

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ABF Headquarters, 4/51 Tennant Street, Fyshwick
Canberra

Saturday 18th May and Sunday 19th May 2013
Start Time: 11.00am Saturday and 9.30am Sunday

1. Identification of Attendees

1.1 Roll Call

ACT	P Kahler, R Nixon
NSW	B Neill, J Foster (3 rd Vote)
NT	P Nunn
QLD	K McDonald (Chair)
SA	D Marler, T O'Loughlin
TAS	D Cooper, A Richman
VIC	S Hinge, B Morgan
WA	A Stralow, N Dutton
General Counsel	E Magner
Minute Secretary	J Rasmussen

1.2 President welcomes new Councillors and thanks retiring Councillors

President thanked Quentin Van Abbe and Charles Page for their time on ABF Council.
President welcomed Brian Morgan and Annette Maluish to Council.

1.3 Bona Fides of each person present voting or observing

Confirmed

1.4 Apologies

E Nunn
L Kelso and K Morrison (Supplemental Councillors).

2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting (24th March 2012)

2.1 Chairman's power to vary Agenda as circumstances dictate

Moved Dallas Cooper, seconded Julian Foster

2.2 Confirmation

Minutes of the meeting 24 March 2012 were amended and confirmed.
25 to 24 March 2012

1.2 Kieran to Keiran Crowe Mai

3. 2008 to 2012

4.1 Nay vote from Charles Page

Moved Bruce Neill, seconded Nigel Dutton

2.3 Matters arising

Nil

2.4 Minutes of Previous Mid-Year Meeting (8 September 2012)

2.5 Confirmation

Amended and confirmed

5 f) Simon Hinge demonstrated

5 h) (iv) Loss top NTBA at ANC in 2012 close to \$1000

Moved Simon Hinge, seconded Pam Nunn

2.6 Matters arising

3. Appointments

3.1. General Counsel – Eilis Magner (was appointed in 2012 for a further 2 years)

3.2. Public Officer – Julia Hoffman – Moved Simon Hinge seconded Bruce Neill - carried

3.3. Auditors – Moore Stephens – Moved Roy Nixon seconded Julian Foster - carried

3.4. Delegates for Zone PABF – the ABF MC sought the endorsement of Peter Buchen as the delegate to both the APBF and Zone 7 meetings – so endorsed.

3.5. Delegates for Zone 7

4. Executive Reports

4.1 The President

Added a thank you to Rice Moore Gibson

4.2 The Secretary

In future years to add to Committee Reports a Management Committee report and refer to the Secretary's Report.

4.3 The Treasurer

Financial reports accepted. General comment that this is the first year in 4 that we have recorded a surplus.

Moved Roy Nixon, seconded Nigel Dutton

The budget for 2013 was ratified by the Council.

4.4 The General Counsel

For the benefit of new Councillors, Legal Counsel explained her role on the ABF.

Pam Nunn queried players who are “not in good standing”. How are Tournament Organisers advised of these players. General Counsel advised that the information comes from the ABF Secretariat. No players in this category at present.

4.5 James O'Sullivan Foundation

Line of credit with the ABF now \$200,000.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Tournament Committee – K Morrison

5.2 Finance Committee – R Nixon

5.3 ABF Masterpoint Centre –D Weston

Simon Hinge chasing down Most Improved Player awards.

5.4 Systems Committee – L. Kelso

The new “announcement regulations” as proposed in the paper tabled by Laurie Kelso were considered by the Council, but will be the subject of further discussion between the TC and MC of the ABF prior to possible roll-out on 1st August 2013.

- 5.5 Ethics Committee – E Magner
No matters were referred in 2012.
- 5.6 National Authority – E Magner
There was one meeting in 2012 re: Law 16B which is now on the website.
- 5.7 Regulations Committee – L. Kelso
- 5.8 Masterpoint Committee – D. Anderson
The recommendation tabled in the report from D Anderson that all A3 congress awards be reclassified to A2 was endorsed by the Council to take effect immediately.
- 5.9 Player Liaison Committee – D. Marler
- 5.10 Youth Committee – I Del'Monte
- 5.11 Newsletter Committee – A. Richman
- 5.12 National Directors Accreditation Committee – J. Brockwell
Council endorsed the recommendations.
Secretary to send out email to all States reminding them to nominate trainees for the SFOB.
- 5.13 Technology Committee – S Hinge
- 5.14 Library Committee – T. Bourke
- 5.15 Governance Committee – N. Dutton
- 5.16 Marketing Committee – A. Stralow
 - 5.16.1 National Marketing Coordinator – S. Mulcahy
 - 5.16.2 National Teaching Coordinator – J. Butts
- 5.17 Women in Bridge Committee – D. Marler

6. ANC Calendar

- 6.1. 2013 ANC Adelaide – D Wellman and D Marler
- 6.2. 2014 ANC Sydney – M Scudder (being held at Canterbury Race Course)

7. Tournaments and Licensed Events

(a) ABF Managed Tournaments

- 7.1. 2012 (i) GNOT – J. Brockwell
Tournament Organiser requested a change back to Tweed Heads for 2014.
Further discussion required.
- 7.2. 2013 (ii) Summer Festival – S. Mullamphy
Procedures in place for 2014.
- 7.3. 2012 (iii) Australian Playoff's – S. Mullamphy
- 7.4. 2013 (iv) Australian Senior Playoff's – S Mullamphy
- 7.5. 2012 (v) GNP – J Brockwell
President to write letters to Australian Bridge and the ABF Newsletter.

(b) ABF Licensed Tournaments

- 7.6. 2013 (i) Tasmanian Festival of Bridge – D. Cooper
- 7.7. 2012 (ii) Hans Rosendorff Memorial Women’s Teams – S. Young
- 7.8. 2012 (iii) Barrier Reef Teams – A Hooper
- 7.9. 2013 (iv) Autumn National Teams – D. Marler
- 7.10. 2012 (v) Western Senior Pairs – J. Aquino
- 7.11. 2012 (vi) Golden West – A. Stralow
- 7.12. 2012 (vii) Swan River Swiss Pairs – H. Yovich
- 7.13. 2013 (viii) Gold Coast – T. Tully
- 7.14. 2012 (ix) NT Gold – P. Nunn
- 7.15. 2012 (x) Spring Nationals – M Scudder
- 7.16. 2012 (xi) VCC – K Frazer
- 7.17. 2012 (xii) Coffs Harbour – H Blewitt
- 7.18. 14th World Bridge Games, Lille – S Mullamphy

8. Independent Organisations

- 8.1.ABDA Report –S. Mullamphy

9. Notice of Motion

- 10.1 Proposed Amendment to Constitution and Bylaws of the Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated

The proposed amendments to the ABF Constitution are based on

- a) recommendations contained in the letter from the legal firm Hunt & Hunt obtained by Nigel Dutton as Chair of the Governance;
- b) the need to recognise the abolition of the Tournament Unit; c) recommendations from P Gallasch, National Recorder; and,
- c) concerns identified by the Management Committee

The following amendments are proposed:

Clause One: This amendment is based on the advice from Hunt & Hunt and makes explicit reference to the legislation under which the ABF is now incorporated. The clause also refers to the constituent organisations at the time that the ABF was initially incorporated. Several of these organisations have been replaced by successor organisations, there is no legal question as to whether successor organisations are both bound by and entitled to insist on their rights under the document.

FEDERATION AND NAME

1. The Australian Bridge Federation (the Federation) is an association incorporated under the **Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)** (the Act). ~~federation hereby constituted is known as "Australian Bridge Federation Incorporated" ("the Federation"). The Federation is the federation of I-Its constituent associations which at the date of the when the Federation was established adoption of this constitution~~ were Australian Capital Territory Bridge Association Inc., Bridge Association of Western Australia Inc., New South Wales Bridge Association Limited, Queensland Bridge Association Inc., South Australian Bridge Association Inc., Tasmanian Bridge Association Inc. Victorian Bridge Association Limited and Northern Territory Bridge Association Inc. In 2013 the constituent associations are: New South Wales Bridge Association Limited, South Australian Bridge Federation Inc., Tasmanian Bridge Association Inc.; Queensland Bridge Association Inc.; Victorian Bridge Association Limited; Bridge Association of Western Australia Inc.; Northern Territory Bridge Association Inc.; Bridge Federation of the ACT Inc.

Clause Five: This amendment reflects the advice from Hunt & Hunt the powers of the organs are determined by the legislation so that the constitution controls only their composition.
Governance Committee to look into this Clause

Clause Six: This amendment was suggested by the Management Committee to clarify the term of office of a Councillor, there is no change to substance.

THE FULL COUNCILLORS AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL COUNCILLORS

6. (1) At least ten (10) days prior to each Annual General Meeting at which the term of a Full Councillor appointed by a State is due to expire that State must by notice in writing to the Secretary, appoint one ABF registered player as a Full Councillor who (subject to the provisions of clauses 6(3) and 18) holds office from the commencement of such Annual General Meeting until the commencement of the third succeeding Annual General Meeting the day of the Annual General Meeting for approximately two years ending on the day of the AGM.

Clause Thirteen: This amendment was suggested by the Management Committee to reflect changes in financial practices.

13. The Treasurer shall:-

- (a) receive and pay moneys on behalf of the Federation;
- (b) deposit in a Federation bank account all moneys received by the Federation;
- (c) authorise payments ~~pay all sums~~ that exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) ~~by way of cheque drawn on a Federation bank account;~~

Clause Sixteen: The amendment is, as suggested by Hunt & Hunt.

Governance Committee to look into this Clause

Clause Seventeen: The amendment recognises the change in terminology suggested by Hunt & Hunt.

17 (d) Subject to this Constitution ~~ese Rules~~ and the By-laws and to any direction of the Council or the Management Committee, all Committees shall establish their own procedures and may reach decisions by conference telephone or by a telephone or postal ballot conducted by the Chairman.

Clause Nineteen (2): The amendment recognises the abolition of the Tournament Unit and the appointment of National Tournament Coordinators.

(2) The Management Committee shall appoint National Tournament Coordinator(s) ~~a Tournament Unit~~ to conduct or supervise the conduct of tournaments on behalf of the Federation and to carry out such other functions as are set out in the By-laws.

Clause Nineteen (3) and (3a): embodies current arrangements regarding Recorders and the National Recorder.

(3) The Management Committee must appoint for each tournament conducted or sponsored by the Federation two or more ~~a~~ Recorders including at least one male and one female ABF registered player. ~~The whose qualifications and functions of the recorders are set out in the By-laws. The Management Committee may delegate the responsibility of making this appointment(s) to the~~ Convener-Organiser of the Tournament acting in concert with the National Tournament Coordinator(s).

(3A) The Management Committee shall appoint a National Recorder whose functions are set out in the By-laws.

Clause 26 and 30: embody a consequential name change.

CHANGE OF RULES CONSTITUTION

26. This Constitution ~~ese Rules~~ may be amended and the matters which are the subject of clauses 27(2), 29(2) and 30(1) may be accomplished only if a resolution of the Council to that effect is carried by a resolution of the Council by at least a three-quarters majority of the Full Councillors their deputies or proxies and voting such resolution having arisen from a motion proposed and seconded by Full Councillors or their deputies and of which at least twenty-one (21) days' notice in writing has been given by the Secretary to each Councillor (provided that the failure of any Councillor to receive such notice shall not invalidate the resolution) and such resolution is approved by at least two-thirds of the States by their giving notice in writing to that effect to the Secretary.

30. (1) The Council may make By-Laws to regulate the operation of this Constitution ~~ese Rules~~ and the conduct of the Federation's affairs provided that in the event of any inconsistency the Constitution ~~se Rules~~ shall prevail.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Clause 1, Clause 2, Clause 4, Clause 5 (5) (6) consequential amendments to names

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 In these By-Laws unless the context otherwise requires words and expressions shall have the same meaning as in the Constitution ~~Rules~~ of the Federation.

2. PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

Order of Business

2.1 The order of business for annual meetings of the ABF Council shall be as laid down in the [Rules Constitution](#) and in respect of any matters not so prescribed these shall be as determined by the Management Committee and set out in the Notice of Meeting.

Tournament Committee

4.4 The Tournament Committee is chaired by a Councillor and must include ~~a at least one (1)~~ "of the National Tournament Co-ordinator(s)" ~~representative of the Tournament Unit~~ appointed under clause 19(2) and By-law 5.1. The function of the Tournament Committee is to advise the Management Committee as to the nature structure and conditions of tournaments conducted by the Federation and to promulgate the general Tournament Regulations of the Federation.

Systems Committee

4.5 The Systems Committee is chaired by a Councillor and its members include the Chairman of the Tournament Committee or his or her nominee and a [National Tournament Co-ordinator](#) ~~member of the Tournament Unit (who may be the same person)~~. The function of the Systems Committee is to oversee the system regulations of the Federation and ancillary matters and to propose desirable changes thereto to the Management Committee from time to time.

4.13 Subject to the [Rules Constitution](#) these By-Laws and to any direction of the Council or the Management Committee all Committees shall establish their own procedures and may reach decisions by conference telephone or by a telephone or postal ballot conducted by the Chairman. Unless otherwise decided by the Committee all decisions of the Committee shall be by majority vote the Chairman having a second or casting vote.

5.5 The employees and contractors employed or engaged by the Management Committee from time to time in accordance with the [Rules Constitution](#) may include but are not limited to:

5.6 The marketing or other commercial or promotional functions which the Management Committee may undertake in accordance with the [Rules Constitution](#) may include but are not limited to the sale of Bridge stationery, trophies, novelties, computer services relating to scoring and the conduct of tournaments and the like and such other items products and services relating to the game of Bridge as the Management Committee may determine from time to time.

Clause 3 (11) this amendment embodies the procedure used in 2010.
Governance Committee to look into this Clause

Clause 5 (1) and (2) transfer of functions from Tournament Unit.

5. OPERATIONS

Tournament Unit

5.1 The functions of the Tournament ~~Organiser Unit appointed by the Management Committee in accordance with the Rules~~ shall include the promulgation of supplementary regulations for each tournament, the appointment and operation of the appeals committee for the tournament, the provision of directorial services. [The National Tournament Coordinator\(s\)](#) shall liaise with the [Tournament Organiser](#) ~~when required, the establishment of communications with the convener of the tournament~~ and with directors and recorders and generally ~~in all ways to supervise and~~ assist with the conduct ~~of the running~~ of ABF tournaments.

5.2 As far as possible at least one [National Tournament Coordinator](#) or [duly appointed representative](#) ~~member of the Tournament Unit~~ shall be present at every tournament which is conducted or sponsored by the Federation.

Clause 5(3) (3A) clear statement of Recorder responsibilities.

Recorder

5.3 The functions of the Recorder appointed by the Management Committee in accordance with Rule 19(3) are to hear complaints and grievances from players in the tournament, [to report to the National Recorder after each event](#); and, where appropriate, to refer any such matters to the directors of the tournament.

National Recorder

5.3A The functions of the National Recorder appointed by the Management Committee in accordance with Rule 19(3) are to receive reports from the Recorders and to submit a report with recommendations to the ABF General Counsel, to offer assistance and guidance to the Recorders, to maintain a Recorder's Book and to notify parties as to their inclusion into that book.

Clauses One, Six, Thirteen, Seventeen, Nineteen (2), Nineteen (3) and (3a), Clause 26 and 30.

Bylaws, Clause 1, 2, 4, 5 (5) (6), 5(1) and (2) and 5(3) (3A)

Proposed Bruce Neill, Seconded Peter Kahler- Carried

Clause Five, Sixteen

Bylaws, Clause 3(11)

Proposed Bruce Neill, seconded Dianne Marler - Defeated

10. General Business

10.1. Honoraria

Honoraria for CTD of the ABF was set at \$3500, moved Roy Nixon seconded Julian Foster – motion carried.

10.2. Committees for 2013

Composition of the Committees for 2013 will be further looked at by the Management Committee.

10.3. Mid Term ABF Meeting Date – 2 November 2013

Mid Term Meeting for 2014 8 November 2014 at 9.30 Brisbane
AGM Meeting 24th and 25th May 2014 at 11.00am Canberra

10.4. President's Meeting Date

10.5. Any other business

11.5.1 – Marketing Strategy report from President SABF – T O'Loughlin

Marketing Officer to be asked to put together a proposal for funding from the Federal Government.

11.5.2 – Restricted Event (GNP replacement)

Council discussed the idea of sending restricted players to the ANC. This to be considered by the Tournament Committee in consultation with WA with a view to instituting in 2015.

11.5.3 – ANC Entry Fees and Byes in the Teams competition

Council agreed to the new fee structure but insisted that all States pay for 4 teams. Any subsidies will be handled separately.

Moved Julian Foster, seconded Peter Kahler

The matter of byes at the ANC was referred back to the Tournament Committee for further consideration following lessons learned at the ANC in 2013. Agreed that ANC in its current format be continued.

11.5.4 – New ABF Web Site

11.5.5 – Draw for ANC Teams

Open							
ACT	NSW	QLD	SA1	TAS	VIC	WA	SA2
7	2	8	3	5	1	4	6
Women's							
ACT	NSW	QLD	SA1	TAS	VIC	WA	SA2
4	7	8	2	3	1	6	5
Seniors'							
ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
8	3	6	1	2	4	5	7
Youth							
ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	VIC	WA		
3	4	6	2	1	5		

11.5.6 - Ranking Scheme

The Council asked the Management Committee to move a ranking scheme forward and report progress at the AGM in 2014.

10.6. Strategic Plan

To be looked at further at the Mid Term meeting on 2nd November 2013.

10.7. Electronic Meetings

MC Chair stated that he was not keen for MC Meetings but that other Committees were welcome to look into the idea. Simon Hinge to look into nature and cost of equipment to be able to put this facility in place.

10.8. Meeting close

Chairman thanked the Council for their participation and closed at 2.30pm.

Dianne Marler
Secretary, ABF