

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
**6.00 PM**  
**CITY OF MELVILLE BRIDGE CLUB**

**The Meeting was called to order and under Section 54 of the Association Rules Garth Scotford was duly appointed as Chair for the Annual General Meeting until a new Chair is elected.**

**1. PRESENT**

The BAWA Council comprises of the 37 affiliated bridge clubs in WA. The AGM is a Meeting of the BAWA Council. The Members were represented at the Annual General Meeting by the following duly appointed delegates

Garth Scotford (Chair and South Perth), Robina McConnell (Mandurah and Secretary), Terry Collins (Treasurer), Bill Symons, Eugene Wichems (Rockingham), Lynne Milne (TC), Graham Cushion (Auditor and West Coast), Connie Coltrona (Undercroft), Phil Power, Kathy Power, Linda Bedford-Brown (Nedlands), Chris Mulley (Chair of TC), Ian Clark (City of Melville), David Kininmonth (Swan Districts), Sylvia Bray (WABC), Prue Hart, Don Sutton-Maddocks (Canning), Sandy Sutton-Maddocks (Bayswater), Jane Reynolds (MC), Michael Turner, Ann Spiro (Visitor), Terry Spiro (Visitor).

**2. APOLOGIES**

Trish Anderson (Mandurah), Di Brooks (Rockingham), Martin Doran, Allison Stralow, Busselton Bridge Club.

**3. MINUTES OF BAWA AGM 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Motion That the Minutes of the BAWA AGM held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be received and were a true and accurate record. **Moved:** Eugene Wichems **Seconded:** Sylvia Bray **Carried**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Funding to clubs has not been taken up. XO to follow up with advice to Members.

**5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This is my 25<sup>th</sup> President's Report and after much thought and consideration it will be my last. I thought it might be fun to see my 1997 report – so I've attached it. I have enjoyed the time I have spent with BAWA and I am confident that the Association is in good shape and in good hands. With Robina McConnell's guiding hands on the tiller the new committee will continue to progress. I note the good work Chris Mulley is doing on the BAWA Tournament Committee and assisting with the promotion of Youth Bridge in WA. I understand Chris has nominated for Vice-President and I'm sure that he will make a valuable contribution.

Although COVID is not yet over I do believe that we have seen the worst of it and I am confident that table numbers across the state will continue to improve. The BAWA Treasurer, Terry Collins has

overseen our finances and reports an Association in sound financial shape. His budget for 2023-24 looks good.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have served on the BAWA Management Committee and supported me over the last 25 years. There are too many to mention and I risk leaving somebody out if I try.

I wish the new President the very best and hope that the 2023 ANC is a huge success.

As always I conclude by thanking all of our volunteer officers not only in BAWA but, on your behalf, every affiliated club in WA.

Nigel Dutton

### **Presidents Report 1997**

It is hard to believe that one year has passed and that I should be writing a President's Report already.

Over the past few years it had become a concern of mine that too few people were doing the bulk of the work required to run an organisation the size of BAWA. So this year my primary goal was to spread that work load. I believe that people work best when given ownership of a task. I also believe that if you are doing the work you should be making the decisions.

I am pleased to report that this approach has worked well.

Our Vice-President Ms Margaret Abrahams took on the task of presenting the final 16 boards of the State Teams Selection Trial on a viewgraph. With the able assistance of Jonathan Free and team the day was a great success. We will certainly repeat the exercise. More importantly it gave us experience presenting a viewgraph which will be invaluable in 1999 when the ANC is held in Perth

Committee member Sue Broad was given the task of increasing BAWA members and has done a terrific job meeting and encouraging bridge clubs (that I didn't know existed) to join the BAWA family. This year I have played, and made a very similar speech, at Bridgetown, Glen Forrest, Northam and Denmark I am pleased to report that Bridgetown has joined the fold and two of the others are giving the matter serious consideration. Sue, with her team, has also done a superb job as the convenor of the Hans Rosendorff Memorial Women's Teams.

Committee Member Sue Surman has agreed to be the BAWA Convenor of the 1999 Australian National Championships. The work has already started and I'm confident that Sue will organise an event we can all be proud of. I am also confident that when our member clubs are asked to contribute they will respond in typical West Australian fashion. Sue has also agreed to convene the Golden West Congress in 1998.

Committee Member Derek Pocock has continued his excellent work running BAWA's largest competition - the League Teams. He has also contributed substantially in his role as Chairman of the BAWA Tournament Committee

Li Soots continues to be a tireless worker for BAWA and 1997 has seen her perform her role as our Chief Tournament Director and State Master Points Secretary.

I know the many hours that your treasurer has spent slaving over the computer keyboard keeping track of BAWA's finances. Despite increased expenditure this year we are in a healthy financial position. This is due, in no small way, to the diligence and effectiveness of the treasurer - Jan Blight.

I am also pleased to report that BAWA now has a presence on the international stage with its own home page on the internet. Come and visit us at <http://willettonshs.wa.edu.au/bawa>. I have also been busy on very exciting task. BAWA has a real possibility of obtaining its own premises. I have had

many meeting and lots of discussions and my mood is optimistic. I have written a separate report on this matter that was published in the last Bridge West.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank, on your behalf, as well as mine, all of BAWA's committee members for the commitment they make to your organisation work as smoothly as it does.

Reviewing the year I am pleased with our progress. Our mistakes have hopefully been few and not too noticeable. Players will be pleased to note that we will be reviewing entry fees for events for 1998. It seems reasonable to suggest that the entry fee for 3 week event should be less than for a 6 week event.

Dianne Marler.

I have deliberately left Dianne till last. As some of you may know Di is off to live in the UK at the end of the year. I cannot overestimate the loss to this organisation. As Secretary for many years, and Executive Officer for the past twelve months Di has been the backbone of BAWA. I am absolutely confident that no committee member will argue when I say that Dianne's contribution has been second to none. She is a tireless and efficient worker who will be greatly missed and impossible to replace. Needless to say we are looking for a Secretary and Executive Officer.

May I take this opportunity to wish our associated clubs bridge players and all bridge my best wishes for the remainder of the year and the fast approaching festive season.

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

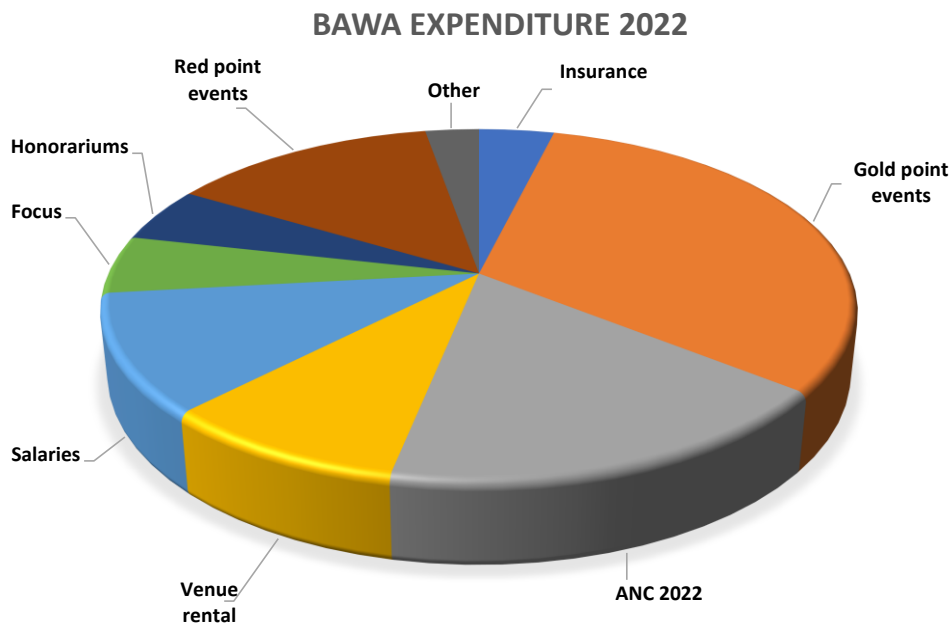
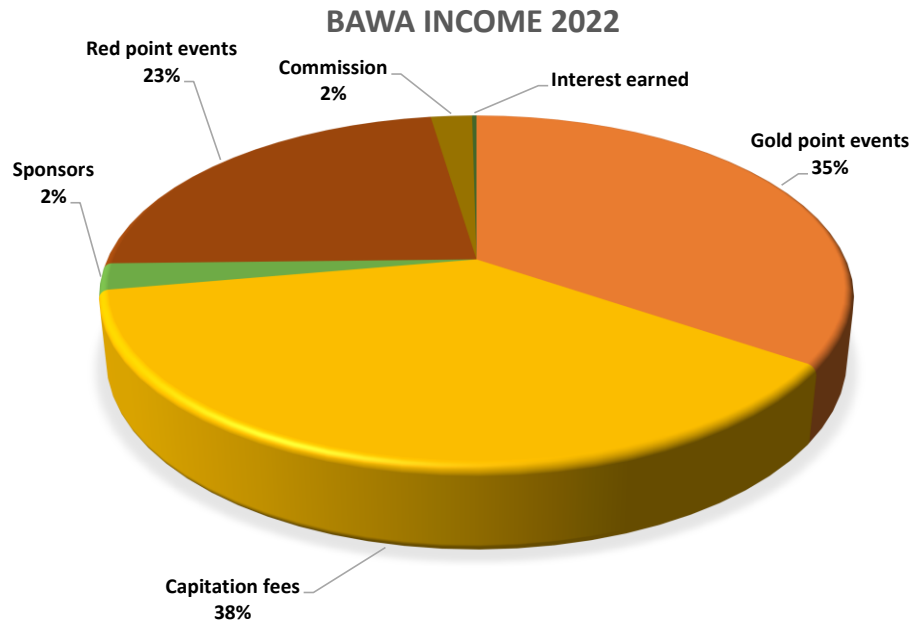
### **1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022**

A deficit of \$5,629 was recorded for 2022. This follows surpluses of \$16,792 in 2021 and \$20,183 in 2020. A loss had been budgeted for the year, and can be attributed to a combination of the following factors:

- Continued discounts to BAWA capitation fees
- Travel subsidies for players in ANC 2022 held in South Australia
- Rising costs due to inflation
- Continuing impact of Covid-19 on BAWA gold and red point events

All five gold point congresses in 2022 were well attended, however a common occurrence was to see the withdrawal of players leading up to the event. For example, the Golden West Congress saw 14 pairs withdraw due to Covid-19 infections, resulting in a loss of potential revenue of about \$2,500.

BAWA accounts for 2022 have been audited by our accountant Graham Cushion, and his audit report is presented. A summary of where BAWA income came from and where it was spent in 2022 is shown graphically below.



The budget for 2023 has been prepared and it shows a forecast profit for the year of \$16,429. This does not include the ANC 2023 which will have its own budget.

#### **ANC 2023**

As a result of the cancellation of ANC 2021, ANC 2023 will be held in Perth this July. BAWA are again grateful to those sponsors who carried forward their sponsorship to this year's event, and we look forward to participation by WA clubs. The main uncertainty for the event will be the number of players attending from interstate. A budget is in the process of being finalised, however a profit of \$10,000+ is anticipated.

#### **My ABF**

A number of improvements continue to be made to My ABF. It is hoped that it will become more widely used by clubs in WA. BAWA will continue to use My ABF for all state events except for Supervets.

### **Focus Newsletter**

The total cost of producing the Focus newsletter in 2022 was \$10,670. This includes photocopier depreciation and honorarium payments. With an average of 400 copies being printed per month, it costs around \$2 per copy. BAWA will look at measures to reduce costs and seek income through advertising.

### **BAWA Capitation Fees for 2023**

Discounts to BAWA capitation fees of 10-20% have been provided over the last 3 years as financial relief to clubs struggling due to the impact of Covid-19. BAWA membership has steadily increased over the last year and many clubs are reporting increased attendance at club sessions. This is a welcome sign that bridge is returning to normal in WA.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, the BAWA fees will be returning to pre-Covid levels of 2019. The BAWA fees will be \$16.90 for metropolitan clubs and \$13.50 for country clubs.

It was **Moved** David Kininmonth **Seconded** Sandy Sutton-Maddocks that the Capitation Fees for 2023 remain at 2022 rates.

Discussion was held at it was agreed by majority that this be **Carried**.

**Moved Terry Collins Seconded Linda Bedford-Brown** that the Treasurer's Report amended be received including the attached Auditor's Report and Committee Member's Statement.

**Carried.**

## **7. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **2023 BAWA AGM – TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **Introduction**

2022 was another busy year for the Tournament Committee. Whilst bridge at the State, National and International level returned from COVID-imposed exile, the virus continued to have an impact on these events. There were also some significant changes to the BAWA Supplementary Regulations, with more significant revisions intended for the coming year.

#### **COVID-19**

As noted in the introduction, the COVID-19 virus still cast its shadow over bridge. Table numbers in many events continued to be down a bit. However, in many instances this was due to players observing the protocol of not attending when ill. Overall, it seems as though the measures put in place last year were largely successful in limiting the impact of the virus upon bridge events and players.

### **Player Numbers**

Again, numbers in evening events were down, with a few events having to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. This is still a matter that the Tournament Committee is trying to improve upon.

In particular, the Tournament Committee has added a couple of evening online events to the Calendar during the winter months, to see if that mode of bridge, popularised by necessity during COVID restrictions, might also prove to be a more attractive proposition for players on the shorter winter evenings. As the details of these events are finalised, the Tournament Committee would ask the Clubs to promote these events to their members.

The Tournament Committee remains keen to take suggestions from any Clubs or players of ideas to revitalise State bridge in the evenings.

### **Update of BAWA Supplementary Regulations**

The Tournament Committee implemented a couple of changes to these Regulations over the course of the year. Firstly, the provisions relating to State Recorders was re-written to clarify the processes surrounding Recorders. Secondly, BAWA moved in line with the ABF by eliminating the use of Appeals Committees and instead adopting processes involving Reviewers.

The major task for the Tournament Committee in the coming year is to completely re-write the Supplementary Regulations. The main goal is to improve clarity and, where possible, provide explanation for the processes outlined there by better articulating the jurisdiction of the Regulations and the entities outlined in them.

As part of that re-write, the Tournament Committee intends to establish clear jurisdiction and processes for ethical and disciplinary matters arising from player behaviour.

### **ANC Selection Events**

The Selection Events for this year are largely unchanged from last year. However, the Tournament Committee resolved that the Women's and Seniors' Selection Events would be scheduled to permit more boards to be played, should entry numbers permit it.

### **A New State Women's Event**

The ABF's Hans Rosendorff event has been run in Perth for many years, and will continue to run. However, in recent years, the addition of a Mixed field to that event (in keeping with the increased importance of Mixed events in International competitions) has led to a significant dilution of the Women's field for the event. Consequently, the Tournament Committee has decided to run a State Women's Swiss Pairs event in October. We would appreciate the Clubs' support in this new initiative.

### **BAWA Calendar**

The Tournament Committee were quite late in finalising the BAWA Calendar for 2023, which created some difficulties for a few clubs in planning their own calendars. As Chair, I apologise for that. I have implemented a timetable for creating the Calendar this year which should mean that we can finalise it earlier to make it possible for clubs to finalise their own calendars.

### Conclusion

It looks to be another busy year for tournament bridge in Western Australia, particularly as the ANC is in Perth this July. I hope to see many of you both over the table and away from it in the coming year.

Chris Mulley

Chair, BAWA Tournament Committee

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **MEMBERSHIP PROFILE**

The ABF Masterpoint report at the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 shows that Western Australia has some 4185 players in 37 clubs, this is a slight decrease on last year (4203).

### **EVENTS**

As the Executive Officer I have in 2022 organised the GNOT competitions held by BAWA with all regions coming under the State umbrella. There was amendment to the Regulations aligning our State Regulations with the National, this relates to residency and contention for Finals.

The **GNOT Metro** was down on numbers in the Final, but qualifying events at the clubs showed an increase in entrants. The team of Mimi Packer, Jonathan Free, Vinod Nasta and Cynthia Belonogoff won the event and were awarded the Linda Bedford-Brown Trophy.

The **GNOT Provincial** was held on only the one day with seven teams playing off for the Final. The team of Christine Bacon and Helen Rogoysky were successful and were joined in the Final by Ian Clark and Robert Kirberger. The **GNOT Country** Final was an outstanding event held in June in Kendenup with 13 tables with Kate Boston, Murray Webber, Colleen Skipsy and Colleen Long successful. My thanks to the Kendenup Club in particular Heather and Bob Fergie for the success of the weekend and also to Steve Rogoysky for replacing Kate in the Final.

The Final was held last year in Brisbane.

The ANC Restricted Butler was held at Melville in May – it was an Open Event and had 14 pairs enter. Going forward to the Final in Adelaide were Rohan and Aruni Bandarage and Ian Clark and Robert Kirberger.

### **FOCUS**

Once again gratitude to Linda Bedford-Brown and Beata Bieganski for the Focus Magazine. It maintains the highest of quality and I know from the many comments I hear is well received by the bridge community. Some 400 are printed on a monthly basis and distributed to all clubs.

## **AWARDS**

BAWA continues to acknowledge the winners of events throughout the year, and the traditional trophies presented, are maintained and engraved. BAWA also presents a bottle of wine to winners of events and will this year add engraved ball pens for prize giving.

The Honour Boards at WABC are currently being upgraded, but we have a number now that are not relevant and consideration will be given to re purposing them.

## **ANC 2023**

As you are aware this year will see the ANC played in Western Australia, I am the Organiser for the event together with Jane Reynolds as the Floor Manager. Much preparation has been achieved in previous years – as you know we have had two cancellations due to Covid. This is a great event for our state and I urge all clubs to get behind it not only in sponsorship but promotion to play.

Finally I must acknowledge the outstanding work done by the out going President, Nigel Dutton. It has been a pleasure to work with him and have his continued support in my role.

To Allison Stralow who leaves the Vice President position thanks to your knowledge and advice over the many years, Alli.

Congratulations to both Ian Clark and Chris Mulley joining the Executive of the Association, an exciting new era for us.

Robina McConnell

## **ABF DELEGATE'S REPORT**

Allison Stralow is currently the President of the ABF.

Chris Mulley is the other BAWA delegate and as such a member of the ABF Council.

Chris and Allison will attend the ABF AGM, in Adelaide on 3 May 2023.

This is not an election year, although there is a vacancy for Treasurer and an Ordinary Board Member. Ian Thomson resigned as Treasurer in January and was replaced by Rob Ward. Ian remains on the Board as he replaced Rob as an Ordinary member. To continue in these roles until the 2024 election, the ABF Council will need to ratify them. If either is challenged an election will be held,

Issues raised between March 2022 and March 2023 are outlined below:

1. As of 4th March 2023, the ABF has 32,611 registered players, a decrease of 1187 players over the year. Hopefully 2023 will see numbers going up again. There are 335 affiliated clubs throughout Australia.



2. Several meetings of the ABF Board were held via Zoom and the mid-term meeting was held face to face in Sydney in November 2022. In 2023 the mid term meeting will include a joint meeting of Council and the Tournament Committee to discuss the crowded Calendar.
3. A Presidents' meeting was held at the Gold Coast. Kathy Power was the Proxy for the BAWA President. It is planned to hold another meeting via Zoom later in the year.
4. My ABF, a web-based entry management and player information system has continued to progress with new features being added. My ABF now has over 7,686 registered users, plus there are 3,808 'unregistered users' that a club has added as a member who have not set up their own accounts. Melville is a pilot club, trialling this for as cashless entry means.
4. Kim Frazer has replaced Andrew Richman as the Chair of the ABF Foundation. The Foundation's role is to fund projects which are outside the domain and stated objectives of the ABF.
5. The ABF Council discussed mandatory vaccinations for all events. BAWA and clubs have followed suit to provide a safe environment for players.
6. The ABF set up an Online Bridge Committee to investigate all aspects of online bridge in Australia. They held face to face sessions at the SFOB and at the Gold Coast and have help two online surveys. They will present a draft strategy to the ABF Council at the AGM in May. All clubs are affiliated with States and Territories and as such run under the jurisdiction of that body.
7. Joan Butts has retired from the position of National Teaching Coordinator. Richard Ward has contacted all Secretaries to outline the way forward with teaching resources and Accreditation.
8. The ABF Secretariat had a major health scare at the end of 2022. She is now back at work at ABFHQ.
9. The Governance Committee proposed a timetable for the development and implementation of a new organisational model for the ABF, building on previous work that has continued since 2017. The new Governance Committee, chaired by Rob Ward, will present the new model to the AGM this year. States and Territories have already agreed in principle to the changes. The model will see the ABF appoint an Executive Director who will be a member of the Board.
10. Rebecca O'Reilly continues as Youth Chair of the Youth Co-ordinators Committee. Danni Fuller has replaced Jane Reynolds as the BAWA representative on this committee.

ABF Delegates

Allison Stralow and Chris Mulley

### **Regional Sub Committee Report**

## BAWA COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022 REPORT

The event, again held in Bridgetown, saw a modest growth from last year's 12 tables to 14 tables in the pairs. Since this included quite a number of novice players who only wanted to play one day, only 10 tables (down from 14 last year) played in the teams. Further approximately 31% of players had never participated previously, suggesting the promotion of the event at country clubs has been successful in reaching this group. The change from April to September appears not to have affected participation.

Bridgetown continues to be a popular destination as it is both central and novel – giving a sense that the event is owned collectively rather than by one club. This year the venue was changed to a more expensive facility with good amenities but the use of volunteer caterers from the local school meant costs remained the same. The director, Brian Wade ensured a competently organised and calm congress, dealing boards himself to help keep costs down.

From the decline in previous years, the growth in numbers suggests a positive outlook for the event. Participants were made aware of challenges to making the event cost neutral and were supportive of trying new ideas to ensure that this happens. The congress made a small profit of \$269.93, largely thanks to the donation of some leftover wine from BAWA. A full budget is attached.

The pairs final was won by Kimberley Zhao & Alan Cransberg; the pairs plate by Alan Dundas & Florence Maltby. The teams was won by the Davis team of Corrie Davis, Denise Sampson, Alan Cransberg and Kimberley Zhao. A prize was awarded to the pair with a combined total of 50 masterpoints as quite a number of novice pairs attended.

Jo Dundas

### 8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Nominations have been received in writing from the following

<b>President</b>	Ian Clark
<b>Vice President</b>	Chris Mulley
<b>Secretary</b>	Robina McConnell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Terry Collins
<b>Committee</b>	Eugene Wichems Jane Reynolds Garth Scotford Allison Stralow Michael Turner Martin Doran

The Chair declared all elected to the Management Committee. Ian Clark took the Chair.

### 9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Chair moved that the Honorary Auditor Graham Cushion be appointed for the coming Financial Year. **Moved** Terry Collins **Seconded:** Robina McConnell **Carried.** The Hon Auditor indicated this will be his last year in the position. He was thanked for his continuing good work for the Association.

### 10. APPOINTMENT OF ONE ABF DELEGATE

The position is for a two-year period and Chris Mulley has been accepted by the Management Committee.

## **11.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Chair recognised the valuable work done by the outgoing President Nigel Dutton and gave thanks on behalf of the Association. **Moved** from the Chair **Seconded** E Wichems That the Meeting pass a vote of thanks to Nigel Dutton for long and dedicated service to the Association. **Carried.**

The President commits to contacting all clubs to ascertain their concerns, issues and opportunities.

The President makes as a priority the issue of player behaviour at all levels of bridge. His expectation is one of role model for all.

**12. MEETING CLOSED AT 7.05 PM by the Chair all members were invited to refreshments.**