

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES of the Twentieth Biennial Conference held at the Australian Fishing Museum, Birkenhead Point, Sydney, NSW, on the 20th and 21st November 1981.

PRESENT: President & Chairman	Mr. John C. Johnston
Vice President	Mr. C.I. Cutler
Hon. Secretary	Mr. R.L. Parsons
Delegates from Queensland	Mrs. D.V. Nielsen, Messrs. J. Izatt, M.D. Ramsay, W. Stoddart & Dr. C.T. Russell
Observers	Messrs. P.V. Gay and L. Munro
Delegates from NSW	Messrs. R.E. Waddy, W. Heyward, G. Bevan, I. Goadby
Observers	Messrs. T. Roche, W.J. O'Brien MBE
Delegates from VIC	Messrs. R.G. Ellis, W. Jenkins, L. Rowler, A. Fisher
Observers	Messrs. N. Ipsen, P. McNamara and Mesdames Rowler & Ipsen
Delegates from TAS	Messrs. G. Smythe & D. Hallam
Delegates from SA	Messrs. R. Parsons & W.B. Coombs
Delegate from N.T.	Mr. C. Roberts
Life Members Present	Messrs. E.W. Palmer & W.B. Coombs
Aust. Fishing Museum Administrator:	Mr. H. Newman (Recording the Minutes).

PRESIDENTS WELCOME:

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for attending what he described as the main Game Fishing Conference in the Southern Hemisphere and representing nearly 5,000 game fishermen throughout Australia. At his invitation, the two Life Members, the 18 Delegates and the 7 Observers stood in turn and introduced themselves.

APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Cutler, Seconded by Mr. Goadby that the Minutes of the 19th Biennial Conference held on 29th and 30th November 1979 be Adopted as presented.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

The Chairman mentioned that most of the matters arising from those Minutes were listed on the Agenda for discussion at this Conference. The only exception was the TOM BELL TROPHY. He told Conference that this was now in the Museum and that quotes were being obtained for copper replicas for presentation to each winner year by year - the incoming Executive to be responsible for ensuring that this was done.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Johnston read his report which had been circulated. It was received with acclamation. Moved by Mr. Johnston, Seconded by Mr. Cutler that the President's Report be Received and Adopted.

CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Copies of both these Reports had been circulated. Moved by Mr. Johnston, Seconded by Mr. Waddy that these two Reports be Received and Adopted.

CARRIED.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Audited Statements of the Income & Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 1981 and Balance Sheet as at that date were circulated, together with Budget estimates to 30.6.1982. The Chairman read out the terms under which the Federal Government Grant had been received and explained the manner in which it had been applied. Moved by Mr. Smythe, Seconded by Mr. Goadby that the Financial Statements be Adopted.

CARRIED.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Chairman called for Nominations for all offices which would become vacant on 31st December 1981 and the following were received:

President - Mr. C. Ian Cutler, Nominated by Mr. Johnston
Seconded by Mr. Goadby.

There were no other Nominations and the Chairman congratulated Mr. Cutler on his appointment as President-Elect.

Mr. Cutler thanked the Chairman and Delegates for their support and announced his Secretary as Mr. P. McNamara from Victoria, currently President of the Swordfish & Tunny Club of Australia.

Vice President -

Mr. I. Peter Goadby, Nominated by Mr. Cutler, Seconded by Mr. Palmer.

Mr. M.D. Ramsay, Nominated by Mr. Stoddart, Seconded by Dr. Russell.

Mr. Ramsay declined to stand. There were no further nominations and Chairman declared Mr. Goadby Vice President-Elect.

Executive - Vice-President, Mr. W. Heyward, Nominated by Mr. Ellis, Seconded by Mr. Smythe.

The Chairman declared Mr. Heyward elected.

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The Chairman then invited Nominations for the State Executive Officers and the following were elected:

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		<u>Nominated By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>
QLD	Mrs. D.V. Nielsen	Dr. C.T. Russell	M.D. Ramsay
NSW	Mr. R. Waddy	I.P. Goadby	W. Heyward
VIC	Mr. R.G. Ellis	M.A. Fisher	W. Jenkins
TAS	Mr. G. Smythe	D. Hallam	K.W. Gibbs
SA	Mr. R. Parsons	J.C. Johnston	W.B. Coombs
WA	Mr. K.W. Gibbs	E.W. Palmer	W.B. Coombs
NT	Mr. C. Roberts	J.C. Johnston	W.E. Palmer

ALTERATION TO AGENDA:

After some discussion, it was decided to amend the order of business so that Alterations to the Constitution and associated matters could be deferred until later in the Conference. Moved by Mr. Cutler, Seconded by Dr. Russell and the alteration to the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED.

ALTERATIONS TO ANGLING RULES: From GFAA Executive.

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Motion - That the Angling Rules and Equipment Regulations attached hereto and marked "B" be, and are hereby adopted, subject to modifications duly approved at the General Meeting, as the Angling Rules and Equipment Regulations of GFAA, effective from 1st January 1982.

CARRIED.

Motions regarding amendments to 'Weighing of Fish' (Page 7 of Rules Book) and to 'Australian Records' (Page 11) were withdrawn by Executive.

Motion - After the list of species (Page 7 of the Rules Book) add 'Freshwater and Flyfishing Records'. In addition to species listed above, GFAA will keep Australian Records for all Freshwater and Saltwater game fishes in line class, tipped class and categories approved and maintained by IGFA. The Rules and Regulations of IGFA for fishing in freshwater and for flyfishing shall apply to such categories and shall automatically apply as part of these Angling Rules & Equipment Regulations.

CARRIED.

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S.A. Motion - That 1 kg Line Class be adopted by GFAA. This Line Class had since been introduced by IGFA:

WITHDRAWN.

Motion - That the following species be added to the list of recognised fish. By adoption of an Amendment, it was Resolved to discuss the 7 proposed new species separately. The following were accepted for inclusion: Tope (*Galeorhinis* Spp.), Mulloway (*Sciaene* Spp.), Aust. Salmon (*Arripis trutta*), Trevally (*Usacaranx geogianus*), whilst Eagle Rays, Schnapper & Drummer were not accepted. In addition, it was resolved to include Short-billed Spearfish and Treadfin Salmon as recognised species

The first Motion from S.A. re 1 kg Line Class was then re-discussed at the suggestion of the Chairman as it was not covered in the first GFAA Executive Motion. All Delegates were in favour of the introduction.

CARRIED.

NSW Motion - Seeking to amend the Rules covering 'Weighing of Fish' (to qualify for official recording etc.) was deferred until later in the Conference.

DEFERRED.

Motion - That the 1982 IGFA Rules be considered when the 1982 GFAA Rules were drafted.

CARRIED.

Motion - That the Angling Rules and Equipment Regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

CARRIED.

Motion - That Item No. 4 of 'The following acts will disqualify a catch etc.' be amended. Covered by GFAA Exec. Motion.

WITHDRAWN.

Motion - That the Rules be amended to provide that a fish be struck and hooked through the rod and not by pulling on the trace.

CARRIED.

Motion - To provide that the combined length of leader and double should not exceed the depth of the water being fished etc. The proposal was not supported by any other State and was

LOST.

VIC Motion - As amended. That GFAA Award Merit Patches for Tag & Release. After considerable discussion and some observations by Dr. Don Francois, NSW State Fisheries.

CARRIED.

Motion - That Blue Sharks be deleted from the list of recognised species. Mr. Goadby gave a review of the fighting qualities of the young and old Blue Shark. There was no support from any other State & Motion

LOST.

Motion - Regarding the introduction of Freshwater and Saltwater Fly Records had already been covered.

WITHDRAWN.

Motion - Seeking GFAA decision as to whether Rule J5 - Entangling Device included a steel lasso in lieu of gaff. After an explanation by Mr. Goadby, Chairman of Rules Committee, it was accepted that use of such a lasso was not prohibited.

Motion - That the Rules be amended to disqualify a capture where whale oil was used.*# Following discussion

WITHDRAWN.

Motion - As Amended - That the maximum effective length of the tail rope or lasso be the same as that of the gaff rope, i.e. 9.14 metres.

CARRIED.

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Several photographs were then taken of those present at Conference.

Mr. Goadby gave Conference a brief resume of the Federal Government award of Trophies for the heaviest Gamefish captures in the Sesquicentennial Tourney of 1938, won by Tomm Bell for Sharks and by Mrs. Jessie Sams for a 338 lb Striped Marlin.

The former had since been re-presented to GFAA for annual competition for the heaviest Gamefish caught in Australia. Mrs. Sams had recently ^{re-presented} given her Trophy to the Australian Fishing Museum.

ALTERATIONS TO ANGLING RULES: (Cont.)

QLD Motion - That GFAA intercede with IGFA to prevent the change of 3 kg Line Class to 4 kg. As IGFA had published their new Line Classes effective from 1st January 1982.

WITHDRAWN.

Motion - That GFAA promote with IGFA a return to 30' doubles and 30' leaders on heavy tackle. The suggestion was discussed at length with mention of the probable abolition of the double line in due course.

LOST.

Motion - As Amended - That GFAA promote with IGFA that, in the event that double lines be eliminated, then for 10 kg Line Class or less, the leader should have a maximum length of 20'.

CARRIED.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

VIC Motion - That all States grant State Records to applicants affiliated with GFAA.

CARRIED.

Motion - That GFAA introduce an Australian Record Chart for Junior Anglers. Chairman pointed out that this was similar to Motion (No. 5) from NSW which was more comprehensive and it was Resolved that Motion be now discussed, and the Victorian Motion be

WITHDRAWN.

NSW Motion No. 5 - That GFAA maintain Australian Records and issue Australian Record Certificates in various categories and Line Classes for (a) Men, (b) Ladies and (c) Juniors. A Junior angler is one below 16 years of age at date of capture.

CARRIED.

VIC Motion - That telephone numbers of GFAA and State Branch Office-Bearers be included in GFAA Rule Book. The Chairman told Conference that this was being done as far as possible.

Motion - That an annual Conference of N.O.A.A. be arranged. Mr. Goadby gave a resume of NOAA events to date. He reported that he expected positive developments shortly, and would keep all States informed of progress.

GENERAL BUSINESS (Cont.)

Motion - That Conference clarify the position regarding All-Australian Competitions. The Chairman explained the reasons for the venues of previous All- Australian Competitions and additional explanations were made by Messrs. Heyward, Palmer and Goadby. Mr. Goadby mentioned the possibility of GFAA conducting All Ports Tournaments as fund-raisers for Australian Fishing Museum, open perhaps to other angling bodies as well - that GFAA would need to cater for a major event in 1988. At the Chairman's request, Mr. C. Roberts from N.T. gave brief details of the All-Australian Barramundi Tournament to be held there in June 1982 under the auspices of GFAA. Mr. Palmer observed that S.A. would celebrate its Sesquicentennial in 1986 and that the S.A. Government could be expected to assist fund such an event in that State.

No Resolution was made.
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Motion - As Amended - That GFAA test ~~all~~ line samples submitted, and notify State Branches and Anglers of the result in all cases.

CARRIED.

Motion - As Amended - That GFAA advise all State Branches of the need to ensure that anglers fishing in majour tournaments are in fact financial members of a Club affiliated with GFAA or IGFA.

CARRIED.

QLD - Sought the result of GFAA investigation into reduction of Sales Tax on Marine Safety Equipment as Resolved at the 19th Biennial Conference. Mr. Goadby told the Meeting that approaches to NSW Government and to Canberra had been unfruitful.

Motion - As Amended - That the incoming Executive write to Federal Government requesting that some of the Sales Tax on Charter vessels and Fishing equipment be allocated to Marine Research, Conservation and Fisheries Management.

CARRIED.

Motion - That GFAA support and pursue establishment of NOAA.

PREVIOUSLY COVERED.

NSW Motion - As Amended - That GFAA, through its State Branches, encourage and support the sending of a team of Junior Anglers to take part in major interstate tournaments on an annual basis.

CARRIED.

Motion - As Amended - To include Motions 2 & 3, that GFAA adopt the present Logo and that it be reproduced as a patch, transfer or decal for sale at all affiliated Clubs.

CARRIED.

Motion - That this Conference define and minute the functions to be carried out by the Secretariat, etc. etc. After brief reviews by Hon. Sec. Mr. Parsons and by Exec. Vice President, Mr. Goadby, it was resolved to defer discussion of this Motion until later in Conference so that Delegates may give the matter more thought.

DEFERRED.

GENERAL BUSINESS (Cont.)

GFAA Executive - Motion - As Amended - That the Executive shall be empowered to appoint Promotional Committees in each State to consist of not less than three nor more than five members, one of whom shall be the State Executive Officer. The nine Objects of a Promotional Committee were listed in the Motion.

CARRIED

Motion - As Amended - That GFAA award special recognition for any capture made by a financial member of a Club affiliated with GFAA or IGFA where the weight of the fish is at least twenty times the Line Class used.

CARRIED.

The Chairman introduced Dr. Don Francois, Director of NSW State Fisheries, and invited him to address Conference. Dr. Francois gave a forthright description of the present position of Southern Bluefin Tuna fishing in Australian waters and covered operations by Japanese long-liners, Australian commercial fishermen, breeding stock, drift net fishing, the 200 mile Zone, F.A.D.s etc. The Chairman thanked him for his talk and his obvious sympathy to our objects. A Vote of Thanks to Dr. Francois was carried with applause.

ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION: Cairns Game Fishing Club Limited

Motion - That Cairns Game Fishing Club Ltd. makes application for membership of GFAA pursuant to provisions of Clause 3B of the Constitution. Mr. Izatt gave detailed reasons for his Club's request, and criticised the QGFA for its alleged lack of co-operation. Dr. Russell replied to all the points raised and queried the suggestion that this move for direct affiliation had the support of the Cairns Club. Mrs. Nielsen (QLD) and Mr. Gay (QLD) gave their versions of the reasons for and against the application. Mr. Izatt replied. Motion was

LOST.

The Chairman stated that he sincerely trusted that the Cairns problem would be resolved quickly and was supported by I.P.P., Mr. O'Brien. Dr. Russell affirmed that QGFA would do all in its power to resolve the situation.

GFAA Executive - Motion - That the Draft Constitution marked 'A' submitted (subject to modification duly approved at the General Meeting) be and is hereby adopted as the Constitution of GFAA in lieu of the present Constitution. Mr. Palmer explained the reasons for the re-drafting.

CARRIED.

Mr. Gay moved a Vote of Thanks to Messrs. Palmer, Johnston and Coombs for their work in producing the re-draft. ✓

CARRIED.

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ALTERATIONS TO ANGLING RULES

NSW Motion - 9Previously deferred pending Resolution on Motion regarding Constitution, above) - That, to qualify for grant of GFAA Records or Awards, gamefish and sharks must be caught by a financial or Life Member of a Club affiliated with a State Branch of GFAA and shall be weighed, etc.

CARRIED.

ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION:

NSW Motion - As Amended - That Rule 3 in the Draft Constitution marked "A" be amended to read:

- (a) The following Associations (hereinafter known as State Branches) shall be members of GFAA, GFA of Vic., QGFA, SAGFA, NSWGFA, WAGFA, TGFA, NTGFA.
- (b) If a State Association shall hereafter make application for membership and such application be approved by a majority of members of GFAA, such Association may be admitted to membership.

CARRIED.

Motion - As Amended - That Rule 7(b) be amended etc. etc. The Chairman pointed out that the new re-draft, marked "A" was worded in terms of the Motion, with was..

WITHDRAWN.

Motion - That Rule 8(a) be amended to read: No State Branch or its member Clubs shall be entitled to exercise its rights as a member of GFAA or to receive the benefits thereof while any Subscription due under Para 8(c) remains unpaid.

There was considerable debate among Delegates regarding Subscriptions due from Clubs to State Associations as opposed to Affiliation Fees due from State Branches to GFAA. Motion was

LOST.

QLD Motion - As Amended - That Para 10(a) of the Constitution be amended by adding, at the end, after 'Executive Officer', except the QGFA which shall have two Executive Officers, one from North of the Tropic of Capricorn; - That Para 10(c) be amended by adding a Paragraph reading 'If more than one Executive Officer shall represent a State Branch, they shall jointly have one deliberative vote in the Executive'.

CARRIED.

Motion - as Amended - That Para 15(a) of the Constitution be amended by adding a Paragraph to read 'A nomination may be submitted by the Executive or by a State Branch.

CARRIED.

GENERAL BUSINESS: (Cont.)

NSW Motion - That this Conference define and minute the functions to be carried out by the Secretariat, the Hon. Secretary and other members of the Association connected with the Record keeping, Line testing, Accounting, Publicity, Fund raising, operation of the Aust. Fishing Museum, GFAA and other Tournaments. (Brought forward from the day before). After a brief review by Exec. Vice President, Mr. Goadby, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Parsons re-read his Secretary's Report.

This summarised his ideas of how the various Secretarial duties should be performed and by whom. Conference agreed in principle with the suggestions proposed, and recommended them to the incoming Executive for implementation.

The Chairman introduced Dr. Julian Pepperell from NSW State Fisheries and in charge of the NSW Tagging Programme. Dr. Pepperell favoured Conference with a report on these activities over the past two years. He mentioned that, since the programme started in 1974, a total of 173 fish had been re-captured out of the 12,437 Tagged & Released throughout Australia, of which 2600 were Striped Tuna and 2500 Black Marlin. The Chairman thanked Dr. Pepperell for his address and congratulated him on his interest and efforts in this connection. A Vote of Thanks to him was Carried with Acclamation.

The Chairman reminded Delegates that the Constitution, as amended at Conference, is effective immediately, while the Angling Rules and Equipment Regulations, as amended by Conference, will become effective as from 1st January 1982.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

The Chairman announced that there were three distinguished gamefishermen present who had been proposed for Life Membership of the Association. He confirmed that the requirements of the Constitution had been observed in this connection.

Mr. W. John O'Brien MBE. Proposed by R. Waddy, Seconded W.B. Coombs
CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION.

Mr. I. Peter Goadby, Proposed by W.R. Heyward, Seconded by C.I. Cutler
CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION

Mr. Patrick Gay, Proposed by Dr. T. Russell, Seconded by E.W. Palmer
CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION.

The three recipients each responded after their Award had been announced.

ALTERATION TO ANGLING RULES:

Mr. Goadby drew the attention of Delegates to the fact that IGFA had now clarified the two species of Trevally (Turrum) to be included on their next World Chart. Conference Resolved that we further amend GFAA list of Gamefish to include: Trevally, Silver (*Caranx georgianus*)
Big Eye (*Caranx sexfasciatus*)
Giant (Turrum) (*Caranx sexfasciatus*)

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. M.D. Ramsay was elected as the ~~second~~ Executive Officer for the State of Queensland on Motion of Dr. Russell.

AUSTRALIAN FISHING MUSEUM ADMINISTRATORS:

The Chairman thanked the two Administrators, Messrs. Hank Newman and Garth Hay for the hard work they had done in catering for the successful organisation of the Conference venue, the recording of the Minutes and provision of amenities.

CLOSURE:

The President-Elect, Mr. Ian Cutler congratulated Mr. Johnston on the manner in which he had carried out his ever-growing duties of the Presidency during his term, and the able way he had handled the Conference. Mr. Johnston was accorded a Standing Ovation. He thanked those present and declared the 20th Biennial Conference closed.

Signed..... CHAIRMAN

Date

DISTRIBUTION: