

## **Augmentation of Australian Representative Women's Team for 2012**

On Saturday 19 May 2012 the Management Committee of the Australian Bridge Federation considered this issue.

It was noted that the winning team was a team of four who are required under the Tournament Regulations to augment to a team of six. The winning team chose a pair composed of two players who had played on the same team in the playoffs. The chosen players did not play in the Finals and there was no Semi-Final this year. An argument was presented to the Management Committee based on regulation 17(b) of the Supplementary Regulations that the additional pair should have been chosen from the other team that contested the Final of the Women's Playoff.

Supplementary Regulation 17(b) reads (in part):

*"17(b) A team placed first in the 2012 playoffs will be offered the right to represent Australia at target events. If only two pairs from team one wish to attend a target event those players may make an ordered short list of additional pairs to be drawn from those pairs that played in the semi-finals or finals of the playoffs."*

The Management Committee had before it an Opinion from Russell Harms, Barrister, Anthony Mason Chambers. It was his view that:

Supplementary Regulation 17(b) does not apply to augmentation of a four person team.

It is his opinion that Tournament Regulation 4.2.3, which reads as follows, therefore applies alone.

*"4.2.3. After the Australian Playoffs*

*If a four-member team is successful in the Australian Playoffs, they must augment to a team of six. The team shall prepare an ordered short-list of eligible pairs for submission to the ABFTC. The ABFTC will then make a recommendation to the ABF Management Committee for endorsement."*

The only definition of the term "eligible pair" in the Tournament Regulations is that found in Regulation 26. There can be no doubt that both members of the pair sought to be added to the team meet the eligibility requirements of Regulation 26.

Relying on this opinion the Management Committee has decided by majority to ratify the selection of the pair by the winning team.

Keith McDonald



President, ABF

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