

Australian Bridge

7 December 2008

Dear Paul,

For many years, clubs and members of the Victoria bridge community have been dissatisfied with the state's administration. Longstanding issues include:

1. The fundamentally undemocratic basis of bridge administration in Victoria. The Victorian Bridge Association's (VBA) council, elected by and from VBA members only, runs bridge in the State.
2. Victoria's poor record in open national championships and open Australian team selections.
3. Victoria not having a fully useable bridge centre. Local councils have imposed use and parking restrictions on the VBA's premises.
4. Victoria, per head of population, has about half the number of registered players compared with the rest of Australia.
5. The Victorian Bridge Association's (VBA) poor communication, planning, and promotion of the game in Victoria.
6. The conflict of interest inherent in the state body running a local club.

The Federation of affiliated Bridge clubs of Victoria (FABCV) executive has submitted documents comprising a strongly argued case for the Australian Bridge Federation to replace the Victorian Bridge Association as its constituent and sole authority in Victoria by a body elected by and from all affiliated clubs. Those interested can view the documents at <http://groups.google.com.au/group/vicbridgeforum/>.

I stress three points:

1. It is easy and tempting to blame individuals. This is wrong; the fundamental problems are those of structure and organisational culture.
2. The FABCV has repeatedly and fruitlessly tried to initiate negotiations with the VBA.
3. The FABCV, essentially a lobbying organization, does not wish to run bridge in Victoria. Bridge should be run by a new body (VicBridge??) elected by and from all affiliated clubs.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Beaumont

President

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