

Minutes 2015 AGM and 2015-16 BFACT Council Meetings

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Bridge Federation of the ACT
Draft Minutes
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 18 October 2015, 4.30pm,
CBC Clubrooms, Deakin

1. **Attendance**
Roy Nixon, Ian Dalziell, George Stockham, John Yoon, Ross Crichton, Pam Crichton, Trevor Berenger, Ken Anderson, Margaret Bourke, John Donovan, Lynne Moss, Peter Andersson, Jim Ascione, Emlyn Williams, Lisa Ma, Terri Henderson, Steve Carter, Natarajan Krishnamoorthy, Pam Rhemer, Dorothy Holt, Julia Hoffman, David Hoffman, Robin Brosnan, Andrew Struik, David Luck, Noel Bugeia, Tony Marker, Val Brockwell, John Brockwell, Niek Van Vucht, Brian Thorp, Peter Giles, James Collier, Val Hopwood, Christopher Crane, Caroline Dawson, Lyn Turner.
2. **Apologies:** Marianne Bookallil
3. **Acknowledgement of proxy votes:** No proxy votes received.
4. **Confirmation of Minutes of the 2014 AGM**
Motion: “that the Minutes of the AGM of 2014 be accepted as a true record of that meeting”. Proposed: Roy Nixon seconded: Lynne Moss Accepted.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM of 2014**
Peter Giles noted that CBC had proposed a bus trip to Cooma but there had been insufficient interest in the bus trip.
6. **Report of the President**
Roy Nixon spoke to his written report (attached). In particular the President highlighted the success of the inaugural Canberra In Bloom Festival , the growth in BFACT membership and he thanked his thanked the many who had supported BFACT during the year
7. **Report from the Treasurer on BFACT’s Financial Statements for 2014-15**
The treasurer noted that as expected and budgeted for there had been a small deficit as the ANC had been held in Perth with consequently higher travel subsidies.
8. **Appointment of Auditor for 2015-16**
Motion: “that Ian Thomson is appointed as auditor for BFACT for 2015-16”. Proposed Jon Yoon seconded Ian Dalziell. Accepted.
9. **Affiliation Fee for 2015-16**
Motion: “that the annual affiliation fee for 2015-16 be set at \$8.50 (including GST) for all members of affiliated bridge clubs”. Proposed John Yoon, seconded Roy Nixon. Accepted.
10. **Report of the Tournament Secretary**

Niek presented his written report (attached) and it was also recorded the selection success of Griff Ware in playing in the Australian Open, Margaret Bourke in the Women's, and Stephen Williams in the Youth teams. Emlyn Williams raised the issue of the appropriate order of the selection events and there was spirited debate noting variation over the years.

11. Appointment of Returning Officer

Emlyn Williams was appointed as Returning Officer and presided over the Council elections.

12. Election of Office Bearers:

President	Roy Nixon	Declared elected
Vice President	Marianne Bookallil	Declared elected
Secretary	Ian Dalziell	Declared elected
Treasurer	John Yoon	Declared elected
Tournament Secretary	Niek Van Vucht	Declared elected

13. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the President thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 4.50pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2015 BFACT AGM

Bridge in the ACT continues to face structural change after another year when numbers playing night time bridge and thus BFACT competitions declined. BFACT continued its initiative of lowering its table fees in an attempt to attract players back to Tuesday night competitions. Innovation in the calendar and serious promotional efforts by the Canberra Bridge Club had only a marginal impact. Major national events and bridge congresses now no longer play at night which reinforces the trend towards daytime play only. Structural change is a national (possibly global) trend and frankly it may get worse.

But luckily the news is not all doom and gloom. Member numbers in the ACT continue to rise as shown in the table below:

Date	Number of affiliated members
April 2009	740
April 2010	758
April 2011	777
April 2012	797
April 2013	855
April 2014	876
April 2015	904

Whilst growth is not spectacular we know that there is a significant amount of duplicate bridge being played in non affiliated clubs which tends to understate our playing sessions.

The other good news in the past 12 months has been the turnaround in the fortunes of our biggest member, the CBC. I attended their AGM a few weeks ago and was impressed with the discussion of the key challenges facing our bridge community – attracting more players to the game and tackling bad behaviour. The CBC Committee has been working hard to make the CBC a better place to play bridge and those efforts are clearly working. I have also been impressed with their efforts to improve the transitioning of beginners through supervised play and the mentoring of less

experienced novice players. This work has already begun to reap rewards in the growth of restricted player numbers in our congresses etc. Pleasingly we seem able now to offer those players their own competition away from the open more experienced players. And it is clear they like that.

Other successes this year include the inaugural Canberra in Bloom Bridge Festival held a couple of weekends ago over the long weekend. Over the four days, 140 tables were in play which given the number of bridge “distractions” was amazing and the restricted and novice numbers were significant. The opportunity is there to build this gold point bridge festival into a 50+ table event in the future. Feedback has been sought from participants and one thing we will fix in 2016 is the venue. We will be moving and more details will be given soon as we begin promotional efforts for next year. I would like to thank the CIB TO, John Brockwell for his continuing dedication to running successful tournaments in the ACT. In addition to the tournament staff, John had many helpers over the weekend including Elaine Leach, John Yoon, John Hempenstall, Paul Haley and Niek Van Vucht who helped particularly with set up and take down. Pre-event, the contribution of the ABF through Jane Rasmussen at HQ was significant in event promotion and handling entries.

The BFACT Committee has worked well together in 2015 and I am pleased to report that they are all re-standing at this meeting which is good news. However, I would like to thank several people for the work they did in 2015 for BFACT and the bridge community in general (in no particular order):

- Ian Dalziell, as our Secretary for his great efficiency and support at meetings as well as for organising and updating our lists of qualified directors and with Sean Mullamphy to continue to help train aspiring Club and Congress level directors here in Canberra. This continues to be an important job.
- Niek Van Vucht our Tournament Secretary for all his hard work in organising BFACT events, our ANC teams and inputs into our calendar process. Niek is always prepared to hear advice and also to try new things which we need in these changing times. He can be relied upon to pitch in when required. I won't steal any of Niek's thunder so will leave it to him to report on how ACT players fared in 2015
- John Yoon, our Treasurer and who (with Daryl Whitfield) does a very good job promoting youth bridge especially among the local universities and at national level through the ABF Youth Committee.
- Marianne Bookallil our Vice President who stepped into the role of our second ABF Council delegate willingly and always presents a balanced view on difficult issues under review.
- Alex Hewat, for again organising BFACT's successful interclub competition. Alex goes above and beyond as the TO leading by example and donning the apron and peeling the spuds to give players a uniquely enjoyable day. Congratulations to the Capital Bridge Club who won two of the three categories - Restricted and Intermediate with the Gungahlin Bridge Club winning the Seniors category.
- Emlyn Williams, our Webmaster who is doing a great job keeping all aspects of the BFACT website up to date including tournament news and results, Committee minutes and upcoming events.

BFACT supported its affiliated clubs in a number of endeavours in 2015 with financial assistance grants towards marketing and promotion. This includes support from the ABF through the annual marketing grants. The CBC obtained a special marketing grant over the 2 years – 2015/16 to assist them with their novice and restricted transitioning program. The ABF National Marketing Officer is coming to Canberra in January to present a Marketing Seminar specifically aimed at Club administrators dealing with important issues including transitioning beginners into regular sessions (CBC has much to contribute here), bad behaviour and how to tackle it and the role of the Director in creating a warm and welcoming environment for players. The ABF national teacher accreditation program with its emphasis on continuing professional development is raising teaching standards and retention rates in some well documented case studies in the past couple of years and the ABF is actively considering expanding the network of teacher trainers into regional areas from

Finally, in closing, I took this job on back in 2007 and one of the first things on my radar screens was to set up an organising committee for the 2009 ANC to be held here in Canberra. I am pleased to say that the ACT is scheduled to hold the ANC in 2017 and I am once again lucky to have in place an excellent organising committee headed up by Elaine Leach with help from Pam Crichton, Mary Tough, John Brockwell and Bev Crossman. During the course of the next 12 months, preparations will ramp up and this team may call on some of you here for help. ANCs cannot be run well without the efforts of our club volunteers, so be prepared to help as this event can raise money to fund future ANC participation by our teams.

Roy Nixon

President

14 October 2015



Bridge Federation of the ACT

BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 30 October 2015 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Roy Nixon, Niek van Vucht, Peter Giles, Ian Dalziell, Marianne Bookallil, John Yoon, Alex Hewat.

Apologies: Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki, Lynne Moss, George Stockham, John Donovan

Minutes of the previous Council meeting of 18 September were confirmed.

Business arising from the minutes of meeting of 18 September

1. Trophies Roy reported that he had updated the BFACT trophies to 2014 and that now the Gala Pairs event has been completed he will update them to 2015.
2. Alex will investigate options for the interclub trophy and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.
3. John will investigate the cost of honour boards for the Gala Pairs and the Interclub event.

Confirmation of minutes of 2015 AGM: Held over to the next meeting

Reports

4. President's Report
Peter suggested that ABF could investigate applying for tax deductibility status for donations to the ABF and member clubs. Roy and Marianne will raise this at the ABF.
5. Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer presented a draft 2015-16 Budget which was accepted with minor amendment after discussion (attached?).
Peter noted that Flight Centre can provide savings on airfare bookings.
6. Tournament Secretary's Report
Niek reported that the teams for the GNOT had been finalised following the Gala Gold Point Paris event.

Business

7. Canberra in Bloom Festival 2-5 October 2015
The event was judged a success with about 37 tables and a financial surplus of \$5423. The format of the event was popular with participants and the organisation was judged to be very good. The following suggestions were made for 2016.
The Southern Cross Club venue was judged could be improved upon.
An early bird discount was suggested with greater clarity on payment options
8. Gala Gold Point Pairs 18 October
The event was judged to be a success with the new novice category working well.

9. Alternative selection process for GNOT Canberra 2 team
Held over to the next meeting.
10. 2016 Calendar planning/input process
Niek advised that the calendar was close to finalisation.
11. BFACT representative on ABF Youth committee
John Yoon will follow up to provide a nomination to BFACT Council out of session.
12. 2017 ANC in the ACT
Elainne Leach has agreed to report progress to BFACT Council in Dec 2015, March 2016, June 2016 and monthly from August 2016.
13. ABF Marketing Grants applications 2015
Cootamundra BC was granted \$73 for petrol travel expenses to directors course.
Monaro BC was granted \$750 towards costs associated with Sean Mullamphy bridge lessons in Cooma.
14. Annual Return to Office of Regulatory Services
The relevant form was signed by office bearers and Treasurer will provide cheque to secretary
15. Website. The website is up to date and working well.
16. Directors
Ian reported that 15 people did the 2015 course on October with most taking exams home. Certificates are being prepared for directors at Monaro and Cootamundra.
17. Reports from Clubs
Peter reported that CBC was investigating partnering and mutual visits with the Ballarat Bridge Club with the CBC visiting Ballarat in early April 2016 and Ballarat visiting the Canberra in Bloom festival in early October. This could also assist participation of Monaro and other clubs.

Next meeting: **27 November 2015**

Indicative future dates are as follows: 29 January, tba March, 22 April, 27 May



Bridge Federation of the ACT

BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 27 November 2015 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Roy Nixon, Niek van Vucht, Peter Giles, Ian Dalziell, Marianne Bookallil, John Yoon, Alex Hewat, Lynne Moss, George Stockham

Apologies: Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki, John Donovan

Minutes of the previous Council meeting of 30 October were confirmed.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were confirmed with minor corrections subject to agreement of the 2016 AGM.

Business

1. Honour Boards

John presented to Council an indicative quote of \$1520 for a large honour board for the Interclub Event and Council agreed in principle to its purchase. Ian was asked to write to CBC seeking agreement to its installation and subject to agreement John was asked to purchase the Board and arrange for posting of historical winners.

2. Deductible Gift Recipient Status

Roy reported that he had raised with ABF the question of ABF applying for DGR status and Peter noted that he had been now been asked by ABF to investigate the issue.

3. Screens

Council is reluctant to purchase screens at this stage. However John volunteered to investigate their cost.

4. Treasurers Report and Budget

The Treasurer presented a revised 2015-16 Budget which was accepted (attached).

5. Tournament Secretary's Report

It was agreed that Niek would advertise the selection method for ACT representative to clubs and also ask for a convenor (who was not expecting to be a contender for the ANC) for the one day open selection event at CBC on 17 April 2016.

6. Planned CBC trip to Ballarat Wednesday 6th to Sunday 10th April

Peter reported that planning for this event was on track with 10 people already signed up. Council members were asked to advertise in their clubs including Monaro and Cootamundra.

7. ABF seminar for club administrators Monday 11 January 2016, from 9am to 1pm

It was agreed that members of club committees, directors and others would be encouraged to participate. It was also agreed to provide a travel subsidy to Cootamundra and Monaro to participate.

8. Alternative selection process for GNOT Canberra 2 team

Held over to the next meeting.

9. 2016 Calendar is currently with the printer.
10. BFACT representative on ABF Youth committee
Two youth members had been approached and declined. It was agreed that John would be the interim representative pending inviting another youth member.
11. 2017 ANC in the ACT
Thoroughbred Park had been secured as the venue with excellent facilities.
12. Annual Return to the Office of Regulatory Services
The relevant form had been submitted with payment.
13. Directors
There was discussion about the challenges for directors, recorders and club administrators of disruptive players.
14. Cooperation with neighbouring clubs
It was noted that Goulburn and Bungendore players often play in Canberra and there was some discussion about how we can facilitate these links to non BFACT clubs.

Next meeting: **29 January 2016**

Indicative future dates are as follows: tba March, 22 April, 27 May



Bridge Federation of the ACT

BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 29 January 2016 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Roy Nixon, Niek van Vucht, Peter Giles, Ian Dalziell, Lynne Moss, George Stockham

Apologies: Marianne Bookallil, John Yoon, Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki, John Donovan Alex Hewat

Minutes of the previous Council meeting of 27 November 2015 were confirmed.

Business

1. Tournament Secretary's Report
Niek reported that no one had yet volunteered as a convenor (who was not expecting to be a contender for the ANC) for the one day open selection event at CBC on 17 April 2016. The matter was held over until it was clearer who might be available.
2. BFACT clubs and engagement with them
Peter and John addressed the need for better engagement of BFACT with member clubs and with local non-member clubs. Peter proposed to draw up a matrix of clubs and session times to improve relationships. He also proposed arranging for interclub visits.
3. Australian Youth Week future venues
Peter advised that the arrangements for the Australian Youth Week had not worked well at CBC in 2016. Peter will write to Alison Stralow advising of the situation.
4. Proposed new kids initiative
John outlined a new holiday bridge initiative from Elaine Leach to have grandparents bring their kids to bridge once during a holiday period. Council agreed to support this initiative in principle and would consider providing some funding if approved. Council agreed to ask Elaine Leach to provide a more detailed proposal by 1 March for consideration of the next meeting of Council.
5. Youth Report
John provided a report on youth activities. He noted that Daryl Whitfield has been running sessions on Saturday afternoons; and that John is running sessions for more advancing players providing some focused training such as bidding practice, play problems and theory that is a directed development towards the 2017 ANC.
6. Honour Boards
Peter Giles reported that CBC had not yet considered BFACT's request for agreement to the installation of an honour board for the BFACT Interclub Event. John Yoon advised that he is ready to proceed with purchase once agreement of CBC is reached.

7. Deductible Gift Recipient Status
It was agreed that it was not an appropriate time to pursue this.
8. Screens
Council is reluctant to purchase screens at this stage. However John made some investigations and reported as follows.
It is difficult to find a commercial supplier of screens. In fact, due to the specialised requirements it is probably most economical to build them ourselves. This is further relevant because the screens that the ABF Youth Club own for use in the Junior Team Selection Butler only fit fold out tables, and do not fit on the tables that are in use in the Barry Turner room. If we did build our own they should be designed around those tables.
9. Planned CBC trip to Ballarat Wednesday 6th to Sunday 10th April
Peter reported that 22 people had now signed up. Council members were asked to advertise in their clubs including Monaro and Cootamundra.
MOTION: That BFACT contribute \$200 towards hospitality for the Ballarat weekend. *passed*
10. ABF seminar for club administrators Monday 11 January 2016. Some Council members had attended and found the seminar to be useful. Member clubs are encouraged to use the resources available from the ABF website for their clubs.
11. BFACT representative on ABF Youth committee
It was confirmed that John Yoon would be the interim representative pending inviting another youth member.
12. 2017 ANC in the ACT
Held over to the next meeting
13. Directors. The following submitted and passed the exam:
Subhash Mohindra, Desh Gupta, Nonie Ashworth, Andrew Spooner, Barbara Beveridge, Caroline Hermes, Chiew Baria, Andrew Dawes.
Council agreed to certify each as a Club Level director (Grade D). Roy signed certificates for each.
14. Next meeting: **18 March 2016**
Indicative future dates are as follows: 22 April, 27 May



Bridge Federation of the ACT

BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 18 March 2016 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Marianne Bookallil, Ian Dalziell, John Donovan, Peter Giles, Alex Hewat, Lynne Moss, Roy Nixon, George Stockham, Niek van Vucht, John Yoon.

Apologies: Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki

Minutes of the previous Council meeting of 29 January 2016 were confirmed.

Business

1. Presidents Report
Roy reported that arrangements for the ANC in Brisbane are well advanced.
Roy will circulate the proposed new format for BFACT Stage 2 Open selection event to be held on Sunday 17 April. Roy and Chris Sheen will be the catering organisers.
2. Tournament Secretary's Report
Niek discussed the women's seniors' and open ANC selection arrangements for 2016. An outstanding need was for catering arrangements for 17 April.
3. Treasurers report
John tabled an updated financial report and noted that the financial situation remained healthy.
4. Marketing Grant
John tabled a report on 2015 grant paid by purpose and existing proposals for 2016 grants. It was agreed that (after the Bridge for Kids initiative payment of \$500) the remaining funds of \$2072 would be paid to CBC towards its marketing activities.
For 2016, it is expected that \$6900 would be available. Recommitments for this total \$2600 (including \$500 Bridge for Kids) leaving \$4300 for disbursement.
Cootamundra Club is encouraged to find opportunities to access marketing grants.
5. Canberra in Bloom
Roy reported that preparations are on track and that advertising will be available soon.
6. Pianola
Peter commended this software program and suggested that BFACT encourage it be extended for use across ABF. Roy pointed out that a challenge was the need for interoperability of the present databases.
7. Directors
BFACT discussed the continuing need for directors for BFACT events especially at Congress and State level.

8. 2017 ANC Tournament Organiser to attend ANC 2016
BFACT agreed to provide financial support for the ANC 2017 tournament organiser to go to the ANC in Brisbane in June 2016 in preparation for the ANC in Canberra in 2017.
9. Interclub
It was agreed that Ian would write to NSWBA seeking their agreement to invite nearby local NSW clubs to the BFACT Interclub Event.
10. Proposed new *Bridge for Kids* initiative
A paper prepared by Elaine Leach was tabled and supported. BFACT funding of up to \$500 per annum was agreed and to be sourced from the ABF Marketing grant.
11. Honour Boards
Peter Giles reported that CBC had agreed to BFACT's request for installation of an honour board for the BFACT Interclub Event. John Yoon was authorised to buy the board.
12. Planned CBC trip to Ballarat Wednesday 6th to Sunday 10th April
Peter reported that 19 people had signed up.
13. 2017 ANC in the ACT
Roy reported that preparations were on track.
14. Use of B4c masterpoints
John noted that Cootamundra was underutilising their redpoint allocation and undertook to liaise with them.
15. Next meeting: **22 April 2016**
Indicative future dates are as follows: 27 May



BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 22 April 2016 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Ian Dalziell, John Donovan, Peter Giles, Alex Hewat, Roy Nixon, George Stockham, Niek van Vucht, John Yoon.

Apologies: Marianne Bookallil, Jenny McAinsh, Lynne Moss, Janet Strzelecki

Minutes of the previous Council meeting of 18 March 2016 were confirmed.

Business

1. **Tournament Secretary's Report**
It was agreed that John Yoon would provide full details of the Youth team to Niek and that BFACT would ratify ANC teams out of session. Niek advised that he would notify ABF once captains were known and he is able to complete the entry form.
2. **Treasurer's report**
John Yoon advised that the Women's selection event for the ANC team had run at a loss.
Council asked John Yoon to write to CBC to determine the details of the trustees of the Barry Turner Fund and its status for GST purposes.
It was agreed that the travel subsidy for the 28 BFACT representatives at the ANC 2016 would be set at \$400 per person and this would include fully paid tickets to attend the Victory Dinner. All team members are expected to attend.
3. **Interclub**
No reply had been received yet from NSWBA seeking their agreement to invite nearly local NSW clubs to the BFACT Interclub Event.
Alex was authorised to invite a qualified person as director. BFACT also set the charge at \$100 per team of 4. It was also agreed to use Costco for catering, not to award cash prizes and to advertise it as an Honour Board event.
4. **Attendance at ABF AGM 21-22 May 2016.**
Agreed that Peter Giles would proxy for Roy Nixon as he would be away. Ian to notify Allison Stralow.
5. **BFACT agreed that bidding boxes (not pads) would be used at the ANC 2017**
Ian to write to Pam Crichton with this decision.
6. **Marketing Grant**
John reported that to-date applications for 2016 grants had been received from Capital and Bridge for Kids and that \$4300 remain for disbursement of the total for \$6900.

7. BFACT agreed to a new logo for BFACT which would be used for Canberra in Bloom and all ANC publicity material – news of the new logo to go to Pam Crichton.
8. Canberra in Bloom
Roy tabled preliminary advertising brochures for the event and reported that preparations are on track. An email newsletter will go out in mid-June to all previous players focussing on the improvements to the event since 2015.
9. Directors
Ian was asked to seek a director to teach the Directors Course in 2016.
10. Visits to BFACT clubs
Club times for some of the clubs were tabled and in principle agreement was reached for visits to Monaro and Cootamundra.
11. GNOT qualifying event
It was advised that Monaro intended to run its own qualifying event in 2017 and this was supported by Council.
12. Honour Boards
John Yoon advised that the Honour Board would be purchased soon.
13. CBC trip to Ballarat Wednesday 6th to Sunday 10th April
Peter reported that the event had been highly successful and that mutual billeting arrangements were planned for the Canberra In Bloom event.
14. Next meeting: **17 June 2016**



Bridge Federation of the ACT

BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 17 June 2016 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Roy Nixon, Niek van Vucht, Peter Giles, Marianne Bookallil, George Stockham, John Yoon, Alex Hewat, Lynne Moss

Apologies: Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki, Ian Dalziell

The minutes of the previous meeting of 22 April 2016 were confirmed
Business arising from the minutes of meeting of 22 April 2016 was discussed on the agenda.

Correspondence - Nil

Reports

18. President's Report – Nil as president was away

19. Treasurer's Report – See report provided.

Summary: Event income lower because of women's trials and BFACT is tracking for a small surplus.

20. Tournament Secretary's Report – ANC is organised.

GNOT – Clubs need to hold events to qualify pairs to a final, which is open entry. There may be a discount for pairs who have won a club event – that is yet to be determined. Monaro might hold an event. The qualifying events and the final attract gold points. ACT usually sends 2 open, 1 restricted/provincial teams. It is possible that the ACT might be asked to send another team if a team drops out from another region. This will be expensive for the ACT, as BFACT will need to pay \$750 for an extra entry fee that has not been budgeted for.

Business

1. Events

a. BFACT Interclub

i. Draft flier provided – 3 amendments needed.

ii. Use 2x pair gift cert for novice prize.

iii. Simple cold lunch

iv. See RN re Costco membership

v. 2016 will be the final year that AH convenes this event

b. Canberra in Bloom 2016

i. Website in 2-3 weeks, flier, banner

ii. 12 from Ballarat

c. 2017 ANC in the ACT: Elaine Leach has been asked to report in Dec 2015, March 2016, June 2016 and monthly from August 2016.

i. Sponsorship for ACT still being determined,

ii. Numbers don't look great for Brisbane, no congress events,

iii. ACT will need to examine change in format.

iv. ACT may need to run womens and seniors together and will need to encourage locals to play in congress events.

d. GNOT- see tournament secretary's report

- e. SFOB 2017 – RN is organising as an interim measure.
- f. Gala Pairs organisation for 30 Oct.
 - i. Top 2 pairs 1st team. Provincial team – restricted section.
 - ii. MB volunteered to convene, but will need to check her diary before confirming.
- g. Cooma trip PG – Sunday 26th June. The trip is full 22 with people. It is worth keeping it in calendar as a social trip each year

2. Honour Boards

- a. There will be a slight increase in costs from the quote
- b. There will be 4 rows and space will be at a premium

Decision: *Clubs names will be shortened and 'bridge club' will not be added to each club name eg Capital not Capital Bridge Club*

3. ABF AGM outcomes – Report of the ABF meeting by MB

- a. Numbers are declining in women's events. It was suggested that some women's events could be changed to mixed events using WBF and European format where all pairs must be male/female and men sit north and west and women sit south and east.
- b. There was a discussion about fees for capitation and masterpoints. The ABF council agreed that these fees should increase by CPI each year rather than no increase for a few years followed by a large increase every 3 - 4 years.
- c. There was a discussion about suspensions at a national, state and club level should be whether suspensions should be applied to other tournaments. An email from ABF Secretary Allison Stralow is below.

"At the 2016 ABF AGM the General Counsel presented a discussion paper on Managing Player Suspensions. After much discussion the Council agreed to the following proposal:

- *All players suspended at National level will be banned at all National and State events.*
- *All State level suspensions are also transferred to National events.*

The ABF Council and Management Committee is seeking your views on the scope of club suspensions.

Should players suspended from their own club be allowed to play in:

- *Other clubs*
- *Congresses*
- *State event*
- *National events"*

As requested, managing player suspensions was discussed at BFACT. There was general agreement that suspensions at a club level should apply to that club only. Beyond that, more investigation was needed before the BFACT committee could make decisions.

There was a wide ranging discussion covering the following points.

- suspensions were usually related to behaviour.
- There were concerns that some processes at a club level may not be as strong as we would like and that suspensions may result from what is

essentially a personality clash.

- There was concern about processes in the other direction if a player is suspended at a national level and there was an expectation that the player be suspended from all levels of bridge in Australia. If the suspended player attended a local bridge game it was not clear that director on the day would be know that the player was suspended nationally and should be prevented from playing.
- BFACT doesn't have processes in place to deal with suspensions and while there was discussion about possible pathways no decisions were made.
- PG discussed the VBA document that was presented at the ABF meeting in May

Decision: *Club suspensions should only apply to that club*

Action: *Distribute Victorian Bridge Association Congress*

*Disciplinary and Ethics Regulations document. Completed MB 19
June 2016*

Action: *Discuss this item again at the next BFACT meeting*

4. Director's course in October.
 - a. Try to hold day before Canberra in Bloom.
 - b. John McIlrath was suggested to teach the course

5. Reports from Clubs - Nil

6. Website - Nil

Other Business - Nil

Next meeting: 22 July 2016



BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 22 July 2016 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Roy Nixon, Niek van Vucht, Ian Dalziell, Marianne Bookallil, George Stockham, John Yoon, Alex Hewat, John Donovan.

Apologies: Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki, Lynne Moss, Peter Giles

The minutes of the previous Council meeting of 17 June were confirmed

Correspondence nil

Reports

21. President's Report

ABF has agreed that decisions on suspensions only apply at national and state levels. Club level suspensions would apply only to that local club.

ABF is seeking information about the requirements for affiliation of local clubs so as to prevent financial loss in the event of disaffiliation. Ian was tasked to notify ABF of BFACT affiliation conditions.

22. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there was a small surplus of about \$1800 for the financial year. He also advised that the balance of the Barry Turner Trust was presently \$171,000.

BFACT agreed to maintain the BFACT affiliation fee at \$8.50 per member.

Other Business

7. BFACT Interclub 24 July

Alex reported that there was a good number of teams and clubs participating.

8. GNOT club qualifying events

It was agreed to charge participants \$1 per person per session.

It was noted that some clubs would run eclectic walk-in events as they would not have enough players to run a separate movement.

9. Canberra in Bloom 30 September to 3 October 2016

Roy reported that all was on track.

10. Canberra in Bloom youth weekend proposal from John Newman and John Yoon.

Council thanked John Yoon for his proposal and agreed to allocate \$500 towards accommodation and entry fees for youth players to play in the CIB. It was also agreed in principle to partly subsidise the deficit for under 30 youth not meeting the age qualification.

11. Gala Pairs 30 October

Roy Nixon has agreed to organise this event

12. Summer Festival of Bridge 10-22 January 2017
Roy Nixon has been appointed caretaker Tournament Organiser for this event
13. ANC 15-27 July 2017
A grant application had been submitted to the ACT government to assist with a courtesy bus to the venue.
Roy will provide an updated draft budget to the Treasurer.
14. Cooma Trip
The trip was judged a success by those who participated and Monaro was thanked for their hospitality. We hope it will become an annual event with a second one being organised for Cootamundra in the spring.
15. Interclub Honour Board
John Yoon was thanked for organising the new Honour Board.
16. Bridge for Kids
A report was received from Elaine Leach on the outstanding success of this event on 12 July where 29 children participated. Elaine and her team were thanked.
17. Youth development programs
John Yoon was asked to investigate the state of bridge at ANU and to also bring a proposal to the next BFACT meeting with ideas about what could be done to promote bridge among youth in the ACT. John was also asked if he could ascertain whether we could put together an ANC 2017 Youth Team Squad of 4-8 players and organise teaching, system mentoring, support for them to play in local congresses etc by the next meeting. Money and other resources should be made available for this out of the Youth Budget.
18. Directors' Forum 19 June
BFACT recorded its thanks to Peter Giles for organising the successful forum where about 20 existing directors participated from across the region.
19. Directors' Course
Ian was asked to investigate whether John McIlrath could teach a directors' course before or after the Canberra in Bloom festival.

Next meeting: 19 August 2016

Apologies for next meeting: Peter Giles and Marianne Bookallil



BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 19 August 2016 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Roy Nixon, Niek van Vucht, Ian Dalziell, Rick Nehmy, Val Carmody, Lynne Moss, George Stockham, John Yoon, John Donovan.

Apologies: Marianne Bookallil, Peter Giles, Alex Hewat, Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki

The minutes of the previous Council meeting of 22 July were confirmed

Correspondence nil

Reports

23. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the previous year financial statements were almost complete and would be forwarded to the auditor. Initial budget estimates for 2016-17 suggested there would be a projected healthy surplus reflecting the holding of the ANC in Canberra in 2017.

BFACT affirmed the decision to maintain the BFACT affiliation fee at \$8.50 per member.

Other Business

20. AGM 30 October 2016

Notice will need to be given for the AGM 21 days before and also notice of the proposed affiliation fee of \$8.50 per member.

21. Calendar

Niek advised that initial planning had begun on the 2017 calendar and he agreed to circulate a draft to the council members.

22. BFACT Interclub 24 July

Alex was thanked for organising the successful 2016 Interclub Competition. One suggestion for the 2017 event was to hold it on 16 July in conjunction with the ANC. President to inform ANC Organising Committee.

23. GNOT and Gala Pairs 30 October

It was agreed that the entry fee will be \$40 for the Gala Pairs.

Capital and South Canberra both advised they would be entering one pair from their eclectic qualifiers.

Roy advised that the GNOT format in 2017 would change with reduced boards played each day. Also there would be an amalgamation of some zones and the ACT representation would probably return to 2+1 from 3+1 representative teams.

24. Canberra in Bloom 30 September to 3 October 2016
Roy reported that all was on track, that entries are going well and that TBIB will be a sponsor to the tune of \$750 + GST.
25. Canberra in Bloom youth weekend proposal from John Newman and John Yoon.
Council agreed to allocate \$600 towards accommodation and entry fees for youth players to play in the CIB. Treasurer to keep President in the loop regarding names of entrants etc as soon as possible.
26. Summer Festival of Bridge 10-22 January 2017
On track. Brochure has been produced and made available to clubs etc.
27. ANC 15-27 July 2017
A written report was received from Elaine Leach on behalf of the ANC committee on progress re sponsorship, grants, publicity, accommodation, a mobile app, floor manager, caddies and venue, noting that all was on track.
28. Bridge for Kids
Following the success of the initial event with 29 participants, it was advised that the next would be held on 4 October. BFACT would continue to support the event financially on the same basis.
Adult participants (not parents) were encouraged to get ACT Working with Children registration.
29. Youth development programs
BFACT recognises that there is a need for renewal of programs targeting the development of youth players.
BFACT understand that Elaine Leach plans to restart Friday afternoon sessions for late teens.
John Yoon advised that he would be running card sessions at King O'Malley's to target first and second year ANU students.
Roy noted that we need to put together a program for a core of 6 youth players (primarily those who made up the team in 2016 with one or two changes), combining elements of financial support to attend and play in local congresses, national events etc, mentoring and coaching, matches against experienced good players and system advice etc. There is unlikely therefore to be a need for Youth selection trials in 2017.
30. Marketing Grant application
An application was received from Monaro Bridge Club seeking part funding for the purchase of a Dealer 4+ dealing machine at the cost of \$4,850. BFACT recognised the value of this initiative and agreed to contribute \$1000 in 2016-17 and \$1000 in 2017-18.
31. Obituary notices
It was agreed that obituary notices are normally best done at club and national level rather than at BFACT level.
32. Directors' Course
Ian advised that John McIlrath had agreed to teach a directors' course on the evening of 29 September. Whilst the library at CBC is available as a venue it may be too small and alternative accommodation may be needed if there are more than 6 enrolments.

Next meeting: 23 September 2016

Apologies for next meeting: Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki



BFACT Council Meeting

5.30 pm Friday 23 September 2016 Deakin

MINUTES

Present: Roy Nixon, Marianne Bookallil, Niek van Vucht, Ian Dalziell, Alex Hewat, Rick Nehmy, Lynne Moss, John Yoon

Apologies: Peter Giles, John Donovan, Jenny McAinsh, George Stockham, Janet Strzelecki

The minutes of the previous Council meeting of 19 August were confirmed

Reports

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the previous year financial statements are completed and would be forwarded to the auditor. A small surplus was achieved in 2015-16. Initial budget estimates for 2016-17 suggested there would be a projected healthy surplus reflecting the holding of the ANC in Canberra in 2017. John agreed to approach Ian Thomson to ask if we would again be honorary auditor in 2017.

Other Business

1. AGM 30 October 2016
Notice will need to be given for the AGM 21 days before and also notice of the proposed affiliation fee of \$8.50 per member. Council members were reminded to provide nomination forms if they wished to renominate.
2. Calendar
Niek was thanked for circulating a draft to council members. He noted that it was still at a preliminary stage and asked for comments.
3. BFACT Interclub 2016 and 2017
Council received a report on the 2016 Interclub event from Alex and he was thanked for the report and for the successful conduct of the competition. Council confirmed its decision to hold the 2017 event on 16 July in conjunction with the ANC. Alex noted that as a result he may be able to convene the event in 2017 as long as he received assistance with publicity.
4. GNOT and Gala Pairs 30 October
There was extensive discussion about how to choose the Canberra 2 and Canberra 3 teams from the Gala Pairs event. It was decided to agree out of session.
5. Canberra in Bloom 30 September to 3 October 2016
Roy reported that all was on track, and that entries are going well.

6. Canberra in Bloom youth weekend proposal from John Newman and John Yoon.
A budget was presented.
7. Summer Festival of Bridge 10-22 January 2017
On track.
8. ANC 15-27 July 2017
An update report was received from Elaine Leach on behalf of the ANC 17 Committee on progress re sponsorship, grants, publicity, accommodation, a mobile app, floor manager, caddies, venue, bidding pads, and the running of BFACT interclub teams at the Thoroughbred Park location during the ANC 17. Elaine concluded that things are progressing nicely.
Council noted that it had already made a decision to use bidding boxes not pads and to again notify the organising committee of this decision.
9. Bridge for Kids
Rick reported that there was good interest in the next planned event to be held on 4 October.
10. ABF policy on Player Suspensions
BFACT received the ABF policy on Player Suspensions as agreed by the ABF AGM.
11. CBC application for some financial assistance towards their recent purchase of a new dealing machine. BFACT recognised the value of this initiative and agreed to contribute \$1000 in 2016-17 and \$1000 in 2017-18. The amounts to be paid from general revenue not the ABF Marketing Grant.
12. Marketing Grant application
An application was received from Cootamundra Bridge Club seeking part funding for the purchase of Bridgemates. BFACT agreed to support this proposal by allocating \$1000 in 2016 and \$1000 in 2017, to be paid from the ABF marketing grant.
13. Directors' Course
Ian advised 7 people had so far registered. If it appeared that more than 10 would attend then ABF HQ would be used instead of the library at CBC.
Ian to notify Roy if that is needed.
14. International Performance Committee Player Survey
Marianne advised that this was in hand.

Next meeting: to be determined by new Council.

Apologies for next meeting: Jenny McAinsh, Janet Strzelecki