



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25th September 2024, 6.00 PM

Canberra Bridge Club & also via Zoom

MINUTES *DRAFT*

Attendance:

Present: Cathy Nichols, John Niven, Roger Brake, Niek Van Vucht, Stephen Fischer, Wendy Boxall, John Donovan, David Clarkson, Toni Adams, John Brockwell, Barry Butz, Sally Vardy, Catriona Bruce, Suzanne Samarcq, Elizabeth Havas, Tony Hedley, Simon Grant, Michele Grant, Maxwell Ashurst, Richard Hills, Brian Thorp, Ralf Behrens, Jon Pike, Peter Wardrop, Monica Brook

Online (Zoom): Keith Huggan, Marianne Bookallil, Patricia McDonald, Lyn Carter

1. The president opened the meeting at 18.05, thanked everyone for attending and confirmed a quorum was in attendance & that the meeting was being conducted face to face and via ZOOM.
2. *Apologies:* Ian Thomson, Jennifer Yeats, Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster, Judy Harris, George Stockham, Alex Hewat, Nikki Riszko, Andrew Struik, Donna Stewart
3. **Acknowledgement of proxy votes:** Nil
4. **Confirmation of Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

Motion: "That the Minutes of the AGM of 2023 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 2023:** Nil

6. **Report of the President**

The President advised that her full report was available on the BFACT website. (Precis presented). Another busy year, with CiB well supported last year & this year. Thanks to the team behind it and to CBC. Thanks to Cootamundra Bridge Club who hosted the InterClub, next one scheduled outside of Canberra is in 3 years. A warm welcome is extended to the Gungahlin Bridge Club, which joined BFACT during the year. Thanks to Barry Butz helping Gungahlin and Monaro. Changes at the ABF, both with events, the organisational structure and price increases were highlighted. Working party started for the ANC in 2026. On behalf of BFACT and the wider bridge community the President would like to thank John Niven and Keith Huggan who are retiring as Secretary and Vice President, respectively.

Motion that the President's Report be accepted Moved: Wendy Boxall Seconded: David Clarkson. Carried.

Note that Gungahlin BC reiterated the help that Barry Butz gave and the ACT MP Secretary gave thanks to the President for her work over the last couple of years.

7. **Report of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer advised that that his full report (including Financials and Reviewer's Report) is posted on the website. In summary a small surplus (previous year a deficit), mainly due to Canberra in Bloom and an increase in affiliation fees. Expecting a bigger profit this year due to the ANC being in Orange (decreased costs in sending players) and also Canberra in Bloom being full. Explicit amount in budget for funding of youth bridge, not all spent this year. There is also increased costs associated with the ABF pricing changes. The healthy levels of reserves, is a requirement to enable BFACT to run the ANC. (NB The 'Note' in the report needs a minor amendment).



Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted Moved: Cathy Nichols Seconded: Carried.

8. **Appointment of auditor for 2024-25**

The Treasurer proposed that we continue with the current arrangement of appointing Sean Galbraith as auditor.

Moved: Roger Brake Seconded: Cathy Nichols

9. **Report of the Tournament Secretary**

Niek advised that his report is available on the website. Some of the qualifying events didn't work, so he is looking to change the format to open entry to all events, on weekends. Niek to look at the NSW approach to selection, especially for the lower categories. The Gala pairs selection event also needs to be looked at.

Motion That the Tournament Secretary's report be accepted Moved: John Donovan Seconded: Richard Hills Carried

10. **Affiliation Fees for 2024-25**

The Treasurer recommended that the Affiliation Fees remain unchanged.

Motion That the annual affiliation fee for 2024-25 year remain at \$10 (including GST) for all members of affiliated bridge clubs. Moved: Roger Brake, Seconded: Stephen Fischer Carried

11. **Appointment of Returning Officer**

President appointed Stephen Fischer as returning officer.

The Returning Officer asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

12. **Election of Officer Bearers**

The Returning Officer advised that there were 4 positions for which there was one nomination for each position and a vote (secret ballot) was needed for the position of Vice President. The Vice President nominees gave a brief statement regarding their credentials for the role. Online votes were also collected. The Returning Officer announced each Position and Nominee, and the successful elected candidates were:

Position

President	Wendy Boxall	Declared elected
Treasurer	Roger Brake	Declared elected
Vice President	Richard Hills	Declared elected
Secretary	Cathy Nichols	Declared elected
Tournament Secretary	Niek Van Vucht	Declared elected

13. **Other Business**

The President introduced herself and asked if there were any other business.

Richard Hills asked for a show of support for a Charity Quiz night. It was noted that it was a worthwhile use of the facilities. Show of hands supported the idea.

The President thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6.35 pm.



BFACT Council Meeting

4.35 pm Friday 5 September 2025 - Electronic (Zoom)

Minutes

Attendees: Wendy Boxall, Sherryn Dato, Roger Brake, Cathy Nichols, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan, Stephen Fischer (CBC), Keith Huggan (Capital)

Apologies: David Clarkson, Alex Hewat, Edie Flanagan, Judy Harris

Introduction: President welcomes members

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting of 25 July 2025. Moved KH, seconded SF.

Business arising from prior minutes: nil to report that won't be covered in upcoming agenda items.

Standing Reports

1. **President's Report** - concentrating on Canberra in Bloom (CiB) and the upcoming AGM. A big thank you to Roger for all the work being done on CiB.
2. **Treasurer's Report (& CiB)** - no change regarding 2024/25 figures, as circulated after last meeting. Has circulated a report for this meeting. Currently a loss of 11K due to ANC and CiB costs. Expectation is that there may be a small surplus or will break even for the year. The auditor is happy with the accounts, signatures needed (can then be put on the web & the link distributed). Will check to see if he will be able to do it next year. CiB is under control, currently 67 teams where last year it was full at 50. Negotiating the hire of another 2 rooms. The bandwidth is better than before. Invoices to be sent to treasurer@bfact.com.au. Quite a few people happy to volunteer.
3. **Tournament Secretary's Report** - DreamIT change has gone quite well. Noted that it is part of the Aussiebroadband family and some at the meeting are shareholders. Any further decisions regarding the serviceprovider, to exclude those with shareholdings. Price is \$216/annum. Gala pairs coming up, currently 18 pairs for the Open & 8/10 for the other 2 categories. Clubs that held qualifying events have been invoiced. The CBC social secretary will be there to help, along with a number from the council. It will be a 4 session event, with the master point fee larger than previous years. The Masterpoint Secretary discussed how it is all worked out.

Other Agenda Items (if not covered above)

4. Notification of Out of Session Decision

Acceptance of DreamIT Hosting proposal and payment.

Decision (in consultation with CBC) to hold the AGM at CBC on Friday 26th September, 4:30pm.

5. ANC Report & AGM(CN)

Lyn Carter is doing a lot on the ANC and it has been promoted at a number of congresses. There appears to be quite some interest in the Country Pairs & Teams championships, with some clubs already trying to work out their teams.

Thank you to Tournament Secretary for putting the AGM papers on the website, and clubs have been



notified (with links). It is after the afternoon bridge session, with refreshments. The council discussed the timing for the AGM and recommends to the next incoming council that serious consideration is given to move the AGM to the Friday following CiB (this eases constraints in the timing of the Gala pairs, getting the audited financial statements in time etc). To send out link for virtual connections.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting is the AGM, on the 26th September, would love to see as many as possible there, roll in nominations! Tentative date for the next general council meeting following that is Friday 10th October, face to face and virtual.

Meeting closed 5:25pm.



BFACT Council Meeting

4.20 pm Friday 9 May 2025 - Face to face (CBC) & Electronic (Zoom)

MINUTES

Attendees: Wendy Boxall, Roger Brake(e), Cathy Nichols, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan(e), Stephen Fischer (CBC), Keith Huggan (Capital)(e), Alex Hewat(SCBC)

Apologies: David Clarkson

Introduction: President welcomed members

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting of 28 March 2025. Proposed SF, seconded RB.

Business arising from prior minutes:

Confirmed that Clubs (in particular smaller clubs) do not have to run a qualifier for GNOT entries.

Standing Reports

1. President's Report (& Youth report)

President will attend the ABF AGM remotely and SF will be there in person. To distribute papers once received. Discussions ongoing regarding Fyshwick. Bruce Crossman is doing another Director Tour, this year with Ian Lisle and John McIlraith. Date for CBR refresher course is 10am-2:30pm on Friday 20th June. CBC rooms unavailable, the Whitlam Room at Canberra Labor Club Belconnen may be an options. Further details to be distributed.

2. Treasurer's Report (& CiB)

Nothing unexpected, will send out Club affiliation invoices within the next couple of weeks. Waiting on finalisation of selections to determine the ANC subsidy. Currently a healthy surplus, and a surplus should still be in place at the end of FY. The cost of sending teams to Brisbane will be reflected in next years financial statement. This together with the increased cost of CiB for this year (venue hire etc), may impact any future surplus.

Keen for all the Clubs to come to CiB, still working on sponsorship and advertising. Ronnie, Daryl and another are the Directors (Bruce C is assisting with names to follow up). The President is assisting with CiB (and not playing) this year and has nominated to do the board dealing (at the same rate that was paid last year). Motion that this nomination be accepted, seconded NVV, carried.

Discussion around the InterClub prizes, those attending the meeting agreed that prizes to CiB instead of SFOB is more appropriate (NB when the prizes were set up CiB was not in existence). To be comparable to the historical prizes for SFOB (normally 50% of a 4 days teams event) it would be full entry to a 2 days teams event. Proposal that for each eligible (where there is at least four competing teams in the relevant category) winning team, the prize is entry to CiB in the same year, for a team in the same category. This proposal was agreed in principal, wording may be fine tuned.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report

Open selection event imminent, still working on the Youth team. Should all be resolved in the coming week. Jade & Alexis are going to Italy for the World Youth Team Championships.



Other Agenda Items (if not covered above)

4. Masterpoint Secretary report

Nil to report, but requested a copy of a previous InterClub Flyer.

5. ANC Report (CN or LC)

Debra Birkby is working on a Facebook page. LC & CN have met with Laurie Kelso (NEC), online, suggestions included putting out an EOI for the Chief Tournament Director. The ABF have asked for a report on progress (initially asked for the AGM, then changed to 1st board meeting after the AGM). Capital has agreed in principle to their walk-in events during the ANC, 2 Tuesday nights - eclectic. SCBC may look at something similar.

6. CBC report (SF)

Nil to report

7. ABF report (SF)

The most recent ABF communique is on their website. There isn't a GCC next year. In 2028 the ANC will be in Alice Springs. The WBC interim President is Ben Thompson from Australia. Andy Hung and Sartaj Hans won the final of the inaugural World Bridge Tour. ABF policies are being reviewed and MyABF is progressing.

8. General Business

Discussion around attendance of VP, there may be unknown issues. President to follow up.

9. Next Meeting

June 20th, 4:20pm, CBC face to face and zoom.

Meeting closed at 5:25pm



BFACT Council Meeting

4.00 PM Friday 11 October 2024 - Face to face (CBC Deakin) & Online

MINUTES:

Present: Wendy Boxall, Cathy Nichols, Roger Brake, Richard Hills, Niek Van Vucht, Mary Tough & Keith Huggan (e)

Apologies: David Clarkson, Andrew Dawes, Annie McMaster, John Donovan

President opened Council meeting at 16.10 & welcomed members to meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes:

Still waiting on previous minutes, when received they will be distributed (& approval sought) out of session.

Draft 2024 AGM Minutes distributed. Moved: that the provisional minutes be approved, ready to be put on BFACT website. NVV. Secunder: RH. Carried.

Ongoing matters:

- a) Adoption of Child Safe Strategy. Ongoing, to align with [Integrity](#).
- b) Working group to look at BFACT acknowledgement/life membership. Malcolm Carter and Keith Huggan have offered to be on this working group. A third person will also be sought.
- c) BFACT constitution review. An extensive review was done in 2018, this review needs to incorporate new clubs and the changes that MyABF has brought about. WB, RH to look at it.

Standing Reports

1. President's Report (WB)

Wendy introduced herself, giving some background back to the 90's. Thrilled how well CiB went, lots of happy people. 2026 ANC is a big job, to be a regular agenda item. Recently played at Capital & introduced herself. Will contribute to Clubs' newsletters from time to time. Moved that the report be accepted: KH, seconded: RB

2. Treasurer's Report (RB)

Forecast for 24/25 is a larger surplus than 23/24. Relatively few transactions so far this FY, still some payments for CiB due. To change the financial signatories to current President/Secretary/Treasurer. Moved that the report be accepted: RB, seconded: MT

3. Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)

Niek is on the CBC Calendar committee (set up by David Wawn) and has sent out a draft of selection events for 2025. Asked if anyone else wanted to be on the calendar committee, no uptake. There may be a change of Tournament Secretary at CBC with the upcoming AGM. WB and CN to chat with Monaro regarding dates for next year. Dates for Canberra in Bloom next year already advised to the ABF. Moved that the report be accepted: NVV, seconded: RH

4. Notification of Out of Session Decision (CN)

ABF advised of update to BFACT executive.



BFACT website support ([Rize Design](#)) contact advised of update to the list of BFACT authorised people and their emails.

Notification to Clubs of St Johns Ambulance defibrillator course, held and sponsored by CBC on 11th October.

ATO lodgement of NFP (Not for Profit) self-review return - lodged over the phone by Treasurer.

5. Appointment of Public Officer

Cathy Nichols appointed Public Officer. Moved: WB, seconded: MT. Action items for Public Officer - Advising the Australian Business Registrar and Access Canberra of changes in Office holders.

6. Appointment of Masterpoint Secretary

Each club has a Masterpoint Secretary and the BFACT one is separate (also has an advisory role to the member Clubs). To ask for EOIs for BFACT masterpoint secretary. Would be beneficial to have more people with the skills.

7. CiB Report (RB)

Feedback so far good. There were 1/3 more player days than last year. At capacity so need to either cap the numbers or get a new venue or a supplementary venue. Directors did a very good job, and recommend an assistant director for next year. This would be a skilling up opportunity, there may be one or two people in the region that are interested. Convenors report to be done. Allocation of prizes with regard Novice/Restricted teams led to a complaint. May need to review how it is set up, regulations can be unclear and other congresses may have a better approach/regulations for when this is a combined event and there is strong players in the Novice category. Will JO'S has talked to WB and suggested BFACT put out a policy paper. Very interested in going on a working group, NVV also keen. Meeting resolved for BFACT to formally ask Will JO'S to work with NVV to look at tournament regulation for Novice/Restricted. Also a written paper is required covering house pairs/substitutions etc. Initially we try to get a paying partner, else a 'house' person. WB noted that in her experience the partnership desk needs to be really tight, one person only. A more detailed report will be at the next meeting.

8. ANC Report (WB)

Lyn Carter has done some preliminary work, a convenor (or co-convenors) needs to be appointed. Discussion regarding the convenor allowance - covers petrol costs etc, not hours of work. Meeting resolved to appoint Lyn Carter and Cathy Nichols as co-convenors for 2026 ANC. For governance need a monthly report to BFACT. A tournament manager/organiser also needs to be appointed. The selection of the venue is paramount but the decision needs to come back to Council for approval. It is an ABF event, BFACT is the organiser - all profit & loss the responsibility of States/Territories (refer handbook). Everyone encouraged to read the [handbook](#).

9. Youth Report & CBC Report (MT)

The defibrillator course was good and well attended. The CBC AGM to be held on 29th October. Upcoming youth session to be held by WJOS, Sunday 3rd November, with an advanced bridge session in the afternoon (open to all). Need dates for the Directors Course.

10. General Business

Deferred to next meeting:

Charity quiz night

Suggested meeting calendar for the year

11. Next Meeting

Meeting closed at 5:35pm

5pm 22nd November via zoom. RH noted he may not be able to connect so will give comments in advance.





BFACT Council Meeting

4:15pm Friday 20 December 2024 - Face to face (CBC Deakin) & Online (e)

MINUTES:

Present: Wendy Boxall, Roger Brake(e), Cathy Nichols, Richard Hills, Niek Van Vucht, Stephen Fischer (e), Keith Huggan (e), David Clarkson, Toni Adams (e), Mary Tough (observer), Lyn Carter (for ANC report)

Apologies: Judy Harris, Andrew Dawes

President opened Council meeting at 4:15pm and welcomed members and Lyn. *(NB meeting started earlier than planned as afternoon session finished early)*

ANC Report (Lyn Carter)

We have been advised of timing issues earlier this week. These include:

- The Kanga Cup is generally in the first week of the July school holidays, & is the most expensive time in the year for local accommodation due to the high player numbers (together with associated family & officials). Accommodation discounts are not on offer.;
- We were advised by the Canberra Convention Bureau that there will be a Brumbies versus the English Lions match in July 2026. The Kanga Cup has been asked to move their dates so there isn't a clash *(NB - later found out that the date/s supplied were for 2025)*;
- The ANC congress may conflict with International Youth Championships, normally scheduled for July;

The next full ABF meeting is in the 1st week of Feb, at the Gold Coast Congress. *(NB - later found out there will be a board meeting at the SFOB)*. Dates for the ANC 2026 can not be given at this point as we are waiting on exact dates for these other events. (The next main congress in the ABF calendar is Coffs in August).

Lyn & Cathy met with Maddie from the Canberra Convention Bureau. Maddie can liaise with various establishments to get venue quotes and/or accommodation discounts.

We have been given quotes from Canberra Deakin Football Club (there is constraints if it is in term time but the quote fits well within the budget) and QT which came in as too expensive. There has also been discussions with the Hellenic Club, the Racecourse and the Southern Cross Club. Maddie has taken over negotiations with the bigger venues and suggested the Canberra Labor Club/Mecure in Belconnen. Lyn & Cathy to check it out. Waiting to hear back from Maddie regarding any other options, but things can be slow this time of year.

Wendy, Lyn & Cathy to meet ED of ABF at SFOB in January.

Lyn has put together a draft program, however still waiting on a number of details. For the side events BFACT affiliated Clubs could be asked to host particular days by supporting the organisers, for example morning/afternoon tea.

President thanked Lyn and Cathy for their work so far.

Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of previous council minutes (22 November 2024) Moved: KH, Seconded: NVV.

Business arising from prior minutes:

Paper on ways BFACT can assist clubs to increase membership (DC) - distributed prior to meeting (feedback received from Capital & Cootamundra). Discussion included looking at CBC opening up Mentoring in May to other Clubs, forming partnerships with some senior citizens clubs, aged care facilities etc (for example Goodwin



has a number of properties all over Canberra & use buses for transport). 20 people at the beginners course at SCBC, how can we help them - is it supervised sessions or 'open book' sessions with regular players, where they can look at their notes etc. TA noted that approx 50% of the GBC members are also members of CBC. Increased collaboration between the small clubs needed for supervised and/or beginner lessons, Capital/SCBC/GBC to liaise on this. Real Deal Bridge was also noted.

Ongoing matters:

- a) Adoption of Child Safe Strategy. Ongoing, to align with [Integrity](#).
- b) Working group to look at BFACT acknowledgement/life membership
- c) BFACT constitution review

Standing Reports

1. President's Report (& ABF)

WB & SF attended the last ABF Council. The motion regarding the change of constitution was withdrawn. There will be an ongoing governance review of the ABF. President did mention issues regarding lessons and directors for smaller clubs. The ABF indicated that they would help with funding a Directors course. Does BFACT need to get quotes? Gungahlin noted that the person needs to be experienced with training adults and there are probably 2 types of courses, 1 specifically for Club directors that includes technical aspect of the software, and the other for more advanced topics, especially the types that don't come up in the smaller clubs. To be followed up offline. Teaching material - BNSW has information on their website & TBA uses information on the NZ website (excluding Acol). Did talk to Steve G regarding his course, minimum of 2 tables, 6 weeks plus 2 weeks of supervised. President to have conversation with WJO'S re player development. ED of ABF report highlighted that the ABF will be working at a deficit for the next couple of years. MyABF is going well and SF is back working on IT issues. The president had a very pleasant time at the SCBC AGM & Christmas party - please pass on thanks to the Club. Moved WB, seconded: CN. Carried.

2. Treasurer's Report

BFACT is in a positive financial position, with ytd a healthy surplus. CiB is October next year and details need to be on the website. Have looked at the Croatian Club upstairs, quote is \$550/day. To work through regarding disabled access. To work with President on fees for next year. Likely to keep the Early Bird fee the same, to look at the full rate. President together with Treasurer to decide on entry fees. Moved RB, seconded: WB. Carried.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report

Having some problems with the BFACT website (unable to upload files) and also some 'full' email accounts. Have emailed the generic address and the specific technician address but no response as yet.

Other Agenda Items (if not covered above)

4. Notification of Out of Session Actions/Decisions (CN)

- Registration of [Director identification number](#) with the Australian Government by President, Treasurer, Secretary & Tournament Secretary.
- Approval of the minutes of 30 August 2024.
- Form 2943 (change of registration details) has been sent to the ATO notifying them of the change of Public Officer.
- Email to Bungendore Bridge Club

5. Appointment of Masterpoint Secretary

Meeting resolved to invite John Donovan to be the Masterpoint Secretary.



6. Youth Report & CBC report (SF)

The identified person has withdrawn interest in being the youth development officer. There has been a request for a youth night at CBC, still to go to the CBC committee for approval. There has been a request for BFACT to support this, by supplying funds for refreshments. Last years budget for youth was \$4K, however not all was spent.

7. General Business

Charity quiz night - to be dealt with out of session
Suggested meeting calendar for the year - deferred

8. Next Meeting

Friday 14th February, via zoom, 5pm



BFACT Council Meeting

4.30 pm Friday 20 June 2025 - Face to face (CBC) & Electronic (Zoom)

Minutes

Present: Wendy Boxall, Roger Brake(e), Cathy Nichols, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan(e), Stephen Fischer (CBC) (e), Toni Adams (Gungahlin) (e), David Clarkson (SCBC), Sherryn Datto (VP)

Apologies: Judy Harris (Cootamundra), Andrew Dawes (Monaro), Keith Huggan (Capital)

Introduction: President welcomes members

- 6. ANC Report (LC):** Locked in sponsors MailBoxesEtc (Printing), Abode (note Mercure is also part of the Accor family), TBIB. Possibly Fixed Income Solutions. An EOI has been sent out for the Tournament senior staff (Chief Tournament Director, Scorer etc) and locally for Directors. Waiting on responses. The ANC flyer is being distributed and a electronic version will also be available. This will be promoted more after July. President and LC to talk at this years ANC, at the Presentation get together. NT only has an Open team in this years ANC, and we'd like them to come to Canberra next year. Discussions have been held and it is understood to be a funding issue. Would like to put funds in the ANC budget for the NT team, to help them field more teams however it need BFACTs approval. Further discussions to be had, would like to see the ABF also contributing.

The ABF boards and cards need to be available after the Summer Festival to enable dealing in a timely manner. This year they have also been used for the Victorian Festival of Bridge (held in June, previously called the VCC). It is hoped that next year different arrangements will be made. ABF ED email mentioned that there are a number of events in the lead up the ANC that may require some boards, so board dealing schedules may need to adjust. The loan conditions from the ABF is that everything is returned in 'good order', including cleaned. There is a charge for the loan of the bridgemates and servers, but for the rest of the equipment listed there will be no charge. TBIB have advised that insurance is needed for equipment that leaves the Fyshwick premises, until it is returned. This would be insurance for the ABF to take out, possibly passing that charge on. It was noted that Director lists online are not kept upto date.

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting of 9 May 2025 as circulated. Proposed NVV, seconded RB

Business arising from prior minutes if not covered in items below:

Trophies - quote was received for updating the ANC Interstate Team trophies. Discussion around options, history etc, carried that BFACT will not progress with updating the trophies. BFACT especially thanks Lyn Carter for the work that has been put into cleaning and sorting out the trophies.

Standing Reports

1. President's Report (& Youth report)

Sean Mullamphy passed away Wed night/early Thurs morning, quite a shock. Will miss him a lot, such a big part of bridge in the ACT. Meeting approved that President organise flowers and condolences.

The President welcomed Sherryn as the new Vice President. Sherryn gave a brief history of her bridge, having started in Harden 40 years ago and becoming involved in bridge initiatives and training in the surrounding region. BFACT is supporting the youth event on the weekend by supplying red master points. Talked on the



Director continuing education program, Ian Lisle did Illawarra, John McIlraith & Bruce Crossman did Canberra, with a good turnout, approx 15 each day. Secretary attended both days - a very good course, well received, a lot of the resources are on the NSW website. Gungahlin noted that there is still a need for a new directors course, will put something together before the next meeting - perhaps CBC should offer an invite to other Clubs for a Directors get together. ABF Presidents meeting tomorrow, sharing initiatives, marketing etc, to send agenda around.

2. Treasurer's Report (& CiB)

Starting to work on accounts for end of FY, should have a decent surplus. Possibly a deficit for the following year. Thanks to all the clubs for their affiliation fees. Agreement with the Barry Turner fund regarding the subsidies for the ANC. Thoughts regarding next years affiliation fees, to leave the same.

President & Treasurer progressing with CiB, working on 3rd Director, Fella Hamilton has offered sponsorship. Marketing - will be sending out an email to those from last year. Query re workers compensation.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report

Peter Reynolds has organised Bernie Waters to take Sean's place in the Seniors team. Carried by the meeting that this is the best approach, totally appropriate. Working on September Gala Flyer, the Gala pairs will be early Sept. Last years minutes to be sent to Tournament Secretary in a collatable format. Tournament Secretary also to review the regs for CiB.

Other Agenda Items (if not covered above)

4. Notification of Out of Session Decision

Resignation of Richard Hills as Vice President, appointment of Sherryn Dato to position.

Payment for extension of bfact.au domain name rights.

5. Masterpoint Secretary report

GNOT still ongoing, clubs to submit teams. Not many entries for InterClub, has talked at a couple of congresses & emailed all Clubs (Sherryn to contact Moruya).

7. CBC report (SF)

CBC sends their condolences to Sean's family. The options for the web hosting has been distributed, to be discussed next meeting.

8. ABF report (SF)

Talked to the ABF communique, the player numbers are stable, there will changes to the format of the Spring Nationals, double elimination teams etc. There will be a 3 day match point pairs event at the Autumn Nationals, variety. ABF finances, a small surplus, mainly due to less development work. Expecting a small deficit next year. There have been conversations regarding the ABF model (re State/Territory format), for example if a counsellor wants to support their State/Territory but once on the Board has to look at bigger picture. Current Presidents has around 11mths left. Next AGM will be in conjunction with the Autumn Nationals in Adelaide. There has been a discontinuation of annual cards and promotional master point certificates. It was noted these are important for those starting out, is the ABF becoming impersonal, losing the personal touch.

9. General Business

Youth players in the International team sent an email requesting funding. Noted that this is what the Barry Turner Fund is for. BFACT will be paying for the master points for the youth fundraiser to support these players.

10. Next Meeting

Friday 25th July, 4:25pm Canberra Bridge Club (face to face) and Zoom.



BFACT Council Meeting

5.00 PM Friday 22 November 2024 - Online

MINUTES:

Present: Wendy Boxall, Cathy Nichols, Roger Brake, Niek Van Vucht, Mary Tough, Keith Huggan, Stephen Fischer, David Clarkson, John Donovan,

Apologies:, Andrew Dawes, Judy Harris, Richard Hills, Ian Thomson

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

Confirmation of Minutes:

Confirmation of previous council minutes (11 October 2024) Moved: KH, Seconded: NVV, carried.

Business arising from minutes that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda: nil

Ongoing matters:

- a) Adoption of Child Safe Strategy. Ongoing, to align with [Integrity](#) (CN..).
- b) Working group to look at BFACT acknowledgement/life membership (KH/MC/..)
- c) BFACT constitution review. Jenny Bergin from CBC may be able to help (may be too busy). CBC constitution is finalised, may be a reference. To revisit next meeting (WB/RB).

Standing Reports

1. President's Report (WB)

2. Treasurer's Report (RB)

Interim figures, ytd approx \$4,800 surplus. CiB surplus was almost 6K higher than last year, reflecting the increased participation. InterClub teams bills to date have been paid, but the small surplus may be eliminated depending on which teams take up prizes (unsure of the uptake of the prizes in the Summer Festival). Treasurer would like to see a change in the allocation of prizes for the Summer Festival, as there is inequity between the different categories (partly due to the changing format of the SFoB). Would like to see it as more definite. To be worked on, will put through a proposal that should be simpler and more effective. GNOT entry fees were roughly 1K less than last year, reflecting the move by the ABF to make the qualifying online. It is expected that the cost will be similar next year, as the same format has been decided on. Moved RB, seconded: CN. Carried.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report (NVV)

Calendar of events close to final, decided on by calendar committee (DW in charge). GNOT qualifying - playing online for such a long time isn't great. No one has seen the results of the survey (must have gone to Council), just that the same format has been chosen. Haven't heard back from Monaro, after it was pointed out it was the same as the Spring Nationals (Gold point, PQP event). Moved: NVV, seconded: KH. Carried.

4. Out of Session Decisions/Notifications (CN)

- Agreement of ABF constitution change to NSWBA to Bridge New South Wales Ltd.
- Lodgement of Change of Committee Particulars (Form A9) with Access CBR.
- Access CBR notification (dated 27 Sept) of change of Annual return requirements - *Incorporated Associations in the ACT no longer need to lodge an annual return with Access CBR (but they still need to complete the usual reports, for example the annual statement of account, and keep them for the last 7 financial years).*
- Sean Galbraith has agreed to be the reviewer for the current BFACT year.
- Initial agreement of dates for Monaro Congress - 18/19 Oct 2025 - clash with Spring Nationals - awaiting on response to confirm.
- Directors course initially planned for Nov 2024 cancelled, due to busy schedule. Possible to



have a one day PD for existing directors. To follow up with SY & BC.

Further Admin

- Stephen Fischer noted that there is a requirement for a Director Identification Number for each individual on a board of an organisation. To do with Australian Government legislation from 2019. Only have to do it once. Takes about 5-10min to do. MT & SF have one. Director is an individual with fiduciary etc responsibility. Hefty fine if not done. Action item: CN follow up. Also need to check with constitution to see if all voting members need to do it.
- MyGovId - for BFACT - RB & CN to follow up.

5. Appointment of Masterpoint Secretary

Deferred to next meeting as JD not at meeting. (NB JD did arrive later to this meeting)

6. CiB Report (RB)

Will send through Convenors report when finalised. Question re venue for 2025 still to be worked on. Will be away quite a bit in coming months. RB happy to be convenor next year, will talk further with Rob Hurst.

7. ANC Report (CN)

Had circulated a brief report on work to date that Lyn Carter has done. Still waiting on details from the Southern Cross - CN to follow up. CN noted there are various views as to the appropriate venue. SF noted if it was held at CBC, it would be best for CBC, not BFACT, to be the appropriate organisation to give a discount to their members. MT noted that parking (at the top parking area) during the day can be really problematic during the week. The regular players may be inconvenienced. It was also noted that the Croatian Club currently doesn't cater for people with disabilities. It was noted that the combination of CBC & the Croatian Club wouldn't cater for the numbers that were at Orange. We don't want to cap player numbers for the event. It is a showcase event. The question was asked is it worth negotiating with QT? Figures for the Rex - rough figures were given for SFOB. Venue question remains in abeyance. A budget to be worked on. Hopefully there will be more info for the next meeting. Also need to engage the clubs in the region with regard side events and participation, preferably in the next 6 months - CN/WB will work on it. NVV supplied the 2017 ANC report (at the racecourse) for reference.

8. Youth Report & CBC report (MT)

A youth player has requested to be the Youth Representative - for CBC, she often helps with the Youth days. CN & MT still to be on youth sub-committee & she can be on that too. WB said she can be invited to the BFACT meetings as an observer/contributor. She would also need a WVVP card. MT will contact her and see what works for all.

CBC had their AGM, MT President again and a number of new people on committee. Stephen to take over from Mary as CBC rep. Working on the education program, Jodi back and keen to work on that. Planning on doing 3 (was 2) beginner lessons, followed by an 8 week consolidation course. WJO'S has been in conversation with WB. WJO'S keen on helping BFACT get more teachers. Will be working at CBC for one of their courses. WJO'S & SG are working on teaching material that they are keen to share with the Clubs. SG is running a beginners course at SCBC which is quite popular. WJO'S - our teacher accreditation officer? When the ABF dissolved the position of Education Officer (Joan B accredited teachers & created teaching material) as the ABF reconsidered their position with regard this role. The teaching material is often under copyright from the developer of the material. BFACT can have a co-ordination role in this space, ie it doesn't take over the development of the material. If smaller clubs took on teaching, it would be beneficial to either have the material or help with getting a teacher. To date BFACT doesn't have a 'teaching' position but can have a 'player development officer' that could encompass education and youth. Discussion on current setup of beginner classes at SCBC. Suggestion that BFACT write to the clubs (in particular the smaller ones) to see what assistance could help in this space. DC to put together a paper on what could help, and then discussion with other clubs. Noted the issues with the demographics, and the need for lessons to encourage new members, as membership in some clubs is decreasing.



9. ABF report

Stephen is one of the current BFACT representatives (up for re-election at next AGM, May next year) and IT has indicated he would like to step down. Moved that Wendy is the replacement BFACT representative, taking over from Ian Thomson: DC, seconded: KH. Action item: CN to send an email to the Secretary & Secretariat at ABF tonight advising of decision, so that it is in time for the meeting next week (30th Nov).

Proposed changes to the constitution, as distributed previously, for discussion and vote at the upcoming ABF meeting. Clause 17, sub paragraph L, M & N. SF discussed how the voting works (councillors and supplemental councillors) and also views from other representatives. There should be a larger discussion regarding a review of the constitution. The proposed changes appear to be a blurring of roles. SF to talk to more representatives from other states.

Motion: BFACT does not support the proposed constitutional changes regarding Clause 17, scheduled for the meeting on 20th November (resolution 11.1), and instructs the BFACT representatives to vote against it. Moved: DC, seconded: CN Carried.

South Australia sent through an email regarding the reduction in subsidies for international players and a proposal to help mitigate this. Discussion, may need further analysis as to the best approach. The suggested fee may cover 1 team.

10. General Business

Deferred to next meeting:

Suggested meeting calendar for the year

Charity Quiz night

11. Next Meeting

Face to face, need to notify Manager at CBC (CN), key is not needed to lock up. For Fridays the afternoon Director will be there at the start (at the end of the Friday arvo session). Friday 20th 4:30pm, December. Hopefully a short meeting to focus on ANC issues. JD is often working Mondays & Fridays, but this will be holidays. Can do a mixture of face to face & zoom next year.

Meeting closed 6:50pm.



BFACT Council Meeting

4.25 pm Friday 25 July 2025 - Face to face (CBC) & Electronic (Zoom)

MINUTES

Attendees (all electronic): Wendy Boxall, Sherryn Dato, Roger Brake, Cathy Nichols, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan, Stephen Fischer (CBC), Keith Huggan (Capital), Toni Adams (Gungahlin)

Apologies: Judy Harris (Cootamundra), Andrew Dawes (Monaro)

Introduction: President welcomes members

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting of 20 June 2025 (with typo amendments)

Business arising from prior minutes:

Problems with BFACT website - Council agreed that a new hosting site was needed, tasked to Niek & Stephen. First 2 options from Stephens paper looked OK, Niek to follow up, may need to be resolved outside of session, may need transition.

Standing Reports

1. President's Report (& Youth report)

Attended Presidents meeting, ABF to be a voice for smaller jurisdictions, likely to be a change in the structure - Councillors/Board Members, recognised problem regarding the Certificates - to let the Masterpoint Centre know that your Club wants them. Allison is stepping down at the end of the term. Enjoyed the ANC, a big thank you to the non-playing captains.

2. Treasurer's Report (& CiB)

End of FY, unaudited accounts show a healthy surplus (due to lower travel subsidies & CiB). Next year will depend on ANC. The last couple of years people have supplied incorrect bank account details, problematic (as currently not easy to trace where the problem is in a batch payment). Going forward propose that the default option be to pay via MyABF, discussed re there is now a 2% charge if people want to withdraw that money. Bank transfers (like Osko) are improving the data matching, another option is PayID. In future to ask players their preference. With the InterClub the host club and BFACT share the profit or loss, to be worked out with KH. Treasurer to supply regular financial statements for each meeting.

CiB registrations going well, at the moment 61 pairs for the Friday, 46 tables for the teams. Have been in contact with Jodi & Steve G to help with promotion for the novice/restricted. A number of directors are lined up. Partnership desk up & running. In discussion with Julian regarding BFACT & MyABF, ability to charge.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report

Council supported the move of selection dates (for ANC). Initial flyer for Gala Pairs sent out. Low numbers for InterClub, should it be continued? It will not be held in 2026, to look at any proposals next year. It was noted that ideal numbers are 20 teams minimum.

Other Agenda Items (if not covered above)



4. Masterpoint Secretary report

Inconsistency re sometimes the bill is via email, sometimes just online. Request for access to be given to Treasurer (they can then see the reports/invoices). Also noted that a backup Masterpoint Secretary is needed, Gungahlin may have someone who can do it.

5. ANC Report (CN or LC)

The website is live, any feedback welcome. In discussions regarding a request for reciprocal prizes with the Spring Nationals. The National Convention Bureau will add the 2026 ANC to their list of events that they send to their members.

6. CBC report (SF)

7. ABF report (SF or WB)

8. General Business

Very positive feedback from Gungahlin regarding the recent Directors course (John McIlraith a terrific resource). Still working on beginner Director training (refer to email), preliminary talk with a number of Clubs, possibly run a pilot. Capital 5-6 tables during winter, some have moved to day time or online. Please let players at your Club know there is a Partnership Desk for CiB and also if any can be subs. Jamieson bridge club (not affiliated) folded, some of the excess equipment has been passed to clubs at aged care facilities, for example Goodwin Crace. KH to send thank you to Kerry from Canberra Labor Club for their help with the InterClub.

9. Next Meeting

Meeting closed 5:15pm. Next meeting scheduled for Friday 5th September, online only, 4:25pm.



BFACT Council Meeting

4:40 pm Friday 28 March 2025 - Face to face (CBC) & Electronic (Zoom)

MINUTES

Present: Wendy Boxall, Roger Brake(e), Cathy Nichols, Niek Van Vucht, John Donovan(e), Stephen Fischer (CBC), Keith Huggan (Capital), Toni Adams (Gungahlin), Alex Hewat (SCBC), Lyn Carter

Apologies: Richard Hills, David Clarkson, Judy Harris (Cootamundra), Andrew Dawes (Monaro),

Introduction: President welcomes members

Confirmation of minutes of previous Council meeting of 14 Feb 2025, Moved SF, seconded CN

Business arising from prior minutes: Outstanding directors exam/s in progress.

ANC Report (LC) - Booking has been assured, have been told that contract is with their solicitor. Will forward once received, to be reviewed. Dinner costings, tables of 8, platter then 2 courses alternate drop with 2 bottles of wine, to sell @\$100. This gives a slight margin that will also cover the complimentary tickets. There will be a presentation at the end of the Butler - most cost effective option is to pay for the bar for 1 hour, minimum cost \$500, preferably paying for wine at the least expensive option. Secretary to forward draft program, would like feedback by 7th April. John B suggestion of a South East County Championship Pairs & Teams events, mirrors what happened in Orange. Request for any ideas to improve the graded pairs. The interstate Pairs Championship is a 1 day event when it was a 2 day event in Orange. There are events for people to move into when unsuccessful in semi finals etc. The restricted butler is on a weekend as it may be popular. There are Champagne Pairs at CBC on the Friday night before the ANC to welcome people already here. The Interclub teams has been moved out of the congress as we are targeting the same people in other events (2026 is CBC turn to run Interclub).

There has been discussions on board dealing - still waiting on proposal from CBC, re capacity, security etc. Other option is Laura Ginnan, rate slightly higher than what was paid for CiB 2024. Could be up to 10K boards needed. Laura is using the ABF boards to do dealing for the Victor Champion Cup & the SFOB, do we offer to pay some of the transport costs? Chasing up volunteers, would like volunteers from a variety of the Clubs. Do Clubs want to move their 'normal' sessions to Belconnen during the ANC? Representatives to take the suggestion to their committees & report back.

Standing Reports

1. President's Report & Youth report

ABF is keen to move forward on their communication strategy, they want to directly communicate with players &/or clubs. There is a working group looking at it. Secretary to forward email for comment, feedback by 7th April. Jake Andrew, a member of bridge NSW wants to build collaboration between BANSW, VicBA and BFACT. Wants feedback & attribution when using their material. Work ongoing regarding Directors with John McIlraith (semi out of retirement) - particularly regional (Bruce Crossman has helped them). NSW has online leagues on Monday, asking that we promote it (note CBC has Real Bridge Sessions on Mondays). Online works for people where travel can be an issue. Non playing Captains for the ANC discussed, preferred but not always straightforward. BFACT hasn't set the subsidy, waiting on Barry Turner Fund decision, generally 50/50. Noted that BFACT pays for a chaperone per family unit. A CBC Youth report has been received, secretary to distribute. Agreed that CBC pays for the receipts then invoices BFACT. CBC youth sub-committee has Mary as the Chair,



BFACT President, Liam & Will J O'S. Attempting to get a bridge program into schools, difficult to do cold calling. List of Bridge players retired from Schools, to be supplied. Suggestion to ask the current youth cohort what would work for them. ABF Fyshwick premises - carried that SF put together a proposal regarding BFACT taking on 'custodianship'.

2. Treasurer's Report (& CiB)

Quiet time of year, currently a healthy surplus, upcoming costs the selection events, incoming the affiliation fees. President & Treasurer to visit the venue for CiB 2024 on Monday. There has been some negative feedback regarding the move, to emphasise that the move is mainly to make sure the venue is fit for purpose for the 2026 ANC. Spoke to ED ABF regarding use of the ABF resources, to send to SF. Working on sponsorship. Discussions with Tournament Secretary regarding updates to the regulations. Tim Bourke is donating \$5K prize money for CiB. The Open Teams event will be renamed in recognition of Margaret Bourke. Tim has been a member of SCBC in the past - President to check if he wants that to continue as the Club hasn't heard from him. Treasurer requested approval to buy a microphone - can be used for BFACT events in CBC and elsewhere, approved.

3. Tournament Secretary's Report

The *bfact.com.au* emails don't work. Will move information next month. The participation in the trials is dropping, more promotion needed by clubs.

Other Agenda Items (if not covered above)

4. Notification of Out of Session Decision

Funding for youth session on Friday 21 March, pizzas (jointly with CBC).

5. Masterpoint Secretary report

Nothing of note, master points for the team selections in process.

6. CBC report (SF)

BFACT has agreed for the upcoming CBC novice event to be a BFACT event. ?All clubs to run qualifying for GNOT gala pairs & the Club pays for that entry. The CBC knockout is in June.

8. ABF report (SF&WB)

Carried unanimously that SF be reaffirmed as BFACT ABF councillor for the next two years (secretary to give notice for the ABF AGM). Moved WB, seconded RB. There will be an ABF fee increase, SF talked to the reasons behind that. Council resolved that BFACT will in principal support a reasonable increase in capitation fees. Question asked has MyABF performed as well as expected/on track. The AGM papers will be available a week or two beforehand.

9. General Business

The next InterClub is due to be hosted by Capital, BFACT has no objection to JD being Convenor or Director, carried. Recruitment/retention of new players to discuss offline.

10. Next Meeting

Meeting finished at 6:25pm. Next meeting 9th May 4:20pm, electronic & face to face, CBC.