

American Cribbage Congress

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

VIRTUAL MEETING via GoToMeeting

October 31, 2020

Final—Approved 3/27/21

- I. **Call to Order:** President David Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm EST
- II. **Roll Call:** Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. In attendance were David Aiken, Rick Allen, Henry Bergeron, David Campbell, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Tammy Gibbons, Roland Hall, John Hazlett, Jason Hofbauer, Jeanne Jelke, Cy Madrone, James Morrow, Dave O’Neil, Todd Schaefer, Dan Selke, Rick Shea, Mark Soule, Terry Weber, Diane Waite, Fred White, Keith Widener. 23 Board members were present. We had a quorum. Also in attendance: Ivan Wells, Scott Harker, Mike Barrett.
- III. **Approve Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda, so it was deemed approved.
- IV. **Approve Minutes of March 5, 2020:** Jeanne J. presented the minutes of the March 5, 2020 BOD meeting in Reno, NV, which had been circulated recently. No corrections were noted, and David C. deemed them approved without a formal motion.
- V. **GN XXXIX Sacramento, CA Update:** Jeanne J. referred to her written report. Planning, which had been in hiatus for quite a while is now underway, with a virtual Leadership Team meeting earlier in the week. GN 39 has been rescheduled for September 21 – 26, 2021 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento. The hotel rates will be the same, free playing space the same, the food and beverage budget the same with greater flexibility in menu choices, and a lower minimum room nights target. Updated flyers will be issued soon. Although paused for now, the Progressive Raffle will go forward with at least one more drawing and possibly an additional drawing if there is a tournament in March in Reno. Jeanne thanked Jill Kraatz for her great help in negotiating with the Doubletree and recommended that future GN TD’s work with her as a hedge against unforeseen circumstances (like the pandemic.)
- VI. **GN XL Omaha, NE Update:** GN XL has been rescheduled for 2022. There was no further report.
- VII. **GN XLI Virginia Beach, VA:** GN XLI has been rescheduled for 2023. There was no further report.
- VIII. **GN XLII Western Candidates/Bids:** James M. reported that there haven’t been any formal bids for the 2024 GN in the Western Division, just some interest. We will discuss this further at the BOD meeting in March. If no bids have been made by then, an ad will be placed in Cribbage World (CW). Bid(s) will be voted on at the BOD meeting in September.
- IX. **Old Business:**
 - A. **ACC Website Update/Replacement:** David C. indicated that Diane W. has agreed to work until the end of the year. An ad will be placed in CW, and hopefully a replacement will be found within the next few weeks. Diane W. stated that other demands and stressors are interfering with her ability to prioritize working on the website. Willie E. thanked Diane W. for all her work over the years.
 - B. **Grass Roots TOC Director Replacement:** Dave A. reported that Jeff Gardner has agreed to replace him as the new Grass Roots TOC TD. This year’s club champions (2019-20) will be invited to participate at the

2021 GR TOC at the Grand National. Dave C. also noted that Bob Joslin has indicated that he will be stepping down as GRNT TD.

- C. **Liability Insurance:** Jeanne J. referred to the previously circulated report by the Ad Hoc Liability Committee. She thanked committee members Richard F., Tammy G., and Matt Padrow. The committee conducted research with the goal of obtaining liability insurance policy options that would apply nationally for the whole organization instead of a piecemeal approach. The committee received two such quotes, with somewhat different approaches. One quote from Latus had an annual premium of \$885, but it doesn't include specific sites. Certificates of liability for specific locations must be applied for individually with an additional fee of \$225 each. The other quote at \$4,807 from Loomis & LaPann was comprehensive and all-inclusive, applying to all TD's, volunteers, weekend tournaments and Grass Roots. It also provides free certificates of insurance for venues at no extra charge, and covers the ACC as an organization. Both quotes were good through the fall. Having proof of liability insurance is more frequently required by venues. In addition, it will provide TD's with assurance that they won't be personally exposed to lawsuits on their watch. Recognizing that the ACC's income is down due to the pandemic, the committee recommended that the BOD approve the quote from Loomis & LaPann in principle but postpone engaging them until next year when tournaments and income start to increase. Richard F. stated that his daughter, who works for an insurance company, looked at the Loomis & LaPann policy. A similar policy by her company would cost more than twice the Loomis & LaPann quote. He said that this is a good deal. He felt we should agree to it today, but suggested holding on for now before implementing it. Tammy G. echoed what had been said so far and acknowledged how helpful it was to have Matt Padrow on the committee as he is an insurance agent. During discussion, the idea of going through one's homeowner's policy was suggested. It may be one way to go until we can take out liability insurance for the organization. The ACC's financial status was discussed, and David C. noted that it is down about \$30K. **Action:** Jeanne J. made a motion that we agree in principle to the Loomis & LaPann liability insurance quote, but postpone activating it at least until March when we can revisit it; she will ask Loomis & LaPann to extend the quote for at least six months; seconded by Keith W. 22-for, 1 abstention. **Motion approved.**

X. **Reports:**

- A. **Membership Secretary:** There was no discussion regarding the Membership Secretary's written report. David C. stated that Larry Hassett will be departing as Membership Secretary. The BOD discussed the role of the Membership Secretary. An ad for this position will be placed in the upcoming CW.
- B. **Treasurer's Report:** Marlene Lazachek circulated the Treasurer's Report quite a few weeks ago. There was no discussion. David C. called for a vote to accept the Treasurer's Report. 23-for, 0-opposed. **Motion approved.**
- C. **Grass Roots:** Ivan W. referred to the report he sent out. The Grass Roots season had to be extended last year, and it may also be extended this year. It has been challenging getting going this season. Funds are low—GR dues are at about 40% of last year. Ivan noted that quite a few clubs have switched to the Lite Division and two of the four divisions now have only a few clubs. Scott Harker has developed an online GR tournament format using Playing Cards.IO card playing site. Tests of the program seems to be working out well. There was additional discussion on reducing the number of divisions. Ivan W. will ask the GR Committee to consider a possible reduction to two divisions and bring a proposal to the March BOD meeting. If it is voted on in March, it will be effective 9/1/21.
- D. **Internet:** Tammy G. reported that Internet cribbage is going well as possible under the circumstances. Attendance is down a bit since the early days of Covid-19, but is still up since pre-Covid. Sally Henderson is transitioning well as the new Internet Commissioner. The Internet Committee is in communication at least weekly. She noted that James M. and John Schafer have been working on an IRP modification proposal. She noted that a nice addition is downloadable 28, 29 and Grand Slam certificates. Dave A. noted that there was a problem with non-random seeding on e-cribbage, which has since been rectified

and now there is random seeding. He also noted that there is a new Internet statistician, Adam Schweitzer. David C. thanked Tammy G. for her work as Internet Commissioner.

- E. **Marketing Committee:** David C. stated that nothing is going on currently with marketing.
 - F. **Rules:** Dave O. referred to the new Rule Book. There is only one problem which Rick S. noted: Rule 5.1b in the new Rule Book should have been replaced by Rule 5.3. **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to black out Rule 5.1b in the new Rule Book; seconded by Rick S. 23-for, 0-opposed. **Motion approved.** This change will be put in CW and Facebook, as well as emails sent to judges.
 - G. **Ethics:** Keith W. stated that one individual was suspended for leaving a tournament early. He also reported that another player was reinstated after being expelled in 1993. The player had altered his scorecard in Reno. This action was voted on by the Ethics Committee and then approved by the Executive Committee.
 - H. **Judges:** There was no report.
 - I. **Youth Program:** David C. indicated that Dan Zeisler will send out a brief report in the near future. He noted that Rick Pierce made cribbage boards for the Youth Program.
 - J. **Tournament Commissioners:** There was no report.
- XI. **New Business:**
- A. **Covid 19 Grass Roots/Weekend tournaments:** David C. said that this issue is difficult because states have different rules. There were two positive cases after a recent Wisconsin tournament. The TD wanted to make masks optional even though they were mandatory for that location and state. The TD was directed by BOD members to comply. She did, but not all players followed it and it wasn't enforced. Keith W. wondered if it should be an ethics issue if someone knowingly goes to a tournament when sick. This led to discussion about how to tell when someone is sick. Not all people register a temperature when they are contagious. Social distancing is also difficult at a tournament, although there are ways to space the tables and boards to provide more distance. Masks are encouraged everywhere, and if they are mandatory this should be on the flyer. David C. said that the three Tournament Commissioners will consult each other and come up with updated tournament policies regarding Covid-19. [Note: soon after the BOD meeting, a new COVID-19 policy for sanctioned tournaments and Grass Roots was issued by the Executive Committee.]
 - B. **Internet Cribbage Point Structure:** James M. referred to his e-mailed handout. He noted that there have been problems with the internet cribbage point system. There are two different ways to get points. A small team looked at ways to make the IRP point system more consistent. The proposed "Plus 2 System" restructures the point system in a fairer way, applying it to the top scores down. **Action:** James M. made a motion to adopt the "Plus 2 System for IRP's, effective February 1, 2021; seconded by Jason H. 21-for, 2-opposed. **Motion approved.**
 - C. **HOF Voting Changes:** Dave C. introduced this agenda item. He stated that in the 10 years he has served on the Executive Committee, awarding the HOF to Jerry Gruber after he missed by only 2 votes is one of the best things ever done by the Executive Committee. Todd S. agreed, recounting how emotional it was to present the HOF award to Jerry G., making his day and for the rest of his life. He thanked everyone who helped make it happen. Jerry G. was such a well-loved guy that the family had to schedule his visitors. Terry W. said that as far as he was concerned it was the best thing the ACC has ever done. He hoped that we don't have to do it again, and the proposed changes should take care of that. Jason H. stated that the ad-

hoc committee considered various options to improve the HOF voting process. The committee's recommendation was that in the case no candidate met the 75% vote minimum, the BOD vote on candidates receiving more than 50% of the votes. Any such candidate receiving 2/3 vote of the BOD will be elected to the HOF. There was discussion. Jeanne J. said that BOD must vote by written ballot, and this was agreed upon. Henry B. was concerned that this option would be watering down the HOF. Cy M. suggested that the BOD vote only on the person closest to 75%. **Action:** Jason H. made a motion that we keep the voting panel as is with the 75% criteria to get elected to the HOF; if and only if no one gets 75% of the vote, any nominee that gets 50% or more can be elected to the HOF with a 2/3 majority vote by closed ballot of the BOD; seconded by David C. During discussion before the vote on the motion, several people sought clarification as to when the BOD would vote (only when no one got 75% or in addition to anyone who gets 75%, on whether it's 50% or more or more than 50%, or if the BOD will vote on every nominee that get at least 50%, or just the one closest to 75%.) **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to amend Jason's motion to indicate that the BOD could vote on any nominee receiving 51% or more of votes in addition to any who received 75% of the panel's vote; seconded by Todd S. 21-for, 2 opposed. **Motion to amend approved.** **Amended Motion:** Jason H. made a motion that we keep the voting panel as is with the 75% criteria to get elected to the HOF. In addition, any nominee that gets 51% or more can be elected to the HOF with a 2/3 majority vote by closed ballot of the current BOD; seconded by David C. 21-for, 2 opposed. **Motion approved.**

- D. **Reno March Options:** Dave A. raised the issue of what to do in case the Sands cannot host the ACC Open due to the pandemic. He proposed that we decide on a contingency plan—move, postpone or cancel. Rick S. said that there isn't enough time to change to another venue. One concern is how many people will be allowed by Nevada at events at the Sands—it would have to be more than 250. Valerie S. said that Washoe County currently only allows a maximum of 50 people at an event. Rick S. said that we will make a decision at most two months out. [Note: within a couple of weeks of the BOD meeting, the Sands Regency announced that it was cancelling the ACC Open and TOC in March, 2021.]
- E. **Consolation Eliminate Odd Games:** Cy M. proposed that Consolation tournaments be an even number of games—either 8 or 10—in order to match up sit outs for their final game if there are an odd number of players. Currently, when there is an odd number of players and an odd number of games, at least one person has to play a 10th game. This proposal only applies to Consolation tournaments and not to Grass Roots or satellite tournaments. There was some discussion with several people noting that the current way of handling the odd game/odd player situation doesn't seem to pose any undue problems. **Action:** Cy M. made a motion to require Consolation tournaments to be an even number of games; seconded by Roland H. 2-for, 19-opposed, 2-abstained. **Motion failed.**
- F. **Mask Requirements:** Cy M. referred to his emails about this issue and introduced the topic by noting that it bothered him when wearing masks was deemed “a personal choice” at tournaments in Wisconsin. It is awkward to ask your opponent to wear a mask, when social distancing is impossible while playing cribbage. He said that given the severity of the pandemic, we as an organization should err on the side of caution and require masks at all sanctioned tournaments. It is not sufficient to rely only on local or state requirements because in some places there are no mask requirements. Until an effective vaccine is available, more people will feel safer if masks are required at all tournaments. Discussion followed, including the need to stress to TD's to follow local COVID safety rules. **Action:** Cy M. made a motion to require mask to be worn at all sanctioned tournaments at least through March, when it can be rescinded based on CDC recommendations at the time; seconded by Henry B. 9-for, 14-opposed. **Motion failed.**
- G. **Policy Manual 2-6A (Updated Names Included):** Henry B. proposed that an extra section be added to the organizational chart on page 2-6A of the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual to include names of people serving in the various positions. He said that this will be beneficial to the membership. Several people questioned the practicality of doing this and keeping the names current. Furthermore, these

names are already kept current on the website. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion to add the names of people holding positions on page 2-6A in the Policy & Procedures Manual; seconded by David C. 2-for, 21-opposed. **Motion failed.**

- H. **Boards for Military:** Henry B. offered the idea of contacting the personnel of an aircraft carrier and offering them free cribbage boards as a way of increasing membership. They might bring the game home with them, and this might also lead to new Grass Roots clubs forming. He suggested contacting the Navy and starting with at least one aircraft carrier. We could also offer them a discounted membership fee. Please refer to Henry B.'s agenda item proposal for further detail. Tammy G. said that it is a good idea, but it needs someone to spearhead it. She asked Henry B. if he was volunteering to spearhead the project. Henry replied that he would want a committee to be formed with someone on the committee who was familiar with the military and would know who to contact. He said that he was willing to participate. Dave A. echoed this concern, stating that people come up with ideas all the time, but no one wants to do it. There needs to be an action plan, not just an idea. Keith W. asked whether the idea should fall under the marketing committee, and maybe it can appoint a sub-committee with Henry B. as its chair. David C. said that it is a good path to go down, but we need someone to spearhead it. Henry said that he didn't know all the logistics of it but hopefully somebody will pick up the ball and run with it. Willie suggested taking boards to local fire departments. Since no one stepped forward to spearhead Henry B.'s idea, the matter went no further.
- I. **Grand Master Awards Board/Plaque:** Henry B. suggested that people be given the option of having a plaque or a board when they reach the Grand Master level. He said that people had plenty of boards, and plaques might be more meaningful and may cost less. Mark S. explained the current awards system, and noted that theoretically the board is a plaque. Dave A. said that we should not micromanage the Awards Committee. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion to give people the option of getting a plaque in lieu of a board when they earn their Grand Master Award; seconded by James M. 2-yes, 20-opposed, 1-abstention. **Motion failed.**
- J. **Reduce Number of BOD Meetings:** Henry B. suggested eliminating the March BOD meeting and only having one BOD meeting per year in conjunction with the Grand National. He noted the safety risk due to weather for BOD members, especially those that fly to Reno in March. He suggested that we might get more people who would run for the BOD if they did not have to fly to Reno. During the subsequent discussion, several points were noted. Tammy G. stated that today's virtual meeting proves that virtual works very well. She suggested that BOD members who cannot appear in person in Reno might be able to join virtually. Keith W. noted that a lot falls on the Executive Committee in between BOD meetings, and it would not be a good idea to reduce the number of BOD meetings. Cy M. stated that two meetings a year are necessary, and technology will help facilitate that. Others noted that people understand the commitment of two meetings per year when they run for the BOD. Furthermore, a BOD member can have one unexcused absence in two years. **Action:** Jason H. made a motion to keep it at two BOD meetings per year; seconded by Terry W. 22-for, 1-opposed. **Motion approved.**

XII. **Committee Reports:**

Social Media: David C. stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Nominating: Jeanne J. said that there will not be anything going on with the Officers Nominating Committee until after the next BOD meeting in 2021. The next election will be at the BOD meeting in Sacramento.

IT/Technology: John H. said that there was not much to report, other than that they are looking at more options for programming and updating. He will have something to report in March, 2021.

Awards: Mark S. said that award went out a little late this year, but all will be shipped by the end of the year. Last year's awards will be acknowledged in the GN 39 booklet.

XIII. **Executive Committee Reports:**

President: David C. thanked the Executive Committee for its hard work during the pandemic, including arranging for Jerry Gruber's HOF award.

VP Marketing: James M. had nothing more to report.

VP Ethics & Policy: Keith W. said that he intends to provide the BOD with new updated manuals in Reno. If there is no [physical] meeting, he will mail the updates.

VP Operations: Terry W. echoed earlier comments on taking care of the HOF award for Jerry Gruber before his passing. He also noted that the ACC got a great deal with the new Rule Book—it only cost \$.59 each [according to Marlene L., the cost was \$.81 each including shipping to the ACC.]

VP Competition: Dave A. thanked his fellow Executive Committee members for their hard work over the past few months. He particularly acknowledged their effort in giving the HOF award to Jerry Gruber. He noted that there has been a decrease in the volume of competitions. We also had to step in and remind several TDs and Grass Roots clubs to follow Covid rules and regulations or risk not being sanctioned. Most everyone is trying to do what is good for the ACC. He encouraged everyone to keep working at it.

XIV. **Adjournment:** David C. thanked everyone for their participation and cooperation. The virtual meeting went very smoothly. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm EST.

Next meeting date (tentative): March 4, 2021 in Reno. [Note: There will not be a meeting in Reno; potentially, there will be another virtual meeting scheduled in the spring of 2021.]