

Minutes of Annual Meeting  
ACBL District 1  
September 8, 2022  
(via ZOOM)

Present:

Rob Williams	President	<a href="mailto:rob.williams@ns.sympatico.ca">rob.williams@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Sandra MacPherson	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:smacpherson67@gmail.com">smacpherson67@gmail.com</a>
Leo Weniger	District Director	<a href="mailto:leowen@eastlink.ca">leowen@eastlink.ca</a>
Jonathan Steinberg	Regional Director	<a href="mailto:jonathan.st911@gmail.com">jonathan.st911@gmail.com</a>
George Retek	Director Emeritus	<a href="mailto:gbridgeretek@gmail.com">gbridgeretek@gmail.com</a>
Heather Peckett	Secretary	<a href="mailto:bridgecat@rogers.com">bridgecat@rogers.com</a>
Jean La Traverse	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jlatraverse@videotron.ca">jlatraverse@videotron.ca</a>
Mark Lacroix	Dist Tourn Coord.	<a href="mailto:mark@u2candoit.club">mark@u2candoit.club</a>
Jacques Caouette	Unit 152	<a href="mailto:jacques.caouette@videotron.ca">jacques.caouette@videotron.ca</a>
Colin Brodie	Unit 192	<a href="mailto:colcin_brodie@yahoo.com">colcin_brodie@yahoo.com</a>
Tim Edwards-Davies	Unit 192	<a href="mailto:time-d@rogers.com">time-d@rogers.com</a>
Gilles Benoit	Unit 151	<a href="mailto:gilleslbenoit@gmail.com">gilleslbenoit@gmail.com</a>
Diane Donovan	Unit 230	<a href="mailto:didonovan55@gmail.com">didonovan55@gmail.com</a>
Robert Guérard	NAP Coordinator	<a href="mailto:rguerard@me.com">rguerard@me.com</a>
Louise Mascolo	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:mascolo.louise@gmail.com">mascolo.louise@gmail.com</a>
Jim Kirby	Unit 194	<a href="mailto:jamesandbrendakirby@gmail.com">jamesandbrendakirby@gmail.com</a>

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Call to Order and Welcome</b></p> <p>The President called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Two minutes of silence were observed due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the 2021 AGM were reviewed. J. Steinberg moved and J. La Traverse seconded the motion that the Minutes be approved. Carried.</p>	
<p><b>3. Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>J. La Traverse presented the financial statements for 2021. An independent committee conducted a review of the financial records. One member verified that the information in the bank statements was consistent with the financial records.</p> <p>The District will receive a grant of \$750 from the Regional at Sea which will be docking in Montreal. For its operations, the District has been using a transfer of \$4,000 from the Grass Roots Fund. It was moved by</p>	

<p>G. Benoit and seconded by D. Donovan that the financial statements be approved. Carried.</p>	
<p><b>4. Summary of Executive Meetings</b></p> <p>The District covered the extra table fees for the Royal STAC that was held earlier in 2022, but will not cover fees for the one to take place September 15-19, 2022.</p> <p>Montreal will not seek to host an NABC in the near future. The ACBL has determined that Montreal is no longer an affordable space. Provincial and municipal subsidies and grants which were available in 2020 are no longer available. See item 6 below for the proposal for the use of the levies collected from the Units in support of the 2020 Montreal NABC.</p> <p>The District will be working with the ACBL Education Foundation as it is developing a program to support additional teachers who offer lessons at clubs who hold face-to-face games.</p> <p>The subsidies and representation for District NAP and GNT events were approved.</p>	
<p><b>5. Regional Director's Report</b></p> <p>Although the ACBL will soon be organized into 13 Regions, each with a Director, Districts will remain as they are.</p> <p>J. Steinberg believes that tournament attendance is getting better as the year goes on.</p> <p>ACBL membership is in a 6-7% downward trend which the Board is trying to reverse. District 1 membership has declined 3.1% from March 2022 to the end of August 2022. It is hoped that the new teaching programs will reverse the downward trend.</p> <p>The ACBL is hopeful the EDGAR program will ease the investigation processes related to online play.</p>	
<p><b>6. Motion for the Use of Funds collected for the 2020 NABC</b></p> <p>J. La Traverse reported that the ACBL forwarded a Request for Proposal (RFP) to a few potential host cities for the Spring 2027 NABC. The proposal was examined by Tourisme Montréal and Palais des Congrès, the latter indicating that the facility was not available for the requested dates.</p> <p>Additionally, with the decline in ACBL membership, the number of local clubs closing, the cancellation of several District tournaments, the recovery from COVID and the rising inflation, the District will not pursue the possibility of Montreal hosting an NABC for the next few years.</p> <p>The District proposes to use the 2020 Fund to support clubs and Units. Use of \$50,000 will be for an active recruitment program with the goal of</p>	

<p>getting 1,000 new members. An additional \$7,500 will be for marketing and social media campaigns.</p> <p>The District will be coordinating its efforts with the ACBL and its incentive program for teachers.</p> <p>J. Kirby and D. Donovan said their Units are losing money and had hoped to get their money back.</p> <p>J. La Traverse reiterated that the operation of Regionals is given by the ACBL to each District. The District can in turn delegate the operation of these Regionals to Units, including any profits or losses incurred. When needed, the District may impose levies at any time.</p> <p>Units needing money should approach the District separately.</p> <p>H. Peckett asked what the connection is with the marketing program Unit 151 has established. S. MacPherson said they will review the results of the evaluation when it is finished.</p> <p>M. Lacroix noted that it is the city clubs that seem to be having problems getting their players back “face-to-face”.</p> <p>It was moved by J. La Traverse and seconded by S. MacPherson that the motion to use the 2020 to initiate an active recruitment program be approved.</p> <p>G. Benoit stated that Unit 151 would not be supporting the motion.</p> <p>The President conducted a vote by secret ballot in accordance with the District Bylaws.</p> <p>The Motion was carried.</p> <p>The President thanked J. La Traverse, G. Retek and S. MacPherson for their work in preparing this proposal.</p>	
<p><b>7. Grass Roots Funds</b></p> <p>A total of \$3,000 was paid to four Units for the benefit of newer players within their Units. The District will continue to review project requests submitted until November 1, 2022. The “approval” committee has consisted of K. Macnab, G. Retek and J. La Traverse.</p>	<p>J. La Traverse G. Retek K. Macnab</p>
<p><b>8. Update on GNT</b></p> <p>The top two Flights will on on-line events, and the lower flights will be face-to-face events. Scheduling arrangements are in process</p>	<p>G. Malazdrewicz</p>
<p><b>9. Update on NAPs</b></p> <p>The Conditions of Contest have been sent out.</p> <p>Flight A will be an online event (October 15<sup>th</sup>) for the whole District. Flight B: Bridge Studio (Halifax) and Club Bridge Québec (Laval)</p>	<p>R. Guérard</p>

<p>on October 29<sup>th</sup>.  Flight C: Moncton Bridge Club and Club Bridge Québec (Laval)  on October 15<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>For separate East/West events, the winner will be deemed to come from the East this year and 2<sup>nd</sup> place from the West.</p>													
<p><b>10. Doug Heron Award</b></p> <p>The Acadian Unit 230 is the recipient of this award for 2021.</p>													
<p><b>11. GR and CLW Trophy Winners</b></p> <p>As Chair of the 2022 selection committee, T. Edwards-Davies reported that Louise Mascolo from Unit 151 was selected to receive the George Retek Trophy. Sol Weinstein is the recipient of the CLW Trophy. He will forward the detailed information on the achievements of each winner to be posted on the District website.</p> <p>Arrangements will be made to present each award at a Unit 151 tournament when convenient for the recipients.</p> <p>H. Peckett will replace T. Edwards-Davies on the 2023 Selection Committee. H. Chatagnier is serving his 3<sup>rd</sup> term and S. MacPherson her second.</p>													
<p><b>12. District Charity Game</b></p> <p>The John McAdam District-Wide Charity Game will be held on Tuesday afternoon November 8, 2022. Jean will organize and get the sanction for the game.</p>	<p>J. La Traverse</p>												
<p><b>13. Election and Appointment of Officers</b></p> <p>G. Retek presented the report of the Nominating Committee ( L. Weniger and H. Peckett) regarding the election of the District Executive. There were no further nominations for the slate of officers proposed by the Committee except for that of District Tournament Coordinator. The Committee recommended Trisha Malazdrewicz. Tim nominated Mark who was willing to let his name stand for election. An election by secret ballot confirmed Mark as the District Tournament Coordinator.</p> <p>The Officers for 22-23 will be:</p> <table data-bbox="154 1648 1079 1890"> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Rob Williams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Past President</td> <td>Jean La Traverse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice-President</td> <td>Sandra MacPherson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Heather Peckett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Jean La Traverse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special Events/Tournament Coord.</td> <td>Mark Lacroix</td> </tr> </table>	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	
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<p>Other District Chairs to be appointed by the President:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Charity</td> <td>Jean La Traverse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discipline</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recorder</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appeals</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education and Membership</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAP Coordinator</td> <td>Robert Guérard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GNT Coordinator</td> <td>Gerardo Malazdrewicz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Website Coordinator</td> <td>Louise Mascolo</td> </tr> </table>	Charity	Jean La Traverse	Discipline	TBA	Recorder	TBA	Appeals	TBA	Education and Membership	TBA	NAP Coordinator	Robert Guérard	GNT Coordinator	Gerardo Malazdrewicz	Website Coordinator	Louise Mascolo	<p>R. Williams</p>
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<p><b>14. Adjournment</b></p> <p>Meeting was adjourned. 2023 meeting will take place in Montreal during the CANAM.</p>																	