



VBA Council Meeting – Major Items & Decisions

22 November 2017

Congresses

- We reviewed our congress authorisation process & policy relative to other states. Victoria and NSW currently have the most comprehensive and clearly stated policies.
- The VBA will encourage a few of the larger congresses to apply to the ABF for super congress status (super congresses are popular with players because they offer more red masterpoints and better playing conditions than standard congresses)

Club support

- We have scheduled an Affiliated Clubs' Day on March 3. The full agenda is to be determined but there will be sections on marketing, education and congresses

State

- Welcome to the BB Bridge Club, which plans to offer its first session early in 2018 at St George's Anglican Church in Malvern. Club details are on the VBA website
- With about 15 months experience of the new congress Disciplinary & Ethics Regulations, the VBA has commenced a review. The ABF has also clarified that its suspension policy is that congress, state and national level suspensions should apply across the country. ABF General Council Russel Harms has indicated that each state's disciplinary regulations should have a clause added explicitly enabling suspension in accordance with the ABF policy and our review will address this as well. We anticipate updated regulations applying from early 2018

Calendar

- The 2018 state calendar has now been finalised and the VBA handbook is being printed. Unfortunately, several personnel changes, together with late congress notifications and changes from a few clubs, delayed this work. The calendar is available by email now, and will be on our website soon. A copy of the handbook will be mailed to each club as soon as it is printed.

Following our AGM on 20 November, we also have a new Council. I'd like to thank retiring Councillors Helen McAdam, Michael Phillips and Dale Sheather and welcome the new Council of Christopher Leach (Vice President), Neil Ewart (Treasurer), Kim Frazer (Secretary), Penny Blankfield, Richard Giles (Country West), David Morgan, Rob Quirk (Metro) and Jenny Thompson.

Ben Thompson, VBA President