

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2007
VERILLO'S CONVENTION CENTER
PORTLAND, MAINE

Executive Vice-President Martha Fingleton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call was taken. Present were Dave Aiken, Pat Barrett, Joe Bernard, George Bickford, Dave Campbell, Dwight Christiansen, Martha Fingleton, Sharon Hejtmanek, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Bob Julian, Tom Lewis, Al Lindner, Herschel Mack, Bill Medeiros, Bob Milk, Ron Morgan, Cathy Perkins, Joan Rein, Phyllis Schmidt, Jeff Shimp, and Valerie Sumner. Absent: Larry Hassett, Fred White and Dan Zeisler

Martha asked for any additions/deletions to the agenda. Tom Lewis asked that his policy proposal be moved from item 6-b, to item 20-b. Cathy Perkins moved that the agenda be accepted, 2nd by Jeanne Hofbauer. Motion approved.

Martha asked if there were any changes to the minutes of February 28, 2007. Discussion regarding having the minutes distributed in a more timely manner followed. Dave Aiken and Jeanne had established deadlines, which Jeanne will try to meet. Tom Lewis noted that he had not seen Committee member's names on the website yet, as had been approved at the February meeting. Joan said she would get the information to webmaster Diane Waite. Phyllis Schmidt moved to accept the minutes, 2nd by Cathy Perkins. Motion approved.

Agenda addition: Jeanne showed the BoD members the award ring that had been approved for DeLynn Colvert, and will be presented to him at the awards banquet tomorrow night.

Fred White arrived at the meeting.

Agenda item #5 Election of Officers: Joe Bernard announced that only the current office holders were running for election. There were no additional nominees, although the member-at-large position had a second nominee who declined. Sharon Hejtmanek made a motion to retain all officers in their present positions, 2nd by Tom Lewis. Motion approved.

Agenda item #6: Martha presented a change to the Constitution and By-Laws. The BoD had approved changes in the dues and age requirements for life-memberships at the September 2006 meeting in Wisconsin. Larry Hassett subsequently discovered that Article III of the Constitution and By-Laws specifies an age for life-membership. The Executive Committee postponed the dues changes that were to be implemented on August 1, 2007, until the Constitution and By-Laws could be amended, so as to not deviate from policy. The proposed amendment deletes specific mention of a minimum age for Life membership, thus allowing the BoD the freedom it needs to alter our dues structure and membership classes without amending our Constitution each time. The proposed change to Article III would be as follows:

ARTICLE III – Members

- a. Any individual not officially barred from membership in the Congress may maintain his or her membership upon submission of an Application for Membership with the fee established for his/her class of membership*
- b. The ACC Board of Directors will establish membership classes, age requirements, and the corresponding dues, including, but not limited to, (1) Regular, (2) Junior, and (3) Life memberships*
- c. Voting rights of members of the ACC are limited to election of individuals to serve on the Board of Directors of the Congress, consistent with the provisions in Article IV. ACC members can individual influence the operation of the Congress only through their elected representatives on the Board of Directors.*

Joan Rein moved to accept the proposed change, 2nd by Bob Julian. Motion approved.

Agenda item #7 Treasurer's report: Bob McCabe had sent out his report with income statements and balance sheets and asked if anyone had any questions. He said we were continuing in a healthy financial condition, that our cash reserve rose slightly, thanks to the revenue from internet cribbage. Bob Julian asked about the shortage in the budget last year for printing Cribbage World. Bob McCabe said that he had increased the budget by \$5000 this year. Martha had questions about Grass Roots expenditures for the National Tournament and Internet Access & Hosting being considerably higher than budgeted for, and projected for 2008. Bob said that Joan could provide better answers, but she was not present, so Martha said the questions could be addressed during Joan's Grass Roots Committee report. Cathy Perkins stated that the figures she had provided for printing CW for the 2008 budget are probably going to run about \$4000 more. Bob asked if the BoD wanted to approve the budget as it stands, knowing there will be a variance, or have him re-work the budget. Cathy Perkins moved to accept the budget, 2nd by Al Lindner. Motion approved.

Agenda item #8 Dues Increase: Cathy Perkins suggested we consider increasing the Membership dues by 50% (except for junior membership) because of increased expenses such as postage and printing of CW and loss of income from life memberships and pre-paid dues. Bob McCabe's opinion was that though it was not an immediate concern, it would be in the very near future. He said that our general reserve had dropped about \$63,000 in the last seven years. His opinion was that a reserve of \$100,000 was a good contingency fund for the ACC and said that it will probably drop below that in the next year if we do not take some action. He was asked about the raise in sanctioning fees generating income, and said that the effect was lessened by lower attendance. Roy mentioned that we will have some large expenditures in the future, such as a new rule book, and more members' awards. Bob Julian suggested that if we do approve an increase, that an article be put in CW explaining why it was necessary to do so. Cathy made a motion to increase ACC dues by 50% across the board for all categories except Junior members, effective January 1, 2008, as follows: Regular from \$10 to \$15; Partner from \$2 to \$3; Life from \$80 to \$120; Life spouse from \$40 to \$60, 2nd by Phyllis Schmidt. Motion approved.

The BoD had previously approved changes in the Life Member dues and age requirement at the September 2006 meeting, but those changes had never gone into effect (see agenda item #6). Since the dues increase had changed (see agenda item #8), it was thought that the BoD should also re-approve the age requirement. George Bickford made a motion that we keep the Life-Membership age requirement at age 62, 2nd by Valerie Sumner. Motion Approved.

Agenda item #9 Cribbage World: Cathy Perkins presented a new fee schedule for CW ads which Dave Aiken had made. Dave had also reconstructed the size of ads available. Discussion

followed, during which Dave withdrew his proposed fee changes for the inside covers. Cathy noted that there had not been a change in CW ad fees since 1991. The proposed changes were:

Paid ads: half column \$35, full column \$60, half page \$60, full page \$100
centerfold spread \$250
Tournament promos: half page \$40, full page \$75, centerfold spread \$200

Cathy made a motion to accept the proposal for new CW ad sizes and ad fees, 2nd by Dave Aiken. Motion approved.

Roy Hofbauer suggested that we publish the name of new members in CW, as a way to welcome them to the ACC. Joan Rein said that Larry Hassett sends out a notice of new members to several people and he could just add Dave to the mailing list. Cathy said she would notify Larry to do so. This would be for new first time members only, not renewals. Dave agreed to this.

Agenda item #10 HOF Proposal: Herschel Mack presented a proposal to use as a back-up to the current HOF voting procedure. "If no person is elected by the HOF voting panel, but one or more nominees have received a majority of positive votes from the total votes cast, then at the same meeting where the vote of the panel is reported, the members of the ACC BoD shall vote once on any such nominee(s). To be inducted into the ACC HOF by this method, a nominee must receive a minimum of 75% positive votes of the BOD members present during voting." The opinion of the BoD was that although this proposal had merit, it was too soon to make any changes to a system that had not yet proved problematic. Herschel withdrew his motion to accept this proposal.

Agenda item #11 GN XXVI update: Dave Campbell distributed gifts of Maine blueberry jam and soap to the BoD members. He said that everything was going well so far, the midweek had 164 in the main and 134 in the consolation, and there were 440 signed up so far for the GN main.

Agenda item #12 GN XXVIII (2009): Martha stated that Jeff Shimp and Dave Aiken had provided the BoD with a lot of info, and that an inquiry from Des Moines, Iowa did not follow through. Jeff distributed a sheet with some of the perks the Crowne Plaza Hotel of Grand Rapids is providing, which include a room rate of \$85.00 +tax, free airport shuttle, free parking, and free use of the convention center for the entire 3 days of the tournament. Joan Rein made a motion to award GN XXVIII to Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2nd by Sharon Hejtmanek. Motion approved.

There was an inquiry about next years GN in Portland, OR. Martha stated that Tim Julkowski, the director would make a presentation at the Reno meeting in February. Jeanne also distributed some brochures from Portland, OR.

Jack Howsare distributed a proposal booklet from Virginia Beach, VA for the 2010 GN. He briefly stated some of his ideas for other activities, such as a mid-week, a golf tournament and deep sea fishing.

Agenda item #13 GN Window: Dave Aiken and Jeff Shimp discussed the problems associated with booking conventions at hotels. Dave made a motion that the BoD change the policy of awarding the GN Tournament from two years prior to three years prior, except for GN XXVIII (2010), which will be awarded at the BoD meeting in Reno in February 2008, 2nd by Joan Rein. Motion approved.

Lunch Break, resume at 12:30 p.m.

Agenda item #14 Pledge of Allegiance at BoD Meetings: Roy Hofbauer made a motion that the recording secretary lead the BoD in saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting, 2nd by Bob Milk. This proposal was being made at the request of Ratso Roderick. After discussion a vote was taken:

10 ayes, 10 nays, 2 abstentions. Motion not approved.

Agenda item #15 Swiss-style tournament: Dave Aiken, Dwight Christiansen, Larry Samet and John Schafer would like permission to run a sanctioned Swiss-style tournament for 32 people, with a possible entry fee of \$100, to be held in the Eastern or Central region. Dave Aiken distributed paperwork describing how a Swiss-style tournament works, with suggestions of how to award masterpoints for it. There was discussion regarding the mechanics and the problems with this type of tournament, and the awarding of masterpoints. Bob Milk suggested that they try running this type of tournament as a satellite event. The BoD suggested they try running an unsanctioned tournament, and we will discuss it again at the meeting in Reno. Bob McCabe said that our current masterpoint program does not have a way to input points for this type of tournament.

Agenda item #16 Annual Reports of Officers:

President Al Lindner reported that Internet Cribbage has brought in \$6000 so far, with another \$2000 expected this week.

Executive VP Martha Fingleton had nothing to report

VP Policy Larry Hassett was not here.

VP Operations Cathy Perkins had nothing to report.

Member-at-Large George Bickford reported that he was attempting to get an audit done this year.

Agenda item #17 Annual Reports of Standing Committees:

Executive Committee: Martha reported the following actions: Authorized \$1250 advance to GN XXVI (Portland, Maine) for out-of-pocket expenses, consistent with ACC policy. Delayed dues increase as authorized by the BoD last September because of the conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws. Authorized a sum, not to exceed \$1600, for the printing of 84,000 scorecards to be sent to the three Tournament Commissioners. Authorized \$1600 for a printer for Larry Hassett.

Public Relations: Tom Lewis distributed a summary of the committee's activities for the past 12 months (the Western Washington State Fair's successful promotion, distribution of boards, playing cards and rule books to the New Mexico National Guard, Norm Nikodym's lowering of his tournament entry fees to encourage less experienced players, Dave Aiken possibly running a low entry fee tournament that would have several optional side-pools, to encourage players on fixed incomes to play). He also listed suggestions for promotion such as getting a National sponsor, getting a celebrity such as Terry Francona to join, getting merchants to promote us by listing our web site on their receipts, publicizing GR Clubs on Craig's list. He asked how his committee would get funds if so needed. Cathy explained that there is money budgeted for this committee; he needs only to request it from the BoD or the Executive Committee if necessary before a meeting.

Ethics Committee: Sharon Hejtmanek reported that there have been a few issues that committee has dealt with, and one 4 month suspension.

Rules Committee: Herschel Mack distributed a report of the committee listing some of the items they are considering. He mentioned a few problems that had come up lately and said he hopes to get some suggestions for changes to the BoD before the Reno meeting.

Judges Program: Jeff Shimp reports that the program is running well.

Grass Roots Program: Joan Rein said that the BoV had made a decision to change the scoring system so that GR points are awarded weekly for scores of 12 and up, and the regional and national tournaments will award points for scores of 24 and up. The new system started in September and Joan said that only a minor programming change was necessary. She said that 3% to 5% more GR points will be awarded. Though this change was made against policy in not getting approval from the BoD, she feels it is a good change, and would like it to be accepted. She moved that the BoD approve the new GR point system, 2nd by Dave Aiken. Discussion followed, and Joan was asked to track award expenditures for significant increases and reminded to seek BoD approval properly in the future. Motion approved. Joan said that the BoV meets after the BoD meeting in February, and a lot of their decisions are made at that time. They would not be able to implement any changes when the season starts in September as it is before the next BoD meeting. She asked if it would be possible to take decisions made between meetings to the Executive Committee for approval. Martha saw no problem with this, and said if something was deemed "controversial" it would just have to wait for the next BoD meeting.

Tournament Rules & Guidelines: George Bickford said that random seating was still a big issue. He was asked at the last meeting to establish a list of "do nots" in tournament seating. He had sent this list out to BoD members. He read the list and said that the simplest way is to use one common container with all the numbers in it, not visible, and that all players draw their own seat assignments. Discussion followed about issues such as seating handicapped players and spouses, limited time for seat drawing, and tournament directors pre-seating. Since the BoD could not reach a consensus, Martha suggested an Ad-Hoc committee be formed to study the issue.

Agenda Item #18 Internet Cribbage: Bob Milk reported that last season 210 tournaments were played with a total of 7264 players and our affiliation with Game Colony provided the ACC with \$6000. We get a percentage of money for every person who joins Game Colony through the ACC site, and plays in any money game. Six members will be receiving their eMaster awards at the awards banquet this weekend. He has expelled one player who has also been expelled from Game Colony for abusive language. He continues look for other sites to hold tournaments.

Agenda Item #19 ACC Website: Pat Barrett reported that Webmaster Diane Waite had given him an overview of website activity from August 2006 until the present. CW is now available on line; 179 tournament announcements & results were posted last season, and 114 of those had fliers available to download, 2006-2007 Grass Roots club champions; and 2006-2007 All Americans were added. Other sections were updated as information was received. Changes to the website are: updating the HOF section, adding a link to CW articles; adding a section of information for tournament directors; possible section on how to count cribbage hands. The website has between 15,000 to 25,000 visits per month, and is considered a very important part of our organization.

Agenda Item #20 Youth Cribbage: Tom Lewis reporting for Dan Zeisler said that there have been 41 requests for teaching manuals so far this year (38 were from school teachers). There was only one request for money to support a youth tournament (from Dan). According to Larry Hassett, there is a very low rate of youth renewals. He asked for volunteers to help him reach

out to social clubs and recreation departments at the College level, and will provide start-up kits consisting of 10 boards and 20 decks of cards.

Agenda Item #21 Recruitment Reimbursement Proposal: Tom Lewis suggested that Dan Zeisler be given permission to use Cribadier General funds to use for setting up the above suggested College-level clubs. He also suggested that change in the maximum allowable age to qualify for youth membership be changes from "Junior Dues Under 18" to "Junior Dues Under 21". Bob McCabe stated that there was now \$9000 in the Cribadier fund. Dave Campbell volunteered to give 25 boards and 100 decks of cards to Dan for this project. After a lot of discussion, Tom made a motion to allow Dan to use Cribadier funds for college recruitment expenses up to \$1000 to be used at his discretion, 2nd by Dave Aiken. Motion approved with one nay & one abstention

Agenda Item #22 Reimbursement Proposal by Tom Lewis: Tom made a motion to reimburse a member of the Publicity and Marketing committee for expenses incurred for advertising in CW for the amount of \$340, 2nd by Dave Aiken. This person is not aware of Tom asking for this, but Tom felt that this person has devoted a lot of his time and energy and should not also have to incur the expenses. Discussion followed, and some of the members felt that they did not want to offend this person, nor set a precedent. Vote was taken by a show of hands, motion defeated.

Agenda Item #22 TOC & JPW/ACC Open: Martha solicited a bid from the Sands Regency for the years 2009 through 2012. She distributed their proposal which included a list of benefits. After brief discussion Phyllis Schmidt made a motion to continue our contract with the Sands Regency for the TOC and the JPW/ACC Open through 2012, 2nd by Jeanne Hofbauer. Motion approved.

Agenda Item #23 Martha had dates for future TOC – JPW/ACC Open (and BoD meetings) in Reno: 2009 – Feb 5-8 / 2010 – Feb 11-14 / 2011 – Feb 10-13 / 2012 - undetermined (NFL Superbowl not yet scheduled)

Next BoD Meeting: Thursday February 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

Martha then discussed the prospect of having the annual meeting (held at Grand National Events) start at 9:00 a.m., as the GR Tournament of Champions is held on those afternoons, and BoD members are involved in running the tournament and sometimes in participating in them. Al Linder made a proposal to start the annual meeting at 9:00 a.m., 2nd by Jeff Shimp. Motion approved.

Cathy Perkins made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Bob Julian.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.