



BFACT Council Meeting 22 April 2026, Held Online

Minutes

Attendees: Wendy Boxall (President), Cathy Nichols (Vice President), Roger Brake (Treasurer), , Niek Van Vucht (Tournament Secretary), John Donovan (Masterpoint Secretary) Edie Grumley (Monaro), Angela McGill (Bungendore), Stephen Fischer (CBC), David Clarkson (South Canberra), Toni Adams (Gungahlin)

Apologies: Tamara Cutcliffe (Secretary), Judy Hillam (Cootamundra)

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting of 6 March 2026. Moved EG, seconded SF
CARRIED

Matters dealt with out of Session

Wendy advised that the following matters were dealt with out of session. Max Ashurst will be the nonplaying captain of the Youth ANC team, Sean Galbraith will be paid an honorarium for reviewing BFACT annual books (as per normal custom) and Jane Rassmussen will be paid a \$50 honorarium for services to bridge, including teaching clubs how to maintain board dealing machines.

Standing Reports

1. President's Report and ABF Report

Wendy Boxall - President BFACT

The Youth budget arrangements have been finalized following the discussion at the last board meeting. Suz Wilkinson is happy with the arrangements and thanks to Roger for pulling the agreement together. Wendy suggests we review the arrangements in 12 months time.

Decisions need to be taken about the remaining equipment which was owned by the late Sean Mullamphy. There was in principle support for clubs and/or BFACT buying equipment that would be useful, noting that some clubs presently had little capacity to manage when board dealing machines etc broke down. Further work to be done on details.

Director Training – Wendy has spoken to Bruce Crossman about running a course for people wanting to learn to be directors and/or relatively inexperienced directors. A number of clubs said this was a priority as they needed new directors and there was a general preference to have the course over a weekend to accommodate working people. Wendy will keep progressing this item.

Country Club Championships – Wendy said there was a lot of disquiet within the bridge community about CBC entering the Club Championships at the ANC as it was generally felt it was outside the spirit of the guidelines (which require a club to be either <150 members or outside a metropolitan area). It was noted that CBC had been expressly invited to enter the



Championships. It was noted that rescinding the invitation would be disappointing for the players who would have been on the team, and who may have received a discounted entry fee.

Two motions were put. The first motion was that the invitation to CBC be rescinded. The second motion was that the players from the CBC team be provided half price entry into an alternative teams event at the ANC. Both motions were carried, with some members dissenting or abstaining from both motions.

2. Treasurer's Report /Canberra in Bloom

Roger Brake - Financial reports circulated to Council, showing a small change since last month, mainly reflecting costs and revenues from ANC trial events. SF noted that some ANC-related transactions recorded in this financial year may need to instead be reflected in next year's financial statements.

Accommodation sponsors (Mercure Belconnen and Abode Belconnen) have been locked in. It was noted that accommodation is already tight for the CiB long weekend, so it will be important to communicate to interstate players to book their accommodation early.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report

Niek Van Vucht – main work is finalizing the paperwork and arrangements for the ANC teams.

4. Club Reports

Canberra Stephen Fischer. This will be Stephens last meeting in this role as he assumes ABF Presidency shortly. Wendy expressed the thanks of BFACT for Stephen's strong and sustained contribution to BFACT over many years. Mary Tough will be the new CBC representative on BFACT.

South Canberra David Clarkson – they had to cancel their lessons as they did not have enough participants. They hope to do it later in Autumn.

Capital John Donovan – priorities are getting more members and more directors.

Monaro Edie Grumley –also needing more directors and players, noting ageing demographic.

Gungahlin Toni Adams – Gungahlin is going fine. Would like to have a BFACT discussion about how small clubs deal with surpluses.

Bungendore Angela McGill – also would like more players. Noted that their numbers are down, partly attributable to some of their players driving longer distances and facing higher fuel costs. Angela thanked Edie for endeavoring to run a session with bridge mates at Bungendore. She sincerely apologised for the events that prevented it from happening and recognized the great efforts Edie and John had made.



5. **Masterpoint Secretary Report** – nothing to report.
6. **ANC Report** Cathy Nichols – almost 4000 boards have been dealt. Volunteers have been doing a great job. Cathy is working to get more entries into the County Club Championships.
7. **ABF Report** Stephen Fischer – Council is meeting next week and one strategic item is how the ABF can work better with States and Territories, including on items like knowledge sharing. Papers will come out soon. Wendy said she would distribute the papers and would welcome feedback ahead of the meeting.
8. **General Business** – Roger noted that invoices for affiliation fees would be issued in early May.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is 4.30 pm Friday 29 May, online.

Meeting closed 6 pm.