

Tuesday Night Proposal

Goals

- To continue/complement the recent work to increase profile and numbers of the Tuesday night session
- To improve the strength of our congress/competitive players (this proposal is only one aspect of what should be a multi-faceted approach)
- To preserve the existing aspects of the session enjoyed by players not competitively focused

Proposal

1. Create a transparent volunteer steering group of interested players who normally play at the Tuesday night session by combination of invitation and self-nomination.
2. Style the Tuesday night session in internal and external communications as a Peninsula Challenge session - trying to promote it as an attractive regular session for competitive players without discouraging any players.
3. The steering group (with the concurrence of the Tournament Committee) employ a professional player (or players), such as Johnno Newman or Shane Harrison, on a regular basis (with exceptions if necessary due to other events) to:
 - a. Direct the session (playing or non-playing at their choice)
 - b. Deliver a 15 minute pre-session talk for those interested on a topic/theme agreed with the steering group along the lines of how to compete more successfully at congress and higher levels
 - c. Lead a post-session review/discussion with those interested of the session's more interesting hands (no more than 30 minutes)
4. In trying to identify and recruit the appropriate professional player the steering group considers
 - a. The person's capacity to professionally direct the session and use the club's technology
 - b. The extent to which the professional player might also bring/attract other players to the session/club
 - c. The extent of the budget the club committee authorises for the above services
 - d. Whether the players who benefit from the pre and post-session talks should contribute an additional fee if the club committee's approved budget is inadequate to lure an appropriate person
 - e. Reverting back to the committee if it finds the budget inadequate
5. Given that playing commitments in selection events are likely to intrude in any professional player's availability, there will be Tuesdays where the player will be unable to attend, and reversion to a club playing director is required.
6. It is understood that there are already arrangements to continue the monthly Swiss Pairs Tuesday night lesson with Sue Falkingham as director and coordinator of luring celebrity players to lead discussion on boards at the end of the first three matches. This is consistent with the proposal and should continue as planned. Some if not all of the celebrity players may be happy to give a 15 minute talk before Swiss Pairs, or

at least to respond to a set of standardish discussion points the steering group provides.

7. The Padman Trophy is played on the first Tuesday night of each month and is currently convened and directed by John Rogers. The proposed pre-session and post-session talks could be undertaken without affecting the Padman Trophy sessions and doing this would help establish the changes as being session-wide. A key issue for Tournament Committee may be how it would affect John Rogers' directing. If John wishes to continue directing on this night and/or the Tournament Committee does not want to disturb the existing Padman Trophy arrangements, then the Padman nights could also be excluded from the proposal.
8. The steering group, if it wished, could run its own discussion before and after the session on Padman Trophy nights (if they were to be excluded) and on nights where the professional player is unavailable.
9. The steering group provide one or more persons to take responsibility to open up and close up the club room on nights when a professional player/director is used.
10. We review back to the Club committee the above after a period of roughly three months to report if it appears to be meeting its goals and how, if it continues, it could be improved.

Next steps

Following discussion with and favourable feedback from several Tuesday night players who compete in congresses, I understand the next step is for Tournament Committee to consider the matter prior to it being submitted to the Club Committee for approval and an appropriate budget authorisation.

David Farmer
1 April 2017