

American Cribbage Congress
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

SANDS REGENCY—RENO, NV

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Approved 10/25/19

- I. **Call to order:** President David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:58 am.

- II. **Pledge of allegiance:** Valerie Sumner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. **Roll Call:** Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. In attendance were David Aiken, Rick Allen, Patrick Barrett, David Campbell, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Paul Gregson, Roland Hall, Don Hannula, Audrey Hatto, Jeanne Jelke, Pat Llewellyn, James Morrow, Valerie Nozick, Dave O’Neil, Todd Schaefer, Rick Shea, Jeff Shimp, Mark Soule, Valerie Sumner, Diane Waite, Terry Weber, Fred White, Keith Widener. Apologies from Jeff Gardner. 24 Board members were present. We had a quorum.

- IV. **Approve Agenda:** David C. referred to the most recent version of the agenda which he circulated prior to the meeting. The Agenda was accepted by consensus.

- V. **Approve Minutes of September 21, 2018:** Jeanne J. presented the minutes of the September 21, 2018 BOD meeting in Milwaukee. **Action:** Mark S. made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Pat L. **Motion Approved.**

- VI. **Hall of Fame Results/Update:** Jason Hofbauer announced that David Campbell was elected to the ACC Hall of Fame. He received 81% of the votes. The next highest nominee received 49% of the vote. Everyone [of the 100-person voting panel] voted, although there were some challenges with addresses of people who moved. Jason H. will send out suggestions to reduce mailing costs, including providing panelists with the option of receiving HOF packets digitally or by snail mail.

- VII. **GN XXXVIII North Conway, NH Update:** David C. passed out flyers for the 2019 Grand National and related tournaments in North Conway, N.H. It will be October 22 to 27, 2019. The theme will be “October Fest.” He recommended that people book rooms at the hotel if they haven’t yet. The ACC will have the whole hotel. David C. noted that Portland, ME is the nearest airport (about one hour.) Manchester, NH is about two hours but has cheaper car rentals. Boston is about 2 ½ hours and more expensive car rentals.

- VIII. **GN XXXIX Sacramento, CA Update:** Jeanne J. reported that the organizing committee is meeting regularly in preparation for the GN in 2020. The dates are September 22 through September 27, 2020, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento. There is no charge for the rooms we are using for the 6 days of tournaments, banquet, BOD meeting, and two administrative rooms. However, there is a large food and beverage budget in lieu of rent. Fundraising efforts are already underway to help offset expenses and increase the prize fund. There likely will be a Youth Tournament concurrent with the Grand National.

- IX. **GN XL Omaha, NE Update:** Scott Kooistra reported that the Grand National in Omaha will be October 1-3, preceded by the Midweek September 29-30, 2021. Both tournaments will be at the Comfort Inn &

Suites. The entire hotel will be available for the ACC. Hotel rooms will be \$89 plus tax per night. The hotel is charging nothing. Scott K. said that he will be retiring soon and will actively promote the GN in 2021.

- X. GN XLI Eastern Bids Discussion:** Paul G. invited those in the Eastern Division to submit bids so that the GN in 2022 can be awarded at the next BOD meeting in North Conway. An article will be put in Cribbage World to encourage bids. An exploratory group with help from Jill Kraatz is looking into the possibility of a tournament in Niagara Falls. Other exploratory groups are considering Charlotte and Greensboro, NC.
- XI. Reno TOC/ACC Open Update:** Don H. reported that attendance for the TOC is hovering at about 400. Attendance is down due to health reasons and weather, but there could be some walk-ins. Rick S. stated that the ACC Open attendance is down 10%, with around 620 registered. Some cancellations are expected due to weather and roads. This led to a brief discussion on changing from March to later in the spring. David C. suggested putting it on the agenda for consideration after our contract with the Sands expires at the end of 2020. Steve Fierro stated that the Sands will bring options. He reported that the Sands is beginning to remodel all the rooms, starting with the 15th floor of the Empress tower. Hopefully, the Empress tower remodel will be completed by next year. Utilities are also being updated to allow power capacity for a new buffet. Other improvements will include walled areas for meetings.
- XII. Old Business:**
- A. ACC website update:** Diane W. reported that other than some trouble with updates on the Grass Roots side, the new website is working well. She is adding old BOD minutes, but there are lots of gaps. She is also adding a section on Awards History. She is meeting with the Sands graphic artist to try and relocate the Sands logo towards the top. She will also add a copy of the new Tournament Directors Manual.
- B. Tournament Directors Manual Finalization:** David C. reported that the Tournament Directors Manual has been finalized, and he circulated copies to BOD members. Pat B. has 150 manuals, Rick S. will get 300 manuals, and David C. will have 150 manuals. It will also be posted on the website.
- C. Credit Card Payments:** David C. reported that he and Marlene Lazachek signed up with “Freedom Merchants” to take membership dues online. There have been a lot of problems. Luckily, they canceled us. David C. and Marlene L. will continue look for a system for online payments for memberships. David C. stated that we need to do this, and it is going to happen.
- D. Consolation Lite:** Paul G. stated that there have been four “Consy Lite” playoff-style tournaments—two in California, one in Colorado and one in Michigan. A survey of the players in the California Consy Lite tournaments indicated 50% loved it and 50% hated it. Dave A. stated that the one in Michigan had a similar experience. Paul G. said that probably a higher percentage in the Colorado tournament liked it. Paul G. said that the BOD approved a one-year trial. He suggested the BOD vote whether to continue it or not. **Action:** Jeanne J. made a motion to continue “Consy Lite” as an option so long as it is on the flyer; seconded by Jeff S. 21-for, 3-opposed. **Motion Approved.**
- E. Sanctioning Request/MRP Update:** Paul G. confessed that he hasn’t made much progress lately [designing online tournament reporting and MRP tracking program] because of the demands of a new job. He is working towards extracting himself from other cribbage responsibilities. He is giving up some of his programming work, and there is an ad in Cribbage World for a new Grass Roots programmer. There are several new programmer prospects. From now on, people are asked to send emails about problems

to David C., not to Paul G. Statisticians are having challenges with updates. The Grass Roots statistician, Dan Selke, needs to do weekly updates, but often there is a lag in getting ACC numbers for new players. The problem is that the Grass Roots and the ACC membership have two different data bases that are not integrated. Valerie N. will head up an ad hoc committee to study integrating the data bases.

XIII. Reports:

- A. Membership Secretary:** Larry Hassett asked if there were any questions regarding his report. He wanted to address a couple of things. He said that all members of the organization who are compensated, including himself, are independent contractors, and as such the organization can't direct them to do things. Otherwise, they would be employees. Larry H. indicated that while he doesn't like to be "told" to do something, he believes that we can work out problems together. There was further discussion on the two different data bases. Larry H. stated that the membership data base was not designed to be updated on the Internet. He thanked everyone for their patience as he relocated from Roseburg, OR to Las Vegas.
- B. Treasurer:** Marlene L. reported briefly, referring to her written report. She indicated that the investment account as of 1/31/19 has a current balance of \$51,392. There is roughly \$130,000 in all ACC accounts. The only major expense has been printing scorecards for \$7,125. The ACC has received \$13,239 in donations for Paradise relief so far. This was divided among the six ACC families who lost their homes. Additional funds are coming in. Marlene L. also stated that Cynthia Wark is her new back up Treasurer.
- C. Grass Roots:** Joan Rein said that there are approximately 3,700 Grass Roots members, edging up towards 4,000 members. Grass Roots awards destroyed in the Paradise fire were replaced. She stated that she has 28 hand, 29 hand, and Grand Slam pins to hand out to club representatives. The Grass Roots Committee will meet at 8 pm on Friday. She noted that the Executive Committee will be meeting this afternoon to consider candidates for her successor.
- D. Internet:** John Schafer read Tammy Gibbons' report which had been previously circulated to the BOD. By consensus, the BOD agreed to her request for \$20 out of her internet budget to pay ACC membership fees for an Internet tournament director who isn't a member. John S. addressed a few glitches. Paul G. referred to a conversation in late 2018 regarding designing a Cribbage Pro app for phones. Income from Game Colony has been decreasing, down to \$200 currently. However, some funds have come from other games. Drop down advertisements on e-Cribbage may be worth it and will be discussed with Damien. John S. hoped that pod cast games will be started by next year.
- E. Marketing Committee:** Valerie N. reported that the Marketing Committee will be promoting International Cribbage Day through internet tournaments and through social media. Eleven tournaments were promoted in Games Magazine—one or two per issue, with selected tournaments across various regions. The Marketing Committee is also planning mass emails, perhaps one per month. Jennifer ____ from North Carolina will take over from Paul G. and will also do programming documentation for Grass Roots. Willie E. suggested providing more business cards. Valerie N. noted that the template is in the media kit on the new website. Larry H. has an inventory of bumper stickers.
- F. Rules:** Referring to the written report, Dave O. presented three recommended rule changes by the Rules Committee. He started with the proposal to add section 14.3 "Judge Protocols." [The wording appears in Attachment A to these minutes.] Most of these protocols already appear somewhere in the rule book

and/or have been discussed at previous BOD meetings. **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to create a new section 14.3 on Judge Protocols to be put at the end of the current rule book; seconded by Fred W. 24-for, 0 opposed. **Motion approved.** After a brief discussion, it was decided to change every “should” to “shall” in the protocols. **Action:** Fred White made a motion to amend the Judge Protocols by replacing each “should” with “shall.” 23-for, 1-opposed. **Motion Approved.** The second recommendation from the committee was to change the second entry in Rule 4.4.c [when the dealer’s and pone’s hands are correct but there are too many cards in the crib] after the cut from action 2 to action 9. In the committee’s opinion, the recommended change is consistent with other actions when too many cards are dealt. However, several BOD members suggested that it was better to remove the excess card from the crib. After discussion, the committee’s initial recommendation was withdrawn. After lunch, a new action number #14 [the wording appears in Attachment A to these minutes] was proposed to be added to the Table of Actions for rule 4.4.c and applied to the second entry. **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to create action #14 and to change the second entry in the Table of Actions for rule 4.4.c from 2 to 14 in the “after the cut” column, to be effective March 1; seconded by Dave A. 24-for, 0-opposed. **Motion Approved.** The third recommendation was to clarify Rule 4.2.a. about dealing from the top of the full deck. **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to add the phrase “It is not permissible to distribute the cards from a portion of the deck.” to Rule 4.2.a. 24-for, 0-opposed. **Motion Approved.** These changes will be announced in Cribbage World. Dave A. has the latest version. He will work with Dave O. and Diane W. to get the updated Rule Book on the website. David C. committed to having a new Rule Book with all the changes edited and printed one year from today. The inventory of old rule books will then be dumped. Dave O. stated that the committee will revisit the issues listed in the written report that haven’t yet been agreed upon.

G. Ethics: Keith W. reported that the Ethics Committee has been active. Several written warnings have been issued. Two people have been suspended. Keith W. indicated that the Ethics Committee is acting on anything it gets and is creating a file in each instance so that the committee can keep a history. He added that no further actions have been taken by the committee, but one thing is brewing. Don H. asked if the committee gets back to a complainant, suggesting that the complainant be appraised on outcome of the complaint. Keith W. stated that there isn’t a written policy about this. Any new policy would have to be proposed prior to the October BOD meeting and brought to a vote.

H. Judges: Jeff S. stated that the new tester is doing a great job. Valerie N. inquired whether there was an age limit on judges. Dave C. replied that there can be “Junior Judges” who judge in youth tournaments.

I. Youth Program: Don “Grumpy” Howard reported progress with the Youth Program. He noted that the 26th Sierra Youth Tournament was just held. There was a smaller crowd due to weather. He noted that the 12 years + youth are improving and playing very well because of the increasing opportunities to play.

J. Tourney Commissioners: Pat B. reported that the online Tournament Directors Administrative site is working out well. He stated that between 90% and 95% of the new tournament requests and flyers are being posted on the portal. There have been a few issues with passwords. The three tournament commissioners will be recommending guidelines regarding the number of midweek tournaments.

XIV. New Business:

A. Renaming All-Star Event: Roland H. proposed to rename the annual All-Star tournament in honor of DeLynn Colvert. **Action:** Roland H. made a motion to rename the annual All-Star tournament the “DeLynn Colvert All-Star Tournament”; seconded by Jeff Shimp. **Motion Approved.**

- B. Tie Breaking Additions:** Keith W. said that two identical scorecards for the last qualifying spot at the Midweek in Milwaukee prompted the need to clarify how to handle this situation in the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual. He referred to his previously circulated proposal to add such wording to Section 6.IV.B.2. He proposed the following wording: [added phrases in bold italics] “The hierarchy for determining winning or qualifying scorecards is game points, games won, net spread points, plus points only, ***then head-to-head results from the current tournament’s qualifying round (if available).*** If all the previous found to be equal ***and no head-to-head results are available, the players will then play one game against each other and the winner gets the higher of the two qualifying positions. If playing for the final qualifying position, the loser becomes the top non-qualifier.***” There was some discussion on whether the results of a “head-to-head” game should be a determining factor. Action: Valerie S. made a motion to strike the phrases relating to head-to-head results; seconded by James M. 7-for, 16-opposed, 1-abstention. **Motion Failed.** Action: Dave A. made a motion to adopt the wording proposed by Keith W.; seconded by Jeff Shimp. 18-for, 5-opposed, 1-abstention. **Motion Approved.**
- C. Paradise Fire Update:** Paul G. noted that Marlene L. gave the overall numbers for the funds raised towards helping current ACC members who lost their homes in the Paradise fire. The ACC received \$6,600, and the “Go Fund Me” account received about \$2,500. More fund-raising is planned, including \$3 for each player that attends the Spokane tournament, and a raffle at the Napa tournament. Jeanne gave a shout out to Rick and Peggy Shea for their fund-raising tournament that raised more than \$2,000. Paul G. also gave a call out to Boyd Mac Donald and Howard Payson for each donating \$1,000, and Margaret Christensen Deutsch and Don Brown for each donating \$500.
- D. Position Replacements GR Director/GR Website:** David C. stated that there are ten applicants to replace Joan R. as Grass Roots Commissioner. The Executive Committee will go over the applications this afternoon at its meeting. The Executive Committee will take Joan R.’s advice into consideration. Joan R. will mentor and train her successor. July 31, 2019 will be Joan’s last official day as Grass Roots Commissioner. David C. said that there are maybe 2 applicants for the GR website programming position. He noted that this may be Don H.’s last year as TOC director.
- E. BOD Election New Dates/Time Frame/Process:** Dave A. reported that an announcement inviting BOD nominations will be put in the March Cribbage World. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2019. Ellen Kutz is the BOD Nominations Committee Chair. Biographies need to be sent to Ellen K. and photos to Dave A. Ballots will be issued in the May Cribbage World. Votes must be postmarked by May 31, 2019.
- F. Executive Officer Position Terms:** Jeanne J. stated that at the BOD meeting in Milwaukee the BOD approved extending Executive Officer terms to two years, provided an amendment to the By-Laws is passed at this meeting. As required, she circulated the proposed amendment 30 days prior to this BOD meeting. There was a brief discussion on the rationale. Jeanne restated that the extended terms will provide greater continuity and momentum, and will also coincide with BOD terms. Keith W. pointed out that an amendment to the By-Laws requires a two-thirds majority vote. Action: Jeanne J. proposed the following amendment to Article V Section a. the By-Laws [rewording in bold]; seconded by Willie E.

The Officers of the Congress shall consist of the President, Executive ***and Marketing*** Vice President, Vice President-Policy ***and Ethics***, Vice President-Operations and ***Vice President-Competition***. They

will be selected for a **two**-year term, **to coincide with the term of members of the Board**, by majority vote of the Board at the Annual Meeting in conjunction with the **next** Grand National Tournament **that immediately follows the election of Board members**.

23-for, 1-opposed. **Motion Approved.** Jeanne J. then presented rest of the Officers Nominating Committee's report, which includes draft 3 of proposed nominating procedures and nomination format. The committee intends to bring back Draft 4 in October. There was discussion on whether someone could be nominated as a candidate for more than one office at a time. The committee's position was that anyone can be nominated from the floor for a subsequent office. Other BOD argued in favor of allowing someone to be a candidate for multiple offices. This matter will be resolved at the next meeting. The committee sought guidance as to whether to formalize these procedures as an addendum to the ACC Policy and Procedures manual, or are just for use as internal operating guidelines. The consensus was to bring back a proposed addendum to the ACC Policy and Procedures manual to the BOD in October.

XV. Committee Reports:

Social Media – David C. said that he had nothing more to report.

Nominating – Jeanne J. said that she had nothing more to report.

IT/Technology – Paul G. said that he had nothing more to report.

Awards – Mark S. gave a recap of the Awards Committee meeting. Jeanne Hofbauer passed on the making of All-American Awards to Mark M. She will continue doing the HOF portraits. Master Award boards will have one engraved plate instead of three, to reduce costs, and will include the cribbage year. This will also be done for Grand Master and Life master awards. The watch will be eliminated as an award option for the Life Master 1*, leaving the options of a globe statue and a jacket. Players can order an ACC logoed jacket, which will be around \$75. It was suggested that "Cribbage" be added somewhere on the jacket, since people outside the organization won't know the significance of "ACC." The Committee will arrange for a special jacket to honor DeLynn Colvert.

XVI. Executive Committee Reports:

President – David C. reported that the Executive Committee approved \$500 for the cribbage booth at the Washington State Fair. He stated that everything else has already been discussed.

VP Marketing – Paul G. had nothing additional to report.

VP Ethics/Policy – Keith W. stated that he negotiated with Megan Player to facilitate the on-line option for the election. She asked for \$1,000. The ACC will compensate her \$700 including expenses.

VP Operations – Terry W. said that the relationship with the ACC's printer is working out. He is getting quotes for the cost of printing a new rule book.

VP Competition – Dave A. said that everything had already been covered.

XVII. Adjournment: David C. thanked members who are not running again for their service. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.** The meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Next meeting date: October 25, 2019 in North Conway

Attachment A.

[Re: 2/28/19 BOD Minutes Agenda Item XIII.F Rules Committee Report]

Additional Section 14.3 to the Rule Book “Judge Protocols”

- Judges shall not allow players to begin an explanation of what caused the problem for which they summoned judges until two judges are present.
- If judges are called to rule on a situation where one of the players is a judge, that player shall not display nor open the rule book in an attempt to convince his/her opponent which rule applies to their situation. This is a form of intimidation and should be avoided.
- Judges shall not leave their own game, if it is in progress until the hand currently being played is completed. Once a hand has been dealt, a judge may not leave to adjudicate another game until the play of the hand is completed. Before leaving his/her game, the judge shall verbally state who has the next deal when he/she returns from the judging call.
- Judges shall allow each player to explain his/her version of what transpired without interruption by the other player.
- A Senior Judge shall be appointed as Head Judge whenever possible by the tournament director.
- At least one of the judges responding to a judge call shall have a rule book in hand when making the judging call.
- Judges shall not be allowed to judge a situation wherein they are a party to the dispute.
- When Judges are called to adjudicate a situation where penalty and/or muggins points are involved, the Judges shall monitor the pegging of those points to ensure there are no errors.

Change to Rule 4.4.c “Pone’s hand correct, dealer’s hand correct, crib too many” after starter turned [page 15]

Change Action (2) to new Action (14)

If the judges, in consultation with the players, are able to determine which two cards each discarded to the crib, those four cards will form the crib and the remaining card is returned to the deck. If the judges are unable to verify the four cards discarded to the crib, a judge mixes the five cards and blindly draws the card to be returned to the deck. Play continues and both hands and the crib are counted.