



## VBA Council Meeting – Major Items & Decisions

14 March 2018

### Congresses

- Council ratified the update to the Congress Disciplinary and Ethics regulations. The update expands the scope to cover all State events, regional GNOT finals, and Victorian representation. It also enables the ABF's "up and down" policy for when the ABF and other jurisdictions have implemented appropriate regulations and processes. The updated regulations are available on the VBA website (<http://vba.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Congress-DE-Regulations-March-2018.pdf>)
- A small number of congress events *don't* attract Victorian Qualifying Points (used as part of the system for selecting Victorian teams). We're developing a document to clarify this.

### Club support

- Around 25 people participated in the Affiliated Clubs Day on March 3. If you haven't seen them already, our Secretary, Kim Frazer, has notes on the day plus a summary of the presentation by Peter Cox (the ABF Head of Marketing)
- The meeting was enthusiastic about the idea of a Regional Super Congress, to rotate around the country areas. Steve Weil from TBIB has indicated that they would sponsor the event (thank you!). The ambition is for this event eventually to offer gold points, but first we have to get it off the ground. Richard Giles is leading the project to develop the idea further

### State

- We have a new affiliated club! Bridge@Blake has been operating successfully for many years on Thursday nights in Caulfield South, raising money for worthy causes. Welcome on board!
- In response to inquiries from a few clubs, we'd like to clarify that we *prefer* that clubs use independent dealers for state events like the Victorian Simultaneous Pairs but we accept that it can be difficult to arrange, particularly for regional clubs.

Geoff Schaller, our VCC convener, is particularly keen to encourage players to try out the restricted pairs events. They're a great opportunity for players to experience a big national bridge festival whilst competing with players at their own standard. Geoff and I ask for your help in encouraging players to give it a go and join in the fun.

Ben Thompson, VBA President