

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN CANBERRA

18 JANUARY 2009

1. PRESENT

Kim Morrison (chair), Eric Ramshaw, Peter Reynolds, Marcia Scudder, David Smith, Neville Francis, John Brockwell.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ABF TOURNAMENTS

a VCC Tournament

(i) Board schedule for the VCC

The meeting accepted the proposal from VCC organisers that the schedule for the VCC be changed from 10 rounds of 16 boards to 10 rounds of 14 boards.

(ii) Board schedules for other events at the tournament

The meeting also accepted the proposal from VCC organisers that the schedules for the McCance trophy, the Women's Butler pairs and the Restricted Butler pairs (that immediately precede the VCC as part of the tournament as a whole) be changed from 7 rounds of 14 boards to 8 rounds of 12 boards.

b. NOT

It was reaffirmed that teams that qualify (i) from the S-WPT for the NOT, (ii) from the NWT Swiss qualifying to the to the NWT final, and (iii) from the NST Swiss qualifying to the NST final series shall pay no additional fees beyond what they have already paid to enter the preliminary stages. It was noted that, in defiance of a standing resolution to the contrary, such fees were charged at the 2009 Summer Festival. The meeting was of the view that such charges were morally wrong and that refunds should be paid to the players concerned. *The ABF Management Committee does not endorse this recommendation.*

c. Open Playoffs (2009)

(i) Team size

It was ruled that teams entering Division 2 of the 2009 Open Playoffs (i.e. the open entry division) should be teams of four or teams of six, not teams of five.

(ii) Withdrawal

It was agreed that, should Seamus Browne (or, for that matter, any other person) be obliged to withdraw from the 2009 Open Playoffs due to ill-health, he may be replaced by any player **who has qualified for the Open Playoff panel** without the requirement for that player to have won PQPs with any other member of the team. (This decision refers to a particular circumstance and is not intended as a precedent except insofar as it might also be applied to withdrawals from the 2009 Women's and Seniors Playoffs.)

d. Gold Coast Congress

The meeting agreed that, should it prove necessary to move from the traditional dates for the Gold Coast Congress (last full week of February), it would be more desirable to move forward into March than backward into February, and thus closer to the Summer Festival of Bridge.

e. Last Trains

There was some discussion of the conduct of the 2009 Last Trains. Positively, the size of the entry was gratifying and thus these events should continue to be part of the Summer Festival of Bridge (as previously resolved). Negatively, (i) the output of the scores appeared unnecessarily slow, and (ii) the catering arrangements of the National Convention Centre were inferior and unacceptable.

3. TIE-BREAKING

It was resolved that, wherever supplementary regulations specify that a tie should be broken by play of boards thus:

- (i) one 4-board set shall be played to break a two-way tie
- (ii) two 3-board sets shall be played to break a three-way tie
- (iii) three 2-board sets shall be played to break a four-way tie.

4. ABF TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

a. Revision

A number of minor amendments were made to the Tournament Regulations. These will be incorporated into the existing regulations, submitted to the Management Committee for endorsement and, subject to that endorsement, come into force on 1 June 2009.

b. Alcohol

It was noted that it was never the intention of the regulations relating to the consumption of alcohol at ABF tournaments, that alcohol should be banned from the ANC Pairs Championships. During revision of the ABF Tournament Regulations (due now), an appropriate amendment will be made to more clearly reflect the real intention.

c. Promulgation of periodic changes to the ABF Tournament Regulations

In order better to communicate revisions to the Tournament Regulations, a "box" system appended to the regulations document (analogous to the one used by PQP

Compiler John Scudder for communicating changes to PQP regulations) will be introduced.

5. NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 9.20 am. No date was set for the next meeting.

6. RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEETING AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

What follows is a précis of the proceedings of the Tournament Committee meeting in Canberra on 18 January 2009. More detail can be obtained by reference to the full minutes above.

01.09.01 Open Playoffs (2009) – team size

It was ruled that teams entering Division 2 of the 2009 Open Playoffs (i.e. the open entry division) should be teams of four or teams of six, not teams of five.

01.09.02 Tie-breaking

It was resolved that, wherever supplementary regulations specify that a tie should be broken by play of boards thus:

- (i) One 4-board set shall be played to break a two-way tie
- (ii) Two 3-board sets shall be played to break a three-way tie
- (iii) Three 2-board sets shall be played to break a four-way tie.

Other matters dealt with were:

- (i) The board schedule for the VCC tournament
- (ii) Entry fees specifically for the NOT, the NWT final and the final stages of the NST. **(There shall be no entry fees and entry fees should not have been charged in 2009)**
- (iii) Possible withdrawals from the 2009 Playoffs (subsequent to closure of entries)
- (iv) Possible change of dates for future Gold Coast Congresses
- (v) The Last Trains
- (vi) Alcohol at ABF Tournaments
- (vii) Revision of the ABF Tournament Regulations
- (viii) Promulgation of changes to the ABF Tournament Regulations.