

MINUTES

ACBL District 18 Board Meeting

Lethbridge AB

11 May 2022 7:00pm

Attendees:

David Johnson, President and AB representative

Ray Davie, SK representative

Tom Romine, MT representative

Ray Fink, Secretary and WY representative (via telecon)

Melissa Martin, GNT Coordinator (via telecon)

Doug Rankin, Tournament Coordinator

1. Minutes from the 2019 meeting were approved.
2. Appointment of Officers. The Treasurer office is currently vacant. Doug Adair, the former Treasurer and Utah rep, is still the name on the account. We want somebody US-based, to simplify funds moving to/from ACBL. Perhaps the new Utah representative (TBD) would be a good choice. This becomes an issue by the Great Falls tournament in September.
3. Website Status. Webmaster Vicki Richert provided status via email. The new website is awaiting DNS (internet address) updates by the hosting service to go live. JP Weber (District 19 Webmaster) is available to help if needed.
4. District 18 ACBL Representative Report. Tim White (D19/R13) was unable to attend, but provided an email update.
5. Discretionary Charity Grant for 2022. Each ACBL board member may designate \$1,000 USD to a qualified non-profit. ***The D18 board concurred with the selection of the United Nations World Food Program, with designation for the Ukrainian people.***
6. District 19 Newsletter. D19 publishes a twice-yearly *Bridge North West* newsletter that includes a "From the ACBL Board" article. *Question: Will D18 members also receive this, now that D18 and D19 comprise ACBL Board Region 13?* No resolution; Ray forwarded the latest version of the newsletter to the Board members for their information.
7. Sectionals For Smaller Units. ACBL now allows units with less than 200 members to conduct downgraded Sectional Tournaments. If less than 20 tables per session are expected (total across all sections), the Unit may use a local Certified Director instead of bearing the expense of an ACBL Director. Masterpoint awards are 65% of full Sectional rating. Larger units with less than 400 members may apply to conduct a downgraded Sectional. The Unit can apply *ad hoc* if a small turnout is expected. This downgrade option is not available for Regional tournaments.
8. Election Report. Nothing to report.

9. Financial Status. With no current Treasurer, a detailed financial status was not available. David estimates that the US account balance is approximately \$23K USD, and the Canadian account balance approximately \$51K CAD.
10. GNT Coordinator Report. (Melissa Martin). For the past two years, D18 has not held club qualifying games. These games help raise funds for the travel stipend provided to the District winners. STaC games also raise money for this purpose. The 2021 Finals had 25 entries (8 A, 10 B, 4 C, 3 Championship). The 2022 Finals had 15 entries (3 A, 8 B, 1 C, 3 Championship). Holding the finals on two separate weekends seemed to work well by allowing players to participate in more than one flight. The 2021 Finals were on consecutive weekends which may have helped turnout. Two weekends do mean higher expenses for director. This year's event also purchased software from Jay Whipple's organization to assist in running a larger online team event; cost was \$300. The 2022 Final was approximately break-even financially. Two teams – Liu and Berkowitz – plan to attend the GNT Finals at Providence NABC. **The Board will award a travel stipend of \$2000/team for teams that participate in the GNT Finals. If a winning team chooses not to attend the NABC, the eligibility and stipend cascades to the next place team.**
11. STaC Coordinator Report. No report, Don Greenwood was not available.
12. NAP Coordinator Report. (Ray Fink). The 2021 District Final was held online. 46 pairs participated (total for 3 flights), compared to approximately 18 pairs that entered the 2019 final held face-to-face at the Butte regional. Many of the pairs who qualified for the NAP final at Reno chose not to attend, primarily due to travel uncertainties associated with Covid restrictions. The 2021 Conditions of Contest allowed online play without proctoring; expectation is that future online NAP events will require proctored sites now that Covid restrictions are lifting. **The 2022 District NAP Final will be held Saturday September 10th in conjunction with the Great Falls regional.** Board consensus is that this may help spur attendance at the tournament. *ACTIONS: Tournament committee will revise the online flyer for Great Falls. NAP Coordinator will update CoC, obtain a sanction, and send an email blast to all clubs to publicize this schedule.*
13. Pianola. The first trial usage is free; we used this to publicize the Lethbridge tournament. Regular price is roughly \$0.01 per recipient. Emails can be targeted by state/province, radius from a location, and by masterpoint totals. D18 has approximately 4000 members. **We will use Pianola to publicize the Great Falls regional (including Spokane area recipients) and the GNT District Finals in 2023.**
14. ACBL OnPay. We can still accept cash for tournament entries for the time being, but this will likely change soon. Districts with both Canadian and US tournaments must designate a Square account for each tournament; this can be a Canadian account for a Canadian tournament, US for US tournament. ACBL absorbs the credit card fees, passing on the full payment amounts. Payment from ACBL is expected on Thursday as long as tournament reports are submitted no later than Monday; past tournaments have been able to complete submittals on Sunday evening. **The board expects to commit to using OnPay for the Great Falls regional.** With less

pre-game tasking, can we get by with one less director?

15. How many Regionals? D18 is allocated four regionals annually, we try to spread them geographically. Under current conditions, support for three regionals is clear but the fourth tournament is not clear. Casper is not interested in hosting future regionals. Eastern Idaho and Utah are unknowns at this point; no board rep available, and the clubs there are struggling post-Covid. In most cases attendance is more of an issue than availability of volunteers. **Bozeman does not want to host the June 2023 regional previously allocated to them; this regional has been allocated to Saskatoon instead.** Kalispell is still on for September 2023. The last Saskatoon regional was cancelled due to Covid; their club premises are large enough to host a 50-table event. In Montana, the Missoula and Kalispell regionals seem to do best; Billings is marginal attendance-wise, and we will see how the turnout is for Great Falls in September. Some discussion of running a regional in northern Idaho – Coeur d’Alene or Sandpoint – to get more attendance from eastern Washington players as well.

16. Lethbridge Regional snapshot. As of Wednesday evening, table counts on track for a total in the low 300s. This is near 100% of pre-covid attendance (366 tables in 2016, albeit a poor playing site); considerably better attendance post-Covid than other tournaments are reporting.