

VBA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 17th 2016 (Meeting 9 2016)
VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbena

The meeting opened at 5.30pm

Present:

Mr B. Thompson	President
Ms K. Frazer	Secretary
Mr D. Morgan	
Mr D. Sheather	
Mr R. Quirk	
Mr R. Giles	
Ms J. Thompson	

Apologies

Ms H. McAdam, Mr N. Ewart

1. Noting of decisions taken out of meeting

- a) Confirmation of minutes of July 27 Meeting
- b) Confirmation of appointment of trustees to the VBA Foundation who are Belinda Lindsay, Jeannette Collins and Kitty Muntz
- c) The D&E Committee as elected will continue in place for 2017

Matters arising from minutes:

Website: A delay in development of the website due to some changes in web hosting which restricted web access by the developers (and our webmaster) for one month. Expect completion by Christmas.

2. Correspondence

In:

- a. ABF: Marketing Update
- b. Nominations for Special Councillors for R. Giles, R. Quirk, H. McAdam
- c. ABF: Draft Affiliation Policy
- d. M O'Neill re Castlemaine U3A non-affiliation
- e. Nominations for Council for B. Thompson, K. Frazer, D. Morgan, C. Leach
- f. ABF: Management Committee Communique

Out:

- g. VBA Members: Notice of nominations for VBA council
- h. G. Ghali: Notice of suspension
- i. Affiliated Clubs & ABF: Notice of Suspension re Ghali
- j. M O'Neill re Castlemaine U3A

The meeting requested that the Secretary seek advice from the ABF as to whether Satellite clubs are covered by insurance policies.

David Morgan joined the meeting

3. Sub-committees & Reports

a. Finance

The annual accounts were presented to the meeting.

Mrs Thompson queried, the change in costs for Administrative expense. Due to the unavailability of the treasurer at the meeting, the secretary advised she would email the treasurer for an explanation.

Resolution 2:

Given the Treasurer's absence overseas, council agreed to approve the resolution numbers 3 & 4 subject to confirmation from the Treasurer that he has agreed to the accounts as presented at the meeting.

Moved: Mr D. Morgan **Seconded:** Mr R. Giles

CARRIED

Resolution 3:

That in the opinion of the directors:

(i) the Financial Statements and notes thereto:

- (a) comply with the accounting standards
- (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Company
- (c) be in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, and

(ii) at the date of this meeting, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

CARRIED

Resolution 4:

Pursuant to section 295 of the Corporations Act 2001, the Council authorises the signing of the Directors' Declaration on the Statements by the President and Secretary.

Moved: Ms J. Thompson **Seconded:** Mr R. Giles

CARRIED

b. MTC (D. Morgan)

- i. Team selection policy

Council endorsed the changes recommended by the Match and Tournament Committee to the format for selecting the team to represent Victoria in the open teams at the Australian National Championships (ANC). Council agreed the format should:

- select teams that have a reasonable chance to win their respective events;
- use a method of selection that offers pathways for players from all parts of Victoria and from all clubs;
- use a method of selection that will allow up-and-coming or "unpopular" pairs/players a chance to succeed;
- use a method of selection that rewards players who play in qualifying events with the partner they intend to compete with if they win selection; and
- use a different method for selecting the open team compared with the "category" teams (seniors, women and youth), including pathways for self-selected teams and teams of pairs.

The Open team will be selected from a four-team playoff between:

- the winners of the Victorian Teams Championship (the Pennant);
- the three highest-placed pairs in the Victorian Butler Pairs Championship;
- a team formed from the three pairs whose total number of VQPs in Congresses exceeds that of any other team that nominates; and
- a team formed from the top three place-getters in the Victorian Representative Pairs. This event would be open to any pair where both players have won at least one VQP in a congress, to the three winners of the regional pairs championships, and to the winners and runners-up in state championship events.

Council noted that the MTC had addressed a number of concerns, including about timing, poisoning and augmentation.

Mr Sheather presented some commentary on the calendar for 2017 which is almost finalised.

c. ABF Report (K. Frazer)

A question had been raised over the insurance coverage of separate entities such as the VBA Foundation. The meeting requested the secretary to confirm the insurance coverage of VBA foundation trustees.

An ABF draft affiliation policy has been prepared which is on the agenda for discussion in General Business.

ANC Restricted Pairs subsidy: The subsidy for the ANC restricted pairs is seen as overly generous when compared to other subsidies such as GNOT. When it was established the ANC for that year was Perth, and other ANC locations are less costly for travel. It is likely for 2017 the subsidy will be revised to a formula like reasonable airfare plus a per diem.

Scoring Scales: It is proposed to update VP scoring scales for IMP Pairs & Teams events, Matchpoint swiss pairs and round robin events. Wins around draws in Swiss events by 1 imp are likely to have a less significant effect. Implementation dates are to be advised by TC.

Scorer Accreditation: The ABF sees scoring at National events seen as an important role. It has been suggested that an accreditation process be developed for scorers.

d. Administration Report (C. Lachman)

Resolution 5:

That Christopher Leach be ratified as a member of the VBA.

Moved: Mr B. Thompson

Seconded: Mr D. Sheather

CARRIED

e. D&E Committee Report

i. Recommendation for update to regulations

In light of recent investigations, the D&E committee chair, Mr Bill Jacobs, has made the following recommendations to the VBA Council proposing a change to one of the mandatory penalties in the regulations to bring the penalties into line with similar penalties in other arenas such as sport and international bridge.

Resolution 6:

That Item 10 of the Mandatory Penalty table be changed to:

Deliberate, and disguised or concealed, violation of the laws of bridge intended to improve one's score.

1st offence: 6 months to 4 years

2nd offence: Life

Moved: Mr B. Thompson

Seconded: Mr D. Sheather

CARRIED

ii. Recommendation for listing suspensions on website

The D&E committee had put forward a recommendation regarding listing suspensions on the website. Mr Morgan queried whether the reason for suspension needs to be included. The meeting resolved that inclusion of a broad category would on balance be beneficial.

Resolution 7:

That a list of currently suspended players be maintained on the VBA website. For each suspended player, the line item shall contain:

- The player's name
- Their ABF number
- Suspension start date
- Suspension end date
- Suspension category: BH (behaviour) or ET (ethical)

The suspension would be removed from the website at the expiry of the suspension.

Moved: Mr B. Thompson

Seconded: Mr D. Sheather

CARRIED

The secretary will update the regulations, and arrange for notice to be sent to the clubs

4. General Business

a. Congress Dress Code (R. Giles)

In principle the council agreed with the idea of a neat casual dress code for congresses. The secretary was directed to write to clubs seeking feedback on whether a recommended dress code should be instigated as part of the congress guidelines.

The VCC will introduce a neat casual dress policy for 2017.

b. ABF Affiliation Policy (K. Frazer)

In principle, the VBA agrees with the principles put forward in the ABF affiliation policy provided the constitutional requirements are met in the wording.

Structural requirements will be pertinent for new clubs, however existing clubs will not necessarily be asked to provide this data to the VBA.

c. Feedback on Marketing Seminar & Future events (K. Frazer)

Ms Frazer had circulated a comprehensive summary of the marketing seminar to council.

d. No Fear Pairs – renamed to State “under 200MP combined”

The ABF has provided two vouchers for the summer festival which can be used as prizes.

The secretary noted the following response from the treasurer which was received during the meeting on the administrative expense increase which obviates Resolution 2 above.

“The increase in expense was due to the acquisition of Pianola, the annual leave accrual for the Club Manager, significant increase in postage, some expenses associated with Work Cover. The treasurer noted that some of this amount was due to the timing of accruals.”

5. Next meeting

November 16th at 5.30pm