



BFACT Council Meeting

4.20 pm Friday 6 March 2026 – Canberra Bridge Club

Minutes

Attendees: Wendy Boxall (President), Cathy Nichols (Vice President), Roger Brake (Treasurer), Tamara Cutcliffe (Secretary), 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: Keith Huggan (Capital), Judy Hillam (Cootamundra)

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting of 1 February 2025. Moved JD, seconded EG
CARRIED

Business arising from previous minutes: NIL

Standing Reports

1. President's Report and ABF Report

Wendy Boxall - President BFACT

The Selection Trials for the ACT Women's Team held in February were professional and showed great sportsmanship. Seniors' Trials are being held this weekend. Thanks to Tournament Secretary for organizing and to the players who participate.

Stephen and Wendy met with Jake Andrews and Catherine Chaffey from Bridge NSW last week. We are still looking at ways NSW and the ACT can collaborate. We expect to hear from Bridge NSW next week concerning inclusion of our congresses in their calendar.

Stephen has been meeting with State and Territory representatives in anticipation of his expected upcoming appointment to the ABF. Wendy will distribute the papers Stephen has prepared and hopes to set up a meeting next week with Stephen and any other interested BFACT members to discuss. Please contact Wendy if you would like to attend. Alternatively, comments and/or suggestions can be emailed.

There was discussion on Suz Wilkinson's email suggestions regarding Youth activities. The meeting resolved to allocate \$3,000 for youth activities over the next 12 months. Wendy asked Roger to put together a document outlining our offer and our expectations to be sent to Suz, the youth coordinator. Wendy will ask Suz for more details on other youth proposals in particular the Youth Triathlon.

2. Treasurer's Report

Roger Brake - Financial reports circulated to Council, BFACT has a small surplus of almost \$3000. Major activities later in the year – ANC in July and CIB in October.



3. Tournament Secretary's Report

Niek Van Vucht - The ACT Women's Team comprises Pam Crichton, Julia Hoffman, Judith Tobin, Adrienne Stephens, Wendy Boxall and Jodi Tutty (playing captain).

As there were only 3 pairs contending for the Youth team, a selection event was not required. Council endorsed Niek's proposal that the Youth ANC representatives for 2026 be Jade Wilkinson, Alexis Wilsmore, Dev & Diya Shah, Bryan French and Jessica He. BFACT further endorsed Maxwell Ashurst as the non playing captain subject to a Working with Vulnerable People check.

Seniors' Selection Trials start this evening. Thank you to Andrew Struik and Cathy Nichols who have volunteered to be the house pair..

4. Club Reports

Canberra Stephen Fischer

The board dealing contract has been signed for the ANC. CBC has organised three sets of dealers, who will be trained at ABF HQ 51 Tennant St, Fyshwick 10.30 Tuesday on how to clean the machine by Jane Rasmussen. We believe they will start the dealing process on 23 March, subject to confirmation.

CBC requires confirmation of BFACT meeting dates/times to be held at CBC premises.

Stephen will investigate whether CBC has any surplus sets of boards that could be donated or loaned to other BFACT Clubs.

South Canberra David Clarkson – numbers and sessions ok. Investigating social online bridge fortnightly similar to Nationwide Pairs, Make a Wish Pairs. Possible lessons on Sunday morning.

Monaro Edie Grumley – Edie and John attended Bungendore Wednesday night session 26 February. Offered assistance with Bridgemates, server, computer, hand record sheets and dealer print outs to show Bungendore Wednesday night crew how Cooma works. Another visit imminent.

Number of members moving to other locations that offer better services for Senior Citizens.

Beginner lessons and bridge lessons in schools still high priority, however establishing the lessons seems to be at a standstill due to costs and lack of enthusiasm from the schools. Welcome any assistance.

Happy with Monaro Youth players are affiliated with Youth Team in Canberra and actively involved. Monaro club members continue to be keen travellers and 3 teams are registered for the Sapphire Coast Congress.

Capital John Donovan – has not met since last meeting.



Gungahlin Toni Adams – Gungahlin has 65 members including a healthy number of away members who also play at CBC and other clubs. Now doing dealing offsite once a month. Offered to help Bungendore with this.

Bungendore Angela McGill thanked Edie and John for their visit and efforts. Bungendore run 2 sessions each week – 7 pm Wednesday evening and 10 am Saturday morning at the School of Arts Gibraltar Bungendore. In addition there is social bridge session at Wamboin Church Hall from 1 to 4pm on Mondays. Visitors are always very welcome. Bungendore have recently donated \$1,500 to Orange Sky and \$1,500 to Medicine Sans Frontiers. Recently gained 1 new member.

5. **Masterpoint Secretary Report** – John Donovan Capitation charges are calculated on each club's membership as at 31 March each year. Clubs would be wise to remove former members from their masterpoint list now to avoid incurring unnecessary charges.
6. **ANC Report** Cathy Nichols ANC preparations continue. Cathy urged clubs to promote participation at the ANC. The program is on MyABF. The event runs from 4-16 July with something for everyone.

7. General Business - nil

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is 4.30 pm Wednesday 22 April via Zoom or Teams and subject to discussion with Cathy, Tamara and Stephen. Agenda and notes in due course.

Meeting closed 5.55 pm.