

VBA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 17, 2017 (Meeting 4 2017)
VBA Clubrooms, 131 Poath Road, Murrumbeena

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
Mr R. Giles	
Mr M. Phillips	
Ms H. McAdam	

In Attendance: Ms C. Lachman

Apologies

Nil

1. Confirm minutes of meeting of April 5 2017

Resolution 1:

That the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Mr B. Thompson

Seconded: Mr D. Morgan

CARRIED

The meeting also noted that council had had a special meeting on April 12th, 2017 to discuss matters relating to the VBA Future Direction, and that no formal minutes were required for confirmation.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

a. Policy for Event Naming in Honour of Members

Mr Morgan noted that he is awaiting feedback from councillors on the proposal.

b. Website development progress

Mr Thompson reported that the test version of the website is up and running. Some issues have been encountered with the current web host with respect to data migration which we are working to resolve. Actual physical migration is likely to occur in the next two weeks.

Mr Morgan queried whether the costs had blown out due to the time overrun. Mr Thompson advised an additional cost of \$150 had been incurred.

c. VBA Future Direction

Mr Thompson reported that he is continuing to hold discussions regarding a prospective location, and will continue to keep the council informed on the matter.

3. Correspondence

IN:

1. ASIC Company Statement Request
2. B. Morgan: Request for club number for Mornington Peninsula Region
3. TIO: Lodgement of complaint re Broadband Solutions Service Delivery
4. D. Upsall re G. Ghali playing at MV Club sessions. (referred to MV)

Mr Giles queried why Mr Ghali was playing at MV Club sessions when under suspension. Ms Frazer responded that this was a matter for MV, and the Council had no jurisdiction over decisions made at the club level.

5. ABF: Paper on Volunteering
6. ABF: Management Communique
7. ABF: Affiliation Policy Final
8. ABF: Invitation to Tournament Organiser's Workshop; Sydney 16-17 October

Ms Frazer advised that this workshop is for National Event organisers. Mr Morgan elaborated on the driving force behind this.

Mr Thompson suggested that Victoria may wish to hold a Congress Organisers conference & we will look to schedule this later in the year.

9. ABF: Director Development Weblink
10. ABF: Marketing Update
11. ABF: Public Liability Insurance Certificate Update
12. L. Kelso: Policy on appointment of Directors to National Events

OUT

1. B. Morgan: Response to Club number request
2. D. Poulton: Advice on funding for Schools Program in Shepparton Region
3. ABF: GNOT Travel Subsidy changes impacting outlying regional locations
4. Affiliated Clubs
 - a. Paper on Volunteering
 - b. Annual Club Secretaries Update
 - c. Capitation Fee Invoices
 - d. Notice regarding availability of 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge Books

2017 Laws will become applicable throughout Australia, and the VBA is running a seminar on the Laws. Each club has also been advised that they will receive a free book upon receipt of payment of the affiliation fees.

- e. Notice regarding availability of Director Development webpage
 - f. VCC Promotional Email
5. Notice to MP Secretaries from C. Campbell on Masterpoint Matters

4. Committees & Reports

a. Finance

i. ANC Subsidies for 2017

Resolution 2:

That the 2017 ANC Subsidy follow the policy for airfare subsidies. The per diem will remain unchanged at \$35.

Moved: Mr N. Ewart

Seconded: Mr B. Thompson

CARRIED

ii. Team Clothing

Mr Ewart advised that the expected cost is \$750 to provide each team members with a jacket/hoodie/vest item.

Mr Quirk suggested a team clothing sponsor be sought, and council asked Mr Quirk to pursue this.

iii. Table Numbers

Mr Thompson provided a monthly summary on table numbers. The changes to Tuesday night duplicate has assisted in revitalising that session. Players had requested an earlier start time, which is now 7.15pm, and will move to 7pm. Changes have recently been made to Thursday night duplicate which have been well-received by the players; Thursday night players requested an earlier start, which is now 7.15pm, and will also move to 7pm.

Players have requested regular intermediate type lessons for the players. The manager will institute a regular monthly daytime lesson, probably on a Friday; a weekly "relaxed duplicate" session with a preceding lesson intended for players transitioning from supervised to duplicate is also being considered.

Mr Phillips joined the meeting at 6.25pm.

b. Match and Tournament

Mr Sheather circulated the MTC minutes from the meeting of April 19th & the draft minutes from April 24th.

Youth Team: Mr Sheather raised the matter of Jamie Thompson operating as Playing Captain for the Youth Team. Ms Frazer queried whether an alternative such as the Open Team Captain could be asked to undertake this. The meeting resolved that Mr Sheather should pursue other options for captain of the youth team. The council were not agreeable to endorse a playing captain for the youth team.

Ms Frazer also queried whether the duty of care matters for the youth team had been addressed given several of the proposed team are under 18. Council asked the secretary to write to the youth team players regarding this matter.

Mr Sheather requested the VBA to produce a letter for the youth players to provide to their schools to assist with obtaining leave from studies for the period of the event. The VBA Club Manager will provide this letter.

Open Team Captain: Mr Sheather advised council on issues regarding the captaincy for the Open Team. The team's first choice was Martin Willcox, however he noted that there are some issues with Martin's availability for some of the event due to congress directing commitments at start of the ANC, and at the conclusion of the ANC in the event of the team making the final. Council resolved that the Open Team's second choice for captain should be appointed if available.

Resolution 2:

That the following teams be ratified for the ANC:

Open: J. Ebery (NPC), C. Ding, D. Nie, V. Zhang, M. Zhang, G. McRobert, T Ranasinghe

Women: L. Kelso (NPC), A. St Clair, K. Frazer, T. Cowie, E Windmiller, S. Hall, B. Pearson

Seniors: L. Kelso (NPC), D. Harley, D. Newlands, S. Weisz, M. Chrapot, K. Bailey, G. Bailey

Youth: J. Thompson, V. Thompson, F. Rennie, A. Robertson, L. Robertson

Moved: Mr D. Sheather

Seconded: Mr B. Thompson

CARRIED

Playoff Selection events:

Mr Sheather reported that a draft policy is expected to be ready for council review at its June 26th meeting.

He asked that the VQP site be updated monthly. The VBA club manager will undertake to do this, and Mr Thompson will provide instruction on the methodology for undertaking this. It was noted that updating the VQP lists would be simpler if clubs who hold congresses provided a report on placings at the end of the congress. Ms Frazer queried why this wasn't currently done since this was a requirement under the Congress Policy which was pending an update. It was agreed that this could be added as a requirement to the director's reports which are submitted to the State Director, L. Kelso

MTC asked council if there are any objections to the women/seniors fields will be run on the same weekend. Council believed in principle this was a reasonable direction, however requested that a data analysis be conducted for the past 4 years to ascertain how many players would be impacted by the clash.

MTC asked the council if the requirement for contenders wishing to enter the Open Qualifying Pairs heat to hold one VQP could be removed, and the event be made open entry to all players. MTC further requested that the victorious regional pairs be granted free entry to this event. Council suggested further consultation throughout the regions should be conducted, and requested Mr Sheather prepare a proposal for circulation and comment prior to a decision on this aspect.

MTC proposed that the Butler qualifying event become 4 weeks with a 3 week final. Council was strongly opposed to lengthening the event, however felt that the field size in the final was small, and requested this aspect be reviewed for 2018.

c. VCC Report

Ms Frazer & Mr Ewart tabled a report on the VCC. Ms Frazer noted that entries are anticipated to be lower than 2016 due to the impact of the APBF with an associated drop in profit.

Ms Frazer advised the council that after 7 years in the role, 2017 would be her last term as VCC Tournament Organiser, and the council needs to appoint a replacement for 2018. Mr Ewart has agreed to continue to manage the entries and payments for the VCC. An appointment of TO for the 2019 ANC also needs to be considered, and the two should be considered in conjunction.

Council agreed to advertise the role, and also to approaching Mr G. Schaller who had previously indicated interest in undertaking the position, and who had successfully run the Yarra Valley Congress for several years.

d. ABF Report

Mr Leach submitted a detailed report on the ABF AGM, and noted that the ABF management communique from the ABF President had previously been circulated. Key points are:

1) Reporting on the progress of the 2015 strategic plan in the marketing, teaching and director formation arenas. A process of internal verification of goals called HOTSA (Health of the System) is regularly undertaken and progress on all these fronts was impressive under the responsible professional staff, Sandra Mulcahy, Joan Butts and John McIlraith.

2) An important dimension of the ABF charter is the oversight of our international teams. Impressive detailed reviews of the performance of our 2016 international teams were presented, as well as selections and prospects for 2017. A committee with oversight of this review was chaired by Kim Frazer. After the tabling of its excellent report, several matters were discussed with a view to better preparing our teams and improving their esprit de corps and performances.

3) The ABF is actively considering hosting the Bermuda Bowl (world team championships and ancillary events) in 2021, this event having been held here only once previously, in Perth in 1989. It is a complex and expensive event to hold and detailed planning is only beginning, with several names put forward as potential members of a steering committee. The venue would be Adelaide.

4) Detailed statistics were presented concerning membership data across various categories...membership by state, masterpoint category, clubs and player movements in and out of the system. Two items of immediate and considerable significance for marketing and education planning are that 87% of the registered bridge players in Australia are below Life Master and 96% below Grand Master. Discussion ensued regarding another group....the (estimated) many thousands of players who are playing in private social environments not affiliated with the ABF at all. As I came originally from this milieu, I volunteered to present a paper to the July Management Committee meeting on this subject.

5) Succession Planning. Bruce Neill, the ABF President, announced that he wishes to step down in 2018. No succession planning apparatus currently exists nor is there a Nominations committee. I will be doing a paper on this matter later this month (with the assistance of David Morgan) which will be discussed at the June Management Committee meeting.

Mr Thompson who also attended the ABF meeting added that the James O'Sullivan Trust loans money to clubs for various club initiatives. He believes that there may not be broad knowledge of this option across Victorian clubs and as such council requested the Secretary to arrange some promotion of this in the bulletin

e. Administration Report

Resolution 3:

It was proposed that Eve Dodds; Jan Rothlisberger; Steven Taylor; Jennifer Taylor; Peter Bolling; Helen Abeles; Anna Levin; Robyn Rubenstein and Ian Smith be ratified as members of the VBA.

Moved: Ms K. Frazer

Seconded: Mr D. Sheather

CARRIED

Ms Lachman acknowledged the efforts of Lyndy Hickman in encouraging the new Tuesday night players to take up membership.

f. Marketing & Education

Mr Leach summarised the recent activities he has undertaken, however there are no significant items to report.

Mr Giles queried whether Geelong had applied for funding for the seminar they are hosting with Joan Butts on May 20 – 21. The secretary advised no funding application had been received.

The council briefly discussed whether adopting a policy of a per head allocation or a flat grant amount for ABF training programs would be preferable to continuing to apply the established VBA granting process based on a submitted budget. Council did not vary the current policy, however it was resolved that the clause requiring reimbursement of excess grant funds should be removed from the policy since this was a carryover from the Future Bridge Fund requirements and not necessary for general marketing grants. The secretary will arrange to update the documentation.

5. General Business

a. VBA Document Storage

Ms Frazer submitted a proposal to establish electronic document storage in a web/cloud based provider such as Dropbox (preferred) or Google Drive.

Council agreed to proceed with a Dropbox storage solution in the short term. The secretary will arrange setup.

Other items carried over.

Future Meeting Dates.

June 21, July 26, Aug 30, Oct 11, Nov 20 (AGM), Nov 22 (new council 1st meeting), Jan 3

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairperson

Ben Thompson