



Charged Party(ies)	Louis Brown Trudi Brown	ACBL #	L583724 N653266	Hearing Date	NR review 10/31/2023
Disciplinary Body	Appeals and Charges Committee	Hearing Location	Web conference using Zoom		
Charging Party	McKenzie Myers	ACBL#	Q799024	Complainant	Jeff Edelstein ACBL# O200338

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HEARD THE CHARGES**

Name	ACBL #	Name	ACBL #
Tim White, Chairman	M029585	Larry Sealy	P541643
Dennis Carman	O828450	Georgia Heth	N638399
Deana Liddy	P205082		

**INDIVIDUALS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE HEARING** (excluding committee members)

Name	ACBL#	Via	Capacity	Name	ACBL#	Via	Capacity
Jeff Edelstein	O200338	web conf.	National Recorder			Select One	Select One
Justin Coniglio	Q809461	web conf.	Adv-Charging P			Select One	Select One
Michael Wolf	M541995	web conf.	Adv-Charged P			Select One	Select One
		Select One	Select One			Select One	Select One

**EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENTS PRESENTED** (Summarize evidence and arguments presented including testimony. If additional space is needed, continue on page 3 of this hearing report.) (Note: provide new documentary evidence introduced during the hearing to the Office of National Recorder)

A Negotiated Resolution packet was provided to the Committee by the Compliance Coordinator. It contained a Procedural Summary, Factors Considered by the Charging Party, Negotiated Resolutions, Membership Profiles, Recorder Complaint, Charge Letter, and Notice of Intent to Initiate Arbitration before the IBA [Institute for Bridge Arbitration]. A request by the Charged Parties' Advocate to address the Committee during its meeting to hear the Matter was granted. The Charging Party was also given such an opportunity and addressed the Committee. The Negotiated Resolutions included the following statement signed by both parties:

"To Whom it May Concern:

The definition of remorse, according to dictionary.com is "deep and painful regret for wrongdoing". Our picture could be in the dictionary next to the word, as it depicts exactly how we feel about our actions leading to this proceeding.

We do want the committee to know that our unethical conduct, though completely wrongful, was ignorantly taken lightly by us at time, as it basically consisted of hollering at each other from different rooms where we were playing, as husband and wife are prone to do. When we received the charges of collusive cheating, we were taken aback by the accusations. Initially in denial, we have now come to a place where it is obvious as to our misbehavior, and realize it is time to make amends.

As in other aspects of life, which we have experienced for almost 90 years, we have learned from our mistakes and then done better in similar circumstances thereafter. As with most of mistakes that we make, we hope that those mistakes are not very costly, either monetarily or to reputation. We both feel that our mistake in our conduct here has been very costly, both as to our reputation and our self-image. Thus, we are hopeful that the committee will understand that our conduct, though totally inappropriate and violative of the League's Code of Ethics, can appreciate our desire to demonstrate that we have been rehabilitated from our behaviors which have sullied the game.

Reflecting on the situation now, we understand that what we were actually doing was disrespecting the game itself, a game that we have been playing together more than half of our lives that now occupies a large place in our life. This game deserves respect and honor from players, no matter the skill level or purpose of playing. We dishonored and disrespected the game and all the people involved. We now realize how badly our conduct affects everyone, as without honorable people displaying good morals and ethics, and sportsmanship, then you wouldn't have, in the past now or in the future, the success and attraction to the population that the game has and will have.

So, what have we learned from the situation? The game is due our respect and honor, and that being oblivious to this concept effects all that participate in this pastime. It is, indeed, shameful to be accused of unethical conduct, and though difficult emotionally to admit the accuracy of the accusations. it is the only appropriate way to be able to move forward and prove our renewed dedication to the spirit of Bridge.

We stress to the committee that henceforth, we will conduct ourselves in an impeccable manner whenever participating in any Bridge related activity. We both wish for a second chance to demonstrate our sincerity in this endeavor. Though we can't physically carry out the action of being ambassadors of the game. we can conduct ourselves as though we are. This is our intention should you allow us the opportunity.

We humbly apologize for our indiscretions and for causing league personnel to have to spend time and effort in confronting our misconduct."

**COMMITTEE FINDINGS OF FACT** (based on the evidence, state the committee's conclusion as to what happened)

In the Matter of Louis and Trudi Brown, a divided panel approved the Negotiated Resolutions entered into by the parties and ACBL Management in which the parties admitted to violation of CDR 301(A)(2) Collusive Cheating: Online (CDR effective July 15, 2022). Mr. and Ms. Brown agreed to a 10-year probation during which they are prohibited from playing with each other in ACBL face-to-face games for the entire probationary period. Each forfeits 15% of their current Masterpoint® total. They will be members "Not in Good Standing" during the period of their discipline.

**DECISION** (click on the box next to Not Responsible or Responsible of violating the CDR to add a check mark.)

Not Responsible

Responsible

**CDR GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE** Type the section(s) and description(s) found in CDR 3 which led to the discipline).

301(A)(2), effective July 15, 2022: Collusive Cheating: Online. "Online Collusive Cheating" is the exchange or transmission of information between two or more people, at least one of whom is a contestant in an online bridge competition, in any manner not expressly permitted by Law 73. The information need not be actually used by a player to prove a Violation under this section. This section includes agreements made by persons who are not partners or contestants, including, but not limited to kibitzers or teammates.

**DISCIPLINE** (Unless a discipline begins immediately, which requires you to complete a Notice of Immediate Discipline, all begin dates should start at least five days after you submit this hearing Report to the Office of National Recorder.

**Disciplined Party is convicted of premeditated or collusive cheating (or has admitted to such action), CDR 4.1.8 (a)** YES  NO

If yes, all masterpoints, titles and ACBL status ranks and other ACBL related awards earned by the disciplined party will be forfeited. These penalties also apply to the teammates and partners while playing with the disciplined party during the seven years preceding the date the Charges were brought through and including the date of this final decision.

	Start Date	End Date	Additional Requirements/Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> REPRIMAND		N/A	Prohibited from playing in an ACBL face-to-face games with each other during the probationary period.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROBATION	11/12/2023	11/11/2033	
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSPENSION			

Is the disciplined party Suspended because of an Ethical Violation (CDR 4.1.8 (b))? YES  NO

If yes, the masterpoints and titles won in the event by the disciplined party, partners and teammates in which the offense occurred will be forfeited.

Is the Suspension imposed due to an Ethical Violation more than one year (CDR 4.1.8 (b))? YES  NO

If yes, the MPs, titles or other ACBL related award earned by the discipline party within twelve months preceding the date of the offense will be forfeited.

EXPULSION  N/A

SUSPENDED SENTENCE (only used in conjunction with an imposed Suspension from above that you have converted to Probation). State the condition of the sentence below

EXCLUSION from Events and Programs (list the exclusions and the dates of the events or activities). CDR 4.1.6

REDUCTION OR FORFEITURE of Masterpoints (MP) or Tournament Rank or Disqualification.

Both Parties - forfeiture of 15% total Masterpoints.

**STATE THE OFFENSE(S) FROM APPENDIX B, CHART 1 and/or CHART 2 OF THE CDR**

N/A

The discipline imposed above is **SELECT** the recommended guidelines of Appendix B, Chart 1 and/or Chart 2.

If it is **OUTSIDE** the guidelines, a reason must be stated below.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED (CHAIR)**

/s/

Electronic Signature (type name above)

Date:

Wet Signature (sign above)