

MINUTES OF MEETING OF VBA COUNCIL

Held 12 March 2014. (Meeting 3 2014)

By SKYPE & online

Chairperson: Mr B. Thompson

The meeting opened at 5.35pm

**Present:**

Mr B. Thompson	President
Ms K. Frazer	Secretary
Mr N. Ewart	Treasurer
Mr D. Morgan	
Mr R. Berlinski	
Mr R. Quirk	
Ms S. Livingston	
Ms P. Dingwall	

Also Present: Ms Cathie Lachman

Mr B. Thompson chaired the meeting which opened at 5.35pm.

1. **Apologies**

Ms Jenny Thompson; Ms Terri Kay

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

**Motion 1:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 12 February 2014 be accepted:

Moved: Mr B. Thompson

Seconded: Mr. D Morgan

CARRIED

The President welcomed the new councillors to the meeting - Mr Rob Quirk and Ms Sarah Livingston, and also welcomed back Ms Pam Dingwall who is rejoining the council.

3. **Correspondence**

**Correspondence In:**

1. ABF: Tournament Regulations Amendment
2. Mr J. Puusepp: Continuing Correspondence
3. ABF, S. Mulcahy: Invitation to National Marketing Workshop

The meeting suggested that Ms Terri Kay be nominated to attend the workshop on the VBA's behalf. Mr B. Thompson will put this proposal to Ms T. Kay.

4. Q. Van Abbe: Interim Committee letter on new VBA Structure

Ms K. Frazer suggested discussion on the Interim committee correspondence be covered as part of sub-committee reports.

**Correspondence Out:**

1. ASIC: Confirmation of Director Changes
2. Club Secretaries Update
3. ANZ Bank - Closure of Future Bridge Account as agreed with Q. Van Abbe

Note: Funds will now be managed in the same manner as other special purpose accounts.

4. Oz Bridge & Melbourne Contract Bridge Centre: Request for payment of Overdue Capitation Fees.
  5. MV Bridge Club regarding a Nationwide Pairs Masterpoint issue
4. **Sub-committee Reports**

**a) Club Manager's Report**

**Motion 2:**

That the new member application from Mr Taylor Spence be ratified

Moved: Ms K. Frazer

Seconded: Mr. R. Berlinski

CARRIED

**Outstanding capitation fees:**

Ms Lachman reported that two clubs had outstanding dues. Oz Bridge have agreed to payment by the end of March.

Melbourne Contract Bridge Centre have indicated they will not pay their capitation.

The meeting noted that non-payment of capitation fees will eventually lead to disaffiliation of the club. It was also noted that unfinancial clubs will not be covered by the VBA or ABF insurance policies for Public Liability and Directors and Officers.

**Liquor Licensing.**

All required documentation is now complete and ready for submission. The meeting acknowledged the work of Ralph Berlinski and Phillip Nankin in arranging for the appropriate drawings of the building to be made for inclusion with the submission. The council thanks Phillip Nankin for the meticulous effort he has put into the detailed drawings.

**b) Match & Tournament Committee**

Mr D. Morgan advised that restructuring of the committee to reduce the size and to ensure a more balanced representation of player levels has concluded. Mr Simon Hinge and Mr Leigh Gold have agreed to step down from the committee and the VBA thanks them for their services over several years. Mr Len Meyer has agreed to join the M&T committee.

**Motion 3:**

That the following members be ratified as the M&T for 2014

Len Meyer; Laura Ginnan; Laurie Kelso; Arthur Robbins; Paula Schroor; Justin Stark; Ben Thompson; David Morgan (Chair).

Moved: Mr D. Morgan

Seconded: Mr N. Ewart

CARRIED

Mr Morgan noted that M&T are attempting to broaden the range of events on offer for state events. Examples are the Speedball event to be held on the eve of the VCC, and a proposed Goulash event on Saturday April 5th. The idea is to make some more fun events.

**c) Interim Committee Report**

As a VBA representative on the Interim Committee, Ms J. Thompson had submitted a written report on activity to the meeting. The meeting also discussed the letter from Mr Q. Van Abbe which expressed some dissatisfaction with the new structure of the VBA council, but which acknowledged no other alternative proposal was currently available. The IC requested that Special Councillors provide a report on how the new arrangement has worked at the

end of the 12 month period. The letter also expressed disappointment that timely financial display was not available on the VBA website.

The President suggested that Special Councillors should be entitled to provide a view on how the new structure is operating, but the VBA Council would not require this to occur.

The Secretary noted that Financial data was made available on the website. The half yearly summary of data which included a state/club split was provided in the April minutes; and full year audited financials were provided as part of the AGM papers.

## 5. **General Business**

### a) Director Training

Ms P. Dingwall advised that more basic director training has been requested, as some of the courses run to date are too advanced for basic club director needs. The President advised that a working session was held last year to develop a broad outline for a framework for this. Laurie Kelso & Peter Marley have subsequently developed the outline further. A draft framework is almost complete and we expect to circulate this to clubs shortly for comment.

Ms Livingston commented there is a lack of director resources, and feels the director training process is overly long, particularly in getting results from the tests.

Ms Dingwall commented that ERBA has an email loop system which provides some guidance for directors.

Ms Lachman advised that the State Director's activities outside the VBA have grown exponentially in the past year and it may be prudent to review allocation of responsibilities. Several possibilities were discussed and this matter will require further consideration.

### b) ABF AGM - Delegate stand-in for S. Hinge

Mr Thompson advised that one of the VBA delegates to the ABFAGM, Mr S Hinge, would be unavailable to attend and as per the ABF regulations a deputy could be appointed to attend in his place.

#### **Motion 4:**

That Mr B. Thompson be appointed as the deputy councillor at the ABF AGM.

**Moved:** Mr N. Ewart

**Seconded:** Ms P. Dingwall

CARRIED

### c) Travel Subsidy Policy

The meeting discussed the policy for provision of subsidies for representative teams to the ANC. The Finance sub-committee had reviewed the subsidy and recommended that the subsidy remain unchanged from 2013 levels.

- \$30 per diem living allowance for team competition days

- Air travel subsidy based on the cheapest fare available as at June 1.

- Ticket to the Presentation Dinner

Ms Livingston queried whether this subsidy was more or less generous than other states. Mr Thompson responded that other states were generally more generous with team subsidies.

#### **Motion 5:**

That the travel subsidy be maintained at 2013 levels.

**Moved:** Mr K. Frazer

**Seconded:** Mr B. Thompson

CARRIED

Ms Frazer advised that it was difficult to meet the requirement for notification to teams by end of first week in March given team selections had not been completed by that date. The meeting agreed the policy would be altered to require posting the policy on the Open Playoff website by end of March.

Some discussion on sponsorship - Terri Kay to be requested to develop a plan for pursuing sponsorship and seek interested people to participate in progressing this.

d) Annual review of sub-committees and appointments

The meeting reviewed the current sub-committees and appointments.

- The policy review sub-committee's work which involved revising the articles of association has concluded. Recommendation the sub-committee be dissolved. Council thanked the sub-committee of J. Thompson, K. Frazer, M. Bryan, N. Ewart and M. Woods for their extensive effort in managing this task.
- Responsibilities of the Marketing Committee would change to remove website management. Membership to become B. Thompson, T. Kay (Chair), R. Quirk. Council thanked the out-going members L. Ginnan and P. Fent.
- A new sub-committee to assist with Website management would be formed. This sub-committee will comprise B. Thompson, S. Livingston and R. Thomson.
- The IT sub-committee was established to manage the technology upgrade undertaken in 2013. Recommendation is that the sub-committee be dissolved. Council thanked the members R. Stewart, R. Berlinski & N. Ewart for their efforts in managing the upgrade. Mr S. Weisz will continue to manage specific IT issues for the club.

**Motion 5:**

That the changes to sub-committees and appointments as noted be ratified.

**Moved:** Mr B. Thompson

**Seconded:** Mr D. Morgan

CARRIED

The secretary will update the sub-committee & appointments record and circulate to council.

It was noted that Robert Ellery has agreed to convene the Anzac Day Swiss Pairs Event at the VBA.

e) Club Building Matters - Air Conditioning

Mr Berlinski raised the matter of the club's air conditioning performance and the council agreed to get an air conditioning mechanic in to provide a proper recommendation. Mr Berlinski to action this.

**Next meeting:**

April 16th, 2014 at 5.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Chairperson

Mr B. Thompson