

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2008
HOLIDAY INN-AIRPORT
PORTLAND, OREGON

Executive Vice-President Martha Fingleton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call was taken. Present were: Dave Aiken, Joe Bernard, George Bickford, David Campbell, Martha Fingleton, Larry Hassett, Sharon Hejtmanek, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Bob Julian, Tom Lewis, Al Lindner, Herschel Mack, Bill Medeiros, Bob Milk, Ron Morgan, Cathy Perkins, Joan Rein, Phyllis Schmidt, Jeff Shimp, Valerie Sumner, Fred White, Keith Widener, Dan Zeisler. Not present: Pat Barrett (excused absence).

Martha asked to change Agenda item #12. Dave Aiken had cancelled his topic. Martha asked to substitute awarding the bid for Grand National XXX, since the BoD had previously voted to award Grand National tournaments three years in advance. Cathy Perkins moved to accept the agenda with the change to item #12, seconded by Valerie Sumner. Amended agenda approved.

Jeanne made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2008 meeting in Reno, 2nd by Martha. Motion approved.

Agenda item #4, Election of Officers: Joe Bernard announced that there were two nominations for the office of president, and one nomination apiece for the other 4 positions. Nominees as follows: President, Al Lindner & Jeanne Hofbauer / Executive VP, Martha Fingleton / VP Policy, Larry Hassett / VP Operations, Catherine Perkins / Member-at-Large, George Bickford. The first ballot for president resulted in a tie (12-12), after a brief speech by both candidates a second vote resulted in Jeanne being elected. Jeff Shimp moved that one unanimous vote be cast for the other 4 uncontested candidates, unless there was a nomination from the floor, 2nd by Valerie. Cathy Perkins moved that the nominations be closed, 2nd by Bob Milk. Motions approved.

Agenda item #5, Treasurer's Report: Bob McCabe reported that the ACC had a cash gain for the year of \$6549. This is attributable to a full year of increased sanctioning fees, a partial year of the new membership fees and the spurt in dues income as members availed themselves the opportunity to prepay several years at the old (lower) dues amount, plus higher than expected Internet income. He noted the one time expense of moving the archives to Hawaii, and the cost of scanning past Cribbage World magazines to the web page. Bob announced that Marlene Lazachek has volunteered to learn the treasurer's job, and has agreed to fill in for Bob on an interim basis, until a new treasurer could be appointed, should it become necessary. Martha asked that the budget for promotion and marketing be increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Jeff made a motion to add \$1000 to promotion and marketing, 2nd by Cathy. Motion approved. George Bickford made a motion to approve the FY 2009 budget as amended, 2nd by Phyllis Schmidt. Motion approved.

Agenda item #6, Regionalization: Jeff Shimp had been given the task of forming a committee to study a proposal to split the Western Region of the ACC into 2 separate regions, and then bring a recommendation to this meeting. He had put a notice in the April issue of CW, which drew one response. Because of such apathy, he did not form a committee, however he made some observations. He feels that the majority of the membership just wants a mechanism to play, and accumulate MRPs, Grass Roots points and Internet points. They are not really interested in politics, BoD elections or number of regions. He said that one thing that seemed to be a factor in the interest to form a 4th region was the desire to play in the annual All Star Tournament in Reno, which is held on the same week as the TOC and JPW/ACC Open, and discussed some ways to change the make-up of the event. Graeme Gossett & Don Brown, who had made the Reno presentation, also spoke to the BoD. There was then discussion by BoD members and audience members. Jeff made a motion to continue the status quo of three regions, 2nd by Joan Rein. Motion approved.

Agenda item #7, Rules Revision: Herschel Mack had sent out the Rules Committee report with its recommendations. We went through the list and made suggestions, changes and additions to it. Herschel said that he would have a few new additions at the next meeting, and that a new rule book is in the foreseeable future.

At this time, Grand National tournament director, Tim Julkowski, asked to address the BoD with an update of the tournament. He welcomed us to Portland and said that at this time he had 481 entrants registered for the main tournament.

Lunch Break, resume at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda item #9, Tom Lewis proposed the BoD eliminate the September meeting because of the financial burden to BoD members, thereby holding only one meeting per year. Discussion regarding the problems associated with only one meeting a year followed. Most of the BoD felt that this issue was already addressed in the ACC policy which allows missing one meeting with an excused absence. Martha suggested that she bring back this issue at the Reno meeting as a proposed Constitution and By-Laws change, in wording that would allow a BoD member to miss up to two meetings per two-year term with excused absences.

Agenda item #10, Dave Campbell brought a proposal to award the first deal of playoff matches to the higher seed: it could be an option chosen by the tournament director (such as playing muggings). Discussion revealed that most felt that the higher seed was already rewarded with master points, possible byes, q-pools, etc. It was suggested that a director interested in doing this apply to the BoD for a tournament format variance. Dave Campbell made a motion to allow tournament directors the option of allowing the higher seed to have first deal in playoff matches, as long as that is stated on that tournament's notices, 2nd by Bill Medeiros. Motion defeated.

Agenda item #11, Dave Campbell proposed that a player's region be determined by where that player has lived the longest, and if a player lives in different regions for 6 months, then the region from which that player scored the most points shall be used as his/her home region. This is in reference to earning a place on a regional team (top 8) by using a mailing address in a different region, as could happen at present. Cathy proposed that since this is something that rarely happens we should not change the whole system, thereby creating more work. She made a motion that this be handled on a case by case basis, 2nd by Bob Milk. Motion approved. Catherine amended the motion that in the event of a decision needing to be made between BoD meetings, the Executive Committee will do such, 2nd by Bob Julian. Motion approved.

Agenda item #12 (Changed to GN XXX on agenda), Martha explained that Peggy Scalley had put in a bid to host the next Western Region Grand National tournament in Redding, California at the

Win-River Casino, and that it was, in effect, the only bid. Peggy plans to get the help of Annett Eiffert as a co-director and both of them have a lot of experience in ACC activities. Valerie Sumner made a motion that we award Grand National XXX to the Win-River Casino in Redding, California, under the direction of Peggy Scalley, 2nd by Ron Morgan. Motion approved.

Agenda item #13, Dave Aiken thought we should find ways to celebrate the anniversary of the 400th birthday (Feb.10, 2009) of the inventor of the game of Cribbage, Sir John Suckling. Dave has already requested that the Reno Post Office use a special postmark during the weekend of the ACC/JPW tournament. The post mark would include the ACC logo, Suckling's name and date, and the slogan "home of the world's largest cribbage tournament". A retail postal booth would be set up at the Sands on Saturday, Feb 7th for the availability of our members. He solicited ideas from the BoD. Joan was asked to talk to Barbara Woodward at the Sands to see if there could be some involvement on their part.

Agenda item #14, Roy Hofbauer was asked by Mike McCammon about the ACC buying used casino cards in case lots for purchase by ACC tournament directors. Mike was at the meeting and explained that he has been contacted by a company in Las Vegas who separates decks for casinos, and that we can purchase good quality cards for about \$50 per case. Mike has given many cases of cards away from the Silver Legacy, but said the sources for cards are drying up. Casinos are not changing decks as often as they used to, business is down and the new automatic shufflers are easier on the cards. He said that they will ship a pallet (80 cases) for free to one address. Mike said he was willing to take delivery for the West as he can pick them up in Reno, but wanted to know who would volunteer to handle them for the other regions. Joan volunteered to accept the cards and distribute them to the Central and Eastern regions. These cases will be available for purchase by Grass Roots clubs and tournaments. Bob Julian made a motion that the ACC fund approximately \$4000 for a pallet of cards to be sent to Joan, and another \$1000 for 20 cases for Mike, 2nd by Dave Aiken. Motion approved.

Agenda item #15, Roy Hofbauer was asked by William Roderick to propose to the BoD that it say the Pledge of Allegiance before each meeting. Valerie offered to bring a flag to the meeting. Roy made a motion for the Pledge of Allegiance to be said before every BoD meeting, led by the ACC president, 2nd by George Bickford. Motion approved.

Agenda item #16, Tim had already apprised the BoD regarding the progress of GNXXVII earlier in the meeting.

Agenda item #17, Committee Reports:

Martha reported that the Executive committee handled 3 requests for funds for promotion. One unusually high amount of \$1500 was allotted to Dave Aiken for brochures similar to Cribbage Anyone, to be put in approximately 25,000 runner packets for a large footrace in Michigan, and to be used by all of the Michigan GR clubs. Joan Rein said that one of the requests came from Don Hannula, who had an ACC booth set up at his county fair in Michigan which resulted in 5 new members. He will be reimbursed in an amount that will not be more than \$150. Martha noted that he was grateful of the assistance given by ACC members.

Sharon Hejtmanek reported that the Ethics Committee received a complaint about a tournament director not refunding entry fees for a couple, even though they had notified him that they were not able to attend. He had told them that they would get the money back, but they have yet to receive it after more than 6 months. Sharon wrote the director a letter and got no response. The committee discussed this matter, and since its job is to protect ACC members, they voted to suspend the tournament director and believe the ACC should refund the \$190 to these players. If the director would like to have the suspension lifted, he can then reimburse the ACC. Bob Julian

stated that he was approached by a person from Michigan who had paid in cash for a membership and rule book at the Green Bay tournament, and had received neither. The BoD felt that, as policy, we will act on an individual basis in determining this type of event. It would be expected that in such occurrences, the individual make a complaint in writing to a BoD member. Joan made a motion that we approve the 2 specific items: the reimbursement of the \$190 in entry fees, and the free membership and rulebook, 2nd by Jeff. Motion approved.

Tom Lewis (Publicity Committee) reports: He has written to AARP magazine requesting that he write a cribbage story for submission, also inquiring about their advertising rates. He has received no response despite repeated phone and e-mail inquiries. He showed the BoD labels that have been submitted by Rick Westerman, which can be affixed to card boxes with the ACC information on them. Tom thinks that it would be a good idea to have these labels on the used card boxes when they are recycled to other sources. He also said that he believes the beginner classes he teaches are one of the best methods of picking up new members, as often the parents or grand parents of the students already know how to play and learn about us through the student. Also, starting in the July 2008 issue of CW there has been a page dedicated to Youth Cribbage. He has contacted many players and requested that those with cribbage board collections submit their information to American Profile magazine, as in its August 12th issue there was a request for readers to discuss their individual collections. He taught a 9 session beginners class in Albuquerque for 7 kids between the ages of 9 and 14, and held a 6 game ACC style tournament for them. This generated 8 new ACC members including 1 parent. And lastly, a 5-year complimentary ACC membership was given to Aaron Rodgers of the Green Bay Packers, as media coverage indicated that he is a cribbage player. Jeff Shimp suggested that since so many of the BoD probably belong to AARP, that we should individually contact them regarding Tom's requests.

Dan Zeisler (Youth Program): Dan praised both Tom Lewis and Mike Burns for conducting successful youth tournaments, also Dave Aiken for getting on board with the youth column in CW. He said it has generated a lot of responses. He also wanted to acknowledge Ken Capper for sending him 3 huge boxes of trophy boards. He now has many boards to use for trophies at his and other youth tournaments. He is getting many requests for his teaching manual. He has also sent out many "starter kits" consisting of long boards and cards.

Joan Rein (Grass Roots) reported that the first club in Arkansas has been chartered and had 30 players the first night, the Texas club has grown to 60 players, Michigan has made large gains in the number of GR clubs, and there is a new club in Rhode Island. At this time there are 179 active clubs.

Bob Milk (Internet Cribbage) reported that there were 216 ACC sanctioned internet tournaments, with approximately 10,000 entrants, with 24,000 games being played. The Google calendar is now being used for tournament schedules. Manual counting has been expanded from 1 tournament a week to 3 tournaments a week, but it is proving unpopular based on the amount of entrants, but at least it was tried. He talked about Damion Blond's website. Damion has set up a demonstration area near the playing area of this weekend's tournament. Bob has worked with him for several months on the cribbage program. His site may be used as an additional playing site when he gets more power from his servers. Last year game colony revenue received was \$11,000 and we just received a check for \$3700 for the first quarter of this year. He also said that online cribbage play is dropping on all sites.

Jeff Shimp (Judges Program) reported that Laurie Logan has asked to be replaced as a senior judge in the Western Region. Jeff is appointing Ron Logan to fill the position. Also for the first time a judge is being suspended from the program on the recommendation of the Ethics Committee. This judge will be notified by either Al Miller or Jeff Shimp. Jeff also distributed

Shoreline Visitors Guides that have tourist information that may be useful to attendees of the next GN tournament to be held in Grand Rapids, MI.

Agenda Item #18, Officers Reports:

President Al Lindner reported that the ACC is financially solid. We should look to having backup people ready to fill strategic jobs, as Treasurer Bob McCabe had reported on earlier. For instance, we have no one to replace DeLynn Colvert when he decides to give up the Awards Committee. Al also asked where he should send the liability policy for the officers. Jeanne said to send it to her, and she would put it in a safety deposit box.

Executive VP Martha Fingleton said that her information had been included in the Executive committee report.

VP Operations Larry Hassett reported that Fred White had completed posting the old issues of CW on the Website. Fred said that he will soon start on a Grand National section. He may need to request additional money from the BoD for scanning. Larry said that new Policy & Procedure Manuals and new "Cribbage Anyone?" pamphlets are in the works.

VP Policy Cathy Perkins reported that we have good people running our programs, so the ACC is doing well at this time.

Member-at-Large George Bickford reports that he is making up new forms to be filled out by those who own ACC equipment. He would like the wording of the blind draw instructions to have "handicapped", "spouses," and "for good cause" added to it.

Next BoD Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at the Sands/Regency Hotel and Casino, in Reno, Nevada.

Bob Milk requested that we consider starting all of the BoD meetings at 9:00 a.m.

Bob Julian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Dan Zeisler. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

