

Zoom Video Conference.

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

Key Links:

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

BoG Reports: 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 Aug 22, 2023 - 8 PM ET, 5 PM PT

AGENDA

VACB Games rules change

AC Meeting Review

Discussion

VACB Rules Change –

Ellis F. – They want to allow any player to see all VACB games. Pooled clubs have a huge following. People will not play in small games online. The BoD claims that this levels the playing field. The BoD created 6 millionaires and doesn't care about anyone else. BoD doesn't care about club managers.

Steve M. – Did anyone else have any conversations with anyone on this decision before it was made.

Ellis F. – This is a plan from Paul put in place to keep the ACBL solvent.

Henry M. – This decision has the strategic appearance for the members that the ACBL will not limit you where you choose to play. What is the impact of that on face to face? If any? The money I get from my alliance helps me keep my F2F club solvent.

Ellis F. – In 3-6 months the alliances can cut off their payments to clubs for excess tables. Clubs will regress to the PoV that they want to start their own league. Chris Compton is not as big as the other alliances.

Ellis F – Swan needs to produce a solution for small bridge clubs so they get paid.

Steve G. – What should the future be after the BBO contract expires.

Rich C. – Talked to Jackie Zayac – nobody in clubs was contacted about the decision for the VACB. The new policy is even worse. She claims it is a management decision, not a board decision.

Betty S. – Talked with Bronia today about the postcards sent to lapse f2f members. Gotten 5 people to renew. Bronia is doing things to support clubs.

Ellis F.- Bronia will try her level best.

Kathie McN. – Fredrickton Regional – biggest tournament in 5 years. Top players from all over. Many I/N layers. Tournament Chair drove to every bridge club to invite them to come.

Susan M. – Mark Aquino was aware of the vote, but it was taken after he left the meeting. He was opposed to the decision. Paul Cuneo and Jay Whipple supported this and suggested the change would be good for small clubs. Nobody spoke for the other side. No one spoke on behalf of the face-to-face clubs.

Why does one of this decision go through our committee prior to decision making?

Steve G. – The assumption that this will help small clubs create VACB games is wrong.

Kathie McN. – We don't have any big clubs near us. Have to be careful when you hold an online game. 22 tables to 8 because people are plying online in US games. Becoming harder and harder to grow new players. Silver linings has caused problems for club STaC games.

Henry M. – Bronia discussed the VACB change with the top VACB clubs.

Susan M. – if they wanted to be egalitarian, they would have resurrected the SYC game. Very few VACB games running today. They way this was done was antithetical to how this organization should be run. They won't give a tenth of a gold point to an I/N player without going through committees, but they change the income potential of club managers without even asking us.

Henry M. – What is the logic behind why they did this decision this way.

Susan M. – Gave an example how the include list was useful to insure her I/N players never missed an online game. Now that tool is gone. Unintended consequence. Susan read Mark Aquino's email response to her questions.

Steve M. – offered to write a position memo on this issue to represent the Committee's views. Will focus on the ask that the ACBL consult with us on material changes that directly affect clubs and teachers.

Jeff B. – totally in the dark on the VACB decision. Unprepared for this decision. Shocked that the Board would make a decision that is going to be incredibly impactful on play. What was the rush? Why not vet this with us – at least hear what people who know have to say. Sick and tired of throwing money down the Swan pit. Swan's idea is to run online games exactly as they were being run in the SYC games. Every player on Swan creates income for the clubs they belong to. Clubs sign players up. Swan gives clubs a kickback. VACB games will cause people to go to larger games, and not level the playing field. VACB games will concentrate.

Susan M. – A lot of NAP games happening around the time of my games. Illegal to have robots in an NAP game. Documented 15 pairs with robots and sent to ACBL – no response.

Henry M. – Can only have 2 NAPs per sanction per month. Shut down games that exceeded that limit.

Steve M. – Shared the comparison of the lapsed member program by BBO (\$40) with the F2F Clubs (\$20) per lapsed member.

Betty S. – Concerned that Doug Couchman did not bring this decision to the AC Meeting.

Susan M. – Presented a position memo against the VACB decision during the New Orleans NABC meetings. This decision was taken in secret.

Steve M – Do we need to ask the BoD if they have a financial interest in either BBO or giant mega alliances for online VACB games?

Jeff B. – Online doesn't draw from F2F. People at my club don't want to play online. There are online players and F2F players.

Susan M. – VACB clubs are providing support for F2F rent.

Henry M. – My VACB players play in the Knoxville Alliance. Now, I am not sure the financial relationship between the alliance and the clubs will continue.

How this decision affects alliances is unclear.

Rich C. – Cannot make this decision in 2 days' notice.

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Submitted Respectfully,

Steve Moese
Chair Advisory Council Teacher & Club Manager Committee