

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN SYDNEY 7th NOVEMBER 2010 at 9.45 am

1. PRESENT

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

Also in attendance: David Stern (until 10:50) and Pauline Gumby (until 12:05).

2. Minutes of January, May and August meetings.

These have been uploaded to the web.

There were some comments added by the Management Committee:

May 2010 minutes:

- The MC supported the aim to increase the prestige of the SWPT/NOT and have provided incentive to strong teams by funding the winning team in the NOT to attend the Yeh Cup in 2011.
- Regarding the maintenance of historical records, the MC has agreed to write to all TOs requesting that *access to* historical data be provided to the ABF webmaster.
- The MC endorses the principal that for three years in four the Australian Teams Playoffs will be in Teams format, with Pairs format for the fourth (corresponding to the Rosenblum year). The MC would like to see the Women's Playoffs mirror the Open Playoffs, with a 2 Tier structure. The TC ~~would be happy with this approach, but~~ is concerned that there may be insufficient players to make a viable Tier 2. *Will action for 2012.*

- August 2010 minutes:
- Augmentation of the winning team in the Playoffs will involve an ordered short list compiled by the two remaining pairs. The TC will make a recommendation to the MC for endorsement.
- The issue of slow play and consequent removal of boards should be handled if at all possible by the director/scorer intervening when it becomes obvious that a table is playing slowly (indicated by slow input of results to Bridgemates). Removing boards from play would be a last resort.
- The ABF's Onsite Representative carries no authority while he/she is playing. If there is a perceived potential for conflict then he/she will step aside and deputise another to stand in for him/her.
- The TC suggests that a suitable time for the BFACT Gold Point tournament would be to coincide with one of Canberra's long weekends (Canberra Day or Community Day), the second being preferably as it falls within the Floriade period, allowing players a perfect 'side event'. *This matter will be referred to BFACT for comment.*

Actions

KM to suggest times to PG for calendar

3. GENERAL PQP ISSUES

The table of PQPs for 2011 was reviewed and no changes made except to make the Seniors Butler Pairs at the ANC a consistent B level event and therefore to have PQP allocation to 8th place: 48, 42, 36, 24, 20, 16, 12, 8.

4. ABF EVENTS

(a) 2011 Open Playoffs

The Playoff Venue is the Sydney University Village Conference Centre, 90 Carillon Avenue, Newtown, Sydney (adjacent to the Medical Centre, corner of Missenden Rd and Carillon Ave). The Tournament Organiser is Richard Grenside.

The dates of the Playoffs are:

Open: Saturday 26th March – Thurs 31st March 2011

The opening dates for entries will be 17th December 2010, closing dates for entries will be:

Open Tier 1 25th February, 2011

Open Tier 2 18th March 2011

Players may enter Tier 1 or Tier 2 in teams of 4 or 6.

As entries are received via the online facility, they will be published. It will subsequently be possible for an entry to be withdrawn, but the members of that team may not then enter in another team. ***The ABF MC concurs with this recommendation.***

The four teams with the highest total PQP's at the date of the close of entries will contest Tier 1 of the Open Playoffs. Tier 2 of the Open Playoffs will be open entry. The two highest ranking teams from Tier 2 after the preliminary stage will continue to the next stage and will supplement the entry fee paid for their Tier 2 entry to make it equivalent to that paid by entrants in Tier 1.

HUM and Brown Sticker conventions may be used in the Open Playoffs.

HUM and Brown Sticker conventions may be used in WBF Category 1 events (of which the Bermuda Bowl is one), but their supplemental regulations for 2009 indicate that this is ONLY for the Knock-out phase, and not the Round Robin. Players in the Australian team who use such systems or conventions should be aware of this, and prepare a system which is permissible for the Round Robin.

HUM and Brown Sticker conventions will not be permitted at the APBF.

(b) 2011 Women's Playoff

The Playoff Venue is the Sydney University Village Conference Centre, 90 Carillon Avenue, Newtown, Sydney (adjacent to the Medical Centre, corner of Missenden Rd and Carillon Ave). The Tournament Organiser is Richard Grenside.

The dates of the Playoffs are:

Women: Saturday 26th March – Tues 29th March 2011

The opening dates for entries will be 17th December 2010, closing dates for entries will be:

Women's 14th January 2011

As entries are received via the online facility, they will be published. It will subsequently be possible for an entry to be withdrawn, but the members of that team may not then enter in another team.

The five teams with the highest total PQP's at the date of the close of entries will contest the Women's Playoffs, to be augmented by a sixth team from the Last Train event held at the 2011 Summer Festival. ~~The team entering via the Last Train is not eligible for subsidy.~~

HUM and Brown Sticker conventions may be used in the Women's Playoffs.

HUM and Brown Sticker conventions may be used in WBF Category 1 events (of which the Venice Cup is one), but their supplemental regulations for 2009 indicate that this is ONLY for the Knock-out phase, and not the Round Robin. Players in the Australian team who use such systems or conventions should be aware of this, and prepare a system which is permissible for the Round Robin.

HUM and Brown Sticker conventions will not be permitted at the APBF.

(c) Seniors' Playoff

The Playoff venue is the Sydney University Village Conference Centre, 90 Carillon Avenue Newtown Sydney (adjacent to the Medical Centre corner of Missenden Rd and Carillon Ave) from Wednesday 6th April 2011 to Sunday 10th April 2011. David Stern is the Tournament Organiser.

Members of the winning teams from the 2011 Open and Women's Playoffs will not be eligible to enter the Seniors' Playoff.

The Seniors Last Train at the 2011 Summer Festival will provide one team of 6 for the Playoffs, unless it is deemed that there are insufficient entries for the LT. The team entering via the Last Train is not eligible for subsidy.

Entries will open on 1st April, and will only be accepted from teams of 6. As entries are received via the online facility, they will be published. It will subsequently be possible for an entry to be withdrawn, but the members of that team may not then enter in another team.

Registration of interest for 'wild card' teams will be encouraged from the time that entries open.

Those teams accepted for the Playoffs will be ranked by PQPs.

The Seniors' Playoff will follow the format and procedures in force for the Women's Playoffs, except that 16 board matches will be used in the double round robin.

HUM and Brown Sticker conventions may not be used in the Seniors Playoffs.

(d) All Playoffs

In 2011 the Target events will be the Bermuda Bowl (to be held in Veldhoven, Eindhoven, the Netherlands, Oct. 15-29, 2011) and the APBF (to be held in Malaysia 15 to 24 June 2011, at Genting International Convention Centre, Genting Highlands Resort, Malaysia). The Zone 7 Championship will accompany the APBF and (Z7 + BB) is considered to be a single Target event. The MC endorses the attendance of Australian Teams at further events should they appear on the international calendar.

The team placed first in the 2011 Playoffs will be offered the right to represent Australia at both Target events. If only two pairs from Team 1 wish to attend a Target event those players may make an ordered short list of additional pairs to be drawn from those pairs that playing in the Semi-finals or Finals of the Playoffs. The MC will have the right to choose the third pair from the submitted list. If there are not 2 pairs from Team 1 willing to attend a Target event, the right to represent Australia will pass to Team 2. If Team 2 only has 2 pairs willing to attend the Target event, they may elect to accept augmentation by a pair from Team 1 in the first instance, then other finalists. The right to represent Australia will pass down the teams, with the two losing semi-finalists being ranked on their PQP's on entry to the Playoffs.

If additional places become available at the APBF for the Seniors, the TC will make recommendations based on those teams making application to attend, with regard to their performance in the Seniors' Playoffs.

(e) Last Trains at SFOB 2011 and beyond

After 2011, the Last Train events associated with the Summer Festival will provide the final places in the Playoffs only when the format of the Playoff is Pairs (2014 and then every 4 years). However, for 2011, the player expectation is that the Last Trains for the Women and Seniors would provide the sixth Playoff berth, and so this will occur. The Open Last Train does not provide a Playoff berth in 2011 as Tier 2 of the Open Playoff is open entry.

In addition to providing berths for the Playoffs as specified above, the Last Trains will also provide PQPs on the scale 24 18 12 6. For 2011 these points will be applicable to the 2011 Calendar Year and are used for the 2012 Playoffs.

After 2011, it is recommended that the PQP Calendar Year terminate after the Last Trains. So PQPs earned there can be used immediately for the Playoffs in that year. A consequence of this is that for 2011 PQP Year, there will be two allocations of points from the Last Train, from both 2011 and 2012 Summer Festivals.

For the 2014 Last Trains (where Playoff berths are allocated) it will be necessary to accept or reject a berth earned immediately following the conclusion of the event. It will not be possible to subsequently enter the ~~Playoffs via the PQP system if the Last Train berth is accepted.~~

A point for consideration is the nexus between the Last Trains and the

Summer Festival. It might be preferable to move the Last Trains to be associated with the Spring Nationals or the GNOT. ***The ABF MC would expect to see a very compelling case for this change.***

(f) AUSTRALIAN SWISS PAIRS

A problem arose because two pairs left early in order to catch flights home. The Tournament Organiser deemed that these pairs had not fulfilled the conditions of contest and so both pairs were awarded a score in the last match of 11 VPs. The finishing times had been advertised.

There are difficulties in flying home for some competitors when this event is held in Launceston. Organisers should anticipate this problem in the future and schedule the matches to try to fit in with the flight requirements of competitors, in particular those who have to go to Melbourne and then have onward flights. For the Launceston venue it is recommended that this requirement be included in the License Agreement. ***The ABF MC do not propose to alter the License Agreements.***

5. SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATION PROCEDURE

When the most recent version of the ABF Tournament Regulations are available on the website, it is recommended that Supplementary Regulations for ABF events should only include those points which are not covered by the General TR, with appropriate referencing of the TR when required.

EHR to compare SR and TR for Playoffs and report to TOs

The protocol for SR should be:

Tournament Organiser creates draft, which is then sent to the National Tournament Coordinator, Richard Grenside for review and correction. Richard will then send them to the General Counsel, Eilis Magner for ratification. This version will be returned to the TO who will send them to the Webmaster for posting. Posting should be no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.

For the Australian Teams Playoffs, the TO should send them to the Tournament Committee, who will then send them to Eilis Magner with the same follow up as above.

The General Tournament Regulations take primacy.

6. SCORING

The gold standard for display of scoring both at the venue and on the internet was recommended to be that produced by Matthew McManus. Other scorers should aim to emulate this standard. ***The MC seeks guidelines in how to achieve the desirable standards.***

Venue scoring: Bridgemate II units provide the input to the servers. The director/scorer sees scores as they come in. It is then possible for slow tables to be identified allowing a director to inform that table that they should speed up, with an option to provide a monitor if deemed necessary. Software should be used that highlights outlying scores. This allows the director to check the validity of that score directly at the table involved before the end of the

session.

Venue display: Large display boards should be available for pinning up running scores at the end of each session. New scores should not be pinned up over old scores, but rather beside them. In addition, the use of large projector screens to display current standing and draw for the next round are recommended.

The results of completed events should remain on view until the end of the entire tournament.

Internet coverage: The bridge playing public who are not involved in the event have become accustomed to having direct access to running scores via the internet. This provides great entertainment for those people and publicises the event. In some cases, hand records are also available on the web for the session being played.

The advent of internet display of current scores (with or without hand records) has opened the door to abuse. It would probably be over-optimistic to assume that such abuse has not crossed the mind of some players. However, we feel that the benefit of the display outweighs this possibility, especially if prohibition of access to mobile phone/electronic device is adopted at all Finals and in the Australian Teams Playoffs.

7. MOBILE PHONES (also covering other electronic communication devices)

A two-tier approach is recommended. In the qualifying rounds of ABF events, it will be possible for players to carry a mobile phone, but in the interest of not disturbing other players, it should be switched off or on silent mode. Players may not answer calls or make calls during session time.

In the case of subsequent stages of ABF events and the Australian Teams Playoffs, mobile phones and other electronic devices will not be permitted in the playing area. Tournament Organisers are to provide envelopes into which players will lodge their phones prior to the start of the session. Envelopes will be labelled with the player's name and held in safe keeping until the end of the session.

8. CALENDAR REVIEW

Requests for changes to the calendar should be sent in the first instance to Pauline Gumby. After consideration of the effect of the change, Pauline will forward her recommendation for the change to the Tournament Committee for their consideration.

A Calendar Committee has been set up comprising Bruce Neill, Kim Morrison, Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer.

Issues to consider will be:

- Protocol for calendar bookings to go via Pauline then to TC with her recommendation
- 2011 Calendar – Aust open Pairs and Roger Penny Pairs to move once only
- Alignment of Territory Gold and ANC in Darwin 2012
This was considered to have advantages. The Territory Gold would run alongside the ANC teams and then those players would be 'in town' and could opt to play in the Butler Pairs.
- Aligning the GNOT and the SNOT in the future.

- Approval of dates for Swan River and HGR for 2011
- Optimising the entire ABF calendar for the long term

9. TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Laurie Kelso has assured the TC that the latest Regulations will be on the Web soon.

The regulations need to be updated regarding the status of the Last Train events held at the Summer Festival:

Changes to the TR as a result of this meeting:

The PQP awards and automatic places resulting from the Last Trains at the Summer Festival have been modified. See 4(e) above.

Regulations regarding the use and access to mobile phones and other electronic devices have been tightened (see 7 above).

Electronic Scoring Regulations need to be created and added to the General Tournament Regulations.

Regulations should suggest a band of times for playing of boards of 7 – 7.5 minutes without screens and 7 – 8 minutes with screens.

10. Other issues

Guidelines for State representation: Which State can a player represent at ANC? This issue was briefly mentioned. The ANC supplementary regulations (dated 2000) state:

2.1 A Youth player, as defined on #2.4, who has been an active member of a club during the 12 months preceding the ANC or is an active member of a club may represent the State to which that club is affiliated.

2.2 Unless dispensation is granted by the ABF (which may be retrospective), no Open, Women's or Seniors' player shall represent a State at an ANC who has not been:

(a) an active playing member of a club affiliated with or within the jurisdiction of that State during the previous year **or**
 (b) a *bona fide* resident of that State for a period of at least six months immediately prior to the commencement of the ANC in question.

2.3 When #2.1 or 2.2 result in a player being eligible to represent more than one State in any particular event at the ANC, that player is entitled to represent only that State in which s/he first entered a selection tournament for that event.

Given that Women's and Seniors events are usually held concurrently it may be that each group is disadvantaged in the accumulation of PQPs. To compensate it is recommended that PQPs earned by Seniors in Women's events and Women in Seniors be accumulated at 50% of the award rate. To be considered for this, players must be qualified on the relevant PQP panel.

11. David Smith has indicated his intention to resign from Bridge

Administration. This is to be his last meeting. The Tournament Committee would like to thank David for his tireless efforts and welcome suggestions over the past years.

This leaves a vacancy on the Tournament Committee. It was felt that Richard Grenside should be present at some meetings, probably as a visitor. In particular, his input to the November meeting when the Playoffs for the following year are discussed in detail would be valuable.

The vacancy could then be filled by e.g. Andrew Richman, Sue or David Lusk?? *The Council at the AGM in 2010 endorsed Peter Kahler to join the committee. For some unknown reason this was not implemented. The resignation of David Smith provides an opportunity to correct this oversight.*

12. NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 4:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 23rd January, 2011 at Rydges Lakeside.