

American Cribbage Congress
Board of Director's Meeting
January 24, 2002
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino
Reno, Nevada

Executive VP Syl Lulinski called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

He introduced Jeanne Hofbauer as interim recording secretary.

He requested a change in format of the roll call because there were nine new members seated for this meeting. Members introduced themselves and stated which region they represented and where they lived. 24 members were present with one absence (excused).

Present were: Paul Barnes, Pat Barrett, Joe Bernard, George Bickford, Dwight Christiansen, DeLynn Colvert, Heidi Glashan, Larry Hassett, Rollie Heath, Sharon Hejtmanek, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Jim Hornbacher, Bob Julian, Al Lindner, Syl Lulinski, Ron Morgan, Cathy Perkins, Joan Rein, Larry Samet, Todd Schaefer, Phyllis Schmidt, Jeff Shimp, and Bob Wikstrom

Absent: Jim Ready

Also present: Fred McGibney, Treasurer

Roster changes were discussed and noted. Secretary will mail corrected roster out.

As an introduction to the meeting Syl then talked about the past, present and future of the ACC. He joined the BoD in 1984, and there are three other members presently serving from that time: Jeff Shimp, Delynn Colvert and Bob Julian. In 1987 there was the first election of officers, and he was elected Executive VP. Maxine Maddox was general secretary, and a short time later Joan Rein replaced her. At this time he asked us to express our gratitude to her for all her years of service as recording secretary. Syl also wanted to recognize two others; Eugene Mikulsky for his time and dedication as Grass Roots Commissioner and Paul Hatcher for his work and contribution as Vice President of Policy, Chairman of the Ethics Committee and for his work on the ACC manual. Syl then read a list of 122 past and present BoD members. He listed some of the accomplishments of this diverse group of personalities, and the changes made over the years by "team work": Refinement and improvement of the MRP system, the MRP award system, BoD elections, rule book, tournament directors information, the change from one tournament commissioner to 3 regional tournament commissioners with one national commissioner, TOC participation & location, judges program, development and refinement of Grass Roots program, improved Membership Secretary's position, vast improvement of Cribbage World magazine, establishment of the Ethics Committee, scheduling of the Grand National tournaments on a regional rotation, and establishment of the ACC manual. He finished by reminding us that when we work together with teamwork and unity, look at what can be accomplished. He asked us to put aside regional and personal biases for what is ultimately good for the entire ACC.

The minutes of the last meeting held on February 1, 2001 were reviewed and corrections noted. Joan will make corrections and then send them to Jeanne for distribution. Cathy Perkins moved to accept minutes, seconded by Syl.Lulinski, accepted with no nays

(At this time we departed from the agenda)

Paul Barnes requested time to discuss cancellation of the BoD meeting scheduled on September 21, 2001. He stated that there was nothing in the policy manual allowing for the meeting to be cancelled. Syl stated that neither did the manual prohibit BoD meetings to be cancelled. Syl gave a list of other things that were cancelled because of the events of Sept 11, 2001 and it's aftermath. He said it was an Executive Committee decision, influenced by the cancellation of eight out of ten of the Western Region members. Paul then stated that if there is a quorum,

there should be a meeting. Discussion then followed of the correct definition of a quorum. Bob Julian stated that the Executive Committee is empowered to make such decisions between meetings.

Fred McGibney then gave the Financial Report.

He stated that the combined ACC & Grass Roots program were in good shape financially. The budget for 2002 projects a \$3011 loss, but that that should not alarm the BoD because we have substantial assets and this is a modest deficit. He asked us to be aware that we have "pricing power"; the ability to increase income at anytime by raising dues and sanctioning fees without adverse impact upon the membership. There was then discussion involving the Grass Roots software line item, and whether it belonged as an ACC item instead of a GR item. Fred said that since the ACC was paying for half the cost of the software program, that is was appropriate. Joan then discussed the cost of the program. She said that the cost was \$12,900 and that \$15,000 had been approved. She estimated that needed additions and changes will bring the cost up to \$16,900. Thereafter there will only be maintenance charges. There was then discussion about the Grass Roots funds being shown separately even when the funds are combined. Joan suggested they be documented separately to keep track of Grass Roots costs and income. A question arose about the Grass Roots funds being restricted. Al Linder thanked Fred for all his work on behalf of the ACC. George Bickford made a motion to adopt the budget, seconded by Cathy Perkins, accepted with no nays.

BoD then discussed the accountant's draft of 1-22-02 that Fred had distributed. Fred wanted to draw our attention to three of the recommendations:

1. Our organization ultimately should have a centralized office that controls it's financial administration
2. There should be a separation of duties for membership secretary regarding the membership billing and collection functions
3. Between this meeting and June 30th, he will physically combine ACC & GR funds so that in terms of accounting it will be a "combined entity".

There was discussion regarding the filing of a Form 990T to report unrelated business income, which refers to advertising in **Cribbage World**. The accounting firm recommends filing amended returns for the last three years regarding this issue. BoD to go over the accountant's letter and make decision at the next meeting.

Joe Bernard, Chairman of the Elections Committee then read the nominations for election of officers of the Executive Board:

One nomination for President: *DeLynn Colvert*

Syl Lulinski moved nominations be closed, seconded by Jeff Shimp, accepted with no nays

One nomination for Executive Vice President: *Syl Lulinski*

George Bickford moved nominations be closed, seconded by Rollie Heath, accepted with no nays

One nomination for Vice President of Policy: *Bob Wikstrom*

George Bickford moved nominations be closed, seconded by Joe Bernard, accepted with no nays

One nomination for Vice President of Operations: *Bob Julian*

Ron Morgan moved nominations be closed, seconded by Larry Hassett, accepted with no nays.

Nomination for Member at Large: *Jim Ready*. Nominated from floor: *George Bickford*

Joe Bernard moved nominations be closed, seconded by Larry Hassett

Results of vote: George Bickford elected as Member at Large

DeLynn Colvert talked about the National Champion Award. It has been upgraded and he will bring it to the Grand National Tournament for display. Motion was made to continue the award for another year by DeLynn Colvert, seconded by Pat Barrett, accepted with no nays.

Jeanne Hofbauer reported on the progress of the Life Master Star Award. The BoD had approved a proposal at the February 2001 meeting for awarding watches to members that have earned over 10,000 mrps. There had been feedback suggesting that other choices might be desired, so a survey was taken of those qualifying for this award. Results indicated a watch to be the most popular choice. Discussion followed. A motion was made to accept watches as the Life Master Star Award by Sharon Hejtmanek, seconded by George Bickford, accepted with no nays.

Bob Julian reported that the Grass Roots Committee meeting was held 1-23-02 and that numerous changes were made to the Grass Roots Manual. Joan Rein said several changes were made in the wording that solidifies the fact that there is only one organization, not two. Joan also said that the wording on the website would be changed by the end of the week to clarify the same issue. She stated that at the end of the year there were approximately 3200 GR players and 155-160 clubs. Since taking the position of GR Commissioner she has responded to 82 inquiries about new clubs, and since the first of the year another 200 members have joined. She praised her husband Jim Rein for his help with both the GR Program and the TOC. Joan said that the new GR reporting program is coming together nicely, except for a few glitches. Cathy Perkins noted how labor intensive reporting Grass Roots statistics is and how the new system will help the five regional statisticians. Bob Julian asked for Larry Hassett's input about the new system. Larry talked about some of the problems that need to be addressed. Joan said that the new National Statistician, Kristy Haught and Larry could probably work together on some of the problems. Cathy Perkins offered her assistance to any club statisticians who were having problems with the system.

Cathy Perkins, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Compensation handed out the committee's final report of recommendations. All had been acted upon by the BoD except one regarding Joan Rein's compensation as GR Commissioner. Their recommendation is that Joan's stipend should come from the ACC fund, it should be \$600, and it should be retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year. Jeff made a motion to accept their recommendation as stated, seconded by Larry Samet. Discussion followed. Bob Julian amended the motion that the stipend be paid from GR funds, seconded by Roy Hofbauer. Vote on amendment accepted with no nays. We then voted on the motion, accepted with no nays, Joan Rein abstaining from the vote.

At this time Jack Shumate was allowed to distribute flyers for the 2002 Grand National. We were asked to review them on our lunch break

Larry Hasset brought up combining GR & ACC dues since we are one organization, saying that it would eliminate duplication of some work. Much discussion followed until Larry indicated that he would be bring up a subject relative to finances in his membership secretary report coming up shortly, so he was willing to move on with the agenda. Bob Julian made a motion to table this subject until a later date, seconded by Larry Samet, accepted with no nays.

Standing Committee 's Annual Reports:

Tournament: George Bickford reported that he had compiled a tournament director's manual, which had been sent out in September. It contains an error regarding the

Scoring system. He will send out a stick-on correction with the correct system.

Public Relations: Paul Barnes reported that there had been 2 fairs and an ad sponsored in a magazine with moderate success.

Judges: Jeff Shimp reported that no significant changes had occurred. He will make recommendations on agenda item #27 (proposal to eliminate senior judges).

Grass Roots: Joan felt that this had been covered fairly well in earlier agenda items.

Ethics: Joe Bernard reported that one member is about ½ way through a 6-month suspension for an occurrence during a GR function. There was then discussion regarding GR ethics violations and how they should be handled. Joan said that this issue had not been discussed during the GR meeting, and that she would like to have direction from the BoD on how to address this in the GR manual. Syl suggested that this be put on the agenda for the September 2002 meeting.

General Secretary's report: Joan Rein said that over time, General Secretary and Recording Secretary's position had merged even though that had not been the original intention. As General Secretary she had directed people in the proper direction for acquiring cards and boards ethics issues, etc. As recording secretary she has been responsible for correspondence with the auditor regarding the minutes of the meeting. New secretary will now handle this.

Membership Secretary's Report: Larry Hassett suggested we do a study to find out how to retain membership as it is remaining at around 7000. He felt that we should find out why members drop out. Much discussion followed with several suggestions. DeLynn said that he would put an article in **Cribbage World** addressing this issue and how to treat newcomers. It was suggested that the Public Relations committee should look into some of the suggestions put forward. Dwight Christensen was added to the committee by Paul Barnes.

Officers Annual Reports:

President DeLynn Colvert presented a list of 14 actions taken by the Executive Committee between 2/05/01 and 1/23/02. (See enclosure #1 to minutes)

VP Operations Bob Julian said he has been coordinating reports from Larry Hassett and Fred McGibney, attended last night's GR meeting, everything else was covered on DeLynn's list of actions.

Executive VP Syl Lulinski reported the new make-up of the Ethics Committee, now consisting of : Joe Bernard, Chairman; George Bickford, Dwight Christensen, Todd Schaeffer, Roy Hofbauer, Heidi Glashan, Rollie Heath Also Joan Rein has resigned as recording secretary , interim secretary is Jeanne Hofbauer.

VP Policy Bob Wikstrom distributed a report. He suggested we define the term of office for newly elected BoD members. Manual committee now consists of himself, Larry Hassett and Marcia Glenn. He suggested ballots to be marked must be "received by" instead of "returned by". He reported that Jim Ready, rules committee chairman, reports that Peg Out Rule continues to be controversial. He called attention to Al Miller's proposals, which DeLynn has printed in **Cribbage World**

Member at Large Jim Ready (no report, excused absence)

DeLynn Colvert addressed the procedure for filling compensated positions. There are now 8 positions, and he has received some comments from persons wishing to apply for them when they are vacated. He feels we should get a 60 day notice from the person vacating, then the Executive Committee would appoint positions between meetings, to be approved by the BoD at the next meeting. Discussion pointed out that these positions are supposed to have a back-up person to fill in, and interested parties should let it be known that they are available. Cathy Perkins made the motion: All positions should have a back-up for emergency situations, to fill the position for 60 days, and to be termed "interim" until the position can be filled by procedure, seconded by Ron Morgan, accepted with no nays.

Lunch Break: meeting to resume at 1:30.

Syl Lulinski presented a proposal to change the wording of Article XI of the Constitution and By-Laws. (See enclosure #2) Syl made a motion to accept the proposal to amend Article XI with an effective date of 1/25/02, seconded by Jeff Shimp, accepted with no nays.

Joan Rein gave a quick review of the 2002 Tournament of Champions. She said that everything is in place and there is a full bracket of 512 entrants. At this time there are 488 players signed up for the "Cribbage Bowl" event, with more anticipated. Discussion of the "Cribbage Bowl" followed regarding positive feedback, growth and associated problems and solutions.

Scott Kooistra reported that there are 951 entries for the 20th JPW/ACC open, down from last year, possibly because of world events. He noted that the first ACC TOC & Open was held in 1982 in Las Vegas and had less than 3 dozen entrants. He said that the time schedule and itinerary are all set and ready for a great weekend.

Jack Shumate and Emily DeHuff reviewed Grand National XXI to be held in October 2002. They discussed lodging and transportation. They asked for feedback within the next two weeks on the forms that they had distributed so that they could be finalized. Jack asked that his new phone number in Crescent City now be used: 707-465-8915. They recognized the Sands for lending them playing boards and bracket boards, providing a hospitality room for travelers to and from GN XXI, and for providing an area to promote the tournament this weekend.

Scott Kooistra and T.J. Lewis updated us on Grand National XXII to be held at The Oaks Hotel and Convention Center on Sept. 19-21, 2003 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The hotel has 15,000 square feet for the playing area, a full service restaurant and lounge. There are 200 rooms available at the hotel with 1100 rooms at nearby motels, and a free shuttle. They have locked in a rate of \$74 per night for a double room. They will have more information available at GN XXI and the October 2002 BoD meeting.

Gene Bradshaw presented the proposal for GN XXIII, as directors Dave O'Neil and Bobby Stuart were arriving in Reno after the BoD meeting. They have chosen the dates of September 17, 18 & 19, 2004. Gene distributed informational brochures about the Westin Hotel and Atlanta. Syl mentioned that this was the only bid that had been received before the deadline. Gene said there would be three area Grass Roots clubs supporting the tournament, and that all the directors had a lot of experience in running tournaments. They have not finalized a contract with the hotel, but are waiting to see if they are awarded the tournament. They have negotiated rates of \$77 per night with a 5% inflation clause and have tentatively blocked 200 rooms at that rate, also a \$2 parking fee, which is normally \$6. They have not yet negotiated meal prices but anticipate lunches to cost between \$15 and \$20 and the Saturday night banquet to cost between \$25 to \$30. Syl proposed the awarding of GN XXIII to directors O'Neil, Stuart and Bradshaw, seconded by Phyllis Schmidt, accepted with no nays

Roy Hofbauer presented a two-part proposal to change the awarding of mrps (see enclosure #3):

Part one proposed a change in the mrp's awarded for a 12 game qualifying round. There was much discussion, which included a question about also changing the 14 and 20 game qualifying points. Larry Samet noted that he has studied the statistics and that the largest disparity was with the 12 game qualifying round. Roy made a motion to adopt the change of mrp's awarded to a 12 game qualifying round as stated in his proposal to become effective 8/1/02, seconded by Rollie Heath, accepted with no nays.

Part two proposed increasing the amount of mrp's awarded for Consolation events. There was some discussion, and Syl Lulinski brought up the letter we received with the opinion of National Statistician, Bob McCabe. Roy made a motion to adopt the change of mrp's awarded to Consolation events as stated in his proposal to become effective 8/1/02, seconded by George Bickford, accepted with no nays.

Syl Lulinski then addressed the proposal from the Sands Regency for the TOC & JPW ACC Open in 2003 & 2004. He noted the addition of \$3000 extra added money. He questioned if the rental of the additional equipment (tables & chairs) and the youth program sponsorship was inadvertently left out, and Joan said that they were to be included. Joan passed around a proposal received from The Atlantis, and also spoke about a proposal from the Hilton. She and Jim had met with the representative of the Hilton in July and viewed the property. The Hilton offered \$10,000 and a very nice playing facility, but not all of the other amenities that we receive from the Sands. They also charged a significantly higher hotel room rate, which would have "rebated" the extra prize money. Joan explained to them that this was not an acceptable practice as it does not benefit the majority of participants, but only the prizewinners. She went to the Reno/Sparks Convention Center and asked that anyone wanting to bid should have it sent in by August. She did receive a bid this fall from the Atlantis, but nothing from the Hilton. The Atlantis did offer most of the same things as the Sands except the \$10,000 added money. Joan wanted the participants to know that other bids are solicited, but the Sands consistently comes up with the best proposal. Also noted was the more centralized location of the Sands with downtown Reno compared to the Hilton and Atlantis. Joan made a motion to accept the Sands proposal and to keep the TOC and JPW ACC Open at the Sands for 2003 and 2004, seconded by Joe Bernard, accepted with no nays.

We then discussed future dates for the TOC and JPW ACC Open and whether we wanted the dates to be before or after the Super Bowl. Syl gave the dates for the future Super Bowls: (2003 - 1/26/03), (2004 - 2/01/04), (2005 - 2/06/05), (2006 - 2/05/06). Larry Hassett made a motion to retain policy of holding the TOC & JPW ACC Open one week after the Super Bowl for 2003 and 2004, seconded by Al Lindner, accepted with no nays. The dates for the BoD meeting, and tournaments will be 1/30/03 through 2/02/03 for 2003 and 2/05/04 through 2/08/04 for 2004. These dates are subject to change in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Roy Hofbauer questioned how the extra \$3000 added by the Sands was going to be allocated. Syl suggested that be put on the October 2002 agenda. Joan suggested that the tournament directors discuss it and have recommendations ready.

Pat Barrett reported that there were 29 nominations for 9 candidates to the Hall Of Fame. (Rit Alkas, Eugene "Moose" Biegler, Joe Bernard, Betty Capper, Paul Hatcher, Bill Irons, Bob Julian, Harry Palmer, Phyllis Schmidt) He distributed ballots for the vote. Jeff Shimp appealed for more liberal voting as there are many qualified candidates and so far only 20 have been inducted. Jack Shumate endorsed his candidate, Bill Irons. We took a short break while the votes were counted. Pat then announced that 3 new members had been added to the HOF: Rit Alkas, Joe Bernard and Phyllis Schmidt

George Bickford presented his proposal to purchase scorecards for availability to all tournament directors. DeLynn said that the Executive Board had voted to only supply camera ready copy to save shipping and printing costs, but could reconsider. During the discussion that followed Roy mentioned perhaps the Sands would print these for us. George made a motion that the ACC allocate \$1219 for printing scorecards as detailed in his proposal (enclosure #4), unless the Sands agrees to provide them, seconded by Jeff Shimp, accepted with no nays

Bob Wikstrom explained that agenda items #27 and #28 could be addressed together. He said that they were proposing two things. First, since the Director of Senior Judges position has been vacant for sometime, they are recommending that position be eliminated. Second they wish to condense and consolidate the manual to make its use easier, so this proposal is an attempt to combine three related sections. Director of Judges Program, Jeff Shimp agreed with the elimination of Director of Senior Judges and the consolidation of the positions of Rules Committee Chairman and Director of Research and Development. Roy Hofbauer made a motion to eliminate the Director of Senior Judges position and to combine sections 13, 18 and 19 in the manual under section 18 as proposed by Bob Wikstrom (enclosure #5), seconded by Syl, accepted with no nays.

On agenda item #29, Larry Hassett feels that collection of SS#'s from players is a violation of the privacy act and thinks we do not need this information. He is proposing that we need to only collect SS#'s from those who win amounts that are necessary to report to the IRS. Syl mentioned that Larry and Barbara Woodward (representing the Sands) had been corresponding on this issue. Syl read a letter from Barbara, dated 1/11/02 stating that the Sands would no longer collect SS#'s in advance of ACC events. In the future they would only be collected from winners, as required, at the time prize money is distributed. BoD felt that this resolved this issue. Policy will be updated in the manual (see enclosure #6)

On 2/01/01 the BoD approved a donation of \$300 for ACC promotion at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup, WA. Syl said that based on the outstanding performance shown by the packet sent out he was proposing that the BoD approve the donation of \$300 for another year, seconded by Cathy Perkins. Paul Barnes suggested adding a donation for another fair promotion held in California by Steve Hastie, to this proposal, eliminating the need for a later request to the Executive Board. It was decided that we should wait for their request, and be provided some feedback regarding their results. Proposal accepted with no nays.

Chairman of the Internet Committee, Pat Barrett announced replacement of Steve Sattler as webmaster. There were five applications, and Pat and DeLynn selected Paul Gregson from San Leandro, CA. Pat handed out a proposal from Paul. He is requesting \$863.45 for an annual fee to upgrade service, making website easier and faster to maintain. Discussion followed, which included advertising on the website (what type, how to approve & monitor, how to audit associated revenue), publishing of entry fees, mandatory log in, and compensation for webmaster. Many BoD members praised Paul regarding their contact with him. Pat made a motion that we allocate \$863.45 to Paul Gregson for upgrading service for website with RCN, seconded by Todd Schaeffer, accepted with no nays. (Pat will be in contact with Paul regarding specifications/information/contract with RCN)

Agenda item #32 covering review of manual sections: preface, 3, 8, 9, 21, and 25 by Larry Hassett and Bob Wikstrom (enclosure #7):

Larry started with the preface, which Bob Wikstrom had already touched on. He said that the basic idea here is to give manual committee authority to put the manual in a consistent format and correct spelling and grammar without bringing those changes before the BoD. Larry made a

motion to accept the proposal to revise the preface, giving the Manual Committee authority to make changes as outlined, seconded by Syl, accepted with no nays

Bob Wikstrom presented changes to section 3. He felt that awards section was too sparse and with DeLynn's input tried to make it more descriptive. Joan Rein said she needed to add some information about GR awards. Bob made a motion that the awards section be approved, with Joan's added submissions for GR, for the manual committee, seconded by Cathy Perkins, accepted with no nays.

Larry presented change to section 8, to add back into manual wording regarding the official use of commercial software. Larry made a motion to accept modification to item 8-equipment as proposed, seconded by Syl, accepted with no nays

Larry discussed changes proposed to section 9-ethics. The Ethics Committee has reviewed and asked for it to be put on the next agenda. Action on this matter is tabled for next meeting

After some discussion regarding section #21, Larry made a motion to adopt the proposal (page 21-A) with the following exceptions: section A-eliminate the first sentence, section B-eliminate 5. as junior members have been excluded from voting by action of the Executive Board, section D-2.d. replace with new 2.d., seconded by Syl, accepted with no nays

Part of the proposal for section 25 was discussed previously on the agenda (dropping GR dues). Larry has been asked about members attaining a life membership at a younger age by paying higher fee. He did some research and wanted to present some ideas regarding how we handle this prepaid income. After some discussion it was decided to table this subject for a future time.

There were no inadvertent omissions.

Agenda items 34, 35, 36 and 37 will be for preliminary discussion only, to be referred to the appropriate committee for evaluation and recommendation to the BoD during it's October 2002 meeting.

#34-Rollie Heath presented a proposal of a new format for Hall Of Fame voting. Discussion followed with referral to Hall Of Fame Committee, Pat Barrett, chairman.

#35-Paul Barnes presented a proposal for internet cribbage. Discussion followed with referral to Internet Committee, Pat Barrett, chairman.

#36-Dwight Christensen presented a proposal to eliminate cutting for deal in qualifying rounds. Discussion followed with referral to Tournament Committee, George Bickford, chairman.

#37-Bob Julian proposed action on Junior members voting for BoD directors. Discussion followed by referral to Elections Committee, Bob Wikstrom, chairman.

Next BoD meeting scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2002, at North Tahoe Community Conference Center, Kings Beach, California (Site for Grand National XXI).

Syl moved to adjourn, with 23 seconds, motion carried

Minutes recorded by Jeanne Hofbauer