

**AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION
2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Hotel Kurrajong, National Circuit, Canberra
Saturday 21th May and Sunday 22th May 2016
Start Time: 9.30am both days

1. Identification of Attendees

1.1 Roll Call

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| ACT | M. Bookallil, P. Giles (Deputy Councillor) |
| NSW | B. Neill, J. Foster |
| NT | P. Nunn (Deputy Councillor) |
| QLD | G. Rusher, K. McDonald |
| SA | P. Gue, W. Lockwood (Deputy Councillor) |
| TAS | H. Grosvenor, D. Cooper |
| VIC | B. Morgan, K. Frazer |
| WA | N. Dutton, A. Stralow |
| General Counsel | R. Harms |
| Supplemental | D. Morgan |
| Executive Secretary | J. Rasmussen |

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

President welcomed Kim Frazer to Council, thanked Simon Hinge for his good work on Council and the Management Committee, and thanked Keith McDonald for his term as President Emeritus.

1.3 Bona Fides of each person present voting or observing

Confirmed.

1.4 Apologies.

R. Nixon, S. Moffitt, J. Herring, T. O'Loughlin and L. Kelso (Supplemental Councillor)

1.5 Appointment of Supplementary Councillors

No Supplemental Councillors were appointed.

2. Minutes

2.1 Minutes of Annual General Meeting (18th and 19h April 2015)

Minutes of meeting were accepted.

Moved: Bruce Neill **Seconded:** Dallas Cooper

Matters Arising: Nil

2.2 Minutes of Mid-Year Meeting (7 November 2015)

Minutes of meeting were accepted.

Moved: Nigel Dutton **Seconded:** Graham Rusher

Matters Arising: Nil

3. Election of Officer Bearers

3.1 Election of Office Bearers:

President – B. Neill elected unopposed.

Secretary – A. Stralow elected unopposed.

Treasurer – R Nixon elected unopposed.

Management Committee Members: D. Cooper elected unopposed. K Frazer elected unopposed.

Noted that the elected officials are elected until the AGM 2018.

4. Appointments

4.1 General Counsel – Russel Harms Appointed.

Moved: Bruce Neill **Seconded:** Keith McDonald

4.2 Public Officer – Julia Hoffman Appointed.

Moved: Bruce Neill **Seconded:** Marianne Bookallil

4.3 Auditors – Synergy Appointed

Moved: Julian Foster **Seconded:** Bruce Neill

4.4 Delegates for Zone APBF

ABF President, Secretary and Treasurer to be listed as delegates and attendance at meetings to be decided later.

Moved: Bruce Neill **Seconded:** Allison Stralow

4.5 Delegates for Zone 7 – as 4.4

5. Executive Reports

All reports in items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were pre-circulated. All reports were noted and accepted.

The relevant Councillors spoke to each report and answered questions. The discussion to each report is minuted.

5.1 The President

- 5.1.1 a) Annual Report on Strategic Activities in 2015.
b) Strategy Summary

5.2 The Secretary

William Lockwood queried if the amount of coverage of the Public Liability and Management Liability Insurance, is enough. Secretary to check with TBIB and add to Agenda for the July MC meeting.

Action: AS

5.3 The Treasurer

5.3.1 ABF Financial Report was accepted.

Moved: Julian Foster **Seconded:** Bruce Neill.

5.3.2 James O’Sullivan Financial Report was accepted

Moved: Julian Foster **Seconded:** Bruce Neill.

5.3.3 Review of Operations 2015 – income

5.3.4 Review of Operations 2015 – expenditure

After a discussion on the success of the subsidy for the ANC Restricted Butler, the Secretary will ask all States and Territories for feedback.

Action: AS

Peter Giles suggested the Flight Centre partnership would benefit all if there were a national approach. He described the Canberra Bridge Club's association with Flight Centre and the commission paid. The Treasurer to investigate if a national partnership can be established. Secretary to add to the Agenda for the July MC

Action: RN/AS

Some Councillors believe the Masterpoint Scheme is a big selling point for the ABF and it is not marketed enough. The Council requested data on the number of visits to each page on the "Lookup Masterpoint" on the website.

Action: AS

5.3.5 Actual vs Budget 2015

5.4 The General Counsel

General Counsel outlined the problems with private clubs that go into liquidation. Council asked the ABF MC to develop a club affiliation policy for newly affiliated clubs. The policy will be presented to States and Territories for consideration. Secretary to add to the Agenda for the July MC meeting.

Action: RH/AS

5.4.1 Managing Player Suspensions – discussion paper

General Counsel asked the Council if they wanted the ABF to develop guidelines on managing player suspensions.

After discussion Council requested that the ABF MC ask the States and Territory associations for their views on Club to State to National suspension.

Action: AS

Motion: Any suspension or banning of a player at National level will apply at all National and State events. All State level suspensions are also transferred to National events. Players will become inactive via the Masterpoint Centre.

Moved: J Foster **Seconded:** Nigel Dutton

The motion was adopted unanimously. Secretary to email State and Territory Secretaries

Action: AS

6. Strategic Directions for 2016

6.1 The President led a presentation/discussion on 2016 Strategic Activities.

Council asked the MC to work on developing the criteria for the position of National Director Development Officer. Secretary to add to the Agenda for the July MC meeting.

Action: AS

Council acknowledged that combating cheating was a big problem without an easy solution. It was suggested a Higher Order Players Commission could be established to record any complaints. MC to consider.

Action: AS

Marianne Bookallil stated a need to boost the profile of the Recorder. Information on the Recorder to be placed in all score books at ABF and ABF Licensed events. Secretary to email State and Territory Secretaries. **Action: AS**

SABF has approached the ABF about holding a WBF event. Council agrees that as part of the WBF we have an obligation to host an event.

Motion: That the President form a committee to develop a proposal to bring to the AGM in 2017. Council to be updated at the Mid-Term meeting in November.

Moved: Phil Gue **Seconded:** William Lockwood

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Action: BN

6.1.1 HOTSAs Proposal

Council was generally in favour and asked the MC to consider implementation.

The ABF should take advantage of the fact that all players have an ABF number and therefore we have a relationship with them.

Council asked the ABF MC to gather data and compile a list of numbers and statistics of beginners who apply for lessons to look at retention rates. Players are deactivated yearly allowing data can be captured by sending out an automated response to ask for reasons. Secretary to add to July Agenda for MC to investigate. **Action: AS**

Peter Giles praised the National Marketing Officer for her excellent workshops and support for clubs. He asked the Chair of the Marketing Committee to email all States and Territories to look for a Marketing liaison person who could work with the NMO.

Action: BM

6.1.2 ABF Budget 2016

William Lockwood asked what levels of reserve the ABF wants. David Morgan suggested comparatives would be helpful. Julian Foster will pass this onto the Treasurer.

Action: JF

Keith McDonald urged all Councillors to advertise and Support Nation Wide Pairs as it raises revenue for the ABF.

6.1.3 ABF P&L Jan-March 2016

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Tournament Committee – D. Morgan

There was discussion on the format of events. David Morgan suggested framing the advertising for events so that players do not have an expectation of the specific format, for example if the number of entries is too small to run a Swiss movement.

There was also discussion of alternatives like combined fields if entries for certain events become too small to support standalone events. This might involve for example giving PQP awards to the highest placed eligible pairs in a combined field. The President suggested the Tournament

Committee develop a framework of what it will look like if we move to this alternative, to assist Tournament Organisers with event planning. **Action: DM**

David Morgan will hold specific discussions with women players on the decline of numbers at women's events. This will be at the VCC in June.

7.2 Finance Committee – J. Foster (on behalf of R. Nixon)

The Committee recommended that the ABF capitation fee remain at \$15 per player including GST for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. The Council unanimously accepted this recommendation.

The Committee also recommended the ABF masterpoint charges be increased for all categories by about 8%. The Council rejected this recommendation.

The Council asked the Finance Committee to consider using CPI to increase both capitation fees and masterpoint charges. Secretary to add to the Agenda for the July MC meeting.

Action: RN/AS

7.3 ABF Masterpoint Centre –D. Weston

7.4 Systems Committee – L. Kelso

7.5 Ethics Committee – R. Harms

7.6 National Authority – No Report as there was no meeting held since the last AGM.

7.7 Regulations Committee – L. Kelso

The Council asked that where there is a reference to “adjustments” and “changes” in the report the actual changes or adjustments be listed. Secretary to email Laurie Kelso.

Action: AS

7.8 Masterpoint Committee – D. Anderson

The Council does not see the need to reprint the Masterpoint Manual. If it needs to be re-issued then this can be done on the ABF website. MC will discuss masterpoint cards at the next meeting. Secretary to add to the Agenda for the July MC meeting.

Action: AS

7.9 Player Liaison Committee – No Report

7.10 Youth Committee – P. Gue

Requests have been received and approved for overage players in the 2016 ANC from SA and ACT. The QBA request for a 7th team member has also been approved.

Phil asked that all Councillors discuss the need to develop youth programmes with their associations. The Youth Committee will collate all current material that is available for youth development and send it to State and Territory associations. They will also submit a proposal to increase the number of participants for all teams in future ANCs.

Action: PG

7.11 Newsletter Committee – D. Cooper

7.12 National Directors Accreditation Committee – J. Brockwell

The Council notes the gender imbalance of Directors.

The President will follow up the updating of the Register of State Directors.

Action: BN

7.13 Technology Committee – S. Hinge joined the meeting to talk to the report.

A meeting with James Ward from Pianola was held at the Gold Coast. If it is financially viable the committee agrees it should be taken to the MC to progress. Once the ballpark figure is given then we can decide if it is affordable. Further discussion on integrating scoring systems and the like can follow. The Treasurer to cost an ABF licence to role out Pianola to all states and clubs.

Action: RN

The Council discussed the Technology Proposal. Julian Foster abstained because of declared interest.

7.14 Library Committee – T. Bourke

7.15 Governance Committee – T. O’Loughlin

Motion: that the Statement of Expectations be amended to change the words “provide Councillors with a full and timely minute of each MC meeting, in draft form if necessary” to “provide Councillors with full and timely summaries of each MC meeting”.

Moved: Bruce Neill Seconded: Dallas Cooper

The motion was adopted unanimously

7.16 Marketing Committee – B. Morgan

7.16.1 National Marketing Officer – S. Mulcahy

7.16.2 National Teaching Coordinator – J. Butts

The Council would like to progress the introduction of a Grandfathering system as mentioned in the report. We will begin by asking the States and Territories for a list of teachers they would recommend to be accredited.

Action: AS

7.17 Women in Bridge Committee – D Cooper

This committee has been disbanded.

8. ANC Calendar

8.1 2016 ANC Brisbane – C. Page

8.2 2017 ANC Canberra – E. Leach

9. Tournaments and Licensed Events

ABF Managed Tournaments

9.1 2015 (i) GNOT – J. Brockwell

9.2 2017 (ii) Summer Festival – R. Nixon

9.3 2016 (iii) Australian Playoffs – R. Nixon

9.4 2015 (iii) National Event Co-ordinators Statistics – L. Kelso – M. McManus

WBF Tournaments

9.5 2015 APBF Bangkok – B. Neill

9.6 Review of 2015 WBF Championships – B. Neill

10. Independent Organisations

10.1 ABDA Report – Acting Chair – J. Free

11. General Business

11.1 Honoraria

The MC will look at the payment to S. Mullamphy.
Secretary to add to the Agenda for the July MC meeting.

Action: AS

11.2 Committees for 2016

MC to look at composition of all committees. Secretary to add to the Agenda for the July MC meeting

Action: AS

11.3 Marketing Grants

Marketing grants will be paid on 1st June, 2016

11.4 Mid-Year ABF Meeting Date – 5 November 2016

If a meeting is required, Council agreed to hold it in Sydney.

11.5 2017 Annual General Meeting Date – 22-23 April 2017

11.6 Any other business: None

11.7 Meeting closed at 3.00pm

Allison Stralow
Secretary, ABF