

# **Minutes 2022 AGM and 2022-23 BFACT Council Meetings**

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**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 17 September 2022, 5 pm,**  
**CBC & ZOOM**  
**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Justine Beaumont, Barry Butz, Stephen Bartos, Lynne Moss, John Niven, Rajiv Shah, Michele Grant, Perelle Scales, George Kozakos, Marianne Bookallil, Simon Grant, Ian Thomson, Stephen Fischer, Alex Hewat, Miklos Tifan, Teri Henderson, Pam Crichton, Cathy Nichols, John Donovan, Michael Burt, Atul Hajela, Niek Van Vucht, Bruce Crossman,

OnLine ZOOM: Ken Anderson, Keith Huggan, David Hoffman, Julia Hoffman, Moira Sharp.

1. The president opened the meeting at 17.05 and confirmed a quorum was in attendance, that the meeting was being conducted face to face and via ZOOM.
2. **Apologies:** Janet & Peter Kahler
3. **Acknowledgement of proxy votes:** Nil.
4. **Confirmation of Minutes of the 2021 AGM**  
*Motion:* "that the Minutes of the AGM of 2021 be accepted as a true record of that meeting". Proposed: Niek van Vucht, Seconded: Stephen Fischer. Carried.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM of 2020**  
No matters arising.
6. **Report of the President**  
President was pleased to report that post Covid face to face bridge seems to be gradually accelerating. Council continued to meet on zoom, which, barring technological hiccups, seems to suit everyone, and permit participation by our distant clubs.

BFACT hosted an online, truncated Canberra in Bloom Congress last October, which made a modest profit. We hope for greater things this year, with the Congress resuming its usual, longer, face to face, format. I hope that the addition of PQPs for the Mixed Teams

lures more participants. It is interesting to note that congress numbers generally are lower, but Orange was at capacity.

Other news is that this year we were able to support 3 Youth players at the ANC. They combined with 3 Youth from WA to form a team. Unfortunately, Covid disrupted the event, but we hope that our young contestants, and their parents, were not put off by their experience.

BFACT has committed to running annual Directors' workshops. We held one in July, and plan to conduct another in November this year. Thereafter, annually, unless demand dictates more frequently.

More good news is that the ACT Heritage Council has awarded a grant towards the publication of a book on the history of bridge in the ACT region, written by John Brockwell and co-authored by David Hoffman. BFACT and CBC committed modest financial support, which permitted the grant application to be made.

I will not be re nominating for my position this year, so this will be my last AGM as President. I am grateful to all Council members for their good will and support of our organisation, but particularly that of our Secretary, John Niven. The diligence with which he embraces his duties ensures smooth seas and fair winds.

Motion that the President's Report be accepted Moved: Niek Van Vucht, Seconded: John Donovan. Carried.

President was presented with Floral Arrangement and apologised for Zoom hiccups.

#### **7. Report of the Treasurer**

The treasurer advised Financial Statements and Reviewer's report have been available on the BFACT Website. It has been another quiet year due to the effects of Covid. Much of the activity in the statements is due to the ANC initially scheduled for Perth in July but then held online in November. The net effect was a small loss for the year due in part by the failure to hold a face to face Canberra-In-Bloom and also the return of \$10,000 to the Barry Turner Fund reversing the receipt of the previous year. Allowing for these transactions we achieved a minor profit of approx. \$5000 compared to a budgeted loss of almost \$26K.

I expect the coming year will see an increase in the financial activity as people return to the bridge table. BFACT remains financially stable with sufficient assets to cover expected financial requirements.

BFACT council has approved a budget for the coming year with an expected loss of some \$3000. The costs for the coming year are

expected to be higher in particular the travel costs associated with the Adelaide ANC travel costs.

Motion that the Treasurers Report be accepted. Moved: Pam Crichton, Seconded Perelle Scales. Carried

8. **Report of the Tournament Secretary**

Niek advised that his report would be available on the website later this evening. As the president advised this year 3 ACT youths joined with 3 WA youths to form a hybrid team. The Open team made it to the finals at the ANC coming second.

Motion That the Tournament Secretary's report be accepted: Moved; Perelle Scales: Seconded; Miklos Tifan. Carried.

9. **Appointment of Auditor/Reviewer for 2021-22**

The President advised that Sean Galbraith of Galent Management Consultants, Canberra who has undertaken the review of our annual accounts since 2020-21 is recommended for and been requested to accept re-appointment for 2022-23. Moved: Ian Thomson Seconded: George Kozakos. Carried.

10. **Affiliation Fee for 2022-23**

Motion: "that the annual affiliation fee for 2022-23 year remain at \$8.50 (including GST) for all members of affiliated bridge clubs". Moved; Marianne Bookallil, Seconded John Donovan. Carried.

11. **Appointment of Returning Officer**

The President advised Ian Thomson has been appointed returning officer. Ian advised that he had one nomination for President, one nomination for Treasurer, one nomination for Secretary and one nomination for Tournament Secretary. The Returning Officer asked for any further nominations for council positions be presented. Keith Huggan being nominated for Vice President by Stephen Fischer and seconded by Nick Van Vucht and accepting the nomination was included in list of nominees. The meeting proceeded to election of Office Bearers.

12. **Election of Office Bearers:**

Ian Thomson announced each position and as there was only one nomination for each position that nomination was acclaimed from the floor.

President	Cathy Nichols	Declared elected
Vice President	Keith Huggan	Declared elected
Treasurer	Stephen Fischer	Declared elected
Tournament Secretary	Niek Van Vucht	Declared elected
Secretary	John Niven	Declared elected

13. **Other Business**

Perelle Scales said she had observed that when playing online she noted that NSW had very experienced players partnering youth players.

This is very clearly a policy of NSWBA. Perelle recommended that BFACT adopt a similar policy to help the development of our Youth Team members. Our new president advised that she would recommend the matter to council and discuss with our Youth Coordinator: Will Jenner-O'Shea. She also suggested a regular report be received by Council on matters of youth development. There being no further business, the President thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5.25 pm.

## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Friday 9 December 2022 Electronic Conference

### **MINUTES:**

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

*Apologies:* Annie Macmaster.

President opened Council meeting at 5.00pm and welcomed all members to meeting and advised apologies received As Mary Tough was limited time available she was rescheduled to present her agenda items detailed at item 6 first.

### **Confirmation of minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 28 October cleared for uploading to website.  
Moved Cathy Nichols; Seconded Stephen Fischer. Carried/

### **Ongoing Matters.**

14. Adoption of Child Safe Strategy/Working with Vulnerable People (WwVP).  
Those working with vulnerable people including Children under 18 have, or are in the process of obtaining, certification. The issue is complicated by jurisdictional requirements. The ABF is developing a Child Safe Strategy and we expect to adopt/adapt once completed.
15. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)
16. ACT Incorporated Associations Annual Return Finalised (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**
- President advised she aims to invite all club Presidents to get together sometime after the Summer Festival. Objectives are to introduce everyone to each other and to get feedback on objectives and direction expected from BFACT. A proposed meeting with the Capital president had to be postponed, however, one of the areas he felt needed improvement was the way Bridge is promoted in the ACT. Mary Tough advised that CBC was of the same view and are arranging a meeting with Peter Cox either F2F or via Zoom to which interested parties might participate. BFACT will be advised once dates have been crystallised.
- There is to be a meeting of the ABF together with Presidents of State and Territory peak bodies at the end of the Gold Coast Congress. Cathy would appreciate and matters member clubs wish her to raise at that time.
- Keith has proposed that the winners of the Interclub Competition should be posted on the BFACT website. This proposal received support from committee. President referred to her to papers circulated in relation to interclub competition. Details of contact relating to the Cooma club are still to be finalised. Committee was supportive of the competition being routinely held outside Canberra. An added benefit will be attracting other clubs from various locations.

- President advised that no comments had been received in relation to her WwVP paper she had circulated and she is still working on a Youth Development paper any comments feedback would be appreciated.
- Stephen has spoken with Rize Designs in relation to BFACT common email addresses. They advised that they do not host email addresses but have recommended a company that does. He has yet to follow up this option up but it would appear this would entail an annual cost of approx. \$400. This will be followed up after Christmas. A review of the security and structure of the website would be appropriate to ensure it reflects our objectives.
- CiB. Nominations from SCBC and Capital for the working group are still to be received. Convenor to be selected and Secretary to find copy of existing CBC contract and forward to President.
- Directors course of 19/20 November was well attended some 30 attendees, and was well organised and run by Sebastian with assistance from Christy and Bruce Crossman.
- Summer Festival of Bridge Novice & Non-Life Masters representation are currently extremely low continuing a trend at these levels over the past year. Clearly some adjustment needs to be made to attract these player levels.
- President advised that her earlier BFACT Calendar distributed on 13 Oct. has been altered. The means of selecting BFACT restricted pairs for the ANC was discussed. One pair would be from the Penline Swiss Pairs held during Summer Festival the second mode for 2023 has yet to be determined. It was agreed a special restricted pairs event would be held at CBC from which the top 2 pairs would be selected. The date is yet to be determined.
- Previous President had asked the ABF for policy on gender identified people in mixed events however a response has not yet been received. SF advised that if a response has not been received the request may have been misplaced or misdirected a policy exists which is that people play in the gender they identify as.
- Jane Rasmussen appears to be recovering well. And well done to Stephen and team and to Niek and team.

- **Treasurer's Report (SF):**

Treasurer referred to his financial reports and advised that there were no matters of significance during the last period but would take any questions.

Moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted C. Nichols; Seconded Niek Van Vucht. Carried.

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- a) Tournament Secretary congratulated Stephen on excellent result in GNOT Final and advised that the first level 2023 calendar is up on the CBC website. He will now amend and add flyer for Stage 2 Restricted Pairs event probably in April.

- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- a) Masterpoints Secretary had advised that events processing has occurred as required these are processed as they occur. He has received a reminder from Dave Weston to ensure end of year processing occurs on time to ensure correct prizes to members.

- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**

- a) Stephen advised there were several ABF matters to discuss some of which were in the previously distributed communique. The matter of WwVP checks for youth week was discussed at the last meeting. The ABF has made it clear to tournament organisers that anybody involved dealing with people under 18 must have a WwVP check. ABF will be paying for those there in a professional capacity and those attending as volunteers will not have to pay for theirs. The ABF Youth Co-ordinator and Will Jenner O'shea as Convenor will be checking for compliance. Understanding is that a register is not required.
- b) Other matter was Jane's health who is understood to be recovering well but recovery time is expected to be lengthy at least several months before she can return fulltime. This will explain the recent notification that the ABF is seeking someone to undertake role at ABF HQ at Fyshwick. Knowledge of Bridge is not required as role is in relation to office and communication duties Rate is approx. \$40ph.
- c) ABF has recently commenced an in depth consultation on the role of on-line bridge over the next decade or so. It is accepted it will be part of the game and ABF is keen to discover how members wish it see it as part of the ABF. This is being run by Jenny Thompson and there is initial information on the ABF website which will be added to as the review develops.
- d) Further to last meeting teaching discussion the ABF is looking to take on a national co-ordination role to train teachers and to help teachers advance their skills.
- e) Recent announcement on the increase in the cost of Gold Masterpoints to match Red Points represents roughly a 50% increase which will occur in 2024 to allow clubs time to budget. Increase in ABF revenue to raise money for expected cost increases.
- f) A further matter to be discussed at the forthcoming Presidents' meeting is a planned extensive review of the ABF calendar.
- g) The Club administration model of MyABF is expected to be released very shortly this will be a major upgrade to MyABF. The ABF is seeking support personal in the regions.

- **CBC Representative (MT)**

- a) The kids under 30 Learn to Play Bridge with Will Jenner-O'Shea is scheduled for the coming Sunday currently there are 9 registered entries with 4 more probable. While Will's WWVP registration number has been supplied his card has not yet been received. Consequently he will be supervised by a WWVP card holder until actual receipt of the card. Catering will be reviewed once numbers are more available.



- b) Roger Brake will oversight the Interclub Teams. Discussion of the combined clubs working group proposed participants ensured nominations from SCBC and Capital are still to be received. This will be followed up.
- **Secretary (JN)**
  - a) Matters listed in agenda have been covered above by Mary Tough as she was able to attend the revised time table
  - b) Incorporated associations return completed and members should have received a copy of the ACT Government's confirmation receipt.
  - c) We have yet to be advised of Capital's club representative. JD to discuss with Club committee.

### **Other Agenda Items & Other Matters**

#### **Next Meeting**

Next Council meeting scheduled for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 commencing 5.00PM via Zoom.

Meeting Closed 17.55

## **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:**

- c) 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.
- d) Keith's suggestion that the interclub competition be reported on the BFACT website has been done.
- e) Information to complete Flyer on interclub has been received but has yet to be updated;
- f) CiB meeting will occur when parties return
- g) Nomination of capital clubs representative progressing but not finalised;
- h) SFoB novice entries still low in spite of free entry
- i) 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.
- j) 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.
- k) 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.

- l) 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.
- m) ABF has advised of preparation of 2024 calendar. BFACT will provide dates for its entries as well as extending co-ordination with NZ Bridge.
- n) 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.**

- 17. 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)
- 18. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**

- President advised that Directors Training at national events has been approved.
- 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.

- **Treasurer's Report (SF):**

Treasurer referred to his financial reports and advised that there were no matters of significance during the last period but would take any questions.

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.

Current President has been added and immediate past President has been removed as account signatories.

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.

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 ensued. 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.

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.

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**
  - b) No matters to report.
  
- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**
  - d) No matters to report.
  
- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**
  - b) No matters to report.
  
- **Secretary (JN)**
  - h) 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

## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Friday 10 March 2023 Electronic Conference

### **MINUTES:**

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

*Apologies:* 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 03 February cleared for uploading to website subject to date corrections. Moved Cathy Nichols; Seconded Keith Huggan. Carried.

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

- Possible nomination from Capital for CiB.
- On Line bridge review is still in progress.
- MyABF review is still in progress.
- ABDA has been advised that BFACT will no longer pay membership and will have to bill members individually.

Other matters are covered in President's report below.

### **Ongoing Matters.**

19. 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)
20. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**

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### **Presidents meeting Gold Coast, Saturday 25th Feb**

- c. NSW is in the process of splitting the NSWBA from the Club, similar to what SA did a number of years ago (& the ACT), and what Vic more recently is implementing.
- d. All areas have attracting youth as an issue

- e. SA has a new thorough Strategic Plan and have started up 3 project groups aligned with the Plan. These include Youth and Healthy Ageing. *NB. I believe it is worthwhile to tap into this, to save reinventing the wheel.* A trial is underway bringing in players from aged care centers.
- f. Qld. did a series of zoom sessions for clubs – one on master pointing, one on directing, & one on legal issues.
- g. Vic has compiled a long list of things they do as a state body to help explain where the fees go.
- h. ABF Marketing - Peter Cox - need to put fun/lifestyle back into bridge. Did 'O' week at UNSW. There is mini bridge, pub nights, mentoring, host to welcome players, untapped areas. The number of new members is low. ABF needs the states/territories to tell them what they need. A marketing video will be on the ABF website soon. Congresses should be about getting people back there.
- i. Rob Ward - ABF did a 'plan on a page' last year. Current proposal is to appoint a full time executive director.
- j. Jenny Thompson talked on the online review, will do quantitative and qualitative analysis of survey. Some affiliated clubs are only online (approved by State or Territory), some have a manager for online and a separate manager for face to face. Lessons can be given online.
- k. Richard Ward talked on teaching - the Education Manager now is more of an administrative role due to the structural change. Some areas should have 'hubs' to help with teaching. There was a suggestion for an annual or regular teacher conference or zoom get together.
- l. Allison noted that the ABF calendar is being reviewed. Some States/Territories have asked for more licensed events.
- m. Noted that there is a shortage of Tournament Directors. The ABF supplies funding support for trainee Tournament Directors.
- n. Barbara Travis, on the Tournament Committee, is looking at rewriting the alerting rules.

#### **Action items from previous BFACT meeting**

- o. InterClub Flyer has been updated, to be available on the web in the near future.
- p. The convener for the 2023 InterClub Teams event is Roger Brake, Canberra Bridge Club (CBC).
- q. The co-conveners of the 2023 Canberra in Bloom (CIB) are Roger Brake (CBC) and Cathy Nichols (SCBC).

- r. The contract with CBC for use of the venue (for Canberra in Bloom) is at the discussion/draft phase.
- s. A meeting of the CIB working group is planned for March.
- t. An option for the CIB may be to have a talk/lesson pre session, particularly for participating Novice players.
- u. Will Jenner O'Shea has received his WwVP card for ACT. Copy @ CBC.

A discussion surrounding the advantage of a novice/beginners level within competition was met with support. A further discussion where directors were funded by BFACT for competitions held at CBC the directors should not also undertake directing duties for in house CBC competition without agreement by BFACT and an agreed cost sharing via CBC.

Acceptance of Presidents Report Moved J. Niven seconded Niek Van Vucht.  
Carried

- **Treasurer's Report (SF):**

Treasurer referred to his financial report and advised that there were no matters of significance since the last report however affiliation fees were due soon and this should reduce losses from 12k TO 4.5k. The high cost of funding for SA ANC during the financial year means that a profit is highly unlikely. The ANC being held in WA next financial year would predict a loss next financial year as well. Moved Niek Van Vucht Seconded J Donovan. Accepted.

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- c) Currently 8 Pairs entered for women's event, nil entries in open stage 2 however stage 1 entries will automatically be eligible, nil applicants at this time for Novice pairs.
- d) Currently for BFACT events if a substitute is considered better than nominated player then the result of the substitute pair is capped at the original pair's level. The TS would like to remove the subjectivity and replaced with a pair containing a substitute their result is capped to the best of the original pair. The TS would like council to consider the suggestion and come back with comments/suggestions. The matter should be an agenda item for next meeting.

Acceptance of TS report acceptance Moved: John Donovan Seconded: John Niven. Accepted.

- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- c) No significant matters to report, Masterpoint accounts have been passed on to Treasurer.
- d) Cootamundra had asked for clearance to run their annual congress on 23-24 September 2023 and use of Red points. There are no known reasons preventing this.

Acceptance Moved John Niven; Seconded Stephen Fischer. Carried.

- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**

- o) All relevant matters covered above.

- **Secretary (JN)**

- i) BFACT was unable comply with the time limit to submit recent grant request. Given that this (may) be an annual timetable we should prepare in advance for next year's timeframe.

**Other Agenda Items & Other Matters**

- e) Deputy President noted that the ACT Govt. has sent out a proposal to change administration within incorporated associations and requested feedback by April. Secretary advised he was not aware of the proposal and requested a copy of the proposed changes.

**Next Meeting**

Next Council meeting scheduled for Friday 14th April 2023 commencing 5.00PM via Zoom.

Meeting Closed 17.45



## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Friday 14 April 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 10 March cleared for uploading to website. Moved Cathy Nichols; Seconded Stephen Fischer. Carried.

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

- Capital Rep. for CIB is Shane Woodburn but will not be available on weekend of the Congress.
- 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.**

21. 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)
22. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**

- e) President had ZOOM meeting with Treasurer CBC and Barbara Toohey to discuss possible event for rookies within CiB. This would incorporate a couple of talks. Discussion as to a full or half day format being appropriate was canvassed but the objective was to encourage newer players to participate in congresses. Current plans are to hold the Rookies comp in the upstairs room on Friday PM when it becomes available. CBC will be advertising this at all its upcoming supervised

sessions. Consensus was that more entry level events should be available without competing with the standard competition events. It was agreed that Rookie competitors should have fewer than 5 Masterpoints. A budget covering presenters and supervisors will need to be developed. President will on forward emails from CBC and Laurie Kelso.

- f) Sebastian has suggested a date in May to run a one day course for established Directors on Judgement calls. A date for a two day introductory Directors course is yet to be settled. Timings will need to be agreed with CBC.
- g) Will Jenner O'Shea has identified an overseas visitor who would be an addition to the youth team.
- h) President has identified that emails addressed to [President@bfact.com.au](mailto:President@bfact.com.au) are not being forwarded to her account. Stephen will arrange for RIZE to redirect to President's email address.
- i) Additional assistance from CBC as well as a Female and Male Recorder for CiB still needs to be arranged. Suggestions would be appreciated. Duties of Recorders are available on ABF website.
- j) President would, in the future like identifiable contact points for matters dealing with directing, teaching, online bridge and MyABF.

- **Treasurer's Report (SF):**

Treasurer referred to his financial report and advised that there was a deficit of aprox. \$2,000 for the year however there are still some invoices of a few thousand dollars due.

The BFACT domain name has been renewed for the next two years.

ANC subsidies will need to account for (cheapest) flight cost of \$850. CBC has advised that the Barry Turner Fund will be contributing approx. \$12,500 (still to be confirmed). Current proposal is that BFACT & CBC contribute \$800 in total. This will match last year's costs to Adelaide there has been a drop in costs. Budget is based on 6 members plus NP Captain for each team plus 4 youth members and 3 chaperones for youth team.

The above cost basis will result in an \$8,500 loss for the year however costs for next two years (NSW & Qld) will result in much lower costs.

Policy for costs of Victory Dinner to remain as prior years.

The Budget includes two directing workshops costed at \$1500 less some income for cost of attendance. An account for Youth Bridge has not been drawn on recently.

Overall the Budget reflects past years practices.

Moved Treasurers Report including ANC subsidies be approved Cathy Nichols: Seconded John Niven. Carried.

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- a. BFACT Event Regulations to introduce automatic capping were a substitute is introduced into an event.

- b. Current BFACT regulations approved in 2019 refers to appeals processes however ABF has now moved onto review process. TS would like to update regulations to reflect current processes which would require input from Clubs. CBC regs refer back to BFACT and ABF regulations. Requirement at Capital and SCBC were discussed. Over next month Niek proposes to review current BFACT regulations and prepare a draft reflecting more modern requirements for circulation and comments leading to new regulation for approval and introduction for 2024.
  - c. Merits of changes were discussed and agreed particularly automatic capping of substitutes. Discussion included online bridge which would be directed at Real Bridge events rather than BBO. This would include on line policies being developed by ABF.
- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**
  - p) Masterpoint for this and following weekend to be advised and submitted on conclusion. Effect of Masterpoint allocation due to current qualifying procedures discussed and expected to be lower cost than previous years.
- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**
  - j) Little to report generally however current BFACT Councillor's term is due for renewal and appointment for next two years is sought/required.  
Put that Stephen Fischer be reappointed as BFACT representative for next two years. Moved Niek Van Vucht. Seconded John Donovan.  
Carried.  
Secretary to Advise ABF Secretary of reappointment.
  - k) ABF is continuing to look at online events and is currently looking through received suggestions/advice.
- **Secretary (JN)**
  - e) Discussion on ACT Govt's review of incorporated associations took place as submissions were required by 6 April we will await any recommendations to rule changes.
  - f) President advised of a member's submission to ACT Govt in relation to changes of in penalties for breach of Privacy Act particularly for Non-Incorporated entities. SCBC is awaiting a response.

### **Other Agenda Items & Other Matters**

Mary Tough who joined the meeting late advised of changes in senior director roles at CBC and interim position until end of June. CBC will assist Sebastian in two proposed directors' courses later in year. We have missed getting on to Floriade for this year's CiB however an early start will be sought for next year. CBC recognises that further trained directors are needed. Possible interim solutions were discussed. Mary advised her absence throughout May and an interim CBC rep will be appointed. Progressing youth membership was discussed.

Expanding ACT Bridge members to be an agenda item at next meeting.

**Next Meeting**

Next Council meeting scheduled for Friday 12th May 2023 commencing 5.00PM via Zoom.

Meeting Closed 18.05.

## **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:**

- Partnership Secretary for CiB still to be appointed,
- 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.
- 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.
- Treasurer's reappointment as BFACT Councillor to ABF confirmed other BFACT Councillor is Ian Thompson.
- Capital Rep. for CIB is Shane Woodburn but will not be available on weekend of the Congress.
- 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.**

23. 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)
24. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**

- k) **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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
- l) Firm dates for director's training have still to be identified. CBC and Sebastian to liaise.
- m) Roger organising interclub teams for CBC.
- n) 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.

- **Treasurer's Report (SF):**

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.

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- d. The three Teams makeup are progressing with Women's Team the most advanced.
- e. 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 4<sup>th</sup> June is the Deadline,

Moved: Seconded: John Niven. accepted

- f. 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.

- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

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

- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**

- l) ABF AGM & all day Council Meeting held. Significant matters raised were:
  - v. 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.
  - w. 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.
  - x. 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.

- y. 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.
  - z. 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.
  - aa. Youth Week which is run annually in the ACT is seeking assistance to help run manage the competition/
  - bb. 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.
  - cc. Sue Falkinham a councillor from Tasmania has taken on the role of ABF teaching liaison so may get in touch with teachers within ACT.
  
  - m) A general discussion on the cost of various services ensured with the general consensus that these would only increase in the foreseeable future.
- **Secretary (JN)**
    - g) 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.



## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Friday 23 June 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 of apologies received.

### **Confirmation of minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 May cleared for uploading to website. Moved Cathy Nichols; Seconded Stephen Fischer. Carried.

### **Ongoing Matters.**

25. 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)
26. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**

- r) **Progress Report on CiB:**

- f) President advised meeting held with Roger, Roy Nixon, Ronnie Ng to discuss card dealing requirements. President also asked for names of anyone not proposing to play in CiB but able to assist in card dealing or assist in caddying during CiB. A number of candidates were proposed. A general discussion on board dealing requirements as well as dealing machine availability and Flyer distribution occurred. Planning for working group and partnership secretariat as for shadowed. Ron Ng was confirmed as TD and ABF has been asked to approve Darryl Whitfield as ATD and funding to assist in TD development. Response awaited.
    - g) As there are prizes for all levels these will need to be documented.

- s) Director training is scheduled for tomorrow and Sebastian will send an e-mail confirming nominations to participants.
  - t) Progress of interclub teams was discussed with some clubs still to complete nominations.
  - u) Confirmation of BFACT contribution of \$1000 for production of the “Bridge in Canberra” publication occurred as well as mechanics of payment by BFACT and other contributing parties as well as ratio of paper to electronic copies occurred. Payment to be made by BFACT and clubs on receipt of invoice. President to report back on process.
  - v) ANC Restricted Pairs: ABF subsidy for this event will cease after 2024. BFACT subsidy is a separate matter and will continue on an as required basis. Status of pairs who had missed out due to COVID cancellations and might still be eligible after consideration of current status was discussed. Given limited timeframe TS will finalise as soon as practicable.
  - w) Council clarified and confirmed that anyone receiving a subsidy for cocktail party and failing to attend are required to repay subsidy to BFACT. All team captains to be reminded and advise team members.
  - x) Gala Pairs occurring on same date and immediately prior to BFACT AGM at CBC. Date still to be agreed with CBC but Saturday 16 September is expected date.
  - y) Online Report adjourned to next meeting. Next meeting with Club Presidents still to be agreed.
- **Treasurer’s Report (SF):**
    - Treasurer referred to his financial reports and advised that, barring any unexpected invoices, the 22-23 financial year will generate a net deficit of \$5324. This larger than normal deficit is in part due to the high cost of subsidising air fares to Adelaide ANC. The ANC being hosted by WA next financial year will contribute to the larger \$8000 deficit however we should return to surplus the following year when the ANC is scheduled for Orange. Other final numbers in the report are ANC trials surplus approaching \$1300. CiB budget has been adjusted due to need to pay GST on ABF licence fee. ANC expensed are costing in the order of \$17,000 meaning we should start 2023-24 with a \$17,000 deficit.
    - Other issues are BFACT currently runs 4 operational accounts. Treasurer recommends this be reduced to 1. While absorbing 2 of the twin signature accounts into the third is efficient the need for the single signature account, which was set up to assist tournament convenors with some financial independence in managing the tournament this has never been exercised.
    - Moved that Council agree that Treasurer arrange for the closure of two of the general accounts and that single signature account be retained for the time being at least till the year BFACT manages the ANC.

Moved: David Clarkson Seconded: Niek Van Vucht. Carried

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

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- a. All ANC Teams makeup are finalised and ready
- b. Discussion on the Youth Team event scheduled for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July took place with the need that the appropriate people possess a WwVP clearance for the ACT

Tournament Secretary's Report be accepted:  
Moved: John Niven Seconded: Stephen Fischer. Carried

- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- n) Masterpoint are on track there are no issues to report.

- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**

- h) A general conversation on the ongoing nature of online play and the recent Interim Report including the merits of BBO v RealBridge occurred. Highlighted was the ability nature and recognition of cheating. It was agreed this matter would be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

- **Secretary (JN)**

Secretary advised of the need to commence planning for BFACT AGM which must be held as soon as practicable after 1 September. Current planning is for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September. JN to ensure date is available from CBC and clubs are advised of live/Zoom access.

Circumstances would indicate Council meetings prior to AGM are possible in last Friday of July or first Friday August. Agreed next council meeting would be 5Pm on line Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

### **Other Agenda Items & Other Matters**

- dd. President advised she had forwarded a paper targeting Novice and Restricted events. Councillors should consider the paper and raise matters with their clubs so that Novice Restricted matters can be progressed.
- ee. Mary Tough gave an analysis of youth game which must be considered a success. Next youth event should be more successful based on current trends. MT & President to monitor progress. President also asked council

agree to contribution of \$20 per person for the Youth Team. Moved C  
Nichols Seconded John Donavan. Carried.

- ff. Treasurer advised that email URL BFACT.com be renewed to protect  
access by BFACT to the name. This would amount to \$88 for two years  
payment was agreed by Council

**Next Meeting**

Next Council meeting scheduled for Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 commencing  
5.00PM via Zoom.

Meeting Closed 18.15.

## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Monday 31 July 2023 Electronic Conference

### **MINUTES:**

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

*Apologies:* Andrew Dawes. John Donovan.

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

### **Confirmation of minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 23 June cleared for uploading to website. Moved Cathy Nichols; Seconded Stephen Fischer. Carried.

### **Matters Arising:**

- h) President thanked CBC for access to dealing machine to prepare CiB boards,
- i) Daryl Whitfield has been approved as Assistant Tournament Director for CiB,
- j) Director Training was held as scheduled with a positive turn out.
- k) An email has been sent to John Brockwell, (cc David Hoffman) confirming BFACT's original proposed payment of \$1000.00 however account for payment still needs to be clarified. Treasurer advised we are also holding a further contribution to be paid.
- l) President and Treasurer confirmed bank account scheduled for closure has not been done as bank will not action on draft minutes.
- m) Assistant to youth co-ordinator has lodged application for WwVP,

### **Ongoing Matters.**

- 27. 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)
- 28. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**

- gg. Proposal for Novice & restricted players has been lodged in the Drop Box but not clear all have yet to receive access,
- hh. A special thanks to Will for his progressing the scratch youth team to such a high level,

- ii. Given that we are at the penultimate meeting for year President thanked council members for the application over the last twelve months,
- jj. The interclub comp had a great turn out and the report has been circulated. Council discussed issues with the comp and suggestions for improvement. Moving the comp to Saturday and ensuring timetabling was met would be of assistance to those travelling some distance to compete.
- kk. Policy of refunding entrance fees to players who may have to withdraw prior to tournament commencement was endorsed, other recommendations were: guidance report be prepared to assist convenors, more assistance be provided to players in Novice category, minimum of 4 reserves be maintained until commencement date, 2<sup>nd</sup> or assistant director be utilised when there are four or more categories or greater than 20+ tables. Also a responsible person be appointed to ensure appropriate serving of alcohol is in play.
- ll. Payment of fee to Bruce Crossman additional to the current director's fee.
- mm. Use of CBC dealing machine protocol currently under review.
- nn. Bricet Kloren is CiB partnership/sub secretary, phase 1 of board dealing completed, phase 2 will occur closer to date when numbers are clearer.
- oo. A second meeting of Club Presidents has occurred

Acceptance of Presidents report moved Stephen Fisher; seconded Niek Van Vucht: carried

- **Treasurer's Report (SF):**

- Treasurer referred to his financial reports and advised that the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 has been forwarded to the Reviewer his report is expected by mid-August.
- The report for the current financial year to date indicates a current deficit of some \$16,000 due in the main to cost associated with the ANC being in Perth. As Perth represents our major expenditure for the current year this should reduce over the remaining 11 Months of the year.
- At the last council meeting Council approved the renewal of the BFACT.com.au email address. The actual cost was \$15 per annum rather than the quoted \$55 over two years this allows us to use the domain if required but importantly prevents others from utilising the domain.

Moved Treasurers Report be accepted: Cathy Nichols; Seconded Niek Van Vucht. Carried.

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- a. ANC BFACT teams came 6<sup>th</sup>. 2 teams achieved 4<sup>th</sup> and open team achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place. (Stephen Fischer as non-playing captain will submit a report for the next meeting however results and players/teams dynamics were positive.)
- b. Scheduling of the knock out teams to select the ACT1 team representing ACT at the GNOT is proving difficult. The teams were unable to meet on the scheduled date. On previous occasions the teams would agree on a date and BFACT would arrange support, i.e. location boards director etc. To date the teams have not been able to agree on a date at all. An option is to force the teams to play

on the 23<sup>rd</sup> a Wednesday evening at which a capable director will be present as well as boards etc. and we need to resolve this before the Gala pairs at which the ACT2 team is determined. This means one of the team will need to use a substitute player. This is resisted by the teams as they believe use of a substitute means the team is sub optimal. All attempts to resolve with the teams has proven fruitless. Stephen Fischer was excused from the council meeting while a general discussion on the problems occurred.

Given the limited time remaining it was agreed that the final should be scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup>. as a suitable director and support facilities and staff were known to be available. Teams would be allowed to nominate any substitutes if required. David Clarkson moved that this be the decision of the committee; Seconded Keith Huggan. Carried. TS will communicate Committee decision to teams.

Stephen invited to rejoin committee.

- c. Details re Gala Pairs posted to BFACT website. Could members review and provide comments/feedback. Advertising to be followed up. Jodi to organise director for Gala pairs. Issues with Bus availability on day mentioned.
- d. Of ANC restricted pairs only one pair attended. No feedback received as yet.

Tournament Secretary's Report be accepted:

Moved: Stephen Fischer; Seconded: David Clarkson. Carried

- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- o) NA.

- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**

- i) A large scale review of the ABF Calendar is being undertaken and BFACT should consider input.

President advised she has put some points together covering Summer Festival and CiB has been sent to Roy Nixon a response is still awaited. Issues included were why they were held at those times. It appears the Gold Coast event may be curtailed post 2024. This review is in no way related to online events review. BFACT input should be provided by the end of August. President asked for all clubs to consider the calendar and provide feedback to Stephen.

- **Secretary (JN)**

Secretary advised of the need to formally advise date of AGM and requested feedback on the three notifications provided to the Committee. Financials still need to be provided and committee members will need to supply nomination forms if the wish to continue in their position. Zoom component will need to be organised. John Donovan has undertaken this in past.

### **Other Agenda Items & Other Matters**

- o) A Discussion of the Gala Pairs flyer took place..

### **Next Meeting**

Next Council meeting scheduled for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August @ 5pm.

Meeting Closed 18:18.



## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Friday 25 August 2023 Electronic Conference

### **MINUTES:**

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

*Apologies:* Andrew Dawes. Annie McMaster.

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

### **Confirmation of minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 31 July cleared for uploading to website. Moved: Keith Huggan; Seconded: Niek van Vucht. Carried.

### **Matters Arising:**

- p) Treasurer expects to finalise adjustment to Bank Accounts within a week or so.
- q) The Inter-Club Directors Report received and Reconciliation report included in Treasurers Report.
- r) Status of Nomination Forms discussed. Forms can be obtained from BFACT Web Site.
- s) Knockout Team Status included in Presidents Email.
- t) Gala Pairs proceeding as planned.
- u) BFACT should take pro-active approach to clubs organising Gold Point events leading to Club Reps inclusion into Gala Pairs.

### **Ongoing Matters.**

- 29. 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)
- 30. Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

### **STANDING REPORTS**

- **President's Report (CN):**

- n) President referred to her email report and that the coming Sunday Events.
- o) The coming BFACT/ABF Real Bridge introductory/trial is designed to allow novice users to become comfortable before attempting ABF sponsored Real Bridge competition. Timing, Costing and Pairs v Teams were discussed to make introduction comfortable for novice players. Agreed mater should be considered by next BFACT committee.
- p) Vice President to review Team Knock Out procedures to allow orderly and timely resolution for finals.

- q) Masterpoints area using incorrect BFACT postal address. Matter to be corrected but as communication also by email no issues were identified.
- r) AGM agenda item 10 to increase BFACT affiliation fee to \$10.00pp was discussed. Treasurer advised that this would lower, but not extinguish, the negative financial results. A general discussion on costs including subsidies and source was held moved seconded and carried that the increase be put to AGM.

Acceptance of Presidents report moved Stephen Fisher; seconded Niek Van Vucht: carried

- **Treasurer's Report (SF):**

- Treasurer referred to his financial reports and advised that the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 and Report for Current year and advised both indicate a loss however current year's loss should decrease over remainder of year. 2022-23 financials plus reviewers report cleared for posting on web.
- Interclub Teams indicates a nominal \$550.00 surplus this will be offset by the claims made against the \$900 prizes awarded.
- CiB indicate over \$15,000 in entries with a month to go expectations are for an improved result from last year indicating a small profit or break even result. Entries principally via MYABF.
- Consolidation of BFACT accounts not undertaken due to competing priorities.
- Directors have paid \$430-\$450 per day for several years recommendation is this be raised to \$480.00 per day in line with inflation.  
Moved Keith Huggan: Seconded Cathy Nichols. Carried
- Sean our current BFACT accounts reviewer has indicated he would be prepared to continue this function for the coming year.
- Treasurer put that we recompense Reviewer with Several bottles of wine not exceeding \$300 in appreciation for his services. Moved Seconded and agreed.
- Treasurer announced he would be stepping down for a period while he attended to personal matters.

Moved Treasurers Report be accepted: Cathy Nichols; Seconded John Niven. Carried.

- **Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)**

- e. GNOT knock out teams resolved with help of Treasurer, Niek confirmed the need for earlier agreed review to see how processes could be improved for next year.
- f. Gala Pairs is available via MYABF and some entries are being received.
- g. Niek advised he would circulate clubs reminding them of availability of running gold point entry events for next year but too late for current year.
- h. Currently TS duties are directed at Website update and preparation of annual report.

- **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- p) No Matters require reporting.

- **BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (SF)**

- j) Stephen advised that he had nothing significant to report however he would need a proxy to attend the mid-year meeting towards the end of October. BFACT will need to advise ABF at least 7 days in advance of name of Proxy.

President advised she has put some points together covering Summer Festival and CiB has been sent to Roy Nixon a response is still awaited. Issues included were why they were held at those times. It appears the Gold Coast event may be curtailed post 2024. This review is in no way related to online events review. BFACT input should be provided by the end of August. President asked for all clubs to consider the calendar and provide feedback to Stephen.

- **Secretary (JN)**

Secretary advised of the need to progress preparation for AGM in particular the method of Zoom participation. We will need to provide members, via clubs, of procedure to log in. Prior year issues were discussed however 2022 AGM remote link operated successfully. John Donovan will discuss with past President of procedures adopted last year.

Procedures for responsible distribution of alcohol was discussed. Issue arises only when drinks are being served not when players use their own beverages. Certification is dependent on sale v distribution.

### **Next Meeting**

Next Council meeting will be scheduled after AGM.

Meeting Closed 17:50.