

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING—REPORT GIVEN AT FULL BOARD MEETING

ACBL Technology Committee Meeting

Seattle, WA

Date: Monday, Nov. 21, 2011 Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Chair: Sandy Arlinghaus

Vice-chair: Merlin Vilhauer

Members: Bill Arlinghaus, Claire Jones, Al Levy, Ken Monzingo

ACBL staff: Jeff Johnston, Patricia Glover, Carol Robertson, Chris Patrias

AGENDA

Special Reports—60 minutes

- Website (30 minutes): Phase 1 is complete involving improved navigation and organization of the home page. A pilot project on the inner pages is complete and is undergoing user reaction testing. As a result of the pilot project, the previous estimate of 15-30K to finish the entire site, using include files so that modules can be changed easily resulting in the automatic update of thousands of pages, has been reduced to 7K. Jay Baum confirmed to Kitty Cooper that she should move forward and begin to complete the site for an amount not to exceed 7K. Once this is done, ease of site maintenance will be vastly improved. Website maintenance adds up quickly so this point is an important one. A relatively small amount has been spent on complete coding (and some cosmetic) renovation. When the project is complete in early 2012, we can look forward to local staff being able to maintain the website in a straightforward manner (rather than in the previous hard-coded individual page environment) and to introduce a variety of interesting cosmetic features of their own as well as from others with interest. A copy of Kitty's report on the inner page pilot project has been sent to you previously via email. Where the website is concerned, I would add that encouraging regular interactive contact between website and ACBLscore redevelopment would also be appropriate. There may be good synergy and economies of scale to be had—fundamentally, they both involve coding issues, independent of their secondary use.
- ACBLscore (30 minutes):
 - Comments gathered from the public were put into cloud space and given to Nicolas Hammond, Project Manager for ACBLscore. Bill dissolved the Steering Committee once Hammond was in place as the existence of that committee was predicated on acting as such a manager (until one was hired).
 - An ad was placed on the ACBL website calling for RFPs to redevelop ACBLscore. Nicolas Hammond worked with Jay and staff to develop the RFP derived in part from input from Steve Bailey's initial study.
 - Jay reports that there were a number of responses to the RFP including some really good ones.
 - Report of Bill Arlinghaus, Chair, Steering Committee. Half hour discussion took place.
- Chief Technology Officer (15 minutes): on hold at present. The website is in place; ACBLscore is moving along well. There is a new CEO. In the near future, it should once again be time to heartily encourage staff to hire a CTO. We should kick that encouragement off now, in Seattle. We do so, in support of recognized ACBL understanding of the importance of technology, independent of what the position(s) might be called. What is important is to have some sort of over-arching umbrella under which all technology is placed...with someone in charge of the umbrella with a deep understanding of all of theory (technology), application (technical matters), and bridge.

Break—15 minutes

Old Business—see above—total 30 minutes

- (25 minutes) Goals: Develop an overall technology policy which will enable the ACBL to make optimum use of technology. With both the website issues and ACBLscore issues brought into the realm of current technology, it remains for the ACBL to hire a person(s) to be in charge of overseeing technology...someone with a deep understanding of all of theory (technology), application (technical matters), and bridge. Management appears to have plans in place to move in this direction this Committee supports such a move.
- (5 minutes) Technology Matters, Part 2. Brent Manley hopes to fit this piece into the January ACBL Bulletin.

New Business—total 15 minutes plus remainder

- 15 minutes: "Technology Matters, Part 2"—revised from the Toronto meeting. Copy attached to reflect current progress.
- Revisions to the above article to be sent in. Sandy Arlinghaus notes that she will need to remove the last part of the final sentence as it will become inappropriate for readers to send material to her. She has viewed her service on the Technology Committee as Community Service in support of the interests of Bill Arlinghaus. As of today, Nov. 21, 2011, it is now time for her to move forward to other communities. There followed a discussion as to whether a Technology Committee, in the same form it is in now, will continue to be needed in the future. There may be a number of available alternatives.
- Open discussion for the remainder of the time.