



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Friday 12 May 2023 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

Present: Cathy Nichols, Keith Huggan, Stephen Fischer, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan, Jennifer Yeats, & John Niven.

Apologies: Mary Tough. David Clarkson, 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 10 March cleared for uploading to website. Moved Cathy Nichols; Seconded Stephen Fischer. Carried.

Business Arising from Prior Minutes:

- a) Partnership Secretary for CiB still to be appointed,
- b) WwVP card Copies of President's and Mary Tough's card have been given to CBC. Copies of Will Jenner O'Shea, Niek Van Vucht and John Spooner cards were left at CBC last night for managers to process. President will check with CBC on Monday to confirm.
- c) President reminded meeting of need for identifiable contact points for Directing, Teaching, Online Bridge and MyABF. President put forward need for a Development Officer for Directing and Teaching. This matter was postponed to general business.
- d) Treasurer's reappointment as BFACT Councillor to ABF confirmed other BFACT Councillor is Ian Thompson.
- e) Capital Rep. for CIB is Shane Woodburn but will not be available on weekend of the Congress.
- f) Niek advised there are 8 pairs registered for the coming week end seniors comp. and 12 pairs the following weekend in the open. Emails confirming eligibility and acceptance will go out after a couple of days. Len Dixon has been advised of timings.

Other matters are covered in reports below.

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) **Progress Report on CiB:** President advised initial budget has been developed with Treasurer's assistance forecasting a \$5K surplus with entries based on 2022 actuals and increased fee enticement. President advised she wished to introduce an "Early Bird Fee" current plan is to have deadline of 31 August and Early Bird fee be set at last year's rates and Full Fees be set at Summer Festival of Bridge rates. Some measure of sponsorship to generate lucky door prizes are also for consideration. Prize money is to be \$100 ABF Credits per person for a 1 day pairs event with \$120 pp for 1.5 day events. Consideration for extending prizes (2nd 3rd etc) to be considered at later date once entry level is clearer. Ronnie Nicks confirmed as CTD accommodation bookings being arranged. Laurie Kelso still to confirm assistant. Sponsorship requests currently progressing, Forrest Hotel sponsoring via accommodation, Logo to be displayed. Flyers are being prepared and printing to be arranged. Options for expert speakers, both Canberra based and visitors, to present teaching talks were discussed. A 6th person to represent the ACT Youth Team has been identified with some further possibles being mentored this month at CBC. Will Jenner O'Shea will be repeating last years training course on 1 July at CBC which may identify further options. All teams other than Youth Team have been ratified. Niek to advise of identified youth team members.
- b) Firm dates for director's training have still to be identified. CBC and Sebastian to liaise.
- c) Roger organising interclub teams for CBC.
- d) CN aiming for a further catch up with the 5 Club Presidents as well as Bungendore. Plan is to undertake meeting of Presidents twice a year. Plan also to meet with non ABF affiliated clubs to highlight benefits of affiliation.

Acceptance Moved by Stephen Fischer; Seconded by Niek Van Vucht. Carried.

2. Treasurer's Report (SF):

- a) Treasurer referred to his financial report and advised that he is still awaiting finalisation figures and Masterpoint fees for period currently there is an expected deficit of approx. \$2,000 for the period however some accounts are still to be received and this amount should be higher. The aim is to obtain all



invoices prior to end of financial year. There is also an outstanding invoice for affiliation fees.

Moved Treasurers Report including ANC subsidies be accepted: John Niven.
Seconded Niek Van Vucht. Carried.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)

- a. The three Teams makeup are progressing with Women's Team the most advanced.
- b. Some members have made conditional requests to attend the Victory Dinner. This is not an acceptable term and members need to decide one way or another to assist in payments. TS to seek Teams finalisation should be made by end of May as 4th June is the Deadline,

Moved:? Seconded: John Niven. accepted

- c. Treasurer made the observation that the BFACT's Senior Director is not involved in selection of suitable director(s) for BFACT sponsored competition/event generally run at CBC over weekends and Directors are paid by BFACT. Sebastian should have a pivotal role in selection or at least sign off on those chosen who should be within the limited pool of Directors these need to be graded as State Level Directors so assigned by BFACT Council. This list should be available at commencement of every BFACT year as supplied to the BFACT CTD and updated as needed. Carried by Council. President to advise CTD.

4. Masterpoints Secretary(JD)

- a) Masterpoint for all selection trials have been submitted and invoices forwarded to Treasurer. John & Stephen to confirm all MP invoices forwarded.

5. BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)

- a) ABF AGM & all day Council Meeting held. Significant matters raised were:
 - 1) 2021 & 2022 Financial Audits were completed and submitted to meeting. Results were that the 2021 profit was offset by loss in 2022. Budget forecast is looking poor due to lower revenues and increased costs. ABF believes it is providing greater benefits to Clubs and Players via MyABF. This means that ABF cannot continue with business as usual however ABF believes the situation is manageable and current plan is for ABF to break even in 2024-25.
 - 2) In short term Council agreed to raise capitation fee for next year to \$20pp, No increase in Masterpoint fees however council has asked for better modelling and this should be available within next few weeks with some Masterpoint increases in 2024. Currently Gold MP are at a discount to Red MP this difference is expected to be eliminated over the coming years.



- 3) General Council has formed a committee looking at etiquette and behaviour and the support offered to those who have suffered from bad behaviour at events. Council is aware of players who have received significant bad behaviour and is looking at developing appropriate reporting and supportive mechanisms to apply at major national events which is also suitable for State bodies to adopt should they wish. The report is expected to be available by Mid Term meeting in 6 months.
- 4) Julian Foster as Project Manager for MyABF spoke about the roll out to clubs. Current results indicate a positive results with further roll outs on a voluntary basis being pursued. Currently there are no costs involved but these will be introduced as some stage of the development. There are appointed representatives for each State to assist individual clubs in the rollout. There may be an issue with convincing club members to give up there direct payments against depositing a balance on MyABF for later use to play at their club. On the other hand where clubs such as CBC already have a member pay account to centralise a common Pay tool.
- 5) Approx. half the national clubs, and a little under 10% of the individual membership have responded to the survey on online play. These responses are being analysed with the expectation of a report being available to the Board by the midterm meeting for progressing. Current working groups cover Teaching, Etiquette, Assisting Clubs, Tournaments and Strategic Vision.
- 6) Youth Week which is run annually in the ACT is seeking assistance to help run manage the competition/
- 7) ABF is proposing some changes to the constitution eg hiring an Executive Director who will act as CEO in charge of all operational activities and sit on the Board. This latter issue will require Constitutional amendment. This change will require 6 of the 8 State bodies to pass the change expected to occur at years end.
- 8) Sue Falkinham a councillor from Tasmania has taken on the role of ABF teaching liaison so may get in touch with teachers within ACT.

- b) A general discussion on the cost of various services ensured with the general consensus that these would only increase in the foreseeable future.

6. Secretary (JN)

- a) Secretary advised of the need to commence planning for BFACT AGM which must be held as soon as practicable after 1 September. Historically this has been mid to later September at CBC. Critical issues will be finalisation and review of the Financials and circularisation of necessary reports. Secretary to obtain suitable dates for holding AGM at CBC.



Other Agenda Items & Other Matters

Discussion as to legal address for BFACT versus postal address was discussed this is to be clarified.

Next Meeting

Next Council meeting scheduled for Friday 23rd June 2023 commencing 5.00PM via Zoom.

Meeting Closed 18.35.