

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN CANBERRA 18 JANUARY 2010

1. PRESENT

Kim Morrison (chair), Eric Ramshaw, Peter Reynolds, Marcia Scudder
David Smith, Bruce Neill
Observer: Sean Mullanphy

Actions

2. CONSIDERATION OF ABF TOURNAMENTS

(a) Summer Festival

As player experience with Bridgemates increased, there was a corresponding decrease in the error rate. At the Summer Festival, the early error rate in the first week decreased as the qualifying events drew to a close, but reappeared when the pairs events commenced on the weekend. This was not surprising as there were many players now present who had not had experience with them. The Player Obligation Document was published in the first issue of the NOT News, but was not distributed on the tables for the start of the Teams events in Week 1 as had been requested. There were some errors in the original document, as it had been based on the Spring Nationals input and at the SF, the input differed in some particulars.

The Women's Pairs was a 3 Table Howell, as a result of the low entry. It would seem that there needs to be more flexibility in the running of the pairs events, possibly introducing a 'same sex pairs'. Another possibility would be to use Swiss match points as for the DCOP,

EHR reported that 65 players had migrated from the NWT field in 2009 to the NST or the Restricted events in 2010. The entry in the NWT was a disappointing 17 teams (necessitating a House team).

The Last Trains had run successfully, with appropriate service provided to the players, which had been lacking in 2009.

There were problems on the Wednesday of Week 1 as the Scoring Room was not available for the beginning of the event.

(a1) Player survey

The player survey was conducted at the 2010 Summer Festival. A copy of the survey is appended to these minutes.

The responses were manually collated. Those collected in Week 1 were kept separate from those from Week 2, as it was anticipated that the players would be of a different category – and in particular would include those playing in the Restricted events.

The collated results are also appended, with three documents, Week 1, Week 2 and Week1+2. The results were surprisingly similar.

It is anticipated that the same survey will be distributed at the 2010 Gold

Coast in order to obtain responses from some of the players who do not attend the Summer Festival. Responses to the survey via the website have been meagre.

(b) Sydney Festival

The venue used in recent years is no longer available. A proposal was tabled that part or all of the Sydney Festival be recombined with the final of the Grand National Open Teams, as was the case, in Sydney, prior to 2005. This would involve part or all of the Sydney Festival being held at Tweed Heads (the venue for the 2010 GNOT final).

It was felt that the suggestion had merit, but that there was insufficient time to organise such a significant change in 2010. So the 2010 Sydney Festival will be held in Sydney.

(c) Autumn National Open Teams

A request that the final of the ANOT be shortened to 56 boards was agreed to.

(d) 2011-15 Gold Coast.

The proposed dates for the next 5 years were accepted.

2011 Friday 25th February to Saturday 5th March

2012 Friday 24th February to Saturday 4th March

2013 Friday 22nd February to Saturday 2nd March

2014 Friday 21st February to Saturday 1st March

2015 Friday 27th February to Saturday 7th March

(e) 2011 ANC in Melbourne

When considering the dates for the 2011 ANC, we should be aware of a possible conflict with the Rugby World Cup in NZ.

(f) 2011 Open Playoffs

It was agreed that the 2011 format would be the same as that in 2009, and a recommendation was made that the entry fee for Tier 2 be reduced.

A survey would be conducted after the event to allow player comment on the format.

As a result of the 2010 Playoffs there will be just one Australian Team, which will comprise the top three pairs. This team will be offered attendance at all Target Events for 2010. If one pair does not wish (or is unavailable) to attend one or more Target Events, then their position will be offered to the next ranked pair (down only to the 6th pair).

A substitution policy is required in the case of a Teams Playoff format (2011) to allow for the situation where a player, pair or indeed the whole team is unavailable for one or more of the Target Events.

(g) Security with Online Broadcasts

It was reaffirmed that Tournament Organisers are responsible for ensuring that there should be no contact between players and the public who may have access to results via online broadcasting. Specifically, opportunities arise for contact during visits to the toilet and during smoking breaks.

Tournament Organisers and Directors must enforce the request that players should NOT use MOBILE PHONES or other ELECTRONIC DEVICES in or in the vicinity of the playing area, and should not discuss hands while in the toilet or smoking areas.

It was considered that the benefits of online scores and BBO broadcasting far outweighed possible breaches in security.

3. TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Changes to the Tournament Regulations will go to the Management Committee and thence to Laurie Kelso for incorporation if agreed to.

4. CALENDAR REVIEW

With the ever increasing demands on the ABF calendar it is proposed to form a committee for its review. This will probably require a 5 year plan before implementing any recommended changes as many events are organised years in advance

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- Bob Stevens requested a Gold Point event in WA for Life Masters and below. This was not official correspondence from BAWA and was denied.
- David Stern requested permission to cross imp the Seniors Playoff in 2010. This was agreed to.

6. NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 10.00am. KM will be away from 9/3/10 until 22/4/10. Correspondence will be forwarded to MS.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 9th May at the NSWBA.