



## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Friday 03 February 2023 Electronic Conference

### **MINUTES:**

*Present:* Cathy Nichols, Keith Huggan, Stephen Fischer, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan, Mary Tough, David Clarkson, John Niven.

*Apologies:* Annie Macmaster, Andrew Dawes.

President opened Council meeting at 5.00pm and welcomed all members to meeting and advised apologies received.

### **Confirmation of minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 09 December cleared for uploading to website. Moved Cathy Nichols; Seconded Niek Van Vucht. Carried.

### **Business Arising from Prior Minutes:**

- The Committee was advised of the continuing improvement in Jane's health it would still be sometime before her full recovery. Council wished Jane a speedy and full recovery.
- Keith's suggestion that the interclub competition be reported on the BFACT website has been done.
- Information to complete Flyer on interclub has been received but has yet to be updated;
- CiB meeting will occur when parties return
- Nomination of capital clubs representative progressing but not finalised;
- SFoB novice entries still low in spite of free entry
- The Presidents meeting with representatives of the individual BFACT clubs has occurred and feedback will be provide to them after the States meeting with the ABF at the Gold Coast congress. An issue is a cohesive form of marketing to the community using social media regarding the benefits of Bridge. A target audience might be retiring sportspersons seeking ongoing competition. Plan would need to adapt given changes to ACT over past 20 years and learning from changes successful bowling clubs have adopted. A proposal was put that extending the scope of social interaction at club events (eg cheese and bikkies periods) might be considered. This was an aspect being considered for the reintroduction of Friday Night games at CBC.
- MT asked if there were options to see if ACT Govt. or Community groups offered services or subsidies to for those no longer able to drive. A number of suggestions were proposed to determine the extent of need and sources of assistance.
- During the Summer Festival ABF held a forum on online bridge which is here to stay however F2F is particularly important to older players. This forum will continue during the upcoming GC congress. President asked if there was any ABF preference for mode of online play. Treasurer advised this was an issue the ABF Taskforce



would examine over the coming months. MP Secretary advised this review may also introduce a separate class of Masterpoints for online play.

- CN advised that the Club admin area within MyABF was now functional. SCBC has been looking at the function and found the area needs to undergo refinement. Clubs should await until these matters are completed before adopting.
- ABF has advised of preparation of 2024 calendar. BFACT will provide dates for its entries as well as extending co-ordination with NZ Bridge.
- We have missed the deadline for ACT Govt. Grants however we should be better prepared for the 2024 grant notification. Current objectives are First Aid training and Bus services for members without independent mobility.

### **Ongoing Matters.**

- A) Adoption of Child Safe Strategy/Working with Vulnerable People (WwVP).  
The ABF is developing a Child Safe Strategy and we expect to adopt/adapt once completed. Ongoing (CN)
- B) Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

## **STANDING REPORTS**

### **1. President's Report (CN):**

- a) President advised that Directors Training at national events has been approved.
- b) There is a program to have a World Tournament made up of high level national competitions. The Gold Coast congress has been selected for Australia. We have yet to be advised of the remaining world competitions that will make up the Tournament.

### **2. Treasurer's Report (SF):**

- a) Treasurer referred to his financial reports and advised that there were no matters of significance during the last period but would take any questions.
- b) Treasurer advised he had received a notice for the renewal BFACT.com.au domain name and requested approval to renew estimated @ \$55.00 for a two year period. Approval was unanimous.
- c) Current President has been added and immediate past President has been removed as account signatories.
- d) David raised the question of expected price increases in BBO games and the management of returns to clubs. While these increases were expected to be modest it appeared the ABF may be reassessing its overarching agreement with BBO. It would remain with individual clubs if they wished to continue a BBO arrangement or move to one of the competing platform.
- e) Treasurer advised he had received the renewal invoice from ABDA and raised the issue of value for money. A discussion on the best use of BFACT funds to



support directors ensured. Clubs and individual directors were able to continue membership in their own names while BFACT could use funds to support training. The motion was put that BFACT cease subsidising membership cost of ABDA. Motion put by Treasurer Seconded by Niek. Directors excused from voting motion carried by remainder.

- f) Treasurer spoke to his paper on 'options for email hosting'. Preferences varied from the 'Crucial' option to no change. The matter will be reconsidered at later meeting or out of session.

**3. Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- a) No matters to report.

**4. Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- a) No matters to report.

**5. BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**

- a) No matters to report.

**6. Secretary (JN)**

- a) No matters not covered above.

**Other Agenda Items & Other Matters**

- a. Mary T. highlighted the success of the youth date. Mary and Cathy to agree on follow up date after Gold Coast Congress.
- b. John D highlighted the success of the CBC teaching program in attracting new members. This facility is beyond the scope of the smaller clubs such as Capital and SCBC. However Real Bridge has a teaching facility which could be utilised by the smaller clubs. Capital has requested if BFACT would subsidise a development of a teaching program available for the smaller clubs. Possible teachers were discussed and it was agreed that the program objectives should be further developed for discussion at the March meeting. The imbalance of support between club newsletters for other clubs was mentioned. A collegiate approach between clubs for the support of Bridge in the ACT was discussed. It was agreed that clubs should support other clubs within their newsletters.

**Next Meeting**

Next Council meeting scheduled for Friday 10th March 2023 commencing 5.00PM via Zoom.

Meeting Closed 18.25