

Minutes 2004 AGM and 2004-2005 BFACT Council Meetings
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Annual General Meeting

**BRIDGE FEDERATION ACT INC. (BFACT)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at CBC Sunday 24 October 2004 commencing at 5.00pm**

1. Present

Val Mitchell, Beverley Carmichael, Rebecca Plush, Earl Dudley, Andrew Leslie, Ann Pettigrew, Richard Hills, George Stockham, Andrew Struik, Roy Nixon, Laraine Parker, Edith Flanagan, Terri Dolan, Griff Ware, Julia Hoffman, David Hoffman, Val Hopwood, Stephen Mendick, Mark Abraham, Liz Van Der Hor, Len Van Der Hor, Lesley Childs, Nye Griffiths

2. Apologies

Margaret Nangle , Len Dixon

3. Proxy Votes

Nil received

4. Confirmation of minutes of 2004 AGM

Moved R.Plush Seconded B.Carmichael Carried

5. President

The President expressed his thanks to Immediate Past President Beverley Carmichael for her assistance in many ways and particularly for her corporate memory which has been so important.

6. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts

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

Moved Andrew Struik Seconded Roy Nixon Carried

The Treasurer reported that there had been a healthy income from Selection Events. Expenditure was approximately \$1000 more than income because we spent \$5,500 on ANC because the Barry Turner Fund was not used this year for ANC expenses. The planned expenditure on youth programs was not implemented through lack of helpers.

Appointment off Auditor for 2004 – 2005

Motion : That Chris Fearon be appointed Auditor for BFACT for 2004 –2005.

Moved : A. Struik Seconded R.Plush Carried

The Treasurer Andrew Struik expressed thanks to Chris Fearon for his work.

Affiliation Fees

Motion : That the annual affiliation fee for 2005 be \$7.00 (incl GST) for all members.

Moved A.Struik Seconded R.Plush Carried

7. Tournament Secretary

Stephen Mendick moved acceptance of the report. Seconded Mark Abraham

George Stockham moved a vote of thanks to the successful Open Team at ANC and also to Margaret Bourke for her commendable performance.

Seconded S.Mendick

8. Constitution

The proposal to amend the Constitution was amended to delete “acting Supplemental Councillors”.

Moved David Hoffman Seconded Rebecca Plush Carried

Motion: that BFACT’s constitution be amended as follows:

1. Clause 49 be amended to read :

The management of the Federation shall be vested in a Council which shall consist of the following members:

President of the Federation

Vice President of the Federation

Secretary

Treasurer

Tournament Secretary

Ordinary Councillors appointed by the Council in accordance with clause 50

Up to two Supplemental Councillors appointed by the Council in accordance with Clause 50A

2. A new Clause 50 A ,to be inserted immediately after Clause 50:

Supplemental Councillors

BFACT Council may possibly augment up to a maximum of two Supplemental Councillors to BFACT Council from amongst BFACT registered players.

One or both of these possible Supplemental Councillors may be appointed to BFACT Council for a defined period of time.

The term of office of Supplemental Councillor automatically ceases at the BFACT Annual General Meeting. However , former Supplemental Councillors might possibly be re-appointed by BFACT Council at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

BFACT Council may vote at any time to terminate the appointment of any supplemental Councillor.

Supplemental Councillors have full voting rights on BFACT Council.

Exception : Supplemental Councillors may not vote on any motion dealing with the appointment, extension or termination of any Supplemental Councillor, including not voting upon their own appointment, extension or termination.

Moved : Rebecca Plush Seconded : Mark Abraham Carried

8. Election of Office Bearers

George Stockham was appointed Returning Officer and took charge of the Meeting. The following were elected:

- President – Val Mitchell –Nominated Barry Midgley , Seconded Andrew Leslie
- Vice President – Rebecca Plush – Nominated Richard Hills, Seconded George Stockham
- Secretary – Roy Nixon – Nominated Janet Kahler, Seconded Val Hopwood
- Treasurer – Andrew Struik – Nominated B.Carmichael, Seconded R.Plush
- Tournament Secretary – Mark Abraham – Nominated D.Geromboux, Seconded Griff Ware

9. Other Business

The President moved a special vote of thanks to George Stockham (a founding member of BFACT) for his great contribution to the Council.

Griff Ware expressed his concern about the need to attract more youth to Bridge. He spoke of the work that David Lusk is doing in that area in other states. The ABF fund him to conduct Youth Programs. It was suggested that Griff contact David Lusk and that the matter be put on the agenda for the first Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 6pm.

05 November 2004

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Friday 5 November 2004 commencing at 5.32pm

1. Present

V Mitchell, R.Hills, A.Struik, G.Stockham, M Abraham, R Nixon, L. Parker.

Apologies

E.Dudley, R.Plush.

The quorum for a Council meeting is five. The President requested that copies of the (amended) BFACT Constitution be made available to all members of Council as soon as possible. Mr Hills has electronic copies available. Secretary to circulate.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Friday 8 October

Confirmed

Business arising

The soon to be published November issue of BFACT News will contain article on new ABF Systems Regulations held over from October meeting. R Hills to check article content as necessary.

M Abraham to check with Eric Ramshaw on progress ABF has made in relation to system regs for ANC Pairs. If no regs prepared brown sticker conventions will be allowed in BFACT Women's Pairs selection in November 2004.

Council asked that the Secretary send a letter of thanks to C Fearon confirming his appointment for 2004-05.

3. President

The President is planning a series of visits to all the bridge clubs in the region whether they are affiliated or not to explain what BFACT does and how it can help promote bridge in the region. An invitation from South Canberra Bridge Club to all BFACT Councillors to attend its Annual General Meeting and Xmas Party Pairs on Wednesday 8 December 2004 was received .

4. Treasurer

Draft budget/ cash flow for 2005

The Treasurer submitted a report including a draft budget for the Council's consideration (attached) and discussed cash flow. Treasurer said basic assumption was that subsidies would be paid out of BFACT funds and not the Barry Turner Fund.

Entry fees for 2005

Motion: That the following selection event entry fees should apply in 2005:

Open events - \$3.00 per person per session

Other events - \$2.50 per person per session

Weekend type events:
Open - \$75
Women's - \$70
Senior's - \$70
Youth - \$20

Moved: A Struik Seconded; G Stockham Carried

Financial plan for 2005

Council discussed a financial strategy for 2005 including whether BFACT's current surplus cash is being managed effectively. The Treasurer undertook to investigate possible options in relation to putting money into the Barry Turner Fund.

Masterpoint contract with the CBC

Discussion of BFACT's current arrangements for performing the duties of State Masterpoint Secretary under the ABF Masterpoint Scheme was deferred. Since the establishment of BFACT some years ago, BFACT has contracted with the Canberra Bridge Club to perform those duties although no copy of the current contract could be found.

Petty cash advance for Secretary

Treasurer and Secretary to discuss arrangements for the reimbursement of expenses.

New signatories for the CPS Account

Council approved new signatories Val Mitchell and Roy Nixon as new signatories on the bank account.

5. Tournament Director

Direction of BFACT Selection events in 2005

Council discussed arrangements in 2005 for the direction of BFACT Selection Events. President met with CBC President – CBC would employ Sean Mullamphy for Monday and Thursday nights but we should negotiate with him for weekend events.

2004 GNOT

The Tournament Secretary Council gave an oral report by the on the 2004 GNOT Regional Finals.

Motion: Council will pay the full entry fee for the following two teams for the Sydney national final:

Canberra 1: M Bourke, A De Livera, I Thomson, R Brightling, D Lilley, K Bagchi
ACT Provincial: I Neill, A Tulpule, J Collier, P Giles

and a 50% of the entry fee for:

Canberra 2: D Geromboux, G Ware, N Griffiths, S Winkler

If Canberra 2 not accepting, place will be offered R Hills team which came third in the regional Final.

Moved V Mitchell Seconded R Nixon. Carried

2005 GNOT

Discussion of the 2005 GNOT was deferred until next meeting.

Tournament Calendar for 2005

Council discussed timing of CBC Calendar publication and timing of Simultaneous Pairs. Council decided to recommend the week of 20 June 2005. Secretary to email to CBC Ann Pettigrew.

Council discussed how to involve affiliated clubs (other than the Canberra Bridge Club) in BFACT selection and non-selection events. Letters had been sent out to affiliated clubs seeking input but with little response. A suggestion by South Canberra for BFACT to run in 2005 an ACT Provincial Pairs Championship was submitted. This was deferred until next meeting.

Interclub Teams

David Hoffman has agreed to run the IC Teams again subject to us arranging administrative matters. Treasurer raised possibility of clash in calendar of first IC matches and Ron Klinger visit.

Motion: That the prize for winning the various categories of the Inter Club teams in 2004 should be sponsored entry to suitable national event.”

Moved: A Struik Seconded M Abraham. Carried

6. Youth bridge

Appointment of Supplemental Councillor

Motion: That Griff Ware be appointed as a Supplemental Councillor.

Moved: V Mitchell Seconded: R Hills. Carried.

Plans to attract more youth players in 2005

Discussion was deferred since Griff Ware was absent. Council recognised the importance of following up on the AGM suggestion that we put more effort into high schools.

Subsidising Youth participation in national events

Motion: That the previous Council’s decision to subsidise youth players by assisting their entry to suitable events at the Summer Festival would be continued. Council would welcome approaches for contributions to the entry fees by:

- (a) any secondary school students; and
- (b) any other youth players who have not represented the ACT.

Eligible players should be aware that the ABF also offers a 50% discount on entry fees. Council envisages that the subsidy would continue to be about 25% of the open entry fee and that total expenditure should not exceed \$1,000 without further review.”

Moved A Struik Seconded L Parker. Carried

7. Other Business

Training of Directors

Richard Hills updated Council on director accreditation matters. George Stockham apologised for not having updated the paper for the meeting – George to do for next meeting. Council agreed that the Treasurer can approach Sean Mullamphy to discuss details for the director’s

training course set down for May 2005. President to talk to Dallas Cooper. R Hills is on the national ABF director accreditation committee. Treasurer raised whether there is a shelf life on director qualifications which will be discussed later in context of George's paper.

Appointment of Public Officer

Council approved the appointment of George Stockham as the Public Officer.

Publicising BFACT events

Council decided to include a list of events in the BFACT Newsletter. Treasurer suggested we needed a separate calendar of BFACT Events. It was suggested that Council begin planning for the 2006 calendar now – Council to consider no later than January 2005.

BFACT web page/website

Council discussed existing and possible arrangements for a BFACT dedicated web page/website and Secretary to prepare options paper for meeting early in new year.

Ron Klinger's teaching visit

Treasurer to discuss arrangements with Klinger.

Next meetings: Saturday 11 December 10.30, Saturday 8 January 10.30

Meeting ended at 7.40pm.

12 December 2004

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Sunday 12 December 2004 commencing at 10.31am

1. Present

V Mitchell, R.Hills, A.Struik, G.Stockham, M Abraham, R Nixon, L. Parker, E Dudley, R Plush.

Apology

G Ware.

2. Minutes of meeting of 5 November 2004

Confirmed

Matters arising

R Hills confirmed that the ABF System regs would appear in December issue. The ABF is still reviewing the ABF System regs and outcomes may not be known before we run our 2005 pairs selection events. BFACT will continue to allow brown sticker conventions in pairs selection events for the time being.

A sub-committee comprising the President, Secretary, Tournament Secretary, Earl Dudley, Daniel Geromboux and Ian Thomson will bring back to Council specific recommendations on the format for the GNOT 2005.

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that outgoing cheques were paid to the ATO (Sept qtr BAS \$267) and the ABF for GNOT entry (\$1980). There was a substantive discussion about the request for payment from the ABF for the GNOT which included \$10 per table (an expected amount of around \$800) to cover the qualifying stage in addition to the \$1980 already paid). The President reported back on her meeting with John Brockwell who indicated we could discuss a revised amount if we did not have 80 teams competing in the qualifying events. Treasurer to sort out with Brockwell and pay charge.

Treasurer proposed and Council agreed that we would be going onto GST reporting on an annual basis. Treasurer reported on discussions about investing BFACT surplus operating funds in the BT Fund and it seems there would be problem as BFACT would have no legal control. Will explore further with Ord Minnett on ways to invest BFACT funds and report back. Treasurer suggested as an interim BFACT consider donating \$10,000 to BT Fund to be used for future ANC travel. Council agreed it would be desirable to have a formal statement of the purposes and objectives of the BT Fund. Earl Dudley to examine.

Treasurer raised issue of Klinger visit and Council decided that we should increase our charges to clubs to \$8 per attendee to reflect Klinger's proposed fee increases and then leave it to the Clubs to decide what they wish to charge.

4. Tournament Secretary

2004 GNOT

The results of the 2004 GNOT Sydney Finals will be advertised in BFACT News. Canberra 1 did well this year making the semi finals and Canberra 2 finished well in the Swiss repechage.

Simultaneous Pairs November 2004

George Stockham told the meeting that scoring is still in train. Some problems arose in the movements, board duplication etc. The Council suggested that we approach clubs to see if they were interested in either a par score run event or impeded against a datum average.

Tournament Calendar for 2005

There was no substantive discussion on how to involve affiliated clubs (other than the Canberra Bridge Club) in BFACT selection and non-selection events including the suggestion by South Canberra for BFACT to run in 2005 an ACT Provincial Pairs Championship. Deferred until next meeting.

5. Youth bridge

Council held a brief discussion about Youth bridge including confirming previous BFACT policy on subsidising ACT youth players in national events. {please remind me what this is - if it is only the matter of the SummerFestival, then it was fully covered at the previous meeting} It was decided to wait until Griff Ware returns for a substantive discussion on broader issues at the next meeting.

6. Other Business

Director accreditation

George Stockham spoke to an update of his earlier paper on this matter but did not have time to circulate copies to Council before the meeting. There was a substantive discussion of the recommended proposed requirements for Congress Level 1 Director particularly whether these should include demonstrated ability to run multi session events and teams events at club level to qualify. Council discussed the need for a balance between minimum core competencies without being too prescriptive and making it hard for clubs to find suitable Congress Level 1 Directors in the region. George Stockham was asked to email paper around intersessionally for written comments. Will discuss further at next meeting.

Directors' Training

The Treasurer updated Council on recent discussions with Sean Mullamphy about holding a Directors Training course in 2005. There was some discussion about the proposed payment arrangements especially the instalment plan (ie 2 payments the second after the exam has been marked). It was agreed that an additional payment of the order of \$15 for marking an exam paper would be reasonable. Treasurer to return with further details at next meeting. CBC to consider whether room can be made available at no charge – SCBC also to advise on possible use of Southern Cross Club facilities.

Changed managerial arrangements at the CBC

Earl Dudley gave the meeting an update on recent changes to the managerial and directing arrangements at the CBC. It was confirmed that the Treasurer approach Sean Mullamphy/Andrew Kettle directly to finalise financial arrangements for weekend selection events. There was a substantive discussion about the existing arrangements for the CBC to undertake the masterpointing of BFACT events and to perform the role of the State Masterpoint Secretary. He assured the meeting that arrangements had been worked out between the new CBC Manager, CBC Tournament Secretary, Julia Hoffman and the BFACT Tournament

Secretary to ensure that all such duties will be brought up to date quickly and performance standards worked out for the future.

BFACT News

Rebecca Plush will be getting the next edition out soon.

Next meetings: Sunday 9 January 10.30am); Saturday 5 February, 10.30am

Meeting ended at 12.34pm.

09 January 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Sunday 9 January 2005 commencing at 9.30am

1. Present

V Mitchell, A.Struik, G.Stockham, M Abraham, R Nixon, L. Parker, E Dudley, R Plush. G Ware

Apology

R.Hills

2. Minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2004

Confirmed

3. Treasurer

Outgoing cheques were paid to ACT Registrar (\$28 and \$54), CBC management fee of \$297, CBC GNOT payment of \$62 and \$580 to the ABF for the GNOT Finals entry.

Treasurer was still following up with Ord Minnett on ways to invest BFACT funds and will report back. The Treasurer's earlier suggestion of an interim donation of \$10,000 to BT Fund is still on the table and Earl Dudley will report back once he has discussed this further with the CBC Committee.

Treasurer raised issue of email from Sean Mullamphy about directing BFACT weekend events. Council agreed to approach Sean with a certain package and will report next meeting for a three year agreement.

4. Tournament Secretary

Women's Pairs selection, Men's Pairs

The Tournament Secretary reported on the Men's and Women's pairs competition - results to be advertised in BFACT News. The President noted concern that the Women's Pairs selection event was still being run along with the Men's event which may be discouraging some women from entering.

Simultaneous Pairs November 2004

George Stockham told the meeting that scoring has been finalised – results to be published in BFACT News. To address the problem of scoring the event in its current format, Council decided that the event next June will be run as a par score event. Organisers will provide participating clubs with an Excel Scoresheet to enter the individual scores on prior to sending them into the Convenor. It was suggested that adding the "Deep Finesse" makeable contracts analysis to the brochure would be useful recognising that this may present formatting problems. We needed to retain the recommended bidding which was seen as useful to the smaller clubs participating.

Involvement of affiliated clubs in selection events in 2005

Involving affiliated clubs (other than the Canberra Bridge Club and Monaro BC) in BFACT selection and non-selection events was discussed. In previous years only the CBC and MBC had expressed any interest in running selection events for the four Pairs categories and places in the

various ANC events had been allocated to those clubs. The SCBC is proposing to run one or more Pairs selection qualifiers and was asked to provide details before the February meeting. BFACT Council will decide how to allocate the places from the various selection events. Costs per session will be the same as charged for the CBC. The SCBC proposal for a multi club event was discussed. It was felt could only be planned for 2006 after more time for reflection.

5. Youth Bridge

Griff Ware led a discussion about the proposed brainstorming session with David Lusk next month having circulated a paper and sample agenda from a recent Perth brainstorming session. Council thought it would be good to extend an invite to D Jesner, B Thorp, S Mullamphy, V Hopwood plus any known bridge playing teachers in the ACT. It was agreed that an article should go in the next edition of BFACT News and that Griff should prepare an article for the NOT News. Affiliated Clubs also asked to publicise this initiative to their membership.

6. Other business

Revised Director accreditation paper

G Stockham spoke to his paper and apologised that he had not had time to circulate it beforehand for discussion. It was agreed that he email his revised paper after the meeting and that Council members were encouraged to provide written comments as soon as possible. This matter can be finalised at the February meeting.

Directors Training Courses May, September 2005

The Treasurer updated Council on recent discussions with Sean Mullamphy about holding Directors Training courses in 2005. Last year, the Club level Directors course was run back to back with the Congress Level course on the following day. Council was concerned that it should be supporting participants for the more advanced course when they had not passed the exam for the basic director's course. It was suggested that in 2005, we should ask Sean to run a Club level course on Sunday 8 May and a Congress Level Course on a Sunday in September/October. BFACT to arrange.

Motion: BFACT will subsidise Directors Training in 2005 as follows Club Level \$15 per person, Congress Level \$10, and exam paper \$5. BFACT (R Plush) agreed to arrange publicity. Moved: A Struik Seconded V Mitchell. Carried.

BFACT News

Rebecca Plush will be getting the next edition out soon. Selection event results – where do we get them from? Coming events. Klinger flyer. Can the SCBC give her their members email list?

ABF AGM

Set down for March 2005 - any issues? Nationwide pairs scoring issues were briefly discussed.

Motion: That the BFACT Tournament Sec be appointed as the State Masterpoint Secretary. Moved V Mitchell, Seconded G Stockham. Carried.

President raised issue of subsidising InterClub Teams winners up to a maximum of \$500 each team for 2005. Letters to go out for 2005 event soon.

Next meetings: Saturday 5 February, 10.30, Friday 11 March, 5.30pm

Meeting ended at 12.37pm.

05 February 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Saturday 5 February 2005 commencing at 10.30am

1. Present

V Mitchell, A.Struik, R.Hills, G.Stockham, M Abraham, R Nixon, E Dudley, R Plush. G Ware

Apology

L. Parker.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 9 January 2005

Confirmed

Matters arising

The Secretary to advise affiliated clubs, David Anderson, the ABF Masterpoint Secretary and the ABF on the appointment of the new State Masterpoint Secretary.

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer reported on payments for the InterClub Teams subsidies (\$1,119.60) and the ABF masterpoint fees (\$207.20). .

Ord Minnett has recommended converting our present very low interest rate checking account to a cash management account with Ord Minnett which was just as flexible as the CPS account and would increase interest payments by a few hundred dollars per annum. Ord Minnett also offered higher interest bearing securities/packages but these had higher transactions costs and were probably less attractive than our present fixed deposits. The Secretary advised that he had checked the legislative basis for the Ord Minnett products and was satisfied that Ord Minnett is a "financial institution" for the purposes of the BFACT Constitution. Council agreed to Treasurer setting up a cash management account but leave what we do with the fixed term deposits until later. Council thanked the Treasurer for all his work in this area.

4. Tournament Secretary

Interstate Open Teams Selection

The Secretary raised this matter because of what appeared to be a late entry to the first night of the Interstate Open teams selection event on Monday 31 January where a 21st table was added which appears to have corrupted an otherwise perfect movement. The Secretary queried the Event Regulations on the issue of accepting late entries and whether this was appropriate in this case. The ensuing discussion indicated significant support for BFACT setting down firm cut off times for all selection events (this will depend on the event itself) and backing up the Tournament Director if he chose not to accept a late entry because it would compromise the integrity of the event. The Tournament Secretary advised he had discussed the problem with Sean Mullamphy and they have decided that the best possible solution for the remaining round robin matches is to ensure that wherever possible, the strongest pairs played each other in the row with the fifth table. While not ideal, this is the best that can be done now.

GNOT 2005 proposals

The President updated Council on her draft proposals for the running of the GNOT in 2005 which she had passed to members of the GNOT Sub-Committee this week and on which she had received helpful comments. There was considerable support for many of the new proposals especially the idea of having the final to select Canberra 2 being held as a Swiss pairs which should help to improve the perception of the event by the average to good players as a “real chance” to qualify. The matter was now to be taken forward to the CBC Committee for approval. Once this had been agreed, Council will be asked to formally adopt the proposals. President noted that if the GNOT proposal was accepted by CBC then advertising of the events affected by the proposal would need to be circulated ASAP.

Letter from South Canberra requesting approval to run ANC Pairs selection events in 2005

The Secretary tabled a copy of a letter from Ken Colbert, Tournament Secretary of the SCBC seeking endorsement of a proposed 4 week event from which a Seniors Pair and a Mixed Pair would be nominated as an ACT entry to the relevant event at this year's ANC in Sydney. Council endorsed the SCBC event at a rate of \$2.50 per player per session. Monaro is running an Open and a Seniors Pairs selection. It was noted that the ABF are changing the format of the Pairs events for the ANC in that individual pairs will be able to enter pairs event if their entry is supported by their State Organisation.

2005 InterClub Teams

The President reported that she had sent out letters to all the 17 Clubs (Affiliated and Regional) requesting affiliated clubs inviting entries to the 2005 InterClub Teams in the Seniors and Restricted categories. Copy of letter circulated. Sapphire Coast Bridge Club has already entered in both categories.

Player subsidies

The Secretary reported to the meeting that several ACT players were in the provisional fields declared for the Australian playoffs in Sydney in March notably an open team with Arjuna DeLivera, Ian Thomson, Richard Brightling, David Hoffman and David Wawn (Roy Nixon NPC) and in the women's Julia Hoffman, Nola Church, Karen Creet, Judith Tobin, Liz Havas and Margaret Bourke. There was a discussion about the past practice of giving a subsidy where it was noted that while no subsidy had been given for the Australian team playoffs, should any of the ACT players make it through to represent Australia, it had been past practice to offer some subsidy at that time (subject to being sufficient funds in the BT Fund at that time). Council agreed this was a terrific effort by ACT players and we should congratulate those players by putting something in the next BFACT News.

2. YOUTH BRIDGE:

Supplemental Councillor Griff Ware spoke to the previously circulated Agenda and Flyer to Council for next weekend's Youth Brainstorming Session and noted that this had been circulated fairly widely as agreed at the last meeting. Mr Ware requested that as many BFACT Council members as possible should attend next Saturday morning's session this request was supported by Council). Griff reported that Gabby Feiler is coming from Sydney on Sunday to help develop a strategy for setting up an ANU Bridge Club. The CBC had sent the flyer out with their recent newsletter and the SCBC said they had put it on their website and would remind members on Wednesday about the sessions. Council wished Griff every success with the sessions.

5. Other business

Director accreditation paper

G Stockham spoke to his previously circulated revised paper and advised that he had received written comments from some Council members. Some minor revisions were necessary but this should not prevent their adoption.

Motion: That the Director Accreditation Guidelines (with final amendments be adopted by BFACT and the guidelines passed to the Tournament Secretary for ongoing implementation.
Moved: V Mitchell Seconded R Nixon Carried.

Directors Training Courses May, September 2005

The Treasurer advised Council that he had sent a final proposal to Sean Mullamphy about the proposed Directors Training courses in 2005 which he had circulated to Council. Sean had accepted the proposal which was based on the decisions made at the January Council meeting, namely Club level course on Sunday 8 May and a Congress Level Course on Sunday 25 September, Rebecca Plush to coordinate and arrange

Professional Indemnity

Earl Dudley raised issue of what our insurance coverage is for professional indemnity. He was concerned at the possibility that a person may try to sue the CBC (or indeed BFACT) if there was a dispute over some disciplinary matter. CBC has done some work and will look into a bit further. Previous quotes obtained. Waiting for ABF may be rather slow. R Hills said he would provide some EBU guidelines which are designed to minimise the possibility of action arising from the handling of disciplinary disputes.

Other issues mentioned were by Rebecca Plush who said she received very poor feedback about her national director accreditation outcomes. V Mitchell – are some of the smaller states not billed the same as the ACT for the GNOT? It was suggested we may find it difficult to get an answer to this sort of question.

BFACT website

There was a general discussion led by the Secretary about the various options. The cost of our own website design plus URL would be about \$500 with some ongoing costs for web content authoring. Do we really need our own website? Should we try to get the clubs to publicise our events and newsletter on their websites? Rebecca Plush said this was a bit of a hobby horse for her and maybe she could get someone she knew to do some work gratis – she would come back with a proposal. Rebecca and Mark7.5 Richard Hills raised the matter of the World Youth Championships to be held later in the year in Sydney and that the ACT had some players in the team. He offered to run a novelty fundraiser (subject to the CBC agreeing) and would come back with a proposal for the next meeting.

Treasurer mentioned that the details for the Klinger tour were nearly finalised – flyer coming out soon.

The responsibility for the engraving of BFACT trophies was also raised. President to prepare list of what needs to be done – then it was discussed whether for reasons of economies of scale, perhaps see if CBC manager will do it when they get CBC trophies or honour boards done.

Next meetings: Friday 11 March, 5.30pm, Saturday 9 April 10.30pm

Meeting ended at 12.36pm.

11 March 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Friday 11 March 2005 commencing at 5.40pm

1. Present

V Mitchell, A.Struik, G.Stockham, M Abraham, R Nixon, E Dudley, R Plush. G Ware

Apologies

R.Hills, L. Parker. C Herald

2. Minutes of the meeting of 5 February

Confirmed

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer advised that he had paid out \$42.73 for hospitality at the Seniors selection trials.

Council discussed an outstanding matter from the 2004 ANC in Melbourne, namely the apparent refusal by the treasurer of the VBA to refund that part of the Stage II entry fee for the Butler Pairs following the late withdrawal of DeLivera/Robinson due to the ill-health of Michael DeLivera. Treasurer to follow up with the VBA.

4. Tournament Secretary

Youth Trials

The Tournament Secretary advised Council that at the close of entries only three pairs had entered the Youth Team Selection Trials namely, Geromboux and Griffiths, Ware and Bridgland and Lightfoot and Delivera. Obviously we do not need to hold a trial and the three pairs could be invited to form a team for the ANC. However, a possible complication could be the fact that Ware/Geromboux are competing for Open Team Selection so we will need to return to this after the Open Selection process is complete.

Seniors Selection Trial – the Tournament Secretary advised that a 7 table selection final was held and the winners were George Riszko and Len Dixon. The other top three finishers were Janet Kahler and Pat Back, followed by David Hoffman and Roger Curnow. Once again the composition of this team may be reviewed following the Open and Women's selection events because some of the players are seeking selection in those events. Winners to be publicised in BFACT News.

GNOT 2005 proposals

The President reported to Council that the CBC Committee had approved her proposals for how to select the various teams to contest the GNOT Finals this year, (Summary attached) namely that: Canberra 1 be the winners of the Knockout Teams, Canberra 2 be selected as the first three place-getters in a Swiss Pairs Final (alleviating the need for a playoff), and the members of Canberra 1 would be ineligible to participate in the Canberra 2 selection event. Something like the top 25% rounded up of the field of the relevant selection events acquire qualification rights, that Canberra 1 could augment a pair before or after the Canberra 2 selection, but that after that selection was held, they would not be allowed to augment any player

finishing in the top three places, and that the ACT Provincial selection be a teams selection along the lines of the status quo. Publicity for the proposed new arrangements had already appeared in the CBC Newsletter and would also be repeated in the BFACT News. Knockout Teams MP costs to be paid by BFACT – other events by the sponsoring club. Date of final agreed as 1 October 2005 (subject to checking on date for Mollymook GNOT Final).

GNOT 2005 – decision by the ABF to move the national final to Club Banora

On 5 March 2005, the ABF issued a press release advising that this year's GNOT National Final will be played at **Club Banora, Banora Point (Tweed Heads)**. Club Banora is a division of Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, New South Wales.

The dates for the 2005 GNOT National Final remain as advertised, i.e. Friday to Monday 18-21 November. The move to Club Banora is regarded as a one-year trial to enable the ABF Management Committee to assess the merits of the move. Council discussed this change in venue and noted the basic principle of certainty for calendar planning. It was noted that this matter may be discussed at the forthcoming ABF AGM.

InterClub Teams

The President reported that several affiliated clubs had responded to her invitation to field teams as follows: 5 restricted and 7 senior teams.

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship

A letter from VBA Council discussed the invitation received from Andrew Halmos of the VBA to send a team to this Championship to be held in March 2006. Discussion deferred to next meeting.

5. Youth bridge

Supplemental Councillor Griff Ware gave Council a brief rundown of the Youth Brainstorming Session and noted that this had been fairly successful. Griff reported the following follow-up actions: getting an ANU bridge club up and running; bridge at Marist College (Maryanne King, V Hopwood and Frank O'Shea); and starting Term 2, Fri afternoon sessions at CBC to be run by President. Also, SCBC has kindly donated sets of cards for Deakin High School for extracurricular bridge activity. ANU has had 6 tables for 3 lunch time sessions running. Griff asked if BFACT could fund part of the cost of the Marston introductory bridge books they have handed out to new ANU players. Council indicated an "in principle agreement" subject to Griff returning with a firm budget proposal in for the April meeting. Outcomes on Youth bridge to be publicised in the BFACT News. Next meeting to consider subsidy for ACT youth players going to Korea (Secretary to research previous precedents in Council minutes).

6. Other business

Directing Issues

Directing fees for state weekend events – Wednesday night sessions. A Struik noted that there may be a gap in our charging guidelines for state finals where we have to go to an extra session on a Wednesday night (such as the Seniors). Under the current arrangements, CBC does not charge for room use on a Wednesday or Friday night as the building is in use anyway. In the past we have worked on the basis that if Sean is already directing that evening, there is no extra charge for his direction. Now that the payment for directing varies much more, and Sean is directing less often, it is clear that BFACT will incur some extra costs. Council discussed whether BFACT should set a policy based on the total number of boards, and the boards per match, for selection events. Council agreed that it was not just a philosophical issue of desirable number of

boards per match and total boards for each of a range of likely field sizes. There is also a financial issue about the relative charging. Council agreed that it will be difficult to get feedback from members on this issue. Council decided that the Tournament Secretary should come back with various options to discuss before next Calendar is put together.

Trainee Director at the Summer Festival 2006.

Rebecca Plush said she had a nomination from Peter Murer to act at next year's SFOB. Rebecca believes he will be a good candidate for a national director. Motion: BFACT Secretary to write letter to SFB Convenor recommending his nomination. Physical disabilities to be noted. Moved R Plush, Seconded Earl Dudley

Youth fundraising

David Stern packs of cards fund raiser – this will be done by BFACT through CBC (need to talk to CBC). Richard Hills was absent for this matter but had sent an email saying that his investigations of the type of novelty pairs event run by Neville Moses at the SFB was “unpopular” with the average player. Therefore he was seeking endorsement to run a one night Simultaneous butler pairs. Council noted that it preferred a Trivia Night – President to investigate an organiser.

Access to CBC email address to contact players for selection events.

Noted privacy issues.

Next meetings: Saturday 9 April 10.30am, May 14 10.30 am (noted that Secretary may be absent in Adelaide).

Meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

09 April 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Saturday 9 April 2005 commencing at 10.35am

1. Present

V Mitchell, A.Struik, R.Hills, M Abraham, R Nixon, E Dudley, G Ware

Apologies

L. Parker. C Herald, R Plush. G.Stockham

2. Minutes of the meeting of 11 March 2005.

Confirmed

3. Treasurer

Payments

Council ratified payments to G Stockham (\$218.78 Sim Pairs costs), S Mullamphy (\$1,084.5 and \$979 for directing the open and seniors team selection) CBC (\$297 and \$119.02 for masterpoints and photocopies), Australia Post (\$56 for PO Box hire), R Klinger (\$3000 for his recent lessons), Sapphire Coast BC (\$90 refund for Sim Pairs) and \$200 to open our bank account with Ord Minnett.

Klinger Tour

An analysis showed that the numbers in Canberra had dropped and that Ron had raised the possibility that perhaps someone else might be a better value for money now. It was suggested that topics needed to be more attuned to the likely audience and that maybe the day timers are a better target. Treasurer to consult with interested clubs.

Subsidy for the 2005 ANC

The Treasurer asked that Council determine the amount of the subsidy for the ANC so that he can begin the process of preparing the letters and cheques to go to our state representatives.

Motion: That the subsidy for representatives in the teams to compete in Sydney in ANC 2005 be \$200 per player/captain. Proposed: A Struik Seconded: R Nixon Carried.

4. Tournament Secretary

ANC Teams

The top three finishers in the Open Team Selection Trials held last weekend were David Hoffman/David Wawn, Michael Smart/Peter Reynolds and David Lilley/ Khokan Bagchi, All have indicated that they are available for selection. Seniors team still up in the air awaiting outcome of the Women's selection.

Australian Team Playoffs

Congratulations to Margaret Bourke who qualified to represent Australia in this year's Venice Cup in Portugal as part of a team that won the Women's Playoff. Congratulations also to Liz Havas who was a member of the second placed team in the Women's Playoff and as such earned the right to represent Australia in the Far East Championships in South Korea. David Lilley is the only ACT player contesting the forthcoming Seniors Playoff on the weekend of 15-17 April.

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships

There is now an Information Sheet on the ABF Website. Council decided that it would invite entries from selected players who can apply to represent the ACT in this event on a totally self funding basis. BFACT would organise a playoff if more than one entry is received. Earl Dudley and Secretary to prepare invites.

GNOT

The date for the regional finals of the GNOT in 2005 will be 1 October 2005

Selection finals

The Tournament Secretary distributed and spoke to a spreadsheet detailing options for handling extra sessions in Selection Finals based on some assumptions – no Wed matches, max 70 boards a day, no play Sat evening. Decided to return to BFACT policy at a later date but we can leave the format for the Women's trials to the Tournament Secretary, Earl Dudley and President.

Masterpointing

The Tournament Secretary said it took 5 hours on the Mon evening to do the masterpoints for the Mixed Pairs and Seniors Teams Selection and the Open Teams Qualifying. This problem arises mainly because the event is not set up properly by the director who should be responsible for ensuring MP files are provided in a suitable format. Earl Dudley undertook to talk to certain people to find out more and report back.

Nomination of trainee director for SFOB 2006

Richard Hills raised for discussion the proposal that he be nominated as a possible trainee director for the first week of the SFOB 2006. President to discuss this with the SFOB Convener.

5. Youth bridge

Supplemental Councillor Griff Ware updated Council on how the various Youth Bridge initiatives are going. ANU bridge has a small drop in attendance; bridge at Marist College – 12 children are playing most weeks according to Val Hopwood and Frank O'Shea); and a flyer has been produced advertising the free afternoon sessions at CBC which has been distributed to most of the main secondary schools in the area. Already some interest shown by some schools. To be run by the President from 29 April. Invite to go out to affiliated clubs. Deakin High School will start sessions in Term 2 but the organiser there is not seeking any help from BFACT in the form of a teacher who would conduct bridge classes/sessions at the school.

There was a long discussion of a Youth Bridge Budget prepared by Griff Ware. This was submitted not for approval as such – more to indicate where the projected income (which includes a base contribution from BFACT of \$1,000) will be spent. Council agreed that the proposed expenditures seemed appropriate including the contribution to the ANU Bridge Club introductory books, travel subsidies to the youth triathlon, NOT entry fee subsidy, Youth Team subsidy for accommodation, and some administration and other costs for running youth bridge sessions in the ACT. Items which BFACT would pay were the ANU book contribution; any books used for other BFACT purposes; the NOT entry subsidy as in previous years; and about \$100 towards admin and Friday afternoon costs. There was considerable discussion about the extent to which BFACT might subsidise table money for student youth players who were being encouraged to play in higher calibre events on Mondays and Thursdays at the CBC. Griff Ware felt that many new youth players were discouraged by the higher BFACT and CBC fees in these events. The CBC has new table money arrangements including discounted rates for full-time students which will come into effect from 1 July 2005.

Council decided that BFACT members who are under 26, and are either full-time students or who qualify for the CBC concession, will not be charged the BFACT entry fee for non-weekend events unless the event regulations provide otherwise. The Supplementary Regulations for the BFACT Simultaneous Pairs are to provide that the youth concession does not apply to these events.

Secretary to advise Ann Pettigrew that these decisions have been made. BFACT News also to acknowledge gift of some bridge magazines from the estate of Pat Swan to the ANU Youth Bridge Club.

The President updated Council on her efforts to secure a MOC for the Youth Bridge Funding Trivia Night being organised by Griff Ware – she said that Ric Longmore had offered to run it and Richard Hills has kindly offered to assist with drafting the questions. Date: Saturday 18 June
Publicity: President + Vice President Cost: \$50 per team of 6.

The Secretary advised that there have not been previous instances where BFACT (as opposed to the Barry Turner Fund) has given a subsidy to ACT players representing Australia. The Treasurer pointed out that BFACT had at times recommended that the Barry Turner Fund provide assistance. Council requested our Councillors to the ABF to explore the issue of inadequate ABF subsidies to Australian reps with the ABF

6. Other business

Report on the ABF Annual General Meeting

The President and Earl Dudley circulated a brief summary report on the ABF AGM.

Correspondence

The Secretary advised that a letter had been sent to the Convenor of the SFOB recommending Peter Murer as a Trainee Director for SFOB for next year. Various newsletters and advertising material was also received.

Possibility of ACT Affiliated Club President's meeting - letter to go out –it was raised that perhaps we should also invite Presidents of non affiliated clubs?

Publicity for directors training course was raised – concern that it is being left too late – need to get on with it right now – SCBC said it had been promoted to it members on their website.
President/Vice President to organise asap.

Next meetings: Saturday May 14 10.30 am (noted that Secretary will be absent in Adelaide) .Sat 4 June 10.30

Meeting ended at 12.35 pm.

14 May 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Saturday 14 May 2005 commencing at 10.30am

1. Present

V Mitchell, A.Struik, R.Hills, M Abraham, E Dudley, R Plush

Apologies

R Nixon, L. Parker. C Herald, G Ware, G.Stockham

2. Minutes of the meeting of 9 April 2005:

Confirmed

Business arising

The adequacy of subsidies for international representatives, was discussed at the ABF Presidents' Meeting and based on this and other information received by Council members it was felt that the ABF subsidies met the basic costs.

3. Treasurer

Council ratified payments for Applegraphics (\$30 Sim Prs certificates), CBC (\$594 room hire 3 weekend selection events), CBC (\$399 share of Klinger lesson income), Sean Mullamphy (\$1078 Women's Team selection and \$270 Directors'course) and R Plush (\$62.70 BFACT News printing and postage).

4. Tournament Secretary

Women's Trials – results – discussion of any issues arising?

The Tournament Secretary reported that the top three finishers in the Women's Trials were Julia Hoffman/Nola Church, Mary Weddell/Ruth Thomson and Ann Pettigrew/Adrienne Stephens.

Under the ABF regulations a player who is eligible to represent more than one State in an event, is entitled to represent only that State in which she/he first entered a selection tournament for that event. Ruth Thomson inadvertently played in a round of the Victorian Women's Team selection when filling in to complete their movement. The ABF Management Committee gave its dispensation to allow Ruth to represent the ACT, but expressed concern over creating a precedent.

The Tournament Secretary is developing proposals to avoid such situations arising in future. The Council asked the TS to submit his proposals for review and clarification of ABF policy to the ABF and its Tournament Committee.

Other results of interest

The Open Butler Selection top three were Arjuna De Livera/Ian Robinson; David Hoffman/David Wawn; and Hashmat Ali/Tony Hancock.

The Women's Butler Selection top three were Juliana Maher/Bev Clark; Anne Baldwin/Gill Allen; and Judith Anderson/Barbara Toohey.

It was reported that some unfavourable comments had been made about separating the Women's which only attracted 4 tables with some women playing in the Open. It was suggested that BFACT should consider ways to encourage upcoming women players, and that a separate event contributed to this. The matter would be considered further in developing the 2006 calendar and the subcommittee established under item 3.6 should seek the views of relevant parties and report on this matter also.

Australian Seniors Team Playoff – result

Council were pleased to note the performance of David Lilley who was a member of the winning Neill Team at the recent Seniors Playoff in Sydney. David Lilley will now represent Australia at the Seniors Bowl in Estoril, Portugal later in the year.

Council asked the President to send letters of congratulations to David and to Margaret Bourke and Elizabeth Havas (Women's) and Griff Ware, Daniel Geromboux and Matt Porter (Youth) on being selected as international representatives for Australia.

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship – update on letter.

Earl Dudley updated Council on his and the Secretary's task to prepare a letter and list of players. Invitations to express interest in forming a team had been sent to 61 players. Richard Hills offered to provide an item for BFACT News.

Calendar 2006

Council discussed the lead-up to preparing the 2006 calendar of BFACT events. Consideration should be given to including an Individual Championship and possibly a Board-a Match teams. It was noted that the 2005 GNOT experience would be reviewed before settling a GNOT program for 2006. BFACT should also prepare a calendar which included BFACT events at clubs other than CBC and publish this in BFACT News and on appropriate web pages.

Number of sessions for selection events

Council agreed that a subcommittee of Mark Abraham, Andrew Struik and Richard Hills examine this matter and make recommendations to Council. Mr Abraham was advised that he could add non-Council members to this Committee if he wished to do so.

Ratification of Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth Teams

The Teams below were ratified. Council authorised the President and Tournament Secretary to settle the Captain for the Women's Team. Further information on interest and availability was required before settling the entries for Pairs events. It was noted that from this year the ABF would allow more than 3 pairs from each State, but the preliminary view of Council members was that BFACT would usually only pay entry fees for the first 3 pairs if entries were to go beyond 3.

Event	Names	Date ratified	Comment
Open Team	K Bagchi/D Lilley D Hoffman/D Wawn P Reynolds/M Smart		A De Livera
Women's Team	N Church/J Hoffman M Weddell/R Thomson A Pettigrew/A Stephens		TBA
Seniors Team	L Dixon/G Riszko		P Grant

	J Kahler/P Back A Farthing/B Carmichael		
Youth Team	G Ware/C Bridgland D Geromboux/N Griffiths A Lightfoot/M Delivera		M Abraham

Update on progress in preparing entry

Rebecca Plush reported that based on her successful experience in previous years she had systems in place to prepare the entry and system cards promptly and effectively. She would ask the captains to provide her with relevant material including dates of birth required for the Youth and Senior's Teams.

Update on progress in lodging system disclosures for teams

Mark Abraham undertook to check on the systems disclosure requirements for this year, including whether the opting-out provisions might apply. Rebecca Plush will coordinate submission of material and will obtain the necessary documentation from team captains.

5. Youth bridge

Update on Youth Bridge Activities:

Mark Abraham reported that the ANU club had 1 or 2 tables three times a week. A core group of about 16 were regulars. Val Mitchell said that the Friday after-school group had 12-15 attending enthusiastically. The group at Alfred Deakin High was also going well. Steve Carter and Tony Kershaw had volunteered to mentor youth players, adding to the list of volunteers who were already helping.

State of play on plans for Youth Bridge Trivia Night.

The President reported that planning for the Youth Bridge Funding Trivia Night was progressing well and that more activity was in train to attract teams.

6. Other Business

Masterpointing BFACT Events – report back from Earl Dudley

Earl Dudley reported that the Open Teams Qualifying event had been set up in the ASE scoring program in a manner that did not facilitate accurate masterpointing for the event. While this problem could be overcome, there were implications for how the event is run. Sean had advised that 6 sets of boards rather than 4 would be required each night to overcome this problem – but this would involve extra costs. Mark Abraham reported that ASE could not handle masterpointing for the IMP approach to results recently adopted as it was limited in the extent of VP scale it could use. It was suggested that sometimes fine tuning of bridge outcomes might need to be sacrificed at the margin if administration became unmanageable as a result. Council asked Mark to examine other scoring programs such as that of Martin Willcox to see if BFACT and CBC needs might be better met

The Council noted the very large amount of work that Mark and Daniel Geromboux had put in on structuring events and masterpointing them, and thanked them for their efforts in going well beyond what had been envisaged when they took up their positions.

The President undertook to write to other States to ask generally what services they pay for and how much they pay, and in particular to ask how they handle State masterpointing.

Directing Matters

Eighteen people attended the 8 May Directors Training Course. The decision to separate the basic course from the advanced one seemed to be well received. Val Mitchell reported that she had had some inquiries from people who had been unable to attend the May course and would like another opportunity later in this year.

Further nomination as trainee Director for SFOB 2006 – report from President

The President reported that she had spoken to Sean Mullamphy about Richard Hills being nominated as a possible trainee director for the first week of the SFOB 2006. The President said that Sean would give Richard the exam at the advanced level, and if he passed this Richard would be accepted as a trainee at the SFOB provided he fulfilled all other criteria.

Interclub Teams – Update from President and any matters arising.

The President advised Council that the first InterClub teams Day was a great success with 15 teams. The second round is being held at the Yamba Sports Club in June. CBC had hosted the first round and SCBC would host the second. Council agreed that BFACT would pay for morning and afternoon teas at the third and final round.

What's happening at the Clubs?

Monaro Bridge Club provided advice of their new president, Peter Brennan.

BFACT News

Rebecca Plush will have this out by end May.

BFACT website – progress report

This matter is now becoming urgent as BFACT would like to put news on it. Rebecca Plush to report to next meeting.

BFACT President's Meeting

Several clubs have indicated interest in the proposed meeting, which is likely to be held around Aug/Sep.

Report from President on ABF President's Meeting

A summary was presented to the meeting, and a fuller report will be circulated.

ABF Public Liability cover – discussion of recent event at CBC

It was noted that this was being handled by the CBC.

Feedback obtained on Klinger Tours (Treasurer)

Andrew Struik reported that Monaro BC supported continuing with Ron Klinger and would be prepared to pay something extra if required to retain his services. Cootamundra also wished to continue with the present arrangements. SCBC on the other hand expressed some reservations due to the falling Canberra numbers and the competition from CBC soup-and-seminar series. Earl Dudley said that the CBC committee had had an informal discussion which favoured continuing to use Ron, but identifying the need to improve the effectiveness of the Canberra program.

Council agreed to continue the Klinger tour for 2006, but noted that the Canberra clubs should develop ideas to improve the program and publicity there. The President reported that the level of ABF subsidy had now been raised to \$2000 p.a.

Next meetings: Saturday 4 June 10.30 and Saturday 16 July 10.30

Meeting ended at 12.45 pm.

04 June 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Saturday 4 June 2005 commencing at 10.35am

1. Present

V. Mitchell, M. Abraham, E. Dudley, R. Plush, G. Stockham, G. Ware

Apologies

R Nixon, R. Hills, A. Struik

Minutes of the meeting of 14 May 2005

Confirmed

3. Treasurer

In the absence of the Treasurer, there is no report. Valmai reported that the Ord Minnet account had been set up.

4. Tournament Secretary

ANC Entry

Marinos/Danta cannot accept their pairs place. Marker/Ogborn to be approached. Valmai reported that letters had been sent to all team and Butler entrants.

Motion – That the President and Tournament Secretary finalise the ANC Pairs entries.

Moved: E. Dudley Seconded: R. Plush Carried.

5. Youth bridge

G. Ware reported that:

- Three ANU Bridge Club members have joined the ABF through the ABF Youth Club.
- He will be contacting G. Feiler who is the organiser of the University of Sydney bridge club to facilitate and inter-university competition (see action item 17)
- The Youth Triathlon will be held in Sydney this year and the Canberra will be sending some players with financial assistance as appropriate (some money has already been earmarked for this purpose).
- Friday afternoon continues to be a big success thanks to the volunteers who are helping out. However, it would be beneficial for some younger people to come along to help out. This will be discussed further at the next sub-committee meeting.

Trivia Night – Valmai reported that the planning was going well and that the MC, Richard Longmore, has donated a 1997 bottle of Grange as a raffle prize and that there was already a good response.

6. Other business

Masterpointing

Mark Abraham reported that there is no progress yet as no other BFACT events have been finalised (the next event to do so will be the Open Pairs being run at the CBC on Monday evenings).

ABF Issues

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship – Mark reported that the two top pairs in the ANC Open Butler would be offered a place on an Australian Team. The third pair will be the Youth Pair that wins the Youth Butler in January 2006 (ie. the selection event for the Australian Youth Team).

100% Rule – Mark reported that he agreed with the objections raised by Justin Starke. A discussion of the 100% Rule ensued, with some concerns raised for overseas players who are members of their home country's national body but were posted to Australia for a finite time. GS was also concerned that there might be some issues for clubs who play inside Clubs – such as the SCBC playing at the Southern Cross Club – might have a condition that in exchange for a free room (or discounted room), the bridge club must allow any members of the Club to play. GS will investigate and report back next meeting (Action Item 19).

Another issue is that of a “contentious objector”, ie. someone who actively does not want to join the ABF but may be happy to join a specific club.

Council gave the proposal *in principle* support to the 100% rule. It felt that while it would be desirable for State Associations to be allowed to grant reciprocal membership to players who are members of another National Bridge Association it considered that this may be difficult to implement.

Rental – Under the proposal, affiliated bridge clubs would not be permitted to rent premises to clubs which are not affiliated. Council agreed to oppose to this clause as there may be legal concerns regarding this restriction and it seems to be legally and practically unwise. ED is to send an e-mail to the ABF reporting BFACT's views (see Action Item 20).

Resignation of Val Brockwell – Council noted that Val was retiring.

Club Reports

- George Stockham reported that the SCBS is running well and that SCBC will have a pair in the ANC Seniors and Mixed Pairs. No issues to report.
- Earl Dudley reported that the CBC was running well, no specific issues to report.

BFACT News – Council discussed the frequency that the BFACT News should be issued and decided that every second month was generally the necessary frequency. Discretion was left with the Editor for “special editions” when there was something newsworthy to report.

Next Meeting – 16 July 2005, 10:30am at the CBC.

Meeting Closed at Noon.

16 July 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Saturday 16 July 2005 commencing at 10.35am

1. Present

V. Mitchell, M. Abraham, E. Dudley, G. Stockham, G. Ware, R Nixon, R. Hills, A. Struik,

Apologies

C Herald, L Parker, R Plush

2. Minutes of the meeting of 4 June 2005

Confirmed subject to the addition of a record of thanks to Andrew Struik and Rebecca Plush for filling in for the Secretary so capably at the last two Council meetings.

3. Treasurer

No report from Acting Treasurer. Next meeting when annual figures will be available for end June.

4. Tournament Secretary

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships

President reported that we had one entry and the deadline for further entries is August. President to confirm with Andrew Halmos that there will an entry from the ACT.

Simultaneous Pairs

George Stockham reported that there were some problems with the Simultaneous Pairs event . The format was instant scored and most clubs reported they did not like the format especially the country clubs. Par scores were perceived as too tough. We need something simple. Results are out and will be in the BFACT News. Council decided they would return to the previous format for November. George Stockham said he really needed to get someone else to run this event but will run in November.

ANC Entry

The final outcome on the ANC Pairs entries is as follows:

Open: Carter/Roworth, Lee/Marker, De Livera/Abraham

Women's: Hoffman/Church, Kahler/Back, Pettigrew/Stephens

Mixed: McKinnon/Reynolds, Crossman/Crossman, Coleman/Hills

Seniors: Thorp/Struik, Dixon/Riszko, Marinos/Danta

Youth: Bridgland/Geromboux, Ware/Griffiths. De Livera/Lightfoot

Tournament Secretary to send email to Eric Ramshaw to enter Thorp/Struik in Seniors Pairs.

Council discussed the financial arrangements for the various hospitality events and decided that: Victory dinners: (CBC had advised they were to pay \$40 for all members of the teams except

Youth (full cost \$76). BFACT decided to pay \$50 as subsidy for Youth dinners. No precedent for future years. Captain's meeting/welcome function: paid by BFACT for the three captains. A motion to approve this was moved by the Treasurer and seconded by Richard Hills. The motion was carried.

The Secretary asked Council to record their appreciation to both Rebecca Plush and Mark Abraham for all their work in putting together the ANC entry and system cards etc. Once again their efficiency and diligence led to a very smooth process in 2005.

5. Youth bridge

G. Ware reported that:

He contacted G. Feiler who is the organiser of the University of Sydney bridge club to facilitate and inter-university competition but he has not responded as yet.

possible one week event in next school holidays was raised. Earl Dudley to consider room arrangements with CBC. Planning has to commence fairly soon if this is to become a reality.

Trivia Night – Griff Ware reported that the night went very well, President did a great job as did the MC, Richard Longmore, and \$1650 was raised. This money was a donation to BFACT from R Longmore with a condition that this money must be applied to help youth bridge in the ACT. Small subsidy given of \$100 to each of the ACT youth players competing in Korea.

Other Business

Masterpointing

There was a discussion about the recent decision by the ABFMPC that regional finals of GNOT would now attract placing points - previously only award MPs for wins in individual matches.

Now placing MPs will apply, but for the club selection events the old rule still applies - no MPs for placing's as they are not finals of an event. This will be clarified in the MP Manual.

Tournament Secretary to make this clear in tournament regulations.

ABF Issues

Attendance at ABF Council meeting on 28 July: Both of our delegates Roy Nixon and Earl Dudley will attend. Concerns were expressed about the ABF's Committee system and how it is used.

Club Reports –

SCBC reported that planning for their annual congress had just commenced – date Sunday 28 August. Venue: Southern Cross Club at Woden, not the Yamba Club.

BFACT News – no report

BFACT Website – Rebecca Plush's report was noted with thanks and will be considered at next meeting.

Discussion of date for AGM and related matters.

George Stockham is stepping down as BFACT Public Officer – he will be replaced by Eric Glass – George will do the handover prior to next AGM. Motion: that Council has given in-principle approval for George Stockham to be replaced as Public Officer by Eric Glass after proper procedures have been completed and subject to formal approval by Council before the next BFACT AGM. Moved G Stockham; Seconded President Carried Note date of AGM is Sunday 23 October.

Next Meetings – 13 August 2005, 10:30am at the CBC, 24 September 2005, 10.30 am at the CBC.

Meeting Closed at 12.10pm.

13 August 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Saturday 13 August 2005 commencing at 10.35am

1. Present

V. Mitchell, M. Abraham, E. Dudley, R Nixon, R. Hills, A. Struik,

Apologies

C Herald, L Parker, R Plush, G. Stockham, G. Ware,

2. Minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2005

Confirmed

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer submitted a preliminary financial statement for the year which shows a surplus of about \$3,000. Council felt satisfied things were tracking OK and there should not be a need to raise affiliation fees at the AGM.

4. Tournament Secretary

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships

President reported that we now have 2 entries with a possible third team. Ian Thomson to liaise with the President as soon as possible to submit a formal entry. Council agreed to hold a playoff of 28 board matches, at their convenience, with a suggested panel of directors – Mark Abraham to organise.

Eligibility

There was some discussion about the future eligibility of Ruth Thomson to represent the ACT at the ANC. Council accepted the ABF rule talks about where you enter a qualifying event FIRST. People who play in BFACT qualifying events must be a member of an affiliated club. Residence does not come into it.

GNOT

Ian Thomson advised that his winning team from the Knockout Teams will be accepting their place as Canberra 1 at the national GNOT final in Tweed Heads. It was recognised that we will need to finalise the lists of qualifiers for the regional Finals as soon as possible after the SCBC event concludes.

ANC entry

The Tournament Secretary reported that the ACT again tasted success at the ANC with victory in the Seniors Pairs to Andrew Struik and Brian Thorp, victory for the ACT Youth Team and a silver medal for the Open team.

Council deferred discussion of reports submitted by the Open Team captain and the captain for the Women's and Seniors Teams. President, Earl Dudley and Mark Abraham to discuss Captain's reports in committee and report back.

5. Youth bridge

As Griff Ware is in Sydney for the World Youth Championships, there was no report from him. Need to discuss the possible one week event in next school holidays was raised but as this is at the end of September we still have some time. Some concern that the long weekend may reduce number of available bridge helpers.

Other Business

Masterpointing

CBC still investigating viability of ASE8 scoring program especially the masterpointing issues. ABF MPC may be more the source of the complexity issues. No solutions at this stage. Council felt we needed to discuss better arrangements including possibility of the CBC payment being redirected to someone else. Cannot expect someone to do this on a voluntary basis indefinitely – it is a big task. Matter to be considered further by President and Earl Dudley.

ABF issues

Attendance at ABF Council meeting on 28 July: both of our delegates Roy Nixon and Earl Dudley attended and gave a brief rundown on the matters discussed including problems with the ABF Committee system (Earl Dudley has written some views and circulated these to the ABF Council) and international representation in particular events.

BFACT website

Henry Hudson expressed some interest in helping BFACT set up a website and we will invite him to the next meeting to discuss our needs with him. Council decided to ask Henry to comment on the proposal prepared by Rebecca Plush. At this stage, some Council members were still unclear whether we really need a website - maybe Youth Bridge would benefit from a source of information, a calendar of events, newsletters, results, minutes of meetings, etc. Critical issue is the need to keep the website up to date and the cost of doing so. Cannot always rely on volunteers - may have to pay.

Club Reports – none received except reminder re- SCBC Congress on 28 August.

BFACT News – expected out in the next week.

Treasurer queried about the Director's course and exam results. No one had received anything from S. Mullamphy so Treasurer to follow up. Also next course is due in September so Treasurer to remind Rebecca Plush about advertising the intermediate lessons.

Next Meetings – 24 September 2005, 10.00 am at the CBC. Calendar sub-committee will need to meet before then especially to discuss the GNOT.

Meeting Closed at 12.40pm.

24 September 2005

Minutes BFACT Council Meeting
at CBC Saturday 24 September 2005 commencing at 10.00am

1. Present

V. Mitchell, M. Abraham, E. Dudley, R Nixon, A. Struik, R Plush, G. Stockham, G. Ware, I Dalziell.

Apologies

C Herald, L Parker, R. Hills

2. Minutes of the meeting of 13 August 2005

Confirmed

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer did not submit a formal report. The FS were presently with the auditor for finalising before the AGM but we had about \$40,000 in the bank on term and current deposit.

4. Tournament Secretary

Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships

President reported that we now have 3 entries. Playoffs may be complicated by Margaret Bourke playing for Australia in Portugal in October and Hashmat Ali's recent illness. Council wanted to finalise this by the end of the year. Decided that Rebecca Plush should send email to teams suggesting dates (possibly Friday nights at the CBC or weekends) for holding the playoffs with a view to completing by end November. The Tournament secretary will need to put together an Appeals Committee for the playoffs on standby.

Regional Provincial GNOT Final

5 entries received so far but this may change as the week progresses. The Treasurer raised for discussion the decision – made out of session by the President and Tournament Secretary that the Provincial Final (6 entries received so far) also be run as a Swiss Butler Pairs because some of the CBC pairs could not find reasonable team mates. Council agreed that we could not backtrack again so will live with this for 2005. Treasurer said we need to enunciate consistent principles and rules – and we should not vary these except in situations of force majeure or an illegality. Any other change will need to go back to all the Clubs and the players to clear.

Motion: “This Council believes that BFACT should announce the Regulations, dates and other arrangements for its events well in advance to allow players to plan ahead. Once the event has been announced, they should only be varied by reasons of circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, an illegality, or if there are extremely unusual circumstances and a change is agreed by Council. Where practical all Clubs and players should be consulted about any variations that may be required.” Moved: A Struik, Seconded: R Nixon Carried.

2006 BFACT Calendar

Council discussed the future arrangements for the 2006 BFACT Calendar noting that both the President and Tournament Secretary had been asked to sit on the CBC Calendar Committee.

They had their first meeting recently. Earl Dudley advised that consideration is being given to swapping main competition night from Monday to Tuesday night because of public holidays, weekend events. No real walk-in event in Canberra on Monday. A survey of CBC Members is being undertaken shortly. BFACT then to determine its policy on dates and timing of its events – this is second stage of the process. Earl Dudley also advised that a possible Individual event may be trialled in 2006 instead of Jackpot Pairs. At some stage we will need to write to the other affiliated clubs to get their BFACT events put into the Calendar.

Eligibility Issue

Council also discussed a letter submitted by Sue Coleman on the eligibility of Ruth Thomson to represent the ACT at the ANC. Council recalled its previous discussion at the August meeting that it accepted the ABF rule talks about where you enter a qualifying event FIRST. People who play in BFACT qualifying events must be a member of an affiliated club. Residence does not come into it. Council requested the President to send a reply to Sue Coleman along these lines.

5. Youth Bridge

Griff Ware reported that he has been unable to progress the matter with Gabby Feiler. Also no decision yet about who the new ABF Co-ordinator will be. The possible one week event in next school holidays will not be held due to a lack of interest. Griff Ware asked Council to endorse a partial subsidy of \$154 towards the cost of the Youth Teams Shirts for the ANC – Council endorsed this as a normal part of the Youth Bridge Budget previously approved. Griff Ware also reported that some of the ANU Bridge Club may wish to play in the SFOB events and the normal subsidising of their participation was noted and confirmed.

6. Other Business

Developing a BFACT website:

As Henry Hudson was unable to attend the meeting, Council deferred consideration of this matter to the incoming Council after the AGM.

ANC – CONSIDERATION OF CAPTAIN'S REPORTS

Council discussed the reports submitted by the three ANC Team captains. Points raised included, unsuitability of the venue, whether the re-ordering of the events was better, training for first timers (especially in the use of screens), kibitzers etc. Council thought most of these issues should be addressed by the NPCs and the NPC's guidelines should be examined each year to see that they are kept relevant.

Masterpointing

CBC will be upgrading its computer hardware which may improve the system performance but still investigating viability of ASE8 scoring program especially the masterpointing issues though it was again noted that this may not solve the ongoing ABF MPC rules and its inherent complexity. Treasurer noted again that the director should produce the masterpoint files for SMS to check – indeed this is what we will require from Sean Mullamphy. Council agreed with this approach – in principle but detail may need to be worked out especially as regards the CBC contract with Sean. President to talk to Sean about masterpointing the GNOT Finals. Earl Dudley and Tournament Secretary to report back.

BFACT AGM

The Secretary submitted a draft agenda for consideration by Council which was agreed. The Secretary will circulate the revised agenda to the affiliated clubs on Monday.

Nomination forms were completed for the following positions where the incumbents are standing for re-election – President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Tournament Secretary. The incoming Secretary will advise the affiliated Clubs after the AGM that they should either confirm or advise the name of their delegate to the BFACT Council within 4 weeks of the AGM.

George Stockham advised Council that the processes for Eric Glass replacing him as Public Officer are still in progress and the incoming Council can deal with confirming Eric Glass at its first meeting.

The Treasurer recommended to Council that they endorse Chris Fearon as the BFACT auditor for 2005-6. Council agreed.

Club Reports –reminder re- Monaro Congress on 15-16 October. Sim Pairs will be held in last week of November. CBC AGM tomorrow at 4pm. CBC has reviewed its new arrangements including the new Manager who's contract will not be renewed – new Committee will need to finalise any changes.

BFACT News – next edition expected after AGM.

The Treasurer advised that the dates for the Klinger Tour in 2006 were at this stage late March/April. It may be possible for the smaller clubs to get together to do one session and the CBC the other.

The Directing Course due to be held on 24 September has been cancelled and rescheduled for early December.

Barry Turner Fund – CBC are presently trying to codify a framework to cover the operation of the BTF.

President's meeting – objectives, MPs, increase participation in events, smaller clubs have problems getting new members because we do not run lessons effectively.

Next Meetings – It will be up to the incoming Council to decide a date for its first meeting in early November after the AGM.

Meeting Closed at 12.40pm.