

**Minutes of BFACT Council Meeting
Saturday 28 July 2007 at the Canberra Bridge Club**

1. Roy Nixon opened the meeting at 10.30am

PRESENT: Ian Dalziell, Susan Scerri, Valmai Mitchell, Griff Ware, Roy Nixon.

APOLOGIES: Carmel Herald, Earl Dudley, Bruce Hovey, Valmai Mitchell.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Acceptance

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 June 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Roy Nixon **Seconded:** Ian Dalziell **Carried**

2.2 Matters arising from the previous meeting minutes and action points.

- Henry Hudson is unable to continue with the development of the BFACT Website. Avril Mitchell is now designing the front of the Website. Rebecca Plush is liaising with Avril re the content of the Website. Rebecca will report on progress to BFACT Council at the next meeting
- Ian Dalziell has compiled a list of Club, Congress and State level Directors in the ACT to add to the list of national level Directors already available from the ABF. He is continuing to work on the list and is checking the information on it with members of BFACT Council.
- Griff Ware is continuing to look at BFACT policy for ratifying Directors for State Selection Events set out in the paper prepared for BFACT Council in 2006 by George Stockham. He said he may make a few minor modifications to the paper and will bring this back to Council.
- Rebecca Plush has provided Ian Dalziell with an article on Director Accreditation for BFACT News.
- Susan Scerri has written to the successful applicants for funding from the ABF Advertising/Marketing Grant and advised them of their obligations re receipts and reporting progress to BFACT. Roy Nixon advised that the ABF may consider making similar promotional grants in 2008 where States comply with reporting requirements and those reports demonstrate the initiative has achieved its objectives.

3. YOUTH BRIDGE REPORT

- Griff Ware reported that the Youth Team that represented the ACT at the 2007 ANC in Fremantle enjoyed the experience and came fourth. Lucy Stevenson leaving before the final session created no problems. As a general principle, BFACT Council expects team members to stay for the entire ANC. The members of the team are continuing to show enthusiasm for bridge and are currently entered in events at CBC.
- ANU Bridge sessions are continuing.
- There is a reasonable number of Youth Players available for the Youth Bridge in January 2008.
- Roy Nixon reported back from the ABF Mid Year Meeting that the ABF had discussed its policy regarding their responsibilities when minors enter ABF events. The basic advice from Legal Counsel was that where a minor entered an "open" entry ABF event, then the parent retains responsibility for the child when attending the event. However, if the event was specifically restricted to "youth" players (eg Youth Teams at ANC, SFOB Youth Championships) then the ABF is responsible and not the parents for chaperoning the under 18 players and ensuring all state/territory requirements are met. The ABF is

further investigating this matter. Council had a further discussion on this matter and concluded that for any events that BFACT runs specifically for Youth Players (eg Friday afternoons, Youth Team Selection trials) must comply with ACT legal requirements for activities involving youth under the age of eighteen. It is BFACT's responsibility to ensure that this happens. (It was also agreed that this issue was overlooked when BFACT (and the CBC) did its risk assessment recently.)

4. BFACT TOURNAMENT ISSUES

4.1 Tournament Secretary's Report

The First Team to represent the ACT at the GNOT (A. DeLivera, I. Robinson, P. Reynolds, D. Lilley, R. Brightling and I. Thomson) has been selected through the CBC Knockout Teams. The Knockout Teams Competition to select the Second Team is underway.

4.2 ANC Report

Roy Nixon reported that the ANC at Fremantle ran smoothly. BFACT Council congratulated the ACT Open Team, which came first. We will need to ask Captains for reports to be presented in due course plus receipts to be given to the Treasurer as set out in the advice letter giving players the subsidy. (Anecdotal evidence from players from other states in Perth was that the ACT subsidy was very much in the higher bracket of those states on the east coast.)

4.3 ANC Pairs Events

Rebecca Plush reported on the difficulties she experienced in getting eligible Pairs to commit to participating in Stage II of the Women's Butler Pairs and in the Pairs Events at the ANC. Roy Nixon reported that the ABF had received a great deal of criticism over the running of the ANC Pairs Events (article by Ron Klinger in the SMH), particularly the decision to merge the different categories into one field. The ABF is currently reviewing the event for 2008. If the event is retained in its current state entry graded format, BFACT noted that it will have to improve its present procedures for nominating Pairs to the ANC. BFACT Council proposed setting a deadline of May 1 for acceptance of places in the Butler and Pairs Events and advising players that in the event of the Stage 2 pair withdrawing and incurring a fine, BFACT retains the discretion to recoup the money from the players concerned if it considers withdrawal was not justified by circumstances.

4.4 2008 ANC Selection Events

BFACT 2008 ANC Selection Events will need to be held earlier in the year since the dates for the Australian Women's, Senior and Open Play Offs have been moved forward in 2008 (and many ACT players are likely to be involved.). Easter is also early next year (21-23 March). The Open and Women's Play Off Events will be held in Canberra from 26 to 30 March 2008 and the Senior Play Off Event will be held in Sydney from 9-13 April 2008. BFACT Council discussed dates in March and April for ACT ANC Selection Finals. The dates, when finalised, will be advertised in BFACT News before the end of 2007. Council asked Griff Ware to discuss these dates as soon as possible with the CBC Calendar Committee to ensure they are aware of when BFACT needs to schedule these various selection trials.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Andrew Struik was absent. No Treasurer's Report.

6. ABF

6.1 ABF Mid Year Meeting

Roy Nixon reported back to BFACT Council. The main issues that were relevant to BFACT related to Youth Bridge and the ANC and were discussed under those topics on the agenda.

6.2 ANC System Disclosures

BFACT Council discussed an email from Keith McDonald advising that the ABF has received a request for all future ANCs " that a complete ABF systems card be provided on the ABF website (or ANC website) for each pair intending to play in the Interstate Teams". This would need to be sent by a stated date. Failure to lodge on time would incur a penalty, payable by the State responsible for the pair/team. If the State wished to recover the charge from the players that is for each State to regulate.

BFACT Council felt that complete ABF systems cards were preferable and that if the ABF decided to request them, that BFACT should pay someone to coordinate the collection and submission of systems cards for the ACT ANC Teams. This task would include the provision of four laminated hard copies of each card (one for each Pair Member and two for the Team Captain) in addition to a soft copy.

7. ANC 2009

BFACT Council decided to invite Lyn Turner (ANC 2009 Convenor) to the next BFACT Council Meeting. Roy Nixon would like to pass on some of the changes made to the ANC format at Fremantle.

BFACT would like to liaise with Lyn on the following:

Accommodation
Transport
Parking
Sponsorship
Assistance from BFACT

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence

Incoming

ABF: Permission Form for Colts Team
Request from Leone Moffat re ANC Selection Finals

Outgoing

Letters to Monaro, Capital and Canberra Bridge Clubs re ABF Advertising/Marketing Grant
ABF: Permission Form for Colts Team
Mr Emlyn Williams: Permission Form for Colts Team
Agenda for the AGM to be developed at the next BFACT Council Meeting.

9. NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

South Canberra's Annual Congress will be a Swiss Pairs Event to be held on Sunday 26 August 2007.

Capital Bridge Club has a new Website: www.capital.bridge-club.org/

NEXT MEETING

Friday 24 August at 5.30pm at the Canberra Bridge Club Deakin

Meeting closed at 12.20 pm

Susan Scerri

BFACT Secretary