

**American Cribbage Congress**  
**Board of Director's Meeting Minutes**  
BEST WESTERN KELLY INN – YANKTON, SD  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015  
(Revised 1/31/16)

1. **Call to Order:** President Jeanne Hofbauer called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Valerie Sumner led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll call:** Jeanne H. introduced Jeanne Jelke as the new Secretary. Jeanne J. read the roll call. Present: Dave Aiken, Rick Allen, Pat Barrett, Henry Bergeron, Dave Campbell, Willie Evans, Richard Frost, Paul Gregson, Roland Hall, Don Hannula, Jeanne Hofbauer, Roy Hofbauer, Ron Logan, Cy Madrone, James Morrow, Dave O'Neil, Bruce Sattler, Todd Schaefer, Phyllis Schmidt, Rick Shea, Jeff Shimp, Wayne Steinmetz, Valerie Sumner, Terry Weber, Keith Widener. All 25 members present. We had a quorum.
4. **Approved Agenda:** Jeanne H. made a few changes to the circulated agenda. **Action:** Dave O. made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.**
5. **Minutes of February 5, 2015:** **Action:** Valerie S. made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Willie E. **Motion Approved.**
6. **Election of Officers:** Jeanne H. welcomed and introduced newly elected Board members, James Morrow, Cy Madrone, Rick Shea, Terry Weber, and Paul Gregson. Phyllis S. distributed a ballot of nominations for 2015-2016 Officers and Executive Committee members. They included:
  - President – Jeanne Hofbauer
  - Executive VP – Todd Schaefer
  - VP Policy – Keith Widener
  - VP Operations – David Campbell
  - Member-At-Large – Jeff Shimp (Incumbent), Terry Weber

All were unopposed except for Member-At-Large. **Action:** Nominations from the floor were invited for each office but none were forthcoming. In each case there was a motion to close nominations. **Motions Approved.** Jeanne H. invited Terry W. and Jeff S. each to make a statement as to their desire to serve as Member-At-Large. According to the BoD Procedure Manual, general responsibilities for the Member-At-Large include the audit, forms management, tournament rules & guidelines, and tournament commissioners. A secret ballot was distributed to elect the Member-At-Large. Terry W. was elected by a close vote of 13 – 12. Jeanne H. thanked Jeff S. for his candidacy and for his service as the outgoing Member-At-Large.

7. **Update of Grand National XXXIV:** Scott Kooistra reported that right now there are 300 players. He was pleased with the local turnout, which included 16 local Grass Roots players. The Awards Banquet will have the theme of "Denim & Diamonds." A fund-raiser for a domestic violence program was being offered with drawings for prizes. The Lt. Governor will give the welcome address on Saturday morning. A lunch buffet is included with the GN entry fee.
8. **Update of Grand National XXXV:** Bruce S. passed out a preliminary flyer & planning guide to the 2016 GN in Bethesda, MD. The midweek will be October 5 – 6, 2016 with Dave A. as Director. The GN will be October 8-9, 2016 with Bruce S. as Director. All events will be at the Bethesda North Marriott with room rates @ \$99 per night. This hotel is right on the Metro line, with Reagan National Airport the nearest airport. There is a problem with reservations right now

at that rate, but he is getting it sorted out. A separate block of 25 rooms has been set aside for BoD members.

- 9. Update of GN XXXVI:** Rick S. reported that planning for the 2017 GN in Lincoln City, OR was moving right along. There will be a midweek September 6 – 7, 2017, with the GN September 9-10. On the preceding weekend, September 2 – 3, there will be a tournament in Coos Bay, OR. Tentative plans are in the works for the first Youth GN, probably the Friday before the GN.
- 10. Bids for Grand National XXXVII:** Todd S. indicated that there was a “ghost” bid by Gene Biegler to have the 2018 GN at a casino in Chicago. However, there were no details. Terry W. submitted a proposal for the 2018 GN to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee, WI September 18 – 23, 2018. Terry W. distributed brochures on the Crowne Plaza and described the arrangements with the hotel. They have set aside 194 rooms @ \$99. They have a 12,000 sq. ft. playing area, which they will provide at no charge. The only requirement is that we spend at least \$7,000 on food and beverages. This should not be a problem. The Awards Banquet will be \$40 per person. The lunch on Saturday will be \$11.99 per person and will be included in the GN entry fee. There will be a separate room for the tournament office and playoffs. Parking is free. The Crowne Plaza is right across from the Milwaukee Airport, and there is a free airport shuttle.  
**Action:** Jeanne H. made a motion to accept the bid for the 2018 GN XXXVII to be held in Milwaukee, WI, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Bruce S. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. **Motion approved.**
- 11. Treasurer’s Report:** Marlene Lazacheck discussed the income statement, noting an overall loss of \$11,000. She indicated that raises to the Cribbage World Editor and Membership Secretary, as well as the new Master Point software (\$8.6K) contributed to the excess in expenses over income. There was also another \$1,500 or so for the printing of more scorecards and laminated playoff charts. We also spent \$1,544 on two promotional activities. Marlene L. reported an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to Youth Cribbage. The ACC invested \$50,000 three years ago. In 2014, she reinvested \$50,000 and put earnings of \$3,000 in our money market. This \$50,000 investment has varied, mostly due to market variations; it was \$50,997 at the end of June, down \$49,732 in late July and then up to \$50,355 on September 1<sup>st</sup> for a drop of \$600 during the last three months. We now have \$3,355 in our money market. There was discussion about what expenses the commissioners had. It is spent mostly on shipping and postage of tournament packages. Bruce S. said that we should be trying to cut expenses and suggested there were other ways to get materials to tournament directors. Roy H. said he is already doing what he can by giving supplies to other people (he mentioned Rick S., Bob Bartosh & Roland H.) in the region to pass out to nearby tournament directors. The commissioners try to save postage whenever possible, carrying tournament supplies in their cars to hand deliver when possible, for instance. There are plenty of banners in stock thanks to DeLynn Colvert, who got a bunch printed years ago. It was pointed out that there were 206 tournaments last year, and commissioners spent less than \$20 per tournament. The discussion then evolved as to why there is expensing on top of the stipend that the commissioners get, which is supposed to help offset their personal expenses in carrying out their duties. Jeanne H. pointed out that we talked about this when we raised Dave A.’s and Larry Hassett’s stipend. The stipend is a gratuity and shouldn’t be compared to wages. Keith W. was tasked with reviewing and clarifying the wording for the compensation policy in the Procedure Manual to be presented at the next Board meeting. Marlene L. asked the Board if she should keep the \$50K investment for another year. Keith W. said there are always market fluctuations and you should never take money out when the market is down. **Action:** Valerie S. made a motion to the leave it [the \$50K investment] in another year. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat B. **Motion approved.** 24-For 1-Against.
- 12. Membership Secretary’s Report:** Larry H. was not present, but his report had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting. There was no discussion regarding his report. However, issues and data included in his report were discussed during agenda items 11 and 13.a.

### 13. Old Business:

- a. **Financial Future of ACC Committee:** Dave C. stated that the ACC is projected to lose \$33K next year. The organization is losing everywhere—Cribbage World, Grass Roots, etc. We need to find ways to increase revenue and/or decrease expenses. He noted that the \$10K to Paul G. per year to update software will go away in two years, but we are still looking at a \$23K deficit in operating costs next year. If we did nothing, we would be out of business in three years. He put a post on Facebook a few months ago and got some good ideas as to ways to raise more money. He said we need to have a plan so that we not only breakeven but have extra money to do the things we want to do. He wasn't advocating for doing everything all at once, but to do things that make sense step by step. Enough time will have to be allowed to change forms, update the website and inform tournament directors for any measures we approve. Barbara Woodward gave an example of a golf association that took proactive measures to avoid losing money twelve years ago by raising membership dues by \$5 slightly ahead of when they needed it. Now the organization is solvent. A long and lively discussion ensued on various ideas to raise more money or reduce expenses. The following reflects what was discussed by subject:

Increase Sanctioning Fees: Last year, there were around 14K players in main tournaments. Pat B. noted that there were 8,503 players in consolations last year, and a \$1 sanctioning fee for consolations would add \$8K more. Willie E. asked if we added \$1 to the sanctioning fee would that cover the deficit? Dave C. said yes, but we don't want just to cover the deficit, we want to raise additional money for planned future expenditures. Several board members spoke in favor of passing on increasing expenses to the players. The extra \$1 would be absorbed by the prize fund. **Action:** Don H. made a motion to raise sanctioning fees for mains from \$2 to \$3 and to establish a \$1 sanctioning fee for consolations, effective January 2, 2016. Seconded by Phyllis S. **Motion Approved.**

Eliminating Life Memberships: Life memberships are a drain because they weren't set up properly. Proceeds from Life memberships should have been put in a designated account so the funds come out gradually. Instead, they were put into the general operating fund and were spent the year they were received. It was noted that at age 62, a new life membership of \$120 would only cover 8 years, and after that they get a great deal. There's no way we can continue this program. We have a large proportion of people who would qualify for this. There were around 1,300 life memberships last year according to Larry H.'s figures. There appears to be two options—raise the cost of life memberships and/or eligibility age, or eliminate life memberships altogether, although current life memberships will be grandfathered in. Several people spoke in favor of simplifying things by doing away with life memberships completely. **Action:** Dave A. made a motion to stop selling life memberships effective immediately, with current life memberships grandfathered in. Seconded by Richard F. **Motion Approved.** 23-For 2-Against. Dave A. will contact Larry H. right after this meeting so that the form can be changed and both the ACC and Grass Roots websites updated.

Raise ACC dues: The last time we raised the dues was around 11 years ago when we raised it from \$12 to \$15. It was noted that Cribbage World costs \$18 per person annually to print and deliver, so the \$15 membership doesn't cover it, and life memberships are 100% subsidized. Joint members only receive one copy. One suggestion was to allow people to opt for receiving Cribbage World online instead of being mailed a hard copy and have their dues reduced. Dave A. said he had mixed feelings about whether to allow people to opt out, and Larry H. should provide input also.

Cy M. suggested raising it [individual membership] to \$18 effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. Several other people suggested raising dues by \$5--an individual membership to \$20 and joint memberships to \$25. Ron L. pointed out that we need to explain to members why we are raising the dues. Several others echoed him. Henry B. stated that we were throwing a bunch of numbers around, and proposed that we delay making these decisions until February, when we can have hard numbers and have studied the impact of these various measures. Rich S. said that the software update isn't really a one-time deal; somewhere in the future we'll have to do this again, and we need to build funds for the future. Don H. spoke against raising dues to \$20. He said Grass Roots players have to join the ACC but many never play in an ACC sanctioned tournament. He worried that many would not go for increased ACC dues and consequently a small club might fold. A motion was proposed, clarified, and discussed with regard to the effect on the cost of producing Cribbage World if people could opt out. Although money might be saved in postage, the cost per issue would go up because most of the money is spent on the set up and production. It was also pointed out that ballots go out in Cribbage World. **Action:** Terry W. made a motion to raise individual dues from \$15 to \$20 and joint dues from \$18 to \$25, effective August 1, 2016. Seconded by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.** 14-For 9-Against. [Note: The printed version of Cribbage World is included in these memberships.] Rick S. said we should implement this as soon as possible, not wait until August. Bruce S. echoed this, although he said we have to allow Larry H. time to implement this. **Action:** Bruce S. made a motion to make the increase in dues effective March 1, 2016. Seconded by Willie E. **Motion Approved.** For-23 2-Against. Cy M. suggested revisiting the idea of getting a discount for opting out of Cribbage World. **Action:** Cy M. made a motion that members would receive a \$5 discount if they opt not to get Cribbage World mailed to them. Seconded by Roland H. **Motion Failed.**

Fees for Internet Cribbage: John Schafer said that Internet Cribbage is self-sufficient now, but if it is not in the future, he and Tammy Gibbons will get together with Marlene L. to come up with ideas. Maybe a flat fee will be charged if players want to earn IMP's. No further action was taken regarding establishing Internet Cribbage fees.

Other Ideas: The possibility of adding sanctioning fees to satellite events was suggested but not pursued. Another suggestion, adding a flat fee of \$20 per tournament for miscellaneous expenses to be paid when applying for tournament sanctioning, was discussed but not pursued.

- b. Tournament Director's Handbook:** Roy H. said he and Dave O. had finalized the manual. It is available online, in booklet form and in pdf format. 250 hard copies have been printed, and he distributed a copy to each BoD member. Commissioners also each have some copies. Roy H. thanked Rick S., Dave C., Dave O., Pat B. and Jeanne H. for their assistance with the project.
- c. New Masterpoint Software:** Dave C. invited Paul G. to provide a progress report on the new Masterpoint software. Paul G. said that he wrote a program that will convert the old "flat files" to an actual data base so that that data base can be put on the ACC website. That will be cool because cribbage players can look up and see all the data that's in the MRP program now. Then over the next six months he will work on the interface that Marlene L. will use. His goal is to finish the programming a couple of months before the end of the year so that it can be tested out. He hopes to have it up and running for the 2016-17 season. Dave C. noted that it is a two year process in total to implement.
- d. Proposal to monitor tournament late fees:** [This item was interrupted part way through to listen to a radio interview earlier in the day by Scott K. of several cribbage players

concerning the Grand National] Keith W. stated that there needs to be some accountability on the use of late fees. This is not monitored, and he suggested doing away with it. He said as an incentive to get a head count for meals, people can be guaranteed a lunch ticket if they pay by a certain date. Several people spoke against the idea of tickets. Pat B. said that tournament directors using late fees to help get the number of lunches should report on the appropriate line item on the tournament report form, with late fees added to the prize fund. Massive walk-ins create serious problems. Don H. felt the late fee policy should be left to the commissioners and directors, that they should exercise their discretionary powers. Roy H. agreed with Don H. Bruce S. agreed with Don H., and Pat B. so long as line item for late fees was added to the form. Ron L. said it would be simpler to eliminate all late fees and not allow walk-ins. Jeff S. observed that eliminating all late fees was micromanagement and that the integrity of tournament directors should be respected. It was noted that every flyer has to be approved by a commissioner. The commissioners were canvassed as to their views on late fees. Roy H. said no, Pat B. said yes, and Dave C. said no. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion to eliminate all late fees. Bruce S. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. **Motion Failed.** 10-For 15-Against.

- e. **Proposal for rules app:** Dave C. said that the app doesn't exist. He investigated the arrangements with the consultant who was going to create the app. We never paid the consultant, and he is no longer creating new apps.
- f. **Website Addition Committee:** Henry B. reported that the committee is recommending that the BoD minutes be added to the ACC website. When someone clicks on the minutes, the most recent meeting will show up first. There was some discussion on how far back to go and where the minutes are archived. It was noted that the minutes are circulated by e-mail, and several people have saved them. Also, the minutes should only be posted after they are approved, so there will always be a lag of one meeting. **Action:** Henry B. made a motion to add a section for approved Board minutes on the ACC website. Cy M. 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. **Motion Approved.**
- g. **Long Match Masterpoints:** Dave A. said that when he asked around, there was very little interest in pursuing this idea. It is a dead issue.
- h. **Rules Changes:** Wayne S. reported that he and Kathy Perkins. are finalizing the wording of the rule changes. The biggest one is the peg out rule. Another, 10.1c, concerns muggins. The renege section needs to be re-worded. Once they have finalized the wording they will come back with the eight other rule changes discussed at the February, 2015 BoD meeting. The new rule book will be printed and available by August, 2016. The final version will be circulated at least 30 days prior to the February, 2016 BoD meeting, when there will be a vote on all the changes.
- i. **Pay Pal Update:** Dave C. reported he had talked with Barbara W. and the Sands is using Pay Pal. Hope was expressed that it will help more new members sign up on line for Internet Cribbage and perhaps also membership renewals online. Dave C. responded that they are getting closer.

**14. Hall of Fame Election Procedures:** Pat B. explained how HOF members have been elected since 2008. 100 people vote on nominees. Any candidate receiving 75% or more of the votes is elected. Six HOF members have been elected through the current system, with no one elected in 2013 and 2015 because of not receiving enough votes. There are four proposals: 1) Herschel Mack's, backed by Cy M.; 2) Keith W./Terry W./Roy H. that it is mandatory every year; 3) Jason Hofbauer's 4) Scott K.'s and Pat B.'s proposal that if no one gets 75% of the votes, the highest one over 51% of the votes will be elected. James M. suggested introducing a Lifetime Achievement Award, something like a President's Award. Joan Rein observed that election of HOF

used to be based more on cribbage ability, but it is now more on lifetime achievement. Roy H. noted that in the last 9 years, one HOF member was elected from the Central Division, one from the Eastern Division, and the rest were from the west. He suggested electing at least 2 persons to the HOF every year. Henry B. said that it should be left the way it is. Don H. echoed this, stating that we don't want to degrade the quality of the HOF. There was discussion regarding the % for the 4<sup>th</sup> proposal. **Action:** Ron L. made a motion to elect the person with the highest # of votes over 65% if no one got 75%. Rick A. seconded. **Motion Approved.** 23-For 2-Against.

**15. Mandatory Rotation of Playing Cards for Anchors:** Willie E. said that anchors have an advantage playing with the same deck; they get familiar with the cards. He proposed that the decks used by anchors be changed at least once during a qualifying round. Roy H. pointed out it is in the new Tournament Director's Manual, page 8, #3. Willie E. suggested the wording be changed from "should" to "will". It was also suggested that the word "anchor" be switched to "stationary."

**16. Changing Decks During Playoffs:** Dave C. brought up this issue. Roy H. said this is already addressed in the Tournament Director's Manual on page 18; one new deck per player per match is allowed.

**17. Youth Master Point System:** Valerie S. reported that youth cribbage is growing. There have been 4 national events. We should be as inclusive as possible. Progress is being made on developing the concept of having JMP's—Junior Master Points—that can be converted to MRP's when they turn 18. A tournament needs to be a minimum of 4-6 games to qualify for JMP's. Each youth would get one JMP just for playing in an event. The 1<sup>st</sup> place player will get 1 JMP x # of players, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place player will get 1 JMP x 1/2 # of players. It needs a committee to refine the concept. Jeff S. noted that we are a dying organization, and we should support this 100%. Paul G. said that there is a "pureness" in the youth tournaments as they are now. He is leery of introducing too much competition. A committee was formed consisting as Valerie S. as Chair, James M., Paul G., Henry B., Willie E., Rick S. plus Dan Zeisler and Don (Grumpy) Howard. to study the issue further and come back to the BoD. It was also announced that the next west coast youth tournament is scheduled for February 20, 2016, and another is scheduled for May 21, 2016.

**18. Creating a Key Performance Indicator:** Paul G. proposed different parts of the organization—we have the statistician or the person responsible for that area to prepare year-end reports summarizing how that season went, and how things went in the context of previous years. An example is the Internet Cribbage report that he attached to his handout. You can see how the numbers changed over time. The metrics will include what is important for that area, helping us understand what's working and what's not. We have all this data already, we are just not putting it together in a way that we can act on easily and make better decisions. The data would be all in one place. He suggested that for the sanctioned tournaments, the reports would be prepared by the national statistician, for the internet program by the internet statistician, for the Grass Roots summary by the Grass Roots statistician, for membership by the membership secretary, and for the financial by the treasurer. The idea would be to get this done between the end of the season and before the [fall] BoD meeting. Paul G. offered to take the lead and work with people about what information to put into their reports. **Action:** Paul G. made a motion to have the five year-end summary reports listed here [sanctioned tournaments, the Internet, membership, financial and Grass Roots] generated by the five people listed here as part of their responsibilities for their positions. Seconded by Dave C. **Motion Approved.**

**19. Terms for Paid & Volunteer Positions:** Paul G. observed that unlike the BoD members who are elected every two years, paid and volunteer positions have no term limits and seem to serve indefinitely. Roy H. clarified that they are reappointed by the Executive Committee. Paul G.

referred to his handout which proposes a 4 year term for all volunteer positions, and provided a chart proposing staggered terms for various volunteer & paid positions. Anyone who was interested could apply, including the person who already has that position. The intention is several fold. First, it makes us seem more open, that we are open for new candidates for positions. Also term limits would encourage more volunteers and opportunities to get involved. A discussion followed on the practicality of this. It is challenging to find back-ups to these positions as it is. Joan R. said that while there are job descriptions for all Grass Roots positions, not all have back-ups. Dave A. said he didn't know if he wanted to be reappointed indefinitely, and this was a good idea. Cy M. said it's about transparency and accountability, and that this [Paul G.'s proposal] is just a framework. Ron L. echoed Cy M.'s comments. It was pointed out that position descriptions are in the Policy Manual, which is available online. Bruce S. wanted to know if there is a list of assigned back-ups for ACC positions. He also voiced concern that people in paid positions might have a conflict of interest if they are on the Executive Committee. Jeff S. agreed with the idea if it leads to more professionalism. Keith W. said that "if it ain't broke don't fix it." He said the Executive Committee does a good job of evaluating performance in these positions. Ron L. suggested tabling it until February. Jeanne H. asked for a vote as to whether to act on it or table until February. The majority vote was to table it. A committee was set up to look into this proposal in more depth, consisting of: Paul G. as chair, Roland H., Keith W., Bruce S. and Valerie S.

**20. Creating a Paid Marketing Person:** Paul G. put forward the idea of creating a paid marketing position for discussion purposes only at this point. Jeff S. said that the worst job we do is marketing ourselves. We have never paid for marketing, and our reliance on volunteers has led to zero or minimal results. What we need is professional marketing. Others noted that engaging a professional marketing consultant would be beyond our means. Ron L. said that one reason many people don't join the ACC is that they don't want to be part of a formal organization and have to abide by rules—that's just the way it is and marketing won't solve that. Paul Barnes described advertising tactics in square dancing magazines and also the ACC boards distributed for places where people play games, but he had no idea if these tactics are successful. John S. suggested getting a marketing intern from a college or university. He will follow up and report back in February. Several board members were leaning towards going with a volunteer position before a paid position, including the suggestion of having a lead marketing volunteer in each region.

**21. Proposal to Codify Nonstandard Tournaments:** Dave A. passed out a handout, indicating that he was introducing this issue for discussion purposes at this time because he didn't circulate it ahead of time. He said there were a lot of variations between regions, and this creates confusion by directors. He wanted to discuss this now and bring it back to the BoD in February. Willie E. asked what was the purpose of this? Dave A. said it is to provide an overview of sanctioned tournament format variance rules. A discussion ensued. For the most part, the handout was informational, but the last paragraph is new. The policy should be uniform between the regions as agreed by the three commissioners. At the end of the discussion, the issue was referred to the Executive Committee.

**22. Proposal to Reduce the Size of the BoD:** Dave A. presented his proposal to reduce the size of the BOD in a two-step process. In 2017, the BoD would be reduced to 21 members, and in 2019 down to 17 members. Bruce S. observed that it is difficult to get through meetings in a timely manner when 25 people all talk at the same time. Also, this will help get new blood coming on the BOD as the old step aside. Henry B. stated that we are all volunteers and we can't compare the ACC to IBM. If we reduce the size of the BoD it will be back to the "good old boys" running the show. Valerie S. acknowledged that we have marathon meetings, but she noted that there are people out there who have said things and presented ideas that we might not have gotten with a smaller board. Ron L. said he thought we could be more efficient with

fewer members. Roland H. said that diversity is good; we get different ideas and get to talk about them. Don H. said that with a smaller board, the less known people like himself wouldn't be elected. Roy H. said that we wouldn't have new faces if we reduced; it will be the same 17 people all the time. Jeanne H. said that at first she thought it was a good idea. After mulling it over, she said that we need some people with institutional memory (for example, Jeff S., Roy H. and Pat B.) but we also need turnover. With a smaller board it would be harder for new people who are not well known to get elected to the board. It is essential to have new ideas and energy from new people. Ron L. suggested having term limits in order to ensure turnover [with a smaller board.] **Action:** Ron L. made a motion to adopt the proposal to reduce the size of the BoD to 17 by 2019 by a two-step process. Cy M. seconded the motion. **Motion Failed.** 9-For 16-Against.

**23. Proposal to Accredite Doubles Tournaments:** Dave A. reported that the task force of Willie E., Keith W. and Ron L. looking into awarding Master Points to doubles tournaments hadn't had much feedback so far. There were two issues: first, whether to pursue it at all, and secondly, how to apply the points. It was pointed out that doubles is very different from singles in that there are only 5 cards dealt. Therefore if there was a point system, it should be different from sanctioned tournaments. Also, it might require partners to rotate. Many couples go for fun and socializing, and might be put off by sanctioned play. Dave A. will take that input back to his committee.

**24. Proposal to Ban Tournament Directors from Charging Late Fees:** This item was already discussed under Item 13.d.

**25. Judges Recertification:** This issue was tabled.

**26. Q-pool/Side-pool Definitions:** Rick S. stated that the term "Q pool" refers to "Qualifier pool" and therefore by definition, all qualifiers should share in the proceeds from the Q pool. "Side pools," on the other hand could be paid out to less than all the qualifiers. Bruce S. said this was brought up last year, and it was shot down. However, people are still confused. It needs to be defined. The tournament director should indicate [on the flyer] whether the Q pool is equal or graduated. Rick A. said that there needed to be more standardization regarding Q pools—payouts are skewed in favor of better players. The Tournament Director's manual defines Q pool on page 10 and side pool on page 11. Roy H. said that in all the years he's been doing this, he's never known any player who was so concerned about how the Q's were paid—when they look on the flyer it seems like everyone knows what is going on. It seems to be working. Jeff S. said that the hybrid Q that Terry W. has developed is working well. Keith W. said he knew of tournaments when non-qualifiers got Q money. Further discussion ensued including inconsistencies in what's listed on flyers and the suggestion that we are trying to micromanage tournament directors again. **Action:** Keith W. made a motion that if it's a "Q pool," that means that everybody that qualifies gets paid as long as they are in the Q pool, regardless of the method whether it's graduated, hybrid, whether it's equal Q, effective August 1, 2016. [Simply put] If you are in the Q pool and you qualify, you get paid. Bruce S. seconded. **Motion Approved.** 15-For 10-Against.

## **27. Committee Reports:**

**Executive-** We approved \$200 for the Salem fair, \$500 for Puyallup Western Washington State Fair, and \$150 for the Amhill County Fair. He requested \$150 more, which we OK'd but we need receipts. DeLynn C. got \$300 for supplies and transporting the 90 awards boards here. We also approved Dave A.'s one day tournament on the coastal cluster.

**Ethics-** Valerie S. reported that the Ethics Committee issued 7 warning letters, decided to take no action on another issue, and gave one 6-month suspension. The Ethics Committee is looking

into ethics rules for internet play, and will get with Keith W. to update the policy manual accordingly.

**Grass Roots-** Joan R. reported that the national statistician quit in July, and that Dan Selke has agreed to take over. Two inactive clubs have been reactivated, and 7 new clubs have been established. Some programming changes have been implemented, including an alert on the club site that notifies if a member's Grass Roots or ACC dues are expired. Last year, Grass Roots lost \$1,300 overall. Expenses for awards have gone up, and one of the measures to save money is that rings are no longer available for the bronze level. Awards have been running us in the vicinity of \$32,000. Joan R. said that part of the reason is that people accrue points a little faster because of the traveler's club and the adding of points for 12 point cards. The other reason is that the cost of awards is increasing. The idea of awarding GR points to qualifying visitors has been tabled until February. Here again, she said we need to take a look at how that will affect awards. The whole Grass Roots program was designed for the local clubs. It was never designed for traveling. It was designed so that people can stay at home and earn points and recognition without having to spend a lot on travel. She'd like to keep it local, and she didn't want to see the points increase that much more. So she was running a battle against some of those who want to attend tournaments. There was some discussion on raising Grass Roots dues. Joan R. said they could look into that, but it couldn't happen until next September or so.

**Internet-** John S. reported for Tammy G. He requested people send him an e-mail if they are having problems with Internet Cribbage, such as logging on or other technical problems.

**Judges:** Jeff S. indicated that Ross Njaa has been appointed to fill the Senior Judge vacancy in the West created by Roger Lueschow's passing.

**Youth Program:** Don (Grumpy) H. reported on behalf of Dan Z. He said that they had sent out about 40 manuals to classroom teachers and after school programs. They've had 4 start-up grant requests that include 10 long boards. There have been 4 Youth Tournaments—2 in California, 1 in Washington and 1 in Minnesota. They are trying to get more long boards donated. Plans are in progress for a Youth Tournament on the Friday during the 2017 Grand National in Lincoln City. They are also looking into partnering with Boy Scouts. James M. elaborated on this venture, and circulated a handout. He has already started working with the Boy Scouts in his area in Washington. He is exploring the idea of developing a Cribbage Merit Badge with the Scout leadership. The process of establishing a new Merit Badge is approximately 5 years. They plan to pilot the idea on the local level, and perhaps eventually getting an article about it in "Boys Life."

**PR/Marketing:** Jeanne H. asked if anyone had any comments regarding Norm Nikodym's report. The question was raised as to the process of getting funds if you want to advertise in a regional magazine. First, it needs to go to the Marketing Committee, and then it will go to the Executive Committee for approval of the funding. James M. also suggested putting something on the website for teachers to download. He'll talk with Norm N.

**Rules:** Wayne S. said that he had nothing to add to what was reported under Item 13.h.

**Tournament Commissioners:** Roy H. said that he and the other commissioners will have to explain to tournament directors about the definitions of Q pools and side pools, as well as change all the forms on the website, and make some changes to the Tournament Director's manual. He's also going to have to change the report to reflect late fees.

**28. Other Business:** Dave A. referred to his handout and described his "Exclusive Weekend" proposal. Each region will have one large "exclusive" tournament once a year when no other

tournaments will be sanctioned. The West would have the February TOC/ACC Open in Reno. The East would have the late July "National Open" in Raleigh. The GN would be held in September/October in the Central Region. There was a lot of discussion. Don H. said that we shouldn't restrict the GN to one region. Dave O. pointed out that the Central Region has enough venues and directors to make it work. Bruce S. said he enjoyed traveling around the country. James M. pointed out that some long established tournaments in other parts of the country are the same weekend as the National Open. Willie E. said that if the GN was held in the same region every year, it would have the same 500 or so players attending. Cy M. said that he liked the rotation and meeting different players—diversity should be encouraged. Henry B. asked why not consider rotating the TOC/ACC Open? Jeanne H. said that no one gives us the offer the Sands has. Dave A. said he just brought up this idea up to sound out the Board. There was no interest in discussing the "Exclusive Weekend" proposal any further.

## **29. Officer Reports:**

**President** – Jeanne H. again reported that she recruited Jeanne J. as Recording Secretary. She also indicated that flowers were sent for Bill Medeiros's services. Terry W. was appointed to the board to fill the vacancy left when Bill M. passed away. She also authorized payment for the printing of the new Tournament Director's Manual.

**Executive VP Report** – Todd S. noted that the 2019 GN will be held in the Eastern Region and invited interested persons to funnel proposals to him. Paul B. expressed some interest in possibly hosting the 2019 GN in Florida, perhaps in Tampa.

**VP of Policy Report** – Keith W. reported that there were no significant changes from the last meeting to the Policy Manual. He reminded members, especially the new board members, to review Chapter 1 which spells out the procedures for changing policies. If you have any questions, call Keith W.

**VP of Operations Report** – Dave C. – nothing to add to what he's already reported

**Member at Large Report** – Jeff S - nothing new to report.

**30. Next Meeting:** Jeanne H. announced the next BoD meeting will be February 11, 2016 at the Sands Regency, Reno, NV @ 9:00 a.m.

**31. Action:** Dave O. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie S. **Motion Approved.** Meeting Adjourned 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Jelke  
Recording Secretary