

The President's Column

by David Campbell



At the board meeting held in Lincoln City I had the honor and privilege of being elected the new president of the ACC. I want to thank each and every one of you who took the time to congratulate and wish me luck since then.

At some point in all of our cribbage careers we found our way to the American Cribbage Congress. We all joined for a variety of reasons—competition, desire to play better, meet new people, or just wanted to try something new.

When I first joined I was interested in playing the best cribbage players throughout the country. I was very lucky during my start in the ACC and made the All American team in year one. As the year finished out I had made quite a few new friends and was surprised how easy this game was. In this first of what I hope will be many stories and personalities I have come across, I want to tell you just a little bit about one of the first acquaintances I ever made in the ACC. He was a sharply dressed man who wore lots of jewelry and loved telling stories. Many of you who have been around our great organization for anytime already know I am talking about **Bill Medeiros**.

After I won my first tournament, upon arriving home I had a call from Bill congratulating me. A few weeks later I was lucky enough to get a 29-hand. The following week I showed up at the next tour-

ney, and he had a plaque made for me displaying the 29-hand. As the year went on, we talked more and more weekly and ultimately became great friends. I sat and listened almost daily to all of Bill's stories about people he had met or things he had done or the horrible losses he recently had at cribbage. Going into the second year, I was still amazed how easy this game was and I figured that in the following year I may possibly be number one in the country. Bill sat and listened to all my boasting, never doubting, how I would soon become the king of the ACC.

As year two began, I started losing and losing and losing. One day finally, when I was discouraged, Bill said, "You know what I wanted to tell you a year ago? This game is not really as easy as you thought." But he knew I wouldn't believe that I was going to possibly lose a lot with the hot streak I started on. He was correct, as usual, and I learned over time that for most of us cribbage players the game is very streaky. You will go for weeks and weeks winning a lot and then you will start losing in horrible fashion week after week.

During the second year Bill decided he wanted me to be on the BOD. He went from Grass Roots club to Grass Roots club nightly in Massachusetts promoting his friend for votes on the ballot for the BOD. I again was very lucky, and because of such a dear friend I finished 25th in that election. Bill went on to become one of my

closest friends I have ever had, and today if he was still with us would be prouder than anyone of me becoming president.

The moral of this story is when trying anything new you may go in with goals and ideas but because of people and personalities, things change. As I sat at my first tourney I didn't care about meeting anyone; I just wanted to play and win at cribbage! As it turned out I now have hundreds of close friends throughout the country and cannot even fathom what my life would be without joining the ACC. With all that said, I promise to always do what is best for the ACC and will do my best to help our wonderful organization again to start to grow.

Over the last nine years our president has been **Jeanne Hofbauer**. I have had the privilege of becoming close friends with all the Hofbauers. Both Roy and Jeanne love this organization immensely, and each have dedicated more than twenty years trying to help it grow in anyway possible. None of us can even fathom how many things over the years these two have done for us all and our wonderful organization. Please take time to thank them both for all they have done and, I am sure, will continue to do. During the last nine years Jeanne wrote her column and told us monthly that we have to be nice to each other. This is without question one of the biggest things Jeanne accomplished. Our group has less and less people being driven away after joining our organization because of her. We have learned to help and welcome new players to Grass Roots and must continue to do so. I want to thank both Jeanne and Roy for everything they have done for me, and I am positive I will rely on them

BOD Meeting Quick Takes

- New ACC officers:
President **David Campbell**
VP-Marketing **Paul Gregson**
VP-Policy **Valerie Sumner**
VP-Operations **Terry Weber**
VP-Competition **David Aiken**
Other candidates for the various officer positions were **James Morrow**, **Keith Widener**, **Patrick Barrett**, and **Rick Allen**.
- Beginning January 1, all tournament flyers and publicity pieces must include the ACC's URL.
- Grand National 38 was awarded to North Conway NH for 2019, to be directed by **David Campbell**.

both for advice for many years to come.

Over the next couple of years you can expect some new things from the ACC. A new website is in the works. Automated tourney reports will make everyone's job easier and be more timely. Marketing is going to be a huge theme, and we will need each and every one of you to help to be successful. A pin will be awarded instead of a certificate for 28-hands and 29-hands. *Cribbage World* will become much more colorful in the next few months. Plus many, many more things that I will share as more info and time allows.

In closing I just want to say if you have any ideas or suggestions to make our organization better, please contact me or any BOD member. All BOD members want our wonderful organization to be the best in the world, and all are going to work to make sure it is around thirty years from now.

Thank you all again. **CW**