



Minutes of the Meeting of District 17 Board

January 25, 2020 at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel, Albuquerque, NM

(subject to confirmation at Denver, May 2020)

Present: John Grossmann (President), Cindy Shoemaker (National Board), Liz Hamilton, Lakin Hines, JoAnne Lowe, Felicity Moore, Steve Nordberg, Jennifer O’Neill, Bill Phillips, Steve Reynolds, Rod Southworth

Also in attendance: Scott Humphrey Area Manager for Districts 15,16,17
Doug Couchman, member

The President called the meeting to order at 8.05 am.

GENERAL

Opening remarks

John Grossmann

John welcomed Scott Humphrey to the meeting. John also introduced Larry Bertholf, who has just been appointed as D17 Recorder. John advised the board that there was sad news from the Pueblo Unit 367, which has decided to start proceedings to disband their unit.

Approval of October 2019 Minutes

There was a motion by Jennifer, seconded by Steve R that the minutes be approved. Carried unanimously. Additionally, there was a motion by Jennifer, seconded by Steve R that the minutes of the email meeting held in November (appointing Larry Bertholf as recorder) be approved. Carried unanimously.

Secretary’s Report

Felicity Moore

Nothing to report except the items covered under New Business.

Treasurer’s Report

Jennifer O’Neill

Jennifer presented her report (distributed in the meeting folder). After discussion there was a motion by Steve R, seconded by Liz that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

National Board

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy recounted her initial experiences at joining the ACBL Board of Directors. She has been appointed to the Strategic Planning and Governance committees and is the co-chair of the Executive Review committee. She advised that there will be an increase to regional sanction fees, approximately 6% and an increase to tournament director fees of 11%. These increases will become effective on 1 April 2020. Credit card payments for entry fees will be available at all regionals using “Squares”. At present they are commission free to the host units but this may change in future.

She advised that room take-up in Columbus for the NABC is healthy. Cindy reported that ACBLLive for Clubs is going well and from February, club billing will be via ACBLLive for Clubs.

Cindy advised the board that she checks her emails every day, is very responsive and will address any concerns from D17 board members as quickly as possible.

WC and STaC report

In the December STaC, D17 participation was good, but in the other districts it was not as healthy. The Palm Springs Regional that was held at the same time was a factor. The Western Conference meets via video conferencing and despite difficulty getting members to agree on a suitable time, the WC board did meet recently. At this meeting there was a discussion about whether the WC has outlived its usefulness and should disband. The board decided that there were still important areas of cooperation and that the WC should continue. John is the new president of WC and Cindy is also on the board, replacing Bonnie. Bonnie has agreed to continue coordinating the WC STaCs despite no longer being on the board. Tom Shulman will continue as ex-officio Secretary/Treasurer.

It was agreed that the two-tier STaC fees should be addressed in future and maybe financial incentives for non-WC districts should be considered. John remarked that the purpose of WC STaCs should be defined. Are they a fund-raiser or a fun event for our members?

The WC board has agreed that the WC cash reserve was substantial, and that the surplus should be divided equally and remitted to the 3 districts. The amount involved is approximately \$22k. Ken Monzingo produces and possibly owns the WC website. Effective February 2020, the WC will no longer pay Ken a monthly stipend for this. Western Conference information will be accessible through the district websites.

Many D17 board members remarked that STaCs were not that popular in their clubs as the masterpoint awards were less than black points awarded in a regular club game.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Appointments

John Grossman

John reported that most committees will remain the same but there were four that needed reassignment. It has already been agreed that the Recorder will be Larry Bertholf. Cindy has agreed to take on Communications, formerly steered by Bonnie. Liz will take on the Regional Tournament Committee from Lakin. Charity, formerly chaired by Bonnie, will be under Special Administration which is handled by Felicity.

New Preliminary Agreement and Edited RTP for approval

Felicity Moore

Felicity presented a new document to be known as the Preliminary Tournament Agreement. Included in the meeting package. With one change to specify that the schedule for any tournament should published at least two NABCs prior to the tournament. A motion was made by Rod, seconded by JoAnne that the Preliminary Tournament Agreement be accepted and distributed to future tournaments. Carried unanimously.

Felicity presented the revised RTP for approval. This document was included in the meeting package. After discussion, a motion to accept the revised RTP was made by Rod, seconded by Jennifer. Carried unanimously.

Approval of RTPs for Phoenix 2020 & Las Vegas 2020

Felicity Moore

A motion to offer the RTP to Las Vegas 2020 was made by John, seconded by Steve R. Carried unanimously.

A motion to offer the RTP to Phoenix 2020 was made by Felicity, seconded by Rod. Carried unanimously.

D17 Communication

Cindy Shoemaker

Cindy observed that with the change to the Communications Committee is was a good opportunity to revamp D17 communications. She presented the open and click through rates for the Buzz and the D17 Scorecard. She advised that ACBL had rebooted their email list. When Cindy had sent out the Scorecard there had been a 50% open rates and increased click through rates. She stated that D17 needed a comprehensive approach and objectives should be defined by the board. John suggested that financial incentives may encourage engagement.

The board briefly discussed whether the expense of Scorecard was justified and whether its educational content should be channelled through the website. Further discussion on this should be on the Denver agenda.

Phoenix NABC 2022 Fundraising Special Games

JoAnne Lowe

These games may be held by clubs throughout D17 to support the 2022 NABC. JoAnne had checked the calendars for conflicts and suggested that the following weeks were suitable for these games:

Oct 7 -13,2020, Jan 11-17, 2021 and Jan10-16, 2022. A motion that these dates be approved was made by Jennifer, seconded by Liz. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Review D17 Budget, 2020

Jennifer O’Neill

Jennifer told the meeting that the budget that she had presented at the Taos meeting, had been revised to reflect an additional \$2000 for the board duplication project including insurance. She had also reduced the income from the 2020 Taos Regional after receiving the Taos Regional budget. The board discussed and agreed to include in the 2020 budget, the following:

That the ACBL sanction fee component be increased by 6% from April 1, as per announcement from ACBL. That \$3000 be included for the cost of sending districtwide Pianola emails advertising D17 regionals. That \$5000 be budgeted for a new website.

A motion to approve the 2020 D17 budget as amended was made by Felicity, seconded by Steve R. Carried unanimously.

DIC Report

The DIC, Gary Zeiger joined the meeting. He reported that the tournament table count at Friday night was 1,333. He thought that there was a good chance that the final total could exceed 1700.

He remarked that the duplication was much improved and that he had experienced no problems except on one day when brand new decks were found to be defective. This was not the fault of the duplicator and was rectified quickly.

John told the meeting that he had heard from some players, who were unhappy that they always seemed to be placed in the bottom of the top bracket and found it discouraging to be “cannon fodder”. Gary advised that nothing could be done about this as brackets are always formed by total masterpoints of the entered teams. Scott Humphrey advised the meeting that the ACBL were looking at a new method of bracketing to avoid this problem but that a solution was probably a year or two away.

Jennifer asked Gary why the night sessions were so well attended here as all other D17 regionals had moved to daytime primetime. Gary said he was not surprised, as keeping primetime to 1 & 7 and holding an additional 9 & 1 two session pairs meant that the morning and evening were solid and the afternoon very good.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elections

Bill Phillips

Bill reported that D17 needs to appoint a person to fill the Second Alternate Director position to replace Art McHaffie, who has resigned. There are four applicants for the position, Jack Burton, Doug Couchman, Murali Nair & Kyle Rockoff. A secret ballot was held and Doug Couchman was duly appointed as Second Alternate Director for the remainder of 2020.

Both First & Second Alternate Directors will be elected during 2020 for terms commencing in 2021. The ACBL will conduct these elections. Self-nominations will be invited to be made by May 31st and then the election will take place by August.

Three positions on D17 board will be elected this year. They are Mesa Unit 351, currently represented by Lakin, El Paso Unit 159 and Southern New Mexico, currently represented by Steve N and Wyoming Units 421 & 422 and Colorado at Large, currently represented by Rod. Bill will be conducting these elections commencing in May.

ByLaws

Steve Reynolds

Steve R stated that this was a huge subject and that he had received information from Becky Rogers and that Doug Couchman was assisting the committee. He deferred to Jennifer to present two items, that were referred to as “house-keeping” that needed board approval to change. The necessary changes that Jennifer presented were:

Article I. Section 1.1: Change “District 17 ACBL Association” to “American Contract Bridge League, District 17” to conform with the D17 registered name in Colorado.

Article VIII. Change “may be adopted by a vote of a 2/3 majority of the members present at any meeting of the members at which a quorum is present” to read “may be adopted by a vote of a 2/3 majority of the Directors present at any meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present”. Felicity questioned whether this amendments were legal. Doug Couchman was invited to comment, and he stated that although he was not practising as a lawyer, with his legal experience, he felt that this change reflected the original thought behind the Bylaws.

A motion to accept these amendments was made by Jennifer, seconded by Steve R. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve R advised that work on the Bylaws will continue.

Grants**Steve Nordberg**

Steve N reported that he had received no requests for grants.

Tournament Supplies**Bill Phillips**

Bill reported that Bonnie had donated a complete set of table mats to be used in D17 regionals. The board thanked Bonnie for this kind gesture. John has designed and built timers to be used at D17 regionals. John presented Bill with the keys and instruction manual for the timers. It was agreed that Bill should label all district equipment using funds in his budget.

GNT**Rod Southworth**

Rod advised that the D17 Championship GNT final will take place in Tucson on March, 6 & 7. He has received one entry so far but expects three more. He has used Scorecard and Buzz to promote the event. The finals for all other flights will take place at the Denver Regional.

NAP**Lakin Hines**

Lakin reported that the NAP Flight A final will take place later this day. The winners of the B & C flights, that were decided in Taos, will be playing at the NABC in Columbus, OH in March. The 2020 D17 NAP Finals will take place at the Las Vegas Regional in November.

Regional Tournaments**Lakin Hines**

Lakin, as outgoing chairperson of this committee, reported that Joanne had sought and been given permission to make a change to the Phoenix regional schedule, and that this had been approved. Taos schedule and flyer had been presented and approval was in progress. John suggested that some form of memorial to Bill Michael, who had died recently, be planned.

Tournament Coordination**JoAnne Lowe**

JoAnne advised that the updated tournament schedules were in the meeting package. She encouraged members to ask their units to apply for sanctions for 2023.

Website**Rod Southworth**

Rod reported that he continues to update the website when requested and that he would appreciate feedback on the content.

Communications

Already dealt with under New Business

Special Administrative**Felicity Moore**

Requests for Goodwill nominations will be sent out in April.

COMPLETED TOURNAMENT REPORTS**Taos, 2019****Felicity Moore**

The Taos regional made a profit of \$18,000 and was a successful event.

FUTURE TOURNAMENTS

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|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Tucson | March 2-8, 2020, | Steve Reynolds |
| 2. Denver | May 19-25, 2020 | Jennifer O'Neill |
| 3. Phoenix | August 10-16, 2020 | JoAnne Lowe |

In closing John exhorted all board members to encourage participation in the Las Vegas Regional. The meeting was adjourned at 11.32am.

NEXT MEETING – Denver Colorado May 22nd, 2020 at 8am