

## Minutes of ABF Youth Committee Meeting 01/09/07

### 1. Attendance

Nic Croft (via teleconference)  
Peter Gill  
David Lusk (via teleconference)  
Daniel Krochmalik  
Cathy Mill  
Griff Ware

Apologies:

Michael Abraham (chairperson)

### 2. New Chairperson

Michael Abraham has tendered his resignation as chair of the committee. His resignation is accepted. He has agreed to remain as a member of the committee.

Cathy Mill is unanimously voted as new chairperson.

Peter Gill has signalled his desire to step down from his official position as a member of the ABF Youth Committee at the end of 2007, and serve the committee in the future as a consultant.

### 3. Official Obligations & Responsibilities of the Committee

The following is a list of the responsibilities of the ABF Youth Committee:

- a) Promotion of youth bridge in general;
- b) Organising Canberra Youth Week;
- c) Informing youth players of events throughout the year (emails + newsletters);
- d) Selection and ratification of all representative youth teams;
- e) Deciding which events are to be played by Australian representative youth teams;
- f) Training representative teams through both face-to-face and BBO sessions;
- g) Conferring of Helman-Klinger award, Helman-Klinger masterpoint award, and Hill-Hurley trophy;
- h) Coordination of events (such as ANC, Triathlon, GNOT) with ABF Management Committee;
- i) Financial obligations (drawing up budget);
- j) Liaison to Oz One Youth Programme.

### 4. Position of the National Youth Coordinator

The current obligations and tasks of the National Youth Coordinator are:

- a) Maintenance of the online database;

- b) Facilitating information to state coordinators;
- c) Ensuring the publication of youth newsletters;
- d) Organisation of some events such as the Triathlon.

David MacDonald has indicated that he is no longer able to continue in this role.

The Committee has recommended that the position of National Youth Coordinator as it currently exists has limited viability and suggests that the paid tasks of the National Youth Coordinator be split up to reflect the varying skill sets and competencies associated with these separate obligations.

There would thus be a number of new positions:

- a) Information technology coordinator;
  - Managing, compiling and synthesising existing database information of youth players in Australia;
  - Follow up efforts by Martin Wilcox to update ABF registry as a whole to gather information on youth players;
  - Ensuring access to database for ABFYC and state coordinators;
  - Importance of adding BBO login names;
  - Public access? Prospect of two lists – private comprehensive lists c/f public limited information; (requires further discussion).
- b) Development officer
  - Teaching experience to promote the game at the grass-roots level;
  - Initiate and oversee programs which support the recruitment, teaching and development of young players;
  - Conferencing and liaising with state youth coordinators to achieve these aims. The state coordinators are currently:
    - Qld – Richard Touton;
    - NT – Betty Mill
    - WA – John Free
    - SA – Phil Sellers
    - Vic – Andrew and Cathy Mill
    - ACT – Griff Ware
    - NSW – ? (Will Jenner O’Shea? David Beauchamp?)
    - Tas – ?
  - Facilitate contact between the ABF Youth Committee’s programmes and Oz One Youth programmes.
  - Advertise position and seek expressions of interest on ABF website and upcoming bulletin.
- c) Bulletin editor:
  - Produce and edit regular youth bulletins (perhaps tri-annually);
  - Disseminate information which keeps ABF members informed of activities and philosophies of the Youth Committee;
  - Possibility of outsourcing this task to a professional editor (eg. Cathy Chua).
- d) Events coordinator:
  - Develop an annual youth playing schedule;
  - Choose convenors for national youth events (eg. Canberra, Triathlon);

- Publicise events.

David Lusk suggests that the Development Officer involves the most intensive work, followed by the bulletin editor.

#### 5. Information Package

The Committee has decided to compile an information package detailing information about youth bridge (including registration details) that will be made available to all clubs so that these clubs will know how to refer new youth players.

#### 6. Canberra Youth Week 2008

- Convenor: Ed Barnes, assisted by William Jenner O'Shea;
- Venue: Change of venue suggested in light of extra costs of Fenner Hall. Peter Gill and Ed Barnes to examine this issue in further detail.
- Publicity: Brochure to be completed and ready to be advertised (online and in new bulletin) by beginning of October.
- Structure: There was a discussion about splitting up the Canberra Youth Week and the Australian Youth Team selection event so that the Canberra Youth Week could become an Asia-Pacific wide event and the selection event would be held at a date later in the year (either simultaneous or subsequent to the Open/Women playoffs).
  - This structure has several advantages and disadvantages;
  - There is limited time to consider and organise such a change prior to the 2008 Youth Week and so there will be no change to the current format of the event. However, this proposal will be examined in more detail next year by both the players and the Committee.
- Under 28: In light of the WBF Youth Event being open to all players of or under the age of 28, the 2008 Australian Youth Team Selection event will be open to all players 28 years or under at 01/01/2008. The other events of the Youth Week will be open to all players under the age of 30 as usual.

#### 7. Triathlon 2007

- To be held 7-9 December simultaneously in Adelaide and Sydney (note 30 minute time difference);
- Convenors are Phil Sellers (David Lusk directing) in SA and William Jenner O'Shea (assisted by Peter Gill) in NSW;
- Format consists of speedball/crazy warm-up pairs Friday evening, teams on Saturday afternoon, pairs on Sunday morning, and an individual on Sunday afternoon;
- Teams final (NSW winner v SA winner) aimed for Saturday night with prospect of BBO Vugraph. Discuss with Nick Fahrer in more detail for access to ABF BBO hardware/software.

#### 8. GNOT 2007

No youth team at this year's GNOT. Future teams dependent on availability of players from Qld and NSW North Coast.

## 9. 2008 Representative Events

There are a number of events available to 2008 Australian Youth Team. However, there seem to be no formal Under 21 Schools events.

- International Mind Sports Event in Beijing, China, October 3-18 (this will become the main representative event and note it will be held simultaneously to the main Open/Women/Senior representative event, the Inter-Nation World Team Championships);
- World University Bridge Championships in Lodz, Poland, 2-9 September (the ABF Youth Committee has not sent a team to this event in the past, however, expressions of interest amongst the players will be sought in early 2008);
- Pacific-Asia Bridge Federation Congress, Gold Coast, dates unknown (this event will be open to all eligible youth players).

## 10. Reporting Obligations

The Committee proposed a new mechanism whereby the Chairperson would deliver a report to the ABF Management Committee at each of their meetings. As such, all members of the Committee are to report ongoing issues to the Chairperson (by email) approximately one or two weeks prior to the Management Committee meeting.

## 11. Budget

A preliminary budget for 2008 calendar year is to be prepared by Griff Ware by the end of September.

## 12. Next Meeting

The Committee aims to have its meeting in Sydney at a time coinciding with the Spring Nationals, October 24-November 1.

## 13. Ongoing Tasks for the Committee

- Advertise for positions associated with splitting up the tasks of the former National Youth Coordinator, including developing detailed job descriptions of the tasks of each role;
- Prepare a preliminary budget;
- Editing and publishing of a national youth bridge newsletter;
- Information package for clubs with emerging youth players;
- Prepare policy guidelines of the ABF Youth Committee (including the areas of decision-making of the Committee and its guidelines for making decisions in the areas of subsidies and representative choices);
- Preparations for Canberra Youth Week;
- Report on Colts teams in New Zealand Nationals;
- Analysis of past university inter-collegiate bridge events and requirements for sending an Australian university team.