

ACBL Advisory Council Spring Special Meeting**Attendance: 62****Quorum: Yes**

Doug Couchman Called the Zoom meeting to order at 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Doug Couchman – Discussed hid decision to hold Zoom only meeting for this spring. Cost of meeting is about \$5K for A/V connections and room space.

D2 W Hoogland – prefers remote meeting.

D25 Peter Marcus spoke in support of the decision and mentioned the value of F2F meetings.

D14 Steven Gaynor – Recommends a different date for a social meeting suggesting Saturday.

Doug Couchman – meeting already set as to time and date. Sunday meet in patron lounge between session and meeting

Doug Couchman – Search for the Executive Director continues.

Doug Couchman reviews BoD Special Meeting decisions in 2023 so far:

- Certified special election of Larry Sealy as Region 7 Representative.
- Approved a budget for 2023
- 223-BR06 Ace of Virtual Clubs Motion – added Mini-McKenney to motion. But modified motion was reconsidered. Not clear splitting Mini-McKenney for online play would be good for everyone.
- C&C Committee proposed Multi be allowed in 4 top NABC Pair Events. Riesinger and Platinum Pairs ONLY approved by BoD.
- Created 0-6K pair game for final weekend of NABC. Starts in Atlanta
- Jay Whipple and BBO – Allow people to earn first 5 MPs without playing a full game of bridge – Just Declare Game. Tiny amounts of points at once.
- Codification changes for arbitration clause.

D3 Brett Kunin – BoD approved fee increases for clubs and tournaments.

D25 Peter Marcus – Does the BoD publish Board Minutes from the Special Meetings?

Doug Couchman – It would be nice if the minutes were available on the website.

D11 Steve Moese – Perhaps the BoD would consider approving minutes from the special meetings at the very next special meeting. That would improve the speed of communication.

Advisory Council Motions:

ID	Title	Action
23ACS-01	ACBL Club Advocate D15 Henry Robin Sherry Terraciano is doing this work now. Gary Hahn – can approve it due to budget constraints D25 Peter Marcus – Can we make motions from the floor? Yes. sherry.terraciano@acbl.org	Withdrawn Position Exists
23ACS-02	Silver-Linings-Weeks-At-Clubs D7 Kevin Wilson – Manages a large virtual club. We are not competing for the same customer. 15 in favor 7 opposed	Passes
23ACS-03	Royal-STaCs Allow 4-6 ROYAL STaCs D18 Gordon Bower – Will help clubs a little bit. Worried about F2F Sectionals. Hard time for Sectional against STaC D7 Kevin Wilson – I find this motion discriminatory – people with handicaps cannot make life master. Vote against this motion.	Failed to Pass

	<p>D15 Henry Robin – Need an overall strategy for tournaments.</p> <p>Gary Hahn – No strategy behind this and massive masterpoint inflation.</p> <p>D25 Peter Marcus – This is going to hurt sectional and regionals. Wholistic approach.</p> <p>Bob Heller – if a District runs a ROYAL STaC, every club must be allowed to run the STaC. Different Districts will have different points of view – Districts make their own rules.</p> <p>13 in favor – 13 opposed</p>	
23ACS-04	<p>Temporary-STaC-Fee-Reduction</p> <p>About \$5 per table for STaC. Some clubs pay fees to Districts for STaCs</p> <p>D15 Henry Robin – reduction good for the Clubs. Shocked if the ACBL would agree to any kind of a cut.</p> <p>D25 Peter Marcus – The amount of work done to do for a STaC is smaller now. No more massive STaCs.</p> <p>Gary Hahn – Motion did not detail the total cost.</p> <p>Mike Cassel – Understand the rationale behind the motion, but the ACBL is not in a position to afford to do this. Talking about \$1 per person for a STaC. Not in favor of the motion.</p> <p>D10 Patrick Williams – Treasurer D10 – smaller clubs are not the fund raising mechanism they used to be. District charges extra \$6 per person. ACBL costs allow D1 to clear 20%. Fund dedicated to base for hospitality.</p> <p>Favor 15 – Against 14</p>	Passed
23ACS-05	<p>Online portal for the membership to address unmet communication needs</p> <p>Need a way to collect and share best knowledge about clubs and tournaments.</p> <p>D15 Henry Robin – Who will do the work? Is it IT work to be done by the ACBL?</p> <p>D11 Steve Moese – The capability might be available in the MyMembership capability running the website.</p> <p>D15 Len Fettig – perhaps send to committee to consider?</p> <p>Doug Couchman – If Mike chooses to withdraw the motion, we can move it to committee.</p> <p>21 in FAVOR – 0 against</p>	Passed

Board of Directors Motions:

ID	Title	Action
231-AC01	A&C Report on Hearings	
231-AU01	Whistleblower Policy Clean up and direct language. D25 Peter Marcus expressed concern about whether these policy would be followed.	
231-AU02	Internal Controls and Risk Assessment Mgmt presents risks to audit committee before signing contracts.	
231-BD01	Hall of Fame Appointments	
231-BD02	Competition and Conventions Appointments D14 Steve Gaynor – Please list the Nonvoting members of these committees	
231-BD03	Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments	
231-BD04	ACBL Disciplinary Committee Appointments	
231-BD05	Laws Commission Appointments	
231-BD06	Online Ethical Oversight Committee Appointments	
231-BR01	Additional regional allocation Charity Game Requirement D3 – Brett Kunin – ACBL is requiring regionals to run charity games. Doug Couchman – This has been in place for years.	

	<p>Bob Heller – BoD added the Charity requirement. 2-session events only. Not applied to KOs. Quite a while ago. 7-8 years ago.</p> <p>HR – w/7 day events, must start with charity games. Shorter regionals may schedule as desired.</p> <p>Allocation Changes</p> <p>D18 – Gordon Bower. Always had special allocation for major tournaments. Major tournaments are not as large. Attendance requirement lowered to 2000 tables.</p>	
231-BR02	<p>NAP COC</p> <p>Go back to pre-covid security – tighter requirements for online play.</p> <p>D25 Peter Marcus – Critical to D25. Requires proctored sites. D25 wont play inder these rules. Proctored sites in online game not feasible.</p> <p>D18 Gordon Bower – Proctoring has always been a requirement. People go to clubs. Club Directors ensure security. Question about Applicable Conveniton Charts for Flight B&C.</p> <p>Bob Heller – Depends on Flight a lot. D7 wants to encourage flight C participation.</p> <p>Dennis Carman – Bridge Committee struck the provision returning to pre-covid security.</p> <p>D7 Kevin Wilson – wants a partition for 299’ers for NAP.</p>	
231-BR02	NAP Conditions of Contest_attachment	
231-BY01	<p>Bylaws amendment - Arbitration</p> <p>Move the policy from the Codification to the Bylaws. Notion that Codification can be changed unilaterally by the Board, but bylaws require mutual change.</p> <p>D21 Bruce Blakely – Arbitration is good for Companies and bad for people. Favors corporation and not membership. Not believe the clause is enforceable for non-members. Admitted bias against ACBL. Need to approach cautiously.</p> <p>Doug Couchman – we need to consider this in detail before we vote. This is a significant change.</p> <p>Martin Hirschman – (Chair Anti-Cheating Committee) Creation of IBA and EDGAR program. AJ Stephani estimates 1000 pairs playing on BBO that are cheating. Plan is to have EDGAR repot on online cheaters. They will use the report in 2 different ways. Lesser players (est. <3000 MPs) fast tracked to negotiated settlements. Top players would be brought to arbitration. League pays the fee initially, subject to arbitrator assessment. No appeal of the final decision.</p> <p>Lesser players – 6 month suspension from EDGAR data. If not agree, full process brought to bear. Accused has to put up \$900 fee to contest the decision. MH disagrees with the fee requirement.</p> <p>D22 Nance Lodge – Thanks Bruce B. for acknowledging past situation with ACBL.</p> <p>D25 Peter Marcus – Past meeting L. Dunn discussed how courts don’t like arbitration agreements. 2) Does this apply to ACBL employees. NO it doesn’t</p> <p>D3 – Brett Kunin – Will be a problem applying it to nonmembers. Tactic is heavy handed. Should not apply to discipline hearings because they are a curtailment of rights. People should have the opportunity to defend themselves.</p> <p>Gary Hahn – Surprised about lack of appeal, and that accusation will be automatic for lesser players. Arbitration a described is unpalatable. Need to have a right to a hearing.</p> <p>D19 Hugh McSheffrey – favors arbitration. Require accused to put up surety for case. Winner doesn’t pay.</p> <p>Bruce Blakely – Peter Rank didn’t want players represented by counsel. Opped that. Also innocent before proven guilty. What do we have to guarantee that EDGAR Is reliable. Right to a hearing and right to an appeal. How much can we rely on this program? Very harsh how it is being handled. Assumed to be guilty not innocent when pointed out by EDGAR.</p>	
231-BY02	Codification - Bylaws Committee	
































	<p>D6 Barbara Doran – Point out there can be more people on the committee if the president wants to appoint them.</p> <p>D11 Steve Moese advocated for 2 people from AC who are qualified to write them. Value in working on making the change language.</p> <p>D18 Gordon Bower – we will get better quality bylaws if we are involved in the writing.</p>	
231-FN01	Remit WBF Dues to NABF	
231-FN02	2023 Operating and Capital Budget	
231-GV01	Goodwill Motion	
231-GV02	Codification - Election Cleanup	
231-GV03	Vetting of HoF Nominees	
231-GV04	HOF Operating Procedures -JS	
231-GV05	HOF Operating Procedures-SG	
	<p>HOF Operating Procedures - attachment (SG)</p> <p>D11 Steve Moese – raised question about subjective language in the authorization of the Chair to ask for data. “If there’s any question about the person’s behavior”</p> <p>D21 Stu Goodgold – pointed out the language difference in GV03 and GV05.</p> <p>Jonathan Steinberg – Take the checking away from a political appointment (chair of the committee) and give it to the Recorder. GV03 and GV05 are opposed to each other.</p> <p>VOTE: 23 favor GV03 - 3 favor GV05</p>	Passed
	2023 Budget Board Report (REVISED) 20230130 V.2	
AI231-BR01	<p>Extend Overall Masterpoints</p> <p>Extends deadline for F2F tournament MP awards until 5/31/2024</p> <p>D2 W Hoogland – people don’t know this is happening</p> <p>Gary Hahn – writing own epitaph if we keep giving more and more MPs. Need to be careful until we have a comprehensive strategy. Membership dropping from 129K to 121K. Short Sighted unless part of a comprehensive strategy.</p> <p>D15 Len Fettig – Concern that its an attempt to get people back to F2F play. Will not be effective. This is just doing something. We need a strategy. 2) When we have a lot of enhanced MP awards, that becomes the expectation. This applies to tournaments as well. How to eliminate temporary patchwork solutions that don’t work. We need to determine ways to attract people to bridge. Want to go back to pre-covid levels f MP award.</p> <p>D14 Steve Gaynor – We are at 80-100% of sectional attendance – we publicized the additional awards.</p> <p>Marty Hirschman – Just point inflation. MI tournaments running very small. Not seeing a comprehensive plan from the league. VACB and online regional point giveaways need to be addressed.</p> <p>Sense on AC – 19 in favor of returning to pre-covid MP awards, 16 in favor of continuing 20% bump.</p>	Failed
AI231-BR02	<p>Online Regional with F2F Regional</p> <p>Online Regional Day could be included with District Regionals.</p> <p>Online attendance at regionals has been decreasing.</p> <p>D19 Hugh McSheffrey – What will be done about the fees to be charged? Might have too much incentive to play online.</p> <p>D15 Len Fettig – Interesting concept. Can this be a pilot program so we don’t change governance documents at this time.</p> <p>Dennis Carman – Director Charge and MP charge under investigation. Unclear if this is a net positive for the district. %500 for TD. Plus cost of HQ employee.</p> <p>D3 Brett Kunin – Concerned about fees.</p> <p>D25 Peter Marcus – 1) No IT required? How to limit to one District? 2) Is this a separate event or part of the open pair game on the same day?</p>	

	Joann Glasson – BBO doing all the programming. No ACBL IT involved.	
DI231-BR01	<p>Sectional Surcharge Local Sectional charged more. 5% (\$10/180) D3 Brett Kunin If ACBL is serious about improving attendance at sectionals raising fees is not the way to do it. D15 Henry Robin - Sectional surcharge replaces transportation charge for TD. Need to understand why there is a surcharge. D25 Peter Marcus – Local Sectionals do not use ACBL TDs. This charge seems inapplicable. Looks like the charge for ACBL support to handle what the local director cannot do.</p>	
DI231-FN01	CBF-2021-FS_attachment	
DI231-FN01	Junior and Youth Program Reporting	
NA231-01	<p>MP Race for International Players Allow Robot individual games for D99 players to earn pigmented points. MP committee split 5-4 in favor. Sense was Board would do it anyway. Motion passed unanimously by the BoD.</p>	

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Moese K082411
Vice Chair, Advisory Council

































Participants (62)

Find a participant

- DS** D11 Steve Moese (Co-host, me)  
-  Doug Couchman (AC Chair, D17) (Host)  
-  Doug Couchman (AC Chair, D... (Co-host)  
- BH** Barbara Heller Region 6 BofD  
- BH** bob heller-pastprez  
- BK** Brett Kunin, D3  
- BB** Bruce Blakely  
- CW** Carole Weinstein  
- D2** D 2 Wybren Hoogland  
- D-** D11 - Ryan Schultz  
- DT** D11 Thomas Bishel  
- DS** D12 Susan Bailey-Carman  
-  D14 Steven Gaynor  
- DH** D15 Henry Robin  

































































































Participants (61)

Find a participant

- DH** D15 Henry Robin  
- DB** D16 Betty Starzec  
- DT** D16 Tomi Storey  
-  D17 James Calhoun  
- D-** D18 - Gordon Bower  
-  D20 Rich Carle  
- DL** D24 Lee Lin 
- D-** D25 - Peter Marcus  
- DM** D25Brenda Montague  
-  D4 John Dickenson  
- D-** D6 - Anne Atwood  
- D-** D6 - Barbara Doran (AC Secretary)  
- D-** D8 -- Debbie Romero  
- DL** David Lodge Region11 Director  
- DS** DAVID(D22) SIZEMORE  

Participants (61)

Find a participant

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  Dennis Carman |   |  len fettig D-15 |   |
|  Dian Petrov D5 |   |  Mark Aquino |   |
|  eldon clayman D7 |   |  Martha Leary |   |
|  Former Chair Gary Hann |   |  Martin Hirschman |   |
|  Greg Frank - D10 |   |  mike cassel |   |
|  Hugh McSheffrey (D19) |   |  Monica |   |
|  Jan Assini |   |  Nance Lodge District 22 |   |
|  Jay Apfelbaum |   |  Patrick Williams D10 AC |   |
|  Jean La Traverse |   |  Paul Cuneo - R9, Interim ExecDirector |   |
|  Jeff Overby- Region 8 |   |  Phil Grella D24 |   |
|  Jonathan Steinberg |   |  Roger Smith |   |
|  Ken Monzingo |   |  Sabrina Miles (D25) |   |
|  Kevin Wilson D7 |   |  Sandra DeMartino |   |
|  Kyle Rockoff |   |  Stan Subeck |   |
|  Stu Goodgold - D21D |   | | |
|  suzi |   | | |
|  Vangie Smith |   | | |
|  XPresident - Jay Whipple |   | | |

CHAT TEXT

19:58:33 From D11 Steve Moese To Doug Couchman (AC Chair, D17)(Privately):

If you want my help to admit people, I can.

19:59:18 From Peter Marcus To D11 Steve Moese(Privately):

good evening steve

20:03:33 From D11 Steve Moese To D25 - Peter Marcus(Privately):

Hi Peter

20:31:04 From len fettig D-15 To Everyone:

tournament entry fees need to go up due to inflation.

20:32:01 From Stu Goodgold - D21D To Everyone:

minutes are not available until they are approved by the board, usually at the next board meeting

20:33:42 From Brett Kunin, D3 To Everyone:

Entry fees are determined by Units and Districts, not the ACBL, Len. The increase of 10% recently approved now doubles the costs charged by the ACBL in the past 8 years.

20:47:40 From Jean La Traverse To Everyone:

This has been in place for years as far as I can remember

20:47:53 From Stu Goodgold - D21D To Everyone:

This was modified since circa 2014

20:49:31 From D 2 Wybren Hoogland To Everyone:

7 day event

20:49:45 From D 2 Wybren Hoogland To Everyone:

normally it is a 6 day event

20:51:45 From David Lodge Region11 Director To Everyone:

KOs are not exempt. But only a portion of 1 session fees goes to the 5 ACBL suggested groups; juniors, international, charity, roots, and I forgot 5th

20:52:57 From D 2 Wybren Hoogland To Everyone:

changed table count from 3000 to 2000 for regular ones

21:02:25 From D20 Rich Carle To Everyone:

We ran this year's NAP with proctored sites and no problems

21:03:23 From D1 - Jean La Traverse To Everyone:

Thanks everyone, my Sunday evening hockey game is at 10:00pm local here and I need to jump off ... looking forward to New Orleans ! Cheers

21:03:55 From D 2 Wybren Hoogland To Everyone:

so true

21:04:56 From D4 John Dickenson To Everyone:

Sectionals are running 57% of pre pandemic, did Brett say 37%?

21:05:01 From D4 John Dickenson To Everyone:

https://medcitybridge.com/R_Images/work/ACBLSEC/Picture1B.png

21:09:51 From Former Chair Gary Hann To Everyone:

NO MORE MASTERPOINTS!!!

21:16:48 From len fettig D-15 To Everyone:

we had 130% of Pre-Covid attendance in 2022.

21:17:23 From Brett Kunin, D3 To Everyone:

John: your statistics are only dealing with comparable tournaments. They do not consider the fact the some units are no longer offering sectionals, and many are offering fewer tournzments, which significantly reduce the numbers

21:27:29 From D4 John Dickenson To Everyone:

Got it, Brett. You are talking total Sectional attendance and I am talking attendance at individual Sectional tournaments that still exist.

21:53:24 From Martin Hirschman To Everyone:

Anyone who has any comments relative to the cheating situation, arbitration, etc., please wirt to me at MBATalk@aol.com

21:56:06 From bob heller-pastprez To Everyone:

Agree with Gordon.... Excellent point .

21:58:14 From Stu Goodgold - D21D To D11 Steve Moese(Privately):
that is the other motion

21:58:26 From D 2 Wybren Hoogland To Everyone:
have to leave sorry

22:00:03 From D6 - Barbara Doran (AC Secretary) To Everyone:
Sorry, I have to go. If we get to the Good Will meeting, I have no real problem with once a year, but I think it should be the Summer NABC.

22:20:58 From D20 Rich Carle To Everyone:
Lynn Chapin is the virtual club manager. We need a comparable person for F2F.

22:21:26 From XPresident - Jay Whipple To D11 Steve Moese(Privately):
sherry.terraciano@acbl.org

22:25:11 From D16 Tomi Storey To Everyone:
that is my understanding as well

22:25:14 From D20 Rich Carle To Everyone:
Steve - OKevin is correct

22:26:43 From D25 - Peter Marcus To Everyone:
Sherry Terraciano
Manager of Club and Member Services
sherry.terraciano@acbl.org
Office: 662-253-3100

22:32:12 From D16 Tomi Storey To Everyone:
just can't get thru

22:33:22 From D16 Tomi Storey To Everyone:
6 is way too many - if we have that 4 Royals, we need to eliminate other STaC

22:39:40 From Tomi Storey To Everyone:
Thank you, Henry!

22:40:06 From Kevin Wilson D7 To Everyone:
I think Sectionals in all but the most populous cities would disappear. Maybe that is good

22:40:19 From D20 Rich Carle To Everyone:
A plan for all and all for a comprehensive plan!

22:42:02 From D11 Steve Moese To Everyone:
The ACBL eliminated the Sectional Requirement for Units last year.

22:42:27 From Kevin Wilson D7 To Everyone:
I think we need a long-term plan for Silver points. If they can be won at clubs, that will help clubs. If players get 8-12 opportunities a year to win them in clubs, then small Sectionals will continue to fail financially.

22:45:19 From D18 - Gordon Bower To Everyone:
Bob: what worries me is a District wanting more of these, at the expense of its Units: the units don't get to tell the district what to do...

22:45:53 From Kevin Wilson D7 To Everyone:
If it matters so much, then why not let all clubs use it?

22:48:40 From Kevin Wilson D7 To Everyone:
If you would have included all members, then I would have voted for it

22:51:14 From Former Chair Gary Hann To Everyone:
NUTSO!!

22:51:46 From Jay Apfelbaum To Everyone:
Got on Bridge Winners. Could not access AC content. Please have me approved for this. Thanks, Jay Apfelbaum

22:51:47 From D18 - Gordon Bower To Everyone:
Some clubs charge an extra \$1 a person to run a stac... more often, clubs eat the extra fee to avoid scaring people away by raising the cost for a day

22:53:02 From D18 - Gordon Bower To Everyone:
it does bring in some extra players... but it doesn't bring in enough to make up for taking 25% of the table fees... the 3 local clubs I've been at lose money on stacs but provide them as a service

22:55:12 From Kevin Wilson D7 To Everyone:

I echo Henry's thoughts.

22:56:33 From Doug Couchman (AC Chair, D17) To Everyone:

Jay, I just checked the AC page on BW, and you are listed as having access, so I don't know what's going on there, sorry.

23:04:42 From Tomi Storey To Everyone:

I think this is a great idea, but it would need someone to collate info.

23:11:39 From Phil Grella D24 To Everyone:

Good night all