

Minutes – ABF Youth Committee Meeting 13th November 1999

By Phone 09:00 Saturday 13th November 1999

Committee Present DL (by phone) DS PG KR

Apologies

[D = discussed]

Hills Hurley Trophy

PG reported that the Hills-Hurley trophy was to be awarded to a partnership who was working on playing as a partnership, dealing with system issues as a partnership and who typified bridge as a partnership game.

The recipients are to be selected by a committee of Hills/Gill/Mill and Lusk.

This is to be awarded on the Friday prizegiving at the NOT.

Helman-Klinger Award

Previous discussion regarding the basis of the recipient was masterpoints. PG has put forward a case that this may result in undeserving recipients and has suggested that a panel determine the winner. It was agreed that the same panel as the Hills-Hurley trophy be used thereby making the consideration easier. The nominee will be put to the ABF for final approval. The keywords which will be applied to determine the recipient, and which may be refined, include:

- Ability and Achievement
- Sportsmanship
- Attitude
- Contribution
- Commitment

It is intended that a recipient be chosen for the award to be presented at the 2000 AYC/NOT in Canberra

Youth Website

The committee agreed that the website as put together by Nic Croft (and posted by Catherine and Val Cummings). Some typos have been noted for attention.

DS undertook to submit the ABF youth website to various webmasters in Australia and overseas (since done).

Database

To establish the database but Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT have not been as forthcoming with the information as we would like. DL/AM to renew efforts to get the base information from those Associations.

Also, we have to 'get smart' like getting names and addresses when clubs run youth sessions or lessons (like Trumps in December) we should make a major effort to get names and addresses.

AM reported the following day that all of Sean Mullamphy's information has been received and would be passed on to DL.

The database is to be distributed to everybody by email.

Questionnaire

Only two received so far. We will try and get all participants in the AYC to complete one and submit.

NZ Test Match

Suggested name 'Trans Tasman Challenge'. Agreed that there should be two Australian teams should compete. PG and DL to decide on the best format.

Likely A team: Croft/Matthews/Gold/Wilkinson (Sat and Sun)

Likely B team: Lasocki/Maddison/Abraham/Johnson (Sun only)

Director will be DL assisted if necessary by PG.

AM to check on boards and screens and report to DL re same.

Letter to State Associations

Draft letter prepared by DS to State Chairpersons requesting their assistance with

- distribution of AYC brochures
- ensuring teams for the 2000 ANC
- putting up a poster in their club (included)

was approved (since sent).

Note for next year – we should try and include the youth brochure with the mailing of the NOT brochures to the club.

2000 AYC

D concerns about getting the brochures into the hands of likely participants. Decided to send a brochure to all players on the database outside of S.A.. DS to prepare labels and send to DL for mailing (since done). More discussion tomorrow when AM present.

State Youth Counsellors

D The state of youth bridge in NSW. PG recounted how, in the early 1990's, youth bridge was successful when the ABF appointed people in each state to run youth bridge and compared this to the current situations where the States have appointed counsellors and very little seems to be happening.

There was general discussion whether the state counsellors are there to promote youth participation in the state generally or just in the clubrooms of State Associations. This problem *must* be resolved if the program is to be successful.

DS to speak to Arkinstall and NSWBA while DL and AM to speak to other state Associations.

Reimbursement and Budget

DL expressed some concern over problems involved in obtaining reimbursement from the ABF for newsletter and travel. DS undertook to speak with the ABF treasurer (since done).

DL suggested that the committee should formulate a budget for year 2000 and have the ABF sign off on this. DS indicated that the ABF has made a substantial commitment towards youth bridge and we should therefore attempt to minimise expenditures within the constraints of our objectives. For this reason we must deal with expenditure on an ad hoc basis.

The meeting closed at 11:15

Minutes – ABF Youth Committee Meeting 14th November 1999

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Committee Present DL (by phone) DS PG AM
Apologies Kylie Robb

Youth “Club” within the ABF

AM has contacted John Hansen who has indicated that it is easily possible but he needs a confirmation from the ABF that he is instructed to set up the “club”. DS asked AM to complete this *as a matter of urgency*.

AM Liaison with Tournament Committee

There have not been any TC matters since the Youth Committee last met.

Problems with 2000 Interstate (ANC)

The proposed letter to State Associations Chairpersons was merely the first step in an effort to ensure the success of the 2000 Youth ANC.

DS indicated that money was not an acceptable ‘excuse’ for a state not to send a team.

DS asked to speak with Keith McDonald to enlist the help of the Management Committee and ABF Council to ensure that each state commits to an ANC Youth team.

DL/AM to prepare a formal submission to the ABF to include a NZ or Canterbury/Otago youth team in the ANC – especially if it looks like an odd number of teams.

Intercity Challenge

There is brief mention of the Intercity Challenge in the Gold Coast brochure. It is proposed to be held on the first Saturday of the Gold Coast Tournament but details are being finalised between PG and the organisers. It was agreed that a brochure or at worst a ‘stop press’ would be included with the AYC brochure mailout noted above.

List of Worldwide and Australian Youth Events

PG continues to work on this.

Distribution of AYC Brochures

DS/PG expressed some concern at the supposition that the AYC brochures had been distributed by the State Associations as requested. DS noted that his club had not received anything indicating that it had simply hit a brick wall upon being received by the States or their counsellors. It was noted that this was typical of the problems

which we face in 'promoting' youth bridge as something for which the States should accept responsibility.

Again, it had previously been decided that a separate mailing would be made to all non SA players. The likely solution to this problem would be to direct mail or email to all known players using the database. While it was not our preference to bypass the states, getting the message out and keeping in touch is paramount to our long-term success.

AM Visit to ACT

AM reported that, through Dorothy Jesner's active involvement, there were large number of younger players in the ACT (6 tables while he was there). There were 2 or 3 new enquiries each week giving some hope for bridge in the ACT.

Not wishing to be negative, PG noted that Italy had a very successful program of teaching "kids" bridge but that there was less than a 10% retention rate.

DL Visit to NT

The formal report has been circulated but is summarised as:

Personnel: Betty Mill (Principal & Meryl Howley have accepted responsibility as NTBA Youth Coordinators. The NTBA Has endorsed and recognised their function in this regard.

Resolutions: The NTBA will undertake youth recruitment and development, initially in Darwin but ultimately to include Alice Springs.

The coordinators of the programme be undertaken by a team to include Betty Mill and Meryl Howley as principles and Pam Nunn if available. The team will coopt extra members as required.

That the target programmes should include the Northern Territory University (NTU//TAFE), selected schools (Primary & Secondary), The "Drop-in" centre and the Centre for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders (CATSI).

That appropriate player and public education be undertaken to negate myths regarding the inappropriateness of bridge as a young persons' activity.

A more comprehensive report was distributed to all members in October and is available on request.

WA, QLD and TAS Visits

DL and AM both reported that there was little point in making a visit to these states until such time as their youth bridge is 'sorted out' in those states and there is somebody who can be liaised with regarding youth bridge.

There is some movement in Tasmania with Mark Abraham 'briefing' Anthea Rowberry.

The limited responsiveness noted in the distribution of brochures as well as during discussions regarding youth bridge with people in those states was endemic of the overall problem. There is an urgent need to have a responsible person in each state who we can provide teaching materials, promotional materials and advice on how to get youth bridge going otherwise a visit is not appropriate.

This should be taken up with the ABF Management Committee.

Other Business

Letter to Gerontopolous – deferred

Attention was drawn to an article in the Australian Bridge Teacher's Association Newsletter regarding teaching 'street kids' bridge and our use of same.

Discuss the need for all on the committee to try and get new player's names on the database – such as the regular at Cammeray.

The committee noted Mark Abraham's offer of help for the website when he settles in at the ANU next year.

The committee noted Denis Howard's comments in his article proposing that the ABF should spend money on sending youth players overseas to train much as Cummings/Seres did in 1958.

The meeting closed at 11:15

Next meeting scheduled during the AYC/NOT perhaps .

To Discuss with ABF

- Youth ANC 2000 and support to be taken back to the state associations by the members of the ABF
- Zonal playoff subsidy
- Establishment of Zone 7 committee and WBF Youth rep – Sean Mullamphy ??
- NZ district teams for ANC
- Helman Award amounts etc
- ABF "phantom" club