

Attendees:

Danny Sprung - Chairman
Jeff Goldsmith
Jeff Ford - Scribe
Sabine Auken
Dennis Carman - BOD
Jeff Meckstroth
Sol Weinstein - Mgmt
Linda Trent - BOG
AJ Stephani - BOD
Bob Heller
Doug Doub

1. The meeting was called to order by Danny Sprung at 10:10 am.
2. The minutes from the Spring meeting in Memphis were approved.
3. Board of Directors Report – Dennis Carman and AJ Stephani
 - a. The resolution to retroactively remove all first and second place finishes from pairs convicted of collusive cheating (and their teammates) passed. The positions will be left vacant as there was not a consensus on the correct way to move people up.
 - b. The masterpoint committee is working to change masterpoint awards to include a strength of field component as KO awards do today. The plan is to initially use masterpoints in calculating strength, but they are also considering other measures of strength.
4. Board of Governors Report – Linda Trent
 - a. Some members would like to use the same hands for all events that occur at the same time to make for more interesting discussion after the events for people who played different events. The consensus of the C+C committee was that NABC+ events should definitely have their own hands. There was less consensus about events like the LM-6000 Pairs, but it was generally felt that there was no reason to change the current model.
5. There was no Management Report.
6. Alert Procedure – Jeff Ford
 - a. Progress is being made by the alert committee, with a starting focus on alerting doubles with the intention of having less alerts after the first round of the auction.
 - b. Feedback was sought for the specific auction 1m (1H) X for which there was strong consensus of the C+C committee that anything other than a traditional negative double showing (usually) exactly four spades should be alerted.
7. Convention Card
 - a. As Ellen Kent was absent there was no discussion to report. Feedback on the latest versions to be given by email.
8. Use of Hard Rules for Convention Charts – Danny Sprung

- a. The committee received correspondence from a former ACBL director which stated that the hard limits imposed by the rule on the charts restricting judgment based on HCP and shape was illegal.
 - b. It was affirmed that the Laws Committee had already approved the language and that it was legal based on the law that allows any restrictions on special partnership understandings.
 - c. It was further added that without such a rule it is nearly impossible for the directors to ever enforce the ranges because people will claim “judgment” when they are really playing illegal methods.
9. Declarer pause at Trick One – Sabine Auken
- a. Sabine followed up with the exact regulation from Norway. Trick one is treated similarly to a skip bid. Declarer is expected to pause 10-15 seconds before playing from dummy and if declarer doesn’t, then third hand is expected to take the pause before playing.
 - b. Danny Sprung will write an article on suggested procedure of a pause by declarer, but it was believed that it would not be fruitful to pass a regulation about the pause.
 - c. There was a discussion on whether it was appropriate for third hand to say aloud that they are thinking about the whole hand when pausing at trick one. There were strong feelings both in the camp that this is a good idea, and that third hand shouldn’t be saying anything and that declarer should not make assumptions about pauses at trick one.
 - d. Sol Weinstein confirmed that when third hand is silent that scores would not be adjusted because a declarer claimed to be misled about what third hand was thinking about.
10. GNT Issues
- a. One District GNT was run this year as a handicapped KO. A motion was passed unanimously to change the conditions of contest to prevent handicapping at all levels in the GNTs.
 - b. There was discussion about whether districts are correctly filing their conditions of contest ahead of time and if anyone was checking them. Compliance in this area is up this year and a member of the directing staff does check all conditions.
 - c. Jeff Ford and Jeff Goldsmith will collaborate on a “model” conditions of contest for the district GNT finals. Districts will still be able to use whatever conditions they wish, but it is hoped that by expressing these as deviations from a standard model there will be fewer cases of important issues being omitted from the conditions.
 - d. There was some concern expressed about the deep cut in Flights B and C on the first day of the national final (from 40+ teams to 16) now that some districts can bring two teams. It was suggested that for a large number of teams the cut could be to 32 with half day matches the first day to avoid extending the number of days in the event. In the end the sentiment was to wait a year or two to see how the event is going as this was the first year with the new rules.
11. Playing Sites for NABC+ events

- a. The committee has previously expressed a desire for better playing space for NABC+ events. It was noted that day 3 of the LM Pairs this year was again in a room that was quite small for the event.
 - b. A motion unanimously passed that whenever possible the final day of three day pair events should play the same hands at all tables each round.
12. Seeding for Long KO Events (Vanderbilt, Spingold, Soloway)
- a. The seeding committee recommended a new seeding formula which incorporates the results of the Soloway and also adds a new way to earn seeding points from Platinum points. The maximum number of points per person will be raised to 70 because of the new ways to earn points.
 - b. After a brief discussion a resolution to approve the new formula was passed unanimously.
13. Fixes to Convention Charts – Jeff Ford
- a. It was pointed out in correspondence that there are two clear errors on the chart.
 - i. Purely destructive initial actions are not banned on the Basic and Basic Chart
 - ii. Pre-alerts and written defenses are required for certain methods on the Open+ chart, but not the open chart (Item #3 of Openings)
 - b. The committee was unanimous that these should be corrected.
 - c. There was discussion about a way for the Board of Directors to delegate authority to the committee so that changes like these do not have to go to a full board vote. AJ Stephani will explore a motion for the Board of Directors to do so.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.