

THE FISH FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.

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minutes

Minutes of the EIGHTH CONFERENCE held in the Board Room
C.T.A. Club, Flinders Street, Melbourne, on Thursday,
31st October, 1957, at 10. a.m.

PRESENT

G.F.A.A.	The Chairman, Mr. T. A. Bell, President of the G.F.A.A. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. W. Taylor.
N.S.W.	Colonel J.M. Bruce-Steer. Mr. Wm. Southam.
Victoria	Mr. T.O. Mitchell. Mr. A. W. Stewart.
S. Aust.	Mr. E.F.B. Riggs.
Tasmania	Mr. G. Wiedecke. Mr. C. I. Cutler.
W. Aust.	Mr. J. W. Taylor (Proxy)

APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Colonel Hone, South
Australian Delegate, and Mr. G. R. Cowell, Hon.
Life Member.

PRESIDENT'S
REPORT The President welcomed Delegates from the various
States and thanked them for their efforts in
attending this Conference as he realized the long
distances they had to travel and the considerable
expense apart from their valuable time.

He regretted to report that Mr. G.R. Cowell was very
ill and was extremely disappointed that he could
not make the journey. Colonel Hone, who was to attend
also as a South Australian Delegate was also under
medical orders and was unable to be with us.

The President in reporting progress in this Association
since our last Meeting at Bermagui on April 16th, 1955,
stated :-

"I have pleasure in reporting progress in our
Association since our last Meeting at Bermagui
on April 16, 1955. Fishing activities retain
their momentum as can be seen by the number of
Applications for Records, both Australian and
World, since our last Meeting. We do not know
which Applications for World Records were granted
as the I.C.F.A. have not advised us for some time.

Forty-six Australian Records have been granted,
exactly half to ladies! There have been many
outstanding feats of angling which are shown on
the Chart of Records. A Supplementary and
up-to-date list will be passed out to Delegates
for their respective Branches.

An interesting point is that anglers are using
much lighter tackle. There are only four
Records caught on 24 thread (30 lb. Class)
lines, and none heavier.

Our thanks go to Mr. T.O. Mitchell who has
arranged to have so many lines tested. These
will not be so numerous in the future as the
'blanks' are rapidly filling up on the Chart.

New South Wales requested that our meetings be held annually. A ballot of all other Branches voted against this.

One of the most interesting events since our last meeting has been the formation of the Tasmanian Game Fishing Association. During the last season several Australian Records were beaten. Everything points to these waters being the best around Australia for tunny, from school fish around 60 lbs. to the larger fish: how large, time will prove. Local fishermen report large sharks of several varieties. Marlin also have been seen.

Since our last meeting the "Book of Records" has been completed. We now have a record of all known fish which were acknowledged as the best caught in their line classification since game fishing started in Australia. We thank all those who helped in the work of making this interesting book. The book, to be held by the Executives of the G.F.A.A. has been generously donated by Mr. J.W. Taylor.

Buttons or Badges.

State Branches voted after, in some cases, long deliberations, to retain the old design. Branches were informed and asked for numbers wanted and we have now been able to inform the makers of the number required. Those Branches who have not asked for possible requirements will be unlucky if any of their members ask for buttons which they have won. The G.F.A.A. cannot afford to run a bank of buttons.

It was with regret that we learnt from Mr. Lerner, when he wrote to us advising that Miss Francesca LaMonte had retired from the I.C.F.A. as Secretary. Miss LaMonte has always been most co-operative and helpful in so many ways. Her position has been filled by Mr. Dale Shaw.

Great interest has been shown in angling in Australian waters by several American anglers. This spirit of sporting friendship is another congenial tie with this great country.

It is with regret that we have no representation from Queensland. We have received no word of their intention to attend - or otherwise.

We conclude by voicing our appreciation to those Honorary Secretaries who have been doing such a noble job in working for the interests and welfare of their members and also for their co-operation with us."

At the conclusion of the President's Report, Colonel Bruce-Stear moved that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. G. E. Cowell and Colonel Bone expressing the wish for their speedy recovery.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last Conference having been circulated, it was moved by Mr. Southam seconded by Mr. Rice, that they be taken as read.

CARRIED.

ARISING
FROM THE
MINUTES

The President reported that no notification had been received from the I.C.P.A. of any alteration to the existing trace lengths.

He wished to advise that Whitley's "Fishes of Australia, (Sharks)" was out of print and unobtainable.

Mr. Cutler moved, seconded by Colonel Bruce-Stear that Ian Curo's classification of "Australian Fishes", when issued, be added to our list of references and be taken as the first authority.

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE

All letters, inward and outward, were tabled for any delegate's inspection.

The President commented on the letters received from Mr. Michael Lerner and Miss Jacotte, relative to the tributes given to them by the C.P.A.A.

Request to I.C.P.A. for the listing of the Hammerhead Sharks had been refused, but a further request has been sent which has not yet been decided upon.

Correspondence was received on the motion of Mr. Southam seconded by Mr. Rice.

CARRIED.

FINANCIAL
STATEMENT

The following Statement of Receipts and Expenditure covering the FOUR years of Office by the President and Honorary Secretary was tabled.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENT
FOR FOUR YEARS

ended 31st October, 1957.

Receipts

AFFILIATION TYPES	Receipts	J. W. T.	Expenditure
Queensland	21. 0. 0	Letterheads.	8. 16. 6
New South Wales	21. 0. 0	Postages	1. 2. 4
Victoria	12. 12. 0	Roneo - Conference	4. 10. 0
South Australia	12. 12. 0	Alt. Rule Books	2. 14. 0
Western Australia	12. 12. 0	" " Sth Australia.	1. 2. 6
Tasmania	6. 6. 0	Rule Books	33. 15. 0
	<u>66. 6. 0</u>	Gold Pedges.	<u>20. 7. 10</u>
FILE BOOKS			
New South Wales	20. 10. 0	T. A. B.	16. 14. 2
Victoria	5. 0. 0	Postages	10. 3. 0
Western Australia	3. 0. 0	Telephone (Sydney)	5. 9. 0
Queensland	2. 10. 0	Gold Pedges	<u>13. 6. 6</u>
Benmagui	2. 10. 0	Direct Charges.	
	<u>33. 10. 0</u>	Freight - Rule Book.	31. 11. 6
Alt. Rules South Australia.	1. 2. 6		
Gold Pedges, New South Wales.	28. 15. 6	Cash in hand	49. 10. 4
	<u>2149 10. 0</u>		

2149. 10. 0

THE I. G. F. A. TRIBUTES.

Received:-			
Queensland	8. 15. 0	Cost of Tributes.	£ 52. 10. 0
Victoria	8. 15. 0		
New South Wales.	8. 15. 0		
South Australia	8. 15. 0		
Western Australia	8. 15. 0		
Bell and Taylor.	8. 15. 0		
	<u>£ 52. 10. 0</u>		
	£ 52. 10. 0		

£ 52. 10. 0

It was moved by Mr. Southam seconded by Mr. Mitchell that where this Association incurred expense in the printing of Rule Books and supply of Badges, etc. for State Branches, that they should be costed out and 10% added.

CARRIED.

It was moved by Mr. Southam, seconded by Mr. Niedecke that Affiliation Fees due each year should be collected annually, and not forgone if not required as shown by the tabled Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.

CARRIED.

It was then moved by Colonel Bruce-Steer, seconded by Mr. Niedecke that this Statement be adopted.

CARRIED.

MATTERS
TENDERED
BY
STATE
ASSOCIATIONS.

The President stated several matters in relation to alteration to our Rules had been received and were in the following sequence :-

- a) G.F.A.A. Rewrite of Rule 14 (Ref. last Conference)
- b) South Australia Rewording of Rules.
- c) Victoria Open and Amateur Records.
- d) New South Wales. Rewrite of Rules.

Mr. Mitchell moved Point of Order, that we had existing Rules and until they were voted out no other Rules could be submitted.

New South Wales moved and Tasmania seconded that the existing Rules, in due course, be replaced.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Mitchell that -

G.F.A.A. Rules be re-drafted and new Rules as submitted by South Australia be used as a working draft.

The President asked the South Australian Delegate (Mr. Riggs) whether there were any alterations in their submission prior to submitting it to the conference.

Mr. Riggs advised that South Australia wished to eliminate Rule VI and also delete the word "amateur" where it occurs. Other alterations were small and could be made as the draft was considered.

Colonel Bruce-Steer opposed the motion and moved an amendment that G.F.A.A. Rules be re-drafted, but the Rules submitted by New South Wales be used as the working draft. These Rules he stated had been submitted by him to Miss Laporte of I.G.F.A. and he had received official advice that they in no way conflicted with I.G.F.A. Rules.

The Amendment was seconded by Mr. Niedecke.

The Amendment on being put was lost. Voting in favour four, and six against.

The motion was then put and CARRIED

RULES:

(continued)

Tunny Club Delegates advised that, in view of the reference to amateur status being deleted from the South Australian draft, their submission be withdrawn.

The next few hours of the conference time were devoted to arriving at a draft of new Rules which on all points of discussion was settled by majority decision.

That set of Rules is attached as an Addendum to these Minutes.

A majority decision also decided that the new Rules should be submitted, when edited, to all State Branches who would have an opportunity to comment within a period of fourteen days. After that time the final draft of the Rules will be prepared for printing by G.F.A.A. executive.

It was moved by Colonel Bruce-Steer and seconded by Mr. Riggs that until the new Rule books are issued the old Rules shall continue in force. The date on which the new Rules come into force to be decided by the President.

Mr. Mitchell moved seconded by Mr. Miedecke that a Vote of Thanks be recorded to South Australia and New South Wales for their worthy efforts in compiling new Rules for consideration.

CARRIED.

Mr. Mitchell then moved, that after adoption of the new Rules, the Records Chart should be so adjusted as to show Records as under the new Rules.

There being no seconder the motion lapsed.

After some discussion on the numbers of the new Rule books likely to be required by State Branches, it was considered that 1,500 should be printed.

AMENDMENTS

to

It was moved by Mr. Southam, seconded by Colonel Bruce-Steer that Rule 9 of the Constitution be deleted and replaced as follows:-

CONSTITUTION

"The President shall be elected by a simple majority of the Council of the G.F.A.A. at the biennial meeting held as set out in Rule 14 of the Constitution. He need not necessarily be a Delegate, but he must be a financial member of a Club affiliated with the G.F.A.A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The President considered the above Resolution and queried the competency of the present conference to make this alteration.

Tasmania submitted, as a Point of Order, that this Conference was competent to make this alteration. This was supported by New South Wales and was CARRIED with South Australia dissenting.

PRESIDENT: A secret ballot for nominations to this office was then called for by the President resulting in a unanimous vote for Mr. T. A. Bell. Mr. Bell thanked the Delegates for their support but asked for time to consider his election as he had already spent six years as President to the G.F.A.A.

Election

for

1958-9

The Delegates of each State Branch spoke highly of Mr. Bell's work and efforts as President over past years and expressed their wish that he should continue in office and further carry on the good work which he was doing.

Mr. Bell then stated that he would give his decision on the following day.

DELEGATES
Representation

It was moved by Mr. Southam, seconded by Colonel Bruce-Steer that Clause 12 of the Constitution be deleted and the following be substituted:-

at

Future

conferences

"Each State Branch may nominate in writing Delegates to the Association at any time prior to the Meeting at which it is intended that such Delegates shall vote on the basis of one delegate for each Club affiliated with its State Branch, but with a minimum of two Delegates for each State."

In effect, New South Wales, with seven affiliated Clubs would be entitled to seven delegates or seven votes.

Mr. Mitchell opposed the motion, but in doing so stated he did realize that New South Wales had a number of Clubs affiliated with their State Branch (totaling approximately 350 members) and he therefore thought that they should be allowed three delegates and the other States two as at present.

Further, he felt it incorrect that Proxies from a State Branch, which was not represented by Delegates, should be submitted by Delegates representing another State Branch. He suggested that if a State was not represented by one or more Delegates, its proxy votes should only be registered through a Life Member of the G.F.A.A.

Before Mr. Mitchell moved his amendment Mr. J. W. Taylor suggested that four Delegates should be allowed New South Wales. After discussion this was agreed to.

The Amendment was then seconded by Mr. Riggs. The Amendment was put and CARRIED, New South Wales dissenting.

Delegates at future Conferences shall be as follows:-

4 Delegates from New South Wales.

2 Delegates from each of the other State Branches.

State Branches cannot be represented by proxy held by a Delegate attending for another State Branch.

Only Life Members can act as proxy for any State not represented by Delegates.

ITEM

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The Chairman stated that he had received a letter from Mr. G. R. Cowell, submitting that the Chairman should refer the decision, with reference to granting an Australian record for a 1,068 lb. White Shark caught by R. Dyer, to the Conference.

Mr. Bell stated that Mr. Cowell had not queried the ethics of Mr. Dyer's capture under Rule 13. but that he did not consider the responsibility of granting a record for such a phenomenal catch should rest with the President alone.

A Point of Order was then taken that Rule 13. had not been complied with by Mr. Cowell and that his submission was out of order. The Chairman said he would put the Point of Order to the Meeting. A further Point of Order was then taken that the Chairman must decide the matter himself. The Chairman himself thereupon upheld the further Point of Order and stated that he considered that Mr. Dyer's claim should be granted and he ruled accordingly.

Mr. Cowell's letter should be read as an annexe to this Minute.

LIFE
MEMBER-
SHIP.

-
Mr. M.J.
LAWSON.

Colonel Bruce-Steer spoke on the work and help Mr. Lawson had given to Game Fishing over many years and considered that some appreciation of his efforts might be shown by conferring on him Honorary Life Membership of G.F.A.A. This was supported by Mr. Miedecke.

A secret ballot was then called for by the President.

This resulted in a unanimous vote to confer Honorary Life Membership of the Association on Mr. M.J. Lawson.

Colonel Bruce-Stear quoted the following wording from the Catalina Club Rule Book and considered it should be adopted in our own Rule Book as a preamble :-

"The underlying spirit of angling is that the skill of the angler is pitted against the instinct and strength of the fish and that the latter is entitled to an even chance for his life."

This was agreed to.

The President then thanked the Delegates for their help and courtesy and closed the Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

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FOOTNOTE:

Mr. Bell on the following day informed the Delegates that he was prepared to continue in office as President of G.F.A.A., which was received with suitable appreciation by all Delegates.

Mr. Bell also stated that Mr. J. W. Taylor who has acted as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for six years is unable to continue in office.

Mr. Bell voiced his appreciation of all the work Mr. Taylor had done in the interest of Game Fishing.

This was endorsed by all Delegates.

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