

VBA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
April 5 2017 (Meeting 3 2017)  
VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbreena

The meeting opened at 5.17pm

Present:

Mr B. Thompson	President
Ms K. Frazer	Secretary
Mr D. Morgan	
Mr D. Sheather	
Mr R. Quirk	
Mr C. Leach	
Mr N. Ewart	Treasurer
Ms H. McAdam	

In Attendance: Ms C. Lachman

**Apologies**

Mr R. Giles, Mr M. Phillips

The council noted that the long-time member of the VBA and former State player who had done much for bridge in Victoria, Mr Grant Kilvington, had passed away this month.

**1. Confirm minutes of meeting of March 1 2017**

**Resolution 1:**

That the minutes of the March 1, 2017 meeting be accepted.

**Moved:** Mr D. Morgan

**Seconded:** Mr D. Sheather

**CARRIED**

**2. Matters arising from the minutes**

a. Policy for Event Naming in Honour of Members

Mr Morgan presented an issues paper on the historical approach to naming events, and identified the issues for council to consider in developing a policy.

Councillors should email comments on the issues presented to Mr Morgan by April 30<sup>th</sup> to assist with formulating the final policy.

b. Website development progress

Mr Thompson reported that the website development is progressing well. A small number of issues are currently being resolved. The expectation is to go live by the end of April. Post installation support will be available to iron out any unforeseen issues.

It is pleasing to note that clubs will be able to update and maintain their data on the website using a simple interface which should assist with more accurate and timely information for all players.

### 3. Correspondence

#### IN:

1. IINET: New Account Details for Broadband setup
2. Paul Hobson: Notice that there are no matters to report on the 2016 VBA Council Elections
3. ABF: Notice of ABF AGM:

Notice has been received that the following matters will be put to the AGM. The VBA Council needs to direct its delegates on voting.

#### Notice of Motions

##### **1) Election to Committee of Honour**

In accordance with Section 25 of the Constitution, Mr Keith McDonald be elected to the ABF Committee of Honour. Proposed: B Neill Seconded: A Stralow

##### **Explanation**

Mr Keith McDonald was President of the ABF for over 16 years and President Emeritus for a further 2 years. He has also been the President of the Queensland Bridge Association for more than 30 years. His contribution to bridge in Australia has been outstanding. A brief statement cannot do justice to his efforts on behalf of the ABF and bridge in Australia. It is with considerable pleasure that I move a motion for his elevation to the Committee of Honour for his outstanding service.

Council resolved to support this motion.

##### **2) Payments for Non Council Duties**

For the avoidance of any doubt and to the extent that clause 22(2) of the Constitution may require, the Council resolves:

- That the appointment of any Councillor or Supplemental Councillor to a paid position as a Tournament Organiser or Director of an ABF event or licensed event does not constitute duties performed as a Councillor within the meaning of section 22 (2) of the Constitution.
- That accordingly it is unnecessary for the Council to pass any resolution pursuant to section 22 as to remuneration for such services provided.

Proposed: B Neill Seconded: A Stralow

Council resolved to support this motion.

4. ABF:
  - a. Response to VBA letter regarding Conflict of Interest wrt J. Butts
  - b. ABF: Response to nomination of M. Elson as an ABF Teaching Fellow. The ABF did not endorse the nomination.
  - c. ABF: Notification of update to Laws of Duplicate Bridge (implementation expected August 1, and will be managed by L. Kelso for Australia).
5. Benalla: Nomination of candidate for Awards for Excellence
6. D. Poulton: Youth Bridge Program in Shepparton & request for Funding and Letter of Support

The program involves running youth bridge lessons in 3 or 4 high schools in Shepparton region during the 2<sup>nd</sup> school term. The ABF has agreed to fund the proposal on a 50/50 basis.

*The Finance sub-committee recommends support for this proposal.*

Council agreed to provide a letter of support for the program; loan of books, provision of playing cards and up to \$400 for funding.

Council agreed that a progress report from Derek Poulton would be required at end of term. Cathie Lachman will liaise on an on-going basis regarding the program.

7. P. Gue (ABF Youth Committee): Advice of availability of Funding Support for Youth bridge program in Shepparton Region Schools on a 50/50 basis with Victoria.
8. Sale Bridge Club: Congress Flyer
9. Nagambie: Notice of updates for website; information regarding bridge growth at Nagambie and events recently held;
10. Broadband Solutions: Notice regarding discontinuation of service
11. G. Brown: Request for advice re disciplinary issue concerning a member
12. Warrnambool: Anzac Day event start time
13. ABF: Details regarding GNOT subsidies

Ms McAdam queried the subsidies and advised that many regional players who have extensive travel times to their 'closest' airports feel the subsidy is somewhat inequitable.

Whilst regional co-ordinators who have concerns with the new arrangements should write to the ABF, council also resolved that the secretary would write to the ABF expressing a general view on behalf of the state regarding the new arrangements.

14. J. McIlrath: Proposal to run a coaching tour in 2018

Secretary to respond suggesting liaison with the Marketing and Education (MEC) Chair, Mr Leach regarding the program. Council agreed conducting a general Director training course would be beneficial. Mr Leach to follow up with John McIlrath re coming to Melbourne to run a director program in the latter half of 2017 as well.

15. S. Weil Club Sponsorship Program

Mr Weil of TBIB is proposing a loyalty style rewards program for Victorian clubs. Secretary to respond positively, seeking further details, and suggest liaison with the MEC regarding progressing this opportunity for clubs.

## **OUT**

1. Affiliated Clubs:
  - a. Notice and information re Victorian Simultaneous Pairs
  - b. Notice of 2017 Women, Senior and Open Selection Methods and call for entries.
  - c. Restricted Pairs Brochure & Notification of competition for ANC Prize
2. ABF:
  - a. Notification of Deputy Delegate (B. Thompson)
  - b. Notification of Delegate (C. Leach)
3. D. Poulton – various regarding youth bridge programs
4. B. Morgan: Letter of Appreciation for four years' service as Victorian delegate to the ABF.
5. Warrnambool – Response to inquiry on Anzac Day

## **4. Committees & Reports**

- a. Finance

The Treasurer presented the finance report for 6 months to Feb 2017. He reported general revenue is down, with night-time duplicate down. Changes to Tuesday night duplicate has

created an influx of new interest, however a co-ordinated plan is required to increase numbers in the duplicate sessions.

Ms Frazer suggested that a P&L should be produced for each event run at the club to determine which events are producing the best return for the club, and that more of these events should be run.

The meeting resolved that since our costs for a given type of session are largely fixed, we will prepare a table describing the break-even point for different types of events. That marginal "profit" for an extra table in any event is always a large fraction of the table fees that table generates. We also acknowledged that, in principle, we should aim to run more of the more popular events and avoid the very unpopular (ie loss-making) events (unless we're confident we can promote them substantially better)

We recognised that as the state body, we have licence to run a wide variety of state events, and that we also have a responsibility to offer some variety in our state events.

Increased promotion of events should continue to be undertaken to maximise participation. The club manager to action.

b. Match and Tournament

Youth bridge: insufficient player numbers available to necessitate running a trial for the 2017 ANC.

The youth players who have advised availability are Victoria Thompson, Finn Rennie, Aiden Robertson, Liam Robertson, Patrick Clifford and Conor Hosking.

Jamie Thompson is agreeable to act as NPC subject to availability and dependent upon the outcome of the Open team playoff.

Mr Sheather outlined some concerns with the conformation of the VQP team which had been resolved by the MTC. MTC felt some better communication of criteria and deadlines for entries may have alleviated this concern.

Some issues with eligibility of players for contesting teams was also noted, given the non-financial status of several contenders.

The secretary presented a discussion paper on selection policy for the VBA. Council agreed that development of such a document was necessary, and MTC charged with developing a policy for the June meeting.

The council considered this to be a reasonable proposal. Mr Sheather advised some time constraints with work precluded him from progressing this in the short-term, and it was agreed that the secretary will develop a first draft for circulation to MTC.

Calendar development: MTC have requested administrative support with production of the calendar. Mr Thompson suggested a youth player may be recruited to provide support with development.

Mr Quirk left the meeting at 7.00pm due to another commitment.

c. Marketing & Education

Mr Leach presented a comprehensive report on Education focussing on teaching & training teachers under the ABF umbrella. The VBA supports the ABF education program. The President and Mr Leach will discuss the way forward with Joan Butts based on Mr Leach's recommendations.

The council thanked Mr Leach for his comprehensive paper.

d. Administration Report

**Resolution 8:**

It was proposed that Duraisamy Mahendren and Judith Bornstein be ratified as members of the VBA.

**Moved:** Mr D. Sheather

**Seconded:** Mr B. Thompson

**CARRIED**

**5. General Business**

a. Website Updating (K. Frazer)

Ms Frazer advised that a draft paper had been prepared, and this would be presented for the next meeting.

b. VBA Future Direction

The council agreed to meet next Wednesday at 5.30pm for discussion on this topic.

**Future Meeting Dates.**

May 17, June 21, July 26, Aug 30, Oct 11, Nov 20 (AGM), Nov 22 (new council 1<sup>st</sup> meeting), Jan 3

Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Chairperson

Ben Thompson