

**Zoom Video Conference.**

**Attendance:** Steve Moese, Jeff Bayone, Steve Gaynor, Rich Carle, Betty Starzec, Kathie Macnab, Henry Meguid, Ellis Feigenbaum, Susan Miguel, Silvana Morici

**Key Links:**

Committee Documents: <http://www.district11bridge.com/BoG/2017BoGTCODocs.html>

BoG Reports: [http://www.district11bridge.com/ACBL\\_board\\_reports.html](http://www.district11bridge.com/ACBL_board_reports.html)

BridgeWinners Clubs & Teachers Forum: <http://bridgewinners.com/forums/browse/clubs-and-teachers/>

**Priorities** - Grow Membership, Grow Tables, Grow Classes

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday April 25, 2023 - 8 PM ET, 5 PM PT**

**AGENDA**

- How best to engage prospects and create bridge players.
- How best to create new ACBL members
- How to reach out to teacher and club managers for stronger representation
- Cash penalties for club managers

**Discussion**

**Ellis** – Just convert the games over quota to charity game and charge accordingly.

**Steve G** – Return the MP awards to standard club game. Players will give the owner feedback.

**Ellis** – No enforcement for limits on Club Championship games. Some clubs have added nonexistent NLM games to raise Open MP awards. Fines for small bridge clubs are dysfunctional. All sorts of ways to generate higher MP awards- just run charity games. No happy with fining clubs.

**Sue M** – Put the hammer down on anyone who cannot follow the rules.

**Steve G** – Agrees to no fines for clubs.

**Sue M** – There is no excuse for over running the quota.

**Ellis** – I had no idea how many I had run. I think I've only run 7.

**Ellis** – Quota is per sanctioned game. Effectively one championship game per month with 2 left over.

**Henry M** – When you run a championship when the quota has expired, is the ACBL losing revenue on these games?

We discussed the special game landscape for clubs.

**Rich C** – One entity cannot fine another.

**Ellis** – Fines should be here forward, not retroactive.

**Sue M** – Precedent in late fees for sanction payments.

**Sue M** – Not put fines on VACB games currently, and is not enforcing their visitor policy.

**Ellis** – Duncan Bridge Center signed up 100's of clubs against policy, and nothing was done.

**Rich C** – If I want to play bridge, I need some other VACB. I have no one game to play in.

**Straw Poll** – 2 of 6 favor no fines for clubs in any circumstance. All want violators punished in some form.

We discussed the ACBL financial situation. The cheating problem has created instances of expense that really are unnecessary. The only way to solve the problem long term is to have the league help the club bring in many more new players.

**Sue M** – Charity Games for Turkey Earthquake victims. Ukraine game was put out in 3 weeks. Meeting Friday with 4 Board members to develop a policy for special relief games.

BOOST – new class, guest membership is a hideous product. No bulletin mailed. Go online. Looks ugly. Bad User Experience. Needs to be redone or eliminated. Tip of the Week is available and well done. Should continue until people get 100 MPs. The special website is of no value whatsoever.

The screenshot shows a user profile interface. At the top, a red banner states: "Your profile is hidden. It cannot be seen by other members of the community." Below this, a yellow banner indicates: "Your membership will expire on 07/23/2023. [Renew Now!](#)". The profile section on the left includes a contact info box for Daniel Bowlus at 33 Valley Lane, Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871, United States. The main profile area shows a "Profile Completeness" bar at 63% with a prompt to "Increase your score today!". The "Personal Information" section contains fields for Address, Birthday (3/6/1937), Gender (Male), and ACBL Member # (marked as "Not visible to others"). An "Additional Information" section is partially visible at the bottom.

**Ellis** – Right now, a guest member can pay \$29.99 to get them a full membership.

**Henry M** – invited Susan to the ABTA forum.

**Sue M** – Are there any extra bulletins that Guest members could get?

**Ellis** – It's silly to have to sign new people up to Guest Members in order to get the year 1 membership discount. We should just sign new members from BOOST and LBIAD to the ACBL for \$29.99.

#### Action Steps:

Steve M will work with Mark Aquino and Larry Sealy to determine the best way for this Committee to engage major decisions that affect clubs before they are made.

We discussed our relationship with the Advisory Council Membership Growth and Retention Committee. We also discussed ways to engage the ABTA more effectively. Henry Meguid will consider how to improve our engagement with the ABTA. We will focus on Clubs and Teachers needs in all ways. The Membership Growth and Retention Committee should focus on making ACBL Marketing effective.

**Henry M** – The beauty of teaching is that everybody has their own way of doing things. ABTA provides to teachers with the tools to doo their job well.

**Steve M** – Asked how to better engage the 1500 clubs operating today?

**Rich C** – We work best when solving issues. With the proposed penalties for over using club championships, we have a reason to attend the Monthly meeting.

**Sue M** – Discussed how clubs answered the call for Turkey Earthquake Relief.

Ellis – The BoD represents the League to us, not us to the League. VACB project offered to all clubs, but It managed to alienate will the club owners. Three years later we are back to the same situation – the League is ignoring the clubs.

We discussed the current litigation and appeal by tournament directors.

Ellis – Suggest sending emails to clubs.

Sue M – We need to connect with them personally.

Henry M – Put up one place where clubs can respond to us, a website or a google form.

Ellis – Raised the question about 135 Units that get membership rebates and spend on nothing.

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday April 25, 2023 - 8 PM ET, 5 PM PT**

Submitted Respectfully,

Steve Moese

D11 Advisory Council Representative