



Tournament Committee

MINUTES

Meeting held in Sydney (Airport Pullman Hotel)
Saturday 29th October, 2017, 9:55-14:45

1. Present

David Morgan (Chair), Matthew McManus, Peter Reynolds, Therese Tully, Marcia Scudder, Sean Mullamphy.

2. Apologies: Laurie Kelso, Eric Ramshaw

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

a. TC decision-making processes

The TC recognised that its process of finalising and publicising decisions could be improved. Once recommendations have been approved by the MC the TC will ensure that the decisions are promulgated to all relevant stakeholders and appropriate announcements made on the website.

b. Revised ABF Tournament Regulations

PQP changes remain to be updated.

c. 2017 Laws: review of laws subject national authority discretion

All laws have been accepted by the National Authority as discussed.

[ABF or NECs to promulgate]

d. 2018 Playoffs

19 entries to the Open Playoffs were received. The 16 with the highest PQP totals were accepted. If there is a late withdrawal, the position will be offered to the next on the entry list.

The Women's and Seniors' Playoffs are under control.

There has only been one mild complaint about the change to a Sunday start.

e. PQPs by pairs

Correspondence was received from several players following the announcement of the implementation of the new rule. Responses clarified its operation.

f. ANC format

All recommendations made in the review by Ben Thomson will be adopted at the 2018 ANC in Hobart, with the exception of the introduction of a Restricted Teams.

The Interstate Teams qualifying will run for 4 days (Sunday – Wednesday). In the Open, Women's and Seniors', there will be a 2v3 playoff (with carry forward) on Thursday morning with the winner playing the final against 1 over Thursday afternoon/Friday.

A two day pairs event will be introduced on Thursday/Friday to cater for team members who do not qualify for the final (drop-ins from the losing 2v3 will be accepted), and any other pair where both players are from the same state.

A Youth Butler will be introduced to run alongside the Women's and Seniors' Stage I Butlers.

Suggested formats (incorporating both 16 and 14 board matches in the Teams Qualifying) are given in Appendix 1, but may be modified if considered appropriate by the Tournament Organiser.

Datums for the Butler Pairs.

The TC recognised that some fields in the 2018 Butler Pairs may not be large enough to provide meaningful datums. The TC revisited its policy and agreed it needed to be modified to ensure an appropriate ratio of scores from the small field and the open event.

The TC recommends that the following formulas be used to generate the datums for the 2018 Butler events:

Stage I

Open Butler Open datums only

Women's Butler Women + Open

Seniors' Butler Seniors + Open

Youth Butler Youth + Open

Stage II

Open Butler Open datums only

Women's Butler 2 x Women + Open

Seniors' Butler 2 x Seniors + Open

[After approval to be included in the Supplementary Regs for the Butler Pairs.]

Management Committee accepts the intent of this recommendation, but requests more specific definition of what constitutes a small field and precisely how the calculation is intended to be performed. (Is the intent a weighted average of the two separate datums, or an inclusion of all scores in a datum calculation?)

TC addressed at next meeting

g. Feedback on directors

There is a lack of up and coming directors who could replace the current group of National Level Directors when they retire.

The use of Trainee Directors is encouraged at major events, but they are always closely monitored so that a more highly qualified director can step in if needed. (Some players are rude enough to insist on a 'real' director attending their table.) Trainee Directors should be given the opportunity to handle a Congress by themselves, but with someone available (only) if a disaster occurs. However, the TC noted that cost of the higher-trained director is an issue.

Management Committee will refer this issue to the NDDO.

4. PQPs for all female pairs

A consultation paper posted on the website and emailed to all PQP earners in the current year resulted in very positive feedback.

TC recommends that for the PQP year commencing with the 2018 Spring Nationals and subsequent years any all-female pair competing in the SWPT, GCT or SNOT 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 (i.e. for IMPs/board) will be allocated 12 Women's PQPs.

[promulgation to NECs, ABF website, PQP page on website, PG and JS and relevant CTDs]

Management Committee accepts the recommendation.

It was noted that several pairs competing in the 2017 SNOT would have qualified for this additional award.

PR commented on the lack of structure in the training of our Women's Teams for international play. He noted that several countries, e.g. England and China have a squad of women who are trained, and from whom the national team is selected.

5. PQP policies

MM will compile a list of approved changes made recently to the PQP awards. A request will be sent to John Scudder to reinstitute the block of such changes which appeared regularly on the PQP page until the change to the new ABF website occurred.

6. Publicising TC decisions after MC endorsement

Approved changes will be sent to NECs who will promulgate to TOs, other relevant stakeholders and ensure that they appear on the ABF website as appropriate.

7. Smoking breaks

TC recommends that the provisions in place for the Playoffs should be extended to any other event where screens are in use. In particular, there should be no opportunity to leave the table and return during the final 30 minutes.

Management Committee accepts the recommendation, subject to ability to get permission from director. The TO and TD will need to address this in Supplementary Regulations, and may need to consider security procedures.

8. Other business

a. Player suspension

At present any suspension imposed at either the National or State level automatically results in reciprocity. Some states are now introducing Congress level suspensions. These suspensions will also be imposed at State level, and therefore at National level. The onus should rest with the suspended player not to enter (or allow others to enter them) in any disallowed events for the period of their suspension.

b. BBO and video at the Playoffs

The TO for the playoffs requested advice from the TC about BBO and video recording of the playoffs. This year the Playoffs are in Pairs format, and this may make BBO less attractive to the public as there is no direct comparison score. MM (the CTD) will attempt to provide datums for use as comparison scores, in particular by the commentators.

To enhance security the TC previously recommended that tables at the Playoffs be videoed (recording only, with no broadcast) in addition to normal BBO.

The TC recommended to the TO that:

- *the ABF should use all four cameras that the ABF has so that as many tables as possible are recorded;*
- *the ABF should record matches in stage one as well as stage two; and*
- *the ABF should rotate all pairs through the tables that are being recorded so that there is no suggestion that specific players/pairs are being targeted.*

Done.

c. Under-age seniors

As a result of the recent WBF change to the Seniors' age qualification, the Spring Nationals, the Summer Festival and the Gold Coast tournaments were all permitted to accept entries including players who would have qualified under the previous age limit, but are now ineligible to enter the WBF Target event for 2019.

To ensure that no under-age entries are accepted for the Playoffs for that year, the entry form for the web will include a tick box so that players declare that they are born before the relevant date.

TC also recommends that entry to all Playoffs requires a tick box which accepts the conditions of the tournament.

Management Committee accepts the recommendation.

Meeting closed at 14:45.

11. Next meeting dates

Saturday 3rd March, 2018 in Sydney (nominally at the NSWBA), then Saturday 23rd June.

Appendix 1

ANC Teams Qualifying

Possible timing for 16 board matches

9.30-11.30
11.45-1.45
Lunch 1.45-2.30
2.30-4.30
4.45-6.45

First match - Sunday: Youth 11.45, others 2.30

Possible timing for 14 board matches

9.30-11.15
11.30-1.15
Lunch 1.15-2.00
2.00-3.45
4.00-5.45

First match - Sunday: Youth 11.30, others 2.00

Repechage Final - Thursday 3 x 12

9.30- 11.06
11.20-12.56
Lunch 12.56-1.40
1.40-3.16

Youth Final - Thursday 5 x 12

9.30- 11.06
11.20-12.56
Lunch 12.56-1.40
1.40-3.16
3.30-5.06
5.20-6.56

Other Finals - 6 x 10

Thursday
3.40-5.00
5.15-6.35
Friday
10.00-11.20
11.35-12.55
Lunch 12.55-1.45
1.45-3.05
3.20-5.00

Pairs on Thursday/Friday

Pairs - Thursday - 5 x 10

11.00-12.10

12.20-1.30

Lunch 1.30-2.30

2.30-3.40

3.50-5.00 (drop-ins join at this match)

5.10-6.10

Pairs - Friday - 5 x 10

10.00-11.10

11.20-12.30

Lunch 12.30-1.30

1.30-2.40

2.50-4.00

4.10-5.10