

## American Cribbage Congress

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes VIRTUAL MEETING via GoToMeeting March 27, 2021—Approved 9/24/2021

- I. **Call to Order:** Acting President James Morrow called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm PST
- II. **Roll Call:** Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. In attendance were David Aiken, Rick Allen, Patrick Barrett, Henry Bergeron, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Tammy Gibbons, Roland Hall, John Hazlett, Jason Hofbauer, Jeanne Jelke, Jennifer Johnson, Cy Madrone, James Morrow, Dave O'Neil, Todd Schaefer, Dan Selke, Rick Shea, Mark Soule, Valerie Sumner, Diane Waite, Terry Weber, Fred White, Keith Widener. Jeff Shimp was absent. 24 Board members were present. We had a quorum. Also in attendance: Ivan Wells, Scott Harker, Sally Henderson, Alice Souza, Randy Borchard, Daniel Crete, David Statz.
- III. **Approve Agenda:** James M. reordered the agenda slightly to have the Tournament Commissioners Report right after the Treasurer's Report. Henry B. reminded James M. of the inclusion of three additional items. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Henry B. **Motion approved.**
- IV. **Approve Minutes of October 31, 2020:** Jeanne J. presented the draft minutes of the virtual October 31, 2020 BOD meeting held by GoToMeeting. No corrections were noted. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/31/20; seconded by Dan S. **Motion approved.**
- V. **GN XXXIX Sacramento, CA Update:** Jeanne J. referred to her written report. Things are improving in California, as announced by the Governor. We are proceeding on all systems go. We will abide by any Covid restrictions still in place. Planning and preparations by the Leadership Team are fully underway. Focus is on promoting the Grand National at upcoming tournaments. As soon as several reconfirmations are completed, the updated event schedule will be posted. The Progressive Raffle is being resumed, with the final drawing at the Reno tournament in June. We may not get the 500 players we originally projected; she will be pleasantly surprised if we get more than 300. The current food and beverage budget is the same as originally, but the Doubletree is very willing to work with us. Also, Jill Kraatz is negotiating on our behalf. The Awards Banquet may be a little more elaborate due to two years of awards and a possible tribute to David Campbell. In response to a question about contingency planning for a different location, Jeanne replied that conditions in California look very favorable for the GN to take place in Sacramento in September as planned. She stated that we have a contract with the Doubletree that we must honor. It is important to proceed on the premise that GN 39 will take place in Sacramento so as not to compromise attendance. We should know by June or July whether a contingency plan needs to be activated. Rick S. supported Jeanne's comments.
- VI. **GN XLII Western Candidates/Bids:** James M. reported that three groups have expressed interest, although no official bids have been presented yet. The prospective sites include Arizona, Idaho, and Colorado. Henry B. advised avoiding scheduling the GN on any Jewish holy day. The BOD will vote on official bids at the Board meeting in Sacramento.
- VII. **Old Business:**
  - A. **ACC Website Update/Replacement:** James M. announced that the Executive Committee has appointed

John Hazlett to replace Diane W. as webmaster. Although he has already begun to take on some website tasks, he will officially begin on April 1. Diane W. said that she is excited to see John H. coming on. Dan S. expressed appreciation to Diane W. for her years of service.

- B. **HOF Voting panel above 51% but under 75% BOD secret ballot:** Jason H. reported that 94 ballots [of 100] by the HOF voting panel were returned. Of these, four were blank. In a response to a suggestion that the six who didn't return a ballot be eliminated from the panel, Jason H. indicated that he was working towards identifying these six persons. Of the seven candidates, none received 75% of the votes and two received between 51% and 74%. The BOD took a secret ballot via Survey Monkey. After everyone voted, Jason H. announced that Herschel Mack and Richard "Frosty" Frost will be inducted to the HOF.
- C. **Updated Covid policies for weekend play:** David A. noted that previously TD's were required to have each player in attendance sign a separate Covid-19 waiver form, as well as take temperatures. In light of recent CDC guideline changes, he proposed eliminating temperature taking, and using a single document for everyone to sign. This form would be added to the other tournament reports required of the TD. Directors will have to make this part of the sign-in process at tournaments. A template has been designed that will include a space to identify the name of the tournament and date. This proposed policy amendment will also be adopted for Grass Roots tournaments. **Action:** David A. made a motion proposing that TD's use a Covid-19 release form that everyone signs at the beginning of a tournament; seconded by Mark S. 22-for, 1-opposed, 1 abstention. **Motion approved.**
- D. **MRP Program:** Scott Harker updated the BOD on the status of the MRP software program. Currently, the recording of MRP's is handled manually by Marlene Lazachek . Paul Gregson was working on a software program to have the MRP's tracked automatically, but this process was not completed. Scott H. stated that the new MRP system needs to be up and running before membership updates [cumulative MRP's associated with an ACC #.] Scott H. noted that he wasn't proposing anything, just informing the BOD of the state of affairs. The ACC needs someone to finish what Paul G. started. When asked if he had the time to do that, Scott H. replied that he was not prepared to make a commitment at this time. John H. said that he was just taking over [as chair of the IT committee] and that he was working with another coder to try to come to some resolution. Jeanne J. stated that we can't keep kicking this can down the road, asking John H. or someone needed to take ownership of planning a solution. John H. agreed to take this on and figure out what to do next.

#### VIII. **Reports:**

- A. **Membership Secretary:** James M. referred to the Membership Secretary's report that had been circulated by email. There were no comments on the report. James M. stated that the Membership Secretary's position will be discussed later.
- B. **Treasurer's Report:** Marlene L. circulated the Treasurer's Report a few weeks ago. Henry B. noted that his e-mailed questions to Marlene L. about the income statement haven't been answered yet. He will circulate his email to Marlene L. James M. also wanted an explanation for the Membership Secretary's phone bill. This was referred to the Executive Committee. Jeanne J. commended the six officers receiving stipends that voluntarily made reductions to their stipend during the pandemic as per Marlene L.'s report.
- C. **Grass Roots:** Ivan W. referred to the report he sent out. He said that there had been a resurgence in active GR clubs. He said that the season started with a little under 50% participation, followed by a big drop off in November. Now participation is in the high 90s. For instance, of 20 clubs in Washington state, 15 clubs have started up just in March. He was optimistic that the numbers will improve. There were fewer than normal GRRTs, but there are more GRNTs planned through the end of the season. The GR

season has been extended to August 15, 2021. He said that revamping of the GR Division system is being considered, but he's not ready to discuss it. Ann Trotter is now handling GR awards. He stated that GR clubs were supposed to keep Covid-19 waivers every week, but he suggested having GR club members sign a group waiver once only, although there should be a separate group waiver for GRNTs. **Action:** Dave A. made a motion proposing to do away with temperature checks for GR tournaments, and to have each GR member sign a group waiver once per season; seconded by Mark S. 22-for, 1-opposed, 1-abstained. **Motion approved.**

- D. **Internet:** Sally Henderson thanked Tammy G. for her leadership as Internet Commissioner. She said that there are currently 767 registered internet players, including 77 that have joined since March. Internet cribbage is very busy, with 41 – 45 tournaments per month. Winners are posted daily on Facebook. A problem has been updating the website. With John Shafer's help over the course of six months, the website update has caught up. Sally H. reported that Teri Murdy spearheaded International Cribbage Day, with 131 participants in the tournament. She noted that links on e-cribbage were out-of-date, but they are improving. About 100 players have become e-masters or earned other awards. Rick S., Willie E. and James M. thanked Sally H. for her work with Internet Cribbage.
- E. **Marketing Committee:** James M. stated that there was not a lot to report. There was an effort to get more people [to join the ACC] through internet play.
- F. **Rules:** Dave O. stated that he had nothing to report. There had been no inquiries since the new Rule Book was issued. He noted that there were two rules in conflict [which was rectified at the last meeting] by blacking out [Rule 5.1b] in the new Rule Book.
- G. **Ethics:** Keith W. stated that there wasn't much going on. There was a minor issue with a Grass Roots Club, but it was solved at the club level. Two suspended players have served their 6 months suspension, but they still cannot play in the next GN or TOC/ACC Open. One individual was suspended for leaving a tournament early. Keith W. 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:** Jeff S. was not in attendance. Keith W. noted that there will be some action to replace Senior Judges who were inactive. The three Regional Commissioners will provide a list of such judges in their respective regions.
- I. **Youth Program:** There was no report. There is not much going on [with the Youth Program because of the effect of the pandemic] in schools.
- J. **Tournament Commissioners:** Pat B. welcomed Mark S. for taking over as Eastern Commissioner from David Campbell and for the smooth transition. Pat B. noted that 106 tournaments were held during the 2019-20 season prior to Covid hitting in March, after which 36 were cancelled, for a total of only 115 tournaments for the whole season. There have only been 17 tournaments so far in the 2020-21 season. The number of players pre-registered for the Deadwood tournaments is higher than expected and is very encouraging—there's a pent-up desire to play. There are at least 9 tournaments planned in the Central Division during the remainder of the season. Mark S. said that there were at least two in the Eastern Division planned this spring. Rick S. stated that sanctioning requests are starting to trickle in for the Western Division There's one in Portland, one in Redding, and that there will probably be a cluster of tournaments in Nevada in June, including in Reno. There's also a four-tournament cluster in Idaho and Montana in late May/early June. He said that there may be a tournament July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend at Chinook Winds, but this may be confirmed on short notice.

IX. **New Business:**

- A. **Internet Point Structure Best of 5 Best of 7:** James M. referred to his e-mailed handout. The International Cribbage tournament was best of 7 [brackets], and there are also best of 5 tournaments. The Internet Committee kicked this around, and is proposing that there be a new point structure for the three different bracket formats. **Action:** James M. made a motion to accept these three bracket tournament point structures for internet tournaments; seconded by Dan S. 23-for, 1 abstention. **Motion approved.**
- B. **Grass Roots DIV II-III:** Ivan W. stated that this issue [Consolidating Divisions II and III] is tabled while the Grass Roots Committee works on it.
- C. **HOF:** James M. stated that this issue has already been covered.
- D. **BOD Election:** Dave A. reported that Ellen Kutz was appointed by the Executive Committee to head the BOD Nominating Committee, and that Megan Player is overseeing the online voting platform. Dave A. reminded BOD members to submit photos to him and bios to Ellen K. by April 1 if intending to run. The ballot will be included in the May CW with instructions. It will be due May 31, 2021. Successful candidates will be announced in June or July. There was some discussion about the possible scenario if not enough candidates choose to run, or if there weren't enough candidates from a given region. Jeanne J. suggested a future discussion on regional quotas and setting up a committee to consider this topic after the next BOD meeting.
- E. **Archives:** James M. stated that Fred W. had done a great job, but that Fred W. was looking forward to someone replacing him. He suggested actively recruiting someone. It could be someone from the new BOD. It does not need to be a BOD member. Fred W. stated that he will continue in this role until a new archives lead is recruited.
- F. **Pay Memberships Online:** Dave A. noted that we have been talking about a process for online payments for a long time. The first step towards implementing this has been taken. Scott H. presented a demonstration that shows how it will work. The intent is to make it as simple as possible. Once this online payment function is available, it will facilitate new membership applications from the website. It will also allow for current membership renewals to be paid online. There are limitations to what can be paid for online. A few things can't be done yet, such as multiple year memberships, joint memberships, or renewing a long-expired membership. Also, you can only use Pay Pal to process a credit card. Once it is up and running, more membership [payment] functions may be added. After a membership payment is made an email is generated and sent to the Membership Secretary. There is a service fee to Pay Pal of 2.9% + \$.30 per transaction. Dave A. concluded that this will be implemented once it is linked to a bank account and beta-tested with some people who are ready to renew their memberships.

X. **Committee Reports:**

**Social Media:** Dave A. stated that he is one of a half-dozen moderators on Facebook. The ACC needs a bigger presence with other social media platforms.

**Nominating:** Jeanne J. said that there wasn't much to report, referring to her written report. She said that nominations by oneself or others will be invited in July or August. In response to a question as to the status of liability insurance, Jeanne J. said that we agreed to it in principle but to defer payment. Since we are in deficit mode, we will look at this again in September.

**IT/Technology:** John H. said that there was not much to add, that he was working on the membership data base and transitioning as webmaster.

**Awards:** Mark S. reported that One \* and above received their awards. In addition, All-American and All-Regional awards were shipped out. There was positive feedback on the new All-American plaques. Rick Pierce was delayed in doing other award boards, but he has the trophy wood now. Shipping was a little expensive this year. Next year we will be on track. All awards earned during the 2019-20 season will be recognized along with those of the 2020-21 season in Sacramento. Mark S. will bring Henry B.'s comments about boards vs. plaques back to the committee. Mark S. thanked Richard F. for his help with shipping the awards jackets.

**Executive Committee Reports:**

**Acting President:** James M. thanked Jennifer for stepping up to fill the BOD vacancy from David C.'s passing. He noted that the Executive Committee has completed the project of recruiting a new webmaster. He also thanked Mark Soule for becoming the Eastern Tournament Commissioner, Rick S. as Executive VP, and the Executive Committee for working together and helping him as Acting President.

**Acting Senior VP:** Rick S. stated that tournaments are finally starting to pick up in the Western division, with a few more that he forgot to mention earlier--several in southern California and in Washington. Hopefully, the number of tournaments will increase.

**VP Ethics & Policy:** Keith W. said that the transition after David Campbell's passing went smoothly and there are good people in place. He thanked James M. for stepping up. The Executive Committee has worked very hard during this period.

**VP Operations:** Terry W. stated that the last major thing to report was that the ACC purchased the rule book for \$.59 each [plus shipping.]

**VP Competition:** Dave A. said that there wasn't much to report, and that the ACC is doing the best it can. He gave a shout out to Internet Commissioner Sally H., to Grass Roots Commissioner Ivan W. and the Tournament Commissioners for their hard work during the pandemic.

- XI. **Adjournment:** James thanked everyone for their participation and cooperation. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Richard F. **Motion approved.** The meeting ended at approximately 3:40 pm PST.

**Next meeting date:** Friday, September 24, 2021 in Sacramento.