

MINUTES

ACBL Competition & Conventions Committee
2014 Spring Meeting in Dallas, Texas
Monday, March 24th, 2014 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

Tom Carmichael, Chairman
Jeff Ford
Will Ehlers
Doug Doub
Linda Trent
Ellen Kent
Jeff Meckstroth
Bob Hamman
Chris Compton
Jade Barrett

Also Present:

Craig Robinson, District Director
Suzi Subeck, District Director
Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO
Christina van Leeuwen, ACBL Assistant National Recorder
Sol Weinstein, ACBL National Tournament Director

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

1. Accepted the minutes from the Phoenix meeting.
2. Craig Robinson gave the Board of Directors Report to the Committee.
 - a. The Committee discussed the NABC Schedule passed by the Board.
 - The Committee was asked to consider drop-ins from the Spingold to the North American Swiss.
 - The Committee discussed a seven-day team game at the Fall NABC following the Blue Ribbon Pairs.
 - The Committee discussed having 2-day 10K events starting on the second day of the 3 day team events.
 - The Committee strongly favored suggesting that a 3 day pair event followed by a 7 day team event should be the base-line schedule for the Fall NABC.

- The Committee discussed the creation of a 3-day Swiss at the end of the 7 day team game at the Fall NABC.
- b. Due to the complexities of the scheduling at NABCs, a sub-committee was formed to further explore the above issues. This sub-committee comprised:
- Ellen Kent, chair
 - Jade Barrett
 - Jeff Meckstroth
 - Jeff Ford
 - Chris Compton
3. Adding 2D showing an unknown major suit as a defense over NT to the GCC (e.g. Woolsey) was discussed by the Committee. The Committee was strongly in favor of this as a motion.
 4. The Committee discussed a project involving Lynn Johansson, a technical writer, who has volunteered to work on a “Blue Book” style description of Standard American Yellow Card. Will Ehlers volunteered to be a liaison to Johansson from C&C. Linda Trent volunteered to proofread the manuscript.
 5. The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a new chart between the Mid-chart and the Super Chart.
 6. The issue of “knock-off” convention cards not reviewed and approved by the ACBL was discussed.
 7. The Committee tabled the issue of the feasibility of forcing sponsors to use specified convention charts.
 8. There was a wide-ranging discussion of cue bids and doubles, including expanding the definition of a cue bid and whether or not doubles showing specific strength or distributions should be alerted (i.e. a double showing a specific statement about a specific suit).
 9. The Committee discussed the suggested defenses to Mid-chart possibly being out-of-date. The defenses should be reviewed on a regular basis.
 10. There was a discussion of the appeals process and whether or not adopting the “European-method” of appeals (i.e. appeals made to a team of directors) was a good option for the ACBL. This item is to be included on the agenda for Las Vegas.
 11. The idea of playing the same boards in the IMP Pairs and the regional pairs was met with a negative response from the Committee.