

MINUTES OF MEETING OF VBA COUNCIL

Held 8 July 2015. (Meeting 7 2015)

The meeting opened at 5.37 pm

Present:

Mr B. Thompson	President
Ms K. Frazer	Secretary
Mr N. Ewart	Treasurer
Mr R. Quirk	
Mr J. Fust	
Ms J. Thompson	
Mr D. Sheather	
Mr D. Morgan	

In attendance: Ms C. Lachman

Mr B Thompson opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Ms H. McAdam; Mr R. Giles

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

Resolution 1:

That the minutes of the meeting of 27 May 2015 be accepted.

Moved: Ms. K. Frazer

Seconded: Mr J Fust

CARRIED

Matters Arising & Outstanding Items

Review of action items was deferred

3. **Correspondence**

In:

- i. ASIC - confirmation of online access
- ii. ASIC confirmation of cessation of director - C. Lovelock.
- iii. ABF: Confirmation of approval of motions for AGM
- iv. Q. Van Abbe - re VBA to run simultaneous pairs event

The secretary advised an email had been received from Q. Van Abbe regarding the management of the Simultaneous Pairs event. The email implied that the FABCV was managing the SP event on behalf of the VBA.

The meeting noted that the VBA had been treating the event as an FABCV event, however the offer for the VBA to resume control and responsibility of the Simultaneous Pairs event was accepted.

Secretary to respond to Q. Van Abbe.

Mr Sheather asked whether it was true that the Croft teams was to be abandoned, and the meeting requested the secretary to enquire with the FABCV regarding the status of this event.

- v. TBIB - re format of logo on VBA website

- vi. Joe Lunn - re promotion of card holders

Out:

- i. Club Secretaries Information June

4. **Sub-committees & Reports**

a. Finance

The treasurer submitted the report to June 30th.

He reported that cashflows are up over 2014, and expenses are running on track with 2014. Some costs associated with ANC are still to be received. Admin expenses are slightly higher than forecast due to some IT issues earlier in the year.

b. VCC

The convenors tabled the final report for 2015 VCC. Financially the VCC delivered slightly under \$12,000 profit to state bridge. Some profit impacts were caused by the introduction of increased prizes across the fields.

Some changes that were implemented in 2015 were well received by players, and minor adjustments to advertising material for 2016 is planned to ensure more effective communication of event criteria in the restricted categories. The rescheduling of the Barrier Reef events should lead to a higher entry in 2016 compared with 2015.

Ms Frazer also noted the two year sponsorship from TBIB for the VCC, and also flagged the likelihood of some sponsorship for 2016 from Quest Hotels with whom she is meeting later in July.

The President noted that the VBA Awards for Excellence presentations which were conducted on the Friday night created a buzz, and that the award recipients were delighted with the recognition afforded. The meeting congratulated Kim Frazer for suggesting these awards.

The meeting suggested that inviting close living relatives of individuals after whom trophies were named to present them might be worth consideration.

The council thanked the co-convenors Kim Frazer & Neil Ewart for their efforts in once again ensuring the success of the event.

c. Education

Mr Fust commented on his observations of the effect of conducting a series of lessons in his club, and the impact this has had on re-invigorating interest in bridge.

The lack of partners for players (and pairs as partners for teams) is often a cause of lack of participation, and development of a partnership tool should be considered.

Mr Fust noted that enrolments for the Joan Butts 2/1 course and teacher training weekend had been slow and it was likely the course would be cancelled.

d. MTC

Mr Morgan noted that the minutes of the meeting from May 13, 2015 had been circulated to council.

He also noted that approval of Senior and Youth teams for ANC had been approved by email.

Mr Morgan commented on the issues surrounding shared captaincy for women/senior teams. He noted that development of a list of players who would be pre-approved as captains for teams would be commenced.

Council discussed the issues of shared captaincy associated with this year's ANC, and the concerns expressed by the women's team regarding shared captaincy. Mr Morgan expressed regret on behalf of the MTC that the timing of selection trials did not allow for more time to resolve the issues but expressed MTC's confidence that Laurie Kelso would undertake the dual captaincy successfully, as he has done many times previously.

Selection Process for 2016. Because the ANC is moving from July to June in 2016, reducing the time available to select teams to represent Victoria, MTC has decided to conduct a pairs-based trial to select the open team. The meeting discussed the need to communicate the change in selection format for 2016, and Mr Morgan agreed that MTC would develop a communication plan to ensure timely information to all likely participants.

Mr Ewart queried whether Congress Swiss Pairs events should run two fields (NS and EW) as occurs in NSW to try to avoid the complaints of sitting the wrong way. The council felt that this could be suggested to clubs as an option but mandating this was beyond the purview of council.

e. Interim Committee

Mrs Thompson noted that after an extensive period of inactivity from the interim committee whilst the change to Special Councillor representation was made and trialled, she was pleased to report the results of a survey of Special Councillors from 2014 which had been conducted by Q. Van Abbe on behalf of the IC.

The report detailed the responses from the 3 special councillors elected in 2014. It was noted by council that there was some divergence of views from the SC's with two SC's apparently reasonably satisfied that the VBA council was representing clubs appropriately and one SC offering a less favourable view.

In general the feedback suggested the council was on the right path, but could do more to satisfy the needs of the club. The feedback would be communicated back to the IC for input.

There was a clear view from SC's that council was focussed on state/national and VBA club matters. There was an implied suggestion that the VBA should do more for clubs, however it was not clear what the VBA (as the peak state body) should do for the clubs, and no communication has been provided from any club detailing what more they would like the VBA to do for them.

The secretary noted that the Club President's Day scheduled for June had been cancelled due to lack of response from clubs for participation.

e. Administration Report

The club manager's report was tabled.

Resolution 3:

That the membership of Mark Lazarus be ratified.

Moved: Ms. K. Frazer **Seconded:** Mr D. Sheather

CARRIED

State capitation has largely been paid. Several maintenance matters associated with the VBA clubrooms have been resolved.

5. General Business

a. Pianola Trial

The trial has found that as a membership database system for bridge at the VBA it appears acceptable. The council agreed that the VBA purchase a licence to operate Pianola when our trial period finished and also consideration should be given to accepting the special annual offer from Pianola which provides detailed results analysis for members.

The meeting noted the results links on the VBA website link to several different places, and these should be consolidated to one results site.

Development of the existing VBA website needs to be undertaken to make it less cluttered and improve its focus.

Youth Bridge Fundraiser

It was resolved to push the concept of the youth bridge fund-raising week back to November to allow for more time for promotion & communication to clubs. Youth bridge club has purchased some " Teach me to Play" books which will be sent to each club in conjunction with promotional material.

Next meeting:

August 19th, 2015.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Mr B. Thompson

Chairperson