

American Cribbage Congress

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Doubletree by Hilton—Sacramento, CA

September 24, 2021

FINAL (Approved 3/3/2022)

- I. **Call to Order:** Acting President James Morrow called the meeting to order at 8:59 am.
- II. **Roll Call:** Jeanne Jelke read the roll call. In attendance were David Aiken, Rick Allen, Patrick Barrett, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Tammy Gibbons (by phone), Roland Hall, John Hazlett, Jason Hofbauer, Jeanne Jelke, Jennifer Johnson, Cy Madrone, James Morrow, Lana Newhouse, Sandy Sands, Todd Schaefer, Dan Selke, Rick Shea, Mark Soule, Vickie Soule, David Statz, Terry Weber, Fred White, and Keith Widener. Dave O’Neil was (excused) absent. 24 Board members were in attendance (23 in person and one by phone.) We had a quorum. Also in attendance: Ivan Wells, Scott Harker, Brenda Nason, Marlen Lazachek, and others.
- III. **Approve Agenda:** James M. revised the agenda slightly to move New Business Item F (new Board Members Emeritus) to right after Officer Elections, and to indicate that James will report briefly on Rules and Youth. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Jason H. **Motion approved.**
- IV. **Approve Minutes of March 27, 2021:** Jeanne J. presented the draft minutes of the virtual meeting of March 27, 2021, held by GoToMeeting. No corrections were noted. **Action:** Mark S. made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/27/21; seconded by Terry W. **Motion approved.**
- V. **Welcome New BOD Members:** James M. welcomed newly elected BOD members Vicki Soule, Lana Newhouse, Dave Statz and Sandy Sands.
- VI. **Nomination of Executive Officers:** Jeanne J. reported that the Officer Nominating Committee has received one nomination (the current incumbent) for each of the five Executive Officer positions. The slate of officer nominees is:

President:	James Morrow
Executive Vice President:	Rick Shea
VP Policy & Ethics:	Keith Widener
VP Operations:	Terry Weber
VP Competition:	David Aiken

Each office position was considered in the above order one at a time, with the introduction of the nominee, an invitation for nominations from the floor, closing of nominations, a brief statement by the nominee, and voting by paper ballot. In every case there were no nominations from the floor. At the conclusion of the voting by paper ballots, the nominees listed were each declared elected unanimously to their respective offices. They will each serve a two-year term.
- VII. **GN 39-41 Updates; Bids for GN 42**
 - A. **39:** Jeanne J. reported that thanks to a great team, things are going well. Over 315 players are expected in the Grand National. She complimented the Sacramento Doubletree by Hilton for their willingness to halve our contractual expectations, which we are now more than able to meet. The staff have been very gracious and accommodating. Thanks to successful fundraising and budget management, it looks likely

that there will be 100% or more payback in cash and player benefits for every event. The Awards Banquet Saturday night will be a very nice occasion. The program will be fun and move along, even with two years of awards.

- B. **40:** Scott Kooistra reported that he likewise has a great team working on GN 40 in Omaha, NE. It will be at the Comfort Inn in Omaha, which has plenty of rooms and playing space. The schedule will be basically the same as GN 39 with a midweek and satellite events. There is no airport shuttle. The Awards Banquet theme is "Support Your Sports!"
- C. **41:** There was no report for GN 41 in Virginia Beach, VA in 2023 but things are apparently going as planned.
- D. **42:** Two bid presentations were made for the GN in 2024 (Western Division.)
 - 1. Las Vegas, NV: Troy Thorson made a presentation proposing that GN 42 be held at the JW Marriott/Rampart Casino. The dates would be November 14 – 17, 2024. The hotel rate would be \$99 per night plus tax & resort fee, with a \$20 rebate. It will include complementary playing room, coffee and pastries. The Reno Veteran's Day tournament would be the weekend before the GN. Las Vegas is easy for people to get to. The JW Marriott does not have an airport shuttle. The later dates are because that is when the hotel is available, but are outside the ACC GN scheduling guidelines (third week of September to the end of October.) **Action:** Terry W. made a motion to make an exception for GN 4, permitting a scheduling extension into mid-November; seconded by Cy M. **Motion approved;** 23 for; 1 abstention. Troy T. did not have a draft contract from the JW Marriott yet.
 - 2. Phoenix, AZ: Bob Milk made a presentation proposing the GN 42 be held in Phoenix. The dates would be September 28-29, 2024, with a Midweek on 9/25-26/24 and a Post GN Midweek on 9/30/24 – 10/1/24. He was working with Jill Kraatz to conduct a search for hotels that meet GN requirements and additional criteria. They have narrowed it down to a short list. All of the hotels they are looking at are on the light rail and/or easily accessible to the airport. Neither presentation included a full proposal with a contract from the hotel. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to table the decision on awarding the GN 42 bid until the next Bod meeting in Reno; seconded by Terry W. **Motion approved.**

VIII. **Old Business:**

- A. **Grass Roots DIV II-III:** Ivan Wells presented the recommendation from the Grass Roots Committee that Divisions 2 and 3 be eliminated and that those clubs be incorporated into Division 1. This is largely because the number of clubs and players in these divisions has been dwindling. There was considerable discussion about how this impacts awards such as division championships, and Rookies of the Year. **Action:** David A. made a motion to do away with Grass Roots Division 2 and 3; seconded by Roland H. **Motion approved.** James M. made a motion to do away with runner-up awards and have 2 division champions, an overall Batting Champion and a Rookie of the Year for the 2 divisions; seconded by David A. **Motion approved.** Further discussion involved how to address this realignment with TOC invitations. David A. made a motion to offer a TOC invitation to the top 8% batting averages in addition to the top 10% GRP's; seconded by Pat B. **Motion approved**
- B. **Liability Insurance:** Jeanne J. said that while the BOD had approved taking out an organization-wide liability policy with Loomis and LaPann at its October 31, 2020, meeting, payment for the policy had been deferred due to financial concerns. This policy would cover property damage as well as liability for all weekend TD's and volunteers, all Grass Roots Club Directors, and the ACC's BOD and officers. It would also allow for Certificates of Insurance be issued to venues requiring such documents at no extra charge. Loomis and LaPann provided an updated quote of \$4,718.13 (\$100 less than its quote a year ago.) Considerable discussion ensued revisiting whether liability insurance was really necessary. Several people observed that we have never had a [liability claim] problem before and that TD's have been able to handle additional certificates on their own either through riders on their homeowners insurance or

purchased a one-time policy online. Others noted that we are living in an increasing litigious society and that several venues have been lost due to having no proof of liability. Richard F. indicated that this is very cheap insurance, and it also provides peace of mind for TD's and Grass Roots directors. Jeanne J. clarified that the BOD has already made the decision to take out the organizational liability policy, so today's decision is to go forward with payment, postpone payment again or to rescind the previous decision. The discussion then centered on how to pay for the policy. One suggestion was to raise Grass Roots dues by \$1 and to add \$1 per person to the existing \$3 sanctioning fee for the ACC Open and the Grand National. Ivan W. agreed with the suggestion about raising Grass Roots dues by \$1. **Action:** Jeanne J. made a motion to proceed with purchasing the organizational liability policy quoted by Loomis & LaPann and paying for it with an increase of \$1 in Grass Roots dues and an increase of \$1 per player in sanctioning fees at the ACC Open in Reno and the Grand National tournaments; seconded by Rick S. **Motion approved;** 18 for, 6 against. Jeanne J. will work with Loomis & LaPann to develop a procedure to apply for certificates of insurance.

IX. **Reports:**

- A. **Membership Secretary:** James M. welcomed new Membership Secretary Brenda Nason, whose term officially begins October 1, 2021. Larry Hassett's resignation has been accepted, effective September 30, 2021. Larry bears no ill-will and has been working with Brenda during this transition. He left two boxes of assorted items. The Executive Committee let him keep the old computer and printer. The duties and responsibilities of the Membership Secretary have changed. The BOD approved the proposal to change the compensation for the Membership Secretary to \$500 monthly, as well as to create a new ACC Programmer position with a stipend of \$400 per month.
- B. **Treasurer's Report:** Marlene L. circulated the Treasurer's Report a few weeks ago. She noted that because of the extended Grass Roots season, there would have normally been \$6,500 more income reported. She said that \$3,000 was transferred in January from our investment account earnings, for a total of \$24,000 over time. Approximately \$1,200 has come in from Rule Book Sales so far. She is going to order 500 29 hand pins.
- C. **Grass Roots:** Ivan W. referred to the report he sent out. He said that the season extension worked financially but it was a brutal process. There are 160 active clubs, about 2,600 members compared with 4,000 historically. He gave kudos to Ann Trotter for taking on coordinating Grass Roots awards and getting them to the Awards program. He noted that the Grass Roots TOC was successful, with 74 players (close to the 80 or so in a normal year), and thanked Jeff Gardner for taking on. No income was raised from the GRTOC.
- D. **Internet:** David A. said that Sally Henderson's report will be sent by e-mail. He noted that Internet Cribbage survived the migration. Tammy G. commented that Sally H. has done a great job taking over as commissioner.
- E. **Marketing Committee:** James M. thanked Jennifer J. for stepping forward to take on the Marketing Committee. Jennifer J. stated that her goal was to revamp and reanimate the Marketing Committee's efforts. An ad will be going into Cribbage World (CW) to invite additional members to join the committee. One strategy is to use a mass email tool (Mailchimp) to send out emails to different audiences [such as lapsed members.] This is within the Marketing Committee's budget, so Jennifer J. was given the go-ahead to proceed. After a 6 month trial, she will reassess its effectiveness.
- F. **Rules:** There was no report.
- G. **Ethics:** Keith W. stated that the committee had met a couple of times. There were some issues recently

relating to the Portland, OR tournament. Also, two suspended players are banned from playing in GN 39 and in the 2022 TOC.

- H. **Judges:** The Executive Committee appointed Keith W. to take over from Jeff Shimp as Commissioner of Judges. Keith W. reported that the Senior Judge list in Appendix A of the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual will be updated. A few new senior judges have been appointed and a few have retired.
 - I. **Youth Program:** James M. reported on behalf of Dan Zeisler. He stated that there has been a spike in the distribution of teaching manuals. Rick Pierce has been helpful with cribbage boards for the Youth Program. The Youth Grand National tournament was canceled due to Covid concerns. The report also noted that the Youth Program has expanded to provide teaching manuals to help with “Senior Crib Clubs” at assisted living facilities. The report noted that Larry H. sends Dan Z. the names of people who donate \$20 or more to the Youth Program. Dan Z. sends them thank you acknowledgements. There was a suggestion that there be a back up to Dan Z. in addition to Don “Grumpy” Howard. Chad Frishmann [who was in the audience at the time] offered to serve in that capacity.
 - J. **Tournament Commissioners:** Pat B. reported that the number of sanctioned tournaments (only 54) in the 2020-21 season were way down. He noted that since July 31st there has been an increase in the number of tournaments scheduled. He observed that people are ready to come back and he was confident that tournaments will bounce back. Pat welcomed Mark S. as the new Eastern Division Commissioner. He said that much progress had been made in creating a fillable form for tournament results. He anticipates that it will be completed perhaps as soon as next week. When it is done, it will be swapped out with the current forms.
- X. **New Business:**
- A. **HOF Voting:** [Note: The Executive Committee appointed Jennifer J. to conduct HOF voting using an online process. In addition, the deadlines are now more in line with the March BOD meeting.] Jennifer J. proposed moving to an online only process the HOF nomination and voting process. This would include putting nominations online for the voting community, and then they could vote. Only those who are authorized will be able to access this website. Each panel member will be emailed a unique code with which to login to the site to view nominations and vote. Jennifer J. has set up a test scenario and determined that this procedure will work. Discussion ensued regarding panelists who do not have email or computer skills. The consensus was to implement the online process next year but to allow the option of mailing nomination letters and ballots to those panelists who ask to participate in with hard copies instead of electronically. For the future, it is recommended that panelists be chosen who are internet ready.
 - B. **Judges Retesting:** Jason H. suggested that we consider a process to retest judges since we have a new rule book. Keith W. pointed out that the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual indicates that retesting is “at the discretion of the BOD.” Now that the test is online and is open book, it might be easier to recertify judges. No further action was decided at the meeting.
 - C. **Grand National Date Extension:** Rick S. stated that this issue has already been covered.
 - D. **Top 10 [All Americans Awards] based on percentage of MRP’s per tournament:** Cy M. proposed revamping the criteria for the top 10 [All American Awards] to be based on the average of MRP’s earned per tournament, with a certain minimum of tournaments played. His rationale was that it would be an incentive for people to play in more tournaments if they knew they had a chance at All American without having to travel to 50 or 60 tournaments. He recognized that we don’t yet have the software to track this. During discussion, he suggested considering replacing the bottom 3 spots with the three highest percentage of MRP’s per tournament. This concept

needed further development as to how to implement it. Cy M. proposed a straw poll to see if there was interest in pursuing this idea. An ad hoc committee consisting of Cy M. and Dan S. was formed to come back with more detail.

- E. **Policy Manual 6-2 and 3:** Rick S. proposed changes on page 6.2 in the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual. It [6.1.D.1] should be changed to allow a one-day tournament on a Friday or Monday in conjunction with a weekend tournament. He proposed increasing the number of midweeks in a division be changed from three to five per quarter [6.1.D.2]. Rick S. also proposed eliminating [6.1.D.3], which prohibits one day tournaments before or after a “legacy tournament,” as this policy is outdated. **Action:** Rick S. made a motion to accept the proposed changes to [items 6.1.D] on page 6-2 in the ACC Policy & Procedures Manual; seconded by Dan S. **Motion Approved.**
- F. **Board Member Emeritus for R. Hofbauer and J. Shimp:** There was unanimous support to appoint Roy Hofbauer and Jeff Shimp as BOD Members Emeritus. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to declare Jeff Shimp an ACC Board Member Emeritus; seconded by Willie E. **Motion approved.** **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to declare Roy Hofbauer an ACC Board Member Emeritus; seconded by Terry W. **Motion approved.**

XI. **Committee Reports:**

Social Media: Dave A. reported that Facebook was active although not quite as much. Vicki S. is trying to strengthen the ACC’s presence on Instagram. Efforts are also underway with challenge.com.

Nominating: Jeanne J. had no further report.

IT/Technology: John H. reported that the data base limits were not good, so he had to pull back some more data. He was trying to update cribbage.org and coordinate links better. This is especially true of the internet page, which he is trying to format to be more consistent. There will be an MRP update meeting. John H. advised sending internet stuff to his webmaster email address. Some issues relating to misuse of ACC social media administrator privileges were discussed. There is a three-step process for monitoring misuse of the ACC social media pages: 1) warning, 2) 30-day pre-approval of any postings, and 3) being expelled from the group.

Awards: Mark S. stated that last year’s awards were shipped out and that this year’s awards will be given out live at the Awards Banquet. He said that the committee will be considering more awards options by next year.

XII. **Executive Committee Reports:**

President: James M. reported that the Executive Committee had dealt with a lot over the last six months, including the transition of the Membership Secretary issue. He thanked members of the Executive Committee for their hard work.

Executive VP: Rick S. echoed what James M. expressed. As has already been reported, he is working on bids for the GN in 2024.

VP Ethics & Policy: Keith W. reminded the new members of the list of committee choices and encouraged them to join committees.

VP Operations: Terry W. had nothing more to add.

VP Competition: David A. gave his personal thanks to James M. for a job well done.

XIII. **Adjournment:** James M. thanked everyone for their participation and cooperation. The meeting ended at approximately 2:35 pm PST.

Next meeting date: Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 8:00 am in Reno. This earlier start time is designed to allow the DeLynn Colvert All Star Team Tournament to begin at 2:00 pm on the Thursday prior to the TOC.