

Minutes of Annual Meeting
ACBL District 1
October 2, 2021
(via ZOOM)

Present:

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| Rob Williams | President/Treasurer | rob.williams@ns.sympatico.ca |
| Sandra MacPherson | Vice-President | smacpherson67@gmail.com |
| Leo Weniger | District Director | leowen@eastlink.ca |
| George Retek | Director Emeritus | gbridgeretek@gmail.com |
| Heather Peckett | Secretary | bridgecat@rogers.com |
| Jean La Traverse | Past-President | jlatraverse@videotron.ca |
| Jacques Caouette | Unit 152 | jacques.caouette@videotron.ca |
| Herve Chatagnier | Unit 152 | hervechatagnier@gmail.com |
| Tim Edwards-Davies | Unit 192 | time-d@rogers.com |
| Kevin Gregoire | Unit 151 | kevingregoire@videotron.ca |
| Jim Kirby | Unit 194 | jamesandbrendakirby@gmail.com |
| Christine Bourbeau | Unit 151 | christine1.bourbeau@gmail.com |
| Irene Churchill | Unit 192 | imchurch@nrtco.net |
| Kathie Macnab | GNT Coordinator | kmacnab@eastlink.ca |
| Robert Guérard | NAP Coordinator | rguerard@me.com |
| Louise Mascolo | Webmaster | mascolo.louise@gmail.com |

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| <p>1. Call to Order and Welcome R. Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.</p> | |
| <p>2. Minutes The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were reviewed. It was moved by S. MacPherson and seconded by K. Macnab that the Minutes be approved. Carried.</p> | |
| <p>3. Treasurer's Report R. Williams presented the financial statements for 2020. A decision on the disposition of the NABC Fund will be taken once the District has a better understanding of when Montreal might be able to hold an NABC. The GIC which matured on September 17, 2021 will be reinvested shortly. A transfer of \$4,000 was made previously from the Grass Roots Funds to cover District operations for a few years. It was moved by J. La Traverse and seconded by K. Gregoire that the financial statements be approved. Carried.</p> | |

4. District Director's Report

L. Weniger expressed his gratitude to everyone who assisted him during the 9 years that he was District Director. During this past year, the ABCL Board has continued with frequent Zoom meetings. Strategic Planning has been made very difficult as the ACBL wants to help clubs as much as possible but yet keep online bridge as it has become very popular.

If the ACBL cancels a Regional they might provide monies to cover major expenses incurred by the Unit/District.

Next year there will be 3 appointments to the Advisory Council (replacement of the Board of Governors). If anyone wants to put their name forward, send an Email to the Director of Elections prior to the end of May 2022.

T. Edwards-Davies asked about a July report that gave recommendations on how to help clubs return back to their face-to-face games. L. Weniger said that he is not sure that there is a written report.

K. Macnab reported that she has been on an advisory committee involving teachers and club owners/managers looking at ways to ensure the arrangements for the two types of games will be most beneficial for everyone. K. Macnab welcomes all thoughts and suggestions.

In response to a question raised by J. La Traverse, L. Weniger stated that the ACBL plans to continue with its 3 NABCs each year.

5. Executive Committee Reports

R. Williams noted that the main decision taken was to revise the District Bylaws. The advent of ACBL Regions and the replacement of the Board of Governors by an Advisory Council necessitated a rewrite of the Bylaws. S. MacPherson undertook this responsibility. As the District did not host any Regionals during 2020 and 2021, the original schedule proposed for 2020 will resume in 2022, and those for 2021 in 2023.

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| <p>6. District Website</p> <p>L. Mascolo reported that the website pages are up to date as are the links to the new ACBL website. There is nothing to report on the 2019 proposal for a Communication Strategy for the website.</p> <p>L. Mascolo asked that all information regarding the GNTs and NAPs be sent for posting.</p> | <p>K. Macnab R. Guérard</p> |
| <p>7. Grass Roots Funds</p> <p>J. La Traverse moved that the District maintain the same level of funding (\$750) for Unit projects that help promote bridge to benefit newer players. The “approval” committee consisting of K. Macnab, G. Retek and J. La Traverse will complete their term for the 2021 requests. Committee members for 2022 will need to be named. S. MacPherson seconded the Motion. Carried.</p> | <p>K. Macnab G. Retek J. La Traverse</p> |
| <p>8. Revisions to the District Bylaws</p> <p>S. MacPherson highlighted the areas which received the greatest rewrite. They include the change from the Board of Governors to an Advisory Council, consideration of the role(s) and membership of the Regional Director/District Director on the Board. Additionally, changes were made to Article 12 to provide for a financial review committee to review the financial statements and to ensure the existence of all assets over \$10,000.</p> <p>K. Macnab moved that the changes to the District Bylaws as discussed be approved. G. Retek seconded the motion. Carried</p> <p>The Bylaws take effect October 2, 2021.</p> | |
| <p>9. Update on GNTs</p> <p>The coordinators will have to decide whether to have on line or face-to-face competitions for the 4 Flights. J. La Traverse noted that with so few teams in the two top Flights it would make sense to have online Finals. A decision will be taken by February 28, 2022 on whether we will have face-to-face or online finals.</p> <p>If each “Area” holds a final event for the B and C flights with more than 8 teams in each flight, each Area can send a team to the Finals. District Finals have to be held by the end of May 2022.</p> | <p>K. Macnab R. Guérard.</p> |

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| <p>10. Update on NAPs Over 1,000 individuals have qualified at the club level. R. Guérard reported that the ACBL has set out strict rules for online play. K. Macnab wondered if we should have 2 or 4-session events. The number of entrants should determine whether the final will be a 2 or 4-session event. For the winners of the 2022 Open and A Flights the top ACBL subsidy of \$700 goes to the Eastern Area, and \$300 goes to the West, and the reverse for the second pair. For the B and C flights, 2 pairs from each flight receive subsidy from the ACBL (\$750 and \$300). K. Macnab and R. Guérard will discuss and determine the format for the District Finals.</p> <p>Typically funding of \$200 has been provided from the Grass Roots Fund to each player in Flights B and C participating in the ACBL Final at the NABC. Without new funding, a question was raised as to whether we might use 50% of the profits from the District Finals for subsidies. K. Macnab suggested we wait until after the event to decide on any allotment.</p> | R. Guérard K. Macnab |
| <p>11. Schedule and Sanctions for 22-23-24 Tournaments J. Kirby will join M. Lacroix and T. Edwards-Davies on the committee to review and recommend the tournament schedule for Regionals and Sectionals for the next 3 years.</p> | M. Lacroix J. Kirby T. Edwards-Davies |
| <p>12. Doug Heron Award The Acadian Unit 230 is the recipient of this award for 2020.</p> | |
| <p>13. GR and CLW Winners As Chair of the 2021 selection committee, L. Weniger announced that Nicole Hardy from Unit 152 was selected to receive the George Retek Trophy posthumously. Ms Hardy had been a tireless worker over the years bringing new players to the game. Trisha from Unit 194 is the recipient of the CLW trophy. Ms Malazdrewicz was mentored by Karl Hicks and is now a well respected Associate Tournament Director. S. MacPherson noted that she had put forward T. Malazdrewicz's name as a candidate for the ACBL Goodwill Member of the year.</p> <p>G. Retek noted that it is better to have each Unit purchase the award and then to be reimbursed by the District. The permanent trophies are being held in Montreal. It was too difficult to arrange for transport back and forth from the areas where the trophies were presented.</p> | T. Edwards-Davies H. Chatagnier S. MacPherson |

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| <p>S. MacPherson will replace L. Weniger on the 2022 Selection Committee for a 3-year term. T. Edwards-Davies (Chair) and Herve Chatagnier will be the other members.</p> <p>L. Weniger will provide the list of all winners and related Terms of Reference for each trophy to L. Mascolo for posting on the District website.</p> | <p>L. Weniger L. Mascolo</p> |
| <p>14. District Charity Game The John McAdam District-Wide Charity Game will be held on Thursday afternoon November 4, 2021. J. La Traverse will organize and get the sanction for the 2021 game. Although a STAC for Unit 192 is noted on the tournament schedule for that week, T. Edwards-Davies said that it will not be held as planned.</p> | <p>J. La Traverse</p> |
| <p>15. NABC Schedule J. La Traverse reported that our most likely time slot will be in Summer 2027. G. Retek and J. La Traverse reached out to the Montreal Tourism Bureau and tentative dates have been set aside for July 13-26, 2027. A letter of intent will be sent to the ACBL.</p> <p>Montreal Unit 151 would consider hosting the 2026 World Bridge Championships if the proposed NABC in Montreal is turned down by the ACBL.</p> <p>T. Edwards-Davies said a number of players in Unit 192 wondered why the District was going to give player entry rebates in the 2020 NABC to all Canadian players rather than those from District 1. This was done to promote a national approach to the NABC and to possibly be an example to District 2 as they plan for the 2024 NABC.</p> | <p>J. La Traverse</p> |
| <p>16. Appreciation to L. Weniger G. Retek formally thanked L. Weniger on behalf of the District for his 9 years of exemplary service to District 1. We appreciate his diligence in representing us on the ACBL Board.</p> | |

17. Election and Appointment of Officers

L. Weniger presented the report of the Nominating Committee regarding the election of the District Executive. Each individual confirmed his/her willingness to serve and was elected. Officers 2021-2022 year will be as follows:

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| President | Rob Williams |
| Past President | Jean La Traverse |
| Vice-President | Sandra MacPherson |
| Secretary | Heather Peckett |
| Treasurer | Jean La Traverse |
| Special Events/Tournament Coord. | Mark Lacroix |

Other District Chairs:

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| Charity | Mark Lacroix |
| Discipline | Peter Clark |
| Recorder | George Retek |
| Appeals | Zygmunt Marcinski |
| Education and Membership | Kathie Macnab |
| NAP Coordinator | Robert Guérard |
| GNT Coordinator | Gerardo Malazdrewicz |
| Website Coordinator | Louise Mascolo |

18. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned. 2022 meeting will take place in Montreal during the CANAM.