

MINUTES

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2015 Summer Meeting in Chicago, IL
Monday, August 10th, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

Tom Carmichael, Chairman
Jeff Meckstroth
Jeff Goldsmith
Jeff Ford
Chris Compton
Jade Barrett
Linda Trent
Doug Doub
Ellen Kent
Danny Sprung
Wafik Abdou

Also Present:

Suzi Subeck, ACBL President
Ken Monzingo, District Director
Dennis Carman, District Director
Christina van Leeuwen, ACBL Assistant National Recorder
Tadashi Yoshida, Japan Contract Bridge League
Bob Ciaffone
Jim Brier
Donna Lombardini

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

1. Accepted the minutes from the New Orleans Spring NABC meeting.
2. Dennis Carman gave the Board of Directors Report to the Committee
 - a. The six man team motion to reduce masterpoints by percentage of boards played was defeated.
 - b. Ken Monzingo discussed the withdrawn motion to stop the ACBL from paying WBF dues and transferring this responsibility to the three NBOs within the ACBL: USBF, CBF and MBO.

- c. Jade Barrett brought up reduced KO awards at regionals, Dennis Carman said that District Director Russ Jones was working on the issue and that a motion to fix it would be forthcoming.
 - d. Jade Barrett brought up the out-of-date tech files in ACBLScore and this discussion was deferred to be included in a larger discussion of the Alert Charts.
 - e. Ken Monzingo discussed withdrawing the motion to change the Fall NABC schedule after the discussion on BridgeWinners.com and asked that C&C take up the issue again to determine what it is that top players really want in a Fall NABC schedule. (From the polling previously done by the sub-committee it is felt that the new 7-day KO is preferred over the Reisinger by 80% of top players.) This led to a discussion of swapping the Blue Ribbon and the Reisinger an issue which has previously and thoroughly been discussed by the sub-committee. It was noted that if the new schedule were to be adopted that the USBF should use the newly created Soloway KO for seeding purposes instead of the Reisinger. Jeff Meckstroth noted that the Board-a-Match format is not often used outside of the ACBL. Ken Monzingo, Jeff Meckstroth and Chris Compton will work on clarifying the structure of the new Soloway KO for a reworked motion in Denver. An official Committee vote on this new schedule was 5 for, 3 against and 3 abstaining.
3. It was noted by the Committee that the cut to the LM Pairs at the Chicago NABC exceeded 50%. A senior Tournament Director must be in attendance at these meetings to speak to issues such as this one.
 4. The issue of drop-ins from the proposed Soloway KO to the Reisinger was raised based on the above discussion. The issue of drop-ins ACBL-wide was tabled to Denver.
 5. Tom Carmichael spoke about the fundamental flaws in the alert chart and convention charts. Jade Barrett raised the issue of “destructive methods” which are poorly understood and routinely questions are raised about such methods even by seasoned tournament directors. A sub-committee was formed to look into recreating the convention charts with a tie-in to the alert chart and procedures so that answers to the questions such as the above can be clearly defined. This sub-committee includes: Tom Carmichael, Will Ehlers, Jade Barrett, Jeff Ford and Danny Sprung. It was suggested that a TD be approached to assist in this effort. It is agreed that a chart is needed that fits the sense of fairness by the average player. Also the issue of various Districts allowing specific Mid-Chart conventions in GCC events was raised.
 6. Chris Compton raised the issue of random draws in KO events and cited an example that occurred at a tournament in which the initial draw was random, but

- the second draw was not; further noting that different regional tournaments employ different methods. A definition should be created for mathematically unbiased team selections. It was the unanimous opinion of the Committee that an unbiased random method should be institute ACBL-wide, however, the issue had to be deferred until a TD could contribute to the discussion.
7. A proposed convention of a 2D opening bid showing a weak NT (11-14 HCP) with 4/4 in the majors was discussed. It was unanimous that this convention should be allowed on the mid-chart. This will be taken up along with the other topics covered by the Convention Chart sub-committee.
 8. Discussion of the process for declarer's side to confirm that the same information was given to both defenders when screens are in use was deferred until it could be discussed with Sol Weinstein.
 9. The need for a drop-in formula on an experimental basis from the GNTs into the 2nd day of the LM Pairs which would insert the drop-ins ahead of approximately 1/3 of the field and allowing for the expansion of the field (so that no pairs who qualified within the invent were pushed out by the drop-ins) was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that those with a desire to drop-in must immediately notify the DIC of the LM Pairs. While the Committee agrees on this concept, there are many further issues to be discussed and it was suggested that the Committee consult with the WBF on this issue.
 10. Bob Ciaffone raised the issue of transfers over a 1C opening. This topic will be taken up by the convention chart sub-committee. It was noted that this had previously been voted down by the Committee due to complications when the 1C opener is natural, making it much more likely to be the opponents' hand. A straw poll conducted showed that the Committee was split on the issue of adding this to the GCC.
 11. A motion will be submitted in Denver to allow Flight C GNT players to enter the 0-1500 LM Pairs.
 12. The topic of boards from some NABC+ events being played in the regional events was raised. This is of grave concern to the Committee due to security reasons.
 13. The issue of 4-way Spingold matches being treated as separate matches requiring the client to play half of the matches was raised. This was tabled until the Denver meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina van Leeuwen

