

MINUTES

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2015 Fall Meeting in Denver, CO
Monday, November 30th, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Suzi Subeck, ACBL President
Ken Monzingo, District Director
Dennis Carman, District Director
Mark Aquino, District Director Elect
Sol Weinstein, National Tournament Director
Christina van Leeuwen, ACBL Assistant National Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M.

1. The minutes of the Summer 2015 meeting in Chicago were approved with an amendment to Item #5.
2. Ken Monzingo announced that due to his election as ACBL President, Dennis Carman and Mark Aquino would be attending the C&C meetings on behalf of the Board of Directors for the coming year.
3. Dennis Carman presented the Board of Directors report.
 - A. Asked for further input from C&C and the NABC schedule subcommittee for changes to the Fall 2017 NABC schedule.
 - B. The motion from C&C to lift the LM requirement from the 0-1500 LM Pairs (so that the Flight C teams participating in the GNT would have an NABC event to move into) passed.

4. Sol Weinstein discussed the ongoing TD project to update, unify and clarify the ACBL Alert Procedures. He noted some particular areas in which there is no general consensus among Tournament Directors including:
 - Doubles and redoubles (e.g. negative doubles that explicitly deny a suit, lead averting doubles, support doubles/redoubles and snapdragon doubles)
 - Cue-bids in which a suit is implied by the opponents but could have an alternate meaning (e.g. 1S – (X) – 2H).

It was noted that if a negative double either specifically shows four or more, or denies spades an alert would not clarify the situation for the opponents without further inquiry. The TD project in general is in favor of doing away with the alerts of doubles and cue-bids altogether.

5. There was general agreement among the Committee not to add any more announcements to the Alert Procedures.
6. A vote of confidence for this ongoing TD project and its general approach was taken and was split 4 and 4 with 2 abstaining. It was suggested that those opposed to the TDs moving ahead with this project should propose an alternative method for simplifying the system. One such method suggested was a pre-alert for those pairs playing unusual doubles and/or cue-bids.
7. The sub-committee with Laws on alerts behind screens has not met so there was no update.
8. A discussion of the issue of 4-way matches in the Spingold and Vanderbilt led to a further discussion on the number of boards required to be played in the semi-finals and finals of these two events. A motion will be submitted in Reno requiring that all players must play 50% of both the semi-final match and the final match to be eligible for 1st place awards. Further it was noted, that in these events four-way matches should be treated as separate matches with all members of the team being required to play half the matches. This issue as it applies to regional KOs was deferred to the Reno meeting.
9. Drop-ins from the GNTs into the LM Pairs was discussed. The issues generated by drop-ins do not appear to be insurmountable. Sol Weinstein stated that there is no issue with generating movements to accommodate the drop-ins into the 67th percentile without pushing out any pairs who would have otherwise qualified. It was noted by the Committee that Maurizio Di Sacco, who developed the system for drop-ins for the WBF, emphasized the importance of advanced entries. A motion will be written for Reno to allow drop-ins from the Championship Flight of the GNT into the 2nd day of the LM Pairs on a trial basis at the Summer NABC in Washington D.C.

10. The issue of minutes per board allotted in those team events in which the number of boards was recently reduced will be addressed by Sol Weinstein working with DICs of those events.
11. The issue of allowing multi-meaning jump shifts that are either a raise or a natural game-force on the General Convention Chart was raised and the necessary wording changes will be included in the general overhaul of the convention charts.
12. Ken Monzingo presented a chart detailing general attendance and turn-out for specific Summer NABC events that was discussed by the Committee. Examination of this data for all three NABCs will continue as the new NABC schedule is used at this tournament and in 2016.
13. Chris Compton proposed a motion for the Fall NABC schedule in 2017, leaving the Blue Ribbon Pairs, Reisinger BAM and NA Swiss where they are currently, adding the seven-day Soloway KO and shifting the Senior KO to begin on the first Sunday. The Committee was unanimously in favor and the motion will be submitted to the BoD in Reno.
14. Chris Compton asked the Committee to recognize Maurizio Di Sacco for pushing for video and vugraph of tables in the WBF.
15. A sub-committee is to be formed to discuss a different system of convention charts, proposed as sub-categories broken down by event limits (for example, 299er, Gold Rush, Open). Further discussion tabled until Reno.
16. Tom Carmichael and Adam Wildavsky are forming a subcommittee to explore the possibility of requiring system notes be registered prior to playing in NABC+ events.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina van Leeuwen