

MINUTES OF THE ACBL LAWS COMMISSION
HYATT REGENCY, CHICAGO, IL
JULY 15, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chip Martel, Chairman	
Allan Falk	Ray Raskin
Robb Gordon	Eric Rodwell
Dan Morse	Matt Smith
Jeff Polisner	Roger Stern
	Adam Wildavsky

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Blaiss	
Harriette Buckman	Olin Hubert
Joan Gerard	Tadashi Yoshida, Secretary General of the Japan Contract Bridge League

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

The minutes of the Dallas meeting were approved unanimously.

Many comments were made in tribute to Ralph Cohen. There was a consensus to ask those who made comments and those who did not to e-mail thoughts and comments to Memphis. These comments will be compiled and sent to Ralph's family and attached to these minutes.

There was a moment of silence in memory of Ralph Cohen.

Jeff Polisner reported on the status and procedures of the WBF Drafting Committee as of Verona.

1. After much discussion, the philosophical issues that were raised by the ACBL Laws Commission (LC) and others have been agreed. Jeff assured the LC that whether the next draft incorporated the LC's suggestions or not the issues were discussed.
2. There were no votes taken. Issues were decided by consensus.

3. Once the draft is agreed by the Drafting Committee, it will be distributed to the various Laws Commissions and Committees for comment. This distribution is projected to occur about November 1, 2006.
4. After the worldwide comment is considered, the final draft will be submitted by the Drafting Committee for approval in Shanghai in 2007.
5. After approval in Shanghai, it is projected that this revision will be promulgated to be effective in 2008.

A discussion was held to consider whether the relationship of law 31 and 16C should be similar to that of 27 and 16C. The issue that generated this discussion was:

East opened 1NT (10-12) out of turn. North was the dealer. After the director explained all the options, North elected to open 1 club. East now bid 1NT (by agreement 14-17) barring West for one round. In this situation, for the auction (should West get another opportunity to call) and for the play, in accordance with 16C2 the information that East has 10-12 HCP is unauthorized to West unless obtainable from subsequent circumstances.

In a similar situation under law 27 (insufficient bid), 16C2 is not applicable and the unauthorized information is addressed within law 27.

While there was no consensus, the issue should be considered by the Drafting Committee.

Jeff Polisner brought up the topic of dumping. There seemed to be a consensus that sponsoring organizations should address dumping in their conditions of contest by creating conditions which eliminate or, at a minimum, reduce the opportunity to make dumping advantageous.

Polisner asked the tournament directors present about their application of 73D1 and 73F2 and whether 73F2 should be eliminated. While acknowledging the fact that application was difficult, there was no consensus by the tournament directors or the members of the LC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.