

**American Cribbage Congress**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—Approved 3/2/17**  
BETHESDA NORTH MARRIOTT – BETHESDA, MARYLAND  
OCTOBER 7, 2016

- 1. Call to order:** President Jeanne Hofbauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. She requested that all cell phones be turned off or at least placed on airplane mode, and that members with PC's refrain from interacting on social media during the meeting. She stated that "we are all friends here." Noting that there are a few contentious issues on the agenda, she asked that everyone treat each other civilly. She said we all have the same basic goal: to do the best we can for the ACC. She extended a big thank you to Bruce Sattler for his leadership in running the Grand National.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance:** Valerie Sumner led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Roll Call:** Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. Present: Dave Aiken, Rick Allen, Pat Barrett, Henry Bergeron, Dave Campbell, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Paul Gregson, Roland Hall, Don Hannula, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Ron Logan, Cy Madrone, Dave O'Neil, Bruce Sattler, Todd Schaefer, Rick Shea, Jeff Shimp, Wayne Steinmetz, Valerie Sumner, Terry Weber, Keith Widener. James Morrow and Phyllis Schmidt were absent (excused.) Twenty-three members were present. We had a quorum. Jeanne J. circulated the contact list for updates.
- 4. Approve agenda:** Jeanne H. made a couple of changes. Item #14 was moved to between #6 & #7. Youth report was added to Item #18. **Action:** Jeanne H. made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.** [Agenda items in these minutes were renumbered accordingly.]
- 5. Approve minutes of Feb. 11, 2016:** There were a couple of minor changes (not recording errors) to clarify statements that were made in error. The first was on page 9, item 24 regarding bonding. We don't just give out the Federal tax ID#, so that phrase will be eliminated. The second was on page 12 regarding "compensation" for Dave O. It will be changed to "reimbursement." Jeanne J. will send out the amended minutes. **Action:** Ron L. made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2016 as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.**
- 6. Election of Officers:** Pat B. presided over the election of officers in the absence of Phyllis S., who normally conducts the election. He distributed the slate of officer and Executive Committee nominations. They included:
  - President: Jeanne Hofbauer
  - Executive VP: Todd Schaefer
  - VP Policy: Keith Widener (incumbent), Valerie Sumner
  - VP Operations: Dave Campbell
  - Member-At-Large: Terry Weber (incumbent), Jeff ShimpThere were no additional nominations for the unopposed candidates. They were deemed elected. There were no additional nominations for the two positions that had two candidates. Pat B. invited the candidates for VP Policy to speak. Neither did. Pat B. also invited the candidates for Member-At-Large to speak. Both candidates spoke to their qualifications. A ballot vote was conducted for each of these two positions. The vote for VP Policy was 12 -11 for Valerie S. The vote for Member-At-Large was 12-11 for Terry W. Jeanne H. congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked the candidates who didn't get elected.
- 7. Grass Roots points for visitors:** Ron L. commended the Grass Roots program including Joan Rein and her GR Board of Volunteers. He read the letter, which has been presented twice to the GR Board of Volunteers, proposing that visiting GR members earn points when they qualify at other GR clubs other than their home club, during the first 36 GR sessions played during the season. He said that this will allow people who miss their own GR session to make up elsewhere during the season. Paul G. confirmed that there are basically no glitches in tracking the points; the

software logic is in place to track points in this manner. There have only been two basic objections: 1) players might get GR points quicker, thus expediting awards and costs; 2) it could affect who becomes Club Champion. The second objection was taken off the table because only points acquired at one's official club will count towards Club Champion. Rick S. noted that this might discourage players to play in more than 36 GR tournaments. Paul G. stated that the software would support someone be recorded as a "unofficial player" (such as with a GRRT or GRNT) instead of a visitor if they didn't want a visit to another GR club to count towards the 36. Bob Milk suggested that people might pick an "easy" GR club to make up. Dave A. suggested eliminating the traveler's club if this idea were implemented. Valerie S. noted that the GR meeting will be the next day. Jeff S. suggested a straw poll for the BoD to make a recommendation to the GR Board of Volunteers. A show of hands showed most in favor of the proposal. Only two people were not in favor of the proposal. Valerie S. will bring the BoD's recommendation to the attention of the GR Board of Volunteers tomorrow.

- 8. Update of GN XXXV:** Bruce S. reported that approximately 250 people are expected, which was a little less than originally projected. He highly complemented the North Bethesda Marriott for being so easy to work with and bending over backwards to accommodate their needs. The \$15K food budget in the contract will not be met. We are responsible for 35% of the difference. \$1,200 was built into the budget, and the 50-50 raffles will help make up the difference. He still anticipated being able to give 100% payback. He gave accolades to Jill Kratz, who helped facilitate negotiations with the hotel. There will be a nice dinner for the banquet, which will have a red white and blue theme. A free night will be given away for the best red white and blue outfit, and another free room will be drawn from early registrations. Jeanne H. extended kudos to Bruce S. for his budgeting skills.
- 9. Update of GN XXXVI:** Peggy Shea thanked BoD members for their service. She handed out a promotional packet and flyers for GNXXXVI at Chinook Winds Casino & Resort in Lincoln City, Or. She acknowledged how negotiations were aided due to the long-standing relationship between the Hofbauers and Chinook Winds, where the 2005 Grand National was also held. There will be 10 consecutive days of cribbage, starting Labor Day weekend September 1, 2017, with a tournament in North Bend run by Larry Hassett, and an early midweek in North Bend on September 4 & 5 run by Herschel Mack. There will be a midweek September 6 & 7 in Lincoln City (about 2 ½ hours north of North Bend,) kicking off with an event Tuesday night, September 5. The Board meeting will be on September 8 and the Grand National on September 9 & 10. Chinook Winds is being very generous with us, contributing money to the prize fund and awards, and is not charging for the facility. The [awards] dinner buffet will be \$30 and will include salmon, steak and chicken. Rick S. noted that they don't have a block of rooms at the Chinook Winds hotel and the hotel will fill quickly. Therefore, he advised people to make reservations early. There are many other options in the Lincoln City area. Chinook Winds has an RV park and a free parking area with no hook-ups. Peggy S. said that it will be an amazing tournament in a beautiful area. She referred people to the GN XXXVI Facebook page and on the ACC website for updates and leads on things to do.
- 10. Update of GN XXXVII:** Terry W. reported that plans are going smoothly for the 2018 GN XXXVII at the Crowne Plaza in Milwaukee, WI. He noted that it was great to have Jill Kratz on his team negotiating with the hotel. The contract calls for \$7,000 in food and beverages. There is a free shuttle from the airport to the hotel.
- 11. Bids for GN XXXVIII:** Todd S. said that he received one bid from Paul Barnes for the 2019 Grand National. Paul B. said that he and his wife Joy, who is going to be fine, will host GN XXXVIII September 24-29, 2019. He was confident that he and Joy can run the Grand National (they did the '98 Grand National in Daytona Beach), and Rick A. and Jack Howsare have also offered their support. He and Joy looked at three options, but are looking most closely at the Hilton at Orlando Altamonte Springs, because they can accommodate our playing space needs better and the cost is lower than the other two. It is a beautiful facility 10 miles or so from Orlando FL. [He later provided some handouts about the hotel.] They have negotiated a \$10,000 budget for the food which includes lunch for the midweek, lunch for the Grand National, the BoD lunch and the banquet. The room rate is \$95 including 2 days before and 2 days after. There will be one free night per 30 rooms sold. There is free self-parking, wi-fi, no resort fees, etc. There is 20,000 sq. ft. in meeting space. There isn't a shuttle to the airport, but there is a shuttle to restaurants within 3 miles. He will see whether there is a bus service to the hotel. When questioned, Paul B. said he

doesn't have a contract yet, but it won't be difficult to get. He was confident that he could have it as soon as he got back home. There was some discussion as to whether to wait until March to approve the proposal for the Hilton at Orlando Altamonte Springs. **Action:** Willie E. made a motion to OK the proposal for GN XXXVIII at the Hilton at Orlando Altamonte Springs contingent on the contract being signed, and bringing back an update at the March BoD meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd S. **Motion Approved.**

**12. Treasurer's Report:** Marlene Lazachek referred to her emailed financial report. It indicates a \$5,275 loss last year compared to \$11,000 the year before. The 6 months of increased fees helped cut down our loss by more than half, and we should be completely out of the hole by the end of this year. Expenses included printing of 6,000 membership cards for \$60 and the TD Handbook for \$480; promotion--we spent \$1,000 on state fairs; and equipment (consisting of \$1,500 for a new printer and \$300 for a folding machine for Larry H.) The money from the Game Colony ad went up from previous years. So far this year, we received \$3,300 from the Game Colony ad, with a quarter to go. Marlene L. also reported on the ACC's investment, which as of August 31, 2016, was \$52,746. We took off \$3,000 prior; so far, we have made \$5,746 from our investment including the \$3000.

**13. Membership Secretary's Report:** Dave C. reported for Larry H., referring to the handout from Larry H. Overall, the ACC lost a net of 23 members last year. No one had any questions.

#### **14. Old Business:**

- a. Review Annual Performance Metrics:** Paul G. provided a hand-out with data that showed trends and other information useful in determining how the ACC is performing in general. He will do this every year so that we can review any changes. His report provided metrics for membership, weekend tournaments, Grass Roots, and Internet Cribbage. He used membership information from Larry H. to prepare the report. With the membership metrics, we can see gains and losses by category. There has been a consistent decline in overall membership—12% over the last 12 years. The ACC's ability to attract new members has declined by 20% since 2004. The data shows lost memberships by categories, including the deaths we know about. One of between 7 or 8 new members don't renew. Paul G. can track other categories as desired, such as the number of life memberships and the number of youth memberships. With regards to the metrics for weekend tournaments, there is a decline in the number of players which exceeds the decline in memberships. While the number of tournaments has increased by 33%, the attendance at tournaments has decreased by 28%. The average number of players per tournament has declined 40%. Paul G. also provided a breakdown of this data by region. The metrics for GR on the other hand shows that the number of GR clubs has increased, and total play show that more people are playing locally. Whereas only 23% of GR members earned MP in weekend tournaments, 67% of all ACC members also pay GR dues. There has been little growth in Internet cribbage, which peaked at 253 in 2011-12, and now is at 177 players. The Internet metrics show that only 2.8% of ACC members play online, and those people only play an average of one time a week or so. Jeanne J. suggested that reportedly there were technical glitches and accessibility problems in the past, and this might explain some of the decline. John Schafer said that he has tried to address this through Facebook, working out improvements with Game Colony and increasing the number of internet tournaments offered at different times to account for time zone differences. Dave C. pointed out that Paul B. got Internet cribbage going, and the plan was not to compete with weekend tournaments. Paul G. said that the data shows that fewer people are playing in more online tournaments, so we're not doing something right. Valerie Nozak said that Internet cribbage is less about current members and more about raising our cribbage profile and exposure to the ACC. Jeanne H. thanked Paul G. for his report.
- b. IRS Tax Reporting:** Valerie S. introduced the follow-up discussion regarding the Sands [sending 1099 supplemental income forms to players accumulating \$600 or more in prize fund during 2015.] She invited Barbara Woodward to speak to the issue. Barbara W. indicated that casino money is closely scrutinized by the IRS. The Sands is walking a fine line in making cribbage players happy and meeting legal regulations. She said that the Sands has determined that 1099's will be issued on cumulative prize money over \$600 for 2016 and going forwards. Barbara W. is committed to keeping the process "squeaky clean." Ron L.

suggested that the onus was on the tournament, not the ACC, which only sanctions the tournament. Barbara W. pointed out that the February tournament is listed as the ACC Open. "Do you want to poke the bear?" she asked. The Sands is assuming the liability instead of the ACC. Keith W. said that it seems that the prize money is not the Sands money, and that there may be other ways to handle this. He suggested a phone conference with Barbara W. to further discuss his ideas on other options. Rick S. asked if anyone has refused to provide their Social Security number. Barbara W. replied that she already had most of the SS#'s, and that the Sands is handling this in good faith to keep everyone from getting in trouble. Paul B. expressed concern about the risk to the ACC's non-profit status if we don't do it the Sands way. He suggested that we think of Barbara W. and the Sands as our treasurer. Willie E. suggested that a lot of problems can be solved if Keith W. talks to the Sands about his ideas. Keith W. agreed to talk with Barbara W. and the Sands. Jeanne H. thanked Barbara W. for her report.

- c. Membership Secretary backup:** Dave C. reported that Larry H. is in the process of training someone in his town to do anything local, such as picking up the mail if Larry H. is unavailable. Dave C. has enough knowledge to take over if something happens to Larry H. or he quits. Therefore, he is Larry H.'s back-up. Dave C. is confident in Larry H.'s back-up plan. Eventually, everything is going to change anyway, once Larry H. is no longer the Membership Secretary. We will have only one system for doing everything.
- d. New rulebook:** Dave C. reported that the new 2016 rule book has been printed, and distributed copies to members of the BoD. The new rule book is distinguished from the old rule book by a "ribbon" printed on the cover. There are a few issues. First, on page 15, the rule change regarding too many cards in either hand with the correct number in the other hand and crib was intended to play on without penalty for an accidental fifth card. Rule #1 in Column B doesn't work, so the best fix is to change the 1 to a 9. **Action:** Cy M. made a motion to change the two #1's in Column B to #9's. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard F. **Motion Approved.** Second, the score card discrepancy rules during cross-checking on page 35 need to be renumbered after 12.2e, and the rule added that if everything is the same on both scorecards, it is recorded as a loss. It was discussed as to whether to do nothing or post the correction on the website and in Cribbage World for people to add to the back cover. Roland H. proposed the following language: "If both cards record a win or both cards record a loss, with spread points in the same column, it is a loss to both players with the spread points put in the negative column." **Action:** Roland H. made a motion to adopt the proposed language, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cy M. **Motion Approved.** Dave A. will print the revised page 35 of the crosschecking section in Cribbage World with instructions to clip and insert in the new rule books.
- e. New masterpoint software:** Dave C. stated that the old program has been updated so the new point system, where all qualifiers get some qualifying points, has been applied since August 1<sup>st</sup>. Paul G. said that he took a few months off, and is in the process of going back to work on re-writing the program. Dave C. noted that Paul G. hasn't been paid since he stopped working on it in March, but payment will begin again when he starts working on the re-write. Dave C. indicated that the rewrite will be done by the next Grand National.
- f. Terms for paid volunteer positions Ad Hoc Committee:** Paul G. stated that there was no update. This will be removed from Old Business. He will re-propose it when ready.
- g. Codification of nonstandard tournaments:** Deferred to next meeting.
- h. Accreditation for doubles tournament:** Willie E. stated that logistically this will not work. It will be a nightmare to implement, both from a rules perspective and in tracking points. This issue will be dropped.
- i. Judges recertification:** Jeff S. reported that Larry H. can send a recertification test to all the judges for whom he has an email address. The plan is to proceed now that the new rule book is in circulated, and complete within 90 to 120 days. Al Miller will change the tests for all new judges. Keith W. reminded the BoD

that the policy states that it is mandatory to recertify when there is a new rule book. Roy H. commented that we can change policy. A discussion on methodology ensued, including developing an online test. The consensus was to defer the implementation of recertifying judges to Jeff S.

- j. Home for ACC archives:** Fred White stated that he is trying to pawn off storage of the archives to someone else. He is working with Barbara W. The Sands has found an area to store the archives. Fred W. will be going through some things. There are 6 to 8 boxes of photos and memorabilia. He may dispose of duplicate hard copies of old Cribbage Worlds that are scanned. For now, he intends to start storing things at the Sands prior to the March meeting. They are checking on some liability issues before taking the next steps with the archives. Jeanne H. thanked Barbara W. and the Sands for their help.
- k. Life membership reinstatement:** Jeff S. stated that he is looking at a proposal increasing the eligibility age for a life membership, but doesn't have a finished proposal, but will bring something back in March.
- l. Subsidized memberships:** Dave C. and Dave A. have come up with a concept for a special fund to subsidize those who need to renew memberships but can't afford it. Dave A. and Dave C. have each donated \$100 to launch the fund with \$200. Dave A. challenged the BoD and compensated members to donate \$10 for a 50/50 raffle for the person who is the highest qualifier in the Grand National. Subsequent donations can be sent to Marlene L. Donations to the fund will also be promoted through GR directors and in Cribbage World. This concept will be formalized and will be given a catchy name. For now, Dave C. and Dave A. will decide who gets the subsidy. It will be focused on GR players who cannot afford ACC and/or GR dues. Dave C. will provide an update in March. On a similar note, Dave C. reported that John Quill Taylor, of "Hand of the Day" fame, donated \$1,000 to the ACC towards new memberships. He wanted to encourage people to join the ACC. It is designed for the first 50 people new to the ACC who are interested in joining and who contact Dave C. So far there are 19 people who have taken advantage of this opportunity.
- m. ACC social media:** Dave C. said that there is no report. This item is dropped for now.
- n. Publication of anonymous letters in CW:** Jeanne H. indicated that at the last meeting, the BoD voted to defeat the proposal allowing Dave A. the prerogative to publish anonymous letters in CW, voting 7 in favor and 13 against. However, this issue was tabled in order to consult with the VP for Policy as to whether this action could be taken because it was a non-agenda item. Keith W. clarified that while there are specific procedures, the BoD doesn't always adhere to Robert's Rules of Order, and can basically do what it wants [with regards to making decisions on non-agenda items.] Dave A. stated that the BoD entrusted him to make decisions as to what is appropriate and what is not. He stated that publishing anonymous letters is a time-honored tradition. He later clarified that he would not publish anything if he doesn't know the source; he would publish a letter from "name withheld" rather than "anonymous." Dave C. noted that this situation has happened perhaps only 5 or 6 times over the years, and only one brought objections. It would be a problem if it were more frequent. During the subsequent discussion, it was noted that a CW Advisory Board has been established. It currently consists of Dave C., DeLynn Colvert, Jeff S., Paul G., and Valerie N. A straw poll was conducted to allow Dave A. to publish a "name withheld" letter only after consulting the CW Advisory Board. Only two BoD members opposed this advisory.
- o. Additional awards for Masters, Grand Masters & Life Masters:** Terry W. raised this issue so that ACC tournament players could receive the same types of awards as GR players. It got tabled because of a change in the awards coordinator. Jeanne H. pointed out that the ACC is already spending quite a bit of money on the 50 trophy boards and plaques for ACC award recipients this year. \$2,807 was spent on boards and plaques, and another \$604 on Life Master One Star awards. Ron L. pointed out the disparity in the percentage of dues that goes towards awards in the GR program as opposed to the ACC [weekend tournament] program. He suggested that there be additional awards for different levels besides the Life Master One Star. Dave O. coordinates awards for 28 and 29 hands. It was suggested redesigning the 28

hand certificates and putting them on nicer paper. It was also suggested adding a lapel pin for 29 hands, the same as is done for GR. The consensus was to go ahead with this retroactive to August, 2016, and Jeanne H. will get them. Jeanne H. will also look into “vanity awards” for different levels [besides the Life Master One Star] that players may pay for. She will bring some suggestions to the March Board meeting.

- p. Compensation & expense reimbursement:** Dave O. reported that the Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Dave O., Rick S. and Dan Selke, has met. They received input, and are in the process of compiling information. This report will be e-mailed to everyone before the March BoD meeting. If anyone has any further suggestions, please send them to Dave O.
- q. Bonding for GR Commissioners:** Dave C. reported that Marlene L. is taking care of all the GR people who need to be bonded. She will also add the Grand National Director.
- r. Additions to the web site committee:** Henry B. reported that Fred W. joined the committee. They are in the process of gathering copies of complete minutes from over the years. He noted that some of the old minutes need to be corrected with regard to the actual locations where they were held.

**15. Proposal to drop muggins from TOC:** Roy H. suggested that muggins is a factor in why fewer people are attending the TOC. **Action:** Roy H. made a motion to drop muggins from the TOD, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Failed.** 10-For 12-Against 1-Abstained. A lively discussion took place prior to the vote. Jeff S. suggested dropping muggins for 2 years to see whether it affects attendance. Dave C. referred to a survey on Facebook that indicated that the major issue affecting attendance was the high entry fee, with more than half of respondents identifying that as the major deterrent to attending the TOC. Don H. suggested that the survey only applied to members who do Facebook. Paul B. also pointed out that 85% of those playing in the TOC are at a disadvantage because they never play muggins anywhere else. This perhaps leads to slow play while trying to avoid being mugged, which also might affect attendance. Cy M. suggested that muggins is a cribbage tradition and spoke in favor of keeping muggins at the TOC. Don H. suggested lowering the price of the TOC to see if that might help improve attendance. **Action:** Don H. made a motion to lower the TOC entry fee from \$100 to \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron L. **Motion Approved.** 20-For 3-Against. Don H. will ask 2017 TOC players to indicate on the back of their scorecards as an advisory to the BoD whether to keep or do away with muggins in the future.

**16. Proposal regarding barring players from tournaments:** Roy H. proposed changing the current policy that allows Tournament Directors (TD’s) the ability to bar any player from their tournaments. He referred to his handout which, in consultation with Ethics Committee Chair Valerie S., proposes new wording in the ACC Policy and Procedures Manual as follows “*Tournament Directors may bar any player from participation in his/her tournament for good cause. Barred players may seek recourse by taking the issue to the National Tournament Commissioner, who will then contact the Regional Tournament Commissioners for resolution.*” There was considerable discussion on this topic, particularly as to what is “good cause.” Roland H. read a quote from the ACC Code of ethics, implying that good cause is already covered by the Code of Ethics. Richard F. said that the “cause” must be cribbage-related and not simply personal differences. Others described behavior that might not be covered in the Code of Ethics, such as excessive criticism, disruptive behavior or demeaning behavior toward someone at a specific tournament. Both Pat B. and Ron L. gave specific examples of behavior that led to a TD banning a person from their tournament. Several others advocated for the TD’s ability to deal with such people by barring them for a good reason so long as there is due process for them to appeal. There was consensus on there being an appeals process, but initially there were some differences in opinion as to how that would work. Some suggested allowing the player to appeal to the Ethics Committee, while others suggested a regional approach—for instance, the TD and two other TD’s or senior judges from the region. Several others suggested the appeals committee consist of 5 persons: the 3 Regional Tournament Commissioners, the National Tournament Commissioner and the Member-at-Large. Valerie S. suggested that the three regional Commissioners are experienced enough and can get enough information to make

a good decision. After several amendments, Roy put forward his proposal in the form of a motion. **Action:** Roy H. made a motion that Tournament Directors may bar any player from participation in his/her tournament for good cause. Barred players may seek recourse by taking the issue to a Tournament Commissioner, who will then contact the other Tournament Commissioners for resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.** 22-For 1-Abstained.

Valerie noted that this will immediately go into the TD handbook, and taken up at the next BoD meeting [March, 2017] to change the ACC Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect this decision. Such changes in policy need to be proposed two months prior to the next BoD meeting.

**17. Proposal regarding policy on incorrect distribution of prizes:** Valerie S. said that an issue arose at the last Reno tournament regarding a mistake made in team play payouts. She stated that it has become evident that there needs to be a little more regulation regarding side betting things such as team play. If it is not on the tournament flyer, it becomes the responsibility of the person putting on that side bet. A suggestion has been made that the rules of the side bet or team play be posted for everyone to see. These rules also need to state that the TD and the ACC are not responsible for any money exchanging hands regarding the side bet. Roland H. pointed out that when tournament prize money is distributed incorrectly to persons, it is appropriate to collect the money from those paid incorrectly and then redistribute prizes correctly. He suggested that side pool managers have a similar obligation to redistribute prizes if there was a mistake. Keith W. stated that side pools and team play is not the ACC's business unless it is on the tournament flyer. Don H. echoed Keith W.'s sentiments. Cy M. identified two separate issues: 1) when there is a mix-up with tournament payouts, the TD needs to fix it. 2) when it is a side pool, it should be made clear that the ACC and TD are not responsible. Barbara W. noted that the side pool manager should not sit in the same place as the tournament registration. She said that unofficial side pools and team play are "Buyer Beware" situations. A straw poll was conducted about putting rules in the TD Handbook regarding unofficial side pool payouts. Two were in favor of this and the majority were not.

## **18. Committee Reports:**

**Youth**—Donald "Grumpy" Howard reported that he is now the new National Youth Director along with Dan Zeisler as his Co-Director. The youth masterpoint (YMP's) system is now in place. Zack Gregson was last year's Youth Champion. Grumpy H. stated that despite the fact that both Dan Z. and Grumpy H. live in California, we want youth cribbage to grow nationally. Our first youth "graduated" out of the Youth program when he turned 19. Grumpy H. pointed out that only a maximum of 200 YMP's can be converted to MP's. Grumpy H. commended Dan Z. for starting the longest running youth tournament. The 24<sup>th</sup> Sierra Youth Tournament will be held in February. The 6<sup>th</sup> Memorial Youth tournament will be held June 3, 2017. Plans are underway for the first Youth Grand National Tournament to be held at the Grand National in Lincoln City on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Starting in 2018, the National Youth Tournament is being proposed for the July tournament at the Sands. Grumpy H. asked for feedback on these ideas. He noted that there are several youth playing successfully in weekend tournaments. Jeanne H. read an email questioning several aspects regarding the Youth Program: 1) why the cut off for youth play has been changed from 17 years old to 18 years old. 2) If a youth plays in a weekend tournament, they should no longer eligible to play in youth tournaments. Grumpy H. acknowledged hearing of these concerns, and he and Dan Z. are open to making adjustments to the Youth Program. Grumpy H. ended by thanking everyone for their support, and again welcomed feedback.

**Grass Roots**—Dave C. reported on behalf of Joan Rein and referred to her written report. The number of GR clubs has increased. He pointed out that the most significant change was the restructuring of ring awards, and that the rings are now plated rather than metal. This has resulted in a savings to the GR program.

**Internet**—John S. reported that there were a bunch of changes to the Internet program, including Game Colony tournaments on Sundays. Tammy Gibbons also added a tournament on e-cribbage on Mondays. They need more volunteers—there is one in training and 3 more in the pipeline. If they get approximately 3 more TD's, they may be

able to add the Saturday tournament back. Tim Julkowski stepped down as registrar, and has been replaced by Debbie Lucas. John S. is working it out so that he gets cc'd on emails that go to Tim J.

**Judges**—Jeff S. reported that in March, he will reappoint Senior Judges. There will be some changes.

**PR/Marketing**—Jeanne H. had nothing to add to what has already been said. Dave C. reported that there have been two recent articles, noting the recent Boston Globe article about cribbage being played by Red Sox baseball players in the dugout. We will send “real” boards and DeLynn C.’s book to the Red Sox, with our contact information. Pat Llewellyn suggested putting the article on the ACC website. Dave O. suggested sending them to the Braves as well, with whom he has connections. Dave C. said that a lot of our marketing efforts haven’t been very effective, and we have to do something to address dropping attendance. Valerie N. is trying to do something with social media, and James M. also is working on some marketing ideas.

**Rules**—Wayne S. had nothing to add to the earlier discussion.

**Tournament Commissioners**—Roy H. announced that the TD’s Handbook will be amended to state that TD’s will supply all playing cards, and that any deck of cards used by players must be approved by the TD. The Tournament Commissioners are ordering more scorecards. The TD’s are getting better on Q pools. Dave O. is working on an update of the Tournament Directors’ Manual.

**Ethics**—[Note: The room was cleared of spectators. Only the BoD members and the Recording Secretary remained.] Valerie S. reported that the Ethics Committee sent 4 warning letters. There were two suspensions, one of which has ended. The big issue is the expulsion of Tom Drexler, who received and signed the letter notifying him that the BoD will be voting on his expulsion at this meeting and of his right to address the BoD. He has not responded. However, he has admitted he took \$1,350 in entry fees from a Wisconsin tournament where he was the TD, which resulted in a charge of misdemeanor theft. The ACC has asked for full restitution. Mr. Drexler will be appearing at a criminal court hearing scheduled for October 17, and Terry W. will be there to represent the ACC. **Action:** The BoD voted unanimously for the permanent expulsion of Tom Dexler from the ACC. Valerie S. indicated that in follow-up he will be sent a letter confirming that he has been expelled, his name will be stripped from all ACC records, and Commissioners, statisticians and relevant GR directors will be notified.

**Executive**—Jeanne H. reported on expenditures approved by the Executive Committee, including \$7,662 for printing and shipping the new rule books to four locations, the Game Colony an advertising discount, and money to promote cribbage at several state fairs. They also approved reimbursing Don H. \$300 for an out of pocket gratuity for Barbara W. and her crew for their help with registration and admin support during the whole TOC weekend, that used to be paid by the Sands. **Action:** Don H. made a motion to continue the ACC paying a gratuity of \$300 to Barbara W.’s team at the Sands during the TOC weekend, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy H. **Motion approved.** Keith W. pointed out that there will be a BoD election next year. None of the other Executive Committee members had anything else to add to what has already been said. Jeanne H. asked Executive Committee members to stay after the adjournment for an Executive Committee meeting.

## **19. Next Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, March 2, 2017**

**20. Adjourn: Action:** Keith W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.**  
Meeting Adjourned 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Jelke,  
Recording Secretary