

ABF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD at Ciloms Airport Lodge, MELBOURNE 6th March 2015 at 10:10 am

1. PRESENT

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

Apologies: Peter Reynolds.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Guideline document for training international teams – PR ongoing.

3. PLAYOFFS

2015 Playoffs

Open/Women's

The venue was good, but the side room did not afford sufficient space for 4 screened tables.

The successful Women's team of Barbara Travis - Candice Ginsberg - Margaret Bourke - Sue Lusk requested augmentation with Val Bilstoft - Leone Fuller. The TC affirms this choice. They also requested the appointment of David Appleton as their NPC. The TC recommends this choice.

The successful Open Team of Michael Wilkinson - Griff Ware - Nye Griffiths - Liam Milne - Michael Courtney - Paul Wyer is awaiting the results of the Seniors' Playoff to request an NPC.

As a general principal, the TC recommends that the entry fee for the playoffs should be dependent on the number of stages that each team plays (or for a Pairs year, that each pair plays).

Seniors'

A second seniors' team will be able to participate in the 2015 APBF. There is only a small window between the conclusion of the Seniors' Playoff and the closing date for the APBF. Expressions of interest will therefore be required by 24th March. Notification will be put on the ABF website and promulgated to all competitors in the Seniors' Playoff. Selection of the team will use a ranking based firstly on performance in the Playoff and secondly on Seniors' PQPs.

Decisions pending from the NZCBA may lead to a third spot being available for Australia in the APBF Seniors' Teams.

2016 Playoffs

The TC recommends that the Open Playoff be held separately from the Women's and Seniors', in time slots of 5-11 February and 12-17 March, respectively. This should not pose a problem for players as there will be neither a YEH cup, nor NEC tournament in 2016.

2017 Playoffs

The tentative dates are: Open 12th November 2016, Women's/Seniors' 3rd December 2016. There is some question as to the availability of the current venue at that time of the year. If it is not available, another venue would need to be found. It may be possible to locate the Playoffs out of Sydney.

Comments received at the 2015 Playoffs supported a longer SF stage. This has been addressed for 2017. More work has been done to put in place formats for the various Playoffs, dependent upon the number of teams entered. An attempt has been made to keep the length of the event at 6 days, commencing on Saturday, although in the case of very small fields this is not possible. The proposals also give reward in the format to teams which have accrued the most PQPs. A comprehensive outline is given in Appendix 1.

4. 2015 SUMMER FESTIVAL

SM reported that the numbers for the SWPT dropped by 20, but all other events were well attended except for the final weekend.

Some possible changes for 2016 include adjusting the events on the final Fri-Sun, putting the Mixed teams on Sat-Sun and the Swiss pairs on Sun, or perhaps eliminating play on the Sunday altogether.

Another possible change might be to align the various restricted Teams events with the Open Teams instead of, as currently, with the Women's and Seniors' Teams.

Some communication was received by SM regarding the format of the National non-Life Masters Teams where 14 teams played an 8 round Swiss movement. Towards the end of the event, the Swiss nature of the draw became distorted, because otherwise it would lead to teams playing each other for a second time. The final round did not see an optimum draw for the top placed teams.

The TC will consider the issue of format for events which are published as Swiss format but attract a sufficiently small number of entries, that problems with the draw can be predicted. It would appear that the minimum number of teams for a viable Swiss format event is about double the number of rounds.

5. CARRY-OVERS

A document was prepared by MM (Appendix 2) which formulated Carry-over scores for various event formats. The TC recommends that they be used for all ABF Licensed Events, but TOs may decide whether carry-over scores will be used in their events. If they decide to use them, then they should be computed according to the document which will be included in the General Regulations (the Carry-over for Teams format for the Playoffs is still under consideration).

6. ROUNDING

Where a Director or Appeals Committee awards a weighted score under Law 12C1c at IMP scoring, the net result on the board shall be rounded to the nearest IMP with 0.5 rounded away from zero (up if positive, down if negative). This will be included in the General Regulations.

7. SEATING RIGHTS

A document was prepared by MM (Appendix 3) which sets out Seating rights to be used for various event formats. This document will be included in the General Regulations.

8. ANC

2015

The format for the Women's and Seniors' Butlers will be dependent on the number of entries. A two stage event will only be held if there are more than 30 pairs entered.

The TC recommends that the VP scale for the Butler pairs (12 board rounds) should be that for 9 boards.

2016

The organising committee has a short list of possible venues, but this does not include any schools, so there will be no constraint on dates that use of a school would have imposed.

9. AUGMENTATION OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The MC is keen to increase the number of members in the TC. Many possibilities were considered and a short list has been submitted to the MC.

10. ABF DEALING ALGORITHM – IVY DAHLER PAIRS

Correspondence from Denis Upsall complained that the balance of points in the NS and EW directions was so uneven that this would have affected the result.

A very comprehensive reply was sent by NTCs, stating that the set of hands used in the event, while showing consistently higher average point for EW than NS, was still within the statistical expectation for a sample such as this.

11. NEXT MEETING

13th June 2015 in Sydney, part of a joint meeting with the MC.

APPENDIX 1

- The same format will apply to Open, Women's and Seniors' divisions.
- Only teams of 4 or 6 players will be accepted.
- Teams will be ranked based on the total PQPs of their members. At the close of entries, the 6 highest-ranked teams will qualify to play in the Playoff. If there are at least 2 additional entries, the next two highest-ranked teams will also qualify to play. The PQPs of any players added to the team after the close of entries will not alter the team's ranking.
- No more than 8 teams will qualify to the Playoff.
- Matches in any Semi-final or Final will be over 112 boards, played as 4 x 16 board stanzas on the first day and 3 x 16 board stanzas on the second.
- Carry-overs for head-to-head matches: if the two teams have previously played one another in a round robin qualifying stage, the higher-ranked team from the qualifying will have a carry-forward of 0.1 IMPs. Otherwise, the team with the team ranked higher on PQPs will have a carry-forward of 0.1 IMPs.

The exact format and length of the Playoff will be dependent on the number of entries:

3 entries – the highest-ranked team will qualify direct to the Final. The remaining teams play off in a Semi-Final.

Length of event – 4 days

4 entries – the highest-ranked team chooses their Semi-Final opponent from amongst the other entries, with the proviso that the second-ranked team may elect not to be chosen.

Length of event – 4 days

5 entries – the three highest-ranked teams qualify direct to the Semi-Finals. The teams ranked fourth and fifth playoff for the remaining Semi-Final position in a head-to-head match over 64 boards. The highest-ranked team chooses their Semi-Final opponent from amongst the other semi-finalists, with the proviso that the second-ranked team may elect not to be chosen.

Length of event – 5 days

6 entries – the two-highest ranked teams qualify direct to the Semi-Finals. The remaining 4 teams playoff for the other Semi-Final positions. Two options are proposed:

Option 1 – the four teams play a double round robin of 16 board matches over two days.

Option 2 – the third-ranked team chooses their opponent from amongst the other entries, with the proviso that the fourth-ranked team may elect not to be chosen. Head-to-head matches are played over 112 boards.

The highest-ranked team chooses their Semi-Final opponent from amongst the other semi-finalists, with the proviso that the second-ranked team may elect not to be chosen.

Length of event – 6 days

8 entries – the two-highest ranked teams qualify direct to the Semi-Finals. The remaining 6 teams playoff for the other Semi-Final positions in a double round robin of 12 board matches.

The highest-ranked team chooses their Semi-Final opponent from amongst the other semi-finalists, with the proviso that the second-ranked team may elect not to be chosen.

Length of event – 6 days

APPENDIX 2

CARRY-OVERS

Carry-overs to subsequent stages may apply for ABF Licensed Events at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser. For ABF Events, whether carry-overs will apply will be determined by the ABF Tournament Committee.

If carry-overs are to be applied, the following procedures are recommended:

i) Matchpoint Pairs events:

$C = (M * ft) / (2 * qt)$ – rounded to the nearest 0.01 matchpoints (MPs) where:

C = the pair's carry-over score in MPs for the subsequent stage

M = the pair's total MP score in the previous stage

ft = the value of a top in matchpoints in the subsequent stage

qt = the value of a top in matchpoints in the previous stage

The difference in carry-over between the first and last qualifiers will be limited to a maximum of $2 * ft$ multiplied by the number of sessions in the subsequent stage (Cmax). Should the formula results in carry-overs greater than Cmax, all carry-over scores will be reduced by a factor of Cmax/Cfirst, where Cfirst is the leader's carry-over using the above formula.

ii) ANC Interstate Teams Championship:

- one-tenth of the difference in scores following the qualifying round robins

iii) Australian Butler Pairs Championship

- where an event is held in two stages, each pair will carry-forward 25% of their VP score to the Final Stage.

iv) Australian Teams Playoffs

a) Pairs format: when there are two stages, each qualifying pair will carry over (rounded to 2 decimal places, 0.005 rounded up):

75% of its Stage 1 VP score against pairs who qualified to Stage 2; plus

25% of its Stage 1 VP score against pairs who failed to qualify to Stage 2

b) Teams format:

still to be determined

v) Swiss teams events followed by finals series:

The higher ranked team will have a carry-over of 1 IMP for every 1 VP they finished ahead of their opponent after the qualifying, multiplied by x, where:

x = 1, if the higher ranked team defeated the lower ranked team when they played in the qualifying;

$x = 0.75$, if the teams tied when they played in the qualifying or if they did not play one another in the qualifying; or

$x = 0.50$, if the higher ranked team lost to the lower ranked team when they played in the qualifying.

vi) Team events after qualifying stage:

In the final series of teams events subsequent to a qualifying phase in which all teams have competed, the higher ranked team will carry-over 0.1 IMPs in cases where no other carry-over was applied, or an additional 0.1 IMPs where the original calculation of the carry-over formula results in an exact number of IMPs.

APPENDIX 3

SEATING RIGHTS

1) Swiss events – seating rights are determined by the toss of a coin. The team with seating rights may choose whether to sit first or to have choice of opponents.

2) Double round robins, quadruple round robins, etc. – the team named first in the draw will have choice of opponents in the odd numbered round robins. Choice of opponents will be reversed for the corresponding match in the next round robin.

3) Single round robins, triple round robins, etc. – in the first round robin, seating will be blind, ie. each captain will post their line-up without knowing the line-up of their opponents. For subsequent round robins the procedure in (2) will be followed.

4a) Seating rights in head-to-head matches:

i) in finals series matches subsequent to a qualifying phase in which all teams have competed, the team which finished higher in the qualifying phase will have seating rights. (*Comment: this mirrors the procedures in many sports where the better performing team often gets “home ground” advantage for finals.*)

ii) in other circumstances, seating rights will be determined by the toss of a coin.

4b)

- Head-to-head matches with an even number of stanzas: the team with seating rights may choose to sit first in either the odd or even stanzas.

- Head-to-head matches with an odd number of stanzas: the team with seating rights selects a stanza in which they wish to have choice of opponents. The other team then selects a different stanza in which they wish to have choice of opponents. The selection then alternates for the remaining stanzas.