

MINUTES
ABTO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 4-23
Monday 6 November 18:00 to 20:00

Attendees:

By Zoom:

Chair: Malgorzata Grzyb (MG)
Selena Coburn (SC)
Mike Crossley (MCr)
Steff Johnston (SJ)
Vice Chair: Kath Lovell (KL)
LTA Officiating Manager: Matthew Morrissey (MM)
Veronica Mwondela (VM)
Myooran Nathan (MN)
Steven Wilkinson (SW)
Alex Wolfe (AW)

Apologies:

Honorary Treasurer: Darren Michaels (DM)

N.B. The minutes record the order in which the items were discussed.

All members must check the minutes for actions assigned to them.

Actions log will be updated accordingly.

It was agreed that the meeting would be recorded to help with accurate minute taking. The minutes will remain as the official record of the meeting and the recording will be deleted once the minutes are confirmed.

The recording started at this point.

1. Welcome, apologies and member news.

MG welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the objective of the meeting.

SJ noted apologies and advised that 7 members have retired from officiating and accepted the invitation to become Associate Members.

2. Approval of Accounts

Accounts were issued in advance of the meeting. No questions were submitted prior to the meeting.

MN – query around the numbers in the payment section, does not correspond to the total. MG suggested that probably due to rounding but will ask DM to review and check. Subject to confirmation that the difference is due to rounding, the committee approved the accounts.

SJ to send an email to DM to confirm.

MCr joined the meeting at 18:11

3. Plan and logistics for workshops and AGM

No motions have been submitted.

MG outlined the approach and running order for the day.

Workshops and AGM will be hybrid.

MG asked for as many committee members to be there in person.

AW said he is unable to be there, MCr is at AELTC officiating. KL is planning to be there depending on accommodation. VM will not be there in person.

Tech team – DM, VM, MN – laptop will be needed on the day.

On the ground team – SC, KL, SW

MG asked groups to coordinate amongst themselves regarding roles and responsibilities on the day.

Workshops will be hybrid using Teams and a duration of 1 hour.

For workshop 2, Chris M will be involved. VM looking for a referee who has worked both on and off court.

4. Awards and long service certificates

Nominations and winners have been decided. Not all MC members voted. Salvors have been ordered and will be ready for 9th Dec. Certificates underway for nominees and will be issued on the day if recipient is in attendance. Pictures of nominees on screen would be good.

Long service certificates – need support from LTA to obtain details of officials who joined 15 years ago. MM will need to investigate whether data is available. May not be able to confirm if they served for 15 consecutive years.

Support needed to help present awards. Will be confirmed once presentation is ready and whether certificates are printed or not.

5. Annual Report

Papers need to be sent 2 weeks prior to AGM. MG emphasised importance of providing as much information as possible in reports and showcasing work carried out in the last year.

KL and SC noted that not a lot of progress has been made by the Referee Working Group and asked MG to include as part of the Chair's report.

6. Committee updates and actions

No updates have been made to the actions log since the last meeting. Want to avoid the log growing again so keen to obtain updates.

MM – gave update regarding success at ITF schools. Selections will be with panel by 10th Nov and remaining on 17th Nov. By end of month selections will be issued.

Meeting with Grading Panel to be arranged for Nov. New categories for women's and this needs to be reflected in the grading structure so it is clear who can chair the different categories. ELC could also impact structures and needs to be considered. The wording needs to be clarified.

MCr – when is survey going out to Line Umpires?

MM – discussing joint officiating strategy internally, will need to get pulse results before feedback on ELC. MM to agree that survey should be sent out separately, hopefully by the end of the week.

MG – any updates on referee evaluations? Try to kick some off this year and to continue throughout 2024.

AW – ATP challenger 50, confusion at some tournaments in terms of what this means.

MM – remain the same.

SJ – asked about status of website update.

MM – designs are nearly finalised, minor tweaks, reviewing user stories so developers can build effectively. On track to go live in January.

MG – noticed opt out of ABTO box in new design, does not feel it is necessary and asked for it not to be included. Encourages people to make uninformed decisions.

MM – this was agreed within LTA. New system will allow communication to come from ABTO rather than LTA.

MG – risk outweighs the benefit, not convinced it is needed and will lose members as a result.

MN – said there is probably a technical way of getting the same result without having an opt out box.

AW – could be problematic moving forwards.

MM – it is not clear to officials what the process is and that they do not need to be a member of ABTO to be a licensed official.

KL – would it make it easier for officials to come back to ABTO?

MM – would be asked at renewal stage so can rejoin.

KL – would LTA share ABTO information such as awards?

MM – yes

KL – could officials opt out of other benefits?

MM – there would be no opt out, just don't use the benefits that are not applicable to them.

MG – doesn't send out the right message considering all that has been done with the LTA/ABTO partnership and asked for a further discussion with MM and Olly Scadgell / Jenny McAneny-Vincent before anything is implemented.

MG – asked MN if there are any updates on welfare.

MN – nothing major

MG – budget available for mental health training

MN – does LTA have an association that could be leveraged.

MM – no partnership as such

MN left the meeting 19:33

MG – The Conversation webinar on F&E to take place on 20th Nov

MG – asked all MC members for any other updates on their activities.

KL – no updates from selections but will be busy with R&R underway, nothing much on referee. No work on ToRs. Prioritising workload

SC – some work has been carried out such as sourcing referee opinions, sent DM notes on referee group for strategy.

MCr – update from strategy group, waiting on an update from MM. Letter to AELTC not shared but may be just key points in letter to be shared. Stand ready once results of survey known if survey is issued.

AW – no formal meetings since last meeting. Information regarding Australia's decision to bring forward ELC to all events by 1 year shared via WhatsApp. Happy to have a call with LTA to discuss further.

7. Close of meeting

Next meeting will be in January.

MG asked for all hands-on deck for the AGM. Arrange group meetings to get ready for AGM. Please be responsive to emails and indicate if deadline is not achievable.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Meeting closed at 19:58