

MINUTES
ACBL District 18 Board Meeting
17 November 2024, 6:00pm MST
Online via Zoom

Attendees

Andy Anderson, President and SK representative
Ray Fink, Secretary and WY representative
Tom Romine, Treasurer (USD) and MT representative
Dan Dover, Treasurer (CAD) and AB representative
Melissa Martin, D18 GNT Coordinator
Doug Mann, D18 STaC Coordinator
Tim White, Region 13 Director

Not Attending

Irene Monical, UT representative
Doug Rankin, D18 Tournament Coordinator

Agenda Items

1. Minutes of the previous board meeting (10 March 2024) were corrected to clarify that the District is not responsible for travel subsidies to National finalists, but is responsible for costs of conducting the District Finals. The amended minutes were approved.
2. Region 13 Director Report. Tim White (Region 13 Director) noted that District 18 has shown membership increases greater than all other Districts; in the past two quarters only one or two districts have shown any increase at all. Tim also discussed several upcoming actions by the National Board of Directors. *Tim's detailed report notes are appended to these minutes.*
3. Welcome New Board Member
The board welcomed Dan Dover as the new Alberta representative, replacing Steve Lawrence effective 1 November 2024. The board thanks Steve Lawrence for his service.

MOTION: That Danial Dover and Robert Anderson shall be the only two signature authorities on the District 18 accounts with Royal Bank of Canada; only one signature is required to approve payments. Steven Lawrence and Thomas Romine shall be removed as signature authorities.

Moved: Ray Fink. Seconded: Tom Romine **Approved unanimously.**

ACTION: Dan Dover will make necessary implementation arrangements with Royal Bank of

Canada, with assistance from Andy as required.

4. Financial Status Report (US) – Tom Romine

As of 11/17/2024, the District's US account balance was USD\$15,496.57. The balance at the beginning of the year was \$12,843.19. This increase is mostly due to the Helena regional, which showed a net gain of \$3531.93

5. Financial Status Report (CAN) – Dan Dover

The District's Canadian account balance is CAD\$45,539. This is a decrease of approximately \$11K since the beginning of the year; the net loss for the Calgary regional accounts for most of this change.

6. Regional Reports

- a. Lethbridge, Apr 8-14. Attendance approximately 428 tables, 22% increase from 2022. The tournament showed a net financial gain of about CAD\$2000
- b. Saskatoon U750, Jul 12-18. Attendance 70.5 tables
- c. Calgary, Aug 12-18 Attendance 758 tables, a 42% decrease from 2018. The District incurred a net loss of approximately \$11K (CAD). Due to the three-sessions-per-day schedule, and multiple playing rooms, the tournament had to have four ACBL directors (with attendant travel costs etc). Consensus was also that the CAD\$17 entry fee per session was too low; in retrospect, it should have been CAD\$20 (a difference of about \$9K overall).
- d. Helena, Sep 2-8. Attendance 342 tables, a 32% decrease from 2016. The tournament was held in a low-cost venue; the tournament showed a net gain of approximately USD\$3500.
- e. Lethbridge U750, Sep 27-29 Attendance 78 tables, was considered successful, showing a net gain.

7. STaC Report – Doug Mann

The District is holding 3 STaC events in 2024. The Royal STaC (to be held Dec 16-22) overlaps with the ACBL-wide Stardust Week, which was scheduled after we obtained sanctioned dates for the Royal STaC. *Club games can only run either STaC or Stardust +GOLD+, not both.* The STaC offers Silver Masterpoints, which are typically harder to obtain than gold points, so clubs may have an incentive to choose to run as a STaC.

ACBL now collects STaC fees directly from the clubs, rather than requiring clubs to send a check to the STaC Coordinator; the ACBL then sends STaC proceeds to the District. This is a much-welcome process improvement.

D18 STaC dates for 2025 have been selected:

Mar 24-30 May 5-11 Aug 18-24 Nov 10-16

Trying to run a STaC in December finds too many other schedule conflicts (NABCs, major regionals, holidays, etc)

8. NAP Report – Ray Fink

The District NAP Finals were held online November 2 (Flights A and C) and November 9 (Flight B). A total of 37 pairs entered. In 2023 (face-to-face at the Kalispell regional), only 14 pairs entered. However, the 2022 finals held online had 46 entries. Holding the A&C finals on a separate weekend from the Flight B finals allowed a few pairs to enter both events. The District Finals will show a net loss of ~~approximately USD\$900~~; final proceeds are still pending (BBO sends ACBL payment for net entry fees, then ACBL pays the District). This loss is attributable to two factors: (1) reduced attendance compared to the 2022 online event, and (2) using BBO to collect entry fees. Entry fees (BB\$30 per player) were collected online by BBO. BBO takes approximately a 23% cut for doing so (20% plus credit card fees). *Post-meeting update: Director costs were lower than expected; the District Finals are expected to show a net loss of approximately USD\$150.*

Board Decision: For the 2025 NAP Finals, continue as an online event. However, collect entry fees in advance; designate at least two people (one US, one CDN) to collect entry fees electronically via PayPal, Venmo, ACH transfer, etc. These could be the District representatives. Having electronic pre-payment will permit last-minute entries, rather than having to deal with waiting for checks in the mail.

9. GNT Report – Melissa Martin

The District GNT Finals are scheduled for March 28-29, 2025; they will be held online. These dates overlap with the STaC that week; the effect of that is expected to be small, as there are very few club games on Saturdays.

Note that clubs can hold GNT Fund Raiser games (pairs); once per month for each sanctioned club session.

10. Webmaster Report – Andy Anderson

Nothing significant to report. The <https://www.wasumi.org/> website is operational. Andy coordinates any needed change requests with Jackson Chan

11. Upcoming Regionals

- a. Saskatoon, Jul 7-13 This will be held at the Saskatoon club venue for a very nominal rate; Andy has also paid the local Royal Canadian Legion hall a retainer to have overflow space available if needed.
- b. Red Deer, Aug 11-17
- c. Billings, Sep 8-14
- d. Lethbridge U750, Sep 19-21

12. Old Business

- a. Tournament entry fees

Board Decision: Due to the wide variation in tournament costs, in particular costs for the tournament venue, the Board will not set District-wide entry fees for regional tournaments. Entry fees will be determined on a case-by-case basis considering

venue costs, number of directors, etc.

Doug Mann noted that the tournament program must specify the tournament entry fee; this is used when setting up Square to receive tournament entries from players.

13. New Business

- a. Fiscal measures to balance 2025 budget. Andy emphasized the need to manage tournament costs. Budgets should be reviewed by a board member, ensuring that costs for caddies are reasonable. Tournaments should not hold three sessions per day. as this usually requires an additional director (and attendant per diem costs) for lightly-attended third sessions. When possible, multiple rooms should not be used, as an additional director is needed for each additional room.
- b. 2028 Summer NABC in Calgary. For the time being, this is a dormant issue. ACBL Headquarters is re-thinking their strategy for NABC locations. If/when ACBL decides their path forward, the District could pursue this in the future.
- c. Regional allotment dates. (Tournament Coordinator Doug Rankin was not in attendance)
- d. Future for U750 Regionals Lethbridge likes running theirs. Edmonton cancelled theirs. Calgary does not want to hold another. Saskatoon will propose holding another.
- e. Policy for U750 Regionals in concert with Sectional The question is what should the financial breakdown be? Should the District keep all proceeds from the U750 side of the event? Split the proceeds with the Unit, 50-50 or based on table allocation? *Tim noted that we need to be careful about sharing funds from the District (a non-profit) to a for-profit Club, as this could jeopardize the District's status as a nonprofit organization.* The board was not ready to make a decision on this.
ACTION: Board members discuss this topic by email, with a goal of making a policy decision in December
- f. Free plays for Region 13 Director. Tim noted that he received free plays (as Region Director) at the Lethbridge regional. He suggests that this is neither necessary nor appropriate, as Region Directors receive a stipend from ACBL to (in part) support their attendance at tournaments in their region.
Board Decision: Region Directors will not receive free plays at District 18 tournaments. District board members will continue to receive free plays.
- g. Next Board Meeting
ACTION: Andy will choose a suitable date in the late-April timeframe, avoiding tournament conflicts etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

R13D Report to the D18 Board

November 17, 2024

Quarterly ACBL-wide QUIP Report

- Active Membership Trends (includes active unpaid Life Master (LM) memberships and excludes inactive unpaid Life Masters).
- 1st sheet shows changes in membership for each of the 25 districts over the trailing 12, 24, and 36 months
- In the 3rd quarter 2024 report for the period ended 9/30/24, D18 ranks #1 of 25 for the trailing 12 months with a net increase of 2.05% in membership. (One of two districts with a net increase.)
- In the 2nd quarter 2024 report for the period ended 6/30/24, D18 ranked #1 of 25 for the trailing 12 months with a net increase of 0.31%. (The only district with a net increase.)
- The report also shows trends for all units within all districts, with each unit's rank within its district. One would expect greater volatility (percentage changes) in the smaller units.
Within D18:
 - For the trailing 12 months in the 3rd quarter report, Helena U411 (45 members) had the greatest net increase @ 28.57%.
 - For the trailing 12 months in the 2nd quarter report, Idaho Falls U396 (20 members) had the greatest net increase @ 11.11%.
- For the trailing 12 months in the 3rd quarter report, the largest D18 unit, Calgary U390 (935 members), had an increase of 2.63%.

Fall ACBL BOD meetings in Las Vegas November 23-25

- Substantial advance work takes place within the committees, in coordination with Management and various other entities.
- The Journal for Las Vegas includes various motions and discussion items (as usual) – some continuing the clean-up associated with Board's downsizing from 25 to 13.
- A proposed Bylaws change addressing provisions related to the Board and to the Advisory Council. As appropriate for any set of Bylaws, there's a rigorous process for change. For ACBL's Bylaws this requires two readings/votes by the Board of Directors, publishing in the ACBL Bulletin, and a vote by the Advisory Council.
- My general view concerning motions, discussion items and contact time is that the Board of Directors should increase its focus on strategic and forward-looking matters of the enterprise and spend less time micro-managing things like Masterpoint® awards and national event entry fees. There is an ACBL Masterpoint Committee and a Competition and Conventions Committee – each populated with experienced, competent, dedicated volunteers – who take up such matters and whose judgments should generally be respected. National entry fees, sanction fees and director session fees are appropriately subject to Board oversight and review as part of ACBL Management's annual budgeting process. In Las Vegas, Management will bring forward its proposed 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets for Board review and approval.

- Our Appeals and Charges Committee will report on disciplinary proceedings, including an update on Computer-Based Cheating Detection process metrics. The latest revision to the Code of disciplinary Regulations (CDR) was released on 11/1/24. The Ethics & Discipline area of the ACBL website has a wealth of information on disciplinary matters: <https://www.acbl.org/ethics/>
- The ACBL's President, Vice President and Treasurer for 2025 will be elected from among Board members.
- In the weeks after Las Vegas, as usual practice, I plan to send an email blast to D18 and D19 members that contains my three-times-a-year newsletter and a link to the Board's Report on its Fall meetings.

Tim's 2025 tournament travels

- Each year I attend at least one D18 regional. In the past I've attended Great Falls, Regina and Lethbridge. Each has been a great experience.
- Currently sanctioned D18 2025 open regionals are Saskatoon July 7-13, Red Deer August 11-17, and Billings September 8-14.
- Given other commitments, I'm presently planning on attending the Saskatoon Regional and will be working out harmonizing this with ACBL Summer Board Meetings to be held in conjunction with NABC Philadelphia also in July.
- I'm not able to make it to Red Deer.
- I've penciled in Billings for potentially making it there in the Fall.

Questions and Comments