



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Friday 08 December 2023 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

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

Apologies: Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster.

President opened Council meeting at 5.05pm and welcomed all members to meeting and advised of apologies received.

President welcomed Stephen to meeting and agreed to cover ABF issues first to allow Stephen to withdraw as soon as possible. Secretary gave a brief overview of history of requests. Issues confronting BFACT are:

ABF moving away from voluntary structure as no longer suitable for purpose.

Questions raised are: has this been costed and if so what if any affect will it have on State Bodies Capitation and other costs, why a full Ltd Coy Structure and not a Pty Ltd and why can state bodies not access ABF's Annual Financial Statements?

Ian and Stephen explained how ABF saw a need to restructure its workforce principally by appointing a CEO who would become Executive Director of an ASIC registered company as well absorbing treasurer functions and redeveloping staffing structure.

It was agreed BFACT would advise ABF of its formal support for the restructure of the ABF and formally advise ABF of its decision.

Moved Roger Brake, Seconded Niek Van Vucht; Carried.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 03 November 2023 cleared for uploading to website subject to amendments. Moved: Cathy Nichols; Seconded: David Clarkson. Carried.

Matters Arising:

- a) Youth Support will be covered in Presidents Report.
- b) Directors Course was well attended (17) though a couple attended only for one day. Reports on course were positive,
- c) Monaro Club have supplied a date for their Congress hopefully all clubs will support this event.
- d) Able Minds Event has not been progressed and as yet no feedback received. If any member has raised the issue within their clubs any feedback would be appreciated. The objective is to have players with impediments playing in normal events within congresses. This may be the need of special lighting because of vision impairment. Or the need for addition time being added to the normal board play due to Parkinson or restricted movement.
- e) President's proposal to substitute as ABF Counsellor will be on an as needed basis depending on Stephen's availability.



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 spoke to her Proposed Youth Budget (distributed separately) this is very much a draft document as take up of options is unclear. Definite take ups are Youth Team shirts. This was paid for by Will Jenner-O'Shea in the previous period. Due to the healthy surplus from CiB BFACT has agreed to pay for team shirts. Online Bridge session has been set at \$200 to recompense Will's estimated costs. After school games is an estimate to subsidise setup costs should this eventuate. Remainder of the budget is to offset Congress entry fees for youth as well as supporting interstate teams competing in CiB. Mary Tough advised that food subsidy would also cover (encouraging) ANU students playing at CBC. The Budget is capped at \$4000.

Moved Youth Budget be accepted C. Nichols Seconded John Niven; Carried.

- b) It has been proposed to the President that cancellable bookings be made in advance for the Orange based ANC to ensure BFACT teams have access to what is expected to be heavy demand to the upcoming competition conditional on any bookings requiring prepayment allow cancellation two weeks prior to the event. Indications are some facilities are already booked out. Proposal is to book 3 to 6 rooms at venues. President will examine further.
- c) GNOT will be covered by Niek later.
- d) President drew BFACT's attention to ABF Youth Week and Fund Raiser Flyer and hoped members would publicise this at their clubs.
- e) President thanked Niek for progressing calendar and drew attention to the new Margaret Bourke event.
- f) Earlier in the year the proposal was made for Real Bridge events at novice and restricted strength leading to the ABF Knock out Teams competition. This could be done via CBC or South Canberra Club(s) the objective is to allow novice/restricted players to become comfortable with Real Bridge before being thrown in at competition level next year. President and Mary to progress.
- g) President drew attention to the close proximity of the 2025 Summer Festival and the Gold Coast Congress. Ian advised that Gold Coast was driven by the Venue seeking to move the event to a quiet period. Any attempt to move the event away from these times into peak times would see a corresponding increase in costs. Ian advised he is progressing summer Festival and to date there appears to be a lack of entries at Non-Life and Life Masters Teams in 1st week but these will be replaced in 2025 by Restricted Teams event i.e. those under 300mp each.
- h) David asked had any thought been given to providing recompense to those oversighting the Directors Development Plan given the amount of work



expected/required. While there was agreement that the presence of some form of recompense will unlikely influence any volunteers some tasks are overly onerous of an individual's time. A discussion on the need for recompense/honorarium took place and it was generally accepted that a token gift of recognition at the end of a period is generally all that is expected. This latter option was the preferred approach. It was agreed that the current approach would be forwarded to clubs to see if anyone was interested in undertaking the post.

Acceptance of Presidents report moved John Niven; seconded : Roger Brake carried.

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

- a) Treasurer advised that financials had been quiet over the period Net Deficit had moved from \$4,300 to \$8,000 this reflects CiB franchise, GNOT entries and reimbursing ABF for one of the CiB prizes (i.e. entry into Summer Festival). Bottom line is nothing unexpected for the period. We are ahead for the same period last year which supports the change to the youth budget

Moved Treasurers Report be accepted: Moved: C. Nichols; Seconded: N. Van Vucht. Carried.

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

- a. Niek advised that CBC proposes to become a club within MyABF with a consequential affect on our knock out teams. Niek is in the process of setting up competitions held on weekends i.e. Women's, seniors and open teams.
- b. A discussion based on advice that CBC had still not finalised myABF decision and possible operational undertakings within BFACT team selection process took place. This will be done as MyABF congress type events. The GNOT teams for 2024 will be partially undertaken via Real Bridge this will reduce the physical teams at the F2F Qld event to 8 or 16. Final ABF operational details are still to be provided.
- c. Discussion on effect of possible CBC move to MyABF took place. Critical effect would be CBC pay being replaced by MyABF and the money trail if event took place on week day or weekend. Agreed BFACT Treasurer discuss with CBC Treasurer as to status of Weekend, Weekday & Weeknight costing.

President moved TS report be accepted; Seconded Roger Brake; carried

4. **Masterpoints Secretary(JD)**

- a) John advised State open Pairs were held at CBC around late October & early November. Masterpoints account has been received and forwarded for payment other events are in hand.

5. **Secretary (JN)**

- a) Secretary advised the BFACT annual return to ACT Govt. has been finalised and forwarded. Receipt has been acknowledged by ACT.



6. Other Matters (As Required)

- a) John D advised he wished to put a complaint to the ABF regarding the lack of availability of Nationwide Pairs boards on Sunday afternoon. This has had the effect of Capital being unable to play in the competition because boards are not available to them for dealing before Monday. Agreed complaint to be processed via Ian.
- b) New ACT incorporated association model rules come into effect on 1 February 2024. BFACT should review these changes to see any possible effect. Secretary to process.
- c) CBC is running teaching sessions over Sundays. Mary T to advise if BFACT support is required.

Next Meeting

Next Council meeting Friday 2nd February @ 5PM

Meeting Closed 18:25.