

MINUTES OF MEETING OF

VBA COUNCIL

HELD Friday 6th January 2006 1.30pm

At the VBA Clubrooms

Present:	J Collins	JMC
	D Smith	DS
	K Lee	KL
	M Woods	MSW
	M Bertuna	MB
	J Leach	JL
	Lyndy Hickman	LH
	B Howe	BEH
	J Hall	MJH
In Attendance:	C Lachman	CVL
Apologies:	K Chan	
	M Yuill	
	K Muntz	

The meeting opened at 1.30 pm.

The meeting was called after receipt by Jeannette Collins of a letter from the ABF in relation to their concerns that holding the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Congress at the VBA may breach our permit, and raising indemnity issues emerging from this.

Andrew Halmos was then contacted by phone and invited to the meeting but he was unable to attend.

The issue was discussed. An estimate of a possible 20 tables for the teams (as suggested at the July 2005 council meeting), has now increased to a possible 28, which would breach our permit conditions on the Tuesday through Thursday of the event.

A motion was passed – 'That the VBA Council will not undertake to indemnify the ABF of any financial liability for the CNBC'. Moved LH, seconded BEH, all in favour.

Geoff Chettle was contacted by phone – he confirmed that the belief that we could run the CNBC within the permit was based on the event consisting of 20 teams (and that on his email to Andrew quoted in the letter from the ABF, 'counsel' should have been spelt 'council').

JMC and DS called the Glen Eira Council to see if a relaxation of the permit for the event was a possibility. They were told the GEC could not do this, the only people to give permission are VCAT, and they were given the phone number of the GEC VCAT co-ordinator.

JMC then called Keith McDonald to advise him of our position. Keith said he will call Steve Bracks if our approach to VCAT fails.

BEH noted that it would be possible under the current permit to hold the first 3 days elsewhere and the finals and Swiss Pairs at the VBA.

MB suggested that we make personal contact with our local ward councillor as part of building a positive relationship with the GEC.

KL moved that 'If all attempts to get a relaxation of our permit fail, then we advise the convenor Andrew Halmos that if he wants to hold the CNBC at the VBA then he must hold it within the conditions of the permit'. Seconded DS, all in favour.

JMC to proceed with the VCAT option as suggested by a representative of the Glen Eira Council.

Other Business.

CVL tabled a list of 33 new applicants for membership. These were accepted (moved MJH, seconded DS, all in favour).

CVL noted that the tenure of one of the Victorian representatives on the ABF Council ends in March this year. The VBA council will need to make a nomination for this position soon. To be discussed at the next meeting.

CVL tabled a newspaper article announcing that community groups can apply for a share in \$200,000 in grants in the GEC's 2005-06 community grants program.

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 31st, 6pm.