



## Tournament Committee

### MINUTES

Meeting held in Sydney (NSWBA)  
Friday 11 December, 2015, 10:00-16:10

#### 1. PRESENT

David Morgan (Chair), Therese Tully, Laurie Kelso, Marcia Scudder, Peter Reynolds, Sean Mullamphy, Matthew McManus, Sartaj Hans

2. **APOLOGIES:** Eric Ramshaw

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a.) *Player consultation*

The TC was conscious that many players don't regularly read the "old items" from the news section of the ABF website and so might miss requests for input on specific issues.

***The TC recommends that a page be added to the ABF website for consultation with players, with an easy-to-find link from the front page.***

b.) *MC request for player consultation on whether the ranking formula for the new playoff format should mandate or embody a preference for six-person teams*

After further consideration, the TC reaffirmed its preference for using total PQPs for each team, regardless of whether they contain 4 or 6 members. It noted that this was a continuation of current practice.

c.) *MC request for player consultation on new format for Women's Butler*

***The TC recommends that the short discussion paper (see Attachment A) be used as a basis for consulting players.***

d.) *MC comment that there are alternative formats to the one we recommended when Swiss events attract a small field*

***The TC recommends the following policy which is designed to maintain the integrity of events with small fields.*** This policy is highly recommended for tournament convenors. In addition, tournament convenors need to be careful in advertising events to ensure that a qualification is inserted to note that the format of events may change depending on the number of entries.

In Teams or Pairs events where an originally planned Swiss movement may not be appropriate, consideration is to be given to using an alternative format when the number of rounds is more than half the number of units entered.

Some possibilities, dependent on the relationship between the number of entries and the number of rounds, are:

1) In events where the number of units is just less than the number of rounds, run a full round robin, but with two or four of the original scheduled rounds cancelled. (Where rounds are

cancelled, the TO may consider whether for public relations a small refund of some part of the entry fee may be appropriate.)

2) Where the number of units is equal to the number of rounds, run a complete round robin then have playoffs for positions in the final round, with full carry-over and the final round only determining relative placings of the units involved. (eg. second can overtake first, but cannot be overtaken by a lower ranked team.)

3) For teams events, which are followed by finals:

Seed the field into two equal groups and play a round-robin either (a) within the groups, or (b) with teams playing all teams in the other group. Then use the final round(s) of the qualifying as semi-finals pairing the two leading teams in each group against a team they have not yet played. The remainder of the field continues in a Swiss movement (playing teams they have not yet played) to determine placings 5<sup>th</sup> and below.

4) In other events with insufficient entries and none of the above solutions will work, the following is recommended:

A normal Swiss movement is used up to and including Round  $n/2 + 1$  (even number of rounds) or Round  $(n+1)/2$  (odd number of rounds). In subsequent rounds, the Swiss movement continues with all scores retained, but a unit may play another unit which it previously played in the first “half” of the event.

Examples:

\* 8 rounds – standard Swiss up to and including the draw for Round 5. In rounds 6, 7 and 8, the Swiss draw continues, but units may play a unit previously played in Rounds 1-4.

\* 9 rounds – standard Swiss up to and including the draw for Round 5. In rounds 6, 7, 8 and 9, the Swiss draw continues, but units may play a unit previously played in Rounds 1-4.

e.) *Format options for the ANC*

***Subject to agreement from state associations and the ABF Council, the TC recommends including a regional team when there would otherwise be seven entries in the Open Interstate Teams at the ANC. It recommends augmenting the field by including the top regional team from the preceding GNOT.*** For the Women’s and Seniors’ it may be possible to get a Regional Team from, for example, the Barrier Reef tournament.

***For the near future, the TC recommends that players and state associations be consulted about a new format for the ANC that would reduce the impact of byes.*** (See discussion paper at Attachment B.)

f.) *New VP scale in Swiss pairs – any feedback from Peter Buchen?*

Peter Buchen advises that the remaining members of the now disbanded WBF committee will be meeting informally to address specifically the VP scales appropriate for use in Swiss Pairs. Meanwhile, MM has analysed a large amount of data and concluded that, although not optimal, for the present, the scale used for Swiss Pairs should be that for half the number of boards used in the encounter.

#### **4. PLAYOFF FORMAT FOR 2016**

Following extensive player consultation, the TC agreed that the format for the Playoffs to select the Australian Teams for 2016 will be similar to that adopted in recent years. The details for all likely entry numbers are:

### Division 1

# Teams	# Round Robin	# rounds	# bds/rd
4	3	9	20
5	3	15	12
6	3	15	12
7	2	14	12
8	2	6	20
9	2	6	20
10	2	6	20
11	2	6	20
12	2	6	20
13	2	6	20
14	2	6	20

### Division 2

# Round Robin	# rounds	# bds/rd
2	6	20
2	10	12
2	10	12
1	7	16
1	7	16
1	9	12
1	9	12

### Qualifying Stage

**One Division – entry of fewer than eight teams.** The Qualifying Stage will be played over three days with a round robin format dependent on the exact number of entries (see Table above). The leading team will have the draw for team #1, second for team #2, etc. If there are six or seven entries, the four leading teams at the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage will qualify to the Semi-Finals. If there are fewer than six entries, there will be no semi-finals and the two leading teams at the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage will qualify to the Final.

**Two Divisions – entry of eight or more teams.** The four teams ranked highest on PQP will qualify to Division One and play a double round robin. The remaining entrants form Division Two and over two days will play in a format determined by the number of entrants (see Table above). The two highest placed teams from Division One will qualify directly to the Semi-Finals. The other two Division One teams will qualify to the Repechage Finals, along with the two highest placed teams from Division Two.

### Repechage Finals

The Repechage Finals, if held, will be played over 64 boards in four stanzas of 16. The team which finished third in Division One will have choice of opponent from the two teams which qualified from Division Two. Scoring will be by net IMPs. The two Repechage Final winning teams will qualify to the Semi-Finals.

### Semi-Finals

The Semi-Finals, if held, will be played over 64 boards in four stanzas of 16. Scoring will be by net IMPs. The two Semi-Final winning teams will qualify to the Final.

If there has been one division in the Qualifying Stage, the team finishing first chooses their opponent from the other qualifying teams, with the proviso that that the team finishing second may opt not to be chosen.

If there have been two divisions in the Qualifying Stage, the team finishing first in Division One chooses their opponent from the two Repechage Final winners.

## **Final**

The Final will be played over 96 boards in six stanzas of 16.

## **5. PQP REVIEW**

The TC reviewed PQP allocations, drawing on extensive data about the number of players with PQPs who played in various events and the number of PQPs those players had. It agreed that no changes could be made to the allocations for events for the current PQP year (i.e. for the 2017 playoffs).

The committee was mindful that PQPs have more significance as they are used to rank teams in the new KO format for the Playoffs from the 2017 onwards. The committee believes that superior performance by Australian teams in the international target events should be rewarded by additional PQPs. It also believes players who make the Australian Under 26 team should be allocated PQPs for their performance.

*The TC recommends that the revised allocations, as set out in Attachment C, be adopted for the PQP year leading to the 2018 Playoffs, i.e. commencing with the 2016 Spring Nationals.*

The TC noted that a change would be required to the PQP allocation for the HGR should the event be altered from a teams to a pairs event, as requested by the tournament convenor, and that this would apply to the 2016 HGR (if the format change is approved), even though it will be part of the PQP year already underway.

The TC also noted that the revised PQP year meant that the first qualifying event was now held in the year prior to the playoff, which was itself a year prior to the target event. After some discussion the TC agreed that all players eligible to compete in the target event should be able to participate in all the selection events and be eligible for both PQPs and placings in that event.

*The TC recommends that there be no change to the definition of a senior or to the criteria used to determine eligibility for seniors' events, notwithstanding the effect this will have on the age of players eligible to enter the Bobby Evans Senior Teams.* [Definition of a Senior: A player must turn 60 in the year in which representation is sought. They can therefore be younger at the events leading to the Playoffs.]

## **6. MASTERPOINTING OF DRAWS**

*The TC recommends that a difference of >0 IMP in a Swiss Pairs or Swiss Teams match be masterpointed as a "win". As well, a result that is greater than 50% in a Matchpointed Swiss Pairs encounter also be masterpointed as a "win".*

## **7. CARRYFORWARD IN KO MATCHES**

An oversight meant that the carry-forward for the Bobby Evans Seniors Teams was not capped in 2015.

*The TC recommends that the maximum carryforward should be 1/4 of number of boards played in the next KO match.*

Meeting closed at 16:20.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

Yet to be scheduled.

## **Attachment A**

### **Discussion paper on the proposed new format for the Women's and Seniors' divisions of the Australian Butler Pairs Championships at the ANC**

In recent years, the number of entries to the Women's and Seniors' divisions of the Australian Butler Pairs Championships have fallen to the level where the current formats (Women's – two stages mirroring the Open event, Seniors' – 4 day Swiss) are no longer feasible.

It is proposed that both events will be conducted as 4 day competitions (Monday through Thursday – alongside Open Stage 2), using a similar format in each:

- Monday/Tuesday – Qualifying: likely to be played over 10 x 12 board matches in a format most suitable for the number of entries. The top 10 pairs in each event will qualify to their respective Final.
- Wednesday/Thursday – Finals, 5 tables: round robin of 9 x 12 board matches, concurrent with the last 9 rounds of the Open Butler.
- Pairs that fail to qualify for the finals will be eligible to enter the Consolation Butler. This will be held over 9 x 12 board matches alongside the finals. Non-qualifying pairs from the Women's and Seniors' events will be combined into one field.
- Players wishing to enter either the Women's or Seniors' divisions of the ABPC are able to play in stage one of the Open division of the ABPC, should they wish. Any participation does not have to be in the partnership entering the Women's or Seniors' divisions of the ABPC.

## **Attachment B**

### **Discussion paper on the proposed new format for the Interstate Teams Championship at the ANC**

States have expressed opposition to the participation of two teams from the host state when only seven teams have entered the Interstate Teams Championship at the ANC. This format had been introduced as a way to deal with the issue of byes when there were fewer than eight teams.

To reduce the impact of byes the Tournament Committee recommends the following format. This assumes that the length of the event remains unchanged, i.e. five days of qualifying with a one-day final. Note that the TC also recommends changing the format when a bye is not required (i.e. when there are entries for 8 teams or 6 teams) from the formats currently in use. This is to have all events running in parallel.

#### **7 or 8 teams**

Qualifying stage - triple round-robin of 14 board matches (21 rounds)

- played as 4 matches per day apart from day 2 on which there are 5 matches

RR1 – drawn by MC

RR2 – (semi-)random draw – in the case of 7 teams, this can be set so that no team has two byes on the one day

RR3 – draw based on finishing position after RR2

#### **5 or 6 teams**

Qualifying stage - quadruple round-robin of 14 board matches (20 rounds)

- played as 4 matches per day

RR1 – drawn by MC

RR2 – random draw (as at present)

RR3 – draw based on finishing position after RR2

RR4 – draw based on finishing position after RR3

#### **Final**

4 x 14 board stanzas, played on one day.

#### **Advantages**

- When a bye is required because of the number of entries, the recommended format ensures all pairs can play at least two matches per day.
- This format removes the need for an extra round for Youth event (and the associated problems).
- Playing the Final on one day removes issues with turnaround between end of qualifying and start of Final, including re-arranging the playing area, setting up BBO, and forcing finalists to hang around instead of being able to celebrate their performance.

## Attachment C

### Revised PQP Allocations

<i>Event</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>9th</i>
<b>OPEN</b>									
South West Pacific Teams	36	18	9						
National Open Teams	72	36	22	14	12	10	8	6	
Australian Open Playoff - Teams	48	24	12	6					
Gold Coast Pairs	36	28	20	12	6				
Gold Coast Teams	48	24	12	6					
Australian Swiss Pairs	32	24	16	8					
Autumn National Swiss Pairs	16	12	8	4					
Autumn National Open Teams	36	18	9						
Wally Scott Open Pairs	16	12	8	4					
Victor Champion Cup	36	18	9						
ANC Teams (State Reps)	6								
ANC Teams Final	20	12							
ANC Butler Pairs	45	40	35	25	20	15	10	8	6
Swan River Swiss Pairs	32	24	16	8					
NT Gold Swiss Pairs	16	12	8	4					
Spring National Open Teams	48	24	12	6					
Dick Cummings Open Pairs	32	24	16	8					
Grand National Open Teams	32	16	8						
International - PABF	24	Top	quarter	finish	= 12				
International - WBF	60	48	36	24	Top:	half	finish	= 12	
Australian Junior Team representative	6								
<b>WOMENS</b>									
National Womens Teams Swiss	24	12	6						
National Womens Teams Final	48	24	12	6					

<i>Event</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>9th</i>
Australian Womens Playoff - Teams	48	24	12	6					
Autumn National Womens Swiss Pairs	24	18	12	6					
VCC Womens Swiss Pairs	24	18	12	6					
ANC Womens Teams (State Reps)	6								
ANC Womens Teams Final	20	12							
ANC Womens Butler Pairs	35	30	25	15	10	5			
Hans Rosendorff Womens Teams	24	12	6						
Spring National Womens Teams	36	18	9						
International - PABF	24	Top	quarter	finish	= 12				
International - WBF	60	48	36	24	Top	half	finish	= 12	
Australian Girls Team representative	6								

## **SENIORS**

National Seniors Teams Swiss	24	12	6						
National Seniors Teams Final	48	24	12	6					
Australian Seniors Playoff – Teams	48	24	12	6					
Gold Coast Seniors Pairs	24	18	12	6					
Gold Coast Seniors Teams	36	18	9						
Roger Penny Seniors Swiss Pairs	24	18	12	6					
Autumn National Seniors Swiss Pairs	24	18	12	6					
Western Senior Pairs	24	18	12	6					
McCance Trophy Seniors Swiss Pairs	24	18	12	6					
ANC Senior Teams (State Reps)	6								
ANC Senior Teams Final	20	12							
ANC Senior Butler Pairs	35	30	25	15	10	5			
Bobby Evans Senior Teams	36	18	9						
International - PABF	24	Top	quarter	finish	= 12				
International - WBF	60	48	36	24	Top	half	finish	= 12	