

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN SYDNEY 18th NOVEMBER 2012 at 10:00 am at NSWBA

1. PRESENT

Kim Morrison (chair), Bruce Neill, Peter Reynolds, Marcia Scudder, Eric Ramshaw.
Sean Mullamphy and Matthew McManus were also in attendance.
Apologies: Peter Kahler, Laurie Kelso

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

List of duties for TO/CTD at ABF events – Some guidelines have been published in the ABDA magazine, this should be considered along with Laws 80 and 81. (BN ongoing)

PR discussions with Barbara Travis regarding her playoff submissions – the issues raised will be considered for future events, and may be implemented if possible. Unfortunately, one of the issues raised, that of having screens for all tables in the latter stages of the Australian Teams Playoffs, can only be addressed if the venue and entry numbers permit.

Augmentation of the Australian Team can only be made from the pool of playoff entrants.

ANC – There was confusion about the modified scoring scale used for the 2012 ANC teams. The MC suggests including match results alongside the cumulative ones, at least until the players are more familiar with the new scoring scale. (MM)

Yellow system combined with blind seating – consult Youth Committee (MM)

Vetting of system cards and defences. The two events for which system cards are posted on the web are the ANC teams and the Playoffs. LK has taken on the responsibility of vetting the system cards provided, and if necessary, returning them, specifying the particular parts of the card where insufficient detail is shown. A grace period of, say, a week should be allowed after the closing date for system cards, in which revised cards should be provided, or else the inadequately described section or convention cannot be used in the event. When a partnership wishes to refer to notes describing their defence to brown sticker conventions, the notes must be approved by the CTD prior to play. Should system cards not be completed as directed or submitted within the allotted time then only a green system should be allowed.

Women's Butler. MC would like it to start at same time as Open and finish earlier if necessary. Various options for the format of the Women's Butler were considered, depending on the number of entries. It is anticipated that the format will be advertised depending on numbers, players will have a clear start time and a probable finishing time in advance.

Standard format for ABF events

The TC is frequently asked to approve variations in the number of rounds or length of rounds for various ABF events. It was felt that there should be some guide which TO's can refer to which will give the optimum format for a particular field, depending on its size and the structure of the final stages leading to the winner. PR offered to create a document of this nature, which can be reviewed by a specialist such as Ross Moore.

New Butler event at GNOT

It was felt that the introduction of a new Butler Pairs event running either before or after the GNOT would allow players to make maximum use of the subsidy provided for them to attend the GNOT.

Appeals Committee training

A seminar pertaining to Appeals Committee matters was held at the Spring Nationals. This was well received by the 15 or so participants. A suggested composition of the Appeals sub-committee

of the ABF was: Sebastian Yuen, Bruce Neill, Sean Mullamphy, Matthew McManus and Laurie Kelso.

Also discussed were the issues of when it might be acceptable to drop the panel from 5 to 3; whether appeals could be conducted using Skype technology; and the fact that when the director polls players of equivalent standard, it is important that the complete context of the action be provided.

BBO chain of command – It would appear that it is frequently the responsibility of the TO to source operators if they wish to provide BBO broadcasts at their events. It would be beneficial to have a list of names and contact details of suitably qualified personnel. Liaison with Traian and Ray is needed.

Mutual Obligation Doc for Aust. Reps – PR – ongoing

Publication of appeals. It is not apparent where appeals are published, if indeed they are. KM to enquire of MC.

Is Systems Committee working on new **alerting regs**? Pending PR to enquire of LK

Provision of ‘incomplete results’ and datums at Summer festival – incomplete results will be posted soon after each session and corrected when complete. For the purposes of datums, if players input incorrect lineups into the scorers, this can only be corrected during the current session. The publication of accurate datums can only be achieved if the players take seriously the requirement to input their lineups correctly.
PR to pursue LK for further progress

Guideline document for training international teams – PR – ongoing

The coaching of the Youth team by Alex Smirnov was clearly a benefit. It was felt that the ABF should seek out opportunities such as this, when players of stature visit and are willing to take on coaching of the Australian Teams. Meanwhile, other low cost mean of training, such as use of BBO should be ongoing.

Document for Appeals chairs and committees – This should become the domain of the Appeals sub committee (see above). (BN)

3. ABF EVENTS

(a) Playoffs

Considerable time was spent making final adjustments to the Supplementary Regulations for the 2013 Playoffs to be held in December.

It was felt necessary for the CTD to define a zone at the venue in which it would be illegal to use electronic devices, such as phones, iPads etc. This would prevent accidental noise or information transfer from that area to the players.

The proposed format for Open Division 2 and the Women’s would be changed slightly so that instead of 2 x half matches, there would be a double Round Robin.

A list of possible Appeals Committee members was created.

The 2013 Seniors’ Playoffs will be held from February 13-17. Entries will open on December 7 and close on January 29. MM to finalise Supplementary Regulations.

The **2014 Open and Women’s Playoffs** will take place early in 2014. Representation in 2014, at present, is only for the APBF, since the Rosenblum is open entry. The Playoffs will be in pairs format.

It was suggested that the Open Playoff be held in the week preceding the Summer Festival, perhaps concurrent with the NWT/NST. The format could be 16 pairs (based on PQPs) playing 15 x 16 board matches over 4.5 days, or 15 x 10 board matches played over 3 days. It should be noted that it would not be optimal to clash with the Youth event.

Another options was to hold all the Playoffs in mid February – perhaps encompassing consecutive weekends. However, the issue of overcrowding the time between Canberra and the Gold Coast must be considered.

Opinions from the players, regarding the various options will be sought at the forthcoming Playoffs in December.

With regard Playoffs with Teams format (2015), the issue of augmentation of a team after an initial team has been entered, but before the closing date of entries, was raised. A pair which complies with all entry regulations could be added, but their PQPs would not be included in the team's total.

(b) ASP and RPSP

The request to change the name of the events to an all encompassing *Tasmanian Festival of Bridge* was approved.

A request for a variation in the format of the Open and Seniors' events was tabled. The reason given was that players find it difficult to get flights from Hobart after the last scheduled session.

A suitable format for the Open Pairs would be: 6 x 10 board rounds on day 1, followed by 5 x 10 board rounds on day 2. This should finish at about 5:30 allowing players to fly out if they wished.

For the Seniors' the suggested format is 4 x 12 board matches on day 1, to allow players to fly in on the same day; followed by 5 x 12 board matches with an earlier start to the day leading to a finish in time for connecting to flight out in the evening.

4. OTHER MATTERS

(a) Role of the National Recorder

A report from Phil Gallasch was tabled.

It was felt that it was not practical, or necessary, to appoint two or more recorders for an ABF event, except for the very large Summer Festival and Gold Coast events. If a player wishes to speak with the recorder, they should either see the recorder directly or approach a director who will liaise, and set up a convenient time. Reports of matters raised with the recorder should be forwarded to the National Recorder and then to the General Counsel. Suggested modifications to the Tournament regulations regarding recorders are in section 4(d)

The appointment of a recorder for a tournament should be under the purview in the NTC's.

(b) BBO

Tournament Organisers are finding that they are responsible for sourcing competent operators for BBO. The BBO coordinator assigned to the event should provided a list of suitable qualified candidates in the area along with their contact details.

(c) New WBF Victory Point Scales.

The new scales cover the score range of 0-20 with a draw at 10-10. By using a continuous rather than a step function, it removes the 'cusping' of the old scale, where some imps took on added significance in the conversion to Victory Points. The application of the new scale will result in scores with 2 decimal places. It was felt that this might lead to considerable Player resistance as they find adding two scores more difficult. The ABF should wait till this new scale has been used with satisfaction overseas.

(d) Updates to the ABF Tournament Regulations.

Overall revision should only occur once a year, but changes that become apparent during the year and are approved should be tabulated on the web (ideally with an implementation date) in the same way as updates to the PQP regulations currently are.

The revised augmentation rules for Australian teams should be included in the next revision.

The rules covering eligibility to represent Australia should be revised to include the following requirements:

- financial membership of the ABF both at the commencement of the Playoffs and at the time of international representation;
- eligibility to be an Australian resident; and
- satisfying the WBF requirements.

This regulation should be a standalone section.

For the purposes of awarding PQPs a player who is a financial member of the ABF at the commencement of the event is deemed to remain a member until the conclusion of that event (this covers players who retain membership by the grace period to 31 March, but are playing, for example in the Playoffs which conclude in April).

When a team is playing a Yellow system, seating rights are not forfeited for those rounds in which the team is prevented from playing a Yellow system.

That par 2.1 be amended by deleting “a Recorder” and by substituting “one or more Recorders”.

That par 2.4.5 be amended to read “Within 14 days of the conclusion of the event each Recorder shall submit to the National Recorder a report on the incidents that were reported to that Recorder during the event.”

That par 29.2.2 shall be replaced with the following “The Recorder’s Report shall be forwarded on a confidential basis firstly to the National Recorder and then by the National Recorder to the ABF General Counsel. The National Recorder may add whatever recommendations are considered appropriate in the circumstances.”

(e) Archiving of ABF events

It was felt desirable that at least the format (if not the entire brochure) for past events be stored with the results and be available for reference on the website.

(f) PQPs

Players who earn 48 or more Open PQP can transfer their PQPs to either the Women’s or Seniors (or both) and are exempted from the restriction of earning at least one PQP in that category.

5. Correspondence

- **Ron Klinger – Senior Playoffs dates and 2013 events calendar year**

- **Andrew Richman – Format for Tasmanian Bridge Festival (ASP & RPSP)**
- **Simon Edler - Format for Tasmanian Bridge Festival (ASP & RPSP)**
- **Bernie waters – ANC Board rule and PQP**

6. NEXT MEETING Sunday 10th February.

ACTIONS:-

- KM to liaise with EM regarding question re eligibility of a player. Ross Harper eligibility still unresolved.
- LK to inform MW to post provisional scores quickly at the SFOB with markers indicating incomplete results. pending
- Summer Festival issues – LK to approach MW regarding the publication of datums. pending
- Mutual Obligation Document – Players and the ABF for International Events – PR to prepare. pending
- Training of International Teams – PR to consider and produce a guideline document. pending
- NPCs for International Events – BN to produce guideline document pending
- Appeals – documents for members and chairs of committees – BN to draft documents pending
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- KM to communicate with DM regarding Krochmalik request.
- PR to respond to Barbara Travis