

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD at Ciloms Airport Lodge, MELBOURNE 13th December 2014 at 10 am

1. PRESENT

Laurie Kelso (chair), David Morgan, Marcia Scudder, Eric Ramshaw, Sean Mullamphy.
Apologies: Peter Reynolds, Matthew McManus.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Guideline document for training international teams – PR ongoing.

3. PLAYOFFS

2015 Playoffs

Open/Women's

Entries are now open for the Open and Women's Playoffs, closing on 9th January, 2015.
System cards must be submitted by 15th January.

The venue is the Coogee Bay Hotel, as used previously.

4. FORMAT and DATES for PLAYOFFS from 2017

The format and tentative dates for the Open/Women's and Seniors' Playoffs were discussed following player feedback solicited via the ABF Website. Additional input garnered from the two meetings held at the Sydney Spring Nationals where the interested players had been afforded an opportunity to ask further questions, also proved beneficial.

The TC recommends that the Open Playoff be held alone and the Women's and Seniors' Playoffs to be held concurrently shortly after. This would allow the country's top women to participate in the Open Playoffs if they so wish. For the 2017 Playoffs, the tentative dates are: Open 12th November 2016, Women's/Seniors' 3rd December 2016. Note that 2016 will contain two Playoffs, and that the PQP cycle for the 2017 representative year will end with the Hans Rosendorff Teams.

The format recommended by the TC is as follows:

Playoff Format

Commencing with the 2017 representative selection process. [To be held in 2016, tentative dates: Open commencing 12/11/2016 and running for 7 days; Women's and Seniors' to run concurrently commencing 3/12/2016, running 5 days (for <6 entries) or 6 days (for 6-9 entries), or 7 days (for 10 or more entries)].

Open (assuming at least 10 teams entered)

Top 4 teams on team total PQPs after discounting (Division A) will gain automatic entry to the Q/F

Remainder of the field (Division B) will play as follows:

Sat/Sun a RR (or Swiss if numbers make a RR impossible) event to qualify 4 teams to the Q/F
Mon 64 boards of Q/F

Tues 32 boards of Q/F followed by 32 boards of S/F
Wed 64 boards of S/F
Thurs 64 boards of F
Fri 48 boards of F

Women's/Seniors'

If 10 or more teams enter a division, it will be run as for the Open

For 6-9 teams (more likely), the bottom 6 teams will constitute division B, with the remainder (0, 1, 2, or 3 teams constituting division A) gaining automatic entry to the S/F.

Sat/Sun RR qualifying
Mon 64 boards of S/F
Tues 48 boards of S/F
Wed 64 boards of F
Thurs 48 boards of F

For fewer than 6 teams, all teams play a double RR for 3 days commencing Saturday, qualifying 2 teams to a Final of 112 boards on Tue/Wed.

ABF MC has accepted this recommendation

5. 2015 SUMMER FESTIVAL

Following on from successful discussion sessions at the Spring Nationals, two forums will be held at the Summer Festival at lunchtime, the first on Thursday of the 1st week and the second on Wednesday of the 2nd week to discuss the issue of uniforms for International Representatives. Any players interested may attend and give their views.

Two trainee directors will be employed.

The prize awarded by the ABF of entry to the Yeh Cup will go to the highest placed eligible team (that wishes to take up the offer) in the SWPT/NOT. It may constitute 4, 5 or 6 players and augmentation is permitted following the guidelines in the Supplementary Regulations, or the team may add an NPC, but no further funding will result.

6. SWPT/NOT FORMAT

Further discussion of the format of the SWPT/NOT took place. It was proposed that, subject to further consideration, the TC finalise and then circulate widely a discussion paper on the format. Players would be invited to provide their views, and the paper would then be the subject of a forum at a future National Event.

Following a suggestion from SM, DM formulated a proposal for a SWPT Knockout event to be held concurrently with the SWPT Swiss. Both events would qualify teams for the NOT, with teams defeated in the SWPT KO dropping into the SWPT Swiss. Entry to the NOT would remain limited to eight teams, with the SWPT KO qualifying 2, 3 or 4 teams (see below) directly to the NOT. The SWPT Swiss would qualify the remaining 8-x teams to the NOT.

The number of teams qualifying directly from the SWPT KO to the NOT would depend on its entry. With 32 teams, four teams would qualify; with 24 teams, three would qualify; with 16 teams, two would qualify. Entries would be capped at 32. With fewer than 16 entries, the

event would not be viable. Play in the SWPT KO would commence on Monday, and cover three and a half days. Matches would be of 40 or 60 boards, with session times and boards the same as those for the SWPT Swiss. The SWPT Swiss would be played over five days with teams allowed to opt out at the end of day four.

There are several additional issues that need to be considered carefully if this proposal is to be viable. They include: seating rights of teams, seeding of the SWPT KO, whether teams that have already met in the SWPT KO can meet again in the SWPT Swiss, whether teams dropping into the SWPT Swiss should meet in their first match in the SWPT Swiss, and how players might fulfil their board requirements.

DM will draft a paper addressing the issues above for further, detailed consideration by the TC. If the proposal is considered viable, the TC will circulate the paper widely for consultation.

7. ANC TEAMS

The two-team policy adopted at both the 2013 and 2014 ANCs (and to apply to the 2015 ANC) has been met with considerable opposition from the players and the States. Various other options for decreasing the impact of a bye (for odd numbers of entrants in a Category) were considered. One suggestion was that the event be run with 4 x 16 board matches per day. This should mean that even when a bye was necessary, all players would play at least two matches per day. However, the timing for 4 x 16 board matches in a day is significantly longer than for 3 x 20 boards. So the possibility of 4 x 14 board matches was considered, but discarded as this significantly downgrades the tournament. The TC therefore recommends that from 2016 onwards, the format return to that in 2012, namely 3 x 20 board matches per day and if necessary, a bye. The draw for the second RR (and any subsequent RR) will be rearranged so that no team has two byes on the same day.

The ABF is sponsoring two pairs from each state to play in the Restricted Butler in 2015. Eligible pairs are those where both members of the partnership have fewer than 300 masterpoints as at January 1st, 2015. The process used to select these pairs remains the responsibility of the individual State.

ABF MC has accepted this recommendation

8. DROP-IN SCORES

There are several instances where losing teams from one event drop in to the concurrent Swiss Pairs event. These include the losing semi-finalists from the NWT/NST who may drop in to the National Swiss Pairs and the losing semi-finalists from the SNOT who may drop in to the DCOP. The GNOT also has teams dropping out of the KO section and into the Swiss teams section. The score assigned to drop-in pairs or teams needs to be seen as being fair to both the unit dropping in and to the remainder of the field. The TC recommends the adoption of the formula given in Appendix 1, but will seek detailed modelling from Peter Buchen.

ABF MC will await the final recommendation

9. LEADERS BUTLER

It was felt that there should be a consistent treatment of datums for Swiss Pairs. Some events are currently run with Leaders Butler, others not so. The TC recommends that the following protocol be used in all IMP-scored ABF Swiss Pairs events:

For events with 24 or more tables, scores from all tables will be used for the first n/3 rounds; the top half of the field for the second n/3 rounds, and the top 12 tables for the final n/3 rounds.

Peter Buchen has been asked to provide further input regarding the most desirable number of outlying scores to eliminate in each stage of the above calculation.

ABF MC will await the final recommendation

10. CALENDAR

The Territory Gold, Coffs Harbour and Swan River are scheduled with little time between them. While Coffs and Swan River in general draw from a different pool of players, Territory Gold could draw from both areas. Issues relating to the scheduling of these events in 2016 have been resolved to the satisfaction of all three Tournament Organisers, however a better long-term solution needs to be sought.

11. Next meeting:

6th March 2015. Location Sydney if Peter Buchen is asked to attend, otherwise Canberra or Melbourne.

APPENDIX 1

Drop-in Score (DIS) for units entering an event at some midway point.

1. Pairs events, and Teams events where drop-ins occur on just one round

Events scored by Victory Points:

Assuming an original entry of n units, a unit dropping into an event will be assigned a DIS equivalent to the greater of:

- i) the average score of the top $n/10$ (rounded up) units at the conclusion of the round before the drop-in occurred; and
- ii) the leader's score at the point of the drop-in minus j , where j is equal to 1.5 times the number of rounds still to be played.

The DIS will be rounded to the nearest 0 or 2 decimal places, as appropriate to the scoring units being used (0.5 and 0.005 rounded up, respectively).

Events scored by Matchpoints:

Assuming an original entry of n pairs, a pair dropping into an event will be assigned a DIS equivalent to the average score of the top $n/10$ (rounded up) pairs at the conclusion of the round before the drop-in occurred. The DIS will be rounded to the nearest 2 decimal places (0.005 rounded up).

2. Teams events with multiple drop-ins

A team dropping into an event will be assigned a DIS equivalent to the greater of:

- i) (assuming that drop-ins will occur on a total of x rounds),
in the x 'th round, DIS = leader's score
in the $x-1$ 'th round, DIS = 95% of leader's score
in the $x-2$ 'th round, DIS = 90% of leader's score
in the $x-3$ 'th round, DIS = 85% of leader's score, etc; and
- ii) the leader's score at the point of the drop-in minus j , where j is equal to 1.5 times the number of rounds still to be played.

The DIS will be rounded to the nearest 0 or 2 decimal places, as appropriate to the scoring units being used (0.5 and 0.005 rounded up, respectively).

Should it be necessary to assign a Swiss Point score for the unit (for example, for determining tie-breaking for the purposes of the draw), the following procedure will be implemented. For all subsequent rounds, the unit will be deemed to have a Swiss Point score for the rounds not played equivalent to that of the unit in $n/20$ 'th place (rounded up) at the conclusion of the round before the drop-in occurred.