

# ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN SYDNEY

13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012 at 10:00 am

### 1. PRESENT

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

Laurie Kelso was also in attendance.

Apologies: Peter Kahler, Eric Ramshaw

### 2. ABF EVENTS

#### (a) Summer Festival of Bridge (SFOB)

- i. **New Format for SWPT/NOT.** The TC recommends making rounds 1 and 2 of the SWPT each 10 boards (using a 20 board VP scale), to increase the accuracy of the final 8 placings. The two rounds would be predrawn to allow for a seamless movement from round 1 to round 2. For the predraw, the seeded field will be divided into four quarters. For the first match quarter 1 plays quarter 3 (and therefore 2 vs 4); for the second match, the draw is quarter 1 playing quarter 2 (and 3 vs 4). *MC requested further consideration prior to implementation. ER/SM's input to be sought.*
- ii. **Appeals before the last round of the SWPT.** The TC recommends that for the last day of the Swiss only, two matches are played before lunch (leading to a schedule similar to that at the Gold Coast teams) with just one match in the afternoon. This would allow for time to run any necessary appeals. Lunch could be provided for a panel of personnel who would make themselves available if they are needed. *Endorsed.*
- iii. **Black Friday** Some suggestions have been made to SM, but ultimately it is his decision as to its use. *Endorsed.*
- iv. **Scoring.** The delays in scoring and in particular posting on the Internet are frequently caused by players not entering all their scores into the Bridgemates. The TC recommends that provisional scores be published quickly, perhaps with an indication of those teams for whom full match details have not been received. *Endorsed.*
- v. **Publication of Datums.** Some players have suggested that, like other tournaments, it would be desirable if datums were available at the Summer Festival. This would entail capturing the player identities for each position in each round – which can be done effectively using Bridgemates and would assist to resolve any conflicts regarding the board rule. There are various ways in which the datums can be calculated – as IMPS, both with and without correction for opposition strength (MMcM) or as VPs (D Anderson). It was felt that it did not really matter which procedure was adopted, as both give a general idea of the standing of pairs. Several questions arose – should all players be listed (the lower portion of the field may not appreciate their relatively poor performance being advertised to all) or should the details only be available on the Team recap sheet. Perhaps the list should only be published down to zero. (LK to approach MW). *Noted – the MC looks forward to the outcome.*

## **(b) Playoffs**

An issue of a player's eligibility to participate in the Playoffs and the subsequent allocation of PQPs was looked into. ***ABF Legal Counsel to Action.***

Communication from Alida Clark suggested that the venue for the Playoffs be rotated through the states to counter the cost for players in far-flung states (e.g. WA). The TC feels that Sydney is the logical and economical home of the Playoffs since the majority of players attending are from the Eastern States. Because of the variability of the size of the field it is difficult to find suitable venues without outrageous hire cost.

Players are given subsidies to attend the Playoffs, but if players feel that these are insufficient then they should approach the Finance Committee of the ABF.

The **2013 Open and Women's Playoffs** will take place on December 8-13, 2012. A suggested time for the Seniors' Playoff is 13-17 February 2013. At present it is not possible to determine whether this will clash with the NEC cup or the YEH cup. The significant change for the 2013 Playoffs is that, in order to enter the Playoffs, each player must have earned at least 1 PQP in that category (Open, Women's or Seniors' (but see below)). Provisional Regulations would be similar to those adopted for the 2012 Playoffs (with minor changes as necessary). Written responses to questions asked behind screens should be enforced in order to resolve any questionable issues later. ***Noted.***

For the **2014 Playoffs** which will be in Pairs format, there is no Target Event except the APBF. The TC would like feedback from the players as to the following:

- The Open Playoffs be held in Canberra on the Saturday to Tuesday preceding the NWT/NST.
- The Women's and Seniors' Teams would be the winners of the NWT/NST.

New Regulations would be required to cover this change. *It may have the detrimental effect that players will not have the need to compete for PQPs in the Women's and Seniors' circuits and entries to those events may suffer.*

The TC recommends that players who have earned at least 48 PQPs in Open events can convert these to Seniors points even if they have zero Seniors PQPs. *However, the problem arises as to the classification or not of Open players as Seniors by the PQP compiler. ***Noted and endorsed.****

***Augmentation*** of 4 person teams for International Representation should follow the rules in the Tournament Regulations, except that the ranked list may contain pairs who did not play in the Semi-final or Final. *However, there should be a requirement of a minimum number of pairs on the list (say 2 or 3) who did play in the Semi-final or Final. The wording of the augmentation regulations needs to be tightened, but this should wait until the MC has resolved the issue currently involving the Australian Women's Team. ***Feedback given to BN to take back to TC. MC believes the objective should be to give the winning team flexibility to select best team-mates and asks for further follow up concerning need to choose from players who participated in the semi-finals.****

## **(c) Australian National Championships (ANC)**

The TC recommends that scores in the ANC teams be +35 in order to avoid negative scores. This would mean that the range of possible scores for each match would be 0 to 67.5.

There will be no byes at the 2012 ANC with all eight 'states' contesting the Open, Women's and Seniors' Teams and all but Tasmania and Northern Territory contesting the Youth.

The Butler pairs should be run with a carry forward of 25% from Stage I to Stage II in the Open (and if numbers warrant two stages, in the Women's also).

The ABF On-site Representative will be Matthew McManus in the first week and KM/MS in week 2.  
*Endorsed.*

#### **(d) ANOT**

A proposal to cut the ANOT to 8 rounds in order to accommodate flights out was not approved. However instead the TC recommends that the first two rounds be of 8 boards only, predrawn, using the 16 board VP scale. For the predraw, the seeded field will be divided into four quarters. For the first match quarter 1 plays quarter 3 (and therefore 2 vs. 4); for the second match, the draw is quarter 1 playing quarter 2 (and 3 vs. 4). The option of having 5 x 14 board matches on Saturday and 4 x 16 board matches on Sunday with the same VP scale was considered acceptable but option 1 was preferred. It is left with the Tournament organiser to decide. *Noted – await response from licensee.*

The supplementary regulations for the ANOT need alteration regarding removal of boards. It should say that” Players have 120 minutes to complete the boards. Boards not started in that time will be removed.” *Noted.*

The tie in the Womens’ Butler Pairs should be broken in accordance with ABF Regulations. Consequently after summing opponents VPs the winners are Laura Ginnan and Lucy Henbest with Sue Lusk and Therese Tully second. *Noted.*

#### **(e) Gold Coast**

Kim Ellaway raised several issues regarding the format of the 2013 Gold Coast. Whilst many of these issues are at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser the items were discussed as follows:

- The institution of a ‘real novice’ pairs was endorsed (say 0-10 Masterpoints). The Masterpoint secretary should be consulted regarding masterpoint awards for this event.
- The addition of two new weekend events – a Swiss Pairs and a Matchpointed Pairs running Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and evening was endorsed.
- The addition of a new event to run Monday morning and afternoon was endorsed.
- Increasing the ceiling for the Restricted Category to 750 was endorsed.
- Under special circumstances the finals can be run with fewer than 64 boards. It was felt that this was appropriate for the Gold Coast Teams.
- The inclusion of semi-finals for the Seniors Teams was not recommended. To increase the finalists to 8 would require more qualifying rounds to avoid the random element. Another day would be needed to complete the finals.
- Changing the format of the final series of the Open Teams was not recommended.
- It was felt that the use of screens at all stages of the final series of the major Teams events was necessary. This alleviates the necessity to set them up part way through the final stages, and space is not an issue.
- The use of recorders at the non-BBO tables was considered desirable, but not essential. It was also felt that this is not the domain of the TC. Perhaps this should fall under the umbrella of Marketing, since it allows for better reporting of the event by the press. *Noted.*

### **3. CALENDAR**

The calendar slot for the Butler pairs has not been resolved. Tying it to the GNOT final at Tweed Heads was not popular with the majority of states, most of whom wished to run the event themselves.

The confirmed time slots for the Barrier Reef Tournament were in error in the previous minutes. They are: 2012 – June long weekend in Cairns. 2013 – June weekend in Mackay (but with no public holiday on the Monday). 2014 - May weekend in Townsville. 2015 - May weekend in Cairns. 2016 - May weekend in Mackay.

States should be discouraged from running their local events to clash with National Events. This requires the ABF calendar to be available early enough for the states to schedule their events around National ones. *Noted.*

#### **4. OTHER MATTERS**

##### **(a) Duties of the National Tournament Coordinator(s) (NTC)**

Discussion took place as to the relative authority of the NTC (or alternative on-site ABF representative); the Tournament sub-committee and the Tournament Organiser during ABF events. It was concluded that issues that become apparent near to the event should be discussed by phone or email by the Tournament sub-committee and NTCs, with the decision to be sent to the TO. Where the On-site Representative is not the NTC, they bear the delegated authority of NTC duties relating to matters relevant to the specific tournament. *Endorsed.*

##### **(b) BBO**

The quality of BBO presentations was discussed. It is essential that there be a competent Supervisor at each ABF event due for BBO telecast. In addition, the operators need to be well trained. They need to be aware, for example, that chat which is designated as ‘private’ will be recorded on the log file, and therefore will not remain ‘private’. The coordinators also need to ensure that there are commentators available. Security at BBO broadcasts is also an issue. The lodgement of all mobile phones for each playing session should ensure that information which is available to the public is not available to the players. While security issues for broadcast of tables in the Swiss (as at the VCC) can be avoided by use of different boards, this was not felt to be desirable. It is also recommended that for the two tables involved in a match, play start at the same board at each. The Tournament Organiser is ultimately responsible for the decision as to the number of tables being broadcast, and ensuring that all appropriate trained staff are in attendance. *Noted – BN asked to provide some assistance here in sourcing additional resources to act as operators. MC also suggested that perhaps NSW may like to appoint a State BBO Coordinator who could assist NVCs direct.*

##### **(c) Mutual Obligation Document between International Representatives and the ABF**

International representatives should expect to be working on their partnership, with respect to both bidding and play, from the time of selection until they fulfil their overseas commitments. The recommendation is that this work be overseen by the non-playing captain with a report to be submitted to the ABF bimonthly (PK - still pending) *Noted.*

##### **(d) Training of International Teams.**

Various possibilities exist for this, including internet based practice, seminars and mentors. A document will be prepared outlining the approaches which would be feasible for a given budget (say 10-50 K). (PR – still pending) *Noted.*

##### **(e) Non-Playing Captains for International Events.**

After each international event, the non-playing captain should also submit to the ABF a report, not exceeding 3 pages in length. This can be accompanied by supplementary material for historical use. Guidelines for the report content will be written (BN – still pending). *Noted.*

**(f) Appeals Personnel**

Instructions for Appeals Chairs and members of Appeals Committees will be compiled (BN – still pending, but maybe should be responsibility of ABF Appeals Coordinator). A national register of possible Appeals Chairmen should be available to assist TOs to compile their lists. The list of personnel from which Appeals Panels will be selected for a particular tournament should be vetted by the NTC prior to the event. For events such as the Playoffs or the Summer Festival, the possibility of a duty roster of Chairmen and Members to be available at short notice to constitute an Appeal, was discussed. It was considered desirable that the panel for appeals be formed from players or captains from the other division (Open) of the other field as much as possible. It may be considered appropriate that those people should be paid, or food provided in exchange for them being available. *Noted.*

**(g) Ties**

Ties for head to head finals are not broken – the title is shared.

For Swiss events tie breaking should occur based on the opponents' VPs, but this is not appropriate where Drop-ins have been included in the field.

For a Round Robin, there is no tie breaking as the opposing fields are the same for each team.

For the Australian Butler Pairs, there is no tie breaking.

*These general rules should apply from the 2012 VCC onwards. Noted.*

**(h) Champion Pair:** Whether to institute this initiative is probably best left to SM as it is intended to boost the prestige of the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Summer Festival. It would require coordination, promotion and clear regulations. *Noted.*

**(i) Word based system card.**

This was considered to be the domain of the System Committee. *Noted, MC asked that request be forwarded to Systems Committee Chairperson with appropriate wording.*

**5. Correspondence**

- Ben Thompson – various items from previous minutes
- Kim Ellaway – date errors in previous minutes
- Ron Klinger – datums for all ABF events
- Kim Ellaway – requests for changes to Gold Coast events
- Alida Clarke – rotating venue for playoffs
- Ron Klinger – various playoff suggestions
- Sartaj Hans – playing conditions at playoffs
- Ron Klinger – ANOT reg about board removal
- Ben Thomson – Tie breaking at ANOT Womens Pairs
- Ron Klinger – Appeals committee personnel

**6. NEXT MEETING Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

## **ACTIONS:-**

- KM to liaise with EM regarding question re eligibility of a player.
- LK to ensure that a declaration of eligibility is included in the online entry procedure for the Playoffs.
- LK to inform DA and IMcK about the correction to the draw for tied teams.
- LK to inform MW to post provisional scores quickly at the SFOB with markers indicating incomplete results.
- Summer Festival issues – LK to approach MW regarding the publication of datums.
- Playoff and augmentation rules - KM to keep PG and DS informed
- Duties of NTC – MC in conjunction with TC and NTCs
- Mutual Obligation Document – Players and the ABF for International Events – PK to prepare
- Training of International Teams – PR to consider and produce a guideline document.
- NPCs for International Events – BN to produce guideline document
- Appeals – documents for members and chairs of committees – BN to draft documents