

**AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**ABF Headquarters, 4/51 Tennant Street, Fyshwick
Canberra**

Saturday 24th May and Sunday 25th May 2014
Start Time: 11.00am Saturday and 9.00am Sunday

1. Identification of Attendees

1.1. Roll Call

ACT	P Kahler (proxy for R Nixon)
NSW	J Foster, B Neill (3 rd Vote)
NT	P Nunn (proxy for J Herring)
QLD	G Rusher, K McDonald
SA	T O'Loughlin, P Gue
TAS	H Grosvenor, D Cooper
VIC	B Morgan, B Thompson (Deputy Councillor for S Hinge)
WA	N Dutton, A Stralow
General Counsel	R Harms
Supplemental	L Kelso
Minute Secretary	J Rasmussen

1.2. President welcomes new Councillors and thanks retiring Councillors and Office Bearers

President thanked both Dianne Marler and Eric Nunn for their time on ABF Council. President welcomed Phil Gue and Judy Herring to Council. Keith McDonald expressed his deep appreciation of the hard work and dedication of both Dianne Marler and Professor Eilis Magner. Professor Magner had been the ABF Legal Counsel for 16 years. Dianne Marler has been the Secretary of the ABF for 8 years and the President thanked her for the efficient manner in which she carried out her duties.

1.3. Bona Fides of each person present voting or observing
Confirmed

1.4. Apologies

R Nixon, S Hinge, J Herring
K Morrison (Supplemental Councillor)

2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting (18th and 19th May 2013)

2.1. Chairman's power to vary Agenda as circumstances dictate

2.2. Confirmation

Minutes of previous meeting were taken as confirmed.
Moved Allison Stralow, seconded Dallas Cooper

2.3. Matters arising

Nil

3. Election of Office Bearers

3.1 Management Committee (President, Secretary, Treasurer, two members)

President: One nomination received from Bruce Neill

Proposed: K McDonald, seconded Julian Foster

Elected unopposed.

Keith McDonald retired as President. Bruce Neill took the chair.

Secretary: One nomination received from Allison Stralow

Proposed: K McDonald, seconded Bruce Neill

Elected unopposed

Dianne Marler retired as Secretary. Allison Stralow took the role.

Treasurer: Re-nominated for the position.

As there were no other nominations, R. Nixon was reappointed.

As there were 3 nominations for 2 positions for ordinary members, there was an election. Julian Foster and Professor Eilis Magner were appointed scrutineers.

Dallas Cooper Proposed: K McDonald, seconded Bruce Neill - elected

Simon Hinge Re-nominated for the position - re-elected

The successful officials hold office until the AGM 2016.

Kim Morrison was re-elected Supplemental Councillor

4. Appointments

4.1. General Counsel – Russel Harms

Eilis Magner retired. Russel Harms was appointed General Counsel.

4.2. Public Officer – Julia Hoffman

Julian Hoffman re-appointed.

4.3. Auditors – Moore Stephens

Moore Stephens were re-appointed

4.4. Delegates for Zone APBF

Bruce Neill was appointed delegate to the APBF

4.5. Delegates for Zone 7

Russel Harms and Julian Foster were appointed delegates for Zone 7

4.6. President Emeritus:

Section 10 (5) of the Constitution allows Council at its discretion to elect a past President of the Federation as President Emeritus for a term of two years. The duties of a President Emeritus shall be to advise the Management Committee and the Council. The President Emeritus may attend and speak at meetings of the Council and the Management Committee but shall not be entitled to vote at Management Committee Meetings unless he is a member.

Council is invited to consider the appointment of Keith McDonald as President Emeritus, to enable the new Management Committee to have access to his knowledge and experience of the history of the ABF.

Moved: Bruce Neill seconded Graham Rusher.

The new President Emeritus was presented with a gold medallion in recognition of over 16 years of service as President.

5. Executive Reports

5.1. The President

5.2. The Secretary

The ABF MC is currently polling states and territories to ascertain their interest (or not) in sponsoring a program of Professional Development for Teachers. Action: AS

5.3. The Treasurer

Financial reports accepted. Operations expenditure. Refer query to the Treasurer, to then send clarification to council
Action: RN

5.4. The General Counsel

General Counsel reported that she had actioned the item requested by the council at the mid-term meeting for advice on election methods.

5.5. James O'Sullivan Foundation

\$10,000 was donated in the name of Jessel Rothfield.

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Tournament Committee – K Morrison

Council discussed the perception of lack of communication and consultation of this committee when making decisions about changes to PQP and event structures. President to speak with Chair to see if these issues can be resolved.
Action: BN

6.2. Finance Committee – R Nixon

Council congratulated the Treasurer on an excellent job as Chair of the Finance Committee. Julian Foster spoke to the council on the reserves policy formulated by the Finance Committee. Council would like a reserves policy framework to be adopted. Finance committee to investigate an investment plan.
Action: RN

6.3. ABF Masterpoint Centre – D Weston

Council discussed possible changes to capitation and masterpoint fees, in particular the possibility of reintroducing first year free of capitation fees for new members. Phil Gue and Ben Thompson raised the idea of a class of social membership, which it was agreed MC would consider; MC will discuss and gather input from the finance and/or marketing committees.

Action: AS

6.4. Systems Committee – L Kelso

6.5. Ethics Committee – E Magner

6.6. National Authority – E Magner

6.7. Regulations Committee – L Kelso

Council acknowledged that Laurie Kelso was now the Secretary of the WBF Laws Commission.

6.8. Masterpoint Committee – D Anderson

6.9. Player Liaison Committee – D Marler

6.10. Youth Committee – No Report

6.11. Newsletter Committee – D Cooper

6.12. National Directors Accreditation Committee – J Brockwell

K McDonald suggested President chair this committee. President will look into it.

Council discussed director accreditation at levels below national; NDAC to facilitate sharing of director development/accreditation resources and to encourage common base-level standards for director accreditation at lower levels. ABF Secretary to email associations to gather information

Action: AS, LK

6.13. Technology Committee – S Hinge

Council would like the creation of a program to integrate all scores into a national template.

6.14. Library Committee – T Bourke

Council agreed to purchase Australian books of significance and to back date this to when the previous funding was discontinued.
Action: AS

6.15. Governance Committee – Refer to item 12.4

6.16. Marketing Committee – A Stralow

6.16.1. National Marketing Coordinator – S Mulcahy

6.16.2. National Teaching Coordinator – J Butts

6.17. Women in Bridge Committee – D Marler

Council agreed that Di Marler continue the role as Chairperson.

7. ANC Calendar

7.1. 2014 ANC Sydney – M Scudder

7.2. 2015 ANC Perth – S Young

8. Tournaments and Licensed Events

ABF Managed Tournaments

- 8.1. 2013 (i) GNOT – J Brockwell
- 8.2. 2014 (ii) Summer Festival – S Mullamphy
- 8.3. 2014 (iii) Australian Playoffs – S Mullamphy
- 8.4. 2014 (iv) Australian Senior Playoffs – S Mullamphy

9. WBF Tournaments Etc

- 9.1. 49th APBF Hong Kong – P Buchen
President gave a verbal report.

10. Independent Organisations

- 10.1. ABDA Report –S Mullamphy

11. Notice of Motion

- 11.1. Committee of Honour

In accordance with Section 25 of the Constitution, Professor Eilis Magner be elected to the ABF Committee of Honour.

Proposed: K McDonald Seconded: B Neill.

EXPLANATION:

Professor Eilis S Magner BA (Ott), BEd (Tor), LLB (ANU), LLM (NSW), SJD (Tor), Solicitor has served as General Counsel for 16 years. Her fine legal mind has assisted in guiding successive Management Committees and Annual General Meetings. Her contribution has been outstanding. A brief statement cannot do justice to her efforts on behalf of the ABF. It is with considerable pleasure that I move a motion for her elevation to the Committee of Honour for her outstanding service as General Counsel.

The council agreed to elect Professor Eilis Magner to the Committee of Honour with a presentation at the Summer Festival of Bridge in 2015.

12. General Business

- 12.1. Committees for 2014

Committee	Chair	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
Ethics	R.Harms	S.Hinge	J.Hoffman	P.Gallasch	G.Ware	
Governance	T.O'Loughlin	P.Kahler	J.Foster	R.Harms		
Library	T.Bourke	S.Hinge				
Marketing & Teaching	B.Morgan	A.Richman	A.Stralow	H.Grosvenor	T.O'Loughlin	
MP Unit	D.Anderson					
Nat Authority	R.Harms	B.Travis	H.Grosvenor	S.Mullamphy	L.Kelso#	
Newsletter	D.Cooper	A.Richman	P.Nunn			
Olympic	K.McDonald					
Player Liaison	S.Hinge	D.Marler	M.Doecke			
Regulations	L.Kelso	E.Magner	M.McManus			
Systems	L.Kelso	P.Kahler	P.Reynolds	N.Dutton		
Technology	S.Hinge	N.Dutton	J.Foster			
Tournament	K.Morrison	E.Ramshaw	M.Scudder	P.Reynolds	D.Morgan	S.Mullamphy
	L.Kelso	M.McManus				
Women In Bridge	D.Marler	D.Cooper				

Youth	P.Gue	F.Rew	G.Ware	J.Howard	L.Travis	L.Gold
	N.Griffiths	P.Gosney		P.Gill		
	# Observer					

Committees not listed here will be held over until the first Management Committee meeting.

12.2. Mid Term ABF Meeting Date - 8 November 2014 - Sydney

12.3. Any other business

12.5.1. Escapes Direct – Meeting with Councillors at 12.30 Saturday 24th

Jared Baker from Escapes Direct gave a presentation to the council. He stated their travel deals are 40-70% less than other travel companies.

12.5.2. Get Wines Direct – Mark Kennedy was unable to attend on 11.30 Sunday 25th

Susanna Douglas provided a print-out which was distributed to all council members. Members will receive a 7% discount off all wine purchases. Get Wines Direct will be attending the ANC in Sydney.

12.4. Moore Stephens Governance Report

Tim O’Loughlin addressed council on behalf of the Governance Committee and suggested that further work was required to delineate the respective roles and functions of the Council and Management Committee. He supported the recommendation of the Moore Stephens report that the ABF retain its current incorporation under the Association Incorporation Act (ACT). However, he did not support the Moore Stephens recommendation to remove the Council from the constitution. He argues that the Council should exercise an oversight role of endorsing and/or modifying strategic plans and associated budgets submitted by the Management Committee. He also argued that Council should offer an appeal mechanism for individuals or groups aggrieved by Management Council decisions. To ensure transparency and clarity, Tim argued that a Statement of Expectations should be prepared for Council to use in its dealing with the Management Committee.. A number of other delegates addressed council with other suggestions and comments. The meeting agreed to leave the incorporation unchanged. There was also general agreement on the Council fulfilling the role outlined by Tim and the preparation of a Statement of Expectations. However, Council was keen to see this preceded by a consultative process with its affiliates. To this end, Council requested the Governance Committee to prepare a discussion paper for consultation with affiliates by the end of June. Tim O’Loughlin and the ABF Secretary were tasked to formulate an email and distribute it to all state associations advising this process. Bruce Neill moved that the Governance Committee produce the discussion paper by the end of June. Seconded: Julian Foster.

12.5. Ranking Scheme

There was a general discussion by council on the pros and cons of a ranking scheme. Council would like to see the justification of having a scheme presented to council before moving ahead.

Action: BN

12.6. Strategic Plan

Council looked at the current plan and agreed to review and adjust it to reflect directions of the ABF.

Ben Thompson led council through a whiteboard discussion of the ABF’s strategic priorities. The following were agreed to in ranked order:

1. Enhance enjoyment/experience of players
2. Increase # active players
3. Improve performances in international events

Peter Kahler was tasked with drafting a strategic plan based on a work breakdown structure and presenting it to council for further consideration. The Management Committee will then reformat the strategic plan and budgets to align with priorities and work breakdown.

Action: PK

12.7. GNP

Council discussed whether it would be feasible to add a restricted team event to the ANC. These teams would be substantially subsidised by the ABF. Secretary to poll all state associations. Management Committee and Tournament Committee to discuss the feasibility of a new national restricted pairs event or a restricted GNOT. Tournament Coordinators tasked with setting the limits for Super Novice, Novice and Restricted. Secretary to thank John Brockwell for his paper.

Action: AS

12.8. Nationwide Pairs

A request was made to all councillors to encourage more clubs to participate. A concern was raised over publishing event details before other clubs were able to run their heat. A suggestion was made to instruct clubs to delay publishing results.

12.9. Minutes

Council requested meeting dates to be circulated to councillors and state secretaries. Also for draft agendas to be distributed at least three weeks in advance of management committee meetings to afford the opportunity to add items.

12.10. Meeting Closed

Allison Stralow
Secretary, ABF