



AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2005  
CHINOOK WINDS CASINO  
LINCOLN CITY, OREGON

Recording secretary, Jeanne Hofbauer called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Roll Call was taken. Present were Pat Barrett, Joe Bernard, George Bickford, Dave Campbell, Dwight Christiansen, DeLynn Colvert, Martha Fingleton, Larry Hassett, Sharon Hejtmanek, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Bob Julian, Tom Lewis, Al Lindner, Herschel Mack, Bill Medeiros, Bob Milk, Ron Morgan, Cathy Perkins, Joan Rein, Larry Samet, Phyllis Schmidt, Jeff Shimp, Dan Zeisler (and Bob McCabe, treasurer). Not present: Heidi Glashan.

Bob Julian thanked last term's non-returning BoD members for their service: Cathy Blough, Todd Schaefer, Jack Shumate, Fred White and especially Syl Lulinski, for his many years of service to the ACC. He then welcomed the current term's newly elected BoD members: Martha Fingleton, Bill Medeiros, Larry Samet and Dan Zeisler.

Lunch tickets and small gifts of appreciation were given to the BoD members from the GNXXIV directors.

We departed from the agenda to allow Bob McCabe to give the treasurer's report early in the meeting. Our cash position has gone from \$190,621 in 2001 to \$129,627 as of 6/30/05. Revenue was down significantly for two years now, sanctioning fees and membership dues are both down. He said there were fewer tournaments and fewer players. He recommended that this be addressed by the Board, perhaps by increasing dues or sanctioning fees. He said it was not critical yet, but could be within the next two years. The deficit in FY 2005 was due entirely to ACC operations as the Grass Roots was essentially breaking even.

He also asked the Board to approve the proposed FY 2006 budget he submitted.

Jeanne made a motion the proposed FY 2006 budget be approved, seconded by Cathy. Motion carried. Jeanne asked if anyone wanted to address the future shortfall at this time. Jeff made a motion to change the sanctioning fee from \$1.50 to \$2.00 at the beginning of the 2006-2007 master point season, which would begin August 1, 2006. Seconded by George Bickford. Discussion followed, some of the points brought up were: that this would not generate enough to cover the whole yearly shortfall, raising the Sanctioning Fee versus raising the membership dues, or if in fact it needed to be dealt with at this time. The vote was then taken, and the motion carried with 16 ayes/8 nays.

Agenda item #4 annual report of officers:

**George Bickford** said that what he had to report would be covered under agenda item #8.

**DeLynn** reported that the Executive Committee had approved: \$300 for a Youth tournament directed by Dan Ziesler; \$179 for computer program for Bob McCabe to transmit statistical data

to CW and ACC web page; agreement with Apparel Sales Co., of Grand Haven, MI, to sell merchandise with ACC Logo, with a 5% royalty to ACC for all sales with this logo; \$1000 to GN XXIV for player benefits; printing 500 extra Cribbage World's for Al Lindner to take to the GAMA Convention in Ohio; \$100 for purchase of FAX machine by George Bickford; purchase of ring for Meritorious Service award for presentation to Syl Lulinski at GN XXIV (& purchase of mold for future use). Also noted were receipt of \$250 in commissions from Apparel Sales Co., as well as the assumption that Edge TV has lost interest in their proposed project since they have not been in contact with ACC.

**Larry Hassett** stated that membership was down slightly, about 100, and that the life memberships are increasing every year and perhaps we need to look into that aspect of our dues structure. He also said that we gain about 1200 members each year, but also lose about the same number. He has redesigned the membership forms and his computer software to handle 3-year renewals, and is now sending out renewals on-line. There was some discussion about membership retention and multiple year membership renewals. Though there are few multiple year renewals now, the potential problems of having many were discussed, such as budget, cash flow, and dues changes. Larry said it does save some time, and some money. Dwight made a motion to eliminate paying annual membership dues for more than one year at a time, excluding the life-time memberships, effective October 1, 2005. Seconded by Martha. Motion carried with 13 ayes/11 nays.

**Bob Julian** stated the problems between the ACC & Grass Roots computer systems with Joan and Larry have been worked out, and both are satisfied with the way things are running now. He said that every month he receives a bank statement, a bank reconciliation statement, ACC membership activity report, a membership account activity report and a membership secretary revolving fund account activity report. Bob stated that in 1995 we had around 5000 members and in 2005 that we have about 7000. There was a brief discussion about necessity of recruiting new membership.

Agenda Item #5- was covered by DeLynn in item #4.

Agenda Item #6-Election of Officers. Joe Bernard stated that he had only one nomination for each office as follows: President-DeLynn Colvert/Executive Vice-President-Martha Fingleton/Vice-President Operations-Bob Julian/Vice-President Policy-Larry Hassett/Member-at-Large-George Bickford. He asked if there were any additional nominations; there were none. Joe made a motion that the offices be filled by acclamation. Seconded by Sharon Hejtmanek. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #7- Minutes of last meeting. Jeanne asked if there were any corrections to the February 2005 minutes. Larry wanted a clarification to the first motion in Agenda Item #22, page 5. He asked that the following be added to the motion: *and all subsequent dates to be changed accordingly*. Jeanne made a motion to accept the minutes with the addition by Larry. Seconded by Phyllis. Motion carried.

Jeanne turned over the meeting to newly elected Executive-Vice-President, Martha Fingleton.

We departed from the agenda to attend to Agenda Item #16-ACC Internet Update. Bob Milk stated that we have held 177 internet tournaments, with 11,521 participants, of which 19 received TOC invitations. He noted that some of last year's internet TOC participants had heard comments that they should not be in the TOC. Joan mentioned that she had heard from some players that they were not going to participate in the TOC because of allowing internet players to participate, and that she could remember the same thing being said when Grass Roots players were included. He said that they are now running tournaments every day of the week except

Wednesdays, in the afternoon, early and late evenings. He said they have had participants from Australia, New Zealand, Israel, France, England, Canada, Central America, as well as the US. Larry said he would like to put the internet points on the membership cards, but has not received any information about them yet. Bob said he would talk to the statistician about it. Bob said we had gained about 70 new members to the ACC in a year and 1/2 from internet play. Tom Lewis suggested that the information about starting a local Grass Roots club should be posted during the internet tournaments.

Agenda Item #8-Annual Report of Standing Committee Chairpersons.

George Bickford, Tournament Rules Chairman, had mailed out the ACC Tournament Directors Information booklet changes he was proposing. He asked if anyone had any changes they would like to discuss. Martha suggested we go through it section by section. The document was thoroughly reviewed and several changes were suggested. During the discussion that followed, the length of time a tournament is listed in the tournament trail section of Cribbage World was debated. Larry Samet made a motion that any tournament that has been submitted and had been sanctioned by a regional tournament commissioner *can* be published in Cribbage World for up to a year in advance of the date of the event. Seconded by Ron. Motion carried. It was noted that since this was a policy change it must be put into the Policies & Procedures section of the manual. The following changes were suggested to George: Section I, mid paragraph: change the wording, as some of the information contained *is* mandatory. Section V, C: update the information regarding board suppliers. Section VI, D, 5: All Qualifying/Cashing scorecards for the main and consolation must be crosschecked, all other satellite tournaments should be crosschecked. Section VI, D: it was questioned whether the fact that the ACC now requires tournament directors to be judges should be somewhere in this section. (this brought up more discussion about this requirement, which Martha suggested could be brought up at a later time). Section VIII, 1: suggested adding Q-pool and Side pool *operated by the tournament director/s*. Also suggested making it read that pools be paid back to *at least* the top 1/8. Section X, D: explain that no additional forfeit should be awarded beyond the first when a player leaves during an event; seating or rotation must be changed. Section X, A: Suggested wording: the final decision as to slow play shall be the responsibility of the tournament director and remove "as to any penalties". In the introduction, add statement to the effect that the ACC Policies and Procedures Manual is the ACC's parent document and supercedes this publication.

Lunch break - 1:05 p.m., return at 1:45 p.m.

Continuation of Agenda Item #8; Dwight Christianson, Ethics Committee Chairman apologized for the delay of the BoD meeting start because the Ethics Committee had not vacated the meeting room. He said their meeting had not concluded and would resume after the conclusion of the BoD meeting to finish up a few issues. Dwight said there were a few letters that would generate some standard suspensions, two suspensions (Ron and Darren Saik) that were for cheating and behavior issues that were being referred to the Executive Committee with a recommendation for expulsion, and the suspension of Heidi Glashan, which concerned financial irregularities of the Winnemucca Tournament which she directed. Her suspension will continue until she provides a complete financial breakdown of the tournament (who the money went to and how it was paid out, and what it was paid for), which she has been asked to supply by no later than December 31, 2005. Once the information is received, the Committee will then make a final decision, based on that information, on a recommendation. If she does not comply by that date, then it will be discussed at the February meeting. Her suspension means that she cannot serve on the BoD for five years as stated in the ACC's Constitution and By-laws, therefore, Valerie Sumner will replace her. Joan asked how to handle the announcement of the Division winners at the upcoming Awards Banquet on Saturday night, because one of the Saiks was a winner. It was determined that since he has not been expelled yet, she could go ahead and announce him as winner. It

was also mentioned that these suspensions should be published in the next issue of Cribbage World, as stated in the ACC's Constitution and By-Laws.

Marketing Committee Chairman, DeLynn Colvert mentioned three separate instances of marketing the ACC: Dwight Christianson's marketing fliers, the ACC's participation at the GAMA convention, and the ACC's internet web site.

He announced that he was awarding this year's President's Award to webmaster Diane Waite for her work.

Grass Roots Chairman, Joan Rein said the Grass Roots now has 170 clubs, and is increasing each year. There is a new club in Missouri, and the newest club is in Baghdad, Iraq (formed by a US civilian worker who was a member in New Mexico).

Judges Committee Chairman, Jeff Shimp requested that BoD members and judges write down situations that occur where decisions are questioned after the fact. If the details are written down and sent to him, he can then talk with other judges and form opinions about the calls. These opinions then would be shared with other judges so that the quality and uniformity of judging could improve. Forwarding them on to the rules committee and printing them in Cribbage World were also suggested. At this time it was noted that as Executive VP, Martha would check if a new Rules Committee Chairman needed to be appointed.

Agenda item #10, GAMA review and future plans. Dave Aiken handed out a report of the GAMA convention. ACC members, Al Lindner, Jim & Kathy Blough, Jeff Gardner and he attended the Convention in July, in Columbus, Ohio. This is the number one gaming convention in America, it ran for four days and was attended by over 15,000 people. The ACC members conducted two classes for beginners, one class for advanced players, two 3-hour mini-tournaments, and two evenings of social play. He feels that contacts made at the convention may lead to the formation of Grass Roots clubs in Ohio and Indiana. He had some suggestions for areas of improvement which included better signage, making up a brochure that lists ACC cribbage events at the convention, offering a special "one-year convention membership rate", and holding a sanctioned tournament at the convention. Following discussion, Dan Zeisler made a motion that the ACC offer a one time-introductory-one year membership at half the normal cost, to be collected on-site, for promotional events that have been approved by the BoD. Seconded by Cathy Perkins. Motion carried with 23 ayes/1 nay.

Agenda Item #11, Compensation Committee Chairman, Cathy Perkins explained to the new members about the stipends that are given for certain BoD positions. The committee had been asked to study and make a recommendation regarding compensation for the ACC Webmaster. Cathy said the committee's recommendation was to give the Webmaster the \$300 level stipend, and made a motion to do so. Seconded by Joan. Motion carried with one abstention. Cathy then said we needed to set a date to start the Webmaster compensation. Jeff made a motion to start on October 1, 2005. Seconded by Sharon. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #12, Marketing Fliers update by Dwight Christiansen: Four thousand of the fliers had been distributed, and there are about four thousand still available. He will have some in Reno. Tom Lewis said his club got two new players from the fliers. Dwight's main message was to keep putting out the fliers.

Agenda Item #14, Pat Barrett gave an update of GNXXV for 2006. He said the tournament will be held at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, on September 29, 30 and October 1, 2006. The hotel room rate is \$72. He distributed a pamphlet from the hotel. He is working on getting an airport shuttle. The nearest airport is 45 miles away in Mosinee, with the airport in Madison about 80 miles away.

Agenda Item #15, Dave Campbell is still working out details for the possibility of holding GNXXVI in Portland, Maine on the weekend of Sept. 27, 2007. He has a playing location, Verzillo's at Howard Johnsons. He requested that discussion be tabled until the February meeting.

Jeff Shimp distributed a brochure about Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is thinking of requesting that GNXXVIII be held there in 2009.

Agenda Item #17, Larry Hassett distributed new pages for the ACC Policy & Procedures manual with changes from the last BoD meeting. He said he hoped to send out in December a list of proposed changes to be addressed at the February meeting.

Agenda Item #18, Bob Julian noted that when Syl decided not to run for election, there was a period of time between the election and the BoD meeting that the office of Executive VP was vacant. This created the problem of who would prepare the BoD meeting agenda. Bob suggested that a committee should evaluate these shortcomings in our procedures and proposed that we address this lapse of officer's duties by having the officers hold their positions until the new officers are elected at the annual meeting.

Agenda Item #13, Rollie Heath, updated the BoD on GNXXIV. He said we have over 530 players registered for the main tournament, that 294 were playing at this time in the early bird tournament, and 214 played on Thursday night. He felt that things were going really good and was looking forward to a great weekend.

Martha pointed out that she had put a "wish list" on the wall, asking for input from us for any projects that we would like to see accomplished within the next two years. Also, she will be sending out a letter reminding us to submit agenda items for the February meeting, and that if an item is not on the agenda, it will not be discussed. She asked that we read all information that has been sent to us and be prepared.

Joe Bernard wanted it noted that there was information in Cribbage World about a tournament being held in North Dakota that is not a sanctioned tournament and the entry fees are non-refundable.

Larry Samet discussed the proposal he had sent out for Hall of Fame voting. It is a two-part proposal: First to remove the electing process from the BoD to a designated group of 75, three to be chosen by each BoD member; then establishing a set of guidelines for accomplishments worthy of being elected to the Hall of Fame. He has had some good feedback, and added that this was a combined effort, not just his. This proposal had been sent out on time, but was missed on the agenda and it was generally felt that more discussion was needed before it be voted upon. Martha suggested that each of us be prepared to give 3 or 4 nominees for the proposed panel.

Next BoD meeting: Feb 9, 2006, at the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, Reno, NV.

Cathy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Bob Julian. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.