

Hello,

## **ACBL Fall BOARD MEETINGS**

The ACBL fall board meetings were held on Zoom November 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. These 3 full days of meetings followed committee meetings held in the weeks prior. Below is a summary of the major topics.

### **BRIDGE**

The concept of “social seeding” was raised. This means, with respect to on-line “Regionals”, that players would find themselves in sections mostly comprising people from their District, or Unit, or postal/zip code. The desire to play with and against familiar people has been expressed by some in our District, and is a work-in-progress, but has a lower priority than other tech needs such as site stability and team games. It is estimated that this feature may appear in 3-6 months.

The 2021 GNT District Finals will be held between January and June, likely in the latter part of that period and online. Any player who qualified to play in the cancelled 2020 Final is eligible. District 18 may authorize additional club qualifiers or waive club qualification requirements for 2021. The 2021 National Finals will be held either at the Providence NABC or online in July.

The 2021 National Final of the North American Pairs will be held in March, either at the St. Louis NABC or online. All players who qualified to play in the cancelled Finals in Columbus are eligible to play. Communication with these players will begin in January. Club qualification for the 2022 Finals begins June 1, 2021 and may be in person or online.

The Board was provided information by management at our meetings respecting play at clubs, specifically table counts month-by-month. April through October saw an average of ~375,000 tables per month, compared with ~270,000 for the same period in 2019. Naturally that period this year saw virtually no face-to-face games, and a marked increase in online games, including Support Your Club and Virtual Clubs.

The steep and immediate increase in online play, starting in March and primarily on BridgeBase Online, presented a large technical challenge to BBO and the ACBL, and it was fitting that the admirable response from the people involved should be recognized. This year’s ACBL Volunteer of the Year is Jay Whipple, who was instrumental in recently opening bridge clubs online. In fact he has made significant contributions to the ACBL over the past 12 years, including creating The Common Game and other I/T projects. Uday Ivatury was named Honorary Member of the Year. A retired CEO of BBO, he spent countless volunteer hours this spring on the project of enhancing the capacity of BBO to host ACBL games. Aileen Osofsky was appointed Goodwill Member of the Year.

ACBL membership dues will be transacted in U.S. dollars only. This does not affect any other payments, for example table fees at tournaments. The reason for this is the service provider for membership management employs software that does not accommodate Canadian currency. Canadians who pay by credit card or other online platforms like PayPal can continue to do so.

A new Alert Chart was approved.

**ACBL PRESIDENT**

Georgia Heth (D8) was re-elected by the Board of Directors. It is unusual for a person to serve 2 consecutive 1-year terms but these are unusual times and Georgia provided stellar service to the ACBL last year and is ready, willing and more than able to continue seamlessly into a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of what is essentially a full-time unpaid job. Thank you and good luck Georgia.

The complete list of motions and votes will be available on the ACBL website shortly.

<https://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/administration/board-of-directors/meeting-motions-and-minutes/>

Please contact me at [district18director@acbl.com](mailto:district18director@acbl.com) with any questions or concerns.

Happy bridging,

David Johnson, Calgary, Alberta

ACBL District Director