

Minutes - ABF Youth Committee Meetings June 12, 13, 14 1999

Saturday, June 12, 9.25 - 10.40

Committee Present: DS, PG, DL, AM, KR,
Observers: Terry Brown, Richard Hills, Linda Stern

Committee is to be composed of five persons:

David Stern (DS) – Chairman
Peter Gill (PG)
David Lusk (DL)
Andrew Mill (AM)
Kylie Robb (KR).

Meetings are to be open for interested parties to attend.

Acknowledged that DL and AM may have conflict of interest due to employment as National Youth Coordinators

Acknowledged KR may have a conflict of interest as a current youth player.

A mission statement decreeing role and function is to be established for this committee. Once written and agreed, to be put on website. Commented that SABA has a mission statement on their website worth viewing.

DL

Final version of agenda is to be circulated about 4 days before each meeting although this will not preclude issues being discussed under "other business"

KR

Agreed that subcommittees will not be used.

A priority is to establish a database of people involved with youth bridge. All resources shall be pooled together including volunteers, contacts, coordinators, players.

DS to set up pro forma
DL to add data

DS

Question: Should we organise (eventually) a national register of youth players within the ABF system?

Comments: Difficulty for ABF of maintaining this type of register. Decision to try to set up free membership to the ABF for youth players through state associations. A letter to be written to each state association explaining the developments in ABF commitment and the positions of DL/AM and the need for support from the state bodies.

Aim to minimise ABF expenses.

Youth committee meetings scheduled for:

- NOT (Jan)
- ANOT (May) and/or VCC (June)
- ANC (July) - ?, depends on attendance
- GNOT/SNOT (Nov)
- Swiss Pairs?

Committee members attending these event would attend but there is limited possibility of subsidising attendance at these meetings. The possibility of a teleconference during the ANC was discussed as a possibility.

DS

It was noted that there might be a problem around July/Aug/Sept. Possible solution is a teleconference depending on resources available and expense of operation.

KR to be secretary. AM and DL to work together on their common issues.

DL & AM to send
proposals to KR & PG

DL and AM to be responsible for states as follows:

DL - WA, SA, NSW, NT
AM - Tas, Vic, Qld, ACT

Question: (PG) Problem getting young people accepted into "older person" game eg Tamworth youth players.

Long Term suggestions:

(DS) Older player education - encouragement of youth players (very positive NZB article describing youth success in Otago).

(AM) Youth player education - warnings about possible reception in standard duplicate sessions and education on how to best deal with "difficult" opposition.

Agreed that AM be appointed to convene Youth in Canberra.

AM to confirm
acceptability with ABF
DS (preliminary stages)

Questionnaire for existing youth players (to be distributed by email or wait until website and database set up?) Agreed that national youth bridge website is a priority along with the database. DL discussed allowing players to register as youth players through the web site thus allowing us to identify more youth players.

Airline sponsorship for flights to Canberra for players from Perth/Adelaide/Queensland in January.

DS to investigate

Agreed that a wider audience needs to be targeted for attracting youth bridge players - ie external to the bridge community.

Sunday, June 13, 9.00 - 10.40

Committee Present: DS, PG, DL, AM, KR,
Observers: Leigh Gold

Need to find a webmaster - Nic Croft suggested as a possibility (currently does SABA? page). Probably include within the Website

DL/AM

- a register of players
- the mission statement
- explanation of committees aims for youth bridge
- the meeting minutes
- entry forms
- details of events.

The youth newsletter to be primarily prepared by DL. PDF file format preferred for distribution (DS able to convert if necessary)

State newsletters to occasionally include youth press releases. Include editors on contact lists.

Gain a copy of the list of bridge publication, journalists and interested parties contacts for press release and other purposes (ask Val Brockwell).

PG

Find details about publications distributed to headmasters and/or teachers, schools etc.

AM – Vic
DL – SA
PG/DS-NSW

Write a generic article on positive aspects of school age people learning bridge.

DL/AM

Develop a list of publications that we wish to be involved with.

KR & PG to talk to Nick
Fahrer for NSW
AM for Vic

Idea: Target Jewish schools in Sydney/Melbourne who have a background of cards and bridge. Include Moriah Massada and Emanuel in Sydney.
Source of funds available for NSW: Follow up details of the "masterpoint money" agreed for allocation to youth bridge by FABC/NSWBA/ABF.

PG and DS

Agreements need to be reached and stated on areas of responsibility for DL/AM in youth bridge development.

AM

Noted that it is a serious problem that the Interstate Youth Teams is not (usually) held during uni/school holidays.

Mostly, positive feelings voiced for Australia hosting 2001 World Youth Championships – potential for generating huge interest in youth bridge. Slight concerns over unknown costs and the possible resources required. ABF to be contacted to gain details on their position with holding the event (costs) and Bermuda Bowl situation in Perth.

DS

Contact Eric Sutherland and other Canadian officials for info on 1997 Worlds (in Canada).

PG

Ideas: Running simultaneous Interstate youth teams (ie during ANC) to involve national players in event - concern raised (KR) about Aust. youth team not being given the opportunity to represent their state and “sideshow” detracting from the main competition.

Ambiguity regarding youth discounts in ABF events to be investigated and clarified.

DL

Intercity challenge to be held in Sydney during September holidays (24-26). Including Gold Coast, Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney and maybe NSW country, with categories of under 15, 20 and 25. Aimed to build up “new” players for Canberra 2000.

PG

Idea: Hold test match with NZ (and Indonesia, Singapore, other zone 6 counties?) around Gold Coast congress to provide an event for 2000 Aust. Youth team and to increase age allowance of players for 2001 Worlds.

PG

Noted that rules specify “bonafide” zonal playoffs for increased age eligibility - not applicable to a playoff between two countries for two positions. To attempt to overcome this discrepancy between zone 7 age limits and those of the rest of the world, write to WBF requesting a realignment of entry rules. Contact Sean Mullumphy (WBF representative) about matter.

DS

Contact Tony Jackman about organisation of test match.

AM

Discuss at ABF meeting during ANC (put on agenda).

AM

Contact John Brockwell, Fran Jenkins (NZ secretary) and Keith McDonald.

DL

Publicise in ABF and youth newsletter if positive feedback.

DL

Follow up on Tim Bourke bridge teachers' material.

PG

DL requires airfares to Sydney and Darwin. DS noted a limited budget for AM and DL travel. In all instances the prior approval of the committee through the chairman and the ABF will be required.

Monday, June 14, 3.45 - 5.00

Committee Present: DS, PG, DL, AM, KR,
Observers: Linda Stern, Eric Ramshaw (partial)

ABF Tournament Committee raised the problem of being unable to run 15 rounds of qualification with a 64 board final for the youth ANC (triple round robin with standard final). Decided to run the triple round robin with a 40 board final (pending approval from ABF).

ER to finalise with ABF
TC

Discussion/update on Bridge in Schools initiative in NSW under PG, Richard Webb & co.: Aim to start in 2000 (pushing Olympic idea), large scale project (start by approaching 40 schools through contacts). Initial financing could be a possible problem. All members should email PG with any useful info. Teaching approach of very simple "guides", focus on fun - discovered that worldwide resources have largely failed due to over complication. Not using minibridge. Will set up Sunday "bridge days" and camps for the school kids.

PG

DS to speak to PG about sponsorship/finance.

DS/PG

AM to set up library of youth bridge resources.

AM

SA (DL): Beginning of July Phil Markey will join the state youth development team - take over running of youth workshops (from DL). Various teaching courses are in place for young people at schools and colleges.

Noted that most of the SA youth players are regular duplicate players now (and are not having any problems being accepted within that scene).

Vic (AM): Regular session each week in place (started last Nov.) with afternoon for school aged and evening for older. Noted that school age game building with greater success than older group. Over past few years some school teaching with very few lasting results.

Question (DS): What form of recruitment do we have in place for "stray" players? How do these players find and contact us?

Possible Solution: Include contact info. With state masterpoint mailout to clubs. Comment: National youth coordinator role is to talk with state youth coordinators and discuss strategies which have had success and give them ideas for development within their region.

NSW (PG): Sydney uni bridge club has restarted regular games, aims to hold a duplicate 500 game soon. Preparation for "Bridge in Schools" is under way. Main aim of NSW is to encourage as many of the existing players to attend Canberra to resurrect the event. Strategies in place are Interschools Teams (August) and lead up events, Intercities Challenge (Sept) to provide some experience and enthusiasm for the new youth scene.

WA (DL): Geoff Pocock expressed interest - DL trying to contact him.

ACT (PG): Dorothy Jesner keen and effective volunteer to be given title of state youth coordinator. Currently teaching 13yr olds. Committee confirmed Diana Toakley's eligibility for ACT team for 1999 ANC.

Qld (PG): Christine Ellaway does not want position of state youth coordinator but is doing useful temporary work. Currently about 16-18 youth players in Qld. Primary problem for Qld participating in ANC is teams being held outside uni/school holidays.

Question (DS to ER): Does youth teams need to be run alongside open and womens at ANC?

Response (ER): No.

Comment (AM): Part of the attraction of the event is the atmosphere created by having the open and women playing the same boards and discussing hands etc.

Question (DS to ER): Would ABF have a problem with aligning ANC youth age limits to WBF youth age limits. ER indicated that the ABF would not have a problem and our best course was to get John Wignall on side on the issue.

PG to send AM relevant info, mainly emails from Mark Abraham.

PG

NT (DL): Will have to start from scratch - AM mother as contact.

First year used the idea of coaches for each pair in Aust. Team. Seamus Browne to coach team at end of ANC.

Comment: OKBridge as a tool for training is not being utilised to full extent. Training through this medium needs to be formalised.

Get a copy of Terry Brown's report on training of Australian teams. DS

Question (PG to ER): Do National Youth Coordinators report to Management Committee? Answer: Yes

Selection methods will be reviewed as part of Canberra revitalisation. AM

Sean Mullamphy (SM) to remain as Aust. WBF representative - has established good contacts within the organisation.

PG to email SM with details of 1st World Uni Champs in Holland 2000. SM can use WBF contacts to gain further info - look into event and possibility of Australian participation. PG

Note: A letter to SM explaining that the Youth Committee will have various requests at times as WBF rep. If he is unable to help us with anything we ask, then please promptly tell those involved and we can find alternative methods to achieve aim. DS

As mentioned previously DS to write to WBF (through SM). DS

Dates for ANC to coincide with holidays will be investigated. DL/AM

The difficulty with country people being able to compete in events to represent their state is already a problem being experienced in Open and Women's events. Find a solution when problem arises.

ABF to be advised that PG and KR are on committee DS

Enquire about altering masterpoint allocation and cost for youth/school players. (ER advises) contact David Anderson for details in this area.

Next National Youth Committee meeting during ANC. AM (check best date)