

Attachment G

Internet Committee

San Francisco NABC ACBL Board meeting, November, 2012

Al Levy, chair	Also attending:
Bruce Blakely	Nicolas Hammond
Glenda Calkins	Sylvia Hardin
Claire Jones	Bruce Knoll
Merlin Vilhauer	Brian Delfs

Overview:

Currently there are sanctioned online games at three sites: BridgeBase Online; OKBridge; and Swan Games. These games include individual and pair events and a robot game currently on BBO only.

Most online games are shorted 12-board games that award 60% of full games. More than half the games have table counts of 40+ tables

2012 projected table count is 900,000 (up 10% from 2011) and revenue from sanction fees is \$382,500 (also, up 10% from 2011). Increases in table count and revenue in prior years are: up 14% in 2011; up 22% in 2010; up 24% in 2009; up 40% in 2008; up 40% in 2007.

Rules & Regulations:

The committee suggests that next spring a set of online rules and regulations as well as play formats be agreed upon (by the board) so that all clubs operate on the same basis and players understand the regulations under which they play. One example is leaving the auction visible during the play.

BBO's Robot Game:

A change in the current BBO robot format, namely, if North (a robot) is declarer, South (the human) moves into the North seat and declares, was considered. Based on overwhelming player support and BBO's experience in non-sanctioned robot play where this rule is in effect, BBO has requested this change.

The committee recommends (all in favor) that management allows this change, at least on an experimental basis. It makes the results more player dependant and less random, and generally makes for a higher level of play. This is common practice in all commercial robot games as well as BBO's non-sanctioned robot game. It probably would not be an issue if they started out that way.

One interesting statistic is that approximately 1% of ACBL members play only online, some of whom are foreign players who do not live in North America.

World Computer-Bridge Championship:

The 2012 16th annual World Computer-Bridge Championship was successfully held in Lille at the world championships. Even though Al Levy (organizer) was not able to attend, he organized the event from home and the championship was held successfully thanks to the efforts of many, most notably, Gérard Joyez. An article appeared in the November Bridge Bulletin, and a more lengthy report will appear in the International Computer Games Association Journal, as well as write-ups in other bridge publications. A full record of play appears on the official website www.computerbridge.com