

DISTRICT V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING
Saturday, January 16, 2010

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Officers Present: Mary Paulone Carns, John Toy, Brian Ellis

Representatives Present: Sharon Fairchild, Lou Joseph, John Tscholl, Jim Zimmerman, Marc Sylvester, Jan Assini

Guests: Alex Bealles, District Tournament Coordinator
Sharon Robertson, Fifth Column Editor
Barbara Bacon, GNT/NAOP Coordinator
Pat Rasmus, Buffalo Regional Representative

WELCOME/PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Mary Paulone Carns called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM and welcomed the members. Mary welcomed new Executive Board member Marc Sylvester and thanked outgoing member Mike Ryan for his past contributions. Lou Joseph was recognized as the new Executive Board Secretary, Alex Bealles was recognized as the new District Tournament Director, having taken over the post from Dick Rasmus, who has coordinated the transition and Barbara Bacon was recognized as the new GNT/NAOP District Coordinator, having taken over the post from Steve Grzegorzewski. Steve was thanked and commended for his thirteen (13) years of dedicated service in that position.

Mary confirmed distribution of the current Executive Board roster with corrections, and the current committee appointees.

She commended the seminars being run by Patty Tucker on behalf the Youth in Bridge movement as sponsored by the ACBL (please see Education and Marketing below)

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes had previously been emailed to the members. The minutes were approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report – Brian Ellis discussed the following:

- Financial report
 - Winter STaC approximately \$1400 profit
 - Buffalo Regional approximately \$7000 profit
 - Pittsburgh Regional approximately \$2000 loss (see Pittsburgh 2009 Labor Day Regional below)
 - NAOP lost money

- Olympiad lost approximately \$2000.00. Brian mentioned moving the funding for the Olympiad to education.
- Our net worth is down approximately \$11000 but it is still above \$100,000 as of 12/31/2009.
- Audit: is being completed by Jim Breckel. Jim has suggested that we consider producing a full year report at the Labor Day Regional as well as the short report for the period between June and August as our fiscal year ends on July 31.
- Our tax returns are in process – extensions have been granted due to IRS reporting requirements

Report of the District Director – Sharon Fairchild previously emailed her report to the members. *A copy of this report is attached. (note: after the meeting Sharon advised the members that due to an increase on donations to the Charity Foundation, we will be receiving \$ 30,000.00 for distribution, which can be divided between up to seven (7) charities. The requests must be made prior to November 17, 2010.)*

Fifth Column – Sharon Robertson advised the board that the publisher of the 5th column has requested an increase from \$970 to \$1160. This is the first increase requested in the last four (4) years. Sharon feels that even with the increase it is probably still our best price available based on her previous investigations. There was general discussion on the distribution and perceived use of the printed version of the 5th Column. Sharon is to contact the Unit Representatives who distribute the copies and try to estimate actual use as to whether the quantities need to be adjusted downwards in certain Units. Currently distribution is based on 10% of a unit's total membership, but these numbers may need to be reviewed. After receipt of this information, if some copies are not being read, Sharon will check with the publisher to see whether cost savings are available by printing fewer copies.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Rock and Roll Regional (ongoing) – Mary Paulone Carns reported for Jan Assini that the tournament is going well. Attendance is up 40 tables over the same time in 2009, bearing in mind that 2009 was low due to inclement weather.

All American Regional – Sharon Fairchild distributed flyers for the upcoming tournament in May 2010. *A copy is attached*

Pittsburgh Labor Day Regional – Mary Paulone Carns had previously reported during the Treasurer's report that the tournament lost approximately \$2000, of which \$1000 represented one time charges due to new site (Airport Hyatt). There was general discussion and vigorous approval of the new site – the reviews from local and out of town players was extremely positive. The locals who were less than pleased with the change of venue from East of the city were somewhat chagrined to find the new site was as wonderful as it was – we therefore expect an even better local attendance in future years. Mary advised that the Hyatt had contacted her about making a commitment through 2012, offering a room rate reduction and increased hospitality space. They sweetened the offer with a \$1000 rebate if we would commit by January 29, 2010. Mary advised the board that

the new Monroeville Convention Center has opened, adjacent but not connecting to the old Radisson which is now a Doubletree Hotel, albeit smaller than the Radisson. Mary confirmed that the new site is very nice and well equipped. However, the board was in favor of Mary negotiating with the Airport Hyatt to committing through 2012 provided we can negotiate an escape clause if attendance falls further in 2010 as well as a guarantee that the parking will remain free of charge to the players.

Buffalo Regional – John Toy and Pat Rasmus reported that the Regional was a great success. The conflict for 2011 with the Summer Nationals being held in Toronto requires the 2011 Buffalo Regional to be held in the fall instead of the summer. Pat suggested ~~to~~ possible dates in October (the Niagara Falls Regional conflicts with the traditional Halloween timing). She reported that the Adams Mark Hotel is offering to meet the deal with the Holiday Inn Grand Island. Parking is a consideration. Pat and John are to review the offers.

NAOP and GNT – Barbara Bacon reported that the GNT is scheduled for May 1-2 2010 at the Solon Party Center in Solon, Ohio, as it is Cleveland's turn to host this event. *The attached flyer is available on the website.*

Winter STaC – Mary Paulone Carns reported on the success of the Winter StaC held in December 2009. Attendance has been steadily increasing over the past few years. There was general discussion on the proposal and feasibility of setting the stratifications by average masterpoints. Mary is to check the legality of this with the ACBL. If approved, it will be added when and where appropriate.

Website – Mary Paulone Carns reported on behalf of Bill Holt, the District 5 webmaster. There are currently no problems.

OLD BUSINESS

Education and Marketing Committee – Jan Assini confirmed the earlier report by Mary Paulone Carns regarding the presentations by Patty Tucker on behalf of the ACBL Youth in Bridge program being made at the current Rock and Roll Regional. There has been very good attendance, mostly from the Cleveland area. It has been very well received. There are three teachers and several volunteers in Cleveland who are already pursuing this. Jan commented on the work and effort of Celeste Krejsa of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, regarding this program and the work she is doing in Parma. It was suggested that her effort be acknowledged by the District. Mary is to write a letter of commendation as President and some form of recognition will be made. Jan asked the Board members to advise their Unit members that there are funds available earmarked for Education purposes. These can also be used to fund the charges incurred for the security and background checks required. Barbara Bacon advised the Board that Ohio has recently changed their requirements necessitating an annual security check.

Current and proposed sites for Cleveland Regional – Sharon Fairchild was in the process of renegotiating an extended contract with the Holiday Inn Independence. (*note: The contract negotiations were successfully concluded after this meeting. Sharon was able*

to negotiate a guarantee that the Hotel will not sell rooms on PriceLine below the advertised bridge rate; staff room rates will also be available)

NAOP 2010 – This event will be held during the Buffalo Regional due to a timing conflict with the World Championships in Philadelphia 2010. Pat Rasmus questioned the requirements for this event regarding space, directors and hospitality. She is to negotiate with the Holiday Inn Grand Island to see if these requirements can be met with our financial guidelines.

Stratification by Average MPs in Pairs Games – Brian Ellis presented the proposed stratifications by average (*calculations attached*). This is to begin with the May All American Regional. It is already advertised on the flyers being distributed for this tournament.

NEW BUSINESS

Potential Misuse of Free Entries - Mary Paulone Carns reported the misuse of certain free entries provided members for the 5th Column contributions. All District members are to be notified (politely) that these free entries are NON TRANSFERABLE and are good ONLY FOR ONE (1) SESSION per use.

New Member Recruitment and Retention – Mary Paulone Carns advised the Board that we are at the bottom of the list of all districts regarding percentage of membership change between 2009 and 2010. Marc Sylvester has agreed to continue the efforts of Mike Ryan regarding letters of welcome to new members of the district. He will report of the success of his efforts at the May 2010 meeting.

Cell Phone Policy – discussion was tabled until the May 2010 meeting. It was decided that we need a definite policy in regards to this potential problem.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.



The District 5 Newsletter
District Director's Report

January 2010

We found a gem in San Diego, a gorgeous hotel right on the harbor with space for everything, restaurants nearby and lots to do and enjoy. I hope we will go back to that location again! Attendance was better than anticipated but who wouldn't want to be in San Diego for Thanksgiving and after?

The report from the CEO indicates that membership is up and our total active membership now exceeds 162,000.

Table counts are good: Regionals probably will finish with 177,000 tables. Sectionals will be more tables than last year due to more sectionals not bigger ones. STaCs are on a record-breaking pace expected to top 100,000 tables. Club tables are showing a small gain and Online games are expected to top 400,000 tables.

The Club Director's Handbook has been updated and is available on the website.

The new Headquarters Building is under construction and our expected moving date is March 8th.

League Counsel reports that there are no current law suits against the league. The last one reached a settlement last month.

ACBL Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines were revised in a serious effort to make the disciplines consistent and appropriate to the offenses.

Some of the things you should be aware of that were amended or added:

Egregious slow play is specifically listed as an offense that can be disciplined. While this was enforceable before, it is now specifically listed.

Failure to notify an official of a score you know is wrong... (wording changed to clarify) Suggested penalty is 180 days probation and/or 180 days suspension.

Purposely failing to disclose partnership agreements with intent to deceive carries a suggested penalty of 1 year probation and/or up to 1 year suspension.

Intentionally

1. change a score
2. submit a false result of a hand, round, or match.
3. change or submit any information that could result in awarding incorrect masterpoints or.
4. enter an event for which you are not eligible

Suggested penalty is 1-3 years probation and or up to 2 years suspension

Playing in or being present in the playing area of an ACBL sanctioned event while serving a term of suspension. Suggested penalty is extension of the suspension to twice the original term up to expulsion.

Knowingly partnering or playing on a team with a person who is presently serving a suspension from ACBL or who is presently expelled from ACBL. Suggested penalty is 1 year probation and or up to 1 year suspension.

The Regulations were also amended to include an attempt to influence a decision of a disciplinary body outside of the hearing processes and discussion of the content of the hearing, other than the committee decision outside the hearing room by a disciplinary body member with any party (whether a party to the hearing or not). If you are asked to participate on a conduct and ethics committee you are included. You cannot discuss what was said in committee, only state the final result. Please don't ask a committee person what went on and tempt them to violate the rules.

For complete details of the changes, please refer to the minutes of the San Diego meeting available on the ACBL website.

Other Board Actions:

The Board voted to move the election of the ACBL President from the summer meeting to the fall meeting. With a summer election the President becomes a virtual lame duck only half way through their term but it also gives the new president little time to pull their administration together.. but the US President can manage it with a fall election so we should be able to as well.

A motion to change the mini-Spingold to a bracketed KO event was defeated.

A motion to increase the number of strata in a stratified event from 3 to 5 and in a flighted event from 3 to 4 or 5 was defeated.

Motions to lower the masterpoints in special games and to restrict the number of such games that can be run by clubs were deferred to the next meeting.

A motion to raise flight B in the North American Pairs to 2500 also failed.

A motion to add another flight to the North American Pairs of 0-5000 was defeated.

A preliminary budget for next year was passed showing a \$65,310 deficit for the year. Short game sanction fees were increased from \$.40 to .46 per table. Dues were increased from \$35 to \$37 per year, Life Master Service fees go from \$32 to \$34 per year, Household memberships go from \$64 to \$68, and junior memberships go from \$14 to \$15 and new memberships from \$26 to \$28. These dues increases are the first in 5 years and take effect April 1, 2010. A word to the wise: if your dues are due soon, pay before then for 3 years to save a few bucks!

TD session fees will also increase 8% beginning April 1.

Members not in good standing (unpaid dues if dues are required, on suspension, indefinite probation, on a probation of 24 or more months or serving a term of probation following a suspension, the initial term of which was in excess of 90 days) shall not be entitled to serve in any elected or appointed position in ACBL, receive any subsidy from ACBL, participate in and receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint races, receive recognition for achievement in masterpoint rankings on the ACBL website or in its official publication, or have an article published on the ACBL website or in its official publication.

The honorarium given to those members of the National Appeals Committee who participate in a hearing is a one-session entry inclusive of any surcharges excluding an entry for Foundation Games.

Newcomer games now have a minimum of 6 boards instead of 10.

The 0-5000 Mini Blue Ribbon event will be 6 sessions instead of 4.

The ACBL General Conditions of Contest were amended to include entrants agreeing to filming of events, equal conditions for all participants, accommodating special needs without granting an advantage to those players and decks of cards that don't look like ACBL cards requiring approval of ACBL.

The cell phone policy has been adjusted. As before no communication device may be taken into the playing area in NABC+ events, even by kibitzers. In all NABC events all such devices must not be operated, operational in any manner, or even visible. Units and Districts are encouraged to adopt a similar policy. Violations for either will be 1 full board or 12 IMPs for the first offense and disqualification for the second. Kibitzers who violate the policy will be removed from the playing area for the remainder of the session.

Warren Buffet and Bill Gates were selected as the Honorary Members of the Year.

Pat Rasmus of District 5 was named Volunteer of the Year by ACBL President, Jerry Fleming. Here is a quote from his report to his District on his Presidential travels, "From there I went to Buffalo, where the weather was really quite nice. While hospitality is terrific everywhere I've been, I think the apex is Buffalo. They had food and drink between and after every session, had a hospitality room open throughout, and had an amazing variety of section top prizes. This is not a large tournament but it was great." He praised Patricia for her efforts to provide the best for the players. Congratulations, Pat. ACBL will fly Pat to the Summer NABC to receive her award. This award was first presented in 2004 and Pat is our second District 5 volunteer to receive this award (Roni Gitchel Atkins received it in 2005). Pretty impressive I think!

The 2013 Spring NABC will be held at the Renaissance/America's Center in Saint Louis. The 2014 Spring NABC will be in Dallas. The 2014 Fall NABC is scheduled for Providence, Rhode Island. The summer 2015 NABC will be in Minneapolis or Chicago. The fall of 2015 will probably find us in Denver Colorado. The fall of 2016 will be in Orlando Florida.

Upcoming events:

The Rock and Roll Regional will take place January 13-17, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Independence. Chairpersons Jan Assini and Susan Stark are eager to welcome you and make sure you have a good time. There will be lots of KOs to enjoy, pair games and a special 299er program.

The Grand National Teams will be held in Cleveland this year on May 1st (1:00 PM and 7:00 PM) and 2nd (10:00 AM and TBA). Join us at the Solon Valley Party Center (The site of the Cleveland sectionals). Bring a team, join the fun and maybe win your team the right to represent District 5 at the Summer NABC in New Orleans LA. There are 4 levels of competition: Championship Flight (Unlimited), Flight A (0-5000), Flight B (0-2000), and Flight C (0-500, Non Life Master). No prequalification is required.

District 5's new appointees to the ACBL Charity Committee and Goodwill Committee are:

Goodwill Committee - Mary Jo Johnson, Patricia Rasmus, Charles "Pat" Smith, and Marc Sylvester; Charity Committee - Sharon Rohr and Steve Grzegorzewski. Congratulate these fine winners who are an asset to our District! Happy New Year!

Questions, complaints and suggestions are welcome. Just call 440-333-2536 or email me at shortsuit@sbcglobal.net. Sharon Fairchild



CLEVELAND ALL AMERICAN REGIONAL
 Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Road off I-77, Exit 155
 Independence (Cleveland), Ohio
 May 25th to 31st, 2010

Tuesday, May 25

- ♣ Bracketed K.O. Teams I (1st of 4) 7:00 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 1 (1st of 6) 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 26

- ♣ Bracketed K.O. Teams (2nd, 3rd, 4th) 9:00 AM, 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Morning Side Game Series (1st) 9:00 AM
- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs I 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Compact KOs 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 2 (1st) 1:30 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 1 (2nd) 7:00 PM

Thursday, May 27

- ♣ A.M. Bracketed Handicap K.O. Teams (1st) 9:00 AM
- ♣ Morning Side Game Series (2nd) 9:00 AM
- ♣ Bracketed K.O. Teams II (1st + 2nd of 4) 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs II 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 2 (2nd) 1:30 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 1 (3rd) 7:00 PM
- ♣ One Session Swiss 7:00 PM

Friday, May 28

- ♣ Morning Side Game Series (3rd) 9:00 AM
- ♣ AM Bracketed Handicap K.O. Teams (2nd) 9:00 AM
- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs III 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Bracketed K.O. Teams II (3rd, 4th) 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Stratified Open Swiss 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 2 (3rd) 1:30 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 1 (4th) 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 29

- ♣ Early Bird Weekend Swiss Teams (1st of 2) 9:00 AM
- ♣ A.M. Bracketed Handicap K.O. Teams (3rd) 9:00 AM
- ♣ Side Game Series 2 (4th) 1:30 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 1 (5th) 7:00 PM
- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs IV 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Bracketed K.O. Teams III (1st, 2nd) 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ One Session Swiss 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 30

- ♣ Early Bird Weekend Swiss Teams (2nd of 2) 9:00 AM
- ♣ A.M. Bracketed Handicap K.O. Teams (4th) 9:00 AM
- ♣ Side Game Series 2 (5th) 1:30 PM
- ♣ Side Game Series 1 (6th) 7:00 PM
- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Compact KOs 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- ♣ Bracketed K.O. Teams III (3rd, 4th) 1:30 & 7:00 PM

Monday, May 31

- ♣ Swiss Teams (A and Ax) 11:00 AM
 - ♣ Bracketed Swiss 0-2000 11:00 AM
- Play through with short break provided

Partnerships
 Virginia Young (330) 656-2107
pfyoung@roadrunner.com

Gladys Martin (330) 650-1860
Luckymartin1999@yahoo.com

Non Life Master Program
 Beverly Carter (330) 722-8214
magacarter@juno.com

For further information contact:
 Sharon Fairchild (440) 333-2536
shortsuit@sbcglobal.net
 Barb Bacon (440) 331-8702
bcbacon@cox.net

<u>Stratified Events</u>	<u>Stratiflighted Events</u>
A 2000+	A1 3000+
B 750 to 2000	A2 0 to 3000
C 0 to 750	
	B 750 to 2000
299er see below	C 500 to 750
	D 0 to 500

299er Games
Single session pair games Tuesday at 7:30 and Wednesday through Sunday at 1:30 & 7:30 PM

Swiss Team Game Monday at 11:00 AM

299er meal and review of hands Friday between sessions

299er Prize for best record in 299er Events through Saturday night

**Stratification divisions for 299er events dependent on attendance and subject to change.*

Mail Reservations to:

Holiday Inn or Phone (216) 524-8050
 Do not call 800 number.
 Rate \$88.00 (1-4 persons)

Be sure to mention Bridge Tournament when making reservations.

Low entry fee- \$10.00 per session for ACBL members, \$12 for unpaid or non members

Late night teams if attendance warrants

Great Cleveland Hospitality!

Prizes!

Non Smoking with one hospitality break



Grand National TEAMS DISTRICT 5 FINALS

Dates: May 1 & 2, 2010

May 1st 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

May 2ⁿ 10:00 AM & TBA

Place: Solon Valley Party Center

Solon, Ohio

440-248-4893

Area Hotel Information:

SpringHill Suites 866-573-4235

Hampton Inn 866-678-6350

Homewood Suites 866-767-0278

Championship Level= Unlimited

Flight A= 0-5000

Flight B= 0-2000

Flight C= 0-500, Non Life Master

For more information please call:

Barb Bacon 440-331-8702

District Coordinator



STRATIFICATION BY AVERAGE MASTER POINT HOLDINGS

STRATIFIED PAIRS

The formula is 2X. For our tournament now, here are sample applications.

A	2,000+	Over 4,000 per pair	3,000 + 1,200 is A
B	750-2,000	1,500-4,000 per pair	3,000 + 800 is B
C	0-750	Less than 1,500 per pair	1,000 + 450 is C

STRATIFLIGHTED PAIRS

Currently not on the schedule.

In Flight A the pair is first placed in the highest event and then stratified as above

For Flight B/C/D, nobody can be over 2,000. Those over 2,000 must be in AX.

Otherwise, stratification is averaged using the same method as above.

A	3,000+	Over 6,000 per pair	5,000 + 2,000 is A
AX	0-3,000	0-6,000 per pair	5,000 + 500 is AX

STRATIFIED SWISS

The formula is 4X. We currently have only single session Swiss on the calendar.

Here are sample applications.

A	2,000+	Over 8,000 per team	5,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 + 1,000 is A
B	750-2,000	3,000-8,000 per team	5,000 + 2,000 + 500 + 300 is B
C	0-750	0-3,000 per team	1,000 + 500 + 500 + 500 is C

FLIGHTED AX SWISS AND BRACKETED REMAINDER

The team is first placed in the correct event and then stratified.

Here are sample applications.

A	3,000+	Over 12,000 per team	5,000 + 5,000 + 5,000 + 1,000 is A
AX	0-3,000	0-12,000 per team	5,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 is AX

FLIGHTED AX SWISS AND STRATIFIED REMAINDER

Currently not on the schedule.

The flighted group follows the same method as above.

The stratified group follows the same method as in the stratified Swiss.

Again, those over 2,000 must enter AX.