



Tournament Committee

MINUTES

Meeting held in Sydney (Pullman Hotel, Mascot)
Friday 4th November, 2016, 10:00-16:00

1. PRESENT

David Morgan (Chair), Sartaj Hans, Laurie Kelso, Peter Reynolds, Marcia Scudder, Therese Tully.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Sean Mullamphy, Matthew McManus, Eric Ramshaw.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a.) VP scale for Swiss Pairs: MC request for further explanation

MC has agreed to the use of the modified scale for Matchpointed Swiss Pairs. It was used at the recent DCOP. Placings 1-3 were the same with the new and old scales.

For IMP-scored Swiss Pairs and Teams, MM continues to work with Peter Buchen to finalise the scales. The new scales reduce the impact of very small wins and losses.

b.) Consultation on apportioning PQPs for a multi-configuration team

The aim of halving PQP allocations for pairs who do not play together for at least 50% of the matches is to encourage players to form regular solid partnerships.

Problems have been identified for various configurations, particularly of 5 membered teams. If one pair plays the anchor role and the remaining players apportion the sessions, then no partnership among the threesome will meet the board rule so all PQPs earned by those three players will be discounted.

The concept will not be introduced until the PQP year commencing with the 2017 Spring Nationals, but currently the PQP compiler (John Scudder) is testing software and display on the current year's PQPs.

Before it is introduced there will be prior dissemination of its consequences, as it may affect the composition of teams.

In order to put a positive spin on the concept, it was suggested that PQPs earned in partnerships complying with the Pairs Board Rule be doubled and the remainder be left unchanged. PR to draft.

c.) Playoffs charter

MC requested consideration of which Youth Teams should get PQPs. TC recommends that members of both the U26 team and the Girls team should be awarded 6 PQPs for participation, plus the additional PQPs for good performance. These performance awards are half of those achievable for non-restricted event, so U26 is half of Open allocation, Girls is half of Women's allocation.

International performance PQPs were revised to reflect the different standards of different international events. For the Bermuda Bowl, top half of the field is appropriate, for Olympiad events top 1/3 and APBF top 1/4.

These PQPs should be included in the current cycle, not that commencing with the following Spring Nationals.

Where more than one team plays in an international event, only the official team can earn these PQPs.

The Playoff Charter should be published on the ABF website prior to the upcoming Playoffs.

d.) ANC Butler

Following the MC's agreement to the recommended changes to the format of the Butler Pairs Chamionships at the 2017 ANC the TC considered what carryforward would be appropriate. It was concluded that there was no perfect answer, especially if there were a bolter in either of the two sections that will be used in stage one of the open. The TC agreed that:

(a) the size of the carryforward should reflect the number of rounds to be played in stage two (nine in Women's and Seniors'; 19 in the open); and

(b) the formula used to calculate the carryforward should vary according to whether participants came from two fields (the open) or one (Women's and Seniors').

The TC recommends that the carry forward be:

Open: Integers 10 down to 1 (0 for qualifiers who rank below 10th in their field, but are included in Stage II due to withdrawals) for each field.

Women's and Seniors': 7 to 1 in a graded scale according to VP differences in Stage I (0 for qualifiers who rank below 10th, but are included in Stage II due to withdrawals).

MC approves.

e.) ANC Charter

In progress (SH)

f.) Publicising options for flighted and/or mixed events

TC agreed that it should publicise the options available to TOs to include such events. (DM to write and circulate). It was noted that, at present, World Mixed Teams will only be held in World Teams Years.

4. PLAYOFFS

The incorporation of only 96 boards per knockout match in the Seniors' may be changed in future years to match the 128 in the Women's, but only after consultation at this year's event (both at the venue and on the web).

Some concern was raised as to whether the venue will be able to hold 16 screened tables should the full complement of teams enter both the Women's and Seniors' Playoffs. The TC noted this was unlikely for the women based on historic data. It rejected the idea of not using screens for the first knockout round. The fallback positions are: i) tables closer together, or ii) hiring extra rooms.

The TC agreed there was value in video monitoring of play at major events. This would provide a data bank to refer to should concerns ever be raised regarding cheating. The TC noted that the ABF already has sufficient laptops and the cameras come with BBO coverage. The video would not be live screened, so upload capacity on site is not a problem.

The TC recommends (a) recording all screened tables and (b) investigating recording a number (three?) of the top tables in the qualifying rounds at major events.

MC agrees in principle; will consult with interested parties.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

a.) Women's PQPs

Some correspondence was received regarding apparent inequity in some PQP awards. Some of these issues have been considered and changes recommended. The policy to implement changes at the commencement of a PQP year means that there can be considerable delay. TC will review all PQPs at its Q1 meeting next year.

b.) ABF Calendar

The inclusion of a quality Mixed Teams event in the calendar was considered. A possibility would be part of the Summer Festival, but not coinciding with the finals of the NOT (as currently).

c.) Alternatives to Swiss events

The possibility of using a teams event format different from the ubiquitous Swiss movement was discussed. There was general agreement that other formats were likely to be less popular but that tournament convenors should have discretion. The TC supported the idea of all tournament convenors, the NECs, TDs and scorers for ABF-licensed events get together (possibly via video conference) to review experiences, as happens after the Gold Coast.

d.) NPC reports from international competitions

TC recommends that MC requests input from TC regarding NPCs, augmentation or coaches proposed for International Teams.

MC refers suggestion to IPTF.

e.) Performance enhancing drugs: regulations

TC agreed that the relevant policy statement from WBF should be incorporated into the ABF tournament regulations.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Scoring errors

The issue of correction times for events, and in particular for the last round of an event arose, as a result of the situation which occurred in the World Championships in Poland, where a scoring error led to the incorrect pair being declared winners.

The TC recommends that the onus be firmly on the players to ensure that scores entered in Bridgemates are both accurate and complete.

However, this will never be 100%, although experience at the Gold Coast indicates that error rates are reduced if the threat of loss of VPs is imposed. Accurately including the lead card can facilitate correction of errors such as incorrect declarer. Other possibilities might include two Bridgemates at each table for cross checking. Flagging of outlier scores also highlights possible erroneous results.

MC will welcome any recommendation for improvement.

Masterpoints; Master factors for simultaneous Open and MP-limited events.

A revised master factor will be introduced from Jan 1 for the masterpointing of masterpoint-limited (e.g. restricted) events held simultaneously with open events. This will apply only for A or B grade events.

Meeting closed at 15:50.

10. NEXT MEETING

Saturday 4th February, 2017, at NSWBA. Proposed following meeting date 3rd June.