



## MINUTES OF MEETING OF VBA COUNCIL

Held 12 January 2013. (Meeting 1 2013)  
At the VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

### **Chairperson: Mr B. Thompson**

The meeting opened at 10.32am

#### **Present:**

Mr B. Thompson	President
Ms K. Frazer	Secretary
Mrs J. Thompson	
Mr R. Stewart	
Ms T. Kay	
Mr R. Berlinski	
Mr D. Morgan	

In Attendance: Ms P, Dingwall (ERBA), Ms J. Hackett (NRBA)

Mr B. Thompson took the chair & opened the meeting.

#### **1. Apologies:**

Mr N. Ewart, Mr P. Fent

#### **2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

##### **Motion 1:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 19 December 2012 be accepted:

Moved: Mrs J. Thompson

Seconded: Mr R. Stewart

**CARRIED**

#### **2.1 Matters Arising from the minutes**

2.1a) Appointment of regional representatives

The secretary reported that Ms J. Hackett had advised her that the representative for Northern Region was still to be determined and that she would advise the VBA prior to the February meeting.

Ms P. Dingwall advised the meeting that she intended to take up the position to represent Eastern Region, following confirmation of her appointment as Regional President at the region's meeting in February.

#### **3. Correspondence**

##### **Correspondence In:**

1. ASIC - notification of change of directors
2. Knox Bridge Club regarding Capitation Fee Increase
3. Ballarat Bridge Club - further correspondence on Capitation Fee Increase

The secretary briefed the council on the content of the letter from Ballarat & sought advice on the next steps. The secretary was asked to send a further response to Ballarat Bridge Club addressing specific issues raised.

4. ABF - Bridge for Brains notification
5. ABF - Marketing Grant Reporting Requirements

Mrs C. Lachman & Mr N. Ewart to prepare the response on expenditure in 2012 on behalf of the VBA

6. ABF - Letter from Helen McAdam re GNRP cessation

#### **Correspondence Out:**

1. Knox Bridge Club regarding Capitation Fee Increase
2. Regional Presidents - Invitation to join VBA Council
3. R. Gallus - re letter of appeal
4. H. McAdam re GNRP cessation

#### **4. General Business**

##### a) Dendy Park

The meeting discussed the advertised red point events conducted over the Xmas/New Year period. The meeting agreed to publish an article in the VBA bulletin & on the website advising players on the master-pointing policy for Red Point events with respect to the events conducted at Dendy Park during this period.

The meeting resolved that the secretary would write to Dendy Park regarding this matter.

##### b) Play Protocols

Mr R. Berlinski raised the matter of bidding being left on the table during play which is outside the rules of the game. The meeting agreed that the directors would be asked to reinforce the correct behaviour. M&TC will also establish a series of articles in the VBA bulletin covering rules of the game.

##### c) Interim Committee Update

Mrs J. Thompson reported the interim committee met yesterday (11th January). Letters were sent to 55 clubs. 42 responded over time. The current result was reported at 31 in favour; 5 against; 6 undecided. At the meeting Jenny outlined the steps VBA had put in place to address the issues raised by the IC and after some discussion it was decided that the Chair of the IC would write to the VBA outlining the responses and ask to meet.

##### d) Articles of Association Changes (election procedures & regional representation)

Mr B. Thompson outlined the process undertaken to date. The meeting resolved to establish a series of consultation meetings with the members regarding the proposal, and establish timeframes with Prof M. Bryan to develop the changes further.

##### e) 2013 Planning

#### **Club**

Mr B. Thompson had circulated an extensive briefing paper which outlined the current position within the club. The meeting pursued the ideas outlined in the document.

The issue of overall club ambience was discussed. The meeting resolved to purchase new tablecloths for the rooms. Mr R. Berlinski to write up the measurements & acquire the

material. The council members and club manager will canvas the membership for people willing to make up the covers.

Mr R. Berlinski advised estimated costs regarding repainting parts of the clubroom. Ms T. Kay to review proposed colours & agree with Mr R. Berlinski. Mr R. Berlinski to liaise timing, quotes and work with the club manager C. Lachman.

**Motion 2:**

That up to \$4000 be authorised as expenditure for the painting of the club rooms.

Moved: Mr R. Berlinski

Seconded: Ms K. Frazer

**CARRIED**

Website: Mr R. Stewart to develop a plan for re-configuration and on-going management with the IT/Web sub-committee to present to the next meeting.

Library: Creation of a more useable library was seen as desirable by the council. The library books need to be properly catalogued. A policy document needs to be prepared. R. Berlinski, D. Morgan & R. Stewart to develop a proposal.

Club maintenance: Overall on-going maintenance is the responsibility of the club manager. B. Thompson to ensure an appropriate standard is maintained.

Playing environment: MTC to address several issues raised about play, information dissemination & results.

Member communication & retention: Some discussion ensued regarding the manner of communication to members. It was noted that the appointment of the marketing officer would address some of these issues. Recognition for winners of events would be enhanced.

Event formats: - The meeting noted that better follow up needs to occur after events as to their conduct, effectiveness & popularity. MT&C was asked to ensure the review occurred.

Partner Arrangement: - A more formalised & advertised mechanism for arranging partnerships needs establishing. Marketing & Promotions Officer assigned this responsibility.

Classes: - A one-day bridge crash course is to be run in February to get people interested without the need to commit to a full set of lessons.

New sessions - some new event formats were discussed. Some session times were also discussed. No decision was made on this at this time.

Ms J. Hackett joined the meeting

**State**

Mr B. Thompson outlined an objective for the state of increasing membership by 5000 members in 5 years. Three key activities were identified to progress towards this goal.

1) Getting existing unaffiliated clubs to affiliate.

- A benefits list to be prepared (e.g. insurance, social benefits, congresses, structured play; D&O insurance, access to directors & director training). This activity would be led by the Marketing & Development officer with input from others.
- An information package will be prepared outlining the benefits of affiliation for distribution to unaffiliated clubs.

2) Creating new clubs in un-serviced areas.

- Approach U3A about running lessons
- Identify existing bridge players who might be willing to get something going in an unserved area
- Speak to local organisations / community groups about getting a bridge group going
- Funding teaching tours for regions

### 3) Teach new players in existing areas

- The meeting resolved to apply to the ABF for funding for 2 teaching tours around Victoria in 2013

The benefits of seeking to encourage people to play online, especially where there is no local bridge club in their town, were discussed. Whilst there is some hesitancy about taking players away from clubs to play at home, the meeting acknowledged this is clearly a growing area which many players enjoy & ways to exploit this would be pursued.

Ms J Hackett raised a concern regarding how to enhance director training & technology training for the regional areas. The meeting agreed to address this in coming months.

#### f) Implementation of Teaching program at the VBA

The meeting agreed to meet further with Jeff Fust regarding his proposal for conducting teaching sessions at the club. In principle the meeting agreed to progress to a formalised arrangement & Mr B. Thompson would further the development of an agreement.

#### g) Confirmation of sub-committees for 2013

The secretary will update the current list based on the discussions to date for confirmation at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting: February 13 commencing at 6.00pm**

The meeting closed at 4.00p.m.