

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 2005

SUMMARY OF MATTERS DEALT WITH AND RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

What follows is a precis of the proceedings of the TC meeting of 21-22 May 2005. More detail can be obtained by reference to the full minutes.

05.05.01 Training camp for 2005 Australian teams

The training camp scheduled for 9-10 July will take the form of on-line practice sessions (one 24-board session at 1.30 pm on 9 July, a second 24-board session at 1.30 pm on 10 July). Team captains will be responsible for making the appropriate arrangements with their players and ensuring their participation. Players who represented Australia at the PABF Championships in Seoul are welcome to participate.

05.05.02 International target events for 2006

The target events for the 2006 international calendar will be the Open, Women's and Seniors teams championships at the PABF Championships.

05.05.03 2006 Playoffs – recommendation

The Playoffs will be played as a pairs format. There will be 16 pairs in each field – 14 *via* PQP nomination and 2 *via* the Last Train. There will be two stages. Stage 1 will comprise fifteen 12-board rounds. The pair winning stage 1 is an automatic selection for the Australian team(s) and is exempted from stage 2; the bottom 3 pairs are eliminated from the event. The remaining 12 pairs will proceed to stage 2. Stage 2 will comprise eleven 12-board rounds, with carryover from stage 1. The pairs finishing first and second in stage 2 will form the remainder of the team(s).

05.05.04 The Last Train

This (pairs) event, an Open Playoff feeder event, will allow a final opportunity for players not already qualified by PQP, to win a place in the field for the 2006 Open Playoff. Non-contending pairs, including those already qualified for the Open Playoff, may enter the Last Train. The closing date for entries is Thursday 12 January 2006.

05.05.05 Commonwealth Nations tournament

It was resolved that the team to represent Australia in the Commonwealth Nations tournament (immediately prior to the 2006 Commonwealth Games) should comprise three pairs selected from the 2005 Open Butler Pairs Championships in July 2005 and the Youth Butler in January 2006, *viz.* the winners and runners-up in the Open Butler and the winners in the Youth Butler.

05.05.06 2006 World Championships

It is recommended to the Management Committee that the ABF provide a subsidy of \$1000 to any Australian player (to a maximum of 20 players) who participates in the Open teams or Women's teams or Seniors teams at the 2006 World Championships in Verona.

05.05.07 South-West Pacific Teams/National Open Teams __ recommendations

- (i) that the format for the S-WPT revert to fourteen 20-board rounds;
- (ii) that the number of finalists to progress to the NOT be reduced from 16 to 12 (6 from each venue);
- (iii) that the NOT be played in 3 stages, *viz.* (a) two round robins (5 rounds of 16-board matches, one on Friday and four on Saturday, with complete carryover from the S-WPT), one between the six Rydges finalists and one between the six NCC finalists; to qualify four teams for the semi-finals, (b) 64-board semi-finals on Sunday (first Rydges *vs* second NCC, first NCC *vs* second Rydges), (c) a 64-board final on Monday;
- (iv) that at least one and preferably two S-WPT days have evenings free with, on those days, a 10.00 am start and a 7.10 pm finish;
- (v) that the start time for other S-WPT days be 11.00 am;
- (vi) that the early days be Thursday (one early day) or Wednesday and Thursday (two early days);
- (vii) that, at the discretion of the Convenor, there be no special category finals.

05.05.08 National Women's Teams

It was resolved that, because of the lower entry, the number of finalists in the NWT be reduced from six to four, with semi-finals on Saturday and a final on Sunday.

05.05.09 Gold Coast Open and Seniors Teams

Placings at the end of qualifying round 10 (not round 12) will continue to be used for the allocation of PQPs (other than those allocated to the finalists) in the Gold Coast Open and Seniors Teams.

05.05.10 Length of ANC teams matches

ANC Teams Championships matches will remain in the present format of 24-board matches.

05.05.11 Open entry to the Butlers

Entry to the Butlers is open to all players irrespective of national affiliation. (Foreign players are regarded as "ineligible" for purposes of allocation of PQP awards). To accommodate entries from participants in the World Youth Championships, current regulations for the 2005 Open and Women's Butlers will be changed (for 2005 only) to permit (i) eight ineligible pairs to progress from Stage I to Stage II and (ii) four ineligible pairs to progress from Stage II to Stage III.

05.05.12 Format of Stages 1 and A of the Butlers

Stage I of the Open and Women's Butlers and Stage A of the Seniors Butler will be run with separate (seeded) N/S and E/W fields.

05.05.13 Sydney Festival and Spring Nationals

A proposal to merge the Sydney Festival and the Spring Nationals, into a Spring Festival of Bridge, was approved in principle subject to further consideration of a number of matters.

The merger will take place from 2006. In order not to interfere with Tasmania's 2006 Australian Swiss Pairs (Launceston in October), the 2006 Spring Festival will be scheduled for September. From 2007, in order never to clash with Jewish holy days, it is desirable that the Spring Festival be scheduled for the second half of October. To achieve this, it will be necessary to negotiate with Tasmania to reschedule its ASP to September. Warren Lazer will undertake the negotiations.

The number, order and length of the events comprising the Spring Festival of Bridge will be the subject of a submission from NSWBA Chairman Alex Yezerski.

Other matters dealt with

- Review of 2005 Playoffs
- Possible New Zealand participation in the ANC
- Schedule for ANC final
- Prior submission of systems for the Playoffs and the ANC
- Possible use of screens for Stages III and B of the Australian Butler Pairs Championships
- Australia/New Zealand test matches
- Playoff Qualifying Points (PQP) – additional PQP for Women players
- ABF tournament regulations.