

4th February, 2009

Mr. Keith McDonald
President
Qld Bridge Association
10 Skerry Street
Kenmore Qld 4069

Dear Keith,

The ABF has received a submission from Nick Beaumont asking that the Victorian Bridge Association be removed from administering bridge in Victoria. It is your democratic right to debate the Victorian "situation" at ABF level, but we, as a Council, over the past five years have put in place, and continue to put in place, many initiatives to improve the overall playing and organization of bridge in this state.

The VBA is in a strong financial position and is able to provide many services to the state clubs for the low cost of \$3.00 per player.

The VBA monthly newsletter, which appears on our website, is second to none in Australia. Hard copies are sent to all affiliated clubs keeping them informed of results, upcoming events, bridge articles and other items of interest. All clubs have the opportunity to submit articles of particular interest to them.

Attached is a copy of a letter written by Cathy Chua for Australian Bridge in response to one from Nick Beaumont regarding ABF intervention in Victoria. It refers to a further article written by Cathy on bridge administration in Australia which appears on her blog <http://swatchless.wordpress.com>.

Most of the issues raised by Nick Beaumont have been answered in these articles.

One important point is that only a handful of Victorian players are aware of Nick Beaumont's submission. ERBA, one of the Victorian regions, passed a motion at their most recent meeting to write to the ABF and express their dissent with Nick Beaumont's submission.

The FABCV committee, of which Nick Beaumont is President, currently consists of five players and it appears that these people are the only ones who had prior knowledge of the submission to the ABF. Four thousand, seven hundred and twenty five players (4,725) are unaware of what has been done, supposedly on their behalf.

While we realize that the administration of bridge in Victoria is not perfect we have made moves to bring in representatives from country areas. Regional representatives have been invited onto the VBA Council and this continues to receive positive feedback. This process has been successfully supported for the past 5 years and as further regions are organized, they too, will be represented on the VBA Council.

This letter is for your information and we thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Jeannette Collins
President