

MINUTES OF THE NINTH BIANNIAL CONFERENCE  
HELD ON 5th and 6th NOVEMBER, 1959  
COLLINS HOUSE, 360 COLLINS STREET,  
MELBOURNE.

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PRESENT:

The Chairman - Mr. T. A. Bell - President of G. F. A. A.  
The Hon. Secretary Mr. A. W. Stewart.  
VICTORIA - Mr. J. W. Taylor and Mr. T. O. Mitchell.  
NEW SOUTH WALES - Messrs. W. Southam, C. Kellion, T. Smout and  
H. Danvers.  
By Invitation Mr. R. Rowe.  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Col. R. B. Hone and Mr. E. W. Palmer.  
QUEENSLAND - Mr. N. Gow and Mr. P. Goadby.  
TASMANIA - Mr. G. Miedecke and Mr. W. R. Morgan.  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA - No Delegates present.

After the election of J. W. Taylor as Life Member a telegram was read from Western Australia asking Mr. Taylor to act as proxy for Western Australia. This Mr. Taylor consented to do and Mr. A. W. Stewart then became the second delegate from Victoria.

APOLOGIES:

Apology received from Mr. M. J. Lawson (Life Member).

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

In declaring this Meeting open, it is with great pleasure that I can welcome such a large gathering of delegates to this Ninth Conference of the G. F. A. A. I feel sure that the majority of anglers appreciate very fully the time and expense involved by Delegates coming, in so many cases, such long distances. It is a pleasure for me that I can see so many old friends again and I feel sure that we shall have our arguments and discussions in the same friendly way as has been our custom.

It is with rather mixed feelings that I will report for the last time as our President on the Activities of the G. F. A. A. over the last two years.

Some very good catches have been made to place on our Record Chart in both the heavy and light Classes. Altogether 62 Record Claims have been granted, of which 14 went to Game Fish and Sharks on 24 throat and heavier, 48 went to Game Fish and Sharks on light tackle.

Once again we have to thank Mr. T. O. Mitchell for his help in organising the testing of lines. This he has arranged so that no cost is debited to the G. F. A. A. On a few occasions he and I agreed that a "near" test should be checked on a Government machine. Each test cost us £1. 1. 0, and in no case was there a difference to that organised by Mr. Mitchell.

We know of several World Records among these captures, but we cannot give full particulars as all cases are not notified.

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Light tackle is very much in evidence on the lists of fish caught by the Clubs who have complied with our Rule 35, giving a list of captures for the year. Large numbers of small Marlin were off the New South Wales coast.

The I. G. F. A. have accepted Blue Marlin on their Record Chart under the name of "Pacific Blue Marlin". We will name this species likewise.

Tasmania had another good season among Bluefin Tunny, large quantities of school fish were caught and over 100 lbs. Before long we expect a good sized fish to be weighed in. They have been seen heavier than any caught in Australia. We would like to record our thanks to Mr. Ian Cutler who has done so much to organise fishing over there. We regret he has resigned from the T. G. F. A. as Hon. Secretary, having left the State.

The contest between Australia and New Zealand was won for this country by a very small margin of points. All competing anglers came from South Australia, who originated the idea of the Contest. We regretted that no other State Branch could nominate anglers able to fish. The contest is to be an annual and international event in which we hope classes will be introduced to give credit to anglers using tackle lighter than 130 lbs. test lines, as were used in the first contest.

We really do appreciate all the work the Hon. Secretaries of the State Branches have done and are doing for the benefit of anglers. Weight Masters are much to be commended for always being on tap to give their services so willingly to most anglers except me! I should like to say how lucky I have been with the Hon. Secretaries who have worked so hard for G. F. A. A. Mr. J. W. Taylor did a wonderful job for six years and was what might be called a foundation member of most Constitutions and Rule Books. For the last two years Mr. A. W. Stewart has been doing a tremendous amount of work, and to these two Members I say "Thank you very much". In conclusion I am sure I voice the opinion of all who knew the late Mr. G. R. Cowell, when I say what a great loss it is that he cannot be with us for his invaluable help. Jim was one of the Australian "Greats" in the fishing community. At the peak of his fishing career he held many World Records and Australian Records on all lines for Tunny and Sharks. Some still stand. Another sad loss was the decease of Col. J. M. Bruce Steer whose keenness and hospitality will never be forgotten. We sent letters of sympathy to the families concerned.

I ask you to rise for a few moments as a sign of respect and affection to both.

#### MINUTES OF THE 8TH CONFERENCE 1957:

The Hon. Secretary stated these had been circulated. The President asked if any delegate had any objection to him signing these as a true record. As no objections were raised the President signed the Minutes.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence between the 8th and 8th conferences was tabled.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The President asked Hon. Secretary to read the Financial Statement. The Financial Statement to 30th June 1959 also further statement to 4th November 1959 was read.

Hon. Secretary moved adoption of the Financial Statement.

Seconded by Mr. J. W. Taylor.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

(a) Mr. J. W. Taylor proposed from the Chair and seconded by Swordfish & Tunny Club of Australia was elected Honorary Life Member.

(b) Mr. Michael Lerner proposed by Swordfish & Tunny Club of Australia and seconded by Mr. Palmer of South Australia was elected Honorary Life Member.

REVISED CONSTITUTION FOR G. F. A. A. :

After much discussions, alterations, deletions, etc. from the submissions offered, a new Constitution was finally decided upon and officially accepted by this Full Conference.

FISHING RULES:

Mr. Mitchell moved, and Colonel Hone seconded, (Carried) that the incoming Executive study steps taken by I. G. F. A. to preserve sportsmanship and ethics in the sport of fishing and pay particular regard to the alleged methods used in catching very large sharks on very light tackle.

Suggested that incoming Executive give some thought to standardising rod butt and gimbal fittings.

9.(a) Withdrawn.

JUNIOR CHART.

9.(b) The President said this bristled with difficulties and he knew that from his long experience with records it would mean a tremendous lot of extra work. Juniors were represented on the present chart and if a Junior chart were created would throw the main chart out.

Mr. Southam moved the New South Wales submission that a separate Record Chart for Juniors be created. Mr. Kellion seconded.

The matter was lost 10 votes to 3.

GOLD BUTTONS.

10. It was decided that this Council authorise the State Branches to engrave letters "G. F. A. A." on all Gold Badges.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FOR 1960-61:

11. The President said he would hold a secret ballot for the election of President and office bearers.

New South Wales nominated Mr. W. L. Southam.

South Australia nominated Mr. E. W. Falmer.

Mr. W. L. Southam was elected 8 votes to 5.

The President congratulated Mr. Southam who thanked the delegates.

Mr. Palmer congratulated Mr. Southam and offered his full support.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

12. Nominations for Vice President were --

Mr. E. W. Palmer          South Australia

Mr. A. W. Stewart        Victoria

Mr. E. W. Palmer was elected 8 votes to 5.

The President congratulated Mr. Palmer who thanked the delegates.

Mr. Stewart also congratulated Mr. Palmer and offered good wishes.

Honorary Secretary. Mr. C. H. Kellion was the only nominee for the position and was declared elected.

Executive Member. Mr. Smout was duly elected.

FEES FOR G. F. A. A.

13. The President said the financial position of G. F. A. A. was very precarious and quite out of date. I. G. F. A. claims over past two years averaged 12/6d. each. G. F. A. A. record certificates by registered mail 3/2d. each.

Colonel Hone moved "The Ninth Conference of G. F. A. A. decided to strike a levy of 5/- for enrolled members of all affiliated clubs at 30th June, 1959, such rate to be collected forthwith. At this conference the delegates empowered the Executive committee to levy next years, at a rate not exceeding 5/- per member".

Seconded Mr. Smout.

Mr. Goadby said this would bring hardship on newly formed clubs e. g. Townsville and moved an amendment that the levy be reduced to 2/6d. member. Supported and seconded by Mr. Gow.

After further discussion the amendment was lost by 11 votes to 2.

The motion was carried by 11 votes to 2.

OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING OF CONFERENCE:

14. (a) Mr. Cooper's letter to New Zealand. The Hon. Secretary tabled a letter from Mr. Cooper the Hon. Secretary of S. A., written to the New Zealand Game Fishing Council asking for clarification of the condition of the International Contest where it suggested up to four anglers fishing per boat. It was felt that G. F. A. A. should obtain clarification of this position from New Zealand before nominating teams and that team members be asked whether they would nominate under these conditions.

The President also pointed out that this was an example of the State Branches corresponding overseas independently of G. F. A. A. While Mr. Cooper had done this in good faith and sent a copy to G. F. A. A. it was preferable that all such correspondence be through G. F. A. A.

(b) Observers.

The President brought up the question of Observers at conferences. There was nothing personal in this but he felt Council should define its attitude as it may be possible for some one writing for an outside publication to report confidential discussions.

Mr. Southam said he felt that to be an Observer was a useful training and gave the necessary background for future Executives of Clubs. He felt it would be quite safe if left to the prerogative of the President if given adequate reasons for his presence.

Appreciation.

Mr. Smout said he felt he was expressing the thoughts of all in saying how much Game Fishing appreciated the work and thought which Tom Bell had given to G. F. A. A. as President and also the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Palmer said he was pleased to support this. Every Game Fisherman in Australia holds Tom Bell in great respect and affection. At Bermagui the Constitution was specially altered so that he could be re-elected and the fact that he had held the office of President for eight years was a great tribute.

He became President when G. F. A. A. was at its lowest ebb and left it stronger and more virile than it had ever been.

The President thanked the delegates on behalf of himself and the Hon. Secretary.

15. The President then closed the conference and thanked the delegates for attending and for the helpful atmosphere in which discussions were carried out.

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