

Tournament Secretary's Report

BFACT AGM, 21st October, 2007

Each year BFACT is responsible for state-level championship and selection events within the ACT. In the past year we have run open teams, pairs, Swiss pairs and individual events, a 'multi-pairs' event, a women's pairs event, the Interclub Teams, and selection events for our ANC Open, Women's, Senior and Youth Teams, Open and Women's ANC Butler Stage II qualifiers, as well as various events to select the three BFACT teams that will contest the GNOT finals later this year.

Since the last AGM, BFACT representative teams have had excellent results, with the Canberra 1 Team winning the 2006 GNOT and the ACT Open Team, captained by Ian Thomson, winning the 2007 Open Interstate Championships.

We have also had several members represent Australia internationally in 2007: at the PABF Championships in Bandung, Indonesia, Margaret Bourke was part of the Women's team and Nye Griffiths and Griff Ware were part of the winning Junior Team. Liz Havas was part of the Women's team at the Venice cup in Shanghai, China; at the same time David Hoffman was non-playing captain of the Seniors Bowl team. Sebastian Yuen and Laura Ginnan took part in the Junior test matches played against New Zealand youth players at the New Zealand Nationals.

Issues encountered while running BFACT events during the past year and some potential changes for the next year include:

Directors

In 2007 two events were scheduled for dates on which our primary tournament director, Sean Mullamphy, was unavailable. This is not preferable, and as far as possible we normally try to avoid such scheduling conflicts. Fortunately, in both cases more than adequate replacement directors were found, but these events highlighted the current shortage of active high-level directors within the ACT. BFACT has reviewed the director accreditation process and intends to investigate ways to promote a wider base of directing staff within the ACT.

VP-scales

In recent years our most important events have been scored on a scale of capped net IMPs, rather than the common conversion to VPs. Theoretically, capped net IMPs is a more accurate way of scoring, less affected by chance, because the summation of score totals has greater precision. However, the practical advantage, while not being insignificant, is relatively minor. As a result of significant opposition to the more radical net IMP method, during 2007 we reverted to VP-scale scoring for all events except the ANC Open Team qualifying. It is up to the incoming committee to determine the method of scoring events during 2008, but my personal suggestion is for the 2007 situation to continue. That is, standard VP scales be used for all events except the Open Team qualifying. A survey taken of the participants in the Open Team qualifying final suggests

that in that event players are accepting of scoring by capped net IMPs.

2008 Calendar

The 2008 CBC calendar, which includes many BFACT events, is currently in its final draft stage. Several of the more minor events categorised as BFACT events during 2007 (such as the multi pairs and Swiss pairs) are likely to revert to being CBC events for 2008 onwards. This is in part due to probable changes in the ANC program for future years, meaning that a BFACT branded event will no longer be nominally required to select pairs for the ANC Interstate Pairs. The more major BFACT events will continue, mostly in the same form as they had in 2007. A recent survey of the participants in the State Open Teams has given support for a proposed minor reorganisation of that event: the event will be extended to 8 weeks in total, however the 3 week consolation President's Plate, which is contested by all but the top 4 teams, will be effectively split off into a separate event, allowing teams to reform and new teams to enter. The hope is that the flexibility allowed by this new arrangement will encourage greater participation in the event as a whole.

GNOT Selection

Selection of GNOT teams is an ongoing administrative issue. For the past several years, BFACT has selected three teams to go to the GNOT final: Canberra 1, Canberra 2 and an ACT Provincial/Restricted team. Canberra 1 is selected by the CBC Knockout Teams event and this arrangement will continue. The Provincial/Restricted team will next year be selected by a 1-day teams event, similar in style to the CBC Special Sunday Teams events, but with restricted entry. Such a restricted event has not been run in the ACT in recent years, and it is hoped that Canberra-based players with limited masterpoints will support this new event.

The selection of the Canberra 2 team has suffered a lack of player support for several years now. In 2007 a home-based knockout competition was used to select Canberra 2, with the added purpose of creating a novel event, more social in nature than other tournaments. As hoped, most of the matches were relaxed, social affairs, but we received fewer entries than anticipated, and a mixed reaction from participants makes it likely that the event will not continue. At this stage we plan to select only two teams to go to the 2008 GNOT finals: Canberra 1 and ACT Provincial/Restricted.

Broadly, state-level tournament bridge within the ACT is enjoying the ongoing support of players. As always, however, strategies for attracting new players and establishing/adapting new events need consideration.

Griff Ware

2007 BFACT Tournament Secretary