

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2005 SUMMER FESTIVAL

By John Scudder

You may have read that 2005 will be the last time that I convene the Summer Festival. Before I depart I wish to address a number of concerns about the format that have been presented to me over time. Unfortunately I cannot address every concern. If you are interested, the details of the changes can be read on the second page of this document. If I am wrong, the new convener can put it back to where it was in earlier years.

The schedule for the 2005 Summer Festival will be :-

Jan 2005	Tue 11	Wed 12	Thu 13	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16	Mon 17	Tue 18	Wed 19	Thu 20	Fri 21	Sat 22	Sun 23	Mon 24
Rydgges Lakeside Canberra	Warm Up Pairs	National Seniors Teams 3 x 20 boards / day			Womens & Seniors Finals		South West Pacific Teams 4 x 16 boards / day except Wednesday & Friday					Mixed Teams		
					Walk-In Pairs	Walk-In Pairs						National Open Teams 4 x 16 boards / day		
												Novelty Pairs		
National Convention Centre	National Womens Teams 3 x 20 boards / day				Seniors Womens Mens Mixed & 0-149 Pairs	Swiss Pairs	South West Pacific Teams 4 x 16 boards / day except Wednesday & Friday							
	National Non-Life Masters Teams 3 x 20 boards / day except Friday											SWPT Category Finals		
	National 0-149 Teams 3 x 20 boards / day except Friday													

Details of the changes

The principal concerns that I have heard are that

- we don't like playing in side rooms;
- new players are daunted by the term "Non-Life Masters Teams";
- two sessions are not enough to decide a winner of a national championship;
- there should be play earlier in the mornings;
- we can't socialise with the players at the other venue in the SW Pacific Teams;
- we can't have a nice dinner with a few drinks and then play bridge at 8pm;
- the knockout matches in the NOT are too short;
- we don't like playing the NOT when there are no other players around;
- with two venues, there should be finals for the category trophies.

So for 2005 I have implemented the following changes

- 1) There will not be any play at the Hyatt Canberra Hotel. All play will be at either the National Convention Centre or Rydges Lakeside Hotel. However the Hyatt continues to offer its superb facilities to bridge players at the discounted rate of \$195 per room.
- 2) There will be four concurrent events played from Wednesday 12th January to Friday 14th January. Session times will be 11:30, 15:00 and 20:00.
 - a) The Non-Life Masters Teams will be played at the National Convention Centre over eight 20 board matches concluding at 17:30 on the Friday;
 - b) The 0-149 Teams with 0-49, 0-99 & 0-149 master point sections. This will be a separate event to the Non-Life Masters Teams. No matches will be played against the Non-Life Masters contestants. However, there will be matches amongst the three master point levels. The eight 20 board matches will be played at the National Convention Centre finishing at 17:30 on the Friday.
 - c) The National Womens Teams will be played at the National Convention Centre over nine rounds of 20 board matches concluding at 22:30 on the Friday. This event qualifies 6 teams to the second stage.
 - d) The National Seniors Teams will be played at Rydges Lakeside Canberra over nine rounds of 20 board matches concluding at 22:30 on the Friday. This event qualifies 6 teams to the second stage.
- 3) The Australian Open Pairs will not be held in 2005.
- 4) A multi-pairs event will be held on Saturday 15th January. It will be played over three sessions of 21 boards at 11:00, 15:00 & 20:00 at the National Convention Centre. This event will incorporate the Australian Mens Pairs and the Australian Mixed Pair as well as extending to three new events, a Seniors Pairs, a Womens Pairs and a 0-149 Pairs. Each event will be an independent movement.
- 5) The matches in the South West Pacific Teams will be shortened to 16 boards with four matches per day. The session times will be 10:30, 13:30, 16:00 and 20:30. There will be no play on Wednesday evening giving players an opportunity to socialise and / or dine in style. This means that there will be 17 rounds or 272 boards, 8 boards less than in 2004. There will be two fields, playing at Rydges Lakeside Hotel and the National Convention Centre. After round 15 (which concludes at 22:30 on the Thursday) the top eight teams from each field will proceed to the National Open Teams. Lower placed teams from each venue will proceed to a final for each of the categories: Veterans, Seniors, Mixed, Womens, Country, 0-149 and Youth. If no teams qualify for the NOT in the Best ACT and Best Zone 7 categories, there will be finals for these categories as well. All teams that do not qualify for the various finals will play two more rounds of the SW Pacific Teams on the Friday. Withdrawal from the event after round 15 by any non-finalist team will affect its finishing place.
- 6) All rounds in the NOT will be 64 board matches each taking one day. The Round of Sixteen will start at 10:00 on Friday 21st January. The contestants will be the eight leading teams from each venue at the end of round 15 of the SW Pacific Teams.