

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rex Hotel, Northbourne Avenue, Canberra
Saturday 22th April and Sunday 23th April 2017
Start Time: 9.30am both days

1. Identification of Attendees

1.1 Roll Call

ACT	M. Bookallil, R. Nixon
NSW	B. Neill, J. Foster
NT	J. Herring
QLD	G. Rusher, R. Wallis
SA	W. Lockwood
TAS	H. Grosvenor, D. Cooper
VIC	C. Leach, B. Thompson (Deputy Councillor)
WA	N. Dutton (Deputy Councillor), 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

The President thanked Keith McDonald for his many years of excellent service to the ABF. He also welcomed the appointments of Richard Wallis (Queensland), Christopher Leach (Victoria), Robina McConnell (Western Australia) and Mairead Kelly (Northern Territory) to Council.

1.3 Bona Fides of each person present voting or observing

The President welcomed two observers: John McIlrath-National Director Development Officer and Sandra Mulcahy-National Marketing Officer.

1.4 Apologies.

R. McConnell, K. Frazer, M. Kelly, L. Kelso (Supplemental Councillor)

Absent.

P. Gue

1.5 Appointment of Supplementary Councillors

No Supplemental Councillors were appointed.

1.6 Chairman's power to vary Agenda as circumstances dictate

2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting (21th and 22nd May 2016)

2.1 Confirmation

Minutes of 2016 AGM were accepted and confirmed.

Moved: Marianne Bookallil. Seconded: Graham Rusher. Carried.

Matters arising: Nil

2.2 Minutes of Previous Mid-Year Meeting (5 November 2016)

Confirmation

Minutes of 2016 mid-year meeting were accepted and confirmed.

Moved Hugh Grosvenor. Seconded: Graham Rusher. Carried.

Matters Arising

Nil

3. Appointments

- 3.1 General Counsel – Russel Harms
Moved: Bruce Neill. Seconded: Hugh Grosvenor. Carried.
- 3.2 Public Officer – Julia Hoffman
Moved: Bruce Neill. Seconded: Marianne Bookallil. Carried.
- 3.3 Auditors – Synergy
Moved: Roy Nixon. Seconded: Bruce Neill. Carried.

4. Executive Reports

Note: Reports in items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were pre-circulated. All reports were noted and accepted. The relevant Councillors spoke to each report and answered questions.

4.1 The President

- 4.1.1 a) Report on Strategic Activities in 2016. This is the Statement of Expectations between Council and the ABF Management Committee.

Stephen Lester retired as Newsletter Editor. Council expressed their thanks for his years of service and welcomed Barbara Travis to the role.

David Wawn was appointed to the role of Government Relations Officer in 2016. Unexpected work pressures have prevented him from committing sufficient time to the role. The MC understands the situation and will discuss the way forward with him.

The President reported that there has been no progress on Australia being accepted into the Asia Games.

4.2 The Secretary

Two Tournament Organisers from each Association will be invited to a Tournament Organisers' Workshop on 16-17 October in Sydney. This workshop will be organised and run by Laurie Kelso for Tournament Organisers of ABF events and ABF Licensed events. State and Territories will be invited to send others at their own expense. The Secretary will write to the list of invitees and to State and Territory Secretaries.

Action: AS

4.3 The Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that income had been static since 2013. Capital on Masterpoints and Licenced Events were close to prediction. He advised Council that consideration should be given to increasing fees in 2018.

General Counsel advised the Council that the ABF Constitution does not require Council to approve the increases. It was agreed that the Management Committee has the power to approve increases in Masterpoint and Capitation fees.

It was suggested a 3-year Profit and Loss Statement would give the Council a better overview of the financial position.

The ABF will not commit to holding a World Championship until our financial commitment to the WBF is finalised.

Christopher Leach suggested the ABF is missing out on possible revenue from private clubs that are not affiliated. Council accepted his offer to write a paper for the Management Committee for the September meeting.

Action: CL

The Finance Committee has set out an investment policy. It was suggested that a more aggressive approach should be taken. The Treasurer will investigate strategies for a new investment policy. He will also write a plan for the Mid-Term Meeting outlining spending over the next 4 years.

Action: RN

4.3.1 ABF Financial Report

Graham Rusher moved the report be accepted, seconded Bruce Neill. Carried.

4.3.2 James O'Sullivan Financial Report

Julian Foster moved the report be accepted, seconded Dallas Cooper. Carried.

4.3.3 Review of Operations 2016 – income

4.3.4 Review of Operations 2016 – expenditure

4.3.5 Actual V Budget 2016

4.4 The General Counsel

General Counsel advised that he has drafted amendments to the Tournament Regulations.

5. Notice of Motion regarding Payments for Non-Council Duties

For the avoidance of any doubt and to the extent that clause 22(2) of the Constitution may require the Council resolves:

1. That the appointment of any councillor or supplemental councillor to a paid position as a Tournament Organiser or Director of an ABF event or licensed event does not constitute duties performed as a Councillor within the meaning of section 22 (2) of the Constitution.
2. That accordingly it is unnecessary for the Council to pass any resolution pursuant to section 22 (2) as to remuneration for such services provided.

Moved: Russel Harms, Seconded: Bruce Neill. Carried.

6. Notice of Motion: Appointment of Keith McDonald to ABF Committee of Honour

In accordance with Section 25 of the Constitution, Mr Keith McDonald, FCPA be elected to the ABF Committee of Honour. Proposed: B. Neill. Seconded: A. Stralow.

EXPLANATION:

Mr Keith McDonald was President of the ABF for over 16 years and President Emeritus for a further 2 years. He has also been the President of the Queensland Bridge Association for more than 30 years. His contribution to bridge in Australia has been outstanding. A brief statement cannot do justice to his efforts on behalf of the ABF and bridge in Australia. It is with considerable pleasure that I move a motion for his elevation to the Committee of Honour for his outstanding service.

Moved: Bruce Neill. Seconded: Allison Stralow. Carried unanimously.

7. Strategic Directions for 2017

- 7.1 The plans for 2017 strategic activities were presented by the President and discussed by Council. Council thanked Laurie Kelso for all of the work he has done for WBF and the ABF on the writing and implementation of the new 2017 Laws of Bridge. The secretary will write to Laurie.

Action: AS

- 7.2 ABF Budget 2017

The Treasurer notified Council that GNOT subsidies have changed for 2017. An explanation has been sent to all States and Territories and posted on the ABF Website. It was suggested that more explanation was necessary. It is important to communicate the increase in the overall subsidy.

8. HOTSAs Report

As at 31 December 2016 the database contained 38,548 active members (which includes all overseas players and the Youth Club), 63,546 inactive/deceased members, totalling 102,094 registered members. Of the active members 30.9% are male and 69% are female.

There were 352 affiliated bridge clubs across Australia (350 in 2015), containing 36,726 active members (36,775 in 2015). 8 Clubs joined the scheme and 5 clubs left.

The Council thanked Sandra Mulcahy for the detailed report.

9. Committee Reports

All reports were pre-circulated. Council had the opportunity to discuss or comment.

9.1 Tournament Committee – D. Morgan

The TC reviewed the allocation of PQP allocation to events at its April 2017 meeting. The TC will be seeking player feedback on changes to the PQP system that would encourage aspiring national players to play in regular partnerships in national events.

The TC is considering suggestions that PQPs be awarded to pairs of women that perform well in open events as a way of encouraging women's pairs to compete in open events and so improve their bridge. One important consideration will be the impact on women's events. TC will be keeping a watching brief on the numbers of entrants in women's and seniors' events, including how tournament organisers respond to any decline in numbers and the alternative options (such as stratified events) available to them.

9.2 ABF Masterpoint Centre –D. Weston

9.3 Governance Committee – Julian Foster

9.4 Other MC Reports

9.4.1 National Teaching Coordinator – J. Butts

There has been an increase in TTPs, CPDs and Novice education.

Cath Whiddon has been appointed as a Teacher Trainer running courses in NSW. Council suggested a need to encourage more Teacher Trainers in other States and Territories.

9.4.2 National Marketing Officer – S. Mulcahy

The ABF Marketing Plan 2014-17 needs to be rolled forward. Sandra is keen to undertake a process, with key stakeholders, to refresh its content. She will send a proposal to the Management Committee for approval.

Action: SM

9.4.3 National Director Development Officer- John McIlrath

The Council welcomed John to the role and thanked him for his report.

9.4.4 National Event Coordinators

9.4.5 Technology Unit – H. Grosvenor

A discussion on the issue of an ABF National Pianola licence took place and it was agreed that this is not economically feasible. The Technology Unit will continue its work to identify whether there are any opportunities to provide a useful general platform for clubs.

The Technology Unit has undertaken work to review the ABF Dealing software and concluded that, although the current system is still operating satisfactorily, it is time to look into a possible replacement. This task has been allocated to Stephen Fischer.

9.4.6 Finance Committee – R. Nixon

9.4.7 Systems Committee – L. Kelso

9.4.8 Ethics Committee – R. Harms

No formal meetings have been held since the last ABF AGM.

9.4.9 National Authority – R. Harms

Nothing to report.

9.4.10 Regulations Committee – L. Kelso

No report was received.

9.4.11 Masterpoint Committee – D. Anderson

There were no issues for Council to consider.

9.4.12 Player Liaison Committee – D. Morgan

No issues have been raised since the last ABF AGM.

9.4.13 Youth Committee – P. Gue

No report was received.

9.4.14 Government Relations Officer – D. Wawn

No report was received.

9.4.15 National Directors Accreditation Committee – J. Brockwell

The committee is looking to re-establish a register of directors. There is on-going appraisal of candidates for appointment as national director, and of candidates for advancement within the national tournament director scheme.

The committee is also advancing proposals to ease conditions that presently restrict the opportunities of National Directors levels 2 and 3 for appointment as Chief Tournament Directors at national tournaments.

10. ANC Calendar

10.1 2017 ANC Canberra – E. Leach

The Draw for the ANC Teams was completed.

10.2 2018 ANC Hobart – D. Cooper

11. Tournaments and Licensed Events

ABF Managed Tournaments

All reports were pre-circulated.

11.1 GNOT – R. Ellaway

The number of teams has been reduced to 60 for 2017.

11.2 Summer Festival of Bridge – R. Nixon

The event will move to the Rex Hotel in 2018. Although this has been advertised on the ABF website and in the newsletter, it was suggested an email to previous participants would further communicate this change to players.

WBF Tournaments – K. Frazer

11.4 Review of 2016 (teams, results, short comments on performance)

11.5 2017 teams, how chosen, target events etc

11.6 IPIF report

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships 2018

11.7 CNBC Report

An invitation has been sent to eligible Commonwealth nations. There will be a maximum of 32 Teams. The QBA has now formally invited the ABF to participate. We may enter two Australian representative teams to the CNBC, and one or more other teams. The Management Committee and the Tournament Committees will consider the composition of these teams.

12. Independent Organisations

12.1 ABDA Report – J. Free

No report was received.

13. General Business

13.1 Mid-Term ABF Meeting Date

The meeting will be held on 28th October 2017 in Sydney

13.2 2018 Annual General Meeting Date

The meeting will be held in Canberra on 5th and 6th May 2018

13.3 Succession Planning

The aim is to attract the best talent. The Council suggested forming a Nominations and Succession Committee. David Morgan and Christopher Leach offered to draft a paper for the Management Committee to consider at the June MC meeting. **Action: DM/CL**

14. ANC Strategic Review

Ben Thompson presented the quantitative survey results of the ANC review. The review focussed on the timing, duration, format and location of the current PQP events.

The following recommendations were presented to Council;

1. Introduce a Youth Butler. 70% of people want one, only just behind the 74% who want a Women's Butler.
2. The venue needs to be good quality. When deciding whether or not to attend the ANC, the 3 most important factors are cost, field strength and venue quality.
3. Consider introducing a Masterpoint Restricted Interstate Teams even. 51% with less than 1000 masterpoints and 54% of women want this.
4. Review the PQP system. There was a very strong message that even Australian representatives don't factor PQPs into their decision to attend the ANC.

Council agreed that the Management Committee should explore holding both a Youth Butler and Restricted Interstate Team Competition in 2018.

The MC will work with the Tournament Committee, the Youth Committee and selected Youth players to develop a format for the Youth Butler. They will also work with Tournament Committee, and selected representatives of key stakeholder groups (States, Territories and restricted players) to develop a format for the Restricted Interstate Teams, as well as options for funding and selection. The Secretary will add this to the Agenda for the MC meeting following the AGM . **Action: AS**

15. States Comments on Mid-Term Meeting Marketing/ Club Support Workshops

Sandra Mulcahy presented her report. The report was designed to progress the conversation about the issues identified at the Mid- Term workshop and to identify any new activities that may be required.

The Council agreed that it is important to find suitable Teacher Trainers in all States and Territories to take the load off the National Teaching Coordinator.

The Council asked Sandra to capture data on the number of female club directors to see if affirmative action was needed. **Action: SM**

The Report included a paper on "Volunteering, Engaging Volunteers in Club Activities. Council asked for this to be shared with clubs and placed on the ABF website. The Secretary will write to State and Territory Secretaries and ask them to distribute to clubs. **Action: AS**

16. Director Development - NDDO progress and activity

John McIlrath is keen to improve communications to enable ideas and decisions to be passed down to club directors. He is looking at developing a Directors' Development Framework, which will need support from the States and Territories.

A new Webpage will be launched and a Helpline for Directors has been set up.

17. Progress with Pianola

The Council agreed not to proceed with an ABF National Pianola Licence at this stage.

18. ABF hosting a World Bridge Event in 2021

The proposed dates for holding the event at the Adelaide Convention Centre are 8th-22nd September 2021. The ABF will continue to investigate the feasibility of holding this event.

The Council agreed to the suggestion to form an exploratory committee to do an analysis of hosting the event and to negotiate costing with the ABF. The President will form this committee.

Action: BN

19. Ratification of Affiliation Policy

The policy was amended, “becoming a member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme”, was added under the heading, Benefits. The Council ratified the amended policy.

The Secretary will send the policy to all State and Territory Secretaries.

Action: AS

20. Tournament Organisers Conclave, October 2017

Laurie Kelso is organising a workshop for Tournament Organisers of ABF events and ABF Licensed events. The best dates will be 16-17 October in Sydney (2 days before the Spring Nats) The offer for those not living in Sydney will be 2 nights accommodation and airfares.

21. Checkpoint - Strategic Priorities

22. AOB

There was no other business for discussion.

23. Future Meetings

The ABF Mid-Term meeting will be held on 28th October 2017 in Sydney.

The ABF AGM meeting will be held on 5th and 6th May 2018 in Canberra.

24. Meeting closed at 2.55pm

**Allison Stralow
Secretary, ABF**