

MID YEAR MEETING OF THE ABF COUNCILLORS

Saturday 13th September 2008

Venue: ABF Headquarters, Fyshwick, Canberra
10.00am to 3.00pm

1. Identification of attendees:

ACT:	Peter Kahler, Roy Nixon (MC Member)
NSW:	Keiran Crowe-Mai (MC Member), Bruce Neill
NT:	Tim Haubrick
QLD:	Keith McDonald (President)
SA:	Dianne Marler (MC Member)
TAS:	Dallas Cooper, Andrew Richman
VIC:	David Smith
WA:	Allison Stralow
Legal Counsel:	Ellis Magner
Executive Secretary:	Jane Rasmussen
Apologies:	Richard Grenside (Secretary), Tony Jackman (QLD), Carolyn Leach (SA), Martin Willcox (VIC), Eric Nunn (NT), Laurie Kelso (Supplemental)

2. Matters arising:

Nil

3. Executive Reports:

President

- Keith McDonald gave the Council a précis of separation of the ABF and Migration Path and how this has necessitated some changes to the running of the Secretariat as Jane Rasmussen has taken over the running of the Masterpoint Centre. Keith gave attendees an understanding of how it is working and confirmed that the existing system is very slow, labour intensive and traumatic difficult to operate.
- He then went on to outline that the QBA recently run PABF was a great success with the support of the ABF. He passed out a CD of all the photos from the event to all Councillors. Peter Kahler pointed out that he understood that there were some issues with the WBF system cards. There needs to be a simple way of completing these – perhaps an Aussie template could be worked up and put on the ABF web site. The mobile phone rule was then discussed with agreement that we need to offer mobile phone

repository if we intend to enforce this rule in the future – agreed that it is a WBF issue.

- Minutes of MC meetings going on to the web site as quickly as possible after clearance by Legal Counsel.
- MC discussed possible drug testing in Beijing and the ramifications involved.
- All teams will be made aware via David Stern – refer to MC for instruction. Keith commented that the ABF MC was, with assistance of General Counsel, documenting a policy in regard to drug testing.
- Include in Youth regulations – not only will you submit to WBF tests but you should make yourself available for testing in Australia to ensure you pass tests when away.
- Ask TC to review issue of drug testing in Australia and offer a recommendation to the MC.

General Counsel

Ellis advised the following:

- Working on an agreement between the ABF and Paul Marston regarding the Ratings Scheme. Paul signed a Heads of Agreement to enable the ABF to offer clubs a computer based ranking scheme if they chose to use it. This will require further action before it is bedded down. Roy Nixon will assist with the finalization of this task. If the ABF is successful the Grand Slam clubs will re-affiliate with the ABF – but will not be forced to use the masterpoint scheme. Rates for an either/or scenario need to be resolved. Grand Slam clubs must reaffiliate via a State Body – primarily through NSW with a likely increase to their player base of approx 3-4,000. It may prove attractive to players as they want to see their progress and improvement.
- Advised that the new bridge laws are now in place.
- Has a Variation Mortgage Form in hand from the NSWBA.
- Completing a licence between the NSWBA and Coffs Harbour Bridge Club to cover the Coffs Harbour Congress.
- Completed the tender for board dealing at the SFOB with Mary Mullamphy being the successful tenderer.

Secretary

Whilst Richard had no report, he did suggest that the commemorative pins that were struck were sent to all Australian players who participated in the PABF and were very well received when handed out to the international players.

Treasurer

Roy Nixon advised:

- ABF's annual costs are most influenced by subsidies for international travel. Two events were targeted in 2008 – the PABF and the Mind Games in Beijing. Expenditure can vary between

\$120,000 and \$200,000. With the subsidies being offered by the Chinese for Beijing, the ABF commitment would be contained.

- Some office equipment was replaced.
- SFOB is expected to make a surplus of \$20-30,000. With the consolidation of the event into one venue, hopefully the overheads will be reduced.
- As 45% of the ABF's revenue is generated by the masterpoint scheme, we must strive to ensure that the move of the Centre to Canberra is fully supported.
- Affiliation fees make up 35% of the ABF income – with all going well.
- Nothing happening with Ozone. The ABF remains the custodian of all existing monies. There are some minor payments being made for running of the ranking scheme. A balance of approx \$200,000 is in the bank.
- Suggestion of user pays for Masterpoints and affiliation fees is a consideration that is being discussed – but nothing will happen in the short term.
- Licence Agreements are now all in place – with one exception. This is likely to be resolved imminently.

4. Committee Reports

Ethics Committee Finance

One matter being considered
Meeting held on Saturday 13th – The President commented that although part of the Finance Committee, there were many others matters that have been referred to the Roy Nixon for review – Tournament Unit, honoraria, retainers, helpers fees – and how can others join the TU)

Governance Library

No report
The ABF responded to an ad to sell the George Jesner library with Tim Bourke involved in negotiations. The ABF may consider buying if not sold to another buyer. The issue of the ABF rare books is being considered with storage and insurance etc dependent on valuation. RN will chase up with Tim and give the ABF MC a recommendation. The Tim and Margaret Bourke collection is donated to the Library of Victoria.

Marketing Committee Masterpoint Unit

No report
Report from David Anderson tabled. The Council considered the request of the MPU concerning allocation of Masterpoints to players in teams events, but agreed that

there be no change to what is laid down in the Masterpoint Manual. They did state however that they would ask DA to write a recommendation regarding amendment of the MP manual to cover same.

National Authority
Nat Director Accreditation

No report
Some comment re accreditation of directors can be seen as protective of those already on the panel. ABF MC asked Chair of NDA to prepare a paper on processes and follow up. Must be transparent.

Newsletter

Report circulated. AB Newsletter Editor struggles to get match reports on major events. Reports are paid for. MC to write to States and remind them that contributions should be forthcoming. Stephen Lester does a very good job.

Olympic Committee
Player Liaison

No report
Some matters referred to the PC covered length of matches and number of boards played at an event. Referred to the TC. ABF were concerned about cost of ANC so convened a committee chaired by Julia Hoffman who provided a report to the AGM in 2007 on outcomes. Consideration re financial aspects – attendance at congress events determine whether a state will make a profit. Much discussion – lots of good ideas. Peter Kahler asked to be Chair of sub-committee looking into all aspects of the ANC. Allison Stralow offered to assist. PK to co-opt any other members and come back to the Council at the AGM in 2009.

Regulations Committee
State Accreditation

No report
Can't get off the ground. Disbanded committee until further notice.

Systems
Technology
Tournament Committee
Women in Bridge
Youth Committee

No report
No report
Report circulated
Nothing to report
No report.

5. Other Reports

National Viewgraph

Report circulated. Need specific report after each event to include numbers of those watching. Nick Fahrer to be thanked for his report. Some discussion about who makes

decisions re BBO. All agreed BBO is a good innovation.

Masterpoint Centre Project Report circulated. DM gave understanding of where the ABF currently stands. Some discussion around it all. Agreed that we must have documentation in place.

Tournament Unit Discussion on various aspects of report. Upheld Stage II free entry. No penalties on pairs who with draw from the State Pairs event.

6. General Business

- a) Ranking Scheme – already covered.
- b) Refinement of affiliation fees – clarified.
- c) Masterpoint allocation for teams – resolved.
- d) Roll-out of new laws – some discussion – STOP cards are not mandatory – up to States with guidelines on their use available if required.
- e) Entry fees for ANC for 2009 – resolved.
- f) Cost of transport of trophies to each ANC considered with agreement that the ABF will meet costs.
- g) Clash of Australian Swiss Pairs (in Tasmania) and the New Zealand Championships – Andrew Richman raised issue. After discussion it will be referred to the TC again.
- h) Council advised that there were some recent issues regarding SPAM infecting ABF emails. Pauline Gumby resolved.
- i) Standard Australian Systems Cards – to be referred to the Systems Committee to come up with basic cards and put it on the web site as templates for all systems played in Australia.
- j) Every 2 years the PABF is a congress event. Australia needs to decide if they will choose to send teams to the congress. A NPC will not be funded for congress events. Any conditions relating to any event players participate in representing Australia will be notified to players prior to entry. Discussion about PABF in Macau. 2 teams being sent – lots of problems inherent in having Zone 7 at PABF.
Second team that played in PABF called themselves Australia – Keith McDonald clarified issue. Guidelines for subsidies should be the same for all players in all events. David Smith is pushing an attempt to give an automatic prize for 1st to 3rd in the Australian Butler. Butler has lost prestige of being a selection event – TC do not want to consider it. Much discussion – no resolution.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 3.00pm.