

MINUTES OF MEETING OF VBA COUNCIL

Held 12 September 2012. (Meeting 9 2012)
At the VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbreena & by SKYPE

Chairperson: J. Collins

The meeting opened at 5.30pm

Present:

J. Collins	President
S. Hinge	Vice President
S. Klofa	Vice President
N. Ewart	Treasurer
K. Frazer	Secretary
S. Weisz	
R. Stewart	
J. Thompson	
J. Hackett (by skype)	
H. De Jong	
P. Fent	
A. Stavik	

1. Apologies:

T. Blizzard has verbally offered his resignation from the council. The council thanked Tim for his time & efforts during his time on council. Secretary to write letter of acknowledgement to T. Blizzard.

The meeting discussed a replacement for the vacant council position.

Motion 1:

That Ben Thompson be appointed to the vacant position on council.

Moved: N. Ewart

Seconded: S. Klofa

CARRIED

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion 2:

That the minutes of the meeting of July 28th 2012 be accepted:

Moved: S. Weisz

Seconded: N. Ewart

CARRIED

Ben Thompson joined the meeting & was welcomed to council

Matters Arising from the minutes

The travel subsidy policy as proposed by the treasurer was discussed. An amendment to the policy as proposed was suggested to enable the per diem & other funding to be announced at the beginning of March to ensure players competing in the playoffs understand the financial support that will be offered. The new policy will be posted on the VBA website.

Motion 3:

That the travel subsidy policy as amended be approved.

Moved: N. Ewart

Seconded: P. Fent

CARRIED

Vending Machine trial: H. De Jong reported that considerable investigation had been undertaken. Cathie Lachman reported steps had been taken to employ a barista for some sessions, with further action to employ a barista for other sessions. The meeting agreed that as a barista is being engaged, we would postpone the vending machine trial.

J. Thompson reported that the "Roles Responsibilities & Remuneration" sub-committee has progressed work in this area. Expect completion by end September. Some discussion on how director accreditation is to be progressed. P. Fent to investigate how accreditation occurs in NSW & report back to council.

H. De Jong reported on behalf of the relocation sub-committee that some discussion with Malvern RSL regarding sharing facilities. It was felt that the complexities associated with a shared arrangement may be overly complicated, and the area being offered was not suitable for our requirements. Some other options are being explored.

Calendar sub-committee has prepared a survey to go to members to enable some recommendations to be made.

Considerable advertising was undertaken for the bridge classes however take up has been low. There is some opportunity to better target the advertising of the activity which will be done before the next set of lessons in the new year. C. Lachman reported that the supervised play sessions conducted by Helen Snashall have increased attendance.

The council acknowledged the considerable efforts of Rob Stewart in setting up the TV monitors, the heating improvements and other activities over the past few months.

Director Training - Cathie to arrange for the VBA Club directors to attend the Directors program in October.

Jan Hackett left the meeting due to some interference in sound quality experienced on the Skype hookup. R. Stewart to investigate before next meeting.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence In:

- i. Quentin Van Abbe - response to VBA letter on Interim Committee proposal
The meeting agreed that the next step should be for the interim committee to put its proposal to the clubs.
- ii. BAWA - Questionnaire on some state bridge operations
Treasurer to respond.
- iii. ABF: Proposal to update operations of Marketing grants to states
S. Hinge reported this was discussed at length at the ABF meeting on the preceding weekend. N. Ewart reported he would ensure that any applications for marketing grants would comply with the new process, and did not envisage any issues with the change.

- iv. ABF - Future of Grand National Pairs events (for restricted players).
The email request for feedback has been circulated to clubs for response
The VBA's opinion is that this event should continue. Further discussion next meeting after responses from clubs received
- v. VBA Foundation - response to application from VBA for funds
The VBA foundation advised a grant of \$3000 towards enhancing the catering facilities offered at the club.
- vi. G. Schaller - Proposal to act as State Masterpoint Secretary (2 letters)
Deferred to Masterpoint discussion in General Business.
- vii. J. Percil - Letter of appreciation & comment
- viii. Bendigo Bridge Club - update of details

Correspondence Out:

- 1. Chairman Interim Committee - VBA comment on proposal
- 2. M. Woods - Letter advising of the VBA AGM procedure review which has been instigated.
- 3. G. Gaspar, B. Tencer - acknowledgement of letter on congress allocation concerns.

4. Reports:

a) Club Manager

C. Lachman gave a comprehensive report on club activities.

Motion 4:

That the new members as proposed in the club managers report be accepted.

Moved: B. Thompson Seconded: S. Klofa **CARRIED**

We have had a quote on the additional cleaning requirements. The meeting agreed that an additional attempt be made to get all directors to make announcements in each session regarding tidying up after bridge, however if this doesn't work we agree that the additional cleaning as quoted will be contracted. The club manager should make the decision.

A draft policy for the allocation of Congresses in Victoria was circulated. Approval of the policy deferred to next meeting to give councillors the opportunity to consider this.

K. Frazer noted that the matter of Dendy Park & the 2012 Xmas Congress was still outstanding. She appraised the meeting of conversations with both Dendy & Kings & Queens representatives to date. She noted that there does seem an inequity with one club being awarded effectively 13 congress days. The meeting noted that the decision to award the 2012 Xmas congress to Kings & Queens had previously been made.

The meeting agreed that the President J. Collins would speak with Dendy representatives further regarding this matter.

It was further agreed that the Calendar Sub-committee be expanded to include C. Lachman, J. Hackett, L. Kelso to report back in October with a draft calendar for 2013. Some consideration should also be given to reworking the congress calendar over the next two

years to spread congress days in regional centres more evenly, so that one region doesn't have multiple club's congresses within close proximity time-wise to each other.

The manager's recommendation for an increase in entry and table fees for State & Other State Competitions was accepted. The meeting noted that the fees had been unchanged for several years. The council agreed that the change will be effective immediately. The meeting agreed that routine reviews of fees should be conducted & determined by the treasurer & club manager.

b) Treasurer

The treasurer outlined the financial status for the year. The club continues to lose about \$3000 per month mostly due to reduction in table fees. Whilst the club has some investments that will cover the losses in the short term, action to address the shortfall is required.

Motion 5:

That the treasurers report be accepted.

Moved: K. Frazer

Seconded: S. Weisz

CARRIED

5. General Business

i. Masterpoint matters

K. Frazer provided a briefing paper to the meeting on the current masterpoint issues which are being resolved. She highlighted the concern that the state MP secretary is a critical role, with a long learning curve and reliance on one individual for the role is not prudent. The meeting concurred with the recommendation that a state MP secretary understudy be appointed.

S. Klofa recommended that Michael Adams, who worked with Victor Muntz when he was the MP secretary, be approached to act as an assistant MP Secretary for the state.

K. Frazer to action.

ii. Pennant Break

S. Hinge advised that as there was no suspension of pennant play during the second week of Spring Nationals, any teams requiring substitute players would be given generous consideration with substitute rulings. This would be announced to players at the start of the competition.

iii. Facilities at VBA & VCAT submission

The meeting agreed that attempts should be made to get a revision to the terms imposed by the local council & VCAT. K. Frazer & C. Lachman will progress.

iv. Foundation Trustees

Dr I McCance has advised us that it would be prudent to appoint one or two additional trustees. Some recommendations were discussed and the meeting agreed that Geoff Chettle & Hayden Blakeman be approached regarding appointment as trustees.

v. Trainee directors

C. Lachman advised that there will be two directors working with Laurie Kelso during the pennant. Terry Crawford will join Laurie on the first night for the event setup. Sandra Hughes will be present for the 7 sessions to shadow Laurie & for evaluation for further directing duties.

vi. Disciplinary By-Laws (Bill Jacobs joined the meeting approx 7.00pm)

Bill outlined the issues with the current disciplinary process for the VBA. Some minor changes were suggested. S. Hinge suggested the policy be reviewed by the National Recorder (Phil Gallasch) & re-presented to the meeting in October for approval.

Other agenda items were held over until the October meeting.

Next Meeting: October 17th at 5.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.