

**Minutes of Annual Meeting
ACBL District 1
August 22, 2015**

Present:

Sol Weinstein	ACBL Field Manager	solweinstein@acbl.org
Leo Weniger	District Director	leowen@eastlink.ca
George Retek	Director Emeritus	gbridgeretek@gmail.com
Douglas Hamilton	District President	dhami@ns.sympatico.ca
Peter Clark	Past President	pcreeve@rogers.com
Jean LaTraverse	District Treasurer	jlatraverse@videotron.ca
Tim Edwards-Davies	Unit 192	time-d@rogers.com
Louise Mascolo	Unit 151	louise.mascolo@sympatico.ca
Raynald Belanger	Unit 152	raynaldd@videotron.ca
Hugues Boisvert	Unit 151	hugues.boisvert@hec.cam
Michel Montplaisir	Unit 152	mplaisir_7@sympatico.ca
Kevin Gregoire	Unit 151	kevingregoire@videotron.ca
Richard Kenny	Unit 230	rakenny53@gmail.com
Heather Peckett	Secretary	bridgecat@rogers.com

	Action
<p>1. Call to Order and Welcome to Sol Weinstein The District President welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Sol Weinstein, who was recently appointed to the position of ACBL Field Manager. Guy Fauteux is one of six Supervising Directors who reports to him.</p> <p>Mr. Weinstein noted the ACBL is being challenged now as many of its Directors are retiring and there are not enough experienced Directors to replace them. Additionally, District 1 is in a unique situation as there are bilingual requirements. Mr. Weinstein noted the urgent situation in the Maritimes whereby two current Directors are expected to retire soon, leaving no one qualified to take over. The ACBL has a number of new programs including a Tournament Directors' University to help with fast tracking the training of new Directors. Mr. Weinstein recommended that the District and each Unit set aside money to pay for an extra Director for some tournaments in order that they get the necessary experience. J. LaTraverse noted that Unit 151 had done this for the current tournament.</p> <p>On behalf of the District, G. Retek offered congratulations to Mr. Weinstein on his promotion.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were reviewed. Correction to 4(b) in the French version to change Unit 15 to Unit 151. Also 6(b) should show over \$500,000 was raised instead of \$150,000. With these corrections, it was moved by M. Montplaisir and seconded by K. Gregoire that the Minutes be approved. Carried.</p>	
<p>3. Business Arising from the Minutes a. Le Bridgeur This item is still pending. J. LaTraverse will have a discussion with the ACBL Bulletin Editor.</p>	J. LaTraverse

<p>b. ACBL Live This program provides immediate access to tournament results for members who register for this ACBL program. Directors submit the results to the ACBL at the end of each tournament day.</p>	
<p>4. Treasurer's Report J. LaTraverse provided the District Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for 2014 and the Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2014. He will post the financial statements for the last three years on the District website. It was moved by R.Belanger and seconded by L. Moscolo that the financial statements be adopted as presented. Carried.</p>	J. LaTraverse
<p>5. District Director's Report L. Weniger informed the Board that his detailed report from the August Nationals will be sent to the Unit P residents and posted on the District Website soon. Some of the highlights of his report include: a. The definition of "ACBL Officials" under the Code of Discipline regulations now includes District, Unit and Tournament Committees. b. ACBL staff are now calling people to find out why they have not renewed their memberships. R. Kenny noted that these calls may cause stress in cases where the person has passed away. c. Approval was given for a capital budget of \$100,000 for technology infrastructure improvements. This will include an update to the hardware for ACBL Score. d. There will be two new "rank" changes, one between 1,000 and 2,500 and the other between 2,500 and 5,000.</p>	
<p>6. New Business a. Status of the 2010 Nationals Fund The Treasurer provided a chart displaying the revenues collected from each Unit for the 2020 Nationals. Collections are very close to the original estimates. Unit 192 (Kingston) still owes \$2,254 from its 2014 tournament. This to be followed up by the Treasurer and P. Clark – President of Unit 192. M. Montplaisir noted the generous contribution from Francois Cimon which enabled Unit 152 to cover monies owed to the District. The District executive also expressed its gratitude for this donation. b. NAP The ACBL pays \$700 to each member of the A, B and C pairs entitled to receive the first place award and \$300 to each member of the pairs entitled to receive the second place award. No subsidy is provided for pairs placing 3rd (Flights A, B and C) or fourth (Flights B and C). For 2015-16, the winner and 3rd place will be deemed to come from the Eastern Area (Maritimes) and 2nd and 4th place from the Western Area (Quebec and Eastern Ontario). For Flight A, the third place pair eligible to represent our District will come from the "Area" having the greatest participation in the event.</p>	<p>J. LaTraverse, P. Clark</p> <p>Club owners</p>

<p>Detailed Conditions of Contest are available on the District Website. In the East, the Flight A final will be held in Moncton on Sunday October 25, 2015 at the Moncton Bridge Club, 620 Coverdale Road, Moncton, NB. The Flight C final will be held at the same location on October 24, 2015. The Flight B final will be held in Halifax at the MCG bridge Studio on 6960 Mumford Road on Saturday October 31, 2015.</p>	
<p>Montreal will host the Western events for A, B and C on Saturday November 7, 2015 . A minimum of 5 tables is required in our District for each event for the purpose of qualifying for the monetary awards (not for victory or masterpoints). Club owners should send a list of qualifiers to Louise Mascolo at louise.mascolo@sympatico.ca. L.Mascolo will ensure this information is posted on the District website.</p>	L. Mascolo
<p>c. Coordination of STACs The District Coordinator examined the 2016 tournament schedule and provided a schedule of 6 possible weeks to hold STACs during which there would be no apparent conflicts with other District tournaments. There was a consensus that we wanted to have more than six STACS.</p>	Unit reps
<p>Problems have occurred in the past wherein clubs have been invited by another Unit to participate in a STAC at the same time as a tournament in their Unit. It is the prerogative of the Unit to tell each of its clubs that they do not have permission to participate in these STACs during the time of a local tournament.</p>	B. Halliday
<p>This scheduling issue was tabled and will be discussed during an upcoming conference call. Meanwhile a Unit representative is to call the Coordinator- Bill Halliday to propose dates for their Unit's STACs.</p>	
<p>It was moved by P. Clark and seconded by H. Peckett that profits made by a STAC be prorated and given to participating Units based upon their participation starting with STACs taking place after January 1, 2016. Carried.</p>	
<p>d. Change to Terms of the George Retek Trophy Formal approval was asked to affirm a decision taken by email by the Executive to add the following words to the Terms: "In addition, eligible recipients who have passed away since the last presentation may receive this honour posthumously". Approved. It was moved by H. Peckett and seconded by L. Moscolo that this addition be made to the Terms of the CLW Trophy. Carried.</p>	
<p>e. Replacement of Member on the CLW-G. Retek Selection Committee. J. laTraverse volunteered to replace H. Peckett on the committee. His term is for 3 years. G. Retek has two more years to serve and Kathie Macnab one more year.</p>	
<p>f. Grass Roots Fund The District has received \$6,583 in Grass Roots monies and disbursed \$3,200 in 2015 for 16 pairs who participated in NAP events. Two proposals (G. Retek and K. Macnab) were tabled outlining various ways of distributing the monies among GNT and NAP winners. K. Gregoire brought up a point that possibly we should consider equalizing the payment to the NAP winners, who although winning their Area, are deemed to place second every second year. (The split District Finals deem the winners to be from the East one year and the West the next year).</p>	L. Weniger

<p>L. Weniger is to check with the ACBL about any possible changes to the NAP funding.</p> <p>No decision was taken on the distribution of the funds for 2016.</p> <p>g. GNT Schedules and Conditions of Contest. In accordance with the proposal tabled in 2014 to try and increase attendance in these events, a “stand alone” 2014 District Final was held in Halifax for Flights A and C. 19 teams participated. The Open and Flight B flights were held in conjunction with the Quebec Regional. Only 1 team showed up to play in each category. Having these events as part of a regional tournament has never worked in attracting many teams.</p> <p>L. Mascolo noted that there seems to be less interest in these events. She noted that no Flight had more than 16 Districts represented at the National Finals in Chicago.</p> <p>In 2016, the Eastern Area will hold District Finals for the Open and B Flights, while the Western Area will be responsible for the A and C Finals. J. LaTraverse said Unit 151 would coordinate and structure a “stand alone” 1-day event for these two Finals.</p> <p>h. Doug Heron Award Unit 230 is once again the recipient for having the greatest growth in members. D. Hamilton has sent a letter of congratulations to Unit 230.</p>	
<p>8. District Charity Game The John McAdam District-Wide Charity Game will be held on Wednesday afternoon November 4, 2015. Carol Hamilton will look after getting information out to the clubs.</p>	C. Hamilton
<p>9. Other Business</p> <p>a. District Conference Calls The District will continue to schedule conference calls every 3-4 months.</p> <p>b. Alzheimer's Longest Day Activities Many ACBL clubs have supported these activities. The CBF will now be coordinating a “Trump Alzheimer's” event June 21, 2016 in order that funds raised will remain with the Canadian Alzheimer's Society. D. Hamilton tabled a proposal made by the CBF.</p> <p>c. Training of Directors It was agreed that for 2 tournaments each year, the District and applicable Unit would pay the cost of having an extra director who would be in training during the length of the tournament.</p> <p>d. Conflicting Tournament Dates M. Plaisir noted that he had received information stating that there was going to be a conflict in the dates of the Unit 152 Regional bridge tournament and the CBF Bridge Week in 2017. Unit 152 has already made commitments for space as its Regional has traditionally been scheduled over the Victoria Day holiday. D. Hamilton will follow-up with the CBF.</p> <p>e. Rules Regarding Membership of Winners of District 1 GNT Teams It is the aim of District 1 to send the best possible teams to the National Finals. The</p>	<p>D. Hamilton</p> <p>M. Plaisir D. Hamilton B. Halliday</p>

<p>conditions now only permit teams to add players who have participated in the District Final or have represented our District in previous years. This condition can be problematic as sometimes there is only one team entering the event.</p> <p>The following rule was accepted, to be effective with the winning team (s) for 2016.</p> <p>“Should a team winning the District Final wish to substitute or augment players, it may do so, providing at least three members of the original qualifying team remain. Players substituting or augmenting a team should have at least as many master points as the upper limit of the immediately preceding master point bracket. For purposes of this rule, master points awarded for on-line play are not to be included.</p>		
<p>10. Election and Appointment of Officers</p>		
<p>President Past President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer Charity Discipline Recorder Appeals Education and Membership NAP Coordinator GNT Coordinator Special Events/Tournament Coordinator Website Coordinator</p>	<p>Douglas Hamilton Peter Clark Yves Chartrand Heather Peckett Jean LaTraverse Carol Hamilton Peter Clark Nick L’Ecuyer Zygmunt Marcinski Kathie Macnab Louise Mascolo Kathie Macnab Bill Halliday Douglas Hamilton</p>	
<p>11. Adjournment Meeting was adjourned. The 2016 AGM will be held in Montreal, early Saturday evening August 13, 2016 during the CANAM.</p>		