

MINUTES

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING ANNUAL MEETING 10:00AM SUNDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2011 NEW SOUTH WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION CLUBROOMS

1. Present

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| David Stern | - Chairman |
| Dave Thompson | - Coordinator |
| Leigh Gold | - Member |
| Paul Gosney | - Member |
| Nye Griffiths | - Member |
| Justin Howard | - Member |
| Daniel Krochmalik | - Member |
| Bruce Neill | - Member representing ABF |
| Fraser Rew | - Member |
| | |
| Peter Gill | - Of Counsel |
| Griff Ware | - Of Counsel |

2. Apologies

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| Mark Abraham | - Member |
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Abbreviations:

ABFYC = ABF Youth Committee

ABFMC= ABF Management Committee

FofYBF = Friends of Youth Bridge Fund

3. Committee

DK advised that he will be standing-down from the committee after this meeting. DS thanked DK for his contribution to the committee over several years. All other committee members confirmed their willingness to continue.

4. ABF Youth Coordinator Review and Report

DT provided a verbal report on his activities as National Youth Coordinator since assuming the role in July 2010.

- Met a couple of times with Frank Power regarding the bridge in schools programme in Bairnsdale, Victoria which has bridge as a maths extension activity in ordinary class-time at four primary schools in the town. It is noted, however, that thus far none of the kids have converted to duplicate play but that is one of the ultimate goals.
- Contact has made with the Bridge at Schools organisation in the USA which consented to the use of their teaching materials in a local course in Australia.
- Researched youth development activities in the USA, taking particular notice of the Atlanta Junior Bridge programme which produced 90% of the under-21 trialists for the USA last year.

- Ran a one-week school holiday bridge programme in Moama, NSW in September which was somewhat disappointing with initial registrations of 15 students dwindling to 8 at the start of the week and two more dropping off after a couple of days. One participant is, however, now a regular duplicate player and has played in a couple of congresses (*DS noted that a 1/8 conversion rate would generally be considered successful*).
- From both the Bairnsdale experience and Moama, it is evident that having the involvement of local clubs is very useful for both equipment and extra people to supervise table-play.
- Attended World Youth Championships in Philadelphia and as circumstances panned-out assumed a more hands-on role with the under-26 team than originally intended.

DT noted that more is to be done in terms of forming direct relationships with state youth coordinators and to ascertain what their support requirements are.

In the short term, DT is to find out who is looking after youth bridge in each state and what current intentions are for ANC participation.

A general discussion took place around issues for school-based programmes:

- GW noted that one needs to be careful that it isn't simply a child-minding service.
- FR noted that getting players from? local clubs to participate would be very advantageous.
- DS advised that he was aware that Laura Ginnan was developing something in Melbourne around a gifted children programme.

5. Budget 2010 and 2011

DS reported that the previously circulated budget of \$70,000 has been approved by the ABF. Note that the amount of \$70,000 is regarded as a maximum expenditure and the ABF will be appreciative of any savings which can be effected from this amount.

The ABF have advised that expenditure in 2010 was \$57,000 against our budget for that year of \$70,000.

The detailed proposed expenditure budget was discussed and in conjunction with the decision to send two teams of four to Croatia, indicative subsidy rates of 100% for the APBF and 75% for the World Youth Congress were agreed.

It was noted that the general allocation of \$8,000 towards education leaves the Committee well-resourced to support the proposed Sydney Girls High bridge programme.

It was also agreed to allocate some funds (~\$500 per bulletin) for a bulletin, probably tri-annual, for which an EOI specification is to be prepared and advertised on the ABF website.

6. Friends of Youth Bridge Fund

DS reminded members that the Friends of Youth Bridge Fund is a fund that DS and PG started in 2002 through initial donations from Avon Wilsmore and DS. Funds have been raised through player auctions, trivia nights, donations and other activities. The Fund's major expense to date has been a contribution \$12,250 to the staging of the 2005 World Youth Championships in Sydney. Other notable items have been sending teams to NZ for Challenge matches, Bateman's Bay annual youth participation.

The general purpose of the fund is to ensure that youth players do not miss National events due to financial constraints. To this end we generally make available subsidies of \$250 per person to people in genuine need. Of late we have made loans available where the genuine need is in doubt and we now ask recipients to replace subsidies made in future years when they can afford it.

Decisions as to expenditure are made by David Stern sometimes in consultation with Peter Gill. This reflects input into raising the funds during the term of the Fund.

Monies are held by the ABF on behalf of the Fund and interest is paid annually on average balances.

The fund also owns +/-20 screens and tables which it rents annually to the ABF for playoffs saving them the need to ship to and from Canberra.

The current balance of the fund is \$33,425

Transactions during the year:

Receipts

Money Raised 2010 GCC 1,000.00
Loan Repayment Ellena Mosovsky 250.00
Donation 2010 VCC 342.00
Sundry Donation 160.00
Screens Open 450.00
Screens Seniors 330.00
Judy Frazier Donation 350.00
Loan Repayment Daniel Braun 227.27
Interest 2010 1,600.00

Payments

Loan to Daniel Braun Due repay -227.27
Stephen Williams Grant GCC 2010 -227.27
Lauren Travis Grant GCC 2010 -227.27
Lucy Henbest GCC 2010 -227.27
Ellena Mosovsky GCC 2010 -227.27
Jessica Tearne GCC 2010 -363.64
European Training Paper -300.00
Subsidies U/26 Melbourne Training Camp -600.00
U/21 Subsidies for NZ Nationals 2010 -750.00
Bateman's Bay Venture -2010 -1,000.00
Adjustment to Balance with ABF -20.00

The FofYB Fund has committed \$2,000 to fund the captaincy of the team which finished second in the NOT and which has been augmented by the addition of Nabil Edgtton. The team of Milne, Whibley, Smirnov, Hung, A Edgtton and N Edgtton is effectively a youth team plus Smirnov and while their inclusion in the Yeh Cup is not an Australian or Youth activity, the reality is that their performance will be scrutinised and they will be viewed as an Australian Youth Team – hence the appropriateness of subsidising the captaincy.

DS requested that the FofYB fund be mentioned in next year's Youth Week brochure to help support players who have financial constraints preventing their participation.

DT queried the governance arrangements of the fund. DS advised that the monies were managed by the ABF as a separate ledger account and disbursed by the ABF secretariat upon DS' advice as trustee.

7. Awards

The following awards had been previously agreed to by circular resolution prior to Youth Week.

Helman-Klinger Player of the Year: Pete Hollands
Helman-Klinger Masterpoints: Michael Whibley
Hills-Hurley Partnership: John Paul Gosney-Nabil Edgtton

The press release confirming the awards was noted.

8. Events for Consideration 2011

- ***APBF to be held in Malaysia 15-24 June 2011***
6-person U26 and U21 teams with separate captains are to be sent to this event. Players intending to arrive in Kuala Lumpur later than Monday 13 June 2011 must obtain permission from the Committee to do so.
- ***World Youth Congress 21st-30th August 2011, Opatija, Croatia***
It was noted that the age eligibility rules for this event differ from the APBF which may impact on selection decisions. It was also noted that with the short qualifying phase, light playing schedule and multi-event transnational format, this event lends itself better to 4-person teams. It was decided to send two 4-person teams, each with an NPC.

Noting that the Youth Week selection trials were clearly advertised as selection basis for the APBF only, it was agreed that the committee was under no obligation to move to select teams for the WYC. The age eligibility issue affects Alex Lockwood, Jane Reynolds and Orlando Wu, but in light of the WBF's previous willingness to accept overage players, it was decided to make a formal representation to the president of the WBF for an exemption for Alex Lockwood, in which case the Croatia teams will be:

Liam Milne – Michael Whibley
Justin Howard – Max Henbest (npc Cathy Mill)

Nathan Howard – Alex Lockwood
Peter Hollands – Shane Harrison (npc Ian Thomson)

In the event that the WBF do not grant an exemption for Alex Lockwood, Adam & Nabil Edgton will replace Nathan Howard – Alex Lockwood.

9. Ratify U26 Team for 2011 APBF

It was noted that the finishing order in Stage 2 of the Youth Butler was as follows:

1st Justin Howard – Max Henbest
2nd Liam Milne – Michael Whibley
3rd Nathan Howard – Alex Lockwood
4th Jane Reynolds – Orlando Wu
5th Peter Hollands – Shane Harrison

JH advised that depending on work commitments he may need to withdraw from the team. It was noted that this would poison Max Henbest as the withdrawal would be for reasons other than open team selection. JH was asked to clarify his position within the next week and, it was agreed that if JH withdrew, the reserve pair of Jane Reynolds – Orlando Wu would be selected.

In light of the difficulties that potential non-availability of players has caused this year, it was suggested that Declarations of Availability prior to the selection event be reintroduced.

Secretarial note: JH has since formally withdrawn from the team, resulting in the formation of the following ratified team for the APBF:

Liam Milne – Michael Whibley, Nathan Howard – Alex Lockwood & Jane Reynolds – Orlando Wu

10. Ratify Captain of U26 for 2011 APBF

It was noted that Cathy Mill was the only nominee put forward by originally intended under-26 team and in light of her very good track record in performing in that role, her selection as captain was ratified.

11. Select U21 Team for 2011

In addition to the pair which qualified via the Youth Butler, Ellena Moskovsky – Jamie Thompson, nominations for selection have been received from:

Daniel Braun – Shane Harrison; and
Lauren Travis – Stephen Williams

It was decided to select Daniel Braun – Shane Harrison and to delegate the selection of a third pair to a sub-committee comprised of DT, GW & NG with guidelines to attempt to accommodate Max Henbest in the event that he is poisoned from the under-26 team.

Secretarial note: With Max Henbest subsequently declaring his non-availability for under-21 selection, the recommendation of the sub-committee was to select Lauren Travis – Stephen Williams as the third pair.

12. Ratify Captain of U21 for 2011

Prior to the meeting, expressions of interest were sought from a number of people and candidates of Nye Griffiths and Leigh Mattheson emerged.

LM briefly joined the meeting to outline his proposed approach to captaincy and to field question from members.

It was decided that the players would be consulted during the GCC where all would be present after-which a decision would be made via circular resolution.

Secretarial note: Nye Griffiths was subsequently selected as captain.

13. Training Camp

It was noted that there is no specific allowance within the budget for a training camp. DS suggested that while this does not preclude us from going back to the ABF and applying for funding or from moving funds within the budget, discussion needs to take place regarding the usefulness of these camps given the performance of last year's team which had ideal training with Ishmael Del'Monte and Michael Kopecky.

JH advised that the training camp had a potentially undesirable outcome of some of the pairs making quite a lot of last minute system changes; adding a lot of low frequency complex agreements which may have been counter-productive in the final analysis.

It was noted that there may be merit in running separate camps for U26s and U21s given geographic constraints and different skill levels.

DS advised that P.O. Sundelin has also offered to mentor/train and Alan Wood fund has agreed to provide partial funding with FofYB Fund to fund the balance.

14. Offer to Mentor U21 Team

Adam and Nabil Edgtton would like to mentor a pair each from the U21 PABF team, whether they do that formally or informally is up to the youth committee and for discussion. The committee agreed that with the relative inexperience of the under-21 team, formal mentoring would be highly desirable. It was agreed that once the under-21 captaincy is finalised, each under-21 will be assigned a mentor with clear training and preparation objectives to be monitored by the captain.

Secretarial note: NG has since organised Adam Edgtton to mentor Ellena-Jamie, Nabil Edgtton to mentor Lauren-Stephen and Andy Hung to Imentor Daniel-Shane.

15. Tabling and Discussion of 2010 Team Captain's Report

Captains' reports for the PABF in Hamilton and the World Youth Championships in Philadelphia were discussed.

16. Examination & discussion of Australia's disappointing international performance in 2010

The following matters potentially impacting on performance were discussed:

- Preparation
- Captains
- Team Selection
- Commitment
- Focus
- Expectations
- Partnerships

With another disappointing loss in a quarter-final at last week's Yeh Bros cup involving Paul Gosney and Nabil Edgtton, there does seem to be a problem in getting through early KO matches.

A consistent concern was excessive system complexity and this is to be an area of focus for mentors going forward.

The setting of high expectations for the under-26 team perhaps put too much pressure on the players.

An inability to get adequate sleep due to insomnia and/or poor time zone adjustment plagued at least one of the pairs in Philadelphia and could be an issue on which formal medical advice should be sought.

17. Roll of Honour

The following was received from Ron Klinger: Andrew Reiner has done much for Youth Bridge with his financial assistance in 1989, 1990, 1991 etc and also more recently. He should receive some recognition for this (many are unaware of the extent of his promotion of youth bridge over the last 20+ years). Perhaps an Andrew Reiner Trophy for some Youth Event would be the least that could be done.

DT suggested that a trophy be established for the winner of the Butler pairs.

DS suggested that an honour roll be established for those persons who have substantially contributed to advancing youth bridge.

18. Parental Consent

Matter carried forward.

19. Close Personal Relationship Policy

Matter carried forward.

Leigh Mattheson, Nabil Edgton and Adam Edgton joined the meeting for the open session.

20. General International Issues

DT was asked to draft a letter to the president of the WBF outlining the concerns that Australia has with light playing schedules and short qualifying phases for major international youth events.

21. Review and discuss ABF marketing initiative attached to minutes when sent out.

A general discussion took place on the draft marketing plan prepared by Sandra Mulcahy on which several members provided written feedback.

It was suggested that a dedicated youth website could be useful. GW volunteered to develop a specification.

22. Klinger Bridge Week

It was noted that work is progressing on organising a Klinger Bridge Week. Ron Klinger has made himself available; most likely for the 1st week of October.

The program is:

- liaise with Ron and finalise dates
- arrange helpers which will improve the event
- finalise venue
- develop a viable marketing plan
- gather necessary resources

23. Youth Sessions around Australia

LG advised that a weekly youth session is being run at the Waverley Bridge Club in Melbourne organised by Peter Hollands and Laura Ginnan. DT to undertake a survey of state youth coordinators to ascertain what other youth sessions are being held.

24. Increasing Youth Numbers and Participation

DT stated that trying to access details of youth players in the ABF masterpoints database was a source of frustration as some are not in the youth database.

It was suggested that youth players be given incentives to “get a friend into the game”.

It was suggested that better use needs to be made of social media.

It was suggested that a regular BBO session/tournament for youth players could be viable.

25. Fund Raising Activities

Carried forward.

26. Online Forum

It was noted that a subcommittee of GW, PG and Andy Hung agreed to drive this process and liaise with Ian McKinnon.

27. Triathlon 2010 and Plans for 2011

NG gave a brief report on the event. 2011 event will be held in Melbourne. LG will evaluate potential venues, programme and timing.

28. AYC Report and 2012

GW have a verbal report, noting:

- new venue was widely regarded as an overwhelming success;
- numbers were the same as last year;
- reduction in age limits next year will put further pressure on forming a viable field for the butler;
- the appropriateness of the tie-in between the teams and butler is under question;
- there may be merit in extending youth week to ~10 days.

29. ANC

It was noted that Queensland may have difficulty fielding a team this year which would reduce the field to a sub-optimal five teams. DT will work with the Queensland youth coordinator to try to ensure that Queensland field a team.

30. Correspondence

Not discussed.

31. Closure

The meeting closed at 3:30pm.