

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN CANBERRA

2nd-3rd JULY 2011 at 10:30 am

1. PRESENT

Actions

Kim Morrison (chair), Eric Ramshaw, Marcia Scudder, Bruce Neill, Peter Reynolds

Apologies: Peter Kahler Day 1

Invited guests: Roy Nixon for part of Day 1 followed by Sean Mullamphy for part of Day 1

2. ABF EVENTS

(a) Summer Festival

The program recommended at the previous meeting is to be adopted in 2012. The SWPT would be reduced to 12 rounds of 20 boards (Mon-Thu). At its conclusion, the top 8 teams would qualify for the NOT which would run over Fri-Sun, each day comprising one 64 board knockout match in 4 x 16 board segments.

SM to be informed

Running concurrently with the NOT would be the Blue Ribbon Pairs. This would be highly advertised as the reappearance of "Australia's Premier Matchpointed Pairs Event." Players eliminated from the NOT may drop into the Pairs at the appropriate level, but they should notify the organisers of their intent at the beginning of the QF or SF as appropriate.

A discount would be offered for players participating in both the SWPT and the BRP. It will be possible to pull out of subsequent sessions of the BRP at any point, but players MUST notify organisers of their intent.

The final of the BRP to be held on Sunday will be a Barometer Howell with the number of tables dependent on entries. There would be no carry forward from stage to stage as the drop in players would complicate this.

The organisers will arrange for a few standby pairs to fill tables if required.

The aim is to have simultaneous conclusion of the NOT, BRP and MxT by Sunday evening, but this may not be possible, depending on the speed with which the Final of the NOT is conducted.

Because of the elimination of Last Train events after the 2012 SF, the program will be shortened by 2 days, commencing on Wednesday with the NWT and NST qualifying. There is scope for adding a new event also to commence on Wednesday (or Thursday) to replace the Open Last Train.

(b) 2011 Playoffs

The situation arising from the inclusion of the Henbest team in the Open Playoffs was discussed again. It was strongly felt that the team should not have

been allowed to play, and Division 1 run as either a triangle (which was done satisfactorily in a previous Playoff) or with a 4th team promoted from Division 2. The outcome where one team had a significantly easier match in the Semi-Finals was not equitable.

JS to be informed

It is recommended that the two players who did not compete past the first stage should be awarded 3 not 6 PQPs.

As an ongoing policy, the Tournament Committee recommends that no concessions be allowed at or before half way in a match. The regulations stipulate that 'concession' implies 'playing' for the purposes of compliance with the board rule for PQP awards.

Any team of 4 that enters the Playoffs runs the risk of disqualification if they find that illness or misadventure strikes at an inopportune time.

The TO in 2011 optimised the smooth running of the Playoffs rather than considering the effect of his decision on the final outcome of the event. In the case of the Playoffs, clearly the latter is more important.

The selection of the match including substitutes for BBO was not considered appropriate. The public prefer to watch a more even contest than a one-sided match.

(c) Future Playoffs

RG and DS to be informed

For the 2012 Playoffs and beyond, in Teams entry format, all three Playoffs will follow the two Tier model used successfully for the Open in 2011 with the proviso that all players entering Division 1 must have earned at least 1 PQP in that Category (Open, Women or Seniors). Teams may enter as 4 or 6, and after entry may rearrange their pairings if they wish. Entries should close 3 weeks prior to the Playoffs (mid February). It is recommended that travel subsidies be given to all Players in Division 1, and half subsidies to those in Division 2, but that is a matter for the Finance Committee.

It is recommended that the timing of sessions for the Open and Women's should be the same if possible to reduce disruption.

Various entry numbers were considered: (finals will be 96 boards over 1.5 days for the Open and Women's and 64 boards over 1 day for the Seniors).

The finals for the Open and Women's should be replicate conditions at the Target World Championship. Therefore there should be only 48 boards per day with 8.75 minutes per board (behind screens).

Round robin matches could be 10 boards (and a double RR) or 20 boards (single RR).

Entries	Format	Preliminary	Final	Total time
3	Play as a triangle	2 days of RR	96/64 board final	3.5 days
4	One division	2 days of RR	96/64 board final	3.5 days
5		3 days of RR	96/64 board	4.5 days

			final	
6	As for 5 or	2 days of RR, 1 day SF	96/64 board final	4.5 days
7	Top 4 in division 1, 3 in triangle	2 days for triangle, 1 day SF	96/64 board final	4.5 days
8+	Top 4 in division 1, remainder in division 2	2 days for RR, 1 day for SF	96/64 board final	4.5 days

Since the format will not be certain until entries close the information should include the dates of the event and the starting time for the first day. Full details can be publicised after the entry numbers are known.

Four or six membered teams would be permitted in both Tiers with augmentation rules as set out for the Open in 2011. The thresholds for defining the panels for Division 1 entries will be abolished. The ranking criterion would be total PQP's for the team. This means that a team of 6 has an advantage over a team of 4.

All teams in Division 2 will be ranked according to their PQPs. Any points not earned within the unit of the Playoff entry will be halved. In the case of a withdrawal from Division 1 prior to the playoffs, the team in Division 2 with the highest total PQPs will be offered promotion to Division 1.

(d) ANC

The ANC package is in general decline. It is only when it is held in certain venues (notably, Perth, Darwin or Brisbane) that the event draws sufficient interest (local and otherwise) to make it economically viable. In addition, the viability of the Youth teams is questionable. The full quota of teams is never achieved, and this usually necessitates running a triple round robin for the Youth.

The attraction of holding the ANC alongside the Butler was that when travel costs were high, it was possible to attend both events with just one travel venture. Now that travel is inexpensive, the need to maximise 'boards per trip' is negated.

The suggestion was discussed that decoupling the ANC Teams and the Butler might be advantageous. This would allow the rotating ANC Teams organisers to opt for a smaller (and therefore less expensive) venue. The possibility of reducing the matches to 16 boards should lead to a reduction of 1 day in the double round robin schedule. Again, this would be advantageous in the states where venues are very costly. The problem arose of accommodating the Victory Dinner. Those players who do not qualify for the finals would have to fill in a day in order to attend the Dinner. The suggestion was made of running a one day event to cover this, probably with a Pairs format, and possibly encouraging interstate partnerships.

The possibility of permanently housing the Butler in Canberra was considered. This would give the ACT a second event, which they requested. However,

problems were raised regarding accommodation in Canberra during the 'non-summer' part of the year. When Parliament is sitting it is very difficult to get accommodation, but the dates of sitting are flexible and may be changed at short notice. Roy Nixon (president of BFACT) and Peter Kahler showed no interest in running an event in Canberra.

It was felt that the MC should ask for expressions of interest from all the states, to see if any one of them might be interested in creating a permanent home for the Butler (see our calendar suggestions below).

(e) VCC

A significant change to the format of the VCC occurred in 2011 when the boards used for matches on BBO were different from those played at the remaining matches. This basic structural change should have been approved by the Tournament Committee prior to its implementation.

(f) Calendar conflict between VCC and Barrier Reef.

Although it is undesirable to run concurrent major events, it was felt that each is successful and that there would only be minimal change in table numbers of the events were run at different times. (However, see Calendar Review below).

(g) Winner of the Autumn National Open Teams

It was felt that the declaration of the ultimate winners of the ANOT was appropriate.

3. APBF

The question of the necessity of a NPC for teams being sent to the APBF in 2012 (a congress year) was raised. It is a recommendation of the Tournament Committee that no captain is necessary unless it is a true International Event. It may be prudent to consider sending a Team Manager who would be able to handle day to day issues for a number of teams, such as paperwork.

4. CALENDAR REVIEW

The Calendar Review Committee asks the states to consider the restructure suggested below with a view to implementation in 3 or 4 years time. Items which were taken into consideration were:

- The balance of events throughout the year.
- Geographical accessibility to PQP events for all States
- Appropriately timed Playoffs for Open, Women & Seniors.
- International events (Bermuda Bowl/Olympiad/Rosenblum, US nationals, APBF/Zonal playoffs, NZ nationals)
- Separation of the ANC/Butler (Butler ideally in a fixed location)

- Separation of the Barrier Reef / VCC
- Seasons (North in Winter if possible)
- State Holidays
- Extraneous events e.g. football finals
- Synergies of having 2 events run consecutively e.g. GNOT finals & Butler pairs.

Event	Location	Calendar location	Comments
Summer Festival	Canberra	January	as now, including Youth Festival and GNP Final
Open/Women's Playoff	Gold Coast	preceding Gold Coast in February	Tues-Sun before GC, with Playoff final coinciding with beginning of GC Pairs
Gold Coast	Gold Coast	end February	as now
Swan River Swiss Pairs	Perth	mid March	
Seniors' Playoff	Sydney	end March	previous O/W Playoff time
Autumn Nationals	Adelaide	end April	moving depending on Easter
Barrier Reef	Far North Queensland	early May	to include public holiday on Monday (in Qld)
Western Seniors Pairs	Perth	mid May	as now
VCC	Melbourne	early June	as now
NT Gold	NT	early July	as now
GNOT	Tweed Heads	mid July	Starting on Thursday, SF/F on Sat-Sun
Butler	Tweed Heads	end July	Stage 1 Sat/Sun of GNOT, replacing Provincial Pairs, losing SF directly to Stage 2
Coffs	Coffs	mid August	as now
ANC teams	rotating	early September	Sun – Thurs with Trans-state Pairs event to coincide with Finals, followed by the Dinner. (NZ Nationals at the end of September)
HGR	Perth	end September	as now
Spring Nationals	Sydney	end October	as now (aiming to avoid clash with WBF major event)
Golden West Swiss Pairs	Perth	mid November	as is

RPSSP and ASP	Tasmania	early December	the last events of the PQP cycle. Winners to receive automatic entry to the Playoffs for a Pairs format year.
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5. PQPs

JS to be informed

The Tournament Committee has considered all ABF events for the 2012 cycle (leading to the 2013 Playoffs). Some awards have been changed in line with the expectation of the strength of the fields. Those events where semi-finals lead to the two finalists had a single award for 3rd (which in most cases was equally shared between the two losing semi-finalists). This has been changed so that there are distinct awards for 3rd and 4th to cater for ineligible teams in the final four. When there are no ineligible teams, the 3rd and 4th awards will be averaged with no splitting by a countback.

PQP awards may be given with one decimal place to allow for shared values.

The revised PQP table for 2012 is in the appended document

PQP_2012_TC.doc

The Tournament Committee has considered the issue of transfer of PQPs between the three categories (Open, Women and Seniors). The following is recommended:

Transfers from the Open to the Women's and/or Seniors' occur at present and require at least 1 PQP to have been earned in the restricted category.

Transferred points are not reduced.

In addition, the Tournament Committee recommends that when the Women's and Seniors' events run concurrently, PQPs won in one event can be transferred to the other category with a factor of 0.5.

Those events at present are:

Autumn Swiss Pairs; VCC; Butler Pairs; ANC teams; SNWT and BEST; NWT and NST; and the Seniors' and Women's Last Train.

Those which do NOT allow transfer are:

HGR; WSP; RPSSP; GC teams and pairs; Playoffs.

Definitions:

An eligible player at a stage of event is one who reasonably expects to be eligible to enter the next Playoffs, and if successful to represent Australia; and has satisfied the board rule at all stages to that point.

[On the rare occasion that this player is the only one in a unit defining it to be eligible, and is subsequently found to be ineligible, then the player loses all PQPs and PQPs for those events in which they were earned will be redistributed to the next placegetters before the Playoff entry closes.]

An eligible unit at a stage of event has not been disqualified from the event (then or later), and has one or more eligible players at that stage.

If a player becomes **ineligible by not satisfying board rule** at a stage after their team has already qualified for PQPs by reaching that stage, the player receives half the PQP award they would have received if they had continued to satisfy board rule in that stage, but had lost. This does not affect awards to any other eligible team members who satisfied board rule up to and including that stage. Players who fail the board rule at any stage may continue to play in the event.

When calculating PQP awards, units that had been **disqualified** or had no eligible players at the point where they first qualified for PQP awards in that event are ineligible for PQPs.

LK to be advised

6. REGULATIONS

(a) Tournament Regulations and Supplementary Regulations

The Tournament Committee recommends that Supplementary Regulations should only contain matters specific to the Tournament, with as much as possible being simply a reference to the relevant sections of the Tournament Regulations.

The preferred outcome would be a short generic document containing only the relevant headings which were Tournament specific. The individual Tournament Organisers would complete the document, submit it to LK who would refer it to the Tournament Committee (if considered necessary) then to EM for final approval. It is recommended that Laurie Kelso create the skeleton document which would be available on the ABF website (possibly with appropriate payment for the task).

In addition, each Tournament Organiser would create a document which could be classified as "Information for Players."

The Supplementary Regulations for the ANC, Butler Pairs and Playoffs would not be treated in this way, as they do not run along the same lines as other ABF tournaments. These regulations should always be approved by the TC.

(b) Changes to Regulations

10.1 The recommended duration of a session in ABF Tournaments, Championships, Festivals and Congresses will be determined on the basis of 7 - 7.5 minutes per board. When screens are in use this should be increased to 8.5 minutes per board and 8.75 minutes per board for the final of the Playoffs (in line with International Practice).

Total session time shall include the time spent in duplicating and recording boards, if relevant.

15.2 It is ABF tournament policy that ties in finals of ABF events, with two exceptions, shall NOT be broken.

The exceptions are

- (i) the Playoffs (Open, Women's and Seniors') and
- (ii) the ANC (Interstate) Teams (Open, Women's, Seniors' and Youth).

That is, ties in the finals of the Playoffs and in the finals of the ANC Teams

must be broken, but ties in the finals of all other ABF events shall not be broken and the titles shall be shared.

24.1 The expression used to calculate the number of stanzas that it is mandatory to play to meet the Board Rule is:

$0.5n$ (with fractions rounded down to the nearest whole number), where n = the number of stanzas to be played in each stage of the event.

Regulations are required that deal with disqualification and its ramifications.

6. OTHER MATTERS

(a) Publishing Appeals

The Tournament Committee believes that appeals should be published and a notice to this effect should be added to the appeals form.

However, the Chairman of the Appeals Committee has the right to veto the publication of any appeal if he feels that its publication may lead to legal or personal issues, or not be in the general interest of the game. The On-Site ABF Representative should send such appeals to the MC/EM.

Where publication is felt to be appropriate, appeals can be published in the local Bulletin, or on the web.

(b) Correspondence:

Ron Klinger – regarding the different boards used on BBO at the VCC. See item above.

It is recommended that both tables on BBO should start at board 1 as this eliminates some security issues. [BBO prefers to have one table start at board 1, the other at the second last to get comparisons up for discussion by the panel] The hand records, and contracts should not be displayed on the live score coverage until the end of the session, although the running totals may be displayed.

Simon Hinge – regarding the ANC. The handbook is being updated by RG. The question of the number of scribes for the finals of the ANC teams. It would be advantageous to the journalists of each table had a scribe, even those covered by BBO (as the operators sometimes have difficulty keeping up with the play). However it was felt that this is not mandatory.

Ron Klinger – regarding the possibility of issuing PQPs for the NZ Nationals. This was not approved.

He also questioned the carry forward in the Seniors Playoff. Carry forwards have been removed from the Playoffs, from the NOT and from the Butler Pairs.

(c) Appraisal of Performance

PR to draft criteria

The Tournament Committee has been asked to set up criteria by which holders of remunerated positions within the ABF might be appraised. It was felt that the TC is only in a position to appraise those who report directly to the TC.

7. NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 2nd October, venue to be decided.

PLAYOFF QUALIFYING POINTS BY EVENT

For the 2012 Calendar Year

Lead to the 2013 Playoffs which are Teams Events

OPEN												
Event	Type	Category	State	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
South West Pacific Teams	Teams	D	ACT	36	18	9						
National Open Teams	Teams	A	ACT	72	36	22	14	12	10	8	6	
Gold Coast Pairs	MP Pairs	C	QLD	32	24	16	8					
Gold Coast Teams	Teams	B	QLD	48	24	12	6					
Australian Playoff - Teams	Teams	B	ABF	48	24	12	6					
Autumn National Open Teams	Teams	C	SA	36	18	9						
Victor Champion Cup (VCC)	Teams	C	VIC	36	18	9						
ANC Butler Pairs	IMP Pairs	A	ABF	65	60	55	35	30	25	15	10	5
ANC Teams (State Reps)	Teams		ABF	6								
ANC Teams Final	Teams	C	ABF	30	12							
Swan River Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	C	WA	32	24	16	8					
NT Gold Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	D	NT	16	12	8	4					
Australian Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	C	TAS	32	24	16	8					
Dick Cummings Open Pairs	MP Pairs	C	NSW	32	24	16	8					
Spring National Open Teams	Teams	B	NSW	48	24	12	6					
Grand National Open Teams	Teams	C	ABF	36	18	6	3					

WOMENS												
Event	Type	Category	State	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
National Womens Teams Swiss	Teams	D	ACT	24	12	6						
National Womens Teams Final	Teams	B	ACT	48	24	12	6					
Australian Playoff - Womens Teams	Teams	B	ABF	48	24	12	6					
Autumn National Womens Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	D	SA	24	18	12	6					
VCC Womens Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	D	VIC	24	18	12	6					
ANC Womens Butler Pairs	IMP Pairs	A	ABF	65	60	55	35	30	25	15	10	5
ANC Womens Teams (State Reps)	Teams		ABF	6								
ANC Womens Teams Final	Teams	C	ABF	30	12							
Hans Rosendorff Womens Teams	Teams	D	WA	24	12	6						
Spring National Womens Teams	Teams	C	NSW	36	18	9						

SENIORS												
Event	Type	Category	State	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
National Seniors Teams Swiss	Teams	D	ACT	24	12	6						
National Seniors Teams Final	Teams	A	ACT	48	24	12	6					
Gold Coast Seniors Pairs	MP Pairs	D	QLD	24	18	12	6					
Gold Coast Seniors Teams	Teams	C	QLD	36	18	9						
Australian Playoff – Seniors Teams	Teams	B	ABF	48	24	12	6					
Autumn National Seniors Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	D	SA	24	18	12	6					
Western Senior Pairs	IMP Pairs	D	WA	24	18	12	6					
McCance Trophy Seniors Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	D	VIC	24	18	12	6					
ANC Senior Butler Pairs	IMP Pairs	B	ABF	50	45	40	20	15	10			
ANC Senior Teams (State Reps)	Teams		ABF	6								
ANC Senior Teams Final	Teams	C	ABF	30	12							
Roger Penny Seniors Swiss Pairs	IMP Pairs	D	TAS	24	18	12	6					
Bobby Evans Senior Teams	Teams	C	NSW	48	24	12						