



Tournament Committee

MINUTES

Meeting held in Sydney (NSWBA)
Saturday 4 February, 2017, 10:00-15:00

1. Present

David Morgan (Chair), Laurie Kelso, Sean Mullamphy, Eric Ramshaw, Peter Reynolds, Therese Tully.

2. **Apologies:** Matthew McManus, Marcia Scudder.

3. **Vote of thanks:** The committee thanked Sartaj Hans for his significant contribution to the TC.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

a) ANC Charter

This was placed on hold until the review commissioned by the MC is completed.

b) Publicising options for flighted and/or mixed events

TC agreed that it should publicise the options available to TOs to include such events. (DM to write and circulate). It was noted that, at present, the World Mixed Teams will only be held in World Teams years.

c) Recording of ABF events

The committee considered a range of operational issues. It agreed that the principal purpose would be to provide a record that could be used by directors and other officials, and noted that directors had already consulted the video record to assist in a ruling at the 2016 playoffs.

The TC recommends that:

- *while the record would be easier to use if combined with a BBO broadcast, there was still value in having just a video recording;*
- *these video recordings not be broadcast* (so reducing the bandwidth requirements at tournaments);
- *for operational reasons the recording should initially be limited to screened events* (the TC noted that it would not be possible to record each table in the first stage of the women's and seniors' playoffs as there would be more than eight tables in play and the ABF only has eight laptops and cameras); and
- *advice should be sought from the ABF's legal counsel about whether these recordings should be publicly available (on YouTube).*

1. MC APPROVES RECORDING ON THE ABOVE BASIS, CURRENTLY AT THE DISCRETION OF INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS, AS AN ADDITION TO BROADCAST & RECORDING OF PLAY ON BBO. MC WILL CONSIDER WHETHER TO INCLUDE REQUIREMENTS IN THIS REGARD IN

LICENCE AGREEMENTS. MC WOULD WELCOME FEEDBACK FROM THE TC, TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES.

- 2. LEGAL COUNSEL ADVISES THAT TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS SHOULD BE AMENDED IF NECESSARY TO AUTHORISE RECORDING AND PUBLICATION OF PLAY. TO BE ACTIONED BY TC, LIAISING WITH GENERAL COUNSEL. IT IS DESIRABLE TO INCLUDE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON PAPER AND ELECTRONIC ENTRY FORMS THAT PLAYERS ACCEPT THE TERMS OF ENTRY INCLUDING THE TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS.**

- d) New VP scales for Swiss events

Research by Peter Buchen and Matthew McManus continues.

5. PQPs

- a) Rewarding pairs who play together

The TC considered a paper by PR. It agreed that, following some minor revisions by PR, the paper be circulated for feedback. The paper explains the rationale for awarding additional PQPs to partnerships that have played together, and been successful, in events that award PQPs. The requirements for the additional PQPs are different from those to win PQPs; i.e. a partnership will need to meet the current requirements for PQPs, then can be considered for the additional PQPs.

The committee agreed that the onus be placed on players to ensure the accuracy of the data about team members entered into Bridgemates. This would also require players not to rely on the BBO data, as this may differ from that recorded officially. It agreed that a week-long correction period be in place following the end of the event.

The committee noted that the slightly relaxed requirements would still place five-person teams at a disadvantage.

It also noted that testing of the approach on the GNOT and SWPT/GNOT showed that, while more onerous for CTD and the keeper of the PQPs, the system works.

The TC recommends that player feedback be sought on the revised paper.

MC ACCEPTS THIS RECOMMENDATION.

- b) Annual review

The committee decided it needed more data to review the allocation of PQPs, including the possibility of allocating women's PQPs to high-placed women's pairs in open events where there is no concurrent women's event. It brought forward its next meeting to April to consider all PQP allocations.

- c) Allocation for the SWPT and NOT

The committee clarified that, for PQP purposes, the SWPT and the NOT are considered the qualifying and final stages of one event. (It noted that they are treated as different events for masterpointing purposes.)

6. 2018 playoffs

- a) Target event

The committee supported current policy of designating one target event with the official team being given first rights to attend other events where the ABF is sending an Australian team. It

agreed the target event in non-Olympic even years should be the event with the highest standard. Notwithstanding this, the committee agreed the ABF needed to support strongly the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship (to be held at the Gold Coast in 2018) if the MC decided Australia wanted the event to continue.

The TC recommends that

- *the Asia Cup be the target event for 2018; and*

MC ACCEPTS THIS RECOMMENDATION, SUBJECT TO REVIEW IF AUSTRALIA IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN 2018 ASIAN GAMES

- *if the decision is taken to support the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship to be held at the Gold Coast in February 2018 then Australia should be represented by each of its official teams (open, women's, seniors, U26, girls and U21 if selected).*

THE MC WILL CONSIDER THIS RECOMMENDATION INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF TEAMS AND ANY SUBSIDY, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CNBC TOURNAMENT ORGANISER.

b) Format

The committee reviewed the format used for the open, women's and seniors' 2014 playoffs:

- qualification by pairs (ranked by PQPs)
- up to 16 participants with byes if an odd number of pairs enter; and
- two stages, each played over three days, with field reduced from 16 to 10 pairs with a carryforward from stage one.

The TC recommends that the format used in the 2014 playoffs be retained.

MC ACCEPTS THIS RECOMMENDATION.

c) Venue

The TC noted player feedback that playing conditions were satisfactory (for the women's and seniors'; there were issues of talking leading to unauthorized information during the open). The directors provided similar feedback, from their perspective. However, there was little support for the location.

7. ABF Tournament Regulations

The TC formally adopted the revised tournament regulations presented by LK, subject to the deletion of the section on the Tournament Sub-Committee and the inclusion of a specific provision noting that in the event of a conflict the provisions of an event's Supplementary Regulations override the general Tournament Regulations.

It supported the proposal that the Tournament Regulations be a living document that is updated regularly.

8. Level of national director required as CTD for ABF events

The committee agreed to review the outcomes of the Directors' Accreditation Committee to be held in late February.

MC ENDORSES THE DIRECTION OF PROVIDING DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY NOT HAVING REGULATIONS MANDATE USE OF

OVERQUALIFIED DIRECTORS, AND ASKS THE TC TO LIAISE WITH THE NDAC TO EXPEDITE THIS.

9. The impact of the 2017 Laws of Bridge on current ABF regulations and practices

The committee noted that the 2017 revision of the Laws of Bridge was expected to be adopted mid-year. Each zone will be responsible for determining when the new laws come into effect. It agreed to discuss the new laws later this year after they have been adopted.

10. Miscellaneous

a) Length of seniors' playoff

A significant majority of the players who responded to the request for feedback on the length of matches in the seniors' playoffs (96 boards cf 128 boards for the open and women's) favoured retaining matches of this length.

b) ABF dealing program

The TC noted that Big Deal was already available as an option for Australian tournaments; however, it was not as convenient for batch dealing of boards as the ABF's current dealing program.

c) Non-ABF teams calling themselves "Australia"

The TC noted that a team of Australian players that entered the NEC Cup had called themselves "Australia" and queried whether this was appropriate given the team was not representing or selected by the ABF.

Meeting closed at 15:00.

11. Next meeting

Friday 21 April (Canberra, *chez* Reynolds)

Proposed following meeting dates: Saturday 1 July (Sydney) and Saturday 28 October)