



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Friday 03 November 2023 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

Present: Cathy Nichols, Roger Brake, Niek Van Vucht, Mary Tough, David Clarkson, John Donovan & John Niven.

Apologies: Andrew Dawes. Annie McMaster, Keith Huggan & Ian Thomson.

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

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 25 September 2023 cleared for uploading to website.

Moved: David Clarkson; Seconded: Niek van Vucht. Carried.

Matters Arising:

- a) President advised Ian may not be available to talk on ABF Matters if not we have the ABF report which has been circulated
- b) As CiB made a healthy profit President suggested an increase in subsidy for BFACT youth teams/Support.
- c) Rodger has now been fully cleared/processed as BFACT Treasurer.
- d) Organisation of a Real Bridge event targeted towards youth participants is still a WiP.

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 she has forwarded papers on her matters and that if Ian is not available she will cover any ABF Matters.
- b) You will have seen CiB report as well as the survey report.
- c) As CiB made a healthy profit President has recommended increasing our budget for youth development, which could include subsidies for congresses.
- d) A discussion on catering for CiB took place and President advised Rodger Brake & Rob Hurst would be co-convenors for 2024.
- e) While not to the same numbers as prior years there is a healthy number of enrolments for the Directors course over the 18th & 19th November.



- f) The Survey Monkey licence held by BFACT is available to clubs who may need to run a survey over the next 12 months. The licence will not be renewed as ABF holds a licence which we can utilise.
- g) It was moved by President that cost of survey monkey be reimbursed; Seconded J. Niven: Carried.
- h) Discussion of the CiB survey took place with generally positive comments.
- i) Monaro Club has advised it wished to hold a congress in the coming year.
- j) The proposal for an Able Minds event was discussed.
- k) John Donovan was reappointed as BFACT Masterpoints Secretary.
- l) The ABF proposal to move from an Incorporated Association to a Company under the Corporations law was discussed. It was not clear to the members why this was being proposed. Committee would wait to seek further information via ABF or ABF Councillor.

Acceptance of Presidents report moved J. Donovan; seconded J. Niven: carried.

2. **Treasurer's Report (RB):**

- a) Treasurer spoke to his reports as distributed and welcomed any comments on layout or content.
- b) As he foreshadowed last meeting CiB produced a larger return than expected as did the interclub teams and an increase in affiliation fees. Given that we are a third of the way into the financial year indications are that we should have a positive return relative to the prior year though this cant be guaranteed. Other than this he has been getting across the BFACT accounts and records.
- c) Masterpoints Secretary advised that some issues related purely to terminology differences between local and ABF. As an example the local Gala Pairs when applied to ABF Masterpointing is referred to as the GNOT Trials.
- d) President thanked the treasurer for his presentation of the BFACT and CiB financials and Moved Treasurers Report be accepted: Moved: C. Nichols; Seconded: N. Van Vucht. Carried.

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

- a. Niek has attended a calendar meeting and updated the calendar with BFACT specific events.
- b. President advised we will need to let Monaro know to ensure there are no clashes. Masterpoint Secretary advised he will also need to ensure Monaro are not clashing with surrounding clubs
- c. Niek advised he would forward a copy of calendar to those concerned.

Secretary moved TS report be accepted; Seconded M. Tough; carried

4. **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- a) John advised Masterpoints for CiB and Gala Pairs have been progressed and bills have been paid. All games have been master pointed or forwarded to appropriate contact at ABF



5. BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (Given by President In absence of Ian)

- a) President spoke to report by BFACT appointing new Executive Director in place of Treasurer and ABF objective of moving from an Incorporated Association Status to a registered company structure under the Federal Companies Code. Ian advised that this will allow the restructure of the ABF and the appointment of the new Board member and has recommended we approve the change. Financials are not clear but it appears the new ED will also take on functions of the Treasurer. President advised she will advise ABF that she will be replacing Stephen as a BFACT Councillor while he is standing aside. Treasurer advised of legal and operational differences to a body being an incorporated association V a Registered Corporation. No consensus was reached as many BFACT members felt they did not have sufficient, or the required, information to agree or disagree with the ABF proposal.
- b) Other mater from meeting are the proposed changes to the GNOT. The current GNOT will be the final time with the total F2F format as from next GNOT stage 2 will be conducted online. John D. advised that the nature/format of the online competition varied to a marked degree from F2F and regulations may require adaption for this phase of the GNOT. A change will be that the top 8 non metropolitan teams will play a two day round robin for the title of best country team. BFACT response to ABF is support the changes but to ask are the regulations for online play to be amended/changed for future GNOTs.

Moved ABF Councillor's as advised by the President be accepted: John Niven
Seconded Niek Van Vucht;

6. Secretary (JN)

- a) Secretary advised the BFACT annual return to ACT Govt. was being prepared and has almost been completed once all signatures are attached Secretary will forward to Inc. Association Registrar.

7. Other Matters (As Required)

- a) Mary Tough advised that a youth workshop had been held and this proved both positive and successful. A further youth event is scheduled for 26th Nov. This has attracted a number of new enquiries.
- b) The women's only programmed event was also held and proved successful.

Next Meeting

Next Council meeting Friday 8th December @ 5PM

Meeting Closed 18:00.