Presidents Meeting 2005

NSW Bridge Association, 162 Goulburn St, East Sydney 2010

Saturday 7th May 2005

The meeting commenced at 10.30am

1. Present

Keith McDonald (Chair, ABF President/Queensland President)
Richard Grenside (ABF Secretary)
Eric Ramshaw (ABF MC)
Martin Willcox (ABF MC)
Eilis Magner (ABF General Counsel)
Valmai Mitchell (ACT President)
Jeanette Collins (VIC President)
Dianne Marler (SA President)
Nigel Dutton (WA President)
Ken Miller (NT President)
Dallas Cooper (Acting TAS President)

Apologies
Val Brockwell (ABF Secretariat)
Kieran Crowe-Mai (ABF Treasurer)
Alex Yezerski (NSW President)

2. Confirmation of Minutes 2004 and matters arising

Proposed K McDonald, Seconded E Ramshaw that the 2003 minutes be accepted as a true record. Accepted
Business Arising

Item 7 Paper by D Smyth: To be discussed during meeting
Item 8 Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute: KCM Liaison person
Item 11 ANC: To be discussed during meeting
Item 14 Nationwide Pairs: To be discussed during meeting
Item 19 GNOT: To be discussed during meeting

3 Presidents Report

Keith McDonald presented his report and addressed the following:

That the financial report was very satisfactory, that we made a good profit in 2004, which would assist in the heavy international commitments for 2005. Estoril was costing in the vicinity of $120,000.00 with the PABF in Seoul adding significantly to the totals.

Keith advised the meeting that the James O'Sullivan Trust has available funds and will entertain requests from clubs, via their state association for building loans. That a line of credit is in place with the ABF for $100,000.00, the current status is $60,000.00.

There are no clubs in arrears. The Trustees, currently the members of the MC meet every MC meeting.

4 Financial Report:

In the absence of the Treasurer, the report as tabled at the AGM was noted

5 General Counsel Report:

EM clarified the right of a state to appoint a substitute to attend the Presidents meeting in the following scenario.
A state has the right to nominate a person to act in the position of President with full rights provided for cause not convenience.

A proposal was mooted to combine the AGM with the Presidents meeting. The general consensus of the meeting was positive and a proposal would be formulated by the MC at the Sunday meeting. This would save considerable expense and overcome the concern of states being unrepresented as delegates could take the place of any missing Presidents.

6 Tournament Report.

EHR touched on the subject of systems and the difficulties arising out of the requirement to submit full systems. The Tournament Committee would follow up on requirements for ANC re needs for states to submit systems. The meeting was told of the successes of new tournaments especially in WA where attendances have far exceeded expectation. New events were scheduled for 2005 in the area of seniors and restricted events.

7 ANC

The meeting was told of a meeting with NZ delegates at the Surfers Congress, chaired by John Wignall. The minutes were tabled. NZ suggested a resumption of test matches, Richard Solomon of NZ to report on proposals.
NZ requested participation in the Open, Women's and Seniors events at the ANC. South Australia was amenable to possible participation at the 2006 ANC in Adelaide providing their attendance did not create problems in the scheduling, which in effect limits the entry to 8 teams per event. Also that any visiting teams would be prohibited from playing in the finals.
The question of eligibility was raised and reference was made to previous minutes on the subject. Players representing a state had to be bona fide residents for a 6 month period preceding the event, and bona fide member of an affiliated club in the state and not have played in any selection event elsewhere.
The Draw for the 2005 ANC Teams was done, the information to be posted forthwith on the ABF Webpage (RG)
The meeting then discussed the Tournament Unit participation at the ANC.

a) There were conflicting views put forward especially by NSW over the requirement for the TU to be used.
b) EHR gave the history of the TU which started in 1991, that the members were very experienced and offered continuity of expertise. The smaller states of TAS and NT were concerned over any suggestion that the TU would be disbanded as the expertise was essential to them.
c) NSW expressed concern at the high coast of employing the TU and suggested that the ABF should bear some if not most of the cost.

d) EHR reminded the presidents that the entry fees for the Butler (the main source of revenue) had risen substantially in recent years which was designed to cover any extra costs of the TU.

e) The ABF is concerned at the perceived inability of NSW to run the ANC at a profit.

Alex Yezerski, attended the meeting briefly just after lunch to put NSW case in addition to other items. Alex was concerned that the ANC would show a loss of around $7000.00 unless the ABF assisted in the cost of the TU. This matter to be referred to the MC.
The President advised the meeting that the MC would make a decision on all matters on Sunday.

8 2005 World Youth Championships, Sydney

The presidents were requested to support the various fund raising activities, e.g. the promotion of the commemorative cards. All the information regarding the event was on the ABFWebsite.

9 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships.

Jeanette Collins, president of the VBA advised the meeting of the difficulties in applying for and being given permission to deviate from the present allowable number of tables according to the permit of table numbers. This may create a problem in the VBA being used for the tournament. This was an ongoing problem which hopefully would be resolved.
A question was raised as to the extra costs of sending a six man team and why it was necessary. Also doubts were raised over state participation, although there was a general consensus that the event should be supported.

10 BB/VC/SB approach to Queensland

Keith MacDonald advised the meeting that there were proposals in place for the staging of the World Championships to be held in Queensland in the near future. That because of his position as both President of the ABF and President of Qld, this could present a conflict of interest and he sought the meeting approval to proceed. Keith advised the meeting that the State Government would need to put in a minimum of $250,000.00. The meeting unanimously supported Keith's proposals.

11 Spring Nationals

A suggestion was put to the meeting to break the nexus between the Spring Nationals and the GNOT finals, EHR suggested that the Sydney Festival and the Spring Nationals combine away from the GNOT time slot, a date of September was mooted and acceptable on the proviso that it did not conflict with other events. NSW proposed that the ABF cede the S-Nats to the NSWBA (on a licensed basis) and that the Sydney Festival be scrapped. Refer to Tournament Committee or Management Committee

12 GNOT

The information was on the ABF Webpage.

13 Gue Matter

The meeting was advised that SABA and Phil Gue had reached agreement over member affiliation (later queried at MC meeting). There was concern whether the 100% rule was being adhered to especially in regard to supervised players.

14a State Director Accreditation.

RG to write to each state requesting copies of their course and exam

b BBO:

Not operational at ANOT, however the meeting supports use of BBO. Refer to Technology Committee

c Nationwide Pairs

Sponsor Queens Slipper Playing Cards

d ABF Teaching Subsidies

A reminder that all requests will only be entertained if they come through the relevant State Association and are on a dollar for dollar basis up to $2000.00.

e Outright awards for regional GNOT Finals

The President referred to emails from David Anderson, Martin Wilcox told of his concerns as to where to draw the line, and what actually constituted a regional final?

f Professional Indemnity Insurance

g Raffle in memory of Penny Crittle

The blanket was viewed and the project explained and was received with acclamation, details on the Webpage, to be drawn at the SFOB Canberra in Jan 2006

h Conveners for ABF and Licensed events:

I Conversion of Grand Slam Points for ABF events

See the Summer Festival Regulations, which covers this subject. Makes mention of Rating Points

j Any Other Business

NT: Made mention of their Gold point event in Darwin 1st to 4th September

TAS: Wanted information on availability of cardboard wallets. RG to assist

SA: Concerned over the 50% reduction in entry fees for Youth. The President replied that the Decision was taken at the Feb MC meeting to encourage youth participation and that it was in the too hard basket to differentiate students from non-students.

WA: Nigel Dutton queried the mechanism for TD's to improve their level within the directors Accreditation scheme. Keith McDonald advised Nigel that John Brockwell was the chairman of the committee and the best venue for advancement was to direct at the Summer Festival. The Presidents were concerned that the SF was somewhat of a closed shop. K McDonald advised the meeting that he would investigate, in the mean time the minutes from the Feb meeting were on the Web.

Qld: K McDonald in his role as QBA President made mention of the successes of various Qld

gold point events. Keith also advised the meeting of the necessity to increase remuneration payments, making mention of payments made to various Queensland positions, including The Bulletin Editor, TC Chairman, MP Secretary + others.

ACT: The meeting was advised that a strong youth program was in force in ACT, Griff Ware had taken over as Youth Co-coordinator for ACT and had formed the ANU Bridge Club and two High Schools and the Canberra Bridge Club have sessions on a weekly basis which are well supported.

The President: The ABF and NZCBA were under pressure from the WBF to reach 50,000 membership. This was necessary to maintain Zone 7's two places in the BB, VC and SB. Mr Damiani, President of the WBF was under a degree of pressure from the Europeans who felt that 2 places from Zone 7 was unjustified on current membership numbers.

The meeting was advised that David Lusk had resigned as Youth Co-coordinator the need to replace this position to be referred to David Stern.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm