



DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

Minutes of the District 17 Board Meeting, May 24, 2014 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver Colorado

(Subject To Board Approval at Next District 17 Board Meeting at the Phoenix Regional in Mesa, AZ on October 11, 2014)

Present: Board members: Darwin Afdahl, Bonnie Bagley, Rod Bias, Robb Gordon, John Grossmann, Jim Horton, Karin Kelsey, Ralph Liguori, JoAnne Lowe, Art McHaffie, Flo Newlin, Jerry Ranney, John Scibelli, Rod Southworth and John Van Ness

Also attending: Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO, Sylvia Hardin, ACBL Director of Human Resources and Gary Zeiger, Director In Charge (DIC)

President's Opening Remarks

Darwin Afdahl called the meeting to order at 8:00 am, and welcomed guests Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO and Sylvia Hardin, ACBL Director of Human Resources. Darwin thanked Denver Regional chair Bill Beard and the Denver Unit for producing an excellent tournament and thanked them for the Friday evening reception, which was enjoyed by all. Darwin stressed that since too many mistakes are occurring on regional flyers after the tournament schedule has been approved, the flyers must now be sent to Jerry Ranney, Gary Zeiger and Darwin for final approval before the flyers are printed.

Approval January 2014 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 2014 Las Vegas minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Secretary's Report

Bonnie Bagley stated updated the updated Regional Tournament Plan is in the folders and free play coupons are available for those who need more.

Treasurer's Report

Jerry Ranney presented the treasurer's reports and noted that as of May 13 D17 has a net worth of approximately \$160,000. However, the Finance Committee is projecting a \$34,000 loss for the year, which is a \$20,000 loss more than 2013. The major factors for the loss is the lowering of the D17 sanction fee for regionals, lower than projected table count for the Las Vegas, Albuquerque and Mesa Regionals and the financial guarantee to the Albuquerque Unit. Jerry presented a revised 2014 budget showing a projected net worth at 2014 yearend of \$115,000. A motion was made to approve the revised budget. The motion was seconded and passed. Jerry announced the 2013 tax return was filed on a timely basis (one day before the deadline). A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the treasurer's reports.

Current Regional

Flo Newlin reported the Pro-Am game had 56 tables and was very successful, with everyone enjoying the experience. She praised the hotel for the Friday night reception, the food was excellent. Flo said the hotel has provided additional space for games and Gary Zeiger indicated that with the additional space a Gold Rush Pairs could be held on Saturday. It was noted that road construction made it difficult to get to the hotel, and hopefully, it will be completed by next year. The construction is due to the light rail, which, when completed will go from the Denver International Airport to the hotel.

National Board

Board of Governors

Bonnie Bagley stated her BOD report was in the May *Forum*, and to allow time for Robert Hartman and Sylvia Hardin, she would be brief.

Richard Popper (D4) was elected to fill the remaining term of Barry Harper, who passed away, as Vice Chair of the Board of Governors.

Darwin recognized Robert Hartman, mentioning he thinks Robert is doing a wonderful job! Robert thanked the board for their hospitality and gave a short overview of ‘the state of the union.’ The financial health is good with 6 ½ million dollars in the bank, which is where ACBL should be and no more is being added to reserves. Additional income is being reinvested in infra-structure, the League and our members. The biggest risk was the Pension Plan, which has been terminated and there is a process to pay out the pension by October 31, 7 ½ million dollars (separate from the 6 ½ million reserve) to over 100 ACBL employees. There is a 401K program in place now. The most difficult aspect of the Five Year Strategic Plan is ACBLScore+, the complete rewrite of the computer system. The program is being completed in house, having been passed on from the outside contractor. This is more than a scoring system, **everything** ACBL does is integrated with this system, so it is very complicated and essential that it is not rolled out before all testing and training is completed. The plan is to have the program completely written by the end of the year and the testing and training done in early 2015. The Learn to Play Bridge software will be launched in early July; the new and improved ACBL website will be launched June 5th. A ‘one-stop marketplace’ is being formulated for the ACBL website. This would be where members can go to order materials, have questions answered, perhaps a sharing of best practices for clubs, units, districts and so forth.

Robert turned the podium over to Sylva Hardin, who expressed what a wonderful experience it is to be ‘out in the field’ and get to know people. Sylvia explained that the Tournament Director Project was driven by and supported by a core group of tournament directors. This project is looking at recruitment, training and development of tournament directors. Much discussion followed about the project, which is vital to ACBL’s continued success.

Western Conference

Carolyn Newcomb, the D17 Western Conference (WC) representative, stated she attended her first WC board meeting February 27, which was held at the Albuquerque Regional. Carolyn noted that 2014 ACBL President Phyllis Harlan was in attendance also. Carolyn reported the WC realized a surplus in 2013 of \$1,342 and has a net worth of \$79,784. Carolyn presented a check for \$1,500 from the WC to D17. Carolyn is compiling a history of D17, which will combine with histories of D21 and D22 to complete a history of the WC. Since the inception of Tourney Trax, the WC Tournament Coordinator (WC TC) no longer receives regional sanction applications, the district tournament coordinators have been asked to forward the sanction applications they receive to the Marion Robertson, the current WC TC. JoAnne Lowe, the current D17 TC, is already doing this. Carolyn noted the *Forum* publisher, Ken Monzingo, received a 3% raise and election of officers was held with Bonnie Bagley elected president and Tom Shulman elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Executive Committee

Darwin reported the Executive Committee met and reviewed agenda items. He stated that Bill Michael’s contract with D17 for BridgeMate rentals states that if he cannot provide transportation for the BridgeMates, D17 will pay for shipping. Bill requested that if he found someone to bring the BridgeMates

from the Mesa Regional to the Denver Regional, could D17 provide two free plays. Darwin agreed and, although, that did not happen, such a policy will be put in Bill's contract for 2015. Darwin asked that since we might be pressed for time that when a committee makes a recommendation for a motion, please speak to the motion only once.

Committee Reports

Elections Karin Kelsey named the following as up for reelection this year: Jim Horton, Mesa, Karin Kelsey, Albuquerque, Ralph Liguori, El Paso, JoAnne Lowe, Phoenix, Flo Newlin, Denver, Rod Southworth, Wyoming and John Van Ness, Colorado at Large. Karin Kelsey, is not running for reelection and Ralph Liguori, is undecided, all of the others will be running again.

Grand National Teams (GNT) Rod Southworth stated he is convinced the success of D17 GNTs is dependent, upon promotion by the D17 Board Members. Rod says \$6,600 was collected from club GNT qualifying games and fund raisers from 1,627 tables. This amount will be disbursed to teams participating in the D17 GNT Finals for travel subsidy. Rod reported the Denver area accounted 40% of the GNT qualifying games, the Phoenix area, and Albuquerque/Santa Fe areas accounted for 27%, Colorado Springs and Northern Colorado, 17% and all other 16 %. Thirty-three clubs participated, which included eleven clubs which had not previously participated. Some reasons Rod discovered for clubs not participating are: games too small, games too remote, and players not interested. A discussion followed about the location of the D17 GNT finals. The only feasible regionals, where the district finals can be held, are the Las Vegas Regional in June and the Denver Regional in May. Darwin asked the district reps to go to their unit board and find out if they are willing to hold the D17 GNT finals. A motion was made that the GNT finals will alternate between the Las Vegas and Denver Regionals, unless one of the unit boards respond negatively with thirty days. The motion was seconded and passed. Rod suggested the D17 website contain a partnership area where players from different areas can find teammates. Rod and John Grossmann will work on this.

North American Pairs (NAP) Ralph Liguori presented the 2014-2015 D17 NAP Conditions of Contest (CoC). Ralph pointed out that he was able to draft the 2014-2015 D17 NAP CoC for approval at the Denver Regional because the ACBL NAP CoC were available. With some minor changes of clarifying the location of the D17 NAP Finals, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the 2014-2015 D17 NAP CoCs, which are attached.

I/N Rod Bias noted he has been working with I/Ns at the unit level for six years and is starting to talk with other unit I/N coordinators. He discovered James Calhoun, the Denver I/N coordinator, is running a school program. Rod produced a flier explaining the Phoenix Pro-Am game and mentor program, which was distributed at the Denver Pro/Am game. A discussion followed about Pro/Am games and mentoring.

By-Laws Darwin stated the D17 By-Laws are in need of a rewrite. Since that cannot be done at one meeting, he has asked John Van Ness to and his committee to take a number of sections, review and rewrite, as necessary, and send to the D17 board before the next meeting. John said his committee of Robb Gordon, Jim Horton, Karin Kelsey and Darwin (as president) have already started the review of the by-laws. Karin pointed out that any change in the by-laws must be sent to the board thirty days before the next board meeting, which would be September 11.

Charity Karin Kelsey stated the deadline for submission of charities for the Charity Foundation grant to D17 in 2015, is June 1, but she certainly would accept late requests. It is time consuming and tedious to compile the list of requests, which is the reason for the deadline.

Goodwill Karin announced the selections of the board members for the D17 Goodwill Award:

Ralph Liguori	-	Jay Woods, El Paso Unit 159
Bonnie Bagley	-	Jim Horton, Mesa Unit 351
Jim Horton	-	Linnea Tow, Mesa Unit 351
JoAnne Lowe	-	Vicki Pina, Phoenix Unit 354
Robb Gordon	-	Sonya Webber, Northern Arizona Unit 355
Darwin Afdahl	-	Adair Karlin, Tucson Unit 356
Flo Newlin	-	Forrest Clark, Denver Unit 361
Jerry Ranney	-	Flo Newlin, Denver Unit 361
John Grossmann	-	Dawn Foltz, Northern Colorado Unit 363
Karin Kelsey	-	Jill Butrum, Albuquerque Unit 374
Rod Southworth	-	Rick Weigle, Albuquerque Unit 374
Art McHaffie	-	Winifred Stebbins, Northern New Mexico, Unit 381

A motion was made to accept the above selections for the 2014 D17 Goodwill Award. The motion was seconded and passed.

Regional Tournaments Jerry Ranney said the Regional Tournament Committee (RTC) approved the submitted schedule for the 2015 Albuquerque Regional with the minor change of eliminating the 199er Sunday Swiss Team games since a 0-2000 bracketed Swiss is being held, a 199er Swiss is unnecessary. A motion was made to accept the 2015 Albuquerque schedule with the changes. The motion was seconded and passed. Jerry stated the RTC approved the submitted 2015 Mesa schedule. A motion was made to accept the 2015 Mesa schedule. The motion was seconded and passed. The RTC approved the submitted 2015 Tucson Regional Schedule with the following changes: Monday night 299er Charity Pairs changed to 199er Charity Pairs, the Friday and Saturday morning Swiss Team game changes from strati-flighted to stratified and an A/B Pairs was added Saturday at 1 & 7 pm. A motion was made to approve the 2015 Tucson schedule with the changes. The motion was seconded and passed.

ScoreCard Bonnie Bagley distributed some publications from other districts and noted the three WC districts (D17, D21 & D22) are the only ones with a monthly newspaper.

Tournament Coordination JoAnne Lowe distributed updated 2014, 2015 and 2016 D17 tournament listings. JoAnne asked to be notified when there is an error in the tournament listing on the D17 web site.

Tournament Supplies John Grossmann presented an overview of the shipping of bidding boxes with a prospective proposal of D17 purchasing more bidding boxes to lower shipping costs by having two sets that are shipped regionally, instead of one set which are shipped from tournament to tournament. This is an idea to be considered next year.

Finance Art McHaffie stated that the Finance Committee after much discussion and with consideration of the large deficit which is expected for 2014, recommends the increased entry fee be split with the units receiving one dollar per table and D17 receiving three dollars per table. Darwin accepted this as a motion. The motion was seconded. Jerry Ranney pointed out that since he has been on the board, D17 has increased what is provided to tournaments by \$20,000 per year. This includes the pre-duplicated boards (\$9000), the Bridge Mates (\$3,000), junior entry subsidy (\$1,000), increased I/N subsidy for from \$400 to \$1,000 (\$3,600), increased the unit/reception subsidy from \$1,000 to \$2,000 (\$3,000) per year. After much discussion, the question was called. The motion passed.

At this point, Gary Zeiger, DIC, joined the meeting. Gary informed the board that as of Friday night, the table count was 1,348.5, which is down 22.5 tables from 2013. The hotel reservations were quite good, which means it is conceivable the road construction issues have been affecting local attendance. The 2013

table count was 2,226, which was a banner year. The 2012 table count with GNTs was 2,194.5. Gary has come to the conclusion that holding the GNTs does not negatively affect the tournament table count, and he expects the table count this year to be between that of 2012 and 2013. The 199er games have been down but the other events have been the same. Gary mentioned that once a tournament schedule has been approved, no changes may be made without the approval of the Executive Committee. A time change was made to the Denver schedule which was not approved. Flo Newlin asked Gary how many junior half-priced coupons have been redeemed. Gary said there have been over thirty. Jerry Ranney noted that the Las Vegas and Albuquerque Regionals had 25 and 26.

Finance (cont) The 2015 Mesa and Albuquerque Regional budgets were reviewed by the Finance Committee. Noting that adjustments need to be made to the D17 sanction fees, motions were made, seconded and passed to approve the Mesa and Albuquerque budgets and to offer Mesa and the Regional Tournament Plan. The submitted Las Vegas Budget was not reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Education Flo Newlin stated James Calhoun is teaching bridge in one of the Denver schools. The students are learning and enjoying the game. Flo encouraged others to start a school bridge program.

Contract Review John Van Ness said contracts from Colorado Springs, Denver and Mesa had been reviewed.

Web Site John Grossmann noted Kitty Cooper has added a module to upload photos. Steve Maltzman, of Tucson, has indicated he is willing to help with the D17 web site.

Grants John Grossmann stated there have been five grant requests received. They have been reviewed by the Grant Committee and the following is recommended by the committee: Unit 358, Yuma, AZ \$1,000 for membership building and bridge lessons, Unit 367, Pueblo, CO \$400, Unit 159, El Paso, TX \$800 for bridge lessons and ACBL membership scholarships, Northern Arizona, Unit 355 \$500 for timer purchase and Carlsbad Unit 376 \$300 for printer and sectional tables. This completely expends the 2014 budget of \$3,000. A motion was made to give the grants identified above. The motion was seconded and passed.

Unit Affiliations, Appeals and RTP No report

A motion was made to ratify the committee chairs as presented at the Las Vegas Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. The committee list is attached.

Old Business

None

New Business

Las Vegas Reimbursement

John Scibelli stated that the 2014 Las Vegas Regional was moved from June to January due to the 2014 Las Vegas NABC in July. A ten per cent loss of table count was expected, the actual was twenty percent. The tournament was moved from the Riviera Hotel to Bally's. Bally's is much more difficult to work with and although some concessions were made by Bally's, the unit still owed Bally's over \$17,000 in attrition charges. The unit lost \$16,712 and is asking D17 for a subsidy of \$8,356. Robert Hartman offered Las Vegas to submit the contract with Bally's to the ACBL legal counsel for him to look for a way out of the contract. A motion was made to pay the Las Vegas Unit \$8,356. After much discussion, the motion was seconded and passed.

Unit 351/Unit 354 I/N Regional

JoAnne Lowe noted that Tucson holds an I/N Regional yearly. JoAnne said that Phoenix Unit 351 and Mesa Unit 354 would like to have a joint I/N Regional. ACBL regulations allow one I/N regional per year for each district. A motion was made that District Director Bonnie Bagley present to the ACBL BOD that districts be allowed to hold more than one I/N regional. The motion was seconded and passed.

Completed Tournament Reports

John Scibelli noted the table count of the Las Vegas Regional was 3,340 with the loss noted above. Darwin pointed out the Tucson I/N Regional was up 57 tables over 2013 with 352 tables, most likely due to the offering of gold points.

Karin Kelsey stated the Albuquerque Regional table count was 1,628, as expected down from 2013's 1,953 due to the moving the tournament from its usual January date to the end of February.

Jim Horton reported the Mesa Regional, although down 387 tables (1,936 versus 2,323 in 2013), was a successful tournament enjoyed by all. It was pointed out that a contributing factor to these losses is three NABCs in D17, Phoenix in 2013, Las Vegas in 2104 and Denver in 2015.

Darwin, again thanked Robert and Sylvia for joining the meeting, and called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was so made, second and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be Saturday, October 11, 2014 in Mesa, AZ at the Phoenix Regional.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Bagley

Bonnie L. Bagley

Attachments: D17 2014-2015 NAP Conditions of Contest

D17 2014 Committees

2014-2015 CONDITIONS OF CONTEST for DISTRICT 17 NAP

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Reference: ACBL 2014 – 2015 Conditions of Contest for the North American Pairs Contest are part of these conditions. Go to http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Conditions-of-Contest/Other-NAP_CoC.pdf to view the ACBL North American Pairs National Conditions of Contest.

District 17 NAP Chairman: Ralph A. Liguori 1513 Capitan Ridge El Paso, TX 79912

e-mail: oliguori@elp.rr.com

Introduction

Welcome to the 2014-2015 North American Pairs competition. If you are a club owner or unit coordinator, you should have already received packets from ACBL which should include conditions of contest, AND result forms ND REPORT FORMS. If not contact Patty Taylor Manager of Special Events and ask for the NAP packet. Her phone number is 662-252-3139. The following of contest apply specifically to District 17 NAP club game and finals.

Club Qualifying Level

1. Club qualifying events will be held in June, July, and August.
2. The 2014- 2015 NAP is divided into:

Flight A Open

Flight B 0 to 2500 Master points

Flight C Non Life Masters with fewer than 500 Master points

All strata are determined by recorded Master points as of June 1, 2014

1. A list of all qualifiers must be sent to the District 17 NAP Coordinator at the address above or by means of e-mail to oliguori@elp.rr.com
2. There is no District 17 Sanction fee NAP Qualifying games.

Unit Final

In the 2014-2015 NAP there are no unit finals in District 17. Any pair that qualifies is eligible to play in the NAP District 17 championships held in conjunction with the Phoenix Regional, held at the Mesa Convention Center during the week of October 6 – 12, 2014.

District Championship

The District 17 NAP Championships will be held on October 10 and 11 at the Phoenix Regional. The district finals will consist of two sessions. The Flight A and C competition will be held on Saturday October 11 and the Flight B competition will be held on Friday October 10. The District will allow ACBL mid chart for Flight A. In Flights B and C the ACBL general chart will be used.

General Information

Most of your questions can be answered by referring to The ACBL Conditions of Contest for 2014 – 2015 North American Pairs event. The three top pairs will be eligible to play in the National Finals in New Orleans , LA. The National finals for Flight A will be held March 11 and 12, 2015. The National finals for Flights B and C will be held on March 15 and 16, 2015.

Those who qualify for the national finals will be notified by the ACBL Special Events Coordinator of any subsidy their finish in the district finals may have earned.

Membership Dues or Life Master Service Fees must be current and continuous from the start of the unit qualifying to the completion of the National Finals. If a qualifying pair chooses not to participate in the National Finals the qualification for that position will be extended to the next ranked qualifiers.



DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

2014 D17 Committees

(Note: The D17 President is a member of all committees)

By-Laws:	John Van Ness, Chair, Jim Horton, Robb Gordon, Karin Kelsey
Contract Review:	John Van Ness, Chair, Art McHaffie
Education:	Flo Newlin
Elections:	Karin Kelsey
Executive Committee:	Bonnie Bagley, John Grossmann, Karin Kelsey, Jerry Ranney
Finance Committee:	Art McHaffie, Chair, Jerry Ranney, Robb Gordon
Goodwill/Charity:	Karin Kelsey, Chair, Flo Newlin
Grand National Teams:	Rod Southworth, Chair, John Scibelli
Grants:	John Grossmann, Chair, Ralph Ligouri, John Scibelli
Intermediate/Newcomer:	Rod Bias
Judiciary - Original Jurisdiction	David Caprera, Chair *
Judiciary -Appellate	Art McHaffie, Chair *
North American Pairs:	Ralph Ligouri, Chair, Jim Horton
Recorder:	Kay Enfield
Regional Tournaments:	Jerry Ranney, Chair, Bonnie Bagley, Jim Horton, Gary Zeiger (special advisor)
Scorecard:	Bonnie Bagley
Tournament Coordinating:	JoAnne Lowe, Chair, Jim Horton
Tournament Supplies:	John Grossmann, Chair, Jerry Ranney
Unit Affiliations:	Jo Anne Lowe
Web Site:	John Grossmann, Chair, Rod Bias, JoAnne Lowe

*Committee members will be selected by the Chair when needed

January 2014