

# **ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN SYDNEY**

### **28-29 June 2014 at 9:30 am at Vibe Hotel Sydney in conjunction with ABF Management Committee Meeting**

#### **1. PRESENT**

Kim Morrison (chair), Marcia Scudder, Eric Ramshaw, David Morgan, Laurie Kelso  
Sean Mullamphy was also in attendance.  
Apologies: Peter Reynolds, Matthew McManus

There has been a change of personnel on the Committee. Bruce Neill has resigned to take up the position of President of the ABF. The Committee extends our congratulations to Bruce. We welcome David Morgan to fill the vacancy.

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING JOINT MC/TC MEETING**

##### **Format and Dates for 2016 Playoffs and beyond**

It is proposed to invite comments from interested players on the timing and format of Playoff events from 2016 onward. As input, the TC reviewed the current arrangements. TC recommendations are as below.

No change is recommended to the current format for Playoffs in either Teams or Pairs. Both were well accepted by the players.

For Teams format, the concept of reward (i.e. a second chance) for those teams acquiring significant numbers of PQPs was considered important.

The current cycle of three years of Teams format and one of Pairs format fits in well with the cycle of International Competition and allows pairs from far flung regions to enter in the Pairs format year.

The question of the position of the Playoffs within the Calendar was considered. It was felt that the early part of the year is too full. The Open/Women's Playoff held in December 2012, although meeting resistance before the event, was actually received by the players quite comfortably. It is the opinion of this committee that the place of best fit for the playoffs is in December. It avoids the Summer Festival/Gold Coast/NEC/Yeh Bros Cup congestion problem and allows sufficient time for preparation, booking and entry. As the APBF is conducting only an open entry Congress event in 2016, there is no requirement for a Playoff to determine a team early in the year. Therefore it is recommended that the first Playoffs to be held in December should be in 2016, selecting the teams to represent Australia in 2017. Despite being held in 2016, this Playoff will bear the name 2017 Playoffs.

This requires the PQP year to be redefined as starting with the GNOT and ending with the Spring Nationals.

Should two teams be invited to any event in the Senior division, then this team should also come from the Playoff event.

Screens should be in use wherever possible. For the venue currently in use, this would be possible for all tables in Division 1 of the Open and Women's. If there is only one Division in the Women's then all tables for this event will have screens.

##### **Protocol for decision making – how to air proposals for comment**

Ben Thompson has criticised the TC that there is insufficient communication between the TC and the players. He also states that there is a lack of opportunity for feedback before decisions are made.

In order to rectify this situation it is proposed that;

- a) Important items to be discussed at TC meetings will be placed on the website in advance. In this way interested parties will have the opportunity to make suggestions and comments before the meeting.
- b) Conclusions drawn at the meeting on key issues will be posted on the website for comment prior to it becoming policy should the MC accept the recommendation from the TC.
- c) After acceptance by the MC, the minutes of the meeting will be posted on the website (as at present).

### **Procedure for working with General Counsel on Regulations, etc.**

The duties and responsibilities of the TC include making changes to the General Regulations. This can now be done directly without consultation with General Counsel for all minor changes.

### **Events for Restricted Players**

The MC sought input from the States on the addition of Restricted Teams to the ANC. Many states were in favour, but all were wary about the cost implications to the States in running selection events.

A second suggestion was that the ABF would subsidise Restricted Pairs to play in the TBIB Restricted Pairs which is currently part of the ANC.

TC is of the opinion that players from Regional Areas should be encouraged to take part in the selection procedure when the replacement medium is agreed upon.

### **Captain's Responsibilities for International Events**

The document *International Representatives Players Charter* is available on the website (under Rules and Regulations) and covers the relevant details.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Guideline document for training international teams – PR ongoing.**

### **Errors and Scoring Programs and Draws LK**

Consistency in scoring programs.

There are 5 packages currently in use in Australia. They are

Matthew McManus software

Peter Busch - Comp Score 2

David Anderson software

Martin Willcox - Masterscore

Ian McKinnon - ASE

The NTCs have tested many aspects of these software packages. Some errors and inconsistencies have come to light and have been corrected or standardised.

Some variations have resulted from rounding errors in calculations. Some variations involve the implementation of the new WBF VP scale, where programming the algorithm can lead to minor differences in the last decimal place.

## **4. EVALUATION OF OPEN/WOMEN'S and SENIORS' PLAYOFFS**

The meeting was joined by Peter Buchen at 11am to discuss issues regarding the conduct of the Playoffs. These included: VP scales, number of scores dropped when calculating datums, carry forward, number of boards per match.

Peter reported that Butler Pairs tournaments currently conducted are unbalanced, because of a) the variability between the ability of a player and others sitting in the same direction or b) the type and strength of hands running in a particular direction. The outcome could be skewed because of these factors.

It is possible to calculate a datum for each board such that this bias is eliminated, however it involves a datum with decimal places, and subsequent imping also bearing decimal points. The players would not be able to compute their own scores.

Peter has carried out simulations on VP scales, number of scores dropped etc and will provide a comprehensive report outlining his recommendations of best practice for various types and strengths of events. He was also asked to consider carry forward applied at the Playoffs, which at present gives 75% weight to scores obtained against qualifiers, and 25% to other scores.

He also will provide input for improving the outcome of the SWPT (see 5 below) which he feels is currently under Swissed. One suggested solution is to split the first round into two 10 board rounds. This leaves unresolved questions such as: how to draw the second round, how many VPs are assigned to the 10 board matches, which VP scale to use. Issues resolved for this event can carry forward to others where the number of boards in each round is not constant (e.g. the ANOT).

Peter departed at 11:35.

## **5. SUMMER FESTIVAL 2015**

The TC discussed the format of the SWPT at the Summer Festival. Correspondence was received from Ben Thomson indicating dissatisfaction with the proposal to split the first round into two 10 board matches. As outlined above, Peter Buchen will provide a report on the advisability of this change, from the viewpoint of a mathematician.

A completely different scenario was discussed for future consideration. The SWPT could be split into two events, the SWPT Knockout and the SWPT Swiss. Players would be free to enter either field. The Knockout section would provide 6 qualifiers to the NOT while the Swiss would provide 2. Teams eliminated from the Knockout would move into the Swiss field.

DM will draft a paper outlining this proposal which will be then made available for comment by interested parties.

Management Committee believes any change should only be made following discussion and review of the options, and so may be better deferred to 2016.

## **6. PQPs for the 2015 CALENDAR YEAR:**

An application to award PQPs for the Wally Scott Open pairs at the VCC Festival was approved. The awards will be 16 12 8 4.

PQP awards for all events on the Calendar will be reviewed and rebalanced if necessary before next year.

Each year the PQP table is reviewed and all events evaluated. State Associations may apply for further PQP allocation should they desire but this should be made by September to allow time for institution in the following year's table.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Kim Ellaway would like clarification on the possibility of banning a player from an event. This was referred to General Counsel.

John Scudder and Bruce Neill would like a definition of the Playoffs. As an example, the 2016 Playoffs lead to international representation in the year 2016, whether the Playoffs are held in December 2015 or March 2016.

Kim Ellaway would like to introduce 3 board rounds for the Open Pairs at the Gold Coast. Although this means that each pair would play against fewer opponents in the qualifying rounds, it would then bring this event into line with all other Pairs events held at the same time. This change was recommended.

Ben Thomson produced lengthy correspondence regarding issues ranging from lack of communication by the TC to failure to consider input from the players. It was felt that many of his issues would be dealt with by instituting the protocol for decision making outlined above.

David Anderson pointed out the discrepancy in the Masterpoint awards for a Matchpoint Pairs event when compared to a Swiss Pairs event of similar length. He has now modified the masterpoint allocation for matchpoint pairs to be in line with Swiss Pair events. The TC is in favour of this change.

## **8. ANC:**

The Regulations for the ANC are now available on the ANC website.

The format of the Seniors' Butler is dependent upon the number of entries received. Since many players decide to enter the Seniors' Butler only after the conclusion of the qualifying stage of the Open and Women's Butler it is necessary to make provision for various entry numbers. This has been done by CTD Matthew McManus for 2014.

## **9. Other Business:**

### **Leaders Butler**

It was felt that there should be a consistent treatment of datums for Swiss Pairs. Some events are run with Leaders Butler, others not so. It would be advisable to establish a protocol, such as:  
For events with 24 or more tables, scores from all tables will be used for the first n/3 rounds; the top half of the field for the second n/3 rounds, and the top 12 tables for the final n/3 rounds.

The number of outlying scores eliminated for each calculation should be approximately 1/5.

This has been included in Peter Buchen's brief.

## **11. Next meeting:**

Sunday September 7