



## **BFACT Council Meeting**

5.00 PM Monday 20 May 2024 Electronic Conference

### **MINUTES:**

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

*Apologies:* Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster, Jim Lawrence, John Niven, Stephen Fischer

President opened Council meeting at 17.00 & welcomed members to meeting.

The scheduled council meeting for this date & time has been overtaken to discuss the upcoming resolutions that are being proposed by the ABF for the AGM on Friday 24th May.

#### *Background:*

Early May the BFACT President was sent an email from the new Executive Director (ED) of the ABF, David Fryda, alerting BFACT to two resolutions that will be put forward at the ABF AGM, scheduled for Friday (24th May) in Brisbane. These are:

***Proposed Resolution 3: That masterpoint fees increase by 25% in 2025 and 3% each year thereafter until 2027, and that capitation fees increase by \$3.30 each year from 2025 to 2027.***

***Proposed Resolution 4: That an ABF Technology Fund be established and that Masterpoint Commissions henceforth shall not be paid to the State and Territory Associations but shall instead be paid into the ABF Technology Fund.***

The ED then had an online meeting (9th May) with BFACT executive, and did similar meetings with most of the other states and territories. A number of documents have been distributed.

#### *Documents supplied by the ABF:*

The ABF 2022-2025 Strategic Plan: <https://www.abf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ABF-Strategy-2022-2025-1-March-2022.pdf>

The ABF 2023 financial statement

The ABF 2024 budget

The new ABF financial planning report 2025 to 2028 (supplied 9th May)

Impact of Resolution 3 and the Alternative WA Proposal on Players/Clubs (10 May)

#### *Documents supplied by BAWA (Bridge Association of WA):*

BAWA Final Response to ABF 2024 AGM Proposed Resolutions #3 & #4

Associated emails & spreadsheet.

#### *Document supplied by President BFACT:*

BFACTDraftreABFincrease

#### *Discussion points:*

- The BFACT Delegate discussed the other resolutions that are being put forward at the AGM. These covered the reappointment of auditors & the change in the NSW Bridge Association structure. There was no objection.
- BFACT was informed that a number of states were voting in favour of Resolution 3. The increases may need to be confirmed each year. Any change to fees (in particular capitation) is set at the AGM so that State, Territories and Clubs can work out their budget for their



next financial year, (which could cover different months to the financial year for the ABF). Covering 3 years out is to help the ABF with budgeting.

- Each Club present talked to Resolution 3, & there was also prior email correspondence. It was recognised that the proposed resolution is likely to have a significant effect on clubs and membership. All voted to instruct the BFACT delegates to vote 'No' to ABF Resolution 3 at the AGM. A review & compromise is sought. BFACT will agree to a compromise of a \$2 capitation fee increase.
- BFACT Treasurer noted that the financial impact of Resolution 4 would equate to approximately \$1 per affiliated BFACT member. As BFACT has voted 'No' to Resolution 3 (main impact on the Clubs) it was decided to instruct the BFACT delegates to vote 'Yes' to Resolution 4 to help the ABF budget (one abstain).
- BAWA alternative proposal for Resolution 3 - this proposal aimed to raise the same amount of money as Resolution 3, but there was still insufficient clarity around the budget issues for ABF, covering that time period. The alternative proposal weighted the cost increases more towards the Masterpoints, affecting congresses markedly. BFACT voted 'No' to the BAWA alternative proposal.
- *Message for the AGM, why BFACT is saying No to Resolution 3:*  
Consultation should have happened earlier & should have been clearer.  
Can't see the reasoning for the increases because there hasn't been enough clarity provided.  
Agree to a compromise with a \$2 increase to the capitation fees.  
Recommendation that a paper be supplied to all states & territories, and after sufficient time to examine it, that there is an opportunity for the states & territories to discuss it together.
- The minutes from April will be sent out.
- The ANC subsidies were discussed, forms need to be in by end of May. Players have been informed to expect a lower amount than previous years (due to distance) & BFACT has been informed of the contribution by the Barry Turner Fund.
- Motion: BFACT (together with the funding from the Barry Turner Fund) provides \$200/ person for each ACT representative, non playing captain & chaperone for the ANC and also pay the entry fees and Victory dinner costs.  
Passed by all.

Next meeting: Monday 3rd June 5:15pm

Meeting closed: 6:05pm