

**ACBL Board of Directors
Memphis, TN
March 12 - 7 – 10, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Anderson on Monday, March 12 at 9 a.m.

Present: George Retek #1, Paul Janicki #2, Glenda Calkins #3, Craig Robinson #4, Sharon Fairchild #5, Margot Hennings #6, Bob Heller #7, Georgia Heth #8, Shirley Seals #9, Bill Cook #10, Beth Reid #11, William Arlinghaus #12, Suzi Subeck #13, Sharon Anderson #14, Phyllis Harlan #15, Dan Morse #16, Bonnie Bagley #17, Claire Jones #18, Donald Mamula #19, Merlin Vilhauer #20, Bruce Blakely #21, Ken Monzingo #22, Rand Pinsky #23, Al Levy #24, and Richard DeMartino #25.

Also

Present: Michael Kovacich, Chairman Board of Governors, Peter Rank, League Counsel, Robert Hartman, CEO, Dee Wallace, Jeff Johnston, Vicki Campbell, Patricia Glover, Joe Jones, Jim Miller, Dana Norton, Carol Robertson, Pat Rogoski, Sol Weinstein, Sam Whitten, and Kelley McGuire, Secretary.

* * * * *

Approval of Seattle Minutes

The Seattle, WA minutes are approved.

Carried unanimously.

Item 121-140: Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held December 9, 2011 and January 13, 2012 are received. (Attachment A)

* * * * *

Item 121-141: Election of ACBL Treasurer

Rand Pinsky is elected as ACBL Treasurer for a one-year term May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013.

Effective date: May 1, 2012

Carried. Abstain: 1

ACBL CEO Report

The report of CEO Robert Hartman is received. (Attachment B)

League Counsel Report

The report of League Counsel Peter Rank on the status of litigation is received. (Attachment C)

* * * * *

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Anderson on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 9 a.m.

Present: Same as Monday, March 12

Also Present: Same as Monday, March 12, with the addition of Patty Taylor

APPEALS & CHARGES

Blakely (C), Heth (Hearings)

Fairchild, Mamula, Pinsky, Seals

Staff: Whitten

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 121-01: Report on Hearings

In the Matter of the Review the Decision of the Unit 390 Disciplinary Committee against Michael Doron, ACBL number 3798372, the Committee affirmed both the finding of guilt and the discipline imposed.

Item 121-02: Cheating

Additional (supplemental) penalties to players found guilty of severe conduct violations and/or ethical violations. (Attachment D)

Above are the 19 conduct defined offenses and the 20 ethics violations. It is proposed that anyone found guilty of unethical/cheating in addition to probation/suspension or expulsion also lose masterpoints and those masterpoints be replaced with placement points(1).

The penalties are three types:

- 1) Minor – 10% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. Appropriate ranks removed.
- 2) Major 2nd degree – 50% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. Appropriate ranks removed.
- 3) Major 1st degree – 100% of masterpoints removed and replaced by equal number of placement points. All ranks removed and all National titles removed

Referring to Appendix B part A Conduct section

- C4) Minor
- C8) Minor
- C13) Minor

Referring to Appendix B Ethics section

- E1) minor
- E2) minor
- E5) minor
- E6) minor
- E7)
 - a) Major 1st degree
 - b) Major 1st degree
 - c) Major 2nd degree
 - d) none
- E8 9 an 10) minor
- E11) Major 2nd degree
- E12 13 14 15) Major 1st degree
- E16 and 17) minor
- E18) minor, major 2nd degree or major 1st degree decision by committee
- E19) minor

Deferred to the 2012 Summer meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

NOTE: ACBL staff to complete study of Masterpoint penalties imposed in disciplinary cases during past ten years prior to issuance of the Philadelphia journal

Deferral carried. Abstain: 14

FINANCE

Reid (C)
Cook, Levy, Mamula, Monzingo, Pinsky,
Retek, Robinson Seals

Staff: Glover/Wallace

Committee Report by Chairman

121-71: Budget

The 2012 budget is ratified.

Carried. Abstain: 14

CEO REVIEW

Faichild (C)
Bagley, Hennings, Jones

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

JUNIORS TASK FORCE

Harlan (C)
Calkins, Heller, Retek, Seals

Staff: Norton

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 121-60: Junior Fund Money

Item 051-121 is rescinded:

Monies raised from Junior Fund games will be available for all junior activities. The first \$50,000 or the amount collected annually, whichever is less, will be given in July of the following year to the USBF to fund Junior Team Activities.

Carried. Nay: 12 Abstain: 14

Item 121-61: Junior Fund Money 2012

Upon receiving a budget from the USBF for the 2012 Junior and Youth World Championship expenses by April 30, 2012, ACBL Management is authorized to contribute up to \$50,000 from the Junior Fund to the USBF. 75% of the approved funds will be given to the USBF in June 2012. The remaining 25% will be paid upon presentation of all receipts for approved expenses, if actually spent.

Effective Immediately

Carried. Nay: 8, 12 Abstain: 14

Item 121-62: Define purposes of the Junior Fund

1. Upon approval of the ACBL Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation, an all inclusive North American Junior Fund (the "Junior Fund") shall be established. All funds derived from Junior Fund games held in North America shall be held by the ACBL. In accordance with regulations established by the ACBL Board of Directors, the Junior Fund shall be used to finance junior programs and activities, promote the game of bridge to juniors and allocate funds to junior teams representing NBOs located in WBF Zone Two in Junior/Youth World Championship events (as defined by the WBF) including University World Championship events. Management shall indicate income and expenses for junior/youth activities as separate line items in the budget and financial statements. Funds derived from Junior Fund (JF) Games will be used only to fund activities and programs limited to junior (ages 21-25) and youth (younger than 21) players.
2. Should the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) and the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) wish to receive Junior Fund money to promote international junior/youth participation, they shall submit to ACBL Management, a minimum of 60 days prior to the start of the summer NABC, a proposed budget for the following year. The budget should contain a detailed breakdown of reasonable costs, including coaching, for which they desire funding.

It will be the duty of ACBL Management to research and determine the feasibility of amounts determined to be reasonable expenses. Management shall present its report and recommendations to the ACBL Board at its summer meeting for approval.

The Junior Fund shall financially support teams representing NBOs located in WBF Zone 2 for World Championship events only. Funding will be made as equally as possible on a per team basis to all NBO teams.

3. When approval is granted by the Board, 75% of the approved funds shall be given to the USBF and CBF following the conclusion of the Spring NABC in the year when the Championship takes place. The remaining 25% will be paid upon presentation of all receipts for approved expenses, if actually spent.

Effective January 1, 2013

Carried. Nay: 3, 8, 12, 13. Abstain: 14

Item 121-63: Junior Coupons

Junior coupons will be made available for junior members in good standing for entry into events at NABCs.

- A. Any junior under the age of 26 years who is a full time student (must provide proof of eligibility) will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.
- B. Any junior under the age of 21 years will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.

Effective immediately.

Carried. Nay: 12 Abstain: 14

- C. Any Junior 19 years and under will be granted free plays for each session of regionally rated events.

Items 942-70-B, 021-230, 41-151, 042-151, 073-150 and 073-151 are hereby rescinded

Effective immediately.

Carried. Nay: 8, 12, 22 Abstain: 14

STRENGTH OF FIELD

Subeck (C)

Arlinghaus, Jones, Vilhauer

Staff: Weinstein

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 121-50: Strength of Field Formula

A Strength of Field (SOF) formula shall be implemented for Regional and Sectional Pair and Swiss Team games. Implementation of the SOF formula will be subject to full board approval of detailed specifications to be delivered to the Board on or before November 1, 2011 meetings.

The Strength of Field committee will continue the development of a SOF award system. This system is to be implemented as early as January 1st, 2012, subject to necessary changes being made to the current or new ACBLscore program.

The Strength of Field committee is directed to deliver a full set of specifications no later than November 1, 2011.

The first year after implementation, the Masterpoint committee may make adjustments to the formula if and when it becomes clear that the new formula is having an unintended effect. Such adjustments are approved by this motion and do not require additional Board action.

Deferred to the 2012 Summer meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

Deferral carried. Nay: 3, 8, 11, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25. Abstain: 14

Item 121-51: Strength of Field

Prior to the second reading of item 121-50 the following procedures will be immediately implemented.

A “shadow” testing period will begin on approximately May 1, 2012. The results of this testing will be reviewed by both management and the Masterpoint Committee.

The results of the initial testing will be reported to the Board.

The monitoring will include, but not be limited to the following items.

Masterpoint Inflation
Effects on both Regional and Sectional events
Geographic and Demographic variations

Effective immediately.

Carried. Nay: 8 Abstain: 14, 25

FULL SERVICE CLUBS TASK FORCE

Seals (C),
Bagley, Calkins, Fairchild, Hennings, Levy, Pinsky, Robinson Staff: Robertson
Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

* * * * *

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:25 a.m. No actions were reported.

Upon conclusion of the Executive session at Noon, the Board of Directors resumed in open session.

* * * * *

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST	
Monzingo (C) Blakely, Janicki, Morse	Staff: Whitten
Committee Report by Chairman	

Item 121-40: Appendix I – GNT/NAP Conditions of Contest

Item 082-36, and the resultant Appendix I of the GNT/NAP Conditions of Contest, are amended as follows:

The North American Pairs and Grand National Teams were created initially with the expectation that players would play in and represent the districts in which they lived.

For the GNTs: A member's principal physical residence as of September 1 of the year prior to the National Final shall establish the district in which said member is eligible to participate beyond the club qualifying stage. For the NAPs: A member's principal residence as of June 1 of the year prior to the National Final. In both events, changes in residence after such date shall not change the district in which the player is eligible to participate.

The expectation is that exceptions to this rule will be rare, especially in the top flight of each event. Exceptions must fall into the categories listed below in the "Guidelines for Exceptions". A player seeking an exception must obtain permission in writing from the ACBL District Director representing the district in which the member has a principal residence and from the ACBL District Director representing the district in which the member wishes to play. Both District Directors must approve the request for the exception to be granted. Further, any exceptions in the highest flight of the event must also be approved by a BOD Credentials Committee. The expectation is that District Directors will approve and forward requests to the Credentials Committee only in very special cases. There is no appeal from the Credentials Committee decision.

...

As noted above, the expectation is that exceptions will be rare. Following are three situations where an exception may be considered:

- “Snowbird”. A member with seasonal residences who spends more than half of the GNT (September 1 – February 28) or NAP (June 1 – August 31) qualifying period in a district other than the district of his principal physical residence may play beyond the club qualifying stage in the district of seasonal residence. If he chooses to do so, he may only play in the district level final of one district. He must play in that district’s district finals to be eligible to play in the national finals. Such a player will not be eligible to be added to a team from his other district. All necessary approvals must be obtained before play begins at the district level.
- A player with multiple domiciles should apply to the Credentials Committee for a one-time choice of district in which he wishes to play. This application must be made before the start of the event's qualifying period. This player may be asked to document his time in each of his residences. The player must spend at least three months each year in a district in order to have it considered as a domicile possibility. Once a player chooses a district in which to play, he must play only in that district until he no longer has a domicile in that district.

A participant who is a full-time student, a member of the armed forces or whose employment requires temporary relocation may play in the District in which he temporarily resides.

- In rare cases, a player who is a member of a unit in a district in which he does not reside may seek permission to play in the district in which he has a unit membership. Such an exception will be considered only if all of the conditions below are met:

Lives sufficiently close to the district borders

Has been a member of the unit in which he wishes to play for at least 5 years continuously prior to the start of the competition in the year for which the exception is being requested.

Must not have played in the GNT or NAP in another district for that period of time.

Must have been actively involved as a volunteer in the Unit or District in which he wishes to play for at least two years. Possibilities include, but are not limited to: Unit or District Board Member, Chair of NABC or major NABC Committee, District or Unit Recorder, Tournament Chair, or Club Manager.

Note: Simply playing bridge in the other District/Unit or having a regular partner who resides in the other District is not considered sufficient reason for an exception to the “play where you live” rule.

Any player seeking an exception for this reason must document the reasons why an exception should be considered and send it to both District Directors involved, as described above. This application must be made before the start of the event's

qualifying period. The District Director of the District in which the player is a member must confirm the fact that the player has been an active volunteer in the District (or Unit) where the player does not live before forwarding such requests to the Credentials Committee (highest flight only).

Should an exception be granted for this reason, the player is eligible to play only in that district and may not change unit affiliation unless the player's principal physical residence changes.

- The Credentials Committee may consider exceptions under unusual circumstances for otherwise eligible players who change their District through a change in their physical domicile after September 1 (GNT) and June 1 (NAP). Request shall be made at least 30 days before the appropriate District Level final.

Effective Immediately, for implementation into the 2012-2013 NAP and GNT Conditions of Contest.

Carried. Abstain: 14 Absent: 12, 13, 24.

GOVERNANCE / BOARD OPERATIONS / BYLAWS

Harlan (C)

Cook, Fairchild, Heth, Jones, Mamula, Reid, Retek, Seals
--

Staff: Miller/McGuire

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 121-80: Chapter 1 B

Chapter 1 Membership Section B. Rankings, Masterpoints and Races is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-81: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. B. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 B of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-82: Chapter 1C

Chapter 1 Membership Section C. Dues and Life Master Service Fees is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-83: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. C. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 C of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-83: Chapter 1D

Chapter 1 Membership Section D. Goodwill, Ethics and Zero Tolerance is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-85: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. D. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 D of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-86: Chapter 1E

Chapter 1 Membership Section E. Marketing is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-87: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. E. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 E of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-88: Chapter 1 F

Chapter 1 Membership Section F. Discipline and ACBL of Disciplinary Regulations is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-89: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. F. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 F of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-90: Chapter 1 G

Chapter 1 Membership Section G. Education is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-91: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. G. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 G of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-92: Chapter 1 H

Chapter 1 Membership Section H. Awards and Trophies is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-93: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. H. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 H of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-94: Chapter 1 I

Chapter 1 Membership Section I. Juniors is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-95: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. I. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 I of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-96: Chapter I J

Chapter 1 Membership Section J. ACBL Bridge Federations is accepted as received. (Attachment E)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-97: Rescinded Motions for Chapter 1. J. of the Codification

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 J of the Codification are approved. (Attachment F)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-98: Rescinded Motions for the Chapter 1 Brown Pages

Rescinded motions for Chapter 1 B of the Brown pages are approved. (Attachment G)

Carried. Abstain: 14

Item 121-99: ACBL Audit Charter

The ACBL Audit charter is amended as follows:

Responsibilities and Duties:

1.
2.
3. The Committee shall, in addition to the performance of the duties described in this charter, undertake such additional duties as from time to time may be:
 - a) Delegated to it by the Board;

- b) Required by law; or
- c) Deemed desirable, in the Committee’s discretion, in connection with its functions described in this charter; or
- d) Shall report at least once a year to the Board on the following topics:
 - I. Contracts entered into by the ACBL for goods or services in excess of \$1 million, disclosing our potential additional liabilities (if any), and whether the contract was awarded in accordance with our policies.
 - II. The amount of audit fee contracted for the previous and current ear, and the amount actually paid. Should additional fees been paid to the auditors, or their affiliates, then disclose the amount and the reason for it:
 - III. Any unusual and/or large legal fees paid , ad a review of proper authorization.

Motion Failed:Aye: 1, 2, 7, 12, 16, 17, 18, 21, 25. Abstain: 14 & 24.

AUDIT	
Pinsky (C) Jones, Reid (Levy)	Staff: Glover/Wallace

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given. (Exhibit H)

GNT/NAP SPECIAL EVENTS TASK FORCE	
Hennings (C), Bagley, Heth, (Members) Aquino, Cassell, Doran	Staff: Taylor/Robertson

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given. (Exhibit I)

NABC NEW EVENTS / STRATEGIES TASK FORCE	
Heller (C) Bagley, Hennings, Subeck, Vilhauer	Staff: NABC DiCs

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

INTERNATIONAL – WBF RESTRUCTURE

Heth (C)
Jones, Retek, Vilhauer

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

NABC SITE ADVISORY

Johnston (C)
Blakely, Heller, Hennings, Subeck

Staff: Sullivan

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

MASTERPOINTS

Subeck (C)
Arlinghaus, DeMartino, Heller, Janicki,
Monzingo, Robinson, Vilhauer

Staff: Weinstein

Committee Report by Chairman

Item 121-25: Masterpoints

Masterpoints be awarded only for sanctioned games that follow the laws of Duplicate Bridge, with the exception of teaching games, where teachers are encouraged and often do use specially prepared hands to establish a lesson point.

Deferred to the 2012 Summer meeting in Philadelphia, PA and referred to the ACBL Laws Commission.

Deferral carried. Nay: 2, 24, 25. Abstain: 7, 12, 14.

INTERNET

Levy (C),
Blakely, Calkins, Jones, Vilhauer

Staff: Campbell/Robertson

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

TOURNAMENT

DeMartino (C)

Arlinghaus, Heller, Morse, Subeck

Staff: Horwedel

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT & RECOGNITION TASK FORCE

Jones (C)

Bagley, Calkins, Harlan, Hennings

Staff: Sullivan

Committee Report by Chairman

An oral report was given.

* * * * *

Item 121-142: Hall of Fame Committee Appointments

Cecil Cook, Peggy Sutherlin and Cheri Bjerkan are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2012 NABC through the end of the Spring 2015 NABC.

Effective date: Spring 2012 NABC

Carried.

Item 121-143: Competitions & Conventions Committee Appointment

Joan Gerard, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, and Elaine Said are appointed for a one-year term from the end of the Spring 2012 NABC through the end of the Spring 2013 NABC.

Tom Carmichael and Doug Doub are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2012 NABC through the end of the Spring 2015 NABC.

Effective date: Spring 2012 NABC

Carried.

Item 121-144: Ethical Oversight Committee Appointment

Peter Boyd, Bart Bramley, Jill Meyers, Gail Greenberg and Howard Weinstein are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2012 NABC through the end of the Spring 2015 NABC.

Effective date: Spring 2012 NABC

Carried. Nay: 19, 22 (Weinstein) Abstain: 7, 14.

Item 121-145: ACBL Disciplinary Committee Appointment

Chuck Burger, Jeffrey Polisner and Jeff Miller are appointed for a three-year term from the end of the Spring 2012 NABC through the end of the Spring 2015 NABC.

Effective date: Spring 2012 NABC

Carried. Nay: 19 (Polisner) Abstain: 8, 14.

Item 121-146: ACBL Laws Commission Appointment

Allan Falk, Aaron Silverstein, and Becky Rogers are appointed for a five-year term Spring 2012 NABC through the end of the Spring 2017 NABC.

Effective Spring 2012 NABC

Carried. Nay: 6, 7, 8, 11, 17, 19, 22. Abstain: 14

Closing Remarks

It was moved by George Retek and carried unanimously that the Board expresses its thanks to District 10 and its units, District Director Bill Cook and Tournament chairs Henry Francis and Don Paterson and all of the other chairpersons and numerous volunteers. We also thank the Memphis Marriott Downtown for its fine cooperation.

The Board went into Executive Session at 4:38 p.m. No actions were reported.

Upon conclusion of the Executive session at 5 p.m., the Board adjourned *sine die* at 5 p.m.