

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Online Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 25, 2020

The meeting was conducted online with a Zoom program whereby all board members were visible to each other and able to be heard. The following board members participated: President John Grossmann, Ron Lien, David Lodge, Jackie Zayac, Cornelia Gould, and Cindy Shoemaker. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman also participated.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. PDT

ACBL Plans for the Future

The President asked the National Board Members to advise the WC board re ACBL's plans for future online bridge and any anticipated impact of those plans on any future WC STACs. Cindy Shoemaker reported that ACBL indicated that online STAC games would possibly be available by August 2021, and almost certainly would be available by the end of 2021. Further, there would likely be additional online silver point games sanctioned by ACBL that could impact the club/player demand for an online STAC game. Nobody present was aware of anything else that ACBL had planned that might affect online STACs.

David Lodge reported that online bridge would continue to be supported by ACBL, but whether online bridge will become the primary ACBL bridge activity in the future, i.e., what the balance between virtual and face-to-face bridge is likely to become, is unknown at this point.

Extended discussion followed about the makeup of the clubs and players participating in online bridge in the three WC districts.

Western Conference Plans for the Future

It is difficult to know now whether the WC organization could be meaningful in the future, even if STACs were to resume, but since there is no significant cost associated with the continuation of an inactive WC, the Board decided that WC would "hibernate" for now and revisit the issue in six months or so.

The President suggested that club owners be polled to try to determine the importance of STACs to the clubs, whether players/clubs would want to participate in WC STACs when they re-start (online &/or in-person), club owners' views about STAC pricing, any suggestions they might have for future WC STAC games, etc.

Next Meeting

Early December 2020 was tentatively set as the target date for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m. PDT