

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN SYDNEY

3rd APRIL 2011 at 10:00 am

1. PRESENT

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

Apologies: Peter Kahler

Actions

2. TRAINING for International Teams

It was agreed that some sort of training/mentoring activity would be advantageous, particularly for the Youth and the Women's Teams. It is recommended that a mentoring program be introduced. This would assist pairs in system development and documentation including 'world's best practice'. Bidding and play could be supervised on BBO on a regular basis with selected system aspects preset. Card play is best improved by reading and players should be encouraged to (re)read 'Classic Texts' such as *Card Play Technique* by Mollo and Gardiner. These approaches might be beneficial without the high cost of importing talent from overseas. Both PO Sundelin and Kate McCallum have expressed interest in providing tuition.

3. ABF EVENTS

Summer Festival

Some time was spent discussing the format of the SWPT/NOT in the light of correspondence received from Ron Klinger, Ben Thompson, Charles Page, and Bill Jacobs.

The following scenario was thought to overcome some of the problems alluded to by these players.

Consult with SM

The program would remain essentially unchanged, but:

The SWPT would be reduced to 12 rounds of 20 boards (Mon-Thu).

At its conclusion, the top 8 teams would qualify for the NOT which would run over Fri-Sun, each day comprising one 64 board knockout match in 4 x 16 board segments.

Running concurrently with the NOT would be the reincarnated Blue Ribbon Pairs with provision for players eliminated from the NOT to drop into the Pairs at the appropriate level.

The Mixed Teams would run, as previously, on Sat-Sun, so that there would be simultaneous conclusion of the NOT, BRP and MxT by Sunday evening.

In addition, the NST and NWT would run under the same final conditions, with 4 teams qualifying to Semi-finals and Finals on the middle Sat-Sun (concurrent with the Swiss Pairs, as in 2010).

For 2012 no team will be generated from the Last Train events for the 2012 Playoffs. The TC therefore recommends that the Last Train events should be eliminated from the Summer Festival from 2013.

2011 Playoffs

There was concern expressed as to the way in which the non-availability of two players in a four man team in Division 1 was handled.

Communication indicates that the problem with one player became apparent as early as three weeks prior to the playoffs, and yet no correspondence appears to have been received by the ABF until the second player indicated that he also had a problem less than a week out from the commencement of the Playoffs.

The issue was received and considered by the TC three days before the Playoffs, but the NTC chose to deal with the issue by use of two substitutes throughout one repechage on Monday. As a result one team from Division 1 had a much easier route to the Semi-Finals than the other (as indicated by the concession after three sectors).

A full report on the issue is sought from the NTC, along with his reasons for the decisions taken. The team involved should be asked to explain their lack of communication with the ABF as soon as the problem arose.

The TC does not want the handling of this issue to become a precedent for the future, as, in particular, the reasons for requesting substitutes were not serious and were certainly not unexpected.

It is Tournament Committee policy to emulate the rules and regulations of the main target events in the Australian Team Playoffs as closely as possible. An area of discrepancy has been the time allocation per board/session behind screens. The recent Open, Women's & Seniors Playoffs allowed 7.5 minutes per board with screens in use (see Tournament regulation recommendation 10.1 below). In the main this was well received by the players as it reduced a lot of waiting time and avoided extending the day's play. To increase time per board to 8.5 minutes would extend the day by over an hour and to move to 9.5 mpb (WBF time allocation) would extend the day a further hour plus another meal break. The benefits to all players of a somewhat tight schedule needs to be weighed against any possible disadvantages of differing regulations at the target events. This needs to be monitored.

10.1 The recommended duration of a session in ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses will be determined on the basis of 7.5 minutes per board (or 8.5 minutes per board when screens are in use). Total session time shall include the time spent in duplicating and recording boards, if relevant.

Future Playoffs

For the 2012 Playoffs and beyond, it was felt that all three Playoffs should follow the two Tier model used successfully for the Open this year with the proviso that all players in either Division must have earned at least 1 PQP. If the total number of entries is 6 then the format will revert to that used for the Women's and Seniors in 2011; if 4 then the format of Division 1 of the Open. Four or six member teams would be permitted in both Tiers with augmentation rules as set out for the Open in 2011. The thresholds for defining the panels for Division 1 entries in all three Playoffs for 2012 would be set at 12 PQPs. The PQPs allocated as a result of each of the three Playoffs would be set at 48/24/6/6. Players are reminded that PQP are allocated in the playoffs to compensate for time representing Australia which would reduce

their opportunity to amass PQP at national tournaments. Now that there is a one Australian team policy, the compensation has been increased.

All teams in Division 2 will be ranked according to their PQPs. Any points not earned within the unit of the Playoff entry will be halved. In the case of insufficient teams in Division 1, or a withdrawal from Division 1 prior to the playoffs, the team in Division 2 with the highest total PQPs will be offered promotion to Division 1.

No Yellow systems would be permitted in the Playoffs, mirroring WBF Regulations. However Brown sticker conventions would be permitted, except in the Olympiad year (WBF Olympiad regulations).

The TC recommends that the Open Division 1 matches should be reduced from 20 boards to 16. Some players suggested that the meal break after a quarter of a 64 board match (12 noon) be moved to half-way (2:30 pm approx). The tournament organiser might like to consider this request.

The names of the players at each table should be included on the web display for each sector of each match, not just the team name. While sessions broadcast by BBO contain this information, it is lost to the public for other sessions. This is particularly important for ascertaining compliance with the board rules. The web display should also make the datums available for all boards played.

4. ZONE 7

The TC recommends that the Zone 7 Championships at the APBF be concurrent with Z6. The 4 teams will be ranked according to their finishing positions in the APBF Tournament. Then Team 1 will select from 3 and 4. If there are only 3 teams qualified to take part in the Z7 Playoffs, then Team 1 goes directly to the Final, while 2 and 3 play off for the remaining place. If there are only 2 teams then one head to head match will determine the outcome. All stages will comprise 64 boards, but by zonal agreement, the final may be extended to 96 boards. The team which represents Australia at the APBF will also compete in the Zone 7 playoffs. However, this team will not necessarily be the team designated to attend the Bermuda Bowl/Venice Cup.

5. CALENDAR REVIEW

The calendar review committee of KM, BN, Pauline Gumby and Warren Lazer have met and created a calendar review (with a 5 year lead time). This involves:

Summer Festival	January
Gold Coast	end of February
Open and Womens Playoffs	end of March
Seniors Playoffs	early April
ANOT	April
Barrier Reef	first Sunday in May (a holiday in Qld)
New Canberra Event	end of June
NT Gold	July
GNOT	August with Coffs Harbour following
ANC	September (NZ Nationals end Sept)
Spring Nationals	end of October

ASP early December
Still to be located: WSP, SRSP, TGBF, HGR, GWSP

6. PQPs

The Tournament Committee recommends that from 2012, the PQPs allocated as a result of each of the three Playoffs would be set at 48/24/6/6.

In addition, the change in format of the NST at the Summer Festival should see a change in the PQP awards to mirror those in the NWT.

The TC also recommends that the current regulation for PQP awards be reworded for clarification purposes.

Currently it states:

26.4 Teams or pairs with no eligible player are classed as ineligible. An ineligible team/pair that otherwise would be entitled to PQP shall be replaced by an eligible team/pair, and all PQP awards for the particular event shall be adjusted accordingly. See also Paragraph 26.7 (below) of these Regulations.

This should be replaced by:

26.4 Teams or pairs with no eligible player are classed as ineligible and PQP allocation will pass down to the next eligible team(s) or pair(s) unless prohibited by an event specific regulation. Teams or pairs with one or more eligible player(s) shall be eligible for PQP. e.g. if a team consisting of 1 eligible player comes 2nd in the NOT then that player will be awarded the PQP award for 2nd place and the next team will get 3rd etc. See also Paragraph 26.7 (below) of these Regulations.

This change would mean a reallocation of the published PQPs for the Gold Coast.

In some events, 3rd and 4th places are both filled by losing semi-finalists, and in these cases, the PQP awards should be equal. However, in other instances, there is a distinction between 3rd and 4th which means that the awards should differ. E.g. 6 teams qualify for the Gold Coast Teams finals. There are 2 ineligible teams. One eligible team qualifies to the semi-final whilst another eligible team is eliminated in the round-of-six. Should these teams need to share PQP then it should be done on a 2/3, 1/3 basis. In the example if they shared 3rd/4th place then the 10 PQP would be divided 6.7 and 3.3

The recommended change to the format of the NOT should be accompanied by a redetermination of PQP awards for the event.

7. OTHER MATTERS

The TC is keen to see the initiation of a Development Program for Directors and Scorers. In particular, more people should become familiar with the procedures used by Matthew McManus for scoring and facilitating live score updates on the web.

Correspondence from Ron Klinger requested some form of recording of the bidding and play, if possible, for the Playoffs. This would allow accurate

publication of interesting hands.

It was agreed that the ASP can change its date from October 4th – 7th to October 11th – 14th in 2012, but the organisers should check the dates of the Albury congress (not yet available), and bear in mind the October long weekend.

12. NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 4:30pm.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday/Sunday 2nd/3rd July in Canberra.