

President's Tens – Player Meeting (v2 = 21 Feb 2012)

Most of the players in the President's Tens met at VCC after play on Sunday 12 Feb 2012.

We discussed (and agreed on) three issues:

- (a) there was a clear preference (unanimous except for 1 vote against) just to **play three full days (ie 6 games/day) rather than continuing to spread the event over four days**. Reasons for included that this avoided workers having to take another day off work; one less day of accommodation cost for players, officials & referees; and that in practice players arrived on the night before and left the evening after, rather than using the half days to travel. Reasons against include that the third day will be tight, given the need for a presentation at the end of play before players et al depart for flights etc; and it removes the opportunity to practice on the Friday morning, which will create demand to be able to practice the day before the event. Six games/day would still require 8-9 rounds/day, so it would be good to bring forward the next day's first round at the end of Days 1 & 2 if the entire round can start before (say) 1730, to reduce the pressure at the end of Day 3.
There was also no clear preference re which working day should remain (11 voted to retain Friday, 9 to retain Monday, 7 either day/not fussed).
- (b) there was a clear preference for **placings to be decided by (a) wins, then (b) net hoops, then (c) who beat whom** (I didn't manage to record the actual vote, but it was better than 2/3 for). This affirms the current ACA Regulations for Tournaments – Association Croquet: Regulation 19(a)(5). Play-offs would have got more support if there was enough time to play them, but players accepted that this wasn't feasible – especially under a 3 day format.
- (c) **Brian Reither had done a great job running a very smooth tournament**, amid various "helpful" suggestions. The referee rotation was applauded, despite occasional abuses.

Five further issues were raised with me after the meeting (my apologies in particular to Elizabeth Allen, who couldn't hear/join in during the meeting). These are worth reporting, but did not get discussed or voted on at the meeting:

- (d) several players (and Brian Reither) wanted the **draw done beforehand**. This will be reinforced under a 3 day format, when there will be less time before play on the first day. Brian would be happy with at least 3 days before, but the sensible timing would be the weekend before, with appropriate precautions to ensure that the draw is seen as "fair".
- (e) several players prefer that **both rounds are random** (ie vary the order you play opponents in the first and second rounds). This would require 2 random draws for each Ten.
- (f) several players **objected to mainly/always going either first or second in each game** (mainly players who had drawn either 1 or 10 in a Ten, but wasn't unanimous). They wanted to flip a coin in the first game so that going first is random, but then reverse in the second against that opponent. This requires more record keeping by the TM and players, but was a strong preference by at least 5 players.
- (g) several players asked that **ACA make the initial selection/invitations earlier than December**, to assist with planning accommodation etc. These players accepted that this increased the chance that WR could change between initial invitations, subsequent invitations to fill non-acceptances, and the actual event. They felt that **early November** would be better.
- (h) one player (not a Tasmanian) objected to the clash between the President's Tens and the Tasmanian AC Open, and felt **ACA should schedule its (new) events to avoid long standing State events**. Reactions so far since tend to feel that clashes are inevitable, especially between AC and GC, but there should be a top down flow from WCF, then International (eg Trans-Tasman), then ACA, and then States.