

American Cribbage Congress

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Sands Regency—Reno, NV

March 3, 2022

Approved 9/23/2022

- I. **Call to Order:** President James Morrow called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, Roland Hall, John Hazlett, Jason Hofbauer, Jeanne Jelke, Jennifer Johnson, Cy Madrone, James Morrow, Lana Newhouse, Dave O’Neil, Sandy Sands, Todd Schaefer, Dan Selke, Rick Shea, Mark Soule, Vickie Soule, David Statz, Terry Weber, Fred White, and Keith Widener. 25 Board members were in attendance. We had a quorum. Also in attendance: Ivan Wells, Scott Harker, Brenda Nason, Marlene Lazachek, and others.
- III. **Approve Agenda:** James M. revised the agenda, adding reports on GN 40 and GN 41 to agenda item VI.
- IV. **Approve Minutes of September 24, 2021:** Jeanne J. presented the draft minutes September 24, 2021, held at the Doubletree by Hilton in Sacramento, CA. No corrections were noted. **Action:** Mark S. made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/24/21; seconded by Willie E. **Motion approved.**
- V. **HOF 2022:** Jennifer J. reported that 99 of 100 HOF panelists voted, with one person unable to because of hospitalization. She noted that the online voting was successful in cutting costs down to \$145, when it might have been as much as \$1,800 otherwise. None of the candidates received 66%. She stated that the BOD will have to vote on the four (out of eleven candidates) who received 51% or more. These four were Roland Hall, David Aikin, Erik Locke, and Bill Medeiros. She provided the percentages of HOF panel votes for each candidate. The BOD voted by ballot on the four candidates. All four received at least 66% of BOD member votes and were deemed elected to the ACC Hall of Fame.
- VI. **Grand National Reports:**
 - A. **GN 42:** James M. said that Bob Milk withdrew his bid to host GN 42 in Phoenix. David A. reported that there had been little communication from the Rampart in Las Vegas until recently. He indicated that the Rampart will provide the playing room free of charge, as well as add a cash infusion to the tournament. The hotel rooms will be a little more than Sacramento, but there will also be a \$20 per night resort fee credit that will be applied to the restaurant. The dates will be Wednesday through Sunday, November 13-17, 2024. It is anticipated that there will be the Veteran’s Day tournament in Reno Nov. 8 - 10, 2024 followed by a tournament in Topaz Lake Nov. 11-12, 2024. **Action:** Jeanne J. made a motion to accept in principle the bid for GN 42 to be held at the Rampart in Las Vegas, delegating authority to the Executive Committee to approve signing the contract; seconded by Cy M. **Motion approved.**
 - B. **GN 40:** Scott Kooistra passed out a survey. He reported that all is going well for GN 40, which will be September 20 – 25, 2022 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Omaha NE. He has a great committee. Fundraising has been completed, and \$74 - \$75 of the \$80 entry fee will go to prize funds. He encouraged everyone to make hotel reservations and pre-register. The Awards Banquet’s theme is “Your Favorite Sports.” The food will be tailgate style. Dress should be “in good taste.” Tickets will be \$30 each. He noted that the hotel is not geared up yet to provide lunches for the Midweek and GN, and

is allowing the tournament to take on the meals. Scott has sponsors to cover the cost of the food.

- C. **GN 41:** Jack Howsare reported that since GN 41 is about 1 ½ years out in Virginia Beach, VA, he wasn't going into a lot of detail at this point. Planning is going well. He asked that BOD members be prepared when they arrive in Omaha to give Jack their dates of arrival and departure to him in Omaha so that he can make sure they receive priority for reservations. Reservations at the hotel will be open in November, 2022. He will have flyers done by Omaha.

VII. **Old Business:**

- A. **Online Payments for Dues--Membership:** Ivan Wells reported that Alan Bengtson of Minnesota is creating a form for online payments through Shopify.com. Alan B. had complained that young people don't have checking accounts, and he was willing to help. Ivan W. was excited about this opportunity and received approval from the Executive Committee to spend up to \$100 on this, including a trial run. The process will allow for ACC renewals, hopefully followed by new ACC memberships, then Grass Roots dues. The most difficult piece is going to be setting it up for tournament entry fees.
- B. **Liability Insurance:** Jeanne J. said that after the September meeting which approved taking out a general liability policy with Loomis & LaPann, the Executive Committee decided to delay making the payment until several new options brought forward by Marlene L. and James M. were reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee. She commended them on their efforts to reduce costs. However, after the committee reviewed these options, they were not comparable in coverage. Matt Padrow explained the new findings. Jennifer Bolles spoke to the issue from the perspective of risk as a TD. Sandy S. described a recent incident which, if not for the person involved, might have led to a lawsuit. Richard F. pointed out that the method of paying for this by raising the GR dues by \$1 and sanctioning fees in two big tournaments requires little or no money from the ACC's operating budget. Ivan W. noted that the \$1 additional GR dues will generate about \$3K. In response to a question by Dave A., Ivan W. indicated that there is no immediate need to raise the GR dues more than this \$1. He stated that the GR committee is taking measures to reduce expenses for awards, and making some changes to the GR Regional and National Tournaments. Marlene L. suggested seeing if the quote might be reduced since it was based on 6,000 members instead of the 5,000 that we have today. There was additional discussion, and Dave A. called for the vote. **Action:** Cy M. 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 Dan S. **Motion approved;** 23 for, 2 abstained. Following this motion, there was further discussion regarding the method of paying for the policy. It was suggested that rather than increasing the sanctioning fees for two large tournaments, a flat fee be added for every sanctioned tournament and considered a player benefit. This would be in addition to the raising of \$1 in Grass Roots dues. **Action:** Dave A. made a motion to revise the method of payment for the liability policy by adding a \$20 fee to the sanctioning fees for each tournament; seconded by Terry W. **Motion failed;** 9 for, 14 against, 2 abstained. There was discussion on how it was going to work. Jeanne J. indicated that the coverage will begin as soon as payment is made and will automatically cover any official ACC or GR event. There will also be a process for applying for a certificate of additionally insured with a form and instructions on the GR admin page and TD s page.

VIII. **New Business:**

- A. **Executive Committee Voting Procedures:** Vicki S. observed that using paper ballots to vote for Executive Officer positions when there was only one candidate seemed like an inefficient use of time. Jeanne J. stated that the purpose of the ballot was to protect Board member anonymity in case they didn't want to vote for a candidate even if there was only one. However, she said that this concern is addressed by

declaring a sole candidate as being elected by affirmation. **Action:** Vicki S. made a motion that if there is only one candidate for an Executive Officer position, that person will be declared elected by affirmation; seconded by David A. **Motion approved.** The Policy and Procedures Manual will be modified.

- B. **ACC Playing Cards:** David A. stated that he had been approached about the possibility of getting ACC branded playing cards in bulk that could be purchased by TD's. He got several quotes. A quote for 1,000 was for \$3.27 each; for 10,000 it would be \$1.58 plus. There was also the issue of how to distribute the cards once they were purchased in bulk. There wasn't much interest in pursuing this any further.
- C. **Judges Test Retakes:** Keith W. deferred to Sally Henderson to describe the situation where a person twice failed the Judges test, even though it's an open book test and must be passed with at least 90%. The timeframe to for retake the test again after twice failing is vague. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion that after failing the Judges test twice, an individual must wait at least 2 years and also be recommended by a Senior Judge before retaking the test; seconded by Dave A. **Motion approved.**
- D. **Playing Cards Used at Tournaments:** Dan S. proposed requiring TD's to provide new [or new condition] playing cards for every sanctioned event, with it mandatory for the main and recommended for the consolation. He stated that by "new" he meant that it be required that the cards be purchased new, or be casino cards that are being used for the first time. **Action:** Dan S. made a motion to require new decks for all mains and recommend new decks for all consolations; seconded by Jennifer J. Discussion followed, with several people suggesting that making new decks mandatory imposes too much on the TD's. It also depends on the condition of the cards; bad decks should be removed no matter what. **Motion failed** 10 for 15 against. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to amend Dan S.'s motion from "required" to "recommend;" seconded by Rick S. **Motion approved** 22 for, 3 against.
- E. **Entry Fees:** Jason H. expressed concern that high entry fees may be a deterrent for people deciding whether to attend tournaments. He noted the impact of the higher cost to travel with rising hotel, gasoline and airline costs. He suggested having a maximum of \$65 entry fee for the main as a measure to improve attendance. Tammy G. noted that every tournament has different expenses, and that there was too much variety in how entry fees are calculated. After more discussion, the consensus was not to recommend a maximum entry fee at this time.
- F. **Report by the Sands:** [Note: This was not an official agenda item, but was part of the meeting at this point.] Lisa Molini from the Sands thanked the BOD. She asked everyone to bear with the Sands during the remodeling and construction, and apologized for the inconvenience. She said that the Sands new owner has kept his word [about modernizing the Sands and improving the area around the Sands.] It will be an amazing property when it is finished. In the meantime, they are trying to make things as convenient as possible. Improvements include updating the Aspen Tower [formerly Dynasty Tower,] and moving the pool and the Convention Center to the top of the building. The target date for completion is the end of 2023. Lisa said that the Sands appreciates every one of us and thanked us for our support.

IX. **Reports:**

- A. **Membership Secretary:** James M. welcomed new Membership Secretary, Brenda Nason. Brenda N. reported that one of her first projects is to look into ways to save money on postage. One such procedure is to send people ACC membership cards by email, although she can mail renewal cards at the beginning of the season to GR club directors when sent in by groups. She also recommended providing "Cribbage World" to international members (except Canadian members) online instead of mailing hard copies. Sally H. suggested creating a new membership category of "Online Member" for \$10, thus no mailed copy of "Cribbage World." A task force was formed to study and make recommendations to reduce mailing costs. The "Mailing Review Committee" [Jeanne's term] is composed of Brenda N. (chair), Terry W., David S., Tammy G. and Lana N. James M. commended Brenda for a good job so far.

- B. **Treasurer's Report:** Marlene L. circulated the Treasurer's Report a few weeks ago. She said that there wasn't anything new to report except that we have \$50,199 in our investment account. She noted that we have collected \$1,756 for rule books to help offset the \$6,000 cost to print them.
- C. **Grass Roots/Grass Roots Awards:** Ivan W. referred to the report he sent out. He said that Grass Roots activity is a lot better, and that there are nearly double the paid members as last year, about 3,200 people. Membership is still down 20% from pre-pandemic. He said that the committee is exploring ways to increase membership. These ideas include increased social media outreach. They are also looking at ways to reduce award costs by about 15%. For instance, there will be co-pays on jewelry awards. The goal will be to have awards costs covered by GRRT and GRNT. He commended the GR Website Improvement Team of Scott Harker, Ivan W., Jennifer J. Another issue they are dealing with is expired ACC memberships. Online membership payments [when fully available] will help. Currently the policy of not posting club points when someone has played with an expired membership also affects members in good standing. It is suggested that if someone plays whose ACC dues are not paid, the individual will not get points. Expired memberships also affect Internet Cribbage and weekend tournaments. A committee was formed to recommend a consistent procedure for this issue consisting of Ivan W., Jennifer J., John H., John Shafer, James M. and Brenda N.
- D. **Internet:** Sally Henderson reported that there are only a few changes regarding Internet Cribbage. It has been difficult to keep a statistician. John S. is currently doing it, with Kevin Harris overseeing membership. The grace period for membership has been eliminated. The World Cribbage Day tournament was a huge success, with 87 participants. Attendance was down due to membership issues. Teri Murdy is stepping down as World Cribbage Day TD.
- E. **Website:** John H. stated that much time is currently being devoted to updating the website, which includes trying to get rid of "New Site" reference a big process. It also includes updating logos. Other improvements underway include allowing tournament reports to be done online.
- F. **Marketing Committee:** Jennifer J. referred to the Marketing Committee report. She gave kudos to Teri Murdy for her assistance with marketing activities.
- G. **Rules:** Dave O. reported that the only rules issue that has been raised had to do with a complaint about re-dealing after too many cards are dealt, which is detrimental to the pone. The committee considered the issue and observed that re-dealing after too many cards are dealt can also be detrimental to the dealer. The committee decided to leave the rule as is.
- H. **Ethics:** Keith W. stated that there had been no ethics issues to report.
- I. **Judges:** Keith W. had nothing to report.
- J. **Youth Program:** James M. referred to the written report circulated to the BOD by Dan Zeisler.
- K. **Tournament Commissioners:** Pat B. explained the logistics changes due to the casino renovations. He reminded judges of the Judges Meeting at 7:00 am Friday in the same room as the BOD meeting, and will include explanation of muggins. James M. noted that the TOC criteria never got updated in the Policy Manual but will be soon. Pat B. also reported that new scorecards (9 games, 12 games, 14 games and 22 games) need to be printed soon. He has received 4 bids. 100,000 score cards should take us through 4- 5 years. Rick S. reported that there are around 450 signed up for the ACC Open so far.
- L. **Social Media:** David A. stated that people were pretty active on Facebook, but we need a greater

presence on other social media platforms. This is especially important if we want to reach out to younger people. He noted that our Twitter account is dormant. Vicki S. noted that our Instagram account is linked to an old Facebook account. Scott Harker experienced some success using Meta. Ivan W. said that the Grass Roots Facebook page needs to be redone so that it is more user friendly. Mike Barrett is working on this, and Jennifer J. offered to help. Perhaps Teri M. can also help. Vicki S. said that the “Question of the Day” on Facebook is getting a good response. Another success was an ad in the Spokane newspaper sponsored by three local clubs resulted in new members.

- M. **Nominating:** Jeanne J. had no further report regarding the Officer Nominating Committee. She took the opportunity to present a check for \$900 to the ACC, which represents the balance of funds remaining from GN 39 after all bills and refunds have been finalized. Pat B. stated that the GN 39 report prepared and submitted by Jeanne J. was top notch.
- N. **IT/Technology:** Scott H. said that we are moving in the direction of all one system. The ultimate goal will be to have all our programs on one platform and for them to be integrated. Membership on the IT committee was confirmed as: Scott H., Ivan W., Kris Bailey, John H. and Jennifer J.
- O. **Awards:** Mark S. stated that there wasn’t anything new, other than looking into reducing costs. He said there would be a little more information at the next meeting.

X. **Executive Committee Reports:**

President: James M. stated that many of the BOD committees aren’t doing anything. He encouraged committees and everyone on the BOD to get to work as we go forward. There wasn’t much more to report about the Executive Committee over the last 6 months.

Executive VP: Rick S. reported on the ACC Open. He stated that numbers are down. He stated that the contract with the Sands is up in 2023. He said there may be some significant changes, and he wasn’t sure what we will be able to negotiate. Discussion ensued about whether the contract should be put out to bid. Consensus indicated that would be a good idea.

VP Ethics & Policy: Keith W. stated on behalf of the Executive Committee that James M. was doing an excellent job as President. He passed out Policy and Procedures Manual page updates and noted that they have been updated on the website. There is an inconsistency with the Policy and Procedures Manual and what the BOD previously approved regarding the qualifications for the TOC. David A. put the updated criteria in the January 2022 issue of Cribbage World. This included adding two-year invites for E-Masters and the top 10% batting average in Grass Roots. The wording was a bit vague and needs to be formally approved by the BOD. **Action:** David A. made a motion to approve the TOC invite criteria to reflect the January 2022 Cribbage World page 12 wording, and also be updated in the Policy and Procedures Manual; seconded by Mark S. **Motion approved.** The Policy and Procedures Manual will be updated to reflect these changes.

VP Operations: Terry W. is helping with the scorecard reprinting but had nothing more to add.

VP Competition: David A. had no more to add to what had already been discussed.

- XI. **Adjournment: Action:** Willie E. made a motion to end the meeting; seconded by Cy M. The meeting ended at 11:20 am PST.

Next meeting date: Friday, September 23, 2022, at 9:00 am in Omaha, NE.