

## **Match and Tournament Committee**

### **Report to Victorian Bridge Association Annual General Meeting, 2013**

Members: David Morgan (Chair)  
Laura Ginnan (Acting Secretary)  
Leigh Gold  
Simon Hinge  
Laurie Kelso  
Arthur Robbins  
Paula Schroor  
Justin Stark  
Ben Thompson

1. All the members of the Match and Tournament Committee (MTC) in 2012 continued their work on the Committee in 2013. However, Simon Hinge retired as Chair after three years in the position. Paula Schroor, previously Secretary, also stood down. Both gave generously of their time and expertise and I thank them for their valuable contributions.
2. The MTC continued its past practice of combining face-to-face meetings with discussions and decisions being made via email when necessary before the next meeting. In addition, the Committee's regional member (Arthur Robbins) was able to participate in meetings via Skype. Four face-to-face meetings were held and the minutes were made available on the VBA website after being considered by Council. As well, information on issues of interest to members was made available through contributions to the VBA Bulletin and/or through notices on the VBA website.
3. The key issues dealt with by the Committee in 2013 were:
  - The introduction of the VQP (Victorian Qualifying Point) system to select teams to contest the playoff to select the team to represent Victoria in the Australian National Championships (see paragraph 4 below).
  - The introduction of the Victoria Cup, the competition that is open to any team of players in Victoria. Early rounds have been played online – a first for organised bridge in Australia – with the finals to be played face-to-face in the VBA clubrooms on 14-15 December.
  - Ensuring compliance with the principles underlying the regulations governing the selection of the contenders for the playoff to select the team to represent Victoria in the Australian National Championships. This issue arose when members of the pennant-winning Jacobs team were unable to play in the playoff because of international commitments to represent Australia, and then two pairs from the Pennant runners-up were forced to withdraw, one at very short notice because of a medical emergency.

- The introduction of feedback forms for all convenors and directors of Congresses to complete to ensure that the VBA, as state body, is aware of any issues that may need to be followed up.
- The introduction of the new WBF victory point scales for all VBA events from 1 May 2013.
- The introduction of a rolling calendar for the forthcoming year so as to enable better planning by players. This includes allowing Congress convenors to request dates immediately after holding their 2013 Congress.
- Providing views to the ABF on the practice of allowing the host state to include a second state team to avoid byes at the ANC, and on the new ABF system card and alerting and announcement procedures.
- Responding to a request from Brian Morgan, from the Rye Bridge Club, to allow a team representing the so-called “Southern” region to participate in the regional teams championship and in the selection for the Victorian Open team (see paragraph 5 below).

4. The **VQP system** will change the way teams representing Victoria are selected. Previously the Open team was chosen from a playoff between the winner of the Pennant (the State Teams Championship) and the Butler Pairs trials. In 2014 the team will be chosen from teams formed by players who have won VQPs in state and/or Congress events. Assuming the process works well – and we are confident it will – then VQPs will also be used to select contestants for the women’s and seniors’ teams in future years.

5. The request for the inclusion of a team from the Mornington Peninsula clubs (and some nearby clubs) could not be accepted as proposed. This is because many of the clubs are within the Melbourne metropolitan area, according to the state government definition of Melbourne (which the VBA uses to ensure there can be no suggestion that it is favouring certain interests). However, this prompted the MTC to begin work on a proposal to develop a selection process that would allow a team representing other Metropolitan clubs to compete in the Pennant Round-of-Six, in the same way the winner of the regional teams championship does. This will require some work by the metropolitan clubs in conjunction with the MTC but the VBA is committed to the idea in principle.

6. I’d like to thank the other members of the Committee for their work and support during the year, especially Laura Ginnan for filling in temporarily as Secretary.

David Morgan  
 Chair  
 Match and Tournament Committee  
 VBA  
 3 November, 2013