

MINUTES OF MEETING OF VBA COUNCIL

Held 9 May 2012. (Meeting 5 2012)
At the VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbreena

Chairperson ; J.Collins

The meeting opened at 5.30pm

Present:

J. Collins	President
S. Hinge	Vice President
S. Klofa	Vice President
N. Ewart	Treasurer
R. Ellery	
P. Fent	
S Weisz	
R. Stewart	
H. De Jong	
T. Blizard	
J. Thompson	(acting as secretary)

Also Present: C. Lachman.

1. Apologies:

J. Hackett, J. Haylock, K. Frazer, A Stavik

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Motion:

That the minutes of the meeting of April 11th 2012 be accepted:

Moved: Neil Ewart Seconded: P Fent **CARRIED**

Matters arising from the minutes of April 11th 2012

The meeting reviewed the action item list.

Insurance: The level of the club's content insurance is to be kept at the same level until the policy is up for renewal in June. At that time new quotes are to be obtained for insurance at increased levels of \$220,000 and \$250,000. TBIB (ABF's Insurer) is to be contacted as well to see how they can be of assistance to the VBA.

Life Membership, Honour Boards, MP Data – these items were carried forward until the next meeting.

National Stroke Foundation – Jenny Thompson had investigated the possible association with this organisation for National Stroke Week in September. It was agreed that the VBA would publicise this week amongst its members at the appropriate time.

3. Correspondence

a) Correspondence In:

- i. Ben Thompson – Submission regarding Darwin Subsidy
- ii. L. Ginnan – Letter re ANC team subsidies

Action for 1/2: Matter to be discussed as part of Finance Sub-committee report

Other correspondence for which no discussion/action by council is required

- iii. NTBA ANC Committee – request for 8 nominated representatives from Victorian teams to the ANC to attend Govt House reception during ANC

Action: President to determine invitees & provide names to secretary

- iv. C. Heesom – Appreciation to VBA for support with Director's Course run for ERBA.

Action: No action required

- v. Youth Bridge Report

Action: No action required

- vi. Youth Budget Proposal

Action: Proposal referred to Finance Sub-committee for action with the Council highlighting the in principle support of the proposal which might be funded through the Marketing Grant.

- vii. ABF – Offer to clubs on meeting with TBIB between 8 – 10 June.
Action: Notice forwarded to C. Lachman for circulation to clubs.
- viii. ABF – Request for Make-A-Wish to conduct a fund-raising activity during VCC
Action: VCC Convenor to liaise with M-a-W on requirements

- ix. ABF-Pauline Gumby – Request to update state team names & system cards on website

Action: L. Kelso to provide data when known

- x. ABF-Joan Butts – Response on teacher accreditation letter from Stephen Weisz.

Action: For councillor information only.

b) Correspondence Out:

- i. Email response to ABF regarding Affiliation Subsidy. No further action required
- ii. Letter to Joan Butts re Teacher Accreditation. No further action required
- iii. Email response to G. Davies on letter re Bridge Promotion. No further action required

4. Reports:

- a. Club Manager
 - i. Ratification of new members

4.1 Motion:

That the new members as proposed in the club manager's report be accepted.

Moved: S Weisz Seconded: J Thompson **CARRIED**

4.2 Motion:

That the new Bridge Club Application – “Bridge Fanatics” be accepted.

Moved: T Blizzard Seconded: R Ellery **CARRIED**

- b. Treasurer

N Ewart provided a comprehensive update on the finances for the club and highlighted what were the ongoing challenges.

Discussion points raised from the Report included:

- Phil Fent commented on the need to set in place an aggressive marketing plan and to use the work already done at ABF Level. The Council discussed this and other strategies for the future including actively chasing up sponsorship and contacting members who might have contacts who may be interested in our ‘product’ – companies such as OPSM, travel companies, insurance companies. Further discussion was deferred to coincide with the House Committee Report.
- Council Members fiduciary responsibilities as Directors of the Company - it was suggested that as part of good governance all new Councillors should receive a pack which includes relevant information on existing policies and procedures of the Association.

c. Sub-Committee Reports

- i. Finance sub-committee (Neil Ewart)

Travel subsidies

After lengthy discussion of the recommendation from the Finance Committee that subsidies be reduced the following motion was put and carried. Neil Ewart wanted it recorded that he believed it was financially irresponsible.

4.3 Motion:

Players for all teams representing Victoria at the Darwin ANC will receive the cheapest fare to Darwin as at 1st June plus \$30 per diem for every representative day played during the ANC.

Moved: T Blizzard Seconded: R Ellery **CARRIED 5/4**

It was decided when the letter of congratulations was sent to the successful team representatives that they be asked if it was possible for anyone to contribute to the cost (of course this would then be kept confidential) and to advise that the VBA will be running a fundraiser to support them leading up to Darwin. Team representatives will be asked to give the VBA a receipt for the flights which could then be used to get a GST refund for the VBA from the ATO.

Steve Weisz suggested that it might be possible to run a 'calcutta' as a fundraising event during the traditional BAM event. This is to be referred to the M&T Committee for discussion.

4.4 Motion:

That the existing policy on subsidies for future ANC representatives would be reviewed in time for 2013 selection events.

Moved: R Ellery Seconded: J Thompson **CARRIED**

The general consensus around the table was that there were no guarantees that there would be subsidies in future years. The practice of providing for subsidies over an 8 year cycle should be revisited and if appropriate, be re-instated.

ii. House sub-committee (Tim Blizzard)

The House Sub-Committee report was tabled and Tim outlined the main points around improvements in Member Services. Discussion followed and the following motion put to the Meeting.

4.5 Motion:

Council approves the expenditure necessary to complete the following improvements.

- Rental and installation of an initial commercial grade coffee machine suitable to the needs of the club
- Rental and installation of a vending machine suitable to the needs of the club
- An initial one-month trial of fresh food to each duplicate session
- Commencement of an application for a Liquor Licence necessary for the operation of a member-operated bar.

Moved: T Blizzard Seconded: R Stewart **CARRIED**

Cathie Lachman is to talk to Roger about the café and the implication of the above motion on him.

The meeting was in agreement that all the activities both bridge related and non-bridge related as suggested by the House Committee should be commenced as soon as possible.

- iii. Marketing (Tim Blizzard) –Discussed previously in Meeting.
- iv. IT Sub-committee (Rob Stewart) - Report tabled
General discussion centred around the current continuing issues of publishing results on the website and the use of two scoring systems. Rob Stewart praised the work that Terry Crawford was doing for the VBA. Simon Hinge is to speak to Laurie.
- v. VCC (Kim Frazer) – report tabled

5. General Business

- a. Proposal for redevelopment of clubrooms (Phill Fent/Stan Klofa) –
Discussion deferred with Phill Fent highlighting this would be a long term project.
- b. 2013 Calendar (Jeannette Collins) – Carried Forward
- c. Council Meeting Dates 2012/2013 – consideration of weekend meeting to involve clubs – Carried Forward.
- d. Interim Committee Report (J. Thompson) – Jenny & Steve outlined that all Clubs were being invited to a meeting on 16th June. It was decided that a small group meet to form the VBA’s response to this development and bring it back to the Council prior to the meeting. The Sub-Committee is Steve Weisz, Jenny Thompson, Jeannette Collins & Neil Ewart.
- e. Contract/performance review – Cathie/Laurie (N. Ewart) – Discussions will be held with Laurie and Cathie by the Executive.
- f. Ben Thomson’s discussions re liquor licence and general discussion re drinking/dress at club (N. Ewart). – Discussion around if the VBA had an existing policy on drinking at the table and dress code – Carried forward to next meeting.
- g. Australian Women’s team selection – addition of 3rd pair (N. Ewart) – The situation was explained to the meeting. Simon Hinge reported that the ABF were meeting the weekend of 18th/19th May and he would report back after that.
- h. BAM used to raise funds for Interstate team. (S. Weisz) – Discussed during the subsidy discussion.
- i. Gold points for some State events - letter to ABF, ie to raise the level local of participation. (S. Weisz) – Carried forward to next meeting
- j. Terms of Reference (J. Thompson) – Carried forward to next meeting.

Next Meeting: June 13th at 5.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.