

## Agenda Planning Committee Minutes

District 2, ACBL

March 25, 2016

MINUTES of a meeting of the Agenda Planning Committee of District 2 of the American Contract Bridge League held at the International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ontario on March 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Tom Ramsay 249 (chair)                      Linda Lord 246  
              Shirley Galler 181                             Arlene Smith 212  
              David Halasi 166                               Marc Langevin  
              Francis Gaudino 228

being members of the Committee.

Also Present: Gary Westfall, Auditor  
                  Paul Janicki, ACBL District 2 Director  
                  Flo Belford, Executive Assistant

The President, Tom Ramsay took the Chair and Flo Belford acted as Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairperson stated that in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation, notice of the meeting had been e-mailed to all members of the Committee and a majority of the members of the Committee being present, he declared the meeting properly called and constituted for the transaction of business.

### 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**Moved** by Linda Lord, seconded by Shirley Galler,  
***That the minutes of the meeting of the Agenda Planning Committee held on April 3, 2015 be accepted.***                      **Carried**

### 2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Webpage – Suggestion was made that our website needs to be redesigned. David Cohen is willing to post things on our website, but is not interested in taking on the job of redesigning it. Tom Ramsay advised that Allison Burkett from 249 would be willing to take on this role.

The following points were made:

- How many hits do we get in a year
- Are we duplicating services as units have websites

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- Could GNT, NAP, and District rep information be on unit sites
- Cost is \$250 for webmaster plus \$100 for site

Will bring this item to the meeting tomorrow with our suggestion that we shut down our website.

b) Midflight Pairs – David reported that these events are not doing well. Last year they were very popular. The weather and timing of immediately after NABC could be contributing factors to the attendance. We can run Midflight Pairs at other regionals. David suggested 2 strats, three flights.

c) Effect of Nationals on Regionals – Gunnar Kristiansen made the following motion at last year's meeting *"That the District lower the table fees for those Regional Tournaments which are normally scheduled within 2 months of a Summer National in Toronto. The dollar amount would be determined by the drop in attendance from the previous tournament and limited to a maximum of \$1,000.00."* This motion was tabled, and "It was decided that at the General Meeting of the Board of Directors tomorrow we would propose dealing with this issue in 2017."

The following points were made in the discussion:

- There is already a decline in tables at regionals every year so how can you determine if the Nationals are the cause
- Suggestion that Regional Tournaments move their dates and attempt to lower their fixed costs

### 3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 were reviewed.

Gary reported that the Grassroots income was down but thinks that the last report was for two years combined. Income was \$68 this year. Our income was ok this year because of regionals.

**Moved** by Shirley Galler, seconded by David Halasi,  
***That the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 as presented be accepted.*** **Carried**

### 5. BUDGET

The 2017 budget figures were discussed and a proposed budget was developed.

The 2017 budget will be presented at the General Meeting of the Board of Directors tomorrow.

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### 6. Other Business

a) STAC Eligibility - David Halasi reported that there was an information security issue regarding who has access to the hands. Suggestion was that If you have access to the hands you are not eligible to play in the event. David explained that large clubs should designate one or two people to download hands on memory stick and those people makes the hands. Must keep hand records sealed. Unit 166 has passed a motion making a person ineligible to play in the STAC game if he/she has access to the hands. He proposed that the District pass a similar motion as they are District STAC's.

The following points were made in the discussion:

- This would be difficult for clubs as Directors want to play
- If we have this motion in place then we can prevent problems in the future

Decision was that it is a good idea but too difficult to implement everywhere.

David will report this decision at the meeting tomorrow.

b) ACBL Fees and Exchange Rate – Paul Janicki reported that there was a motion presented in Reno to help subsidize Canadian tournament with the exchange rate, but it was decided that they should reword it to include clubs so no action was taken. Paul advised that there will be no change in the exchange rate this year unless they pass the motion in the summer and make it retroactive.

The following points were made in the discussion:

- Suggestion that the ACBL have a Canadian funds account
- Concern over Canadian directors being paid in U.S. funds
- Tournaments are being squeezed because of exchange rate

### 4. REVIEW OF AGENDAS A, B, AND C

a) President's Report – Tom Ramsay's report is included in the meeting package We have lots of new members but our numbers are not increasing as people are dropping out. Our biggest concerns are the costs and attracting new members. Concern was raised over cost of disciplinary hearings and could we put a cap on this expense. Feel we cannot put a cap on this expense. Cannot always use telephone conference. Concern that these case are appealed and then ACBL makes final decision.

b) 2019 Regional Tournaments – Francis Gaudino will make a motion at the meeting tomorrow that we approve the following Regional Tournaments for 2019 -Toronto, Bermuda, Sault Ste. Marie, Trent Valley, and Niagara Falls

c) ACBL Director Report – Paul Janicki will report on the exchange motion which was not dealt with in Reno. There will be no changes to masterpoints for KO's and no fee increases.

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d) STAC Fees – David Halasi reported that the entry fee for STAC's will be going from \$8.00 to \$10. It was \$2.00 a person, will now be \$2.50 and need to add \$1.00 for exchange. This will start with the May 2016 STAC's.

e) NAP – Discussion on whether we need to change the subsidies. Do not seem to need top-up for second place any longer. We do not have top-up when there are 3 sites. Will leave these subsidies in place for future.

f) GNT – Suggestion was made that we offer a \$5.00 entry fee per person per session for the qualifying rounds for 2017. The qualifying round is held at the Toronto Regional.

The District will pay the sanction fee and the Toronto Regional will cover cost of game. This suggestion will be presented at the meeting tomorrow.

g) Website – If Board wants to keep the website going Tom Ramsay will advise that he has a person who is interested as David Cohen does not want to continue.

h) Next year's meeting will be at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto on April 15, 2017. Room rate is \$114. Per night. Agenda Planning meeting will be April 14, 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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Chairperson

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Secretary of the Meeting