



**PANEL REPORT
 NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION REVIEW
 BEFORE THE APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE**

Date of Review	3/22/2024		Case No.	2024-ACBL-5
CDR Version	2/1/2024	CDR Violation	301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating Online	
Disciplined Party	Hans Strohmer		ACBL #	9768394
Disciplined Party	Nancy Strohmer		ACBL #	9766197
Disciplined Party's Advocate	N/A		ACBL #	N/A
Charging Party	Jeffrey Edelstein		ACBL #	O200338
Charging Party's Advocate	N/A		ACBL #	N/A
Panelists	Larry Sealy		ACBL #	P541643
	Tim White		ACBL #	M029585
	Jackie Zayac		ACBL #	P386273

SUMMARY OF REVIEW:

The Panel reviewed the following documents: Negotiated Resolution dated March 18, 2024, membership profile, and Notice of Intent to Initiate Arbitration before the IBA.

The Panel approved the Negotiated Resolutions entered into by the parties and ACBL Management in which the parties admitted to a violation of CDR 301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating Online (CDR effective February 1, 2024). Mr. Strohmer agreed to a penalty of 2 years suspension, followed by 2 years' probation during which he is prohibited from playing in online ACBL sanctioned games with Nancy Strohmer, and forfeiture of 20% of her current Masterpoint total. Mrs. Strohmer agreed to a penalty of 3 years suspension, followed by 3 year probation during which she is prohibited from playing in online ACBL sanctioned games with Hans Strohmer during the first year of her probationary period, and forfeiture of 20% of her current Masterpoint total. They will be members "Not in Good Standing" during the period of their discipline.



ADMISSION OF VIOLATION:

Mr. Strohmer provided the following admission:

“During the pandemic my wife (Nancy) and I played online. On occasion, while we were playing, I suggested leads and asked how I should play a hand which was wrong. My wife didn't want to communicate but eventually did because I persisted. We stopped playing with each other in 2022. I am so sorry for my actions. Bridge is a very important activity in my life. I am almost 82 years old. I regret my actions and take full responsibility. I am so very, very sorry.”

Mrs. Strohmer provided the following admission:

“Four years ago, I made the worst mistake of my life. During online bridge games during the pandemic, my husband, Hans, and I sometimes exchanged hand information verbally and suggested possible lead or play information. He began by making comments and I asked him to stop, but he continued and at some point, I did the same. The pandemic period was surreal and oddly, during that time, it didn't seem like real bridge, but in my heart, I knew what we did was wrong whatever the circumstances. After that time, I vowed that we would never play together again. I am profoundly sorry for my actions—I was wrong and am so ashamed. I deeply regret the impact my actions have had on the integrity of bridge, a game that I hold dear to my heart. I take full responsibility for my mistake and accept the consequences of my actions.”

DISCIPLINE IMPOSED:

	Disciplined Party	Discipline	Start Date	End Date	Comments
x	Hans	Suspension, 2 years	3/30/2024	3/29/2026	N/A
x	Hans	Probation, 2 years	3/30/2026	3/29/2028	N/A
x	Hans	Member Not in Good Standing	3/30/2024	3/29/2028	N/A
x	Nancy	Suspension, 3 years	3/30/2024	3/29/2027	N/A
x	Nancy	Probation, 3 years	3/30/2027	3/29/2030	N/A
x	Nancy	Member Not in Good Standing	3/30/2024	3/29/2030	N/A
x	Both parties	Prohibition from playing in ACBL online sanctioned games together	3/30/2026	3/29/2028	Hans: Entire probationary period; Nancy during the first year of her probationary period.
x	Both parties	Forfeiture of Masterpoints	20% of total Masterpoint total		
		Other: N/A			