

# New South Wales Bridge Association

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 December 2007

### Apologies:

David Beauchamp  
Doug Lane  
Bill Zorn  
Toni Zorn

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### **1 Meeting Opening**

The meeting was opened at 6.30pm.

### **2 Confirmation of minutes of 13 December 2006**

*Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

Moved: Ken Storr  
Seconded: Alan Walsh

The motion was carried.

### **3 Matters Arising and Correspondence**

No items of correspondence intended for tabling at the AGM have been received.

#### **4 Annual Report and Balance Sheet**

The Treasurer presented the Annual Report and Accounts. In brief,

- The NSWBA will virtually break even (small loss). Mainly this is due to timing issues, as the GNOT metropolitan qualifier and the State Teams have both been moved to later in the Calendar year. There has been approximately \$33,000 depreciation on the building and this year was a very expensive Australian National Championships.
- There are no proposed changes to table money or fees for the next year.
- ABF loan is due for repayment in April 2008 and a rollover plan is in progress.
- No questions were raised from the floor.

*Motion: That the Annual Report and Balance Sheet be received.*

Moved: Julian Foster  
Seconded: Michael Wilkinson

The motion was carried.

#### **5 Special Business**

##### Resolution to amend the Articles:

In brief, FABC membership requires a direct voice on Council. The changes proposed aim to provide a single governing body in NSW. The details have been professionally prepared by Solicitors and overseen by Bruce Neill. Many Thanks to Neville Moses for his assistance in this process.

Tony Hutton asked what will happen to the funds currently administered by the FABC.

Response from Bruce Neill: This is a separate matter from the proposed amendment. However, the FABC may choose to put funds into a new trust and provide directions on the use of the money.

Alex Yezerski continued with more details on the existing funds:

- There is \$32,000 in a trust for country clubs and this trust would continue to be administered by the NSWBA as per the original wishes of the FABC.
- The second existing FABC trust has approximately \$30,000 and the FABC will provide precise instructions for use of the trust. This fund came from the Statewide Pairs income stream for the FABC and was originally given to the FABC by the NSWBA.

*Motion: That the resolution to amend the articles be approved.*

Moved: Alex Yezerski  
Seconded: Bruce Neill

The motion was carried.

**Election of Office-Bearers, Honorary Solicitor and Auditor**

There was only one valid nomination for each of the following positions so the nominees were deemed elected:

Chairman: Bruce Neill  
Treasurer: Julian Foster  
Secretary: Kim Neale

There were 5 nominations for the 5 ordinary councillors' positions and as such the following were deemed elected

Kim Morrison  
Judy Mott  
Warren Lazer  
Nick Rodwell  
Marilyn Chadwick

Bruce Neill thanked Alex Yezerski for his enormous contribution made over three years as Chairman of the NSWBA. In particular, Alex has overseen detailed work on air conditioning and the FABC changes. This leaves the NSWBA in good shape to move forward.

There was some general discussion about the time line for the proposed merger. It is anticipated it will take approximately four months to organise elections of new councillors. Neville Moses commented that the merger of two like organisations with similar objectives, non profit etc and the winding up becomes a simple request process.

The FABC have nominated Ken Storr Treasurer, Neville Farrell and Colin Mitchell (new president of the FABC) representatives on Council.

Motion: That Doug Lane be reappointed as the Honorary Solicitor to the NSWBA for 2008 and that CBC Partners be appointed as auditors of the NSWBA for 2008.

Moved Alex Yezerski  
Seconded Ruth Jamieson

The motion was carried.

Richard Douglas spoke in support of and gave credit to the outgoing Chairman, Alex Yezerski. Richard said that Alex had fulfilled all his objectives of improving playing conditions and greater transparency in the administration of the NSWBA.

Richard Douglass asked Bruce his opinion of the NSWBA and ABF relationship. Bruce said there have been 2 era's – the first bottom up with small numbers of events like the NOT and ANC. Now, we have a top down system with multiple national events and conflict with State Organisations.

Bruce continued discussions indicating that Alex Yezerski's comment flushed out interesting feedback. A recent report prepared by Earl Dudley indicated that Australian governance of Bridge had fallen behind the times. The current structure lacks oversight and the challenge is to put in place better arrangements for the future.

Neville Moses congratulated Alex Yezerski and Bruce Neill on the marvelous jobs they are doing. Also, the attempts that are being made to reconcile the tension between ABF and State issues.

Michael Wilkinson raised the old interclub teams event which was run in the past. Warren Lazer indicated that this is one for the NSWB Tournament Committee to look at and would probably require a volunteer to coordinate the event.

Julian Foster raised the passing of John Arkinstall. The Council noted with thanks John's wonderful contribution at a State and Australian level over many years.

Tony Hutton raised the issue of too many ABF events which debased the value of gold points. Neville Moses and Julian Foster commented that gold points are a large source of revenue for ABF funds, so there is unlikely to be any change any time soon. Alex Yezerski also mentioned that the smaller states are very supportive of the current structure. Although there are some governance issues.

#### Air Conditioning at NSWBA:

Alex Yezerski discussed the work done by council to address this issue. In brief,

- Examined costs and options to cater for 200 people - all inclusive this cost is close to \$200,000.
- Dropping the capacity by 40% to 120 people and suffer the consequences when larger numbers occur. The savings are only about 10% of costs – so probably not a viable option.
- To date invested \$8,000 in professional advice. Unfortunately, this building is designated as office space and not specifically for our intended use.
- Another option is to find or develop purpose built premises with similar requirements to ours (air conditioning, food/drinks, services, lounge areas, parking, etc). This is a longer term option to find a club that is asset rich but income poor.
- In 2008 we plan to split the ITS over two nights to provide a greater degree of comfort and perhaps increase participant numbers.

Peter Jamieson commented on the great job our support staff do. In particular, Pauline Gumby as webmaster and in production of the tournament calendar.

Alex Yezerski also mentioned David Weston's contribution as State Master point secretary.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the outgoing Councillors.

## **8                    Closure**

The meeting was declared closed at 7.15 pm.