

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.

Minutes of the Seventh Conference held at the Bermagui Hotel,  
Bermagui South, N.S.W. on Saturday, 16th April, 1955, at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT: The Chairman, Mr. T.A. Bell, President of G.F.A. of Australia.  
Mr. J.W. Taylor, Hon. Secretary & Treasurer of G.F.A.A.  
Mr. J.C. Chandler - representing Queensland.  
Col. J.M. Bruce-Steer " New South Wales.  
Mr. M.J. Lawson " New South Wales.  
Dr. G. Grove " Victoria.  
Mr. J.W. Taylor " Victoria.  
Mr. E.W. Palmer " South Australia.  
Mr. G.R. Cowell " South Australia.  
Mr. W. Southam as Acting Secretary to New South Wales.  
No Delegates were sent by Western Australia.

APOLOGIES: received from Mr. C.W. Firth, Hon. Life Member and from the  
West Australian Game Fishing Association.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President first welcomed the Delegates and expressed pleasure in their attendance and thanks for their help, to the betterment of game fishing, in travelling long distances at their own expense and time, in the interests of the sport.

The President reported that New South Wales handed over necessary documents to enable us to function from the middle of February, 1954. From that date we wish to report that fishing is definitely becoming more popular. This is shown by the number of Applications for Australian and World Records. In the last 14 months, since we took office, we have granted 43 Australian Records which includes some World Records. Some of these Records are a very fine effort on the part of the Angler concerned. Some merely fill a vacant space on the Record Chart, and are not an advertisement for Australian waters. Trouble has arisen through anglers not sending in claims for months after a capture. A time limit has been placed for Applications on the Agenda for your consideration, which would simplify matters.

Two Record Charts have been distributed in our term of office. The latter needs some additions. It is suggested that instead of printing Record Charts so frequently, that G.F.A.A. ask "Anglers and Shooters' Digest" to print monthly additions. This should keep most Anglers up to date, and save Hon. Secretaries a lot of work.

Two Ballots have been sent out in the last year to all Member Clubs. The first from I.G.F.A. asking whether we approved of a 30' double and a 30' trace for 15 thread lines and finer. This proposed alteration was not agreed to by 91 votes to 44. Another Ballot on the same question is being taken at present.

Another Ballot was sent out by us for approval that we should place Northern and Southern Bluefin Tunny under the one Class as "Bluefin Tunny" for Australian Records. This was agreed by 4 States to 1.

Implementing Rule 20, for the first time, by circulating all States with the number of fish captured in each State has evidently been worth all the work Secretaries had to do, in sending us particulars.

Referring to Rule 21. Our effort to make up the "Book of Records" is slowly taking form. We have received a number of lists, but regret to say that we have not had the total co-operation for which we had hoped. We quite realise that a lot of work is entailed, but we must stress that we cannot go ahead until we have full material to work on. We hope that Delegates to this Conference will help us in this matter when reporting to their Committees.

Our intention is to send to each State what we consider the old-to-the-present Records for their consideration and alteration, should they find errors. After these have been returned to us we shall have to take them as correct, and NOT TO BE CHANGED.

In conclusion, we should like to thank most sincerely the Hon. Secretaries for all the work they have done, and are doing, to keep us informed about the activities in the various States. We realise quite well what a lot of time and work is entailed and it gives us great pleasure to record our appreciation for all they are doing to keep our Association functioning.

MINUTES:

Secretary said that as all Minutes had been circularised to all State Branches and as no notification of contention or error had been received, that they should be taken as read and moved accordingly on behalf of Victoria, seconded by Queensland.

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received and forwarded since the presiding President had taken office was tabled.

Letter received from I.G.F.A. relative to the difficulty experienced by them in mailing to the numerous Clubs when repeated changes of secretaries' addresses happened.

Delegates agreed to attempt to assist I.G.F.A. as requested.

Moved that the correspondence be received. By Mr. Palmer of South Australia, 2nd by Mr. Chandler of Queensland.

CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The following Statement of Receipt & Expenditure was presented by the Secretary and received and adopted on the motion of Mr. Palmer of South Australia, 2nd by Mr. Chandler of Queensland.

CARRIED.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITUREAS AT 11TH APRIL, 1955.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
	£	s	d		£	s	d
AFFILIATION FEES: Q.G.F.C.	10.	10.	0	LETTERHEADS	4.	15.	6
N.S.W. G.F.C.	10.	10.	0				
S.T.C.	6.	6.	0	STAMPS & POSTAGE	4.	10.	1
W.A. G.F.A.	6.	6.	0				
RULE BOOKS. S.T.C.	5.	0.	0	RECORD CHARTS "Digest"	3.	9.	0
BADGES N.S.W. G.F.C.	3.	0.	6	GOLD BADGES	10.	3.	0
<u>FUNDS OVERDRAWN</u>	15.	13.	7	RULE BOOKS	33.	15.	0
				FREIGHT - Rule Books		13.	6
	£57.	6.	1		£57.	6.	1
FUNDS DUE:-				Affiliation Fee South Aust. G.F.C.	£6.	6.	0
				Rule Books - N.S.W. G.F.C.	17.	10.	0
				Queensland G.F.C.	2.	10.	0
				W.A. G.F.A.	3.	0.	0
				<u>TOTAL DUE:</u>	£29.	6.	0

MATTERS TENDERED BY ASSOCIATIONS:

- G.F.A.A. 1. Motion - To alter Rule 14 of the Constitution as follows :-  
Eliminate the last sentence and substitute "Such meetings shall be summoned at such time and place as the President shall direct".  
CARRIED. 6 for 2 against.
2. Motion - Applications for Records, both to IGFA and GFAA must be lodged with GFAA within two (2) months of capture, unless extenuating circumstances make this impossible. Onus of responsibility to be accepted by the Angler applying for the Record. Applications for Australian Records to be held by GFAA for two months from date of capture before an Australian Record shall be granted.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. Motion - "Howard and/or D'Ombraian Blue Marlin" to be entered on the Australian Record Chart as "BLUE MARLIN" as at present or until a classification to the contrary by IGFA is made.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Q.G.F.A. 1. Motion - Breaking of the Northern and Southern Blue Fin Tunas into two classes.

All other Delegates spoke against the motion and the resolution was not carried.

2. Motion - Obtaining 3, 6 and 9, Thread Button Classification for Sharks.

After some discussion the motion was put and carried with the proviso that weights be left to GFAA to suggest and obtain opinions from each State Branch and then adjudicate from the ruling opinions. Suggestions from GFAA at this stage being :-

		<u>WHITE</u>	<u>RED</u>	<u>BLUE</u>	<u>GOLD</u>	
SHARKS -	3 Thread	30	50	64	80	)
	6 "	60	90	120	150	)
	9 "	90	120	200	250	)
	3 "	45	75	96	120	)
	6 "	90	135	180	225	)
	9 "	135	180	300	375	)
	15 "	180	300	450	562½	)
						)
GAME FISH -	3 "	15	22	30	37½	)
	6 "	30	45	60	75	)
	9 "	45	60	75	94	)
	15 "	90	120	150	187½	)

Both sets of figures were given in view of the awaited decision from IGFA regarding the vote taken recently on the length of trace to be used.

3. Motion - Obtaining recognition of the Blue Whaler Shark as a separate class.

The motion was defeated voting being 3 for 5 against.

4. Queensland asked if any standard method of testing lines for breakage strain was used or available.

Advice was given of the method used by different States and most helpful was the suggestion from Mr. W. Southam, whose opinion had been asked for by the President, that if he was supplied with plans of a machine suitable, he would make one and donate it to GFAA.

5. Queensland required a ruling on the question of GFAA dealing with Records from Non-affiliated Clubs.

This matter was fully discussed resulting in the following resolutions:-

Moved by Mr. Chandler of Queensland 2nd by Mr. Palmer of South Australia that they supported the President's action in granting a record to the Morton Bay Club for 73 lb. Bronze Whaler caught by Mr. J.B. Wallace, Junior.

Moved by Mr. Palmer of South Australia 2nd by Col. Bruce-Steer of New South Wales that alteration to Rule 14 first paragraph, deleting the word "Club" and substituting "State Branch".

Both Motions on being put were carried unanimously.

6. The question of whether Fishermen fishing in Thread Class are at a disadvantage against Fishermen fishing with nylon lines was asked by Queensland.

Some discussion took place and the matter was left open for further opinions during lunch adjournment.

7. Queensland asked for the definition of the amateur rule in a specific case as follows:- "If a person who fishes for publicity purposes and charges the maintenance and running costs of his boat to some business or other and purchased his fishing tackle through the same source he is deriving monetary benefit from the sport and has a distinct advantage over the true amateur angler" end of quotation.

Mr. Palmer stated the legal views on amateur status as dealt with by Olympic Federation.

In brief, any challenge against a person, or teams, Amateur Status must be specific and must be heard before, and adjudicated by, the high Tribunal of the Federation at which hearing council may be and usually are employed by both parties in the case.

The majority vote was that Rule 2 covered the present requirements of G.F.A.A.

N.S.W. G.F.A. 1. Motion - Consider issuing certificates for existing Australian Record Captures as at June 30, 1954, and issuing certificates for record captures since that date.

The matter was discussed at some length. The very considerable expense to G.F.A.A. being stressed, also the fact that by no means all Anglers particularly desire a Certificate for a capture. The general opinion of the Conference was, that

if they so wish, State Associations can arrange for their own, or Member Club's Certificates to be so printed with the words "AUSTRALIAN RECORD" when such has been granted by G.F.A.A. Such Certificates could be, if desired, countersigned by the President of G.F.A.A.

The motion was then withdrawn.

2. Motion - IGFA. to be requested to alter its rules so that only a specified number of votes be allowed each country and not individual clubs being allowed to vote.

Considerable discussion was given to this question but it was generally thought that IGFA would not concede to such a request.

The motion was then withdrawn by New South Wales.

3. Motion - New South Wales made a request that GFAA rules be amended to follow those of the IGFA and Colonel Bruce-Steer pointed out the few variations in each set of respective Rules.

The President decided to take opinions and a vote on each respective alteration which were accordingly moved by New South Wales and resulted as follows :-

Alteration to Rule 2. Motion lost. Voting 2 for 6 against.

Alteration to Rule 7 Sub (8) Motion lost. Voting 3 for 5 against.

New South Wales then moved that the Rules covering the Weighing of Fish in IGFA and GFAA, were virtually in principle the same and that GFAA Rules therefore should be redrafted and the verbage brought into line.

The Motion was 2nd by Mr. Palmer of South Australia.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Motion - That for the purpose of identifying Game Fish and Sharks, the works of the following authorities be followed :-

Whitley's "Fishes of Australia" Part 1 Sharks  
Roughley's "Fish and Fisheries of Australia".  
Serventy's "The Australian Tunas 1941".

With the addition of "with power to add to at any time" by GFAA. the motion was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Motion - The IGFA be requested to recognise and list the Hammerhead Shark for record purposes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Motion - Clause 20 of the GFAA constitution, second sentence, to be amended to read "Such proposition shall be embodied in the notice convening the General Meeting at which the proposition is to be considered and no proposition as aforesaid shall be deemed to have been carried unless at least 3/5ths of the voting strength is recorded in favour.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Motion - Rule 18, Page 11, GFAA Rule Book, commencing at eleventh line, to be amended to read "In cases where an angler is entitled to an award of a Gold Badge, the same shall be presented by the State Association in whose waters the capture was made, at the expense of the recipient. A Gold Badge shall, as far as possible, be symbolic of the fish for which the award is made".

CARRIED. Voting 6 for 2 against.

8. Motion - Rule 14, para. 5, GFAA Rule Book. The first two sentences be deleted and the following substituted:- "It is necessary for Australian Records to supply a sample of ten yards of the line used in the capture of the fish with the application for a record. It will be from this line that the poundage classification will be based for which an Australian Record is claimed".

After considerable discussion the motion was withdrawn by New South Wales on the condition that GFAA should contact all State Branches for their suggestions and considerations to re-draft the entire Rule. GFAA then to draw up an amendment and submit same for consideration at the next Conference.

All States were unanimously in favour of retaining the principle that Records be based on the strength of the line before taking the fish, and that 50's lea linen line be taken at 3 lbs. per thread, as at present.

- G.F.C. of 1. Recommendation that when the present stocks of buttons run out  
SOUTH AUST. that a new, more pleasing and dignified button be struck and that all States conform with this.

It was finally decided that GFAA circularise all States and find out what current stocks are held. It may then be possible for some adjustment between States to be made and then a new design could be agreed upon and made uniform.

2. The relationship of GFAA and member clubs with trade journals in regard to trophies and badges was discussed.

It was thought that generally GFAA had no jurisdiction in these matters but N.S.W. Delegates agreed to make certain verbal contacts in this direction in their own State.

OTHER  
INNESS.

- Motion - Mr. Cowell and Mr. Palmer of South Australia, moved that GFAA write to IGFA and express our appreciation of past work and efforts and this Association considered that some move should be initiated to receive financial assistance from affiliated Clubs throughout the World, to further, and make assured the continuation of the work being done.

CARRIED.

- Motion - Moved by Messrs. Palmer of South Australia, 2nd by Mr. Chandler of Queensland that the South Australian or Cocktail Shark (Galeolamna Grey) be listed in Recorded Sharks.  
Bronze Whaler (Galeolamna Ahenea)  
Black Whaler (Galeolamna Macrurus)

CARRIED.

The President of GFAA pointed out the following error in the printing of the new Rule Books :-

Rule 4, 3rd line, after the word "used", insert "which must be attached separately to the trace".

Moved by Mr. Chandler 2nd Mr. Palmer that correction accordingly be made.

CARRIED.

Moved by Dr. Grove 2nd Mr. Chandler that the following be inserted in Rule 14 after the word "piece" end of second paragraph :-

"All claims on two hook tackle must be accompanied by a photograph or sketch of hook arrangement".

CARRIED.

The President read correspondence received from Mr. Starling, making claim to a Record for Australia for Black Marlin. He stated he had inspected certificates from N.S.W. Rod Fishers' Association, Bernagui Club Certificate (No. 110) and a Gold Badge (No. 4) from GFAA.

Rule Books of 1949 and ~~1951~~ were submitted as evidence that no lab rule was at that time shown which disqualified any catch through the breaking of a rod.

After opinions being expressed by all delegates, a vote taken for the reinstating of Mr. Starling's catch as the Australian Record for Black Marlin was carried.

Correspondence was read in relation to a claim for the transfer of a Record Narrow Banded S. Mackerel of 62 lb. from 39 thread to 15 thread.

On the motion of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lawson, such transfer was rejected on the grounds that the evidence supplied was not sufficient to support the claim.

Mr. Lawson spoke of the excellent work performed by the President, Mr. T.A. Bell, and considered that this Association would be fortunate if he could be permitted, if agreeable, to carry on for a further term of two years.

He therefore moved, seconded by Mr. Palmer, that, subject to confirmation by all States, Rule 9 of the Constitution is amended by adding after the third sentence therein the following sentence "provided that upon the written request of at least four State Branches was made by the 31st July of the 2nd year of office of a President, his appointment may be extended for a further two years' term".

CARRIED.

The President stated he appreciated such an honor and if such action was taken, he would then give it every consideration.

There being no further business, the President, before closing the meeting, expressed his thanks to the Delegates for their help and assistance and the congenial atmosphere throughout the days proceedings.

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