



Tournament Committee

MINUTES

Meeting held in Canberra (ABF HQ)
Saturday 13th February, 2016, 10:00-16:00

1. PRESENT

David Morgan (Chair), Therese Tully, Laurie Kelso, Marcia Scudder, Peter Reynolds, Matthew McManus, Sartaj Hans, Eric Ramshaw

2. APOLOGIES: Sean Mullamphy who is seriously ill in hospital. The TC wishes Sean a speedy recovery.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a.) Player consultation

DM to continue liaising with PG to implement the TC's earlier recommendation that was endorsed by the MC. This should be accompanied by a request for players to add their names to an email list of recipients for future items requesting player input.

b.) MC request for explanation of criteria used in PQP review

LK will address the MC at their meeting at the GCC, outlining the criteria used which include field size and field strength, and which were based on ten years of data. TC has previously recommended rewarding players who represent Australia in the U26 team and rewarding excellence from representative teams overseas. SH to prepare a document outlining the rationale for awarding PQPs (to be available on the web).

Following briefing, MC agrees to proposed 2017 PQP allocations leading to the 2018 Playoffs, i.e. commencing with the 2016 Spring Nationals.

c.) MC concern about changing the masterpointing of draws unless compelling rationale presented

LK will outline the reasoning behind the TC's recommendation to the MC at their meeting at the GCC. The main concern arises in matchpointed pairs events such as the DCOP where a result between 47½% and 52½% is considered a draw for masterpointing purposes.

Following briefing, MC maintains decision not to change masterpointing rules for "draws".

d.) New VP scale in Swiss pairs

MM advises that this is in progress.

4. ANC

a.) Interstate Teams Format

The feedback regarding the ANC format presented in the last Minutes was limited. Most felt that it was a good format, with the final of 56 boards over one day only.

Marianne Bookallil made the point that a triple RR, with a 70 board day, may prove difficult for teams such as Tasmania, where 4 person teams may be their limit. However, it was felt that allowances for this may be possible, by ensuring a bye (if there is one) occurs for 4 person teams during the long day.

The TC recommends that a triple RR format be adopted for the Interstate Teams. Matches of 14 boards; four matches per day except for day two (5 matches); a final of 56 boards played as four 14-board stanzas to finish in time for the Victory Dinner.

MC accepts this recommendation

The TC noted the keen interest of the 2016 ANC convenor (Charles Page) in the outcome of the TC's recommendation and MC's decision.

The TC did a comparative analysis of the current scoring scale in the Interstate Teams with the 14 board VP scale.

The TC recommends that the current scoring scale, with a cutoff point of 35 imps before decimalising, should be maintained.

MC accepts this recommendation

b.) Women's and Seniors' Butler

The feedback regarding the proposed change in the format of the Women's and Seniors' Butler Pairs was positive.

The TC recommends that these events be run concurrently as four-day events, with a two-day qualifying to select ten pairs for a two-day final (RR of 9 * 12-board matches).

MC accepts this recommendation

The TC agreed a carryforward from Stage I to Stage II was required to reward good performance but should not mean that lower-placed pairs had no chance of winning the event.

The TC recommends that these events have a carry-forward of 25% from stage I to stage II.

MC accepts this recommendation

The TC discussed the format of the continuation events, currently a 3 day ANC Swiss Pairs. It recognized the advantages of a format where there are two separate 2 day events. The first would encompass Mon-Tue giving players who fail to qualify for the Open Stage II three options: the Women's or Seniors' Stage I (if suitably qualified) or a 2 day Swiss Pairs event. The second event would be held on Wed-Thur and cater for players who failed to qualify for Women's or Seniors' Stage II, along with any pair who played in the Mon-Tue Swiss Pairs event and were interested in more play. The TC also noted that organisers may prefer to run one-day events or a mixture of two-day and one-day events.

The TC recommends a change to the continuation events with organisers being able to choose between two two-day events (recommended), four one-day events or a mixture of two-day and one-day events.

MC agrees to leave this to the TO of the ANC.

c.) Adopt same schedule for the Open Butler in future years

Warren Lazer would like to see the Open Butler as a 3 Stage Event. His analytical data from several recent ANCs shows that those in the top ten after 10 rounds of Stage II consistently maintain their position in that group until the end. If each Stage was of 2 day duration, this concept would fit in well with the 2 x 2 day continuation events recommended above.

TC recommends that this proposal be the subject of a poll for feedback at both the forthcoming ANC and on the web. Di Smart will be asked to help phrase the questions appropriately.

MC accepts this recommendation

5. PLAYOFFS

Feedback from players and directors/convenors was that the Open Playoffs were smoothly run but a few issues emerged. One was lack of security, resulting from the proximity of the tables, and the non-separation of the Open and Closed rooms.

The TC discussed the advantages of playing different boards in different events (e.g. women and seniors) and in KO matches in the same event, and separating the Open and Closed rooms. Once the new KO format is implemented, different boards should be played for every match throughout the event. While this may detract from the BBO enjoyment of the public, it enhances security significantly.

TC recommends that these suggestions be implemented for the forthcoming Women's and Seniors' Playoffs, and for subsequent Playoffs which will be in the KO format.

MC accepts this recommendation

The TC also discussed the allocation of time for the Playoffs. WBF events run with 8¾ minutes per board. However, these events consist of only 48 boards per day. Even with 8 minutes per board the 64 board days which are scheduled for future Playoffs would result in late finishes. The TC agreed better, early monitoring of the current regulation for 8 mins per board to minimise slow play would be the best compromise.

The TC recommends the use of monitors in the room when more than four tables are in play, the number dependent on the entries. The CTD can ensure that slow tables are monitored to ascertain who is consuming the time.

MC is not in favour if it incurs a cost

The TC noted the short period (one week) for which entries were open for the Women's and Seniors' Playoffs. TC appreciated that some W/S entries are dependent on the outcome of the Open Playoffs.

TC recommends that W/S entries be open for the same length of time as the open entries.

MC accepts this recommendation

The TC noted the problems that occur if Playoffs are held in Canberra while parliament is sitting, as this severely limits accommodation options and substantially increases both travel and accommodation costs for players and officials.

The TC recommends that this be taken into account when making decisions about the location of future playoffs.

Noted

PR reported that there were some anomalies in the PQP totals for some teams. It is anticipated that this will be overcome by awarding PQPs to pairs, rather than teams. Some difficulties need to be overcome, as this relies on accurate input of player identity numbers into the Bridgemates for every round. MM and Peter Buchen to determine the best way to apportion the PQPs for a multi-configuration team.

The TC recommends that, once this issue is resolved, the entry sites for the Playoffs scheduled for the end of 2016 and subsequent years when selection is by teams should be modified to accept 2 or 3 pairs per team.

Noted

The team can compute which combination of their players will maximise their PQPs. There is no need for players to compete in this arrangements, but system cards must be submitted for each actual pairing that may be used.

For the upcoming W/S Playoffs, a 10am start is scheduled for each day.

Given the complex and time-consuming wiring required for video output, *the TC recommends this be installed by one of the ABF's BBO coordinators.*

MC accepts this recommendation

6. PQPs

At the recent Summer Festival, the team that finished in 8th position in the SWPT chose not to compete in the NOT. Their place was taken by the team finishing 9th.

In the final calculation of PQPs for the NOT, the inclusion of two international teams for which no player qualified for PQPs, meant there was a trickle-down of PQPs which extended into the SWPT from which the players had been drawn. The team finishing 8th was deemed to be non-contending for the NOT and therefore ineligible for these trickle-down awards.

Noted

7. PREMIER LEAGUE

The TC discussed the possibility of incorporating the "Premier League" as part of the GNOT. This could be accomplished by stratifying the qualifying rounds which could increase interest among regional players. The TC noted that the number of participants seeking to qualify for the GNOT finals had been falling in a number of regions in recent years. It thought further consideration was required of any revamp of the GNOT.

Noted

8. DROP-IN PAIRS

Several events incorporate a drop-in structure, e.g. the DCOP where losing semi-finalists from the Spring Nationals Open Teams can drop into the DCOP after 6 of 12 rounds. Julian Foster wrote about issues arising when losing pairs from the NOT dropped into the Flighted Swiss Pairs (albeit as non-contending) after 6 of 10 rounds.

TC recommends that such drop-in processes do not occur after the half way point of the Pairs event, and that the possibility of drop-in pairs be included in the advertising of the Pairs event.

Noted

8. FORMAT OF HRWT

The numbers for the HRWT have been declining, so the TO has proposed changing the format to Swiss Pairs.

TC recommends that the format for the HRWT be changed and that the PQP rating for the event be altered from Teams level D (24 12 6) to Pairs level D (24 18 12 6).

MC accepts this recommendation

9. OTHER BUSINESS

a.) Eligibility

MM raised the issue of the number of stanzas which must be played to compete in the final of an event. At present this is 1/3 for GC and SN, ¼ for SWPT.

At present there are several different eligibility rules in place:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Eligibility to progress | 33% or 25% |
| Eligibility for title | 25% |
| Eligibility for PQPs | 50% |
| Eligibility for Masterpoints | 40% of boards |

The TC agreed there should be consistency between eligibility for title and eligibility to progress. It also agreed that all stanza requirements be rounded up to the next whole integer to enhance the integrity of events and ensure that players earned the right to progress/the right to win the title/the right to be awarded PQPs.

TC recommends that the eligibility to progress and eligibility for the title both be set at 25%, and that eligibility for PQPs be set at 50% (with any fraction rounded up to the next whole integer). This change should be adopted for the 2017 PQP year, i.e. it would start with the SN2016 but would exclude the playoffs to select teams for 2017.

MC accepts this recommendation.

b.) Masterpointing of simultaneous open and intermediate events

MM also raised the issue of masterpointing the Swiss Pairs at the Coffs Coast Tournament.

The formula imposed by the masterpoint manual gives both the Open and Intermediate Pairs the same master factor, so winning the Intermediate Pairs resulted in a higher award than that for winning the Open Pairs, as the Intermediate event had more tables in play.

TC recommends that, for concurrent event, the master factors be reconsidered.

MC accepts this recommendation.

c.) World Mixed Teams

The TC noted that entries are via expressions of interest in an email to Jane Rasmussen.

TC recommends that, when entries open for the World Mixed Teams, there be a list of entries on the web, so that potential entrants may have knowledge of the other entrants.

MC accepts this recommendation.

d.) KO format for SWPT

Ron Klinger suggested that the field in the SWPT was approaching a size which might be suitable for a KO format. This was not endorsed by TC.

Meeting closed at 15:40.

8. NEXT MEETING

June 4 in Sydney, venue to be confirmed.