

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN SYDNEY 23rd November 2013 at 10:00 am at NSWBA

1. PRESENT

Kim Morrison (chair), Bruce Neill, Marcia Scudder, Eric Ramshaw, Peter Reynolds.
Sean Mullamphy was also in attendance.
Apologies: Peter Kahler

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Guideline document for training international teams – PR ongoing.

Mutual Obligation Document

Minor additions to be made, including the need for players to plan their accommodation to include at least the first stage of any subsequent knock-out stage.

Notification of changes regarding Regulations

Pending KM to ask LK for status

Appeals – document for members and chairs of committees – BN ongoing

Byes in ANC Teams. The midyear meeting of the MC endorsed the elimination of byes in the ANC teams, leaving the mode of selection of additional team(s) to the states.

Customer Feedback at ABF Events

A polling program such as Survey Monkey could be used. It was felt that this should be done by Marketing, with care taken to ask the right questions, and allow players to comment if they wished.

Errors in scoring programs and draws Pending LK

ABF On-site Representative Form

An interactive form has been developed for the on-site representative to document any problems encountered at an event and how the problem was handled.

Up to Date Information Kit for Australian Captains.

KM to enquire of DM or Jane Rassmussen - *Seeking player input.*

3. The 2014 VP Scale

Correspondence has been received from Ron Klinger, Michael Wilkinson and Paul Marston regarding the 2014 VP scale. All feel that the new scale has its problems and may not be suitable for all types of movements. The TC will suggest that input regarding the scale should be directed to the WBF. KM to respond.

4. Should we have appeals

The TC discussed the role of Appeals Committees. SM summarised the new WBF approach as follows:

- Yet to come into force.
- Will not have appeals committees.
- Sole avenue of review will be for parties to the matter to request an independent, senior director to repeat the process of giving a director's ruling. This may potentially polling (more) players, and potentially asking different poll questions.

TC view is that will require significant directing resources, both in number and skill. TC regards it as not feasible at any event except perhaps Summer Festival or Gold Coast Congress.

TC recommends no change in 2014 at least, with perhaps further consideration after the new WBF scheme is first used, presumably at the Rosenblum later this year. *Noted.*

5. Commonwealth Nations Regulations:

The TC has reviewed the draft regulations for the offer of representation at the Commonwealth Nations event.

Final draft is shown in Appendix 1. To be consistent with the notice approved by the MC in the Summer Festival brochure, the offer can no longer drop down as far as teams who do not qualify from the SWPT to the NOT.

6. PQPs:

A clear statement is required regarding the transfer of PQPs.

In order to be eligible to play in the Playoffs, a player must be on the PQP panel for that category (Open, Women's, Seniors'). There are two ways to become a panel member:

- a. Earn PQPs in that category at an ABF event.
- b. Earn 48 or more Open PQPs **and request addition** to either Women's or Seniors' Panel (or both).

The following transfers apply:

The 48 (or more) Open PQPs can be transferred at full value to either the Women's or Seniors' Tally (or both).

PQPs earned in concurrent Women's/Seniors' ABF events are transferred to the other Tally at half value, even if they were earned prior to the request in b. above. *Specificity noted – thanks.*

7. Playoffs:

Target Events

There is only one Target Event each year. These are expected to be:

- Zone 7 leading to the Bermuda Bowl in odd numbered years. If Zone 7 is held alongside the APBF, then the Australian Team will play both. If the APBF is disconnected from the Zone 7 Playoffs, then the target event for the Australian Team will be Z7 and will not necessarily include participation in APBF. *Noted.*
- The Mind Sports Games in those years in which it is held.
- In Rosenblum years, 2014, 2018 etc the TC will recommend a Target Event on a year by year basis. The event will not be a Trans National event. Possibilities include the Commonwealth Nations, the APBF or the Asia Cup (if an invitation is forthcoming). For 2014, this is the Asia Cup.

For 2014, prizes of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed pairs in each Playoff.

In addition, the three highest placed pairs in each Playoff will be offered the right to represent Australia at the Asia Cup. The TC recommends that additional funding be provided to the team by the ABF. *Request endorsed – subsidies to go on to Playoff web site.*

It is possible that Australia will be offered two places in the Seniors Asia Cup. If so, the secondary team will be filled by requesting expressions of interest from those players who entered the Seniors Playoff. Teams of 4 or 6 would be acceptable. Ranking of teams expressing interest would be by PQPs (of the two pairs having the highest number).

The 2014 Open and Women's Playoffs will be held at the Coogee Bay Hotel in Sydney from 4-9 February, 2014. The field will comprise the top 16 pairs based on total PQPs. Any PQPs earned not in the same unit at the pair entered will be discounted by 50%. Ties for 16th position will be broken by the ranking (A, B, C) of the events in which the PQPs were earned.

Entries for the Open and Women's Playoffs will open on 13th December, 2013 and close on 19th January, 2014. The 16 pairs accepted to the Playoffs will be listed on the web on Monday 20th January, 2014. Entry fees are \$560 per pair, which should be paid directly into the bank account. All players will be offered the usual travel subsidies to participate in the Playoffs.

Allowable systems will be those which can be played at the Asia Cup. There will be no Yellow systems allowed. LK to email Anthony Cheng to determine if Brown Sticker conventions can be used. Systems must be posted on the web by 29th January, 2014 and any amendments requested must be completed satisfactorily by 2nd February, 2014.

The Seniors' Playoff will be run in an identical format to the Open and Women's, with an 8 board (for a 10 board match) 2014 WBF Victory Point scale in use.

The TC recommends that the ABF adopts a financial plan for player subsidies to International events. The subsidies payable should be known well in advance, and should not depend on the location of the event.

Noted. Finance Committee will take this suggestion under advisement.

The **2015 Playoffs** will follow the same general format as that used in 2013.

8. Summer Festival:

The regulation for the Summer Festival were reviewed and approved.

9. Other Business:

For the joint meeting to be held with the MC in June 2014, the TC will table a Strategy Plan for ongoing discussions. *Wonderful idea. Date to be set by incoming MC/TC Committees jointly.*

10. Next meeting:

No firm date was set for the next TC meeting, but possibly Sun 16th February, 2014

2014 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship – Regulations for Qualification Draft – November 23, 2013

Eligible Teams – Eligible teams are teams which have competed in the 2014 SWPT and NOT, in which all members are eligible to represent Australia in a WBF event, and where four or more team members accept an offer from the ABF to represent Australia at the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship in Glasgow, Scotland in September 2014.

All players accepting this offer must have satisfied the board rule for PQPs for both the SWPT and, if applicable, the NOT.

Teams which qualify from the SWPT to the NOT but do not take up the position in the NOT will not be eligible.

Ranking of teams – Teams in the NOT/SWPT will be ranked as follows:

1. NOT winner

2. NOT runner-up

3/4. Losing semi-finalists in the NOT

5/8. Losing quarter-finalists in the NOT

9+. Teams ranked ninth and below after the final qualifying round of the SWPT

Teams tied for 3rd and 4th and 5th to 8th will be ranked according to their finishing positions after the final qualifying round of the SWPT.

Ties in the SWPT will be broken in accordance with ABF TR 15.

Qualifying Team – The players in the highest placed eligible team will be offered the right to represent Australia at the 4th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in September 2014.

In order to remain an eligible team, at least four players of the original team who all satisfy 1.1 above must indicate their intention to take up the offer.

The team offered the representative position must advise the Chairman of the ABF TC on or before March 1, 2014 of their intention to accept or reject the offer.

Should the team reject the offer or fail to advise the Chairman of the ABF TC within the timeframe indicated in 3.2, the position will be offered to the next highest ranked eligible team, and so on down the list of eligible teams until accepted. Teams so offered the position will have two weeks to advise the Chairman of the ABF TC of their intention.

Augmentation – Teams containing only four players who accept the offer may augment to six (but not five) players. Teams containing only five players who accept the offer must augment to six (or reduce to four) players.

To augment from four to six, the team must submit an ordered list of three suggested pairs to the Chairman of the ABF TC within the timeframe specified by him/her at the time the position is offered to the team. At least one of the suggested pairs must have either competed in the 2014 NOT or obtained at least 72 Open PQPs during 2013. To augment from five to six, the team must submit an ordered list of three suggested players to the Chairman of the ABF TC within the timeframe specified by him/her at the time the position is offered to the team. At least one of the suggested players must have either competed in the 2014 NOT or obtained at least 36 Open PQPs during 2013. (*See amendment to PQP figure for player.*)

From the list in 4.1, the ABF TC may endorse the pair or player which may be augmented and make a recommendation to the ABF MC on that basis. If the ABF TC does not endorse any of the suggestions, the team will be asked to provide an alternative list on the same basis as in 4.1. Should

the ABF TC again fail to endorse any of the suggested players, the ABF TC may make its own recommendation to the MC, or recommend to the MC that the offer to represent be withdrawn and passed to the next eligible team.

Subsequent Withdrawal of Team, Pair or Players

Should a pair or one or more players withdraw after the acceptance of the offer, ABF TR 4.4.2 will be applied.

If fewer than four eligible players of the original team remain after withdrawals, the team will be deemed to have withdrawn.

Should the team withdraw after acceptance of the offer, the MC may make any decision as to the procedure to be followed to determine its replacement.

Notwithstanding any of the above, if a withdrawal takes place after July 1, 2014, the MC may make any decision in relation to the composition of the team.

The ABF Tournament Regulations shall not bind the ABF MC if they are required to exercise the powers granted in 5.4.

Draft – November 23, 2013