

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION LTD
2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SA Bridge Association, Unley SA: 2 May 2022

The President declared the meeting open at 9.40am.

1. Identification of Attendees

1.1. Roll Call

ACT:	Ian Thomson (Treasurer), Stephen Fischer (incoming Secretary)
NSW:	Rob Ward (Board Member)
NT:	Mairead Kelly
QLD:	Richard Ward (incoming Board Member)
SA:	Sheila Bird (substitute Councillor)
TAS:	Sue Falkingham, Hugh Grosvenor
VIC:	Kim Frazer (outgoing Secretary), Christopher Leach, Jenny Thompson
WA:	Allison Stralow (President), Robina McConnell
Supplemental Councillors:	Peter Reynolds, Peter Cox
General Counsel	Phil Markey
Executive Secretary:	Jane Rasmussen
Observers:	Dallas Cooper

1.2. President welcomes new Councillors and thanks retiring Councillors

The President welcomed Jenny Thompson and Hugh Grosvenor to the Council meeting.

She thanked Kim Frazer for her work as Councillor for Victoria and her four years as Secretary of the ABF. She also thanked Adel Abdelhamid, who is stepping off the Board and will continue as Councillor for South Australia.

1.3. Bona Fides of each person present voting or observing

The Secretary noted:

- Rob Ward will hold the three votes for NSW.
- Sheila Bird will hold both votes for SA.
- Richard Ward will hold both votes for QLD.

1.4. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Rosemary Mooney (NT), Charles Page (QLD), Barbara Travis (SA), Adel Abdelhamid (SA), Dagmar Neumann (Substitute Councillor NSW), Laurie Kelso (Supplemental Councillor) and Michael Bryan (Deputy General Counsel).

9. Committee of Honour Nomination

The President addressed *Item 9 – Committee of Honour Nomination* at this point due to schedule considerations. Council endorsed the variation in schedule for this purpose.

RESOLUTION 1: As per section 28.2 of the Constitution, Dallas Cooper is nominated for election to the Committee of Honour.

Moved A. Stralow Seconded K. Frazer

CARRIED

1.5. Appointment/election of Supplemental Councillors

RESOLUTION 2: The following people are to be added as supplemental councillors:

- Peter Reynolds, Chair of the Tournament Committee **CARRIED**
- Laurie Kelso, National Event Coordinator **CARRIED**

1.6. Chairman’s power to vary Agenda as circumstances dictate

The meeting agreed the Chairman would be able to vary the Agenda as necessary.

2. Minutes of 2021 General Meetings

2.1. Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were confirmed at the 2021 mid-term meeting.

2.2. Confirmation of Minutes of 2021 Mid-Term Meeting

One correction was noted. With that correction, the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the 2021 Mid-Term General Meeting.

2.3. Matters arising from the Minutes

2.3.1. 2023 GNOT Format

Council asked the Chair of the Tournament Committee to chair a committee to review the 2023 GNOT format and provide recommendations to Council at the Mid-Term Meeting. Council agreed the committee will comprise:

- Peter Reynolds (chair)
- Richard Ward
- Ray Ellaway
- Jenny Thompson
- Sue Falkingham

Several points were raised during the discussion which will be considered by this subcommittee.

Council and the Board reiterated that the 2022 GNOT format and the PQP allocations for the event will not be affected.

3. Election of the Board

As all nominated officers were elected unopposed, the President announced the following positions and appointments:

- President – Allison Stralow (WA)
- Secretary – Stephen Fischer (ACT)
- Treasurer – Ian Thomson (ACT)
- Board Member – Rob Ward (NSW)
- Board Member – Richard Ward (QLD)

3.1. The President

One nomination was received for President and was elected unopposed:

- President – Allison Stralow (WA)

3.2. The Secretary

One nomination was received for Secretary and was elected unopposed:

- Secretary – Stephen Fischer (ACT)

3.3. The Treasurer

One nomination was received for Treasurer and was elected unopposed:

- Treasurer – Ian Thomson (ACT)

3.4. Board Members (2)

Two nominations were received for two Board Member roles and were elected unopposed:

- Board Member – Richard Ward (QLD)
- Board Member – Rob Ward (NSW)

4. Appointments

4.1. General Counsel

The Board's recommendation that Phil Markey be appointed as General Counsel was accepted by Council.

Michael Bryan will continue as Deputy General Counsel.

4.2. Appointment of Auditors

The Treasurer's recommendation that Synergy be re-appointed as auditors was accepted by Council.

5. Executive Reports on 2021

5.1. The President

The President presented her report to the meeting. She highlighted:

- The resignation of Adel Abdelhamid who was stepping down from the Board. She noted his work in setting up the Risk Management plan during his tenure and wished him well in future endeavours.
- The resignation of Kim Frazer who was stepping down after six years on Council and four years as Secretary.
- Congratulations to Sebastian Yuen for his elevation to his role as WBF director. She noted the ABF efforts in supporting and training directors, particularly by Matthew McManus and Laurie Kelso.

The President discussed the increased cooperation and communication between the ABF, New Zealand Bridge and Zone 7 during the Covid pandemic. Greater use of online communication tools has allowed these organisations to work closer and she anticipates this cooperation to continue. A question about whether this same approach could be used to increase collaboration with Zone 6 members was raised, and the Board will consider opportunities to do so.

The President concluded by thanking the Board and Council for their support and co-operation over the past 12 months.

5.2. The Secretary

The secretary spoke to her report. She acknowledged several people for their support during her tenure:

- Peter Cox, for his efforts as Head of Marketing and in particular for driving BridgeTV
- Dallas Cooper, for her work on the newsletter
- Brad Coles, in his role as Newsletter Editor
- Pauline Gumby, for her outstanding work as ABF webmaster
- Geoff Schaller, for his role in setting up the ABF Microsoft environment and leading the efforts to migrate people to it.

Council raised the question of Councillor training for the Microsoft environment. It was agreed that:

ACTION: The Board ask Geoff Schaller to hold introductory training sessions on the ABF Microsoft environment.

A particular highlight of her time as secretary has been her work on the ABF Foundation, and Kim will continue in her role on the Foundation.

On behalf of Council, the President thanked Kim for her time and effort as secretary. The President noted she was a joy to work with and wished her well in future.

5.3. The Treasurer

5.3.1. ABF Financial Report

The Treasurer noted:

- The ABF realised a profit of \$116k for the financial year. Revenue and expenditure are both well down in Covid times compared to previous years, but expenditure fell further.
- Both masterpoints and capitation revenue increased from 2020 but remain below expected levels.
- Costs relating to international teams were significantly reduced since no international events were held in 2021.
- Audited accounts are expected by mid-May.

Council discussed the role of the accountants at ABF and whether they fulfil ABF requirements.

ACTION: Ian Thomson and Rob Ward were asked to prepare an options paper for the Mid-Term Meeting.

5.3.2. James O’Sullivan Financial Report

The report was received. The Treasurer noted that only two loans are outstanding and there is scope for more clubs to utilise the available funds. Offers were made to clubs affected by the floods to provide bridging loans to enable work to proceed before insurance funds were obtained, but no clubs took up this offer at the time.

He would like to improve exposure of the fund so clubs know it is available to support infrastructure development. After discussion, Council agreed on the following action item:

ACTION: The Board should put together a flyer on the James O’Sullivan Trust, circulate it to clubs and publish it in the ABF newsletter.

5.3.3. Review of Operations 2021 - income

No additional comments.

5.3.4. Review of Operations 2021 – expenditure

No additional comments.

5.3.5. Actual Vs Budget 2021

No comments.

5.3.6. ABF Fees 2023

RESOLUTION 3: That a CPI increase of approximately 2% be applied to the 2023 Capitation fee and the Masterpoint levies, commencing 1 April 2023. Details of the proposal are in the following tables (note all prices are inc GST):

Moved I. Thomson Seconded A. Stralow

CARRIED

Masterpoint Levies	Current	Proposed
Club green points (C, D, E, F)	1.87	1.91
Club red points (B4c, B4s, B5i)	1.5	1.53
Congress red points (B)	1.28	1.31
Congress red points (B3, B4, B5)	1.98	2.02
Congress gold points (A, A2)	1.28	1.31

Capitation Fees	Current	Proposed
Annual capitation - full year	16.1	16.4
Annual capitation on reactivation (Apr-Sep)	16.1	16.4
Annual capitation on reactivation (Oct-Dec)	8.05	8.2
Annual capitation on reactivation (Jan-Mar)	0	0
New member capitation (Apr-Sep)	15.1	15.4
New member capitation (Oct-Dec)	7.05	7.2
New member capitation (Jan-Mar)	0	0

Council discussed the relative prices for masterpoints and raised the following action item:

ACTION: The Treasurer to consult with tournament organisers and other stakeholders to provide historical information and any recommendations for changing the masterpoint price structure. To be considered by the Board and submitted to Council for approval at the 2023 AGM.

5.3.7. ABF Masterpoint Centre

Council discussed two items in the report:

- Issues relating to communication raised by the Masterpoint Centre Manager.
- The need to ensure testing when systems are deployed or updated.

The President highlighted the reduction in member numbers as a key concern.

The Board will consider these topics.

5.4. The General Counsel

The General Counsel noted that the WBF is planning to implement changes to address cheating and their ability to combat it. Currently there is no good process in place and the ABF should use the WBF changes to help identify what changes are required within the ABF.

ACTION: The ABF review its by-laws relating to cheating considering proposed WBF changes. The Board to recommend changes to Council at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

6. Business Area Reports

6.1. Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee has not met since the last Council meeting at the Gold Coast, so no report was submitted. P. Reynolds raised the following points which will be discussed by the Tournament Committee:

- An ABF policy on online bridge
- Chair of the International Player Taskforce
- Update of existing tournament policies, particularly to include Mixed events
- A Contagious Diseases policy
- Advice for tournaments re. Work Health and Safety
- Venue for the next selection trials
- Accreditation of scoring systems for ABF-sanctioned tournaments

ACTION: The Board to review vaccination policy.

P. Reynolds acknowledged Roy Nixon's work in running a successful 2022 playoff event under difficult circumstances. The Tournament Committee has received very good feedback from players about the event.

6.1.1. International Events and Performance

P. Reynolds reported that efforts are underway to reform the International Player Taskforce. It will report to the Tournament Committee and will advise the TC and the Board on initiatives to improve results by Australian teams in the medium and long term.

6.1.2. National Event Coordinators

Council noted the requirement that all future requests for gold point allocations must be made in writing to the Tournament Committee before commencement of the event.

Thanks to Matthew McManus and Laurie Kelso for the report.

6.2. Head of Marketing

Council noted and discussed the report.

The President congratulated Peter Cox on his implementation of Bridge TV and its success during the recent world championships.

6.3. National Teaching Coordinator

No report was submitted.

6.4. Youth

The report was received with thanks. The President noted that Rebecca O'Reilly is bringing new ideas to the role and the Board will look at ways to provide her support in delivering these ideas.

ACTION: Board to discuss support for the Youth Coordinator.

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Technology / MyABF Steering Committee

The Chair of the steering committee summarised the report and highlighted the successful implementation to meet the GCC requirements. He thanked:

- The committee members for their efforts throughout the year
- The project team of Julian Foster, Mark Guthrie and Jane Rasmussen for their ongoing work to develop and support MyABF.

7.2. Ethics Committee

Report included as part of General Counsel's report.

7.3. Finance Committee

Council approved the addition of Jenny Thompson to the Finance Committee.

7.4. Governance Committee

The Governance Committee proposed a timetable for developing and implementing a new organisational model for the ABF, building on previous work that has continued since 2017.

RESOLUTION 4: Council adopt the proposed timeline for work on the organisational model.

CARRIED

Council noted that communication will be essential for any change. Options for next steps were discussed and noted.

7.5. Masterpoint Unit

The report was received with thanks. Council addressed the following recommendation made in the report.

RESOLUTION 5: Registrations made during the period January to March should automatically renew for the coming year, so that clubs will not be able to de-register these players on March 31st.

CARRIED

7.6. ABDA Report

The report was received with thanks. Council raised the following action item:

ACTION: The ABF President to meet with the ABDA President and clarify the relationship between the two organisations.

8. ANC Calendar

8.1. 2022 ANC SA

Council received the report and addressed the points for action.

RESOLUTION 6: Council supports the replacement of the Women's Butler with the Mixed Butler at the 2022 and future ANC events.

CARRIED

Council agreed to refer the second question raised in the report to the NECs for consideration.

8.2. 2023 ANC WA

Council received the report and Robina McConnell provided an overview.

The President thanked RM for her work on the ANC in addition to her contribution to Council and the MyABF steering committee.

9. Committee of Honour Nomination

Addressed at start of meeting.

10. General Business

10.1. Online beginner courses

Rob Ward provided a summary of the progress in this area. The ABF put out an expression of interest but has not yet found the right person through this process.

The President informed Council that one issue is that online teaching participants are not necessarily directed to clubs under current arrangements. The question of how to address this requirement will be considered as part of Board discussions on the matter.

10.2. Youth Bridge

Jenny Thompson highlighted the need to make youth bridge a focus of the ABF strategic direction.

The President mentioned the Board is looking at options to compensate players who qualified for youth teams but were unable to attend target events due to Covid and who are now too old to qualify for that category.

10.3. WBF response to Covid outbreak

Council discussed the Covid outbreak at the recent world championships, including the WBF measures and response to the outbreak.

Council members who were in Salsomaggiore discussed how the stated policies were implemented. The President and the Secretary thanked Ian Thomson and noted the good work he performed in his role as Chef de Mission.

A concern was raised about a statement published by the WBF in the daily bulletin addressing limits to the WBF responsibility for the outbreak.

ACTION: The Board to consider an ABF response to the WBF statement.

11. Confirmation of proposed meeting dates

11.1. 2022 Mid-Term Meeting

The date will be November 19 in Sydney. Venue is TBA but is expected to be near the Sydney Airport.

11.2. 2023 AGM Date

The 2023 AGM was set for the Wednesday immediately preceding the 2023 ANOT.

Meeting Closed 2.50pm

Stephen Fischer

Secretary, ABF