

ABFTC Meeting - Feb 16 Sydney 2014

Minutes

Present: Kim Morrison, Matt McManus, Sean Mullamphy, Bruce Neill, Eric Ramshaw, Peter Reynolds

Apologies: Laurie Kelso, Marcia Scudder

Visitors: Peter Buchen (items 7, 11), Pauline Gumby (items 1b, 10)

Meeting opened at approx 10:00 am

1. Matters arising from previous minutes
 - a. Guideline document for training international teams. Action PR. *Carried forward.*
 - b. Notification of regulation changes on website. *PG will intro notices page to notify changes, and post as news item if significant. **Good idea.***
 - c. Appeals document BN. *In progress*
 - d. Customer feedback at ABF events. *TC recommend MC ask Marketing Officer to design questionnaire; that ANC and SFoB be required to use and all other Tournament Organisers be recommended to use. **Allison Stralow to follow up.***
 - e. Errors in scoring programs and draws NTCs. *In progress (LK developing “dummy event” for all scorers to use for quality assurance).*

2. Rules for BBO operators – LK email
*TC agrees BBO operators are officials. LK to draft reg. Request MC to clarify reporting chain for BBO operators / BBO coordinators. **MC advises that our duly appointed National Viewgraph Coordinators are responsible for all matters with respect to BBO. They then report to the National Tournament Coordinators who prepare reports to the ABF MC at regular intervals.***

3. ANC Butler
 - Format & entries - John Scudder email
NTCs to develop table to describe event format for each number of pairs entering ANC Seniors Butler, as already done for Women’s Butler. MM to draft and circulate. Then to be published.

May be appropriate to discount/rebate entry fee if event shortened materially for certain entry numbers: Tournament Organisers to decide. Review length of event if 2014 entries low again.

2014 ANC Organiser requested to put qualifier on brochure saying event may be shortened subject to entry numbers.
 - VP Scale – John Scudder email
*Peter Buchen asked to provide advice to TC on appropriate VP scale. **Good idea.***

4. Representative players Charter

- Information Kit for Australian Captains

Kim to liaise with Laurie – get right/final version on web, and circulate to Asia Cup players.

5. Asia Cup

- Details for players – Ron Klinger email

Kim to refer RK query to Di Marler / Jane Rasmussen.

*Suggest MC consider nominating one person to be permanent international tournament liaison person, who will brief Chef de Mission etc. **MC agrees and will look for appropriate person.***

6. Eligibility to represent Australia

- Eilis Doc

*TC endorses EM's proposed changes. **Will be posted to web site.***

7. Playoffs

PB recommends 5-board scale for 10-board matches in Seniors playoff. TC endorses this. Action NTC.

TC recommends reducing number of scores dropped in 8-table stage 1 of 2014 Seniors playoff from 4 to 2; no change to number of scores dropped in stage 2. Action NTC.

TC endorses clarifying how carry over is calculated. Fines in Stage 1 of 2014 Senior playoffs to have 50% carry forward. Action NTC.

Following Seniors Playoff, TC to raise future action to prepare proposed format for 2018 playoff assuming still pairs. Action KM.

TC suggest webmaster be asked to post notice congratulating top 3 pairs in each playoff for forming 2014 Australian teams (even if choose not to go to Asia Cup).

TC recommends BBO coordinators issue guidelines for commentary by (all) BBO operators. Ref NTC recommendations somewhere in 2012/13.

Selection of 2nd Seniors' team for Asia Cup.

TC recommends following process to be announced immediately subject to approval by MC:

- *TC to call for expressions of interest from teams of eligible players immediately after Seniors Playoff, within one week of playoff finishing. Players can nominate in teams of 4 or 6.*

- *TC will rank on*
 - 1) *participation in 2014 Seniors playoff*
 - 2) *PQPs of top 4 players with standard rules for discounting of playoff entry PQP*
 - 3) *discretion of TC.*

Correspondence

- *Wilkinson email*
Discussed. KM to reply.
- *Gill email.*
Noted. KM to reply.
- *By using 10 board matches players can manipulate the dealer advantage*
Noted. Multiples of 4 to be preferred wherever practical. For include in next review of Playoffs. Action KM.
- *Suitability of new VP scale for Butlers. Refer Item 11 below.*

8. Summer Festival

- *SWPT format – Ron Klinger email*

*TC noted that splitting into pools increases luck factor.
Change of format to 4 x 16 board matches per day has been trialled, and was perceived as unpopular*

TC recommends that in 2015,

- *the first session on Monday be changed from one pre-drawn 20 board match, to two pre-drawn 10-board matches.*
- *Potential format of draw with eg 100 teams is:*
Round 1: 1 v 51, 2 v 52, ... 50 v 100.
Round 2: 1 v 26, 2 v 27, ... 25 v 50, 51 v 76, ... 75 v 100.
- *VP scale for 10 board matches will be selected so that IMPs required for max win is half that required in 20 board match.*

This will improve reliability of final Swiss placings by adding a round. It may also increase the enjoyment of the teams pre-drawn to play the top seeds, by halving the length of those matches.

- *Rescored results – Bruce Neill email*
TC noted as more evidence that different VP scales do not make substantial difference.
- *Rescored results – Ron Klinger email*

*TC expressed policy as: following WBF scales as far as possible, and working with WBF through Peter Buchen to make improvements where possible. Believe this is desirable to better prepare international teams and to avoid “re-inventing the wheel”. TC notes that WBF is still pursuing improvements with respect to Swiss Teams, Butler Pairs, etc.
KM to reply.*

9. MC action items

Various topics – Peter Reynolds email

1: ABF Council asked MC to look at success of Aust teams using pairs selection vs teams

TC believes it is difficult to obtain meaningful data because of

- *long time frames involved*
- *the different type of target events in teams selection years vs pairs years,*
- *many other influencing variables that have changed over the years.*

TC suggests the underlying issue be carried forward into a review of playoff formats and objectives later in 2014.

2: MC – TC to review General Counsel comments on representative players’ charter
Action KM

3: MC – restrictions on successful people in O/W playoffs entering Senior playoffs.

TC endorses MC decisions for 2014:

- *entering Seniors’ Playoff waives eligibility to accept any subsequent offer of place in O/W teams to Asia Cup.*
- *Accepting position in O/W team for Asia Cup bars entry to Senior’s Playoff.*

4: MC – TC to specify how we would select a second team for Glasgow if required.

TC recommends that if a second team is invited, position be offered to top placegetters in 2014 SFoB Women’s Teams, with same rules that applied to offer for first team in NOT.

10. 2015 Calendar

Pauline Gumby joined meeting for this item.

*Proposed dates for 2014/5 Open / Women’s Playoffs: Feb 6-11. Seniors’ Playoffs 13-18 March.
Action: PG to post with approval from DM. **MC endorsed.***

TC proposes to put format/timing for 2016 Playoffs onward on agenda for joint TC/MC meeting in Jun 2014 if incoming MC agrees. Action: KM.

PG to reply to WA about proposed dates for 2015 events.

11. New VP scale

Peter Buchen joined meeting for this item.

PB reported WBF taking on board all feedback. Some F/B highlights need for better communications. More feedback from Australia than any other country. Rationale doc to appear soon – tabled. PB in corro with interested parties.

PB has analysed recent Open/Women's Playoffs. Scale designed for RR teams, not pairs as such – still considering best way to adjust. Data suggests using say 5 board scale for 10 bd matches instead of 8 boards – although would have made virtually no difference to final result.

Cross-matching would have produced significant differences; may need further investigation. Could be worth consideration for future years.

WBF will consider Swiss teams/Butler pairs over coming months.

TC asked PB for advice on

- Swiss VP scales with view to 2015 SWPT.*
- VP scale for ANC butler*

Action PB.

Correspondence:

Email from I. McKinnon.

Discussed. Action: BN to reply.

12. Plan for the joint TC/new MC meeting

TC suggests agenda items include:

- Protocols for decision making – how to air proposals for comment*
- Procedures for working with General Counsel on regulations etc*

13. Other Business

Discussed protocols for managing behavioural issues. Action: NTCs.

14. Next Meeting

Sun 6 Jul NSWBA

Meeting closed at approx. 3:00 pm