

MINUTES

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2015 Spring Meeting in New Orleans, La.
Monday, March 16th, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

Tom Carmichael, Chairman
Will Ehlers
Jeff Ford
Chris Compton
Jade Barrett
Linda Trent
Doug Doub
Bob Hamman
Ellen Kent
Danny Sprung

Also Present:

Ken Monzingo, District Director
Craig Robinson, District Director
Dennis Carman, District Director
Jim Miller, Office of the Recorder
Christina van Leeuwen, ACBL Assistant National Recorder
Sol Weinstein, ACBL National Tournament Director
Tadashi Yoshida, Japan Contract Bridge League

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

1. Accepted the minutes from the Providence Fall NABC meeting.
2. New member, Danny Sprung, was introduced to the Committee.
3. Craig Robinson gave the Board of Directors Report to the Committee
 - a. The BoD asked for feedback on the CBF team trial masterpoint awards.
 - b. Ken Monzingo discussed the process of reviewing the 2015 trial NABC schedule. He will file a motion for the Chicago Summer NABC to create the Soloway KO teams following the Blue Ribbon Pairs with a 5K Swiss on the 2nd Sunday for Fall 2016. The motion will include a waiver of the 5-year waiting period to name the new team event “Soloway”.

- c. The BoD asked for assistance with a revamp of the Alert & Announcement Procedures.
4. Will Ehler discussed the creation of an ACBL document that is similar in structure to the EBU “Blue Book”. He will supply a draft for discussion at the Chicago Summer NABC meeting.
 - a. Linda Trent volunteered to write a lower level intro to the Rules of Bridge to be given to new ACBL Members.
5. It was noted that Chip Martel and Jade Barrett have volunteered to assist with the review of the Defense Database as requested by the BoD previously. They will also approach Michael Rosenberg for assistance with this project.
6. On behalf of Ellen Kent, Sol Weinstein presented the sub-committee’s work on screen procedures. Sol has shared this document with a number of Tournament Directors who agreed with the sub-committee’s suggestions.
 - a. Sol further confirmed that the proper handling of Unauthorized Information from a Break-In-Tempo when screens are in use is not something that can solely be clarified by TDs.
 - b. The issue of the declaring side clarifying their alerts to confirm that the same information was given on both sides of the screen prior to the opening lead was deferred until Chicago Summer NABC meeting.
7. The alertability of 2N in the sequences of: 1N-2C-2D-2N* and 1N-2C-2H-2N* was discussed by the Committee. While negative inferences are not alertable, Sol stated that this is currently alertable if it denies 2S. The Committee was unanimous that so long as 2N is a natural, non-forcing continuation it should not be alertable.
8. Danny Sprung discussed the issue of security in top-level events with suggestions for an expanded use of screens with more space between tables as well as white-noise machines used in small rooms.
 - a. Vacating titles for pairs convicted of cheating was also discussed. If this is not already part of ACBL regulations, a motion will be brought at the Chicago Summer NABC to add it to the regulations.
9. The Committee discussed the following 2D opening bid and found unanimously that it was legal under the GCC:
2D = 11-15 HCP with 4-4-4-1 distribution and singleton diamond, or any 4-4-4-1 hand with 16+ HCP.

10. The Committee discussed the “Roman 2H/2S” opening bids and found unanimously that they are legal under the GCC. Any bid which is legal remains legal when further distributional restrictions are added.
11. The Committee discussed the “shading” of Precision bids to violate the 10+ and 15+ rules (for catch-all and strong club opening bids). The question of whether or not rules could be created for these opening using a metric other than HCP was raised, but no conclusion was reached.
 - a. There was a discussion of an illegal bid vs. a psych and Jim Miller discussed how the Recorder system (via Recorder Forms/Player Memos) should be utilized to address this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina van Leeuwen