



**Annual General Meeting
Sunday 16 September 2023, 5 pm,
CBC & ZOOM
MINUTES**

Attendance:

Anita Delorenzo, Martha Griffiths, Tim Mather, Christy Geromboux, George McLane, George Stockham, Brenda Watts, George Kozakos, John Niven, Rajiv Shah, Michele Grant, Perelle Scales, George Kozakos, Bill Tutty, Jennifer Carter, Bazli Karattiyattil, Simon Grant, Des Manderson, Rob Hurst, Joanna Thomas, Ruitian Lang, Lynne Moss, Christopher Crane, Chris Tough, Alex Hewat, Moira Sharp, Cath Sherwin, Niek Van Vucht, Terri Henderson, Roger Brake, John Donovan, John Niven,

Stephen Fischer, Cathy Nichols., Keith Huggan, Pam Crichton, Mary Tough.

Online: ZOOM: Lyn Turner.

1. The president opened the meeting at 17.05 and confirmed a quorum was in attendance & that the meeting was being conducted face to face and via ZOOM.
2. **Apologies:** Nil
3. **Acknowledgement of proxy votes:** Nil.
4. **Confirmation of Minutes of the 2022 AGM**
Motion: "that the Minutes of the AGM of 2022 be accepted as a true record of that meeting". Proposed: Niek van Vucht, Seconded: Stephen Fischer. Carried.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM of 2022**
Perelle Scales raised that BFACT could look into a system of mentoring youth via on-line sessions, similar to what is done in another state. The President noted that the Youth training sessions run throughout the year by the Youth Co-ordinator Will Jenner-O'Shea have had a positive impact on youth development in the ACT. See also the Youth Co-ordinator Report for the AGM on the BFACT website.

6. **Report of the President**

- a) The President advised that her full report was available on the BFACT website. (A precis covers ABF initiatives, face to face congresses, national events, player and director development). BFACT has supported player and director development this year and we are fortunate with the calibre of people here to help. On behalf of BFACT and the wider bridge community the President would like to thank Stephen Fischer for all the work and dedication he has put into bridge both in the ACT and the ABF. Stephen is stepping down as Treasurer for personal reasons, and standing aside as the appointed BFACT councillor to the ABF.

Motion that the President's Report be accepted Moved: Keith Huggan seconded Niek Van Vucht, Carried.

7. **Report of the Treasurer**

The treasurer advised that his full report (including Financials and Reviewer's Report is posted on the website). In Summary over the last two years we have incurred significant travel subsidies. This is expected to continue until we return to surplus in 24-25 due to the location of ANC and associated travel costs. We have just under \$50K in a term deposit which is earmarked to run the ANC when it is BFACT's turn to host. It is the Treasurer's view that BFACT is in good financial shape.

There being no questions President Moved the Treasurer's report be Accepted Seconded Niek Van Vucht. Carried.

8. **Re-Appointment of Auditor/Reviewer for 2023-24**

The President advised that Sean Galbraith of Galent Management Consultants, Canberra who has undertaken the review of our annual accounts since 2020-21 is recommended for and has agreed if requested to accept re-appointment for 2023-24.

Moved That Sean Galbraith be re-appointed Reviewer for 2023-24: Stephen Fischer; Seconded Mary Tough. Carried.

9. **Report of the Tournament Secretary**

Niek advised that his report is available on the website. We selected 4 teams for the ANC this year the open team came 2nd in the Round Robin losing in a close run final to the SA team. The youth team as well as the senior's placed 4th.

For next year the intention is to run two week qualifying events for women's and seniors' with the events being modified if there are 12 or fewer entries. For the open teams proposal is a 3 week evening event with a 1 day stage 2 selection.

In response to a question from the floor as to times the Tournament Secretary advised that for Women's and seniors the expectation is Monday evening and for Open a Tuesday evening.

Motion That the Tournament Secretary's report be accepted: Moved; Cathy Nichols; Seconded; John Niven. Carried.

10. **Affiliation Fee for 2023-24**

The Treasurer spoke to Agenda Item 10. He has recommended raising

the affiliation fee to \$10 per member per annum. In recommending this the Treasurer advised that the fee had not risen in almost a decade since 2014. Since that time we have absorbed significant inflation cost as well as needing to increase payment to our Directors. This is a modest increase to bring it in line with increase costs across the board and will overcome BFACT needing to increase costs elsewhere.

Following a question from the floor the Treasurer advised that combined with the ABF fees, the costs per player would be \$30.

Motion: that the annual affiliation fee for 2023-24 year be set at \$10.00 for all members of affiliated bridge clubs.

Moved; Stephen Fischer, Seconded; Keith Huggan. Carried.

11. **Appointment of Returning Officer**

President appointed Chris Tough as returning officer.

The Secretary asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none the Secretary advised that there were 5 positions for which there was one nomination for each position.

12. **Election of Office Bearers:**

The Returning Officer announced each Position and Nominee as there was only one nomination for each position that nomination was acclaimed from the floor.

Position	Nomination
President	Cathy Nichols
Treasurer	Roger Brake
Vice President	Keith Huggan
Secretary	John Niven
Tournament Secretary	Niek Van Vucht

The Returning Officer declared each nomination elected from the floor.

13. **Other Business**

The President asked if there were any other matters. As there were none the President thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5.25 pm.



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Monday 25 September 2023 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

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

Apologies: Andrew Dawes. Annie McMaster, John Donovan.

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

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 25 August 2023 cleared for uploading to website. Moved: Keith Huggan; Seconded: Niek van Vucht. Carried.

Matters Arising:

- a) Treasurer adjustment to Bank Accounts completed.
- b) Gala Pairs proceeded as planned.
- c) BFACT take up of pro-active approach to clubs organising Gold Point events leading to Club Reps inclusion into Gala Pairs still to confirm.
- d) Knockout Team Status to be included in Tournament Secretary's Report.

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 attended recent Cootamundra Congress which was well managed as usual. Daryl Whitfield partnering with Will Jenner O'Shea won the pairs Daryl and Ian also helped resolved some Compscore3 issues.
- b) President had discussions with Cootamundra and Cooma clubs regarding upcoming inter-club competitions scheduled for Cootamundra next year and Cooma 3 years later. BFACT preference is for the interclub (when held in Canberra) to be held in July when the ANC is held. Discussions as to make up and timing of teams and pairs events were held. BFACT would help promote the congress and arrange for a suitable Director. The objective is to encourage



interclub cohesion and support surrounding clubs. For this reason timing with the Orange congress will need to be considered. The President advised the regional clubs that BFACT will support them holding the interclub Teams event merged with their annual congress if that suites them.

- c) CiB has achieved a healthy enrolment and registration has closed with Friday at capacity and near capacity for Saturday/Sunday with possible pick up for Sunday/Monday. President offered a thank you to Jane Rasmussen and the ABF for the support provided.
- d) As well as Stephen standing down as treasurer he has also relinquished his role as a BFACT rep. to the ABF. Ian, BFACT's other councillor to the ABF will be standing in today. It is expected President and Treasurer will take turns representing BFACT as 2nd ABF councillor until Stephen becomes available.
- e) Council will note that Will produced a Youth Player Report for the AGM. One of his recommendations was that BFACT recognise/support the youth players more. One way is to provide a Youth Uniform/Jacket/shirt or similar. President recommends supporting this by examining budget cost and then if feasible agreeing increase the support to youth. MT advised that next youth date is on Sunday 15th October, Will Jenner-O'Shea will be running it and also running Women's Training Camp on the same day. Will has arranged assistance for youth to allow him to move between events.

Acceptance of Presidents report moved Mary Tough; seconded Keith Huggan: carried.

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

- a) President introduced and Council welcomed Roger Brake as the recently elected Treasurer. As he has yet to be permitted access to the BFACT accounts he was asked to report on other matters.
- b) Treasurer reported that indications are that the upcoming CiB is expected to produce a larger return than last Year. Last Year revenue was approx. \$19,000. Budget for this year was \$20,000. However we have \$27,000 of nomination of which \$25,000 are confirmed. We will however also have increased costs in part due to the extra costs of Masterpoints. President advised that increased surplus would help fund youth costs and player development.
- c) Secretary advised that within a week he, President and Treasurer would present themselves with copy of AGM minutes at Beyond Bank to register Roger as the new BFACT treasurer thus allowing him full access to the accounts. It was agreed to finalise a mutually convenient of Tuesday 3rd or Wednesday 4th October out of session.

Moved Treasurers Report be accepted: John Niven; Seconded Keith Huggan. Carried.



3. Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)

- a. Tomorrow AM Niek will be attending a calendar Committee meeting for 2024. Other attendees are David Warne, Mary Tough, Jodi Tutty, David Hoffman and Ian Robinson. One issue will be to set up a schedule for 2024 Knock-Out Teams and ensure it is strictly adhered to. Running of evening sessions plus weekend events will depend on number of teams enrolling in each category. 2023 knock out teams now finalised. A discussion on source and level of some subsidies occurred.

Moved Tournament Secretary's Report be accepted: Cathy Nichols; Seconded Keith Huggan. Carried.

4. Masterpoints Secretary(JD)

- a) NA.

5. BFACT ABF Councillor's Report (IT)

- a) Ian advised that the ABF has its next meeting in November but he has yet to see an agenda. He will share this once it becomes available. Current issue occupying Committee is MYABF. Currently use is limited but ABF is hopeful of all clubs using it as a tool. Ian advised that report on future of Online v F2F had not been finalised. Niek would be provided with a report as soon as practicable.
- b) A discussion on CiB covering timing and effect of Daylight saving took place as well as production of medals and certificates.

Moved ABF Councillor's Report be accepted: Niek Van Vucht; Seconded Keith Huggan. Carried.

6. Secretary (JN)

- a) Secretary advised past practice had been to hold meetings on a monthly basis at 5PM on a Friday with a fall-back position of 5PM Monday. Friday timing was acceptable to all however Secretary advised that Monday timings may prove a problem with his arrangements.
- b) Council was advised that the AGM minutes would be required as evidence to the Bank of Rogers appointment and could any amendments be supplied to the Secretary.

7. Other Matters (As Required)

- a) President Advised that Will Jenner O'Shea has agreed to continue as youth Co-ordinator. His Reappointment was supported by Council. President would advise Will.



- b) President advised that feedback from youth was very positive however she asked Council to advise her of any matters requiring attention as soon as possible to ensure timely treatment
- c) CBC AGM will be held 5 October.
- d) A discussion of a real bridge event marketed towards youth players (novice/restricted) was discussed. Issues involved were costs, subsidies, director, fees and sponsorship at Club or BFACT level.

Next Meeting

Next Council meeting Friday 3 November @ 5PM

Meeting Closed 18:00.



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.



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.



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Friday 02 February 2024 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

Present: Cathy Nichols, Keith Huggan, Roger Brake, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan, Mary Tough, Jim Lawrence & John Niven.

Apologies: Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster, David Clarkson.

President opened Council meeting at 5.05pm. Some members, including the Secretary were unable to connect via Zoom. President asked connected members for their agreement to allow video and audio recording of the meeting all connected members agreed.

President welcomed Jim Lawrence to BFACT and asked Jim introduce the Gungahlin Club to the other members. Jim advised that they played in a small room downstairs at the Gungahlin Lakes club. The room can accommodate 15 tables and the club had 60 members. Generally they have 8-9 tables occasionally as many as 11. Covid placed additional size restrictions consequently pre-booking was essential. Players are not allowed in till 9:30am for a 10am start, so the registration process is a real help. A number of the players are already members of other ABF clubs in Canberra.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 03 November 2023 cleared for uploading to website. Moved: Cathy Nichols; Seconded: Keith Huggan. Carried.

Matters Arising:

President advised she had made two accommodation bookings in Orange for the ANC on the chance that accommodation is limited. Youth Support will be covered in Presidents Report.

Bruce Crossman has agreed to undertake the role of Director Development Officer. Sebastian Yuen is our Chief Director who reports to the NEC which is in overall charge of Directors/Directing in tournaments in Australia.

RealBridge sessions is an ongoing matter and President hopes to liaise with Mary Tough over the weekend.

BFACT Treasurer has liaised with CBC Treasurer on finance inter-relationship and the effect of the expected CBC move to MyABF. Treasurer and Tournament Secretary to liaise on current terms (MOU) and propose any changes with CBC after agreement with BFACT.

Nationwide pairs is still a work in Progress, there appear to be problems with the stability of the NWP site. This will need to be resolved before any progress is made. It was noted some clubs are incorrectly uploading results to their own club website before the end of the week. This enables other players to gauge what contracts are achievable, so affecting the integrity of the event.

Model Rules: Vice President has reviewed and they are not applicable for BFACT.



President's proposal to substitute as ABF Counsellor will be on an as needed basis depending on Stephen's availability.

Ongoing Matters.

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)

Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

STANDING REPORTS

1. Youth Bridge & CBC Report; Mary Tough

Will Jenner-O'Shea course/workshops has attracted some youth members.

Will has suggested these members be charged \$10 rather than full \$25 cost and that this be subsidised by BFACT via the BFACT youth budget.

Put that BFACT cover the fees for designated youth players (under 26) attending Will Jenner-O'Shea upcoming advanced lessons/Workshop/Training Sessions to a limit of \$300 to be invoiced to BFACT; Moved Mary Tough; Seconded Niek Van Vucht. Carried.

Mary advised that the beginner's lessons at CBC had attracted some 60 participants. Consequently extra classes were scheduled. While stretching the training resources this was considered very promising and encouraging. Will Jenner O'Shea courses continuing. There is a workshop tomorrow and Sunday.

2. President's Report (CN):

- a) President advised she attended the ABF marketing workshop, run by Blaze Marketing, via Zoom on Tuesday. Key was the principal of visibility of management. To this end president proposed she and one other committee member attend a bridge session at Cooma and be available to answer any questions. A key issue from the marketing was to agree how we wanted the ABF to be perceived (Brand DNA) and what was our signal for success. Critical recently had been the effect of Covid. The ABF has been asked to share metrics to help share success and/or recognise where support is needed. There is a full calendar toward the end of the year however Cootamundra have suggested moving their congress forward to August (24-25). This year the Cootamundra Congress will also incorporate the InterClub Teams (a subset of their Teams event.) John D and Niek confirmed the dates for Cootamundra are fine. Cooma & Cootamundra will host the interclub once every 6 years (3 years apart). President will forward an e-mail once she confirms Cootamundra timing. Roger to report on status of CiB as required (he is co-convenor with Rob Hurst).



Canberra in Bloom Report.

Nor sure if CiB flyers went out at Summer Festival of Bridge.

A discussion as to make up of CiB occurred particularly make up of pairs and possible expansion of teams' component. Much was due to limitation of space (restricted space for breakout). Possible expansion using Olive Lott room and/or hiring space at the Croatia Club. Matters will be reviewed as time permits or dictates.

Treasurer's Report (RB):

- a) Treasurer advised that a report had been prepared and distributed. There has been little of significance. At the last meeting we showed a net deficit of \$8000 currently our Net deficit is \$7937. Next significant income are from affiliation fees in some months. Financials are on track.

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

Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)

Niek advised selection events were on the horizon and has prepared the schedule for MyABF but not yet published. He will do this after the meeting this evening. Registration is expected from mid-February. Flyer to distribute is being prepared however he will require Gungahlin email so they can be included.

TS has received a letter from ABF CEO explaining what is proposed for the GNOT. This has little impact on current plan and he will forward a copy of the letter to Council members.

Masterpoints Secretary (JD)

John advised there were no issues with Masterpoints. JD will visit Gungahlin to explain when and how to set up MP in Compscore.

Secretary (JN)

NA due to connection issues.

Other Matters (As Required)

Interclub Teams is at Cootamundra this year. BFACT will be supplying a director and possibly an assistant director.

Next Meeting

Next Council meeting Friday 1st March @ 5PM

Meeting Closed 18:05.



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Friday 01 March 2024 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

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

Apologies: Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster, Jim Lawrence

President opened Council meeting at 17.05 and welcomed members to meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 02 February 2024 cleared for uploading to website. Moved: Cathy Nichols; Seconded: Roger Brake. Carried.

Matters Arising:

President asked if Will Jenner O'Shea had been advised of amount and terms of youth subsidy. Mary Tough to clarify.

President's Report Minutes reference that the 6 year gap between Cooma and Cootamundra interclub alternating each 3 years.

Treasurer will give us an update on Canberra in Bloom.

Masterpoints Secretary and President have arranged to meet with Gungahlin club at 10AM morning of the 13th. Mary Tough agreed to join.

Ongoing Matters.

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)

Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

STANDING REPORTS

1. President's Report (CN):

Regarding our strategy of working with vulnerable people <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/> has produced a member protection policy. Alignment with this plan may cover a number of areas, President to liaise with ABF to see practicality of adoption.

A discussion as to inclusion of Gungahlin Club as host of Interclub - agreed they should be included in schedule after a suitable time.



Dates for Cooma and Cootamundra congresses have been scheduled and members should advertise within their clubs. Niek to update website notification.

ABF AGM in May Ian to be renominated. President to substitute for Stephen if unavailable. Moved C. Nichols Seconded R. Brake. Carried.

President to lobby ABF for funding of assistant director for CiB.

Tournament Secretary will cover GNOT events issues.

Sapphire Coast will be held 13-14 April and will need to be promoted Sebastian to be Director.

Availability of Sebastian may be curtailed due to his movement interstate at some time.

Secretary of ABDA approached C.N. at Gold Coast Congress and asked why we had ceased membership ABDA. President advised we were unable to determine value. If they would submit a letter indicating what services were provided the matter would be resubmitted to the Committee. Ian advised that ABF had similarly ceased funding ABDA and requested notification of services ABDA provided. ABF is awaiting a response.

Bruce Crossman has requested we provide a list of those that have undertaken BFACT sponsored director's courses. This is a large list including some outside BFACT as the objective has been to develop suitable director skills throughout the various clubs. Wagga Club has requested if we could provide a suitable tournament level director. While Wagga falls within NSW due to their proximity to ACT President will examine availability of Congress level Directors. Pressure on our limited No of Tournament directors highlights our need to develop further numbers.

The issue of individuals affiliating with BFACT was discussed. BFACT constitution requires a minimum number of members to be eligible for affiliation. As W. J O'Shea resident in NSW he will be advised to examine his eligibility to align with NSW or ABF.

Issue of updating BFACT constitution was discussed. MT advised that CBC constitution was currently being examined and we could be provided with suitable resource once this program had been completed.

President advised GC congress while not back to previous levels had been improving including a large overseas representation.

Acceptance moved Ian Thomson: Seconded Niek Van Vucht. Carried

Treasurer's Report (RB):

- a) Treasurer advised that it had been quiet over the period. We had paid Sebastian \$1500 for his director's course. Committee will recall previous discussions of matters hosted at CBC but financed by BFACT and those by CBC. Discussions have been held with Tournament Secretary and discussions will be held with CBC treasurer to further clarify issues to see if current arrangement and fees are appropriate.



- b) Cathy, Rob Hurst and Treasurer held meeting at GC to discuss CiB. Various matters including Director Arrangements, sponsorship arrangements as well as scope for a further Teams competition. GC congress highlighted popularity of Team Competitions. Option of using hired accommodation was discussed. Treasurer report had been prepared and distributed.

Moved Treasurers Report be accepted: Moved: J. Niven; Seconded: J Donovan. Carried.

Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)

Niek advised selection events were up and running on MyABF a further reminder will be distributed shortly. Niek advised he will be away evening of Women's Competition so a responsible bar person was being sought for end of competition. President will approach Peter Parsons as to his availability. Need to rearrange Gala Day (as currently scheduled for same day as Cootamundra congress) was discussed.

Moved Report Accepted C. Nichols; Seconded Roger Brake. Carried.

Masterpoints Secretary (JD)

John advised there were no issues with Masterpoints.

ABF Representative (IT)

Ian advised little had occurred but pleased Summer Festival had returned a surplus. Introduction of MyABF across all clubs
Acceptance Moved J. Niven Seconded D Clarkson Carried.

Secretary (JN)

NA but pleased system worked.

Other Matters (As Required)

Youth lessons 11 to 1 comps on this Sunday. JD advised he was available as director if needed.

Masterpoints and other Costs for Tuesday nights to be reviewed.

Future BFACT meetings suggested to be moved to Monday nights - agreed.

Next Meeting

Next Council meeting Monday 8th April @ 5PM

Meeting Closed 17:50



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Friday 08 April 2024 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

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

Apologies: Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster, Jim Lawrence

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

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 01 March 2024 cleared for uploading to website. Moved: Keith Huggan; Seconded: Niek Van Vucht. Carried

Matters Arising:

Youth subsidy - still waiting on an invoice from Will Jenner O'Shea, delay may be due the last youth session being this coming weekend.

Email advising the re nomination of Ian Thompson as a BFACT representative on the ABF in progress.

List of those attendees to previous Director courses supplied to Bruce Crossman, with Bruce to liaise with Sebastian to fill in any gaps.

Ongoing matters:

BFACT constitution review & update (RB etc)

Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

STANDING REPORTS

President's Report (CN):

- The new book 'A Compulsive Pastime' was displayed. This is a thorough book covering the history of bridge in the ACT and surrounding regions. The writers of the book - John Brockwell and David Hoffman - have kindly given a copy to BFACT, the President has the copy if anyone wants to borrow it sometime. SCBC and Capital were also given a copy. The details of the launch is not known as yet. David has been in contact with CBC to arrange a time - BFACT can promote it and supply funds for refreshments (CBC is supplying venue). Noted that President, Treasurer & CBC President have authority to discuss and agree on funds required.
- ABF child protection policy - not clear that it has been reviewed since first launched. It states that the ABF appoints a child protection officer, but it is not clear who that is. There is details on code of conduct etc (for example avoid alone time without chaperones) and forms that can be utilised. It was discussed & agreed that all directors should have a WWVP card - to not just cover youth but other vulnerable people. Where the group has young people from different genders there needs to be parents/chaperones that cover each gender. Need parents explicit approval of the



arrangement - for example when other parents are the chaperones. There is a form that covers billeting. Also noted that it doesn't facilitate reporting by children/vulnerable people themselves (in a very supportive environment). RB to send out further comments. The ABF policy is not binding on BFACT, so BFACT needs to make a decision whether to adopt it. Discussion to be continued next meeting.

- Womens & Seniors team selections have been done. Thanks to Niek for organising them. Open selections still ongoing. No one has taken up accommodation options. President to send info to Will re youth team.
- Have asked a couple of people re possibilities for BFACT secretary next year (as JN is retiring), any suggestions welcome.

Treasurer's & CiB Report (RB):

- Currently deficit for the year is approx \$8k. There has been the expenses of the trials and there will be affiliation fees coming in.
- Subsidies and costs for ANC. In the past the Barry Turner Fund pays half, and BFACT pays half. It was noted that the CBC Treasurer is one of the trustees of the Fund, BFACT Treasurer will liaise and work out a reasonable amount. No flight costs this year. The ANC is one of the main expenses for BFACT, with the costing for selection events at a rate that attempts to break even. It is timely for a review.
- There is a new teams event for CiB - a one day event for Novice/Restricted with limited numbers. Ronnie has 1st drafted the regulations and entries are open. The cases and boards have been commandeered. There are some options for board dealing, still to be finalised. Capital has a second dealing machine (lent to the Henry). Can that be borrowed for CiB? - JD to follow up.

Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)

- Some people in the Seniors team may be in the Open, so decision can't be made. Have confirmation from womens team. BFACT agreed to ratify womens team.
- BFACT would appreciate any constructive feedback regarding the running of the selection events.
- The review time (to pick up scoring errors) was highlighted. Currently 30min is in the regulations, to be discussed with directors to get guidance whether it needs to change. Will also check with the ABF regarding the time in larger events.
- With the selection events on one day there was a large Novice section in the other side of the room. A second director (unpaid) was used when needed. This may need to be reviewed as there were complicated movements.

Masterpoints Secretary (JD)

Masterpoints for the women selection event has gone in, seniors, state open teams will go in this month. To go to Gungahlin with the BFACT president later this month.

CBC & Youth Report (MT):

Change in guard at CBC, congratulations to Mary who was become President.

Youth have been going to the Advanced Lessons and then the Youth Sessions.

Noted that the upcoming fundraiser for Diya and Zara (representing Australia in the u26 womens team) needs to be promoted. They have been asked to supply information to distribute.



It was noted that with the upcoming youth session Mary is unavailable as is Cathy N. Mary to follow up re helpers and people with working with vulnerable people cards. An email to go out alerting people to the event.

ABF Representative (IT)

The ABF AGM is on in May (in Brisbane), when an agenda is received it will be distributed. Not sure if it will be on zoom or not. Stephen & Ian will be attending the AGM.

Other Matters (As Required)

Capital holding their annual championship in upcoming weeks.

Cootamundra have a designated Director for their congress - doing the whole weekend, including the InterClub. CN has sent through information regarding likely numbers for the Interclub - subset categories for the teams part of the congress.

Current understanding is that Ian Lyle is the assistant director for CiB (to Ronnie Ng).

Next Meeting

Next Council meeting Monday 20th May @ 5:15PM

Meeting Closed 18:05



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



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Tuesday 4 June 2024 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

Present: Cathy Nichols, John Niven, Roger Brake, Ian Thomson, Jim Lawrence, Mary Tough & Chris Tough (for SCBC)

Apologies: Keith Huggan, Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster

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

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 8 April 2024 cleared for uploading to website. Moved: Mary Tough; Seconded John Niven. Carried

Business arising:

Invoice has been received from Will J O'S for the youth training sessions (online & face-to-face).

The continuation of the discussion on the child protection policy to be deferred to next meeting due to time constraints.

President & Masterpoint Secretary visited and played at Gungahlin on 24th April. A great group of players, well organised and a good setup.

Ongoing matters:

BFACT constitution review & update (RB etc)

Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

STANDING REPORTS

President's Report (CN):

President & secretary went to Cooma to play with the Monaro Club on Monday.

Omitted to take the book 'Compulsive Pastime' for them to borrow, will work on sharing the BFACT copy among the clubs that don't have it.

Have a potential council member for the upcoming AGM (as Secretary is retiring).

Have received a email regarding nomination for Honorary Life Member of BFACT.

Would like to get a working group together on this, as there may be more than one person that fits the bill.

ABF Report (IT)

Vic, WA and the ACT voted against Resolution 3, the votes were 6 to 11 so the resolution was carried. SA voted for the WA proposal. There is an option to put another resolution at the next AGM to modify any further increases.

There will be a paper coming from the Executive Director regarding the increase in capitation fees - for distribution to all clubs, about a month away. JL talked on insurance for smaller clubs and whether the ABF insurance (that comes with capitation fees) is of help.

Treasurer's Report (RB):

At the end of the FY the books are in balance or it may be a small positive. The budget for next year has been done plus the following. With the increased ABF costs,



BFACT can cater for no increase in affiliation fees this coming year, with savings elsewhere.

Motion: That BFACT pays the costs of the scarves for the ANC for youth & chaperones.

Motion: That the BFACT charges \$25 per scarf (as per quote supplied, organised by Will) to players or captains from the other teams that want one.

Both motions carried.

Youth Report, CBC Report (MT)

The recent youth day had 2 tables, which included 3 new people. Some of the regulars had exams. The ACT Womens team and possibly the Youth team will go to Fyshwick to familiarise themselves with the screens.

Next Meeting: 5pm Friday 28th June

Meeting Closed: 6pm



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Monday 1 July 2024 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

Present: Cathy Nichols, John Niven, Roger Brake, Ian Thomson, Niek Van Vucht, Mary Tough, Judy Harris & David Clarkson

Apologies: Keith Huggan, Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster, Jim Lawrence, Stephen Fischer

President opened Council meeting at 17.05 & welcomed members to meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of 20 May 2024 cleared for uploading to website. Moved: Cathy Nichols; Seconded: Roger Brake. Carried

Business arising:

The ABF resolutions were passed and we are still waiting on a promised communique to Clubs, States and Territories. WA and Victoria have been in direct contact with President, with their budgets being affected.

Ongoing matters:

BFACT constitution review & update (RB etc)

Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

Working group to look at acknowledgment/life membership. (CN)

BFACT policy covering Child Safe Strategy/Working with Vulnerable People. (CN)

Minutes from meeting of 4th June still to be distributed. (JN)

STANDING REPORTS

President's Report (CN):

President had a meeting with the President of Bungendore Bridge Club (Angela McGill). They have a new website and want to be informed of any special events. Unaware of the recent ABF resolutions.

The number of Directors that are trained to run special/teams events needs more focus. Thanks to CBC for continuing to allow directors from other clubs to gain experience in running a larger group. Sebastian is likely to run another director training session in November. President to approach Bruce Crossman to run a director PD session specifically targeting teams events and with a focus on the best use of the technology.

Good luck to all the Teams at the ANC. Terrific that it is at a country location and looking at the numbers hopefully there will be future ANCs at country locations.

A reminder that BFACT is hosting the ANC (next year is Brisbane) in two years time (2026). We would like to get a working party together quite soon as we need to assess what venues are available and lock it in, within a budget. President asked that people take that back to their clubs to see if anyone can help.

In general the ANC needs 50-70 tables, with 30 tables in side movements. At Orange each day has a sponsor (another club) for the side movements.



In 2017 the working group was John Brockwell, Pam Chrichton, Bev Crossman, Elaine Leach plus others. The venue was the racecourse. BFACT would prefer a more accessible location, with easy access to accommodation and eateries.

Jane Rasmussen is retiring as the ABF secretariat, later this week. She has given nearly 20 dedicated years to the ABF and BFACT is indebted to her for the mountain of assistance over the years. Note that any mail sent to the ABF will now be redirected to the new ABF Executive Administrator (Margaret Cusack) in Ballina, so it could take some time.

Motion: That BFACT gives Jane 200 MyABF credit as a present in recognition of her contribution. Moved: David Clarkson, Seconded: Niek Van Vucht

President to put some words together - pass them by MT & IT, to go with present.

Treasurers Report (RB)

Not a lot of change since last meeting. BFACT has made a very small surplus. The budget for 2024/25 is targeted for a small surplus.

CBC & Youth Report

The 19th & 26th July CBC will be holding an introduction to teams event.

The next Youth day is 21st July.

General Business

Cootamundra discussed the upcoming Congress, incorporating the Interclub teams. They also discussed the impact of the ABF resolutions.

The next meeting scheduled: Friday 2nd August (before the Gala pairs), 5pm.

Meeting closed 6pm.



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00pm Monday 2 August 2024 Electronic Conference

MINUTES:

Present: Cathy Nichols, John Niven, Roger Brake, Niek Van Vucht, Mary Tough, John Donovan & Keith Huggan

Apologies: Andrew Dawes, Judy Harris, Toni Adams

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

Confirmation of previous Minutes:

Minutes of Tuesday 4th June - waiting on confirmation of changes. Minutes of Friday 28th June to be sent out with both to be approved via email prior to next meeting.

Business arising from previous minutes:

The ABF has sent through a pre publication version for the ABF magazine, the promised communicate outlining the reasoning behind the ongoing fee increases applicable from 2025.

Ongoing matters:

BFACT constitution review & update (RB etc)

Proposal to List Member Clubs Contact Details on BFACT Website ongoing (JN)

Working group to look at acknowledgment/life membership. (CN)

BFACT policy covering Child Safe Strategy/Working with Vulnerable People. (CN)

STANDING REPORTS

President's Report (CN):

Noted that the communicate lacked detail & not sure why MyABF needs the scoring system to be incorporated in it. WA noted that the draft communicate excluded the 'seed' funding (ABF Technology Fund) that is going to be provided by all States & Territories via re-direction of their Masterpoint Commission (Resolution 4). They also asked if Stripe was the most cost-effective option for the ABF and clubs, with the narrative in the article indicating actual transaction costs are higher than 2%.

The ABF newsletter (which has the final version) was sent out via email on Thursday 1st August & is also available on the MyABF website.

Noted that there were low numbers in this years ABF Club Knockouts, including a reduced number of teams from Canberra.

Noted the very low numbers registered for the Gala pairs. The impact of the GNOT scheduling change (hence change to scheduling the Gala pairs) together with other congresses (or holidays) may have an impact.

The working group for the 2026 ANC currently has Lyn Carter and Wendy Boxall to assist.

Ian Thomson has been in contact with Rob Ward (convenor of 2024 ANC), to get relevant information regarding venue requirements for the ANC. Note that in 2026, this will be the first time that there is the ANC and CiB. To work out the best approach.



Treasurers Report (RB)

Not a lot of change since last meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled: Friday 30th August, 5pm.

Meeting closed 6pm.