MINUTES OF MEETING OF VBA COUNCIL

Held 9 January 2016. (Meeting 1 2016)

The meeting opened at 10.00 am

Present:

Mr B. Thompson President Ms K. Frazer Secretary

Mr R. Quirk

Ms J. Thompson

Mr D. Sheather

Mr D. Morgan

Mr R. Giles

Ms H. McAdam

1. Apologies

Mr N. Ewart

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 1:

That the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2015 be accepted.

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

CARRIED

3. Correspondence (K. Frazer)

In:

- a) ABF: Interim Committee Response
- b) Q. V Abbe various emails on Interim Committee
- c) J. Puusepp (2)- continuing correspondence
- d) J. Hackett various emails on Governance

The secretary and president briefed the council on the correspondence over the past month between them and Q van Abbe, J Puusepp and J Hackket.

The council determined the IC will no longer be a regular agenda item.

- e) Tricks & Trumps; Geelong; Peninsula; G. Schaller Support for Statewide D&E Committee; Northern Bridge Club.
- f) M. Wallis Support for State D&E Committee
- g) G. Morris (Moonee Valley Bridge Club) D&E Committee

Ms Frazer advised on the letter received from Graham Morris of Moonee Valley who has offered to support the D&E committee. Mr Morris is a lawyer with prior experience in this type of work. The council agreed that Mr Morris be approached to join the committee. Furthermore the council resolved that the three Special Councillors (confirmed) and Bill Jacobs (pending his agreement) comprise the remaining members of the committee. Each SC will recommend another player from

their region. The committee will have the power to conduct their own investigations into complaints arising from Congress players, or to appoint others to investigate complaints.

- g) C. Campbell Masterpoint issues from Vic Sim Pairs Final
- h) D. Upsall Masterpoint issues from Vic Sim Pairs Final

The secretary briefed the council on the issues with Masterpointing from the Vic Sim Pairs Final. She noted that the files had only been submitted in late December for the event run in May, and that this was the second year running that the masterpoint files had been submitted well after the conclusion of the event.

Council discussed the possibility of reintroducing a restricted and/or novice pairs state event, and this matter was referred to MTC for consideration in the calendar.

- i) G. Johnson re Disciplinary Matter
- j) ABF: Marketing Update
- k) ABF Management Committee Communique
- I) M. Millar Schools Bridge Co-ordinator position

The secretary reported that Mr Michael Millar, has volunteered to take up the advertised position of Schools Bridge Co-ordinator. Mr Millar is a current bridge teacher at U3A, and also held a teaching position in his professional career.

Resolution 2:

That Mr Michael Millar be appointed the Schools Bridge Co-ordinator

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

CARRIED

Out:

- a) Q. Van Abbe- response to various emails on Interim Committee
- b) J. Puusepp continuing correspondence
- c) J. Hackett response to various emails on Governance matters
- d) Yarra Valley Bridge Club Notice of D&E Ruling regarding G. Johnson
- e) J. Fust acknowledgement of service
- f) D. Upsall Masterpoint issues from Vic Sim Pairs Final
- g) Affiliated Clubs Copy of Handbook/Calendar
- h) B. Thompson various emails on Interim Committee
- Affiliated Clubs Club Secretaries December Update Notice; Schools Bridge Overview
- J) ABF Interim Committee Update

General Business

a) VBA Directions.

The council discussed a number of options concerning VBA Directions presented in a briefing paper prepared by Mr David Morgan on behalf of the sub-committee. The council resolved that the sub-committee will continue to progress with the recommendations as submitted in the briefing paper, focusing initially on operational items.

The council thanks Mr Morgan for his efforts in preparing such a comprehensive briefing paper.

b) ABF Strategy

Mr Bruce Neill, President of the ABF, joined the meeting at 12.30pm

Mr Neill spoke to a change in direction the ABF is undertaking to provide more direct support and materials to clubs to enable the growth of bridge. Key activities to be developed include:

- Online tournaments to make bridge accessible to a broader audience
- Availability of online material such as resources, templates & guides for clubs & volunteers
- Expansion of the national teacher development program
- Building a national director development program; and expansion of the 'apprentice' director program at national events.
- Pursuit of selected new technology areas beyond the existing website and ABF App.

The ABF will provide updates via their communication processes and on the website.

ABF Delegates:

Mr Neill advised that in several states, the ABF delegates were also members of council, however in Victoria, this situation had changed since the resignation of Simon Hinge from the VBA council, and he felt it was important that the delegates have good knowledge of Victoria's issues.

The council agreed and resolved to invite the two delegates - Mr B. Morgan & Mr S. Hinge to the council meetings in the month prior to the ABF meetings - ie. April/October - to enable better two-way feedback between the VBA & ABF.

c) VBA AGM - Report on conduct of elections

The secretary noted the report from the Returning officer, Mr Paul Hobson, had been received and circulated. The council thanked Mr Hobson for his work in this position.

Next meeting: February 17th.

The date for the following meeting was set at March 23rd.

The secretary will circulate proposed dates for the balance of the year.

The meeting closed at 2.35pm

Mr B. Thompson

Chairperson