

**BRIDGE FEDERATION ACT INC. (BFACT)  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
5.00 PM SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2007  
MINUTES**

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Andrew Struik, Rebecca Plush, Roy Nixon, Ian Dalziell, Lynne Moss, Trevor Berenger, Janet Strzelecki, Richard Hills, Hashmat Ali, Denis Grahame, Jeanette Grahame, Tony Hancock, Alison Hancock, Philip Thompson, Molly O'Donohue, Susan Scerri, Allen Scerri, Val Hopwood, Andrew Leslie, Beverley Carmichael, Griff Ware, Margaret Bourke, Valmai Mitchell, Peter Kahler, Janet Kahler, Bruce Crossman, Bev Crossman, George Stockham. (28)

**APOLOGIES:** Earl Dudley, Peter Andersson

2. **PROXY VOTES:** Nil received

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2006 AGM AS A TRUE RECORD OF THE MEETING**

**Moved:** A.Struik      **Seconded:** R.Plush      **Carried**

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF AGM 2006:** Nil

5. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT ROY NIXON**

The President (Roy Nixon) tabled his report and thanked all members of BFACT Council for their help and support throughout the year. He highlighted the following:

- Planning for the 2009 ANC to be held in Canberra is well advanced. Lyn Turner has agreed to convene the event and Wendy Boxall has agreed to be Treasurer. Valmai Mitchell is the BFACT Council Liaison Officer. The venue is the Hellenic Club and the dates 3-17 July 2009. The President expressed his thanks to those involved.
- BFACT Website has been set up and is now active at [www.bfact.com.au](http://www.bfact.com.au). The President thanked Rebecca Plush, Valmai Mitchell and Avril Barrett for their work in designing the site and uploading the content.
- BFACT ran Directors Courses at Club and Intermediate levels in 2007. The President thanked Ian Dalziell for his work in promoting the courses and updating the list of ACT accredited directors and for his work as editor of BFACT News. The President thanked Sean Mullamphy for running the courses.
- The President thanked Valmai Mitchell and Griff Ware for their efforts in promoting Youth Bridge in the ACT.
- The President congratulated the Capital Bridge Club on winning both the Seniors and Restricted Events in the BFACT Interclub Competition and expressed his thanks to David Hoffman for running the event. The President thanked Tim Bourke for providing the bridge hands and commentary for the 2007 Simultaneous Pairs and to Jane Rasmussen who will score the event.

- The President expressed BFACT Council's concerns regarding increasing costs and declining player interest in qualifying events for the ABF run GNOT. The ABF is introducing a pairs format Grand National Restricted Event in 2008.
- The President congratulated the Canberra 1 Team, winners of the 2006 GNOT, and the ACT Open Team that won the Open Event at the ANC.
- The President reported that he and Earl Dudley are the BFACT representatives to ABF Council. Ian Thomson attended the ABF Mid-Year meeting as an alternate to Earl Dudley. Roy Nixon has been appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the ABF Management Committee.
- BFACT, in conjunction with CBC, investigated the need for Professional Indemnity Insurance at an interactive workshop facilitated by Allen Scerri. It was decided not to take out professional indemnity cover (as the perceived risks were too low) but to follow up a number of risk management strategies to minimise the risk even further.
- The ABF Management Committee has decided that BFACT should receive compensation for the ACT agreeing **not** to hold a Gold Point Event in 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$2,000 in each of 2008 and 2009 with the matter to be reviewed again in 2009 for possible starting date of 2010 for an ACT GP event. This compensation is in addition to the declining amount that BFACT will still receive from the Summer Festival of Bridge in those 2 years.
- BFACT received \$3000 from the ABF to advertise and market bridge in the region. Canberra Bridge Club, Monaro Bridge Club and Capital Bridge Club made successful applications to BFACT for funding under the terms of The ABF/Marketing Grant.

#### **Questions And Comments Arising From The President's Report**

- Richard Hills advised the meeting that he had been on the committee revising the Laws of Bridge and that the new Laws of Bridge will take effect in February 2008. He offered to assist in any courses run by BFACT to update directors on the revised laws.
- Richard Hills noted that one of the recommendations of the Risk Management Workshop was the development of a code of conduct for Directors. He pointed out that there was a code of conduct for directors on the ABF Website.
- Janet Kahler asked the President to comment on the ABF organisation and Office Bearers and referred to the behaviour of ABF Officials at the 2007 ANC. The President commented that the problem was how to effect real change. As a member of the ABF Management Committee, he was in a position to be kept informed as to what was happening. The President informed the meeting that he had passed on informally to the ABF the ACT ANC Open Team's Captain's comments regarding the conduct of the ABF Tournament Unit at the ANC.
- Margaret Bourke expressed disappointment that neither the report of BFACT President nor that of the Tournament Secretary mentioned the International Representation by ACT bridge players. The president apologised for this oversight and acknowledged the achievements of those ACT players who participated in International Events. Margaret Bourke provided the following list of International Representatives in 2007 for inclusion in the Minutes:

## **ACT INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE REPRESENTATIVES 2007**

### **World Championships, Shanghai**

David Hoffman: npc Seniors Team

David Lilley: Seniors Team

Elizabeth Havas: Women's Team

### **PABF Championships, Bandung, Indonesia**

Margaret Bourke: Women's Team (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)

Nye Griffiths and Griff Ware: Youth Team (1<sup>st</sup> Place)

### **AustraliaV New Zealand Youth Challenge**

Laura Ginnan

Sebastian Yuen

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Treasurer (Andrew Struik) tabled his report and informed the meeting that in 2006-2007 BFACT had a planned deficit of approximately \$5000 owing to the ANC being held in Perth in 2007, which increased the cost of airfares. He pointed out that, since the ANC will be held in Queensland in 2008, there would be a deficit in that year. This should be recovered in 2009 when the ANC is held in Canberra.

### **Questions And Comments Arising From The Treasurer's Report**

- Peter Kahler expressed appreciation for the level of subsidy provided to ACT Captains and Team members at the 2007 ANC.

**Motion: That the financial statements of BFACT as tabled be adopted.**

**Moved:** Valmai Mitchell                      **Seconded:** Richard Hills      **Carried**

## **7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2007 – 2008**

**Motion: That Ian Thomson be appointed Auditor for BFACT for 2007 –2008.**

**Moved:** Andrew Struik      **Seconded:** Griff Ware                      **Carried**

The Treasurer Andrew Struik expressed thanks to Ian Thomson for his work.

## **8. AFFILIATION FEES**

The Treasurer pointed out that there was no change to the affiliation fee which had remained at \$7 for three years although BFACT was receiving less profit from selection events owing to a decline in the number of entrants. Beverley Carmichael expressed the opinion that, since not all players participated in selection events, entry fees should be increased, if necessary, rather than affiliation fees.

**Motion: That the annual affiliation fee for 2007-8 be \$7.00 (incl GST) for all members.**

**Moved:** Andrew Struik      **Seconded:** Tony Hancock                      **Carried**

## 9. REPORT OF TOURNAMENT SECRETARY

The Tournament Secretary (Griff Ware) tabled his report and highlighted the following:

- Sean Mullamphy is the only active high-level director in the ACT. BFACT has reviewed the Director Accreditation process and intends to investigate ways to promote a wider base of directing staff within the ACT.
- Standard VP scales were used for all events except the ACT Open Team Qualifying. It is the Tournament Secretary's recommendation that this practice continue in 2008.
- Following player suggestions and a player survey, it has been decided to extend the State Open Teams Event to eight weeks in total. The three week consolation President's Plate will effectively be split off into a separate event allowing teams to reform and new teams to enter.
- Owing to lack of player support for the event to select Canberra 2 Team for the GNOT, BFACT is planning to send only two teams to the 2008 GNOT Finals: Canberra 1 and ACT Provincial/Restricted.
- The question of Eligibility Criteria for State Representation has been raised again this year. BFACT policy is to grant eligibility to players who can be shown to have a historical link to bridge in the ACT but who may not be currently residing in the ACT, provided that they do not participate in selection events for other states or territories. The new BFACT Council will review the policy.

### Questions And Comments Arising From The Tournament Secretary's Report

- Richard Hills suggested that a CBC Event could be assigned as the selection event for the Canberra 2 Team for the GNOT. Andrew Struik pointed out that this had a financial impact on players at CBC since BFACT Events incurred a surcharge. Margaret Bourke asked the Treasurer for details of the cost of running the GNOT Qualifying Events. Andrew Struik replied that in 2007 the event incurred a loss of about \$400-\$500. Margaret Bourke suggested that the incoming BFACT Council approach CBC to assign an event as the GNOT qualifier for the Canberra 2 Team and offer a BFACT subsidy to reduce the cost to players. It was agreed that the incoming BFACT Council would review the matter.
- Margaret Bourke commented that with regard to Residential Eligibility Criteria, each case is individual and that the current BFACT policy on Residential Eligibility Criteria worked well.
- Peter Kahler commented that the phrase "moderate success" in the Tournament Secretary's report did not accurately reflect the ACT's bridge achievements in 2006-2007.

**Motion: That the Tournament Secretary's Report be accepted with the substitution of the phrase "significant success" for "moderate success" in Paragraph 2.**

**Moved: Peter Kahler**

**Seconded: Griff Ware**

**Carried**

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

Beverley Carmichael was appointed Returning Officer and took charge of the Meeting.

## **11. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

- President – Roy Nixon                      Nominated Susan Scerri    Seconded: Rebecca Plush
- Vice President – Rebecca Plush        Nominated Roy Nixon    Seconded: Ian Dalziell
- Secretary – Susan Scerri                Nominated Earl Dudley    Seconded: Andrew Struik
- Treasurer – Andrew Struik              Nominated: Susan Scerri    Seconded: Allen Scerri
- Tournament Secretary –Peter Kahler    Nominated Susan Scerri    Seconded: Andrew Struik

There being no other nominations all five were elected unopposed

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

Richard Hill asked if observers could attend BFACT Council Meetings. He was informed that BFACT Council members and Supplemental Councillors attended the meetings. There was no provision for observers. BFACT members could be invited to attend BFACT Council meetings to discuss particular issues or to assist in areas of expertise.

The Meeting closed at 6.00PM.

**Susan Scerri**  
**Secretary**