

MINUTES

Finance Committee

31 October 2009, Sydney

Present: Roy Nixon (Chair), Keiran Crowe-Mai, Julian Foster

Apologies: Charles Page (provided comments by email)

1. 2010 Open, Women's and Seniors Playoffs entry fees, Budget, travel subsidies

The Committee decided to set the entry fee at \$260 per player. A preliminary budget has been received from the Playoff's Convener indicating a substantial shortfall of income against expenses if player subsidies are maintained at 2009 levels. The Committee continues to be of the view that in setting player subsidies the aim should be that they do not of themselves inhibit attendance by all the best/most qualified players. Playoff subsidies would be presented at the next MC meeting in December with a view to putting this information on the ABF website by 31 December 2009. Playoff subsidies would continue to be given to all participants whether they qualified through PQPs, the Last Train events or as a Wild Card entry. The Committee recommends approval of the Playoff Convener's budget with a note that the Committee is happy to see the former hospitality event re-instated if it could be arranged conveniently by the Convener.

2. Bridgemates

The Committee discussed the forthcoming purchase of the new Bridgemate 2 scoring unit. The Committee minuted its earlier recommendation to agree to a request by the Convener of the Summer Festival to purchase 260 of these units. It was decided that the units should be purchased by the ABF though the SF Convener would be responsible for their safe keeping, use and transport where necessary. To enable this purchase to occur, the Treasurer was asked to contact the SF Convener and ask that he transfer surplus funds in the SF account to the main ABF bank account. The Committee also discussed the issue of charging for the hire of the new scoring units for use in ABF and ABF licensed events, It was agreed to recommend a fee of \$10 per unit (inc GST), per event with insurance to be carried by the ABF but transport costs by the hirer.

3. Summer Festival of Bridge entry fees

The Committee minuted its out-of-session agreement to an increase in entry fees to the 2010 SF including the NWT, NST and the NOT finals despite continued requests from the TC to stop charging for the various finals. The Committee noted its ongoing project to review the present pricing structure used for the SF with a view to coming up with more incentives to play in more events. This may require data analysis and employing a person to do some limited analysis.

4. TC Capitation fees and Masterpoint charges for 2010

There was further discussion about whether we should be recommending an increase in fees and charges to the MC for the next year. It was decided not to recommend any increase in the ABF Capitation fee. As a measure targeting users, increasing the cost of masterpoints

was generally more equitable. Therefore it was decided to recommend an increase in the cost of gold, red and green masterpoints by 5 cents plus GST, effective 1 April 2010.

5. Changes to the Tournament Unit

The Committee was asked by the MC to consider the salary/contract fee for the soon-to-be-advertised position of National Tournament Coordinator. A starting figure of \$10,000 was recommended.

6. Licensed events

The Committee was asked to reconsider the submission from the NSWBA and Coffs Harbour Congress organisers that in calculating the figure of gross income upon which the ABF Licence fee relies, the cost of included dinners/lunches be discounted. The Committee suggested that agreeing to this would potentially open up a loophole to the detriment of ABF revenue from such events. The Committee therefore recommends that the current definition of gross income be maintained and the 5% level also be maintained for the next round of licenses.

7. Youth Budget

The Committee agreed it would recommend to the MC that the Youth Budget be maintained at between 60k and 70k for 2010.

8. Remuneration Policy for Tournament Unit at ABF Events

The Treasurer was asked to review the present document on the ABF website. It would be send to Committee members for comment.