

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2003
HOLIDAY INN CITY CENTRE
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Executive Vice-President Syl Lulinski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He distributed a revised agenda. He expressed his thanks to Bob Julian for conducting the previous BoD meeting in his absence. Syl also thanked outgoing BoD members: Paul Barnes, Heidi Glashan, Rollie Heath, Jim Hornbacher, Jim Ready, Larry Samet, Bob Wikstrom, for serving. He then welcomed new BoD members: Kathy Blough, Dave Campbell, Tom Lewis, Herschel Mack, Bob Milk, Jack Shumate, and Fred White. He thanked Bob McCabe for taking on the duties of ACC Treasurer, and Martha Fingleton for the presentation from the Rules Committee to be heard later in the meeting.

Roll call was taken with each member introducing themselves by name, region, city & state. Present were: Pat Barrett, Joe Bernard, George Bickford, Kathy Blough, Dave Campbell, Dwight Christiansen, DeLynn Colvert, Larry Hassett, Sharon Hejtmanek, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Bob Julian, Tom Lewis, Al Lindner, Syl Lulinski, Herschel Mack, Robert Milk, Ron Morgan, Cathy Perkins, Joan Rein, Todd Schaefer, Phyllis Schmidt, Jeff Shimp, Jack Shumate, Fred White and treasurer Bob McCabe. All present, no absences.

Syl opened the meeting with a quote from the introduction of the book Living Biographies of Great Philosophers: "all these philosophers, in spite of their extrinsic quarrels, exhibit an intrinsic unanimity of thought." He wanted us to think of how that would apply to us, and that this is what we should strive for: not what is good for individuals, certain groups, or regions, but what is good for the American Cribbage Congress as a whole.

Jeanne asked if anyone had any corrections to the minutes of the January 2003 minutes. George Bickford asked that his name be added as being present. Jeanne then moved that the minutes be accepted with the addition of George's name, seconded by Fred White. Motion accepted with no nays.

Next came the Annual Reports of Officers. Syl wanted to recognize the officers for their work. He has been executive VP for all but four years since 1987 and worked with a lot of people on the executive board. He pointed out that there are many things that come up between meetings with which the officers deal. He feels that the present officers, DeLynn Colvert, Bob Julian, Larry Hassett, and George Bickford, are some of the hardest working and most dedicated with whom he has ever worked.

President DeLynn Colvert reported that we had a good year, with very few problems. A record number of sanctioned tournaments were held. There were six executive committee actions:

1. voted to reimburse \$180 to Jack Shumate for RV parking fees incurred at Grand National XXI
2. Bob McCabe was named as treasurer to replace Fred McGibney who resigned

3. new set of name tags were made for new BoD member
4. approved using Crib World magazine to gather cribbage boards for troops in the Middle East. Over 300 boards were collected
5. authorized the expense of repairing Larry Hassett's printer
6. authorized providing Grass Roots an ACC Web Site

Executive Vice-President Syl Lulinski wanted to give the following important dates to the Bod members:

- 2004: BoD meeting Feb.5, ToC Feb. 6, ACC Open Feb. 7-8 (Reno, NV)
BoD meeting Sept. 17, GNXXIII Sept 17-18-19 (Atlanta, GA)
- 2005: BoD meeting Feb. 10, ToC Feb.11, ACC Open Feb.12-13 (Reno, NV)
Bod Meeting Sept16, GNXXIV Sept.15-16-17-18 (Lincoln City, OR)
- 2006: BoD meeting Feb. 9, ToC Feb. 10, ACC Open Feb 11-12 (Reno, NV)
GNXXV to be determined (Central Region)

Other areas of responsibility are Ethics Committee, which will be addressed by Joe Bernard in agenda item #9, and Rules Committee, which will be addressed by Martha in agenda item #7.

Vice President of Policy, Larry Hassett reported that there were problems with the election ballot mailing. The election deadline was extended and 60-80 extra ballots were sent out to the Crescent City & Arcada area (Northern California) and Massachusetts. He suggested that the ballots go out in the May issue of Cribbage World or that the deadline be extended.

Vice President of Operations, Bob Julian reported that ACC treasurer Fred McGibney asked to be replaced as soon as possible for health reasons. Bob recommended Bob McCabe for treasurer to the Executive Committee, as he was well qualified and there was no time to publish for the position in Cribbage World. By unanimous vote of the Executive Committee Bob McCabe was appointed treasurer.

There have been some problems between the ACC and GR computer systems, so Bob Julian asked Bob Milk to make a study of both systems and give his recommendations of what could be done to achieve compatibility. Bob Milk has compiled a 16-page report, to be distributed and discussed in agenda item #11. There was some discussion regarding additional costs and changes for the GR program. Joan said she would wait until we compared the systems to get into it further. Bob Julian expressed the thanks of the BoD to Bob Milk for his report.

As VP Operations, Bob Julian now is receiving the original bank statements from both Larry & Bob McCabe. He is now acting as an auditor. He would like the order rescinded so that the ACC treasury is not in his name, as this creates problems. He thinks that the ACC Treasury account should be in the treasurer's name. Jeff Shimp said that he felt this was a sound internal control practice and that if he had on-line access to the account statements he would do the audit function. Syl suggested that this be considered and perhaps a motion made during Bob McCabe's financial report.

Bob Julian has renewed the liability policy that covers the people who handle large amounts of money for the ACC at an approximate cost of \$350. But the Director & Officer's policy for one million dollars for the BoD has been cancelled by the company, but is paid for and in effect until November 25th 2003. After some discussion, it was decided that we should get a new policy and that Bob McCabe will look into acquiring it. Syl said that since the old policy will be expiring soon, that Bob McCabe should contact the executive committee with the information and they can make the decision.

Executive Member at Large George Bickford reported that things are going well with the tournament commissioners. He had some things to discuss about rules but will bring it up during agenda item #7 (rule committee recommendations).

Agenda item #6, election of officers: Joe Bernard announced the nominees for each office and asked if there were any other nominations.

President: 2 nominees, Delynn Colvert and Al Lindner (Al Lindner declined nomination)
Jeff Shimp moved nominations be closed, seconded by Joan Rein, approved

Executive Vice President: 1 nominee, Syl Lulinski
George Bickford moved nominations be closed, seconded by Cathy Perkins, approved

Vice President Policy: 2 nominees, Larry Hassett and Dwight Christiansen (Dwight Christiansen declined nomination)
Cathy Perkins moved nominations be closed, seconded by Jeanne, approved

Vice President Operations: 2 nominees: Bob Julian and Tom Lewis
Cathy Perkins moved nominations be closed, seconded Kathy Blough, approved
Results of voting: Bob Julian 17, Tom Lewis 8

Member at Large: 2 nominees, George Bickford and Cathy Perkins
Syl moved nominations be closed, seconded by Fred White, approved
Results of voting: George Bickford 14, Cathy Perkins 11

At this time Joan Rein addressed the Board, telling them that she had nominated new candidates for the Executive Board. She said that even though the current officers were doing an excellent job, she wanted to point out that there were other talented people on the board who could fill those positions.

Five minute break. Jeanne asked for corrections to the roster that Larry Hassett had handed out.

Syl then recognized Bob Madsen, who had just entered the room. Bob has served the ACC as Secretary, Treasurer and Cribbage World Editor.

Agenda item #7. Syl thanked the Rules committee and his wife, Phyllis, for her hours and hours of typing. Syl had asked committee member Martha Fingleton to present the proposed rule changes.

Martha spoke briefly about how the committee had met and worked together. She said that the committee had basically worked to do these things: 1. Increase the clarity, consistency, and fairness of the rules 2. Reduce or eliminate discrepancies 3. Correct inappropriate penalties, whether too severe or too lenient. 4. Correct errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. Martha said that the rules committee has recommended that the present system of using both Roman and Arabic numerals be changed to using the Arabic system exclusively. There was then discussion on how to vote for the proposed changes. It was decided to go through the proposal page by page, with discussion, waiting to see how a voting procedure developed.

Martha then led the board through each page, after which Syl asked if the page was acceptable. There was discussion and minor changes through page 5. There was a vote taken on page 6 for Rule IV Section 4 Subsection a,(3): Cathy Perkins moved to accept the rule as presented by the Rules Committee, 2nd by Herschel Mack, accepted no nays.

Lunch Break (due to time concerns of lunch availability, break was taken earlier than stated in agenda)

After the break Dave O'Neil gave an update on GN 2004. He said that a lot of information would be on the ACC Web site. He said they were looking into a lot of side interests that would be available, and talking to major airlines for possible group rates. They are investigating commemorative boards and peach pegs. The Westin has assured them that everything is in order. Also they have 20-25 British cribbage players that are coming for the tournament, so they are planning on having a Thursday night tournament played by "British rules". They also have an official logo for GN 2004. He mentioned that he would try to have a tour of Turner Field available for BoD members on Thursday afternoon, with the possibility of more tours for interested ACC members.

Martha then resumed the rules presentation with page 7 of the proposal. On page 9 there was much discussion regarding Rule IV, Section 4,d. action 12. It was decided that we would set this aside and come back to it later. More discussion and some changes to wording through page 13. Page 14 with Rule 8, Section 10 generated a good deal of discussion. This regards the "peg out" rule. Martha stated that though she had heard some good arguments for requiring "pegging out", she had not heard any that are good enough to overcome the disadvantages of requiring it. She said she felt it was a "wide open door" to steal a game and dress it up in the trappings of "form", and that we, as the BoD, set the "form" of the game. She felt that it was not unseemly to require gentlemanly behavior. Syl and Cathy Perkins also talked about how the BoD had set up the old rule in the 1993 rule book, and how it took up a page and a half to try to administer it. Syl had a handout with quotes from books about cribbage regarding the end of the game: a book by Douglas Anderson (ACC HOF member), Dreuke, and Official rules of play by US playing card company. They all stated that the game was over when a player reached 121 points. Herschel asked that we add a sentence strongly recommending that players peg out. Syl made a motion to add such a sentence to Rule 8 Section 10, seconded by Cathy Perkins. Motion passed. Opening sentence to read: "A player should peg out to complete a game, however:". Pages 15 through 19 had a few minor changes. There was then discussion about adding the cross-checking procedures to the rule book. Syl said that the committee had about 8-10 items still being discussed such as dealing with slow play, cross-checking and forfeiting. Jeff Shimp made a motion that cross-checking procedures be added to the rule book, seconded by Bob Julian. Motion approved. George Bickford will provide the text for this. Jeff Shimp then moved that we accept the recommendations of the rules committee as amended in this meeting, with the exception of Rule 4, section 4, action 13 on page 9. Seconded by Kathy Blough. Motion approved. The BoD expressed their appreciation to Martha for a great presentation, and to Phyllis Lulinski for all her volunteer hours in preparing the paperwork.

Agenda item #8. Bob McCabe, ACC Treasurer asked if anyone had any questions on the packet he had sent out which contained the FY 2003 Financial Report and the budget for next year. For 2003 we had a deficit of \$17,027. For 2004 he is projecting that we will break even due to reductions in spending as noted in his report. He reiterated that it is administratively cumbersome having VP Bob Julian's name on the account and the bank statement sent to Bob Julian as opposed to the treasurer, as was done at the request of the BoD for internal control reasons. He said that another member of the BoD could access the bank information on-line to accomplish this function, and that Jeff Shimp had volunteered to do this. He said that with BoD approval he thought he could get this access for Jeff, and change the account's name and address back to the his (Bob's) name. Jeff said he would need access to Larry Hassett's account also. Larry said he would check with his bank to see if he could set this up. Bob Julian suggested that Bob McCabe & Larry look into this and that the Executive committee could make any decisions regarding the matter. Jeanne made a motion to allow the Executive Committee to make the decision of regarding giving online access to 3rd person to audit the bank accounts of

the Treasurer and Membership Secretary, seconded by Cathy Perkins, motion approved. Bob McCabe then asked for the financial report & FY 2004 budget as presented be approved. Pat Barrett so moved, seconded by Joan, motion approved. There was some discussion about approval for bills that are sent to the treasurer from different sources. He would like some sort of approval process to address this. Syl noted that the Executive Committee can give approval for expenditures up to \$5000 between BoD meetings

Agenda item #9, annual reports of Standing Committees:

George Bickford, Tournament Rules: George said he has the information for the cross-checking process with him and that he will give it to Martha. He said he would also like to make a motion that no tournaments be sanctioned on the same weekend as the Grand National Tournament, seconded by Sharon Hejtmanek. Discussion followed, with Larry Hassett bringing up the fact that since the GN date changed every year that that would not be fair to directors who have historically had their tournaments set being forced to change. Also that there have been occasions when the GN had to be changed on relatively "short notice". Joe Bernard mentioned that there could be exceptions made when something like a "short notice" happened. There was a lot of comment that this GN did in fact have fewer players from the West than was the norm and the cause was thought to be because of another tournament being held this same weekend in the Western Region. We then voted on the motion. Motion was approved with one nay vote.

Syl Lulinski, Rules Committee: covered previously in agenda item #7

Paul Barnes, Public Relations: Paul was not here, so Syl asked DeLynn, as officer in charge if he had anything. DeLynn did not. Joe Bernard said that he had received a call a few days ago from the director of events from GAMA, a game manufacturer's trade association. Every year in Columbus, Ohio they hold a big games convention that is sponsored by the US Playing Card Co. They were inviting us to come there to participate. It is to be held on the last weekend of June and that last year 13,000 people attended. Joe also said that there would be no costs, and that anyone who comes to help would have their expenses covered. Kathy Blough and Jeff Shimp volunteered to look into this, as they were geographically closer to the area. Fred White said he would also be interested in volunteering. Syl told them to co-ordinate their efforts so that the contact would not be made from three separate sources.

Jeff Shimp, Judges Committee: Jeff said the only thing pending at this time was a possible de-certification process. He feels that since there is no longer a re-certification process that we should have a process to de-certify judges. Syl feels that tournament directors should be able to handle this by naming judges, thereby eliminating judges that have performed their duties poorly. It was suggested that a judging complaint form be made up to go with the tournament director's report package. It could ask for explanations of bad judging calls, tell who was involved, what were the circumstances, and what were their feelings about the call.

Joan Rein, Grass Roots: Joan said that there are now 154 active clubs, with about 4100 members. The Bronze level ring award has been changed from gold plated to sterling silver (for the same price), as the gold was not wearing well. Also changed were the dates for the GR Regional tournament (Sept to Dec), and the GR National tournament (Jan to Apr) so club champions could be determined correctly by the Clubs. In the coming year the GR web site and the ACC web site will be combined onto one host to help cut costs. Paul Gregson is working on this. She has priced other hosts and has found one that is less expensive, but she needs to make sure they have a backup so that data cannot be lost. She has also found a new programmer who will be about 20% cheaper, but it will cost \$600 to get her started. The problems with the old programmer include things not being done on a timely basis and things

being programmed over and over. Joan made a motion that the BoD approve \$600, to come from GR funds, for a new programmer, seconded by Tom Lewis. Motion approved with no nays

Joe Bernard, Ethics Committee: Things are pretty quiet, with one person suspended for leaving a tournament early.

Agenda item #11, Computer systems comparisons by Bob Milk: Bob said he was just going to summarize the report he handed out. He thanked Kristi Haught, Larry Hassett, Joan Rein and Bob McCabe for their openness and cooperation. The original problem that was stated to him was that there were compatibility problems between the membership system and the GR online system. His findings are that there is not a compatibility issue, because they do exchange data in a common format, their structure for storing data is the same program, Microsoft Access. There is some conflicting manners in how they handle some information. The two systems are a little different, Larry's is a single user system, and the GR is a multi-user system with 120-150 people entering data, so there is concern in the integrity of the data. Bob went over some of the things he suggested, and said that he felt that there were no major problems with the two systems, that they are both good systems, run by two good people. He thinks that when they get the new programmer in things will be worked out.

Agenda item #12, Hall of Fame: Pat Barrett said that Larry Samet is working on the new Hall of Fame draft proposal, with new guidelines for election to the HOF, that was started by Rollie Heath a couple of years ago. So it will have to be tabled until the Reno meeting. In the meantime we will be using the old system and the nomination form will be in the October Crib World, with nominations accepted through about the 10th of Dec. to be voted on at the February meeting.

Agenda item #13, Compensation committee: Cathy Perkins stated that along with her and Jeff Shimp, she was adding Fred White to the committee. She said that she could not make any recommendations regarding Paul Gregson as he had not submitted the requested materials in time for the committee's consideration. She said that the committee had met this morning and that it feels that it is appropriate to look into compensation for all paid positions as it has not been done for 4 to 5 years, and that the grand total of compensation paid out is \$41,400 per year. So she is requesting that all positions that receive compensation submit a list of their duties and the time it takes to do them. She said that new recommendations for compensation will be accepted also. She asked that they do this between now and the end of December.

Agenda item #14, Membership Renewal Survey: Dwight Christiansen said that the results of his survey showed the number one reason why people joined the ACC was for fun and enjoyment, and the number two reason was to improve skills. He felt that we were not promoting any ideas on how to help players to improve their game, and was open to suggestions. Discussion followed which brought up members who taught cribbage classes, tips published in CW, and on line tips, and how Grass Roots clubs handle new players. Dwight then gave the results of why players dropped membership: number one was other commitments, other reasons were: lack of tournaments, not interesting, too competitive, and too costly. He said about 300 surveys went out and he had about a 10% return. The second item he brought up was regarding membership, he is concerned about the lack of voting in 2003. There were 800 ballots cast compared to the 1999 vote where 2300 ballots were cast. He was wondering if we should offer an incentive to vote. Tom Lewis suggested a survey in his his column CW to find out why members do not vote. Syl mentioned that 800 out of 7000 was a pretty good return of about 12%. The third item he wanted to discuss was marketing. He has designed a flyer with tear-offs that would tell about the ACC and he has identified a core group of about 2000 tournament players. He would like to have 10,000 flyers printed up and distributed to that core group. They would then put the flyers up at various locations. He would like to request funding from the BoD.

Jeff Shimp made a motion to grant Dwight up to \$1000 for promotion as presented to Dwight.
Motion approved

Agenda item #16, Internet Cribbage: Bob Milk passed out a letter and print outs from internet cribbage from Paul Barnes that Paul had sent out on e-mail and regular mail. Basically the status of the internet cribbage is: there have been over 400 inquiries of which 125 are current ACC members. A site has been located on Microsoft Gaming Zone to play the tournaments, we are "piggy-backed" on an organization called Pegging Pals, who are already approved as tournament directors on the Zone. The committee felt that this was a good way to get a trial tournament going. The committee had developed ACC rules for internet play, tournament director guidelines, scroll rules. Paul Gregson has built corresponding web pages and they are ready to be linked to the ACC web site. The first trial tournament is scheduled for the end of October, and will run the trials for about 3 months and will have an updated report in Reno. Paul Barnes has indicated that he no longer wants to be internet commissioner, and Bob Milk said he would be willing to take the position. Joan Rein mentioned that Paul Barnes had brought up the question of foreign members joining the ACC because of internet play. He said that Larry had mentioned how sending out Crib World to Canada was done at a loss, so we were perhaps facing more loss. Joan asked about the possibility of putting Cribbage World on the ACC website.

Agenda item #17, Oath of Office: Joan Rein had put an oath of office together, but did not have any copies. Syl suggested it be tabled until the Reno meeting.

Agenda item #18, ACC Manual: Larry Hassett handed out a new streamlined manual to replace the old one.

Agenda item #19, update of future Grand National: Rollie Heath gave an update of the 2005 GN, he said the contracts have been signed with Chinook Winds Casino, and thinks that there will be a least 500 players. Chinook Winds is adding \$1000, giving soda & coffee for the whole weekend, also giving the room rent-free. There is no hotel at the Casino, so Rollie said he is working on a list of motels. The awards banquet will be buffet style with prime rib, salmon, and chicken, and right now is priced at \$21.00, but may go up. He will give another update in Reno.

Syl interjected that the next three agenda items were going to be brief preliminary presentations. This gives the presenters a chance to see if their proposals generate interest before they are sent to committee.

Agenda item #20, Consolation Sanction Fee: Phyllis Schmidt & Sharon Hejtmanek propose that players who play in a consolation event, that have not played in the main event, pay the sanctioning fee. These players are getting the benefits of receiving master points, 28 and 29 Hand recognition, and usually a 100% payback in the Consolation event. They feel that this would quell feelings that such players are "not paying their share" of expenses, and also would generate more income for the ACC. Proposal referred to George Bickford, chairman of the Tournament Rules Committee

Agenda item #21, Geographical Organizational Issues: Jack Shumate handed out paperwork regarding his proposal. He thanked Emily for her work on the graphics, and Larry Hassett for providing the breakdown on the regions. He would like to split the Western Region, forming two regions, the Southwest and the Northwest, as he believes that the membership in each region would then be equalized. He had already sent out letters to most of the directors in his proposed "Southwest Region", and said that the responses he received back were positive. Bob McCabe stated at this time that he did not know if the masterpoint system could handle this, as it is set up for three regions. George Bickford asked what the purpose of doing this reorganization would be. Jack said that this would better align the membership to not be so disproportionate. Bob

Milk asked what the advantages of redistricting would be. Jack said that there could then be six representatives from each region elected to the BoD. He thought there would not be so much voter apathy if people could vote for more people from their own region. He felt that there were many good benefits, but knew he was supposed to keep this presentation brief. This proposal is now referred Bob Julian, chairman of the Restructuring Committee.

Agenda item #22, Rookie Award: DeLynn Colvert introduced 2002 Rookie of the year, Dave Campbell, now a BoD member. This year the award is going to George Neujahr. Syl and DeLynn had talked about two things: 1-Should the award be continued? 2-Should there be a minimum number of master points earned to qualify the award? Bob Julian asked what the criteria were for being a "rookie". DeLynn said that is it based on their first full year of play. This is now referred to the Awards Committee, Delynn Colvert, Chairman.

Next BoD meeting: February 5, 2004 in Reno, Nevada.

Syl moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Cathy Perkins. Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.