



Tournament Committee

MINUTES

Meeting held in Canberra (at the home of Peter Reynolds)
Friday 21 April, 2017, 10:00-16:00

1. Present

David Morgan (Chair), Laurie Kelso, Sean Mullamphy, Peter Reynolds, Therese Tully, Marcia Scudder.

Also in attendance Bruce Neill

2. **Apologies:** Matthew McManus, Eric Ramshaw.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

- a. Revised ABF Tournament Regulations

Russell Harms (General Counsel) has provided suggestions for changes:

1. The main changes reflect the fact that the disciplinary powers of Tournament Sub-Committees can only be exercised for that Tournament. Any matters requiring further consideration of action must be considered by the Ethics Committee and then referred to the MC. The heading to that section has therefore changed as have provisions relating to exercising those powers.
2. The standard supplementary regs need to be amended to deal with the definition of a restricted player. The ABF wants to avoid the situation which occurred recently where someone with lots of masterpoints overseas had not transferred them and played in a restricted event. What is needed is to provide that masterpoints for that purpose includes masterpoints earned elsewhere whether or not the player has chosen to transfer them.

TC resolved to accept the changes proposed. LK will finalise their incorporation in the TR.

- b. 2018 Playoffs

The Open Playoffs will be held over 5 days from November 12-16 with 15*10-board matches over 3 days to reduce the field from 16 to 10 pairs who will play a final of 9*10-board matches.

The Women's and Seniors' Playoffs will be held over 5 days from December 3-7.

For all Playoffs, qualification is by Pairs ranked by PQPs. Up to 16 Pairs will be accepted with byes if an odd number (<16) enter.

The format will follow that proposed in 2014, including options if fewer than 16 pairs enter.

4. Target Events

Previously, the Asia Cup was the Target event from the Playoffs in non-Olympiad even years. However, in 2018 the Asia Cup is scheduled to be played in Bangladesh. DFAT has rated

Bangladesh as a level 3 security risk and as such the ABF would not support sending teams there.

[DFAT: level 1: normal; level 2: take care; level 3: rethink your need to go; level 4: do not go]

TC recommends that, unless the Asia Cup were moved from Bangladesh, there be no official Target Event for 2018. However, offers which may be forthcoming to attend meritorious events (e.g. the Asian Games) may be accepted and extended to the Teams resulting from the Playoffs.

MC agrees. Details of any offers will be posted before playoff entries open if possible.

The Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships take place from Feb 14-18 2018 at Broadbeach, Qld. The event is being organised by the QBA and will precede the GCC.

The QBA has invited the ABF to send two 'Australian' Teams (Sponsoring Nation Teams) and further additional teams (Private Teams). TC recommends that teams from the preceding Playoffs form the two representative teams, with one of them being the Open Team. The second team would be the Women's, Seniors' or Youth team(s). Precedent would mean the Women's Team, the Seniors' Team may well be the strongest, while the Youth team supports the future development of bridge in Australia. However there are events in China and NZ to which the Youth Team(s) will be invited.

PR to draft a consultation paper to invite feedback on the web regarding this choice.

MC is finalising details with QBA and CNBC organiser. These will be posted before playoff entries open if possible. It may not be practical to consult with players.

The committee noted that it had no additional comment to those already provided to the IPTF for its policy to cover how the ABF allocates invitations received to non-target international events.

5. Level of National Director required as CTD for ABF events

The TC reviewed the paper from the National Directors Accreditation Committee. It recommended that, in addition to the existing criteria, the presence or absence of BBO be a criterion for determining the level of director appropriate for the event. It also recommended that all events selecting an Australian representative team require a level one director. It noted that the only change to the list in the NDAC paper would be the Youth Playoffs, which would require a director of different standard to that used for the other events in Youth Week.

The TC also recommended to the NDAC that the paper include provision for individual tournament organisers to apply for an exemption from these guidelines.

6. PQPs by Pairs

The TC thanked PR for his work on the discussion paper (Appendix 2) and agreed the paper should be posted on the ABF website to invite player feedback.

The intent is to reward players who enter the Playoffs in pairs that have been successful in obtaining PQPs during the preceding year. Those PQPs will be doubled.

The TC agreed that players could only be awarded PQPs (and the PQP partnership bonus) if they met the PQP board rules at all stages of an event. Thus, a pair that performed well enough to win PQPs would not be eligible for the partnership bonus if one partner had failed the board rule in an earlier, qualifying stage. The TC reiterated that the SWPT is considered to be the qualifying stage of the NOT for PQP purposes.

7. The impact of the forthcoming 2017 Laws upon some of our current regulations/practices

The TC noted that there are fewer laws which allow discretion to the Regulating Authority. It agreed that, in principle, Australia would retain the status quo in regard to laws about which it has already made a choice. However, for the sake of completeness, it agreed to review all the laws that allow the RA to exercise an option and make appropriate recommendations to the RA.

LK agreed to provide detail about the options available for all laws where RAs can exercise an option. He drew particular attention to the options available under Laws 1, 12 and 86.

The TC discussed the change to **Law 1** which provides an option to require the use of two-fold symmetric faces on both sides of each card. In general, the cards in use in Australian Tournaments are symmetric on the back, but not on the front.

Full compliance with the use of symmetric cards will clearly take many years but TC would like to encourage their use.

The TC recommends that suppliers should provide only symmetric cards in future, which will lead to a slow but steady uptake of their use as clubs order new supplies.

TC also recommends that the Playoffs scheduled for the end of 2018 and the NOT from 2019 use symmetric cards for all sessions from the semi-finals onwards. This would be followed by a requirement for their use in the final stages of all events for which PQPs are awarded.

The 2017 Laws will be introduced on August 1, 2017. Updated Law books should be available in mid-May. LR to promulgate the changes.

8. PQP allocation for 2018 year (starting Spring Nationals 2017)

The TC completed its annual review of the PQP table. *The TC recommends that the ANOT Women's Swiss Pairs should now award 16 12 8 4 PQPs to first through fourth places.*

MC agrees.

Culminating its discussion over multiple meetings about how to reward good performance by female players in open events, the TC supported two changes.

The TC recommends that PQPs won in Open events by women players should be doubled when being credited to the women's PQP list.

MC agrees.

The TC agreed to prepare a discussion paper on a way to reward good performances by Women's Pairs playing in Open events. The TC believes this will lead to a stronger field for the Women's Playoffs and hence a stronger representative team. For the Playoffs leading to the 2018 representative year, the TC proposes that following additional awards will apply:

For the SWPT, GCT and SNOT only those all female pairs who comply with both the PQP board rule and the Pairs board rule for the event, and in addition finish in the top 20% of the modified datum list will be allocated 12 Women's PQPs.

The TC recommends that the attached consultation paper be published.

MC agrees.

9. Other business

Correction periods. TC encouraged CTDs to consider highlighting tables for which outlier results have been posted. Just as slow teams are now listed by some CTDs on the projector

screen towards the end of a round, those teams with dubious results should also be listed. The aim is to reduce the number of unrectified incorrect scores.

Meeting closed at 16:00.

11. Next meeting

Saturday 1 July in Sydney (nominally at the NSWBA)

Proposed following meeting date: Saturday 28 October

Appendix 1

Bonus for PQPs earned in Partnerships.

Proposal

That players who earn PQPs receive a bonus of double PQPs in the Playoff PQP calculation for earning those points as a partnership and the current practice of discounting by 50% PQPs not earned in the Same Unit be discontinued.

NOTE: It is not proposed to amend the rule for being eligible for earning PQPs in any way. This proposal only impacts the Same Unit rule.

Rationale

The rationale for providing a partnership bonus is that PQPs are used for sole purpose of qualifying for the Team Selection Event and International events are won by Pairs, not disparate individuals. This is the same, long standing, reasoning for used for the current Same Unit rule.

History

Some time ago, prior to the current automatic team PQP calculators, pairs entered a Pairs Playoff year based on PQPs they calculated by adding 100% of the PQPs earned when they were playing together to 50% of the PQPs earned when not playing together.

In a Team's Playoff year teams qualified with PQP totals based on 2 or 3 pairs who calculated their PQPs in a manner similar to the pairs method outlined above. Even though there was no real means of recording who played with whom, since there was only a list of 48 players to worry about with fewer events the manual calculations was not onerous.

The larger number of events have made the use of a calculator important. When the calculator was first implemented there was no practical way of recording who played with whom and the concept of the Same Unit was instigated.

Note the current Same Unit calculation allows 3 people to earn Same Unit points even though only 2 of the 3 can compete as a pair. Further it is possible that all 3 people will get Same Unit PQPs even though they did not play a single board with each other in the qualifying events and compete in 3 different partnerships in the playoff.

We now have the technology with all events being scored with electronic devices (Bridgemates) to record the number of stanza's played in an event as a partnership.

Rule for Receiving Partnership Bonus

It is proposed that the Partnership Bonus be to double the PQPs earned in that partnership. (Note the current 50% discount for PQPs not earned in the Same Unit will be discontinued)

Pairs will earn the Partnership Bonus provided they play a designated number of stanza's in each stage of an event. The designated number of stanzas be calculated by subtracting one from the number of stanzas in the stage, dividing by two, and round down.

$$\text{Minimum number of stanzas to be played as a pair to earn Partnership bonus} = \text{Integer} \left(\frac{\text{Stanzas in stage} - 1}{2} \right)$$

Other Rules

Byes, Forfeits: Where not all teams in the event receive a bye, or a team forfeits or concedes, then for the purposes of the Partnership Bonus PQP rule all pairs be deemed to have played (much like the current forfeit / concede rule).

Players are responsible for inputting correct line ups into the electronic scorers and the pairs bonus will be based on these entries and posted on the web (similar to datum's). There will be a one week correction period.

Discussion

The proposal allows for slightly less stanzas than a team of 6 playing in 3 partnerships playing in rotation would achieve. This allows for one or two accident/ substitutes depending on the length of the event.

The reason for doubling and treating this as a bonus is just that this seems more positive than the old 50% discount.

Number of Stanzas	Available sets	Stanzas played in a 3 pair team	5 person team with 1 pair & 1 person playing throughout	5 person team with 1 pair & a triangle	Current PQP rule	Partnership bonus proposal
1	2	0	0	0	0	0
2	4	1	1	0	1	1
3	6	2	1	1	1	1
4	8	2	2	1	2	2
5	10	3	2	1	2	2
6	12	4	3	2	3	2
7	14	4	3	2	3	3
8	16	5	4	2	4	3
9	18	6	4	3	4	4
10	20	6	5	3	5	4
11	22	7	5	3	5	5
12	24	8	6	4	6	5
13	26	8	6	4	6	6
14	28	9	7	4	7	6

Note the PQP eligibility rule divides the stanzas by two and rounds down.

Whilst both rules yield the same result for odd numbers of stanzas it should be noted that in all cases a 3 pair team playing in rotation can have a stanza off (at least 2 stanzas for events with at least 8 rounds).

In practice most PQP Team events have at least 8 qualifying rounds and finals composed of 4 stanzas. So to achieve Same Unit PQPs a pair has to play at 1 set in 4 in each final and a bit less than 50% of the rounds of the qualifying. A 5 person team playing as a pair and a

triangle would only meet the partnership if the total number of stanzas is 1,2,3,4 & 6. Even though all players would meet the requirements to be awarded PQPs. This was felt to be appropriate as those pairs not achieving the partnership bonus are only playing a third of the stanzas in a partnership.

Summary

A partnership bonus of double will be applied to those PQPs earned as a pair.

To earn the partnership bonus each pair must play as partnership in at least the designated number of stanzas in each stage of an event.

The existing PQP rule or the ability to earn PQPs is not proposed to be amended in any way.

The existing Same Unit rule will be discontinued in the Playoff Qualifying calculation.

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Appendix 2

Rewarding good performance by women's pairs in open events

The Tournament Committee, together with the International Player Performance Committee, have been considering ways of rewarding good performance by women's pairs in open events. The Tournament Committee seeks player feedback on the following proposal:

Proposal

That pairs composed of two women receive PQPs for the women's PQP list based on performance to a high standard in a small number of open teams events.

Rationale

The standard of open events is generally considered higher than that of women's events. One way to improve the performance of Australia's women's teams in international events is to give them more exposure to higher-standard events in Australia.

Details

12 Women's PQPs would be awarded to the top three all-female pairs in the SWPT, the GCT and the SNOT, provided that these pairs:

- met the PQP board rule
- the pairs board rule; and
- finished in the top 20% of the modified datum calculated as IMPs/board. (This metric would minimise the impact of the choice of teammates and opponents.)

This trial be evaluated after two years, including by seeking further player feedback.

The events chosen for this trial were selected because they do not coincide with any women's events.