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MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BIG GAME AND
ROD FISHERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA held in the
Club Room, Bull's Chambers, 28, Martin Place, Sydney,
on MONDAY the 26th OCTOBER, 1937, at 8 p.m.

P R E S E N T

Mr. C. W. Firth, Mr. G. Gordon Allard, representing N.S.W.
Mr. A. B. Carrodus, Dr. Caselberg, representing Queensland.
Mr. T. C. Roughley, Dr. Bruce Hittman, representing Western Australia.
Mr. Michaelis representing Victoria
Mr. Charles Holmes, Director of the Australian National Travel
Association and Mr. L. S. Brooks were invited to be present.
Mr. A. E. Church attended to take the Minutes.

Apologies were received from the Game Fishing Club of South
Australia.

B U S I N E S S

The first business was to elect a Chairman and it was proposed by
Mr. Allard and seconded by Dr. Hittman that Mr. Clive W. Firth take the Chair.
This was carried unanimously.

Mr. Firth in opening his address said - "We are gathered here tonight
on a very unique occasion - in fact I might even say historical in so far
as Australian fishing is concerned. Tonight is the consummation of a harmony
and unity movement throughout Australia in the management of our Salt-water
fishing. I sincerely trust that this Meeting will banish forever any
elements of indecision and even mistrust which may have been white-anting
the development of a truly Australian front to the outside world.

Australia has an unquestionable asset to exploit in its big-game
fishing as an overseas tourist attraction. Our out-of-door and sporting
life is probably our greatest heritage and if developed on truly Australian
lines in accordance with our best traditions of sportsmanship, this asset
must quickly assume great national value and importance.

I give you my sincere and genuine assurance that this is wholly and
solely the spirit in which New South Wales has moved in sponsoring the
formation of this Federal Council to manage big game fishing. We have no
desire to individually control or dominate it despite the fact that, to date,
the bulk of this class of fishing has occurred in N.S.W. waters.

We fully recognise and appreciate the part which Victorian Sportsmen
have played in its development and we hope that their co-operation will be
just as great in our future activities.

In sponsoring this movement, N.S.W. has been called upon to more or less
act as a referee in so far as the selection of representative Interstate
bodies is concerned. This has neither been an easy nor a pleasant task for
N.S.W. as we in no way desired to either interfere in or meddle with domestic
affairs in other States. However, the time was finally reached when immediate
action was essential. We have the Celebrations Contest commencing on the
1st January, only some 8 weeks off now, and this Contest is being held under
the Rules of the Federal Association. If there is no Federal body, there can
be no Contest as now arranged.

We have, therefore, necessarily taken the matter in hand, having no
other alternative if the movement was to function in time for the
Celebrations Contest. Invitations were consequently issued to :-

Queensland Game Fishing Association to represent
Queensland.

The two N.S.W. delegates were elected at a State
Conference of all Game Fishing Clubs and comprise
of Mr. Allard and myself as a delegate from Bermagui.
The Swordfish & Tunny Club to represent Victoria.
Game Fishing Club of South Australia to represent S.A.

The Big Game & Rodfishers' Assn. of Western Australia
to represent Western Australia.

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Some of these organisations are being represented by proxy tonight. Subsequently, however, each State must have its own permanent and resident delegates. Most of the future functioning of the Federal Council will be carried out by correspondence. In the event of voting being necessary on any matter requiring adjudication, votes can also be registered by post to whoever is appointed as Secretary.

The need of an Australian control is therefore obvious to all. Without it we cannot have standardised fishing rules or even an official body for the acceptance of records. Without unity in this movement, we cannot force a way for Australia into the world's fishing affairs nor can we get that recognition to which we now know we are entitled. With unity of purpose we know that so much can be done for Australia. With disunity, the only prospect can be intrigue and disruption resulting in nothing but discredit to both our Sport and Australia.

It is a great joy, therefore, to those who have lead this Federal Movement in N.S.W., and to me personally, to meet with our co-delegates from every State of the Commonwealth with the one object of consummating this great movement for Australia. We welcome you, gentlemen, in the same spirit which we know you have come to us, that is to achieve something worthwhile for our great sport.- game fishing. I feel sure that in our deliberations, any interstate barriers which may have existed will be completely wiped away and every problem viewed solely for the benefit of Australia.

I readily admit that there has been some confusion and indecision in the early formation of this Movement. This I know you will admit is more or less inseparable from all Movements in their embryc stage. I would just like to take this opportunity of briefly explaining what we are anxious to achieve.

We have now arrived at a stage where formal recognition has been given to a parent or controlling body in each State. It will be the duty of each of these State bodies to fully develop their own waters and fully manage their own domestic affairs. It will perhaps be clearer of explanation if we take N.S.W. as an example.

In this State we have now Clubs at all our own main fishing grounds - Eden, Bermagui, Narooma, Batemans Bay and so on throughout our State waters. All of these Clubs are affiliated with and thereby bound so far as Rules are concerned to the N.S.W. Rodfishers' Society, the parent body in this State. At a recent State Meeting of delegates from all of these local Clubs which was convened by N.S.W. Rodfishers as the controlling State body, two delegates were elected, Mr. Allard and myself, to represent N.S.W. on this Federal Council, and so should the position in future be in other States in the election of their delegates.

Each State Branch to assume a purely State title, that is only taking the name of the State they represent and to be the only body in their respective spheres assuming a State title. All local Clubs to assume a local title and affiliate with the parent State body.

State Branches to refuse all other affiliations excepting their own with the Federal body. The Federal body to solely represent Australia in all matters of overseas interest and affiliations."

At the conclusion of the Chairman's address some discussion took place as to the scope of the Federal Council and at this point a telegram was tendered by Mr. Brooks which was received by him from the Fish & Game Society, W.A. The telegram read as under:-

"Please you and Church act as our delegates for Big Game Conference Monday. Shinsonson, Fish and Game Society, W.A."

Mr. Michaelis spoke in favour of allowing Mr. Brooks to be present at the Meeting and this was supported by Dr. Caselberg.

The Chairman pointed out the constitution of the Council and after some discussion it was MOVED by the Chairman and SECONDED by Mr. Roughley that the Delegates then present at the Meeting form the Big Game and Rod Fishers' Association of Australia. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NAME OF ASSOCIATION:

Mr. Michaelis said he thought the name was unsuitable and was open to misconstruction by other Clubs and he would like to see it altered at the first possible moment. He realised that owing to the Angling Contest to be held next year that nothing could be done until that was concluded and he assured the Chairman and Members present of the complete co-operation and all assistance from his Victorian Club during the period of the Contest. Similar expressions were voiced by Dr. Caselberg and Mr. Carrodus for Queensland. It was MOVED by Mr. Roughley and SECONDED by Mr. Michaelis that the name "Big Game & Rod Fishers' Association of Australia" remain as it is until June 30th, 1938, when it should then become known as The Game Fishing Association of Australia. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DELEGATES FROM PERTH:

The question of the eligibility to vote of Mr. L. S. Brooks on behalf of the Game & Fish Society of W.A., received considerable discussion and it was finally MOVED by Mr. Allard and SECONDED by Mr. Carrodus that Mr. Brooks be admitted to the Conference but that the votes of the W.A. delegates be limited to two. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VOTING POWERS OF DELEGATES

It was MOVED by Dr. Caselberg and SECONDED by Dr. Hittman that Mr. Michaelis as the only representative from Victoria should be given two votes at this particular Meeting of the Federal Council. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. It was also MOVED by Mr. Carrodus and SECONDED by Dr. Hittman that the Federal body shall comprise of two delegates elected annually from each State to represent Big Game Fishing interests in that State. This was CARRIED. It was suggested by Mr. Michaelis that as N.S.W. and W.A., had more Fishing Clubs in their respective States than others, these two States should have the right to appoint four delegates each. Speaking for N.S.W. the Chairman said that he would be opposed to this suggestion as the one aim and object of this Federal Association was not that one State should have more votes than another but that all States should work together for the betterment of Big Game Angling.

BIG GAME FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Chairman outlined the steps taken in N.S.W. to promote the Big Game Fishing Contest to be held in conjunction with Australia's 150th Anniversary Celebrations and he said that the Minister in charge of the Celebrations had notified certain people interested in fishing to form a Committee to conduct this Championship. He (Mr. Firth) had been elected the Chairman of this Committee and he was happy to tell delegates from other States that it was the unanimous wish of this Committee that the competition should be made Australia wide and not confined to the waters of New South Wales. In any contest such as this with its very wide scope it was imperative that a standard set of Rules should be adopted and to obtain agreement from all Clubs; The Committee had forwarded the Rules governing the Contest to every Game Fishing Club in Australia and he was happy to say that he had received favourable replies from all. He particularly asked delegates to take back to the Clubs in their respective States the best wishes of this Angling Committee and at the same time he asked them to do their utmost to make the Contest the success it deserved to be.

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF PRESIDENT

It was moved by Dr. Caselberg and Seconded by Mr. Carrodus that Mr. Firth be elected the first President of the Big Game and Rod Fishers' Association of Australia. This was carried unanimously.

In thanking delegates Mr. Firth said the Meeting tonight was the culminating point of a movement started nearly a year ago by the late President of the N.S.W. Rod Fishers' Society, Dr. A. J. Spiller-Brandon, and he said he doubted very much that but for the untiring efforts of this sportsman it would have been possible to bring together in such a spirit of co-operation representatives from all States of the Commonwealth.

It was agreed that the President be given the power to appoint a deputy and that each delegate also be given the power to appoint a deputy, but that no deputy will have the power to represent more than one State.

It was also decided that there be no Vice Presidents of the Association.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

The appointment of a Secretary was next dealt with and it was proposed by Dr. Caselberg and seconded by Mr. Carrodus that Mr. L. S. Brookes be the Secretary of the Society. It was also proposed by Mr. Firth and seconded by Dr. Hittman that Mr. Church be the Secretary. It was finally proposed by Dr. Caselberg and seconded by Mr. Carrodus that Messrs. Brookes and Church act in the capacity of Joint Hon. Secretaries.

EX OFFICIO OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

It was proposed by the President and seconded by Mr. Carrodus that Mr. C. H. Holmes, Director of the Australian National Travel Association be an ex officio member of the Federal Council of the Association. The President said that there was no need for him to speak of the splendid work that Mr. Holmes had already accomplished in making widely known overseas our Big Game Fishing and he felt that the Council would be indeed fortunate if Mr. Holmes would consent to act in an honorary advisory capacity at its Meetings. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Holmes said how much he appreciated the kind remarks of the President and Members and that it would give him very great pleasure to assist in furthering the interests of Big Game Fishing in Australia. He suggested, however, that he should not be given power to vote and at his special request this was agreed to.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

It was proposed by Mr. Firth and seconded by Dr. Caselberg that Mr. T. C. Roughley be elected scientific advisor of the Association, but without power to vote at its Meetings. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CLUBS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Dr. Hittman was instructed to write to Big Game Angling Clubs in W.A. and ask them to call a Meeting and elect two delegates to represent fishing interests in Western Australia.

STATE BRANCHES

It was moved by Mr. Firth and seconded by Mr. Brookes that there shall be one Branch of the Fed. Assn. in each State to whom all local Clubs shall be affiliated if they desire to come within the organisation of the Fed. Assn. The State Branches until the 30th June, 1938 shall be as follows:

QUEENSLAND:

Queensland Game Fishing Society.

NEW SOUTH WALES:

New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society

VICTORIA :

Sword Fish and Tunny Club of Australia.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Game Fishing Club of South Australia

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Big Game and Rod Fishers' Association of Western Australia.

This was carried, Dr. Caselberg ~~accepting~~ ^{dissenting}

GAME FISHING RULES:

It was agreed that the Rules of the Big Game and Rod Fishers' Association as printed, be adopted as the Rules governing Game Fishing until June 30th. The following were agreed to as the constitution of the Association :-

- (1) The Association shall be called The Big Game and Rod Fishers' Association of Australia.

Proposed by Mr. Allard and Seconded by Dr. Hittman.

OBJECTS - (a) To deal with all matters appertaining to all types of Game Fishing throughout the Commonwealth.

- (b) The gathering and distribution of reliable information as to Game Fishing in the Commonwealth.

Proposed by Mr. Firth and seconded by Mr. Carrodus.

- (c) To promote modes of angling for game fish and generally to advance the sport of rod fishing as may be decided from time to time.

- (2) The Association shall have one Branch in each State.

Proposed by Mr. Allard and seconded by Mr. Carrodus.

- (3) No Game Fishing Club shall be recognised unless affiliated to its own State Branch, the State to be determined by the usual Meeting place of the executive of such Clubs.

Proposed by Dr. Caselberg and seconded by Mr. Carrodus.

- (4) Each State Branch and its affiliates to administer their own funds and to deal with all matters within their state.

Proposed by Dr. Caselberg and seconded by Mr. Brookes

- (5) The Association shall have power to affiliate with, or grant affiliation to overseas bodies with objects similar to this Association.

Proposed by Dr. Caselberg and seconded by Mr. Brookes

- (6) That the Association shall have power from time to time to make Rules as may be deemed necessary to promote its objects.

FINANCE:

Mr. Church drew attention to the question of finance and he pointed out that the preliminary work in calling together the present Meeting, drawing up Rules etc., had been undertaken by the N.S.W. Rod Fishers' Society. This had cost the Society a considerable amount of money but it could hardly be expected to continue indefinitely in expending its funds in this manner. Mr. Church also pointed out that it would be necessary to have letterheads provided and to have a central address for the offices of the Association. In the past the N.S.W. Rod Fishers' Society had loaned their Club Rooms and had used their own notepaper for all correspondence and defrayed all charges for same. It was MOVED by Mr. Firth and SECONDED by Dr. Hittman that the affiliation fee from each State Branch of the Federal Council be fixed at 10gns. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Michaelis, Dr. Caselberg and Mr. Carrodus spoke appreciatively of the work done by the N.S.W. Rod Fishers' Society in the formation of this Federal Council and they said that they felt that the Big Game Fishermen in Australia were under a deep debt of gratitude to the N.S.W. Rod Fishers' Society and its executive officers for the work they had performed.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES:

The issue of the following certificates was unanimously approved and it was agreed that after the Fishing Contest (when a number of very fine certificates would be available for inspection) that a suitable certificate should be designed and issued to fishermen whose captures were approved by the Association. It was also agreed that certificates should only be awarded to Members and Hon. Members of affiliated Clubs who must be amateur anglers.

E. E. Bullen	Thresher Shark	380 lbs	NSW
Milton Kent	White Shark	868 lbs	NSW
S. Rohu	Tiger Shark	1005 lbs	NSW
L. H. Winkworth	King Fish	62 lbs (caught 12 cord line)	NSW
J. R. Porter	Black Marlin	672 lbs	NSW
T. A. Bell	Blue Tunny	238 lbs	NSW
K. T. Whalley	Blue Pointa	609 lbs	NSW

AMATEUR ANGLERS:

The definition of an amateur for this purpose is any person who does not fish for sale or marketing purposes and is not a principal or employee engaged in boat hire or professional fishing.

ALTERATION TO RULES:

Mr. Church brought under ~~the~~ notice a letter from Mr. Milton Kent and from the Gt. Barrier Reef Game Fish Angling Club requesting that the Rules be altered to include White Sharks amongst game fish. After discussion it was MOVED by Dr. Caselberg and SECONDED by Mr. Carrodus that until June 30th there be no alteration in the existing Rules.

BUTTONS FOR MERITORIOUS CAPTURES

Mr. Caselberg suggested for consideration that affiliated Clubs be asked their views on the awarding of buttons for various classes of game fish captured during the season.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed in view of the fishing contest which commenced on January 1st and finished on the 23rd April that no Meeting of the Association be held until July 1938. This would give all Clubs in all States an opportunity to consider any alterations to Rules etc., that might be deemed necessary as a result of the fishing contest.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

At the conclusion of the above business Mr. Roughley moved a vote of thanks to the President, Mr. C. W. Firth, ~~and~~ not only for the able and patient manner in which he had conducted the Meeting but for the spirit of sportsmanship and conciliation he had always shown in all matters connected with the Federal Association. Mr. Roughley said it was particularly pleasing to find a man who instead of adopting a parochial or State outlook viewed all matters from a national standpoint. He said that Australia as a whole, and big game anglers in particular, should be very grateful to Mr. Firth for the immense amount of work that he had already done to make the Meeting tonight possible.

He said he was sure that all Members would join with him in saying how fortunate they were in having as their first President to the Federal Association a man of the high ideals of Mr. Firth.

Mr. Carrodus in supporting Mr. Roughley's remarks said that as a visitor from Queensland he would take back to the Northern State happy memories of this Meeting and he was sure that Queensland would loyally support and do its utmost to further the interests of game fishing, not only in Queensland but throughout Australia.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

The Meeting closed at 1.15 a.m.

Prior to the Meeting, which commenced at 8 o'clock, Mr. C. W. Firth entertained delegates to dinner at the Hotel Australia.

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Read & approved.

Clive W. Firth.

President.

20th July 1938.