

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5, 2009  
SANDS REGENCY CASINO HOTEL  
RENO, NEVADA

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

The BoD recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was taken. Present were: Dave Aiken, Pat Barrett, David Campbell, 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, Phyllis Schmidt, Jeff Shimp, Valerie Sumner, Fred White, Keith Widener and Dan Zeisler. Non present: Joe Bernard and George Bickford (excused absences).

Martha asked that the agenda be approved. Cathy Perkins made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Herschel Mack. Motion approved.

Jeanne Hofbauer asked that the minutes of the last meeting be approved and made a motion to do so, seconded by Bob Milk. Motion approved.

Bob McCabe presented the Treasurer's report. The ACC had a loss for the 6 months ending 12/31/08 of \$5069. This was primarily due to the purchase of playing cards for eventual resale to clubs and tournaments. In addition, we had the usual 1<sup>st</sup> half spike in award expense. He expects that as the cards sell and the awards expense even out, we will move towards meeting the FY2009 budget. He suggested we alert members that the cards are available for purchase. Joan said that with shipping the cost is about .50 per deck. Martha suggested that the Regional Commissioners notify tournament directors about the cards.

Item #7: the BoD discussed printing the ACC's financial report in Cribbage World. It was decided to print a summary of the financial report once a year in CW.

Item #8: There was discussion about changing Article IV (h.) in the ACC Constitution and Bylaws. The new text would be as follows: A Director who misses 50% or more of the Board meetings scheduled during his/her term (unless excused by the Executive Vice President) shall be removed from the

Board by the President and replaced by an appointee as soon as practicable in accordance with Article IV (g). A person so removed from the Board of Directors shall be barred from running again or serving as a Director for five years. Dave Aiken made a motion to accept the new text, seconded by Jeff Shimp. Motion approved, one nay

Item #9: Larry Hassett wanted it clarified that though we are approving rule changes, that they would not go into effect until the new rule book is printed, and that our Policy and Procedure manual had to be updated at the same time. He reported that we have approximately 800 rule books left. Herschel stated that anyone could call him and he would send them a list of the rule changes that had been approved so far for inclusion in the new rule book, as there seemed to be a lot of interest from the membership. Herschel then proceeded to go over the proposed changes he had sent us from the Rules Committee. We went through the list making suggestions, changes and additions to it. Don Smith brought a suggestion to the BoD about a problem involving pegging. We discussed it and agreed that it was problematic; Herschel said he would study it with the committee and bring back their recommendations. Herschel said we are nearing the completion of the work for the new rule book.

Item #10: Herschel presented a proposal submitted by Jones Hom regarding establishing guidelines for vendors at tournaments such as the Grand National and the ToC. This stemmed from an incident where orders were paid for, but not received from the vendor. Sharon stated that this incident was handled by the Ethics Committee and that the vendor had been suspended until he makes good on the orders. After much discussion, the BoD decided that such guidelines would probably not have an effect such incidents (which rarely happen) and would involve more work for the tournament director.

Item #11: Jeanne presented a proposal from Bernie Nelson suggesting that "all Grand National Tournaments be exempt from ACC Sanctioning fees, thereby helping to increase the tournament prize fund." He believes that it would help tournaments that have more expenses bolster their prize funds, thereby directly benefiting the attendees, without having any significant impact on the overall ACC membership. Bob McCabe was asked his opinion, as treasurer. He stated that we already subsidize the Grand National. Two future GN Directors, Peggy Scalley and Jack Howsare stated that they were raising their entry fees by \$10 to bolster their pay-outs. It was the consensus of the BoD that we should keep the status quo and not exempt the sanctioning fees.

Item #12: Joan Rein presented a proposal for Grand National XXXI in 2012. She has been in contact with the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI, with the possible dates of September 20-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. She handed out brochures and a proposal from the hotel. Martha stated that this was the only proposal

received so far for 2012 and that a decision to award the bid will be made in September.

Item #13: GN XXVIII Director's Jeff Shimp and Dave Aiken handed out envelopes to the BoD with entry forms and information about making hotel reservations. They are putting entry forms in the envelopes received by JPW/ACC open attendees, and using many different ways to distribute their flyers. Jeff stated that there is no charge for the convention space. He said that the flyers for the tournaments held in the week before the GN would soon be ready. Jeanne mentioned that the rep. from Terryberry Co., where we order watches and rings from had asked if the BoD would like to tour their headquarters in Grand Rapids. There was interest, so she will work on the arrangements. Jack Howsare gave a brief update to GN XXIX. Peggy Scalley mentioned that GN XXX may have to change locations because the facility in Redding will not have a hotel built in time as planned. However, the tournament will be held in California, and they in the process of exploring other venues now.

Item #14: Martha presented a proposal to reconfigure the All-American Team and eliminate the All-Regional awards. She suggested that we increase the All-American team so that it comprises the 16 persons (a flexible figure, but not to exceed 20), who have earned the most MRPs, regardless of the region(s) in which they live; and retire the All-Regional awards. This proposal is only meant to affect the awards given by the ACC, not the regional team competition held in February on the Thursday before the ToC in Reno. She did not expect that we would make any decisions today, but hoped to get some input on this issue, perhaps forming a committee to study it. After discussion, it was decided to form an Ad Hoc committee that will bring their suggestions to the Sept. meeting. The members are: Keith Widener, Dave Campbell, Valerie Sumner, Al Lindner and Bob Julian.

Lunch break, resume at 1:00 p.m.

Item #15: Pat Barrett said that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of voting by the 100 person panel. This year we had 26 nominations for 8 nominees. There were 97 ballots returned. Pat said that 8 members of the panel had moved, so he asked each BoD member to give him updated info on their 3 chosen panel members before each vote. The results of the voting yielded one new member elected to the ACC Hall of Fame: Catherine Perkins. She will be inducted into the HOF at GN XXVII. Mentioned in further discussion was: going back to the two envelopes system; that perhaps Pat could pre-label the return envelopes; and that the criteria for HOF election be included in the balloting package.

Item #16: Jeanne stated that shortly after the Sept. meeting she was asked for permission from two members to use the ACC Logo. Though there is supposed to be a form for them to fill out, it was apparently never made, plus the Trademark was supposed to have been renewed in 2004. She is now in the process of renewing it.

Item #17: Dan Zeisler showed the BoD the T-shirts that the Sands had printed for his upcoming youth tournament. They provided 72 shirts. He thanked Dave Aiken for the space in CW for his monthly column. He is getting a lot of responses. He has gotten requests for his teaching manual from Germany and France. Dan also said that when the youth program gets a donation of \$25 or more, he is notified by Larry Hassett, and Dan writes a thank you letter to the sponsor. In January there was a youth tournament in Chico, CA, which had 58 kids and he is anticipating 50 to 60 kids for his tournament later this month. Since he gets so many questions regarding counting etc., he volunteered to be the contact person on the web-site for people seeking answers to cribbage questions. The BoD agreed to this, and he will contact Diane Waite, the webmaster, to put this info on the web-site.

Item #18: Tom Lewis presented his Public Relations and Marketing report. He encouraged all Grass Roots club members to write stories for any local publications. He recommended discontinuing the ACC posters with "pull off" tabs and the Cribbage Anyone brochures when current supplies run out. Also AARP has again been contacted regarding publication of ACC items in their publications. He is holding off until after the ACC BoD election to further report some of the recommendations of his committee, to avoid any appearance of "electioneering".

Item #19: Joan reported that as of this morning there were 548 TOC entries. Roy reported that Scott had finished the drawing for seats, and there were 947 entries, with a few more expected.

Item #20: Dave Aiken reported that the Birthday of Sir John Suckling (the inventor of the game of cribbage), was being celebrated by the ACC in several ways. The cover and several interior pages of the January Cribbage World was devoted to him. He had contacted some 11<sup>th</sup> generation members of the Suckling family living in San Diego and Washington State, and though they could not attend this tournament, there may be a chance of them attending GN XXVIII. There will be a "Suckling impersonator" making an appearance on Saturday. There were two contests which will have the winners announced on Saturday. The year 1609 was the year of Sir John's birth, so during Saturday's 22 game qualifying round, anyone holding a 16 hand with a 9 crib will win a Sand's T-Shirt and all of those winners will then be in a drawing for a suite stay awarded by the Sands. Also, the Reno post office will be on hand Saturday with a pictorial

postmark honoring Sir John and the ACC. Dave also has a contact with a stamp news publication that will feature the postmark, which notes the American Cribbage Congress Largest Cribbage Tournament.

Martha again thanked the Sands for all of their support for this weekend's activities. She also reminded the BoD members that there is a reception in the next room at 3:00, hosted by the Sands, which give us an opportunity to meet and say thank you to several of the "behind the scenes" members of the Sands' team.

Item #21: Bob Milk proposed that we start all BoD meetings at 9:00 a.m. as we have done at the Grand National tournaments where the early start accommodates the Grass Root Tournament of Champions. He feels we get more work done in the mornings, as opposed to the "after lunch" crunch. Jeff Shimp made a motion that we accept 9:00 a.m. as a start time for all BoD meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phyllis Schmidt. Motion carries

Roy asked if there were any updates to Internet Cribbage. Bob Milk said they had to drop 2 tournaments a month because of lack of tournament directors. They are looking to restart them in April because they have more volunteer directors, and they will be holding the tournaments on E-Cribbage, so now there will be two sites for internet tournaments.

Pat Barrett wanted us to know that Diane Waite, our ACC Webmaster is here this weekend, and suggested that if we have any questions or comments for her to be sure and contact her.

Next BoD Meeting: Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 9:00 a.m. (EDT) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Catherine Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Lindner. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned 2:00 p.m.

