

MINUTES OF MEETING OF VBA COUNCIL

Held 10 January 2015. (Meeting 1 2015)

The meeting opened at 10.35 am

**Present:**

Mr B. Thompson	President
Ms K. Frazer	Secretary
Mr R. Quirk	
Mr D. Sheather	
Mr D. Morgan	
Mrs J. Thompson	
Mr C. Lovelock	
Mr J. Fust	
Ms H. MacAdam	
Ms J. Thompson	

Mr Thompson chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Mr N. Ewart

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

**Resolution 1:**

That the minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2015 be accepted.

**Moved:** Mr R. Quirk    **Seconded:** Mr D. Sheather

**CARRIED**

**Matters Arising & Outstanding Items**

- i. Subsidies for country players in State team events

The finance sub-committee recommendation is to pay each region an annual subsidy of \$250 for state/regional playoffs.

**Resolution 2:**

That the finance sub-committee recommendation be accepted.

**Moved:** Ms K. Frazer    **Seconded:** Mr B. Thompson

**CARRIED**

- ii. Selection process for restricted pairs for ANC

Mr Morgan reported that a process has been agreed. The Simultaneous Pairs event which is conducted in all clubs during March/April will be used to select the 20 highest-placed restricted pairs (under 300 masterpoints as at 1/1/15) to contest a selection event to be held in conjunction with the Simultaneous Pairs final on May 9th.

A communication plan to clubs and restricted players on the process for the selection and entry event will be undertaken in the lead up to Simultaneous Pairs Qualifying event.

- iii. VBA Website - web master, congress management & member database software

An interim webmaster, Margaret Yuill, has been appointed. Ms Yuill will provide basic maintenance whilst a permanent solution is sought.

Some options for web design are being considered. An option for consideration is to develop a club website design modelled on the state web design that could be used by clubs.

- iv. Revised affiliation policy (Carry/over)

### **3. Correspondence**

#### **Correspondence In:**

ASIC - Notice of change of directors

ABF: Notification of official logo

#### **Correspondence Out:**

Nil

### **4. Sub-committees & Reports**

#### **a. Finance sub-committee**

Ms Frazer reported that in addition to addressing the outstanding action items, the sub-committee had discussed the structure of employee contracts, some of which require review from time to time.

#### **b. MTC minutes for ratification**

Mr Morgan advised there have been a number of questions, particularly from women players, regarding the new selection process for state teams. A Q&A document was being prepared which would answer many of these, however it was recognised in hindsight that the communication to players could have been more detailed.

#### **Resolution 3:**

That the MTC minutes of November 5, 2014 be ratified.

**Moved:** Ms K. Frazer    **Seconded:** Ms. J. Thompson

**CARRIED**

#### **c. Interim committee**

Mr Quirk reported that the special councillors have been contacted by Mr Van Abbe for broad feedback on the new structure and VBA council operation.

d. Club Manager Report

Ms Lachman reported that various building matters had been rectified during the past month, however her work had been impeded by issues with the VBA's network. The ISP's service delivery has been poor, and cost several days of outage.

**Resolution 4:**

That D. Middleton, R. Lanning, M Tencer & C. Cruss be ratified as members.

Moved: Ms B. Thompson      Seconded: Mr D. Sheather

**CARRIED**

5. **General Business - Planning Matters**

Mr Thompson presented some highlights from 2014 activity. In particular it was encouraging to see the success of the crash course efforts in rebuilding supervised play class numbers. Crash course continues to be rolled out across the state.

**5.1 State-wide awards for excellence**

Ms Frazer presented a proposal on the introduction of State-wide awards of excellence to recognise members across the state in three categories - Teacher, Official and Volunteer. Addition of a fourth category of Sportsmanship was agreed. The time frame is broadly mail out to clubs in February, nominations by end April, selection during May. Presentations during VCC during Friday evening presentations in June.

A selection panel needs to be determined, however it was suggested this comprise the President of the VBA and the Presidents of each of the three regions.

The council resolved to implement the program. K. Frazer to develop mail-out pack for clubs.

The council also agreed that introduction of a contribution award and sportsmanship award for members of the VBA club had merit, and would be undertaken. It was suggested that other regions and/or clubs may like to implement similar schemes.

**5.2 Increasing Participation - Transitioning players from supervised to duplicate to congress**

The impetus for increasing participation has come from comments made about congress team event participation.

Ms Frazer presented the player pathway through the stages of bridge competition and proposed some tactics on increasing participation in club duplicate sessions and congresses. Some elements are club responsibilities, however the state could provide generic assistance in several areas which were discussed:

**5.3 Advancement of skills/system**

Generic system cards: Many players don't know how to complete one. Availability of a card e.g. "VBA Standard", "VBA ACOL" on the website with instructions on "how to" complete would assist.

Mr Fust suggested development of a system card demo video - how to complete a system card would also be useful.

Improving event understanding: Creation of a one-pager that outlines the differences between pairs, matchpoints, imps, etc.

A player resource section on the VBA website would be a useful as a tool for storage of the above type of information.

#### **5.4 Increasing participation in teams competition at clubs**

Ms MacAdam put forward the idea of a "Lucky dip teams" competition. Pairs put into two hats (one weaker / one stronger hat). Draw for partners. This had proved successful in introducing less experienced players to teams competition.

#### **5.5 Increasing participation in congresses**

**Email/Mail** to prior year participants.

Development of mailing list management & opt-in for players on congress notifications would be a requirement to implement this.

In the short term, individual clubs could contact prior participants for their own congresses to encourage future entry.

**Encourage use of Early bird discounts** at club congresses. VCC experience showed a 12% increase in participation through EBD offers.

It was noted that the VBA experience of providing duplicate coupon packets had also been well received & increased participation in duplicate.

**Teaching Congress:** An annual one-day event to introduce newer players to congress formats. E.g. Two round pairs event. Two round teams event. Low entry fee. Lunch. No Masterpoints. Fun prizes

MTC to determine a suitable date.

**Website data:** The website pages need to be up to date, however this is a club responsibility which is not always recognised. Clubs need reminders to advise updates for their website congress promotion.

#### **5.6 Enable players who want to play congresses to do so.**

Addressing the issues of players who cannot find partners/team-mates is difficult. Two ideas were proposed which could be developed further:

- Development of website tool to support partner / pair finding should be considered
- Identify congress "mentors" around the state - people who are willing to help players find pairs/team-mates.

#### **5.7 Availability of appropriate incentives to encourage participation**

- Attain a State-wide Congress sponsor
- Development of participation rewards

Ms MacAdam to investigate opportunities for a state-wide Congress sponsor. Sponsorship to be used to support "lucky entry" style prizes at every congress giving everyone a chance to win something.

Some further discussion on the participation theme identified the following:

A series of articles in the VBA bulletin about transitioning players from supervised to duplicate would be undertaken. This would include ideas from around the state on how to

get players to take the next step and other suggestions. Mr Jacobs to be asked to co-ordinate articles based on input from various clubs/individuals.

#### **5.8. Teaching support (teacher training, women's program, schools, crash courses ...)**

VBA Academy: Resources available at VBA website to support bridge teaching.

VBA needs a model that allows prospective players to start lessons at a time convenient to them. An online teaching platform was outlined, and the council agreed further exploration of this idea would be worthwhile.

J. Butts visit for 2015 set for March. J Fust to liaise with J. Butts' on further date availability and offering opportunity to clubs for further use of J. Butts' time.

J. Fust also suggested use of online teaching material resources that are readily available which could be used in addition to the J. Butts material. Council agreed exploration of alternative methodologies for teaching would be worthwhile.

**Bridge in schools:** The program has been slow gaining traction. Further effort to identify club players who are willing to act as teachers in various areas need done. Identification of a second person to act as additional co-ordinator is advised.

#### **5.9 Location & parking**

The parking issues at the VBA continue to raise questions about the suitability of the Poath Rd location. It is likely these problems will be exacerbated in the medium term by the re-development of the local garage which is used for evening parking.

Ms MacAdam to explore some options for communication with council on parking.

Ms Frazer to investigate Caulfield racecourse as a potential premises.

#### **5.10 Marketing & grants**

Council should consider identifying a person to write grant applications. Person might be paid on a commission basis.

Council will develop a pro-forma for grant applications for clubs to use for community based grants. Ms MacAdam also indicated she is willing to assist in and advise on grant applications.

D. Sheather left the meeting.

Website design was briefly discussed. Ms Frazer to circulate web criteria discussed by finance sub-committee to council.

#### **Resolution 5:**

That Ms A. Talbot and Ms H. MacAdam be appointed to the Education sub-committee.

**Moved:** Mr J. Fust      **Seconded:** Ms K. Frazer

**CARRIED**

The Education sub-committee is chaired by Mr J. Fust.

**Next meeting:**

February 18th, 2015

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

Chairperson

Mr B. Thompson