

Notes:

- BoG – AC Chair has option to define the timing. Do not want to add to workload up to now. Effective as of next regular meeting (Austin).
- Minutes approved from last meeting.
- **Marty Hirschmann** Anti-Cheating Committee Report from BoG Committee.
- Items might be added by the BoD to the agenda on the first day.
- https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/WebMotions_December.pdf
- **John Dickenson D4 – GNT CoC** if in-person play was possible, but wanted to hold competition online, then there would be a need to be held at a proctored site. D4 held online for the first time. Attendance was high. Flight C 4x previous years. Zoom screen mates. Secure online play only applies if required for pandemic.
- **Doug Couchman:** read CoC and confirmed online security provisions met the desire.
- **Bob Heller – D7** NAP Finals 2 of 3 flights online – embarrassing and unfair to members. BBO was unable to handle the qualifiers according to the ACBL list of qualifiers. How could something like that happen.
- **John Dickenson – ACBL** provided coordinators with a list of qualifiers. Something happened between BBO and ACBL – not all qualifiers made it to the include list. Opened registration early. Chats to DIC solved the problem for barred player. Unfortunately, 2 pairs tried to sign on at 12:57 and they did not get in. Found a workaround.
- **Bob Heller D7 – 46** pairs in flight C. They didn't know who to ask what questions – only 36 pairs played.
- **David Moss – D24** Marilyn Wells is DIC, well warned in advance and sent our mails to eligible players to prewarn qualified players. D9 is preparing for their NAP final and they are planning to warn players ahead of registration.
- **Peter Marcus – D25 –** Our list of qualifiers that was incorrect and incomplete. For awareness.
- **Barb Doran D6 –** ACBL never been able to identify a qualifier who has not won masterpoints.
- **Peter Marcus D25 –** We have been allowing online play in large geographical districts. There is no basis to deny this capability for others who want to run GNTs that way.
- **Doug Couchman –** Check the attachments to the meeting invitation email for the Hirschmann Report from the Anti-Cheating Committee.
 - Discussion about NABC schedule and BoG meeting attendance. Meeting in Austin will be a hybrid meeting. Sunday 10 AM – Central Time.
 - Town Halls – People were happy they existed. Too large. Every member of this body needs to think about how to run Town Halls in District/Region. People felt heard. If we don't want to make the effort to reach out, then you don't belong to the Advisory Council.
 - 10-12/44 said they intend to attend in-person
- **Barbara Doran –** Schedule in Reno is same as Austin.
- **Steve Moese** asked that all Permanent Committees of the AC be made available.
- **Peter Marcus –** Schedule to Providence same as Reno and Austin.
- **Doug Couchman –** a AC member will put forth a motion to remove from Management's control whether to issue the right to hold tournaments.
- **Carole Weinstein D25 –** Problem with the schedule for 10 AM meeting.
- **Steve Moese –** spoke in favor of Mgmt authority to decide whether to run a regional. Wants clear criteria supported by CDC data. Wants mandate for vaccinations for all tournaments but not for masks unless required by local governments.
- **Barbara Heller –** Need to account for financial position of District as tournaments are cancelled – Penalties can be \$25K or more. Need to work with the District in time to avoid incurring penalties. As long as Mgmt provides skilled employees, Mgmt has to have control.
- **Doug Couchman –** Finance will study reimbursing some losses due to tournament cancellations.
- **Brett Kunin D3 –** Needing ACBL TD's to run tournaments. Better coordinations is needed for regionals. ACBL has liability issues in regard to Covid. Many states hold responsible party liable.
- **Peter Marcus D25 –** Locals are in a much better position to make safety decisions.
 - ACBL criteria – by Stds that ACBL set. ACBL Stds would prohibit Regional in Austin if decided on Oct 15

- Safety – If you have a tournament and assigned to direct, if you are uncomfortable, you do not have to go. Concern about family members. When told ACBL they would not go to Austin, they were threatened with loss of salary.
- ACBL should be consistent.
- **Martin Hirschman** – Bridge online Mar 2020. Difficult to determine how much cheating there is.
 - Nicolas Hammond software claims 300-600 pairs playing regularly online are cheating. Wants to license Software to ACBL. Screen for prosecution.
 - Talked to ACBL and BBO.
 - July 2020 – published a Bulletin focusing on cheating. Claim that BBO had a cheating detection algorithm (not true). Cases found by BBO would be prosecuted – found that not happening. All prosecutions go through the National Recorder’s office – they are understaffed.
 - Number of cases brought to OEC has been small do to backlog.
 - Negotiated settlements typical 6 month suspensions and 2 year probation. Committee thought penalties were too lenient. Cases gone to hearings and convicted, penalties have been relatively low – 1.5 years (one case 4 years) typically first offense.
 - 10 recommendations
 1. Bid or build software to ID cheating pairs
 2. Obtain BBO info on all cheating pairs regardless whether they were suspended. Feb 2021 lawsuit threat stopped BBO from suspending people. BBO is a bridge club. BBO has to report to ACBL, Probation is not reported. Since Feb 2021 no cases were reported to National Recorder. Because NR was so overwhelmed, cases reported up to Feb 2021, did not bridge cases against people suspended by BBO. Consequence there is no record going forward. So next offense will be “first” offense
 3. ACBL needs to take steps to clear cases. Recommend full time Associate Recorder. 3 Months behind preparing cases. Everyone is a volunteer and small in numbers
 4. Not bringing cases against people who were suspended or probated by BBO.
 5. Minimum 3-year suspension penalty on collusive cheating.
 6. Minimum 1 year probation.
 7. Develop a system using cameras or video to discourage online cheating. Not currently practical. Something needs to be done to discourage cheating.
 8. ACBL should report in the Bulletin the results of negotiated solutions and hearings. Name names and findings. Currently not allowed to print the names. Hearing reports published. So is the MUD list.
 9. ACBL should plan to use the Institute for Bridge Arbitration. Training expert/near expert players as arbitrators. Arbitrations cannot be appealed in the court of law.
 10. Fund the work.
- Steve Moese asked if the Committee considered changing the standard of conviction from comfortable satisfaction back to preponderance of the evidence. Marty said no. He is comfortable with the current criteria.
- Steve & Doug support the committee’s recommendation on the severity of punishments.

Doug Couchman adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM EST.

Submitted Respectfully,
Steve Moese K082411