretaries and all councilors. Approved
- ii. Helpers Policy: The President requested ER participate in the discussion even though he declared an interest. General principles approved with date of effect 01/01/05 subject to removal of the web liaison bonus and that the Summer Festival be removed from the events covered.
- iii. When considering fees, the Summer Festival to be determined separately
- iv. Bridge for Brain Research: KCM to advise list of Clubs entered.

## **Item 10**

### General Business

- i. Letter from J.Scudder to Ian McKinnon tabled.
- ii. ABTA: Letter from Pamela Reeves tabled. President of ABF has spoken to Lorraine Harkness who will be invited to a meeting of the MC at later stage.
- iii. A request was tabled for approval by the MC of a raffle of hand knitted blanket, queen bed size in memory of Penny Crittle (The work of Prof Eilis Magner) to be drawn at the ANC dinner in Sydney. Details to follow with full info to be placed on the Web. Approved
- iv. KCM to investigate all holiday and other entrepreneurial ventures as to whether they receive accreditation by the ABF
- v. Financial report tabled from Frank Budai, convener of 2004 Spring Nationals. RG to acknowledge receipt. Requesting a conveners report for the AGM in March
- vi. Financial report tabled fro J.Brockwell, convener of the 2004 GNOT National Finals, RG to acknowledge receipt and request report for AGM.
- vii. RG to send thank you to president of NSWBA for offering to host the World Youth Welcome function. Copy to D.Stern.
- viii. An Application by John Roberts for captaincy of World Youth Teams was tabled. Referred to D.Stern. Management Committee will approve the appointment.
- ix. RG to advise Webmaster of change of Web Liaison Officer.
- x. RG reminded that copy of the minutes must be approved by the Management Committee, then to Legal Counsel for vetting, then to Web Master.
- xi. Letter from J McIlrath tabled re Master Point allocation for Super Congresses. MC confirmed support for any decision by David Anderson in regard to Master Points. (RG)

- xii. J.McIlrath query concerned whether acceleration factor was authorized for 2 events of the same type. The views of State Master Point Secretaries to be sought on basis of conflicting advice, report back to MC>
- xiii. Letter to D.Anderson confirming that providing the format conforms to the M.P.Scheme, there is no problem, why does he believe that we need to approve format?
- xiv. RG to check with DY re Coffs Harbour application for Super Congress.
- xv. Gue Matter. Letter to Chris Lorrimer confirming MC's view that the 100% rule is absolute. KCM
- xvi. VB to draft a minimal letter to Zollo (Manager SABA)
- xvii. Convener contracts for various ABF events to be resolved: eg: Summer Festival, Nationwide Pairs, + All other Conveners of ABF events
- xviii. Outright Awards for GNOT regional finals: The M.C. considered this at the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> Feb and directed the Chairman of the Master Point Unit to instigate that Regional Finals of the GNOT will be master pointed to include outright awards at the appropriate level. RG to David Anderson
- xix. NZCBA Meeting: The MC was advised that there had been a meeting with the Chairman of NZCBA Management Committee and Richard Solomon: The main points were:
  - a) a) Request by NZCBA for participation of NZ teams in all categories in the ANC. Referred to Presidents meeting in May
  - b) b) Request for resumption of Test Matches between Australia and New Zealand. Referred to TC (Formal note to JB for reply)
  - c) c) Australia requested that NZ give consideration to co-hosting the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships.
  - d) d) Australia requests that NZ give consideration in participation in the Nationwide Pairs.
  - e) e) John Wignall, President of Zone 7 requested that Australia put a great emphasis in promoting University Bridge

Meeting Closed at 2.03 Sunday