



Online Committee Interim Report

Jenny Thompson





Agenda

Introduction

Progress

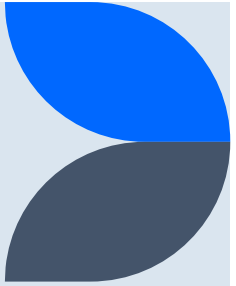
Approach

Working Groups Recommendations

Introduction

The Online Committee was created in August 2022 with a broad remit to investigate the current state of online bridge in Australia and to set out a direction for the ABF to take to ensure adequate governance, support and direction for clubs, states and national events in the ongoing use of online technology for the game of bridge. Our objectives include a direction of fostering both online and face to face bridge.

Progress



Approach

- The Online Committee started with discussion of scope and then worked on discovery
- Two face-to-face discussions at national events were held and surveys were sent to clubs and players to obtain feedback (155 club responses, 2,490 player responses)
- Discussions and investigations were undertaken more broadly, especially with New Zealand (Kate Terry)
- Volunteers were enlisted onto our working groups
- Reports from working groups were obtained and consolidated

Working Groups

Dividing Up the Work



CHECK WHO WAS ON EACH ONE

Working Groups

Teaching

Bill Jacobs
Elisabeth Sylvester
Philip Young
Rakesh Kumar

Etiquette

Jenny Thompson
Bill Jacobs
Jim Naughtin

Assisting Clubs

Mark Guthrie
Jennie Codognotto
John McIlrath

Tournaments

Jenny Thompson
Richard Ward
John McIlrath

Strategy

Elisabeth Sylvester
Philip Young
Jim Naughtin



Findings - Teaching

- The ABF should manage a page with up-to-date links to good teaching resources and online lessons
- The ABF Education page should be enhanced and publicized
- The ABF to provide supporting materials which assist beginners who have been introduced to the game online to join a F2F club



Findings - Etiquette

- The ABF to provide **guidelines, codes of conduct** and **regulations** specifically for online bridge
- The ABF to approve recognised platforms for online bridge
- Proven statistical analysis tools to be used to detect cheating
- The ABF to develop training materials for online directors



Findings – Assisting Clubs

- There are three types of clubs to consider:
 - Clubs able to manage online bridge by themselves
 - Clubs needing ABF support to run online bridge
 - Clubs needing to work together to run online bridge
- A central repository of resources should be provided by the ABF
- MyABF should be used to provide:
 - Registration and marketing
 - Payments and Reporting
 - Registry of directors
 - Player Blacklisting

Findings – Tournaments

- The ABF should appoint an Online Manager to assist at all levels
- The ABF should ensure it is not seen to be competing with clubs
- The ABF should support new session types such as speed bridge, combination events and shorter session times
- For ABF events, online innovation should be considered to reduce cost. Online events could be run in parallel for example at the GNOT and ANC
- Online bridge must not be considered inferior to face-to-face bridge for serious bridge competitions
- Gold points only awarded when playing with video and audio
- There should be no difference between masterpoints awarded online or face-to-face



Strategy – Looking at the future of Bridge

- The strategy working party produced a very interesting paper which went far beyond the remit of the Online Committee
- We believe this should be considered separately as many of the recommendations are far reaching

Next Steps

Our team will now go away and continue our work to prepare the final recommendations to the ABF Board in October. Any feedback is always welcome and should be sent to me at jenny.thompson@duckcube.com



Thank you

Jenny Thompson

