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To: Mike Wavada
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District Directors Report Summer 2020

When New Years came January 1st, none of us could foresee the crazy events that were about to unfurl on us. Covid-19 has turned the world upside down, and the bridge world along with it.

The ACBL board has met at least twice a month and committees have met several times also making this the busiest time for board members in history. Our meetings are virtual (online) as we have got past the reluctance to meet this way with the members I am happy to say. I was the first to volunteer to help run the meetings online to ascertain success, I setup and moderated the

first 8 meetings (President Heth ran the meetings) until everyone was onboard and that function has been taken over by ACBL IT department now.

What has happened you need to know:

First at the Summer Meeting the “Board Reorganization” motion passed 18-7 on the second reading.

That means starting next year there will not be an election for District Director as that position is now in name only at the District level. Replacing the position will be “Regional Representative” for district D25 this means that our voting will be combined with District 24 to elect a Regional Representative. According to the plan the RR will not represent the districts that vote for them, but rather only have allegiance to the ACBL and its best interests, the things that your DD does for stakeholders in the past you will contact your District President

to bring to the ACBL.

I did not vote for this plan and I feel it's a shame for us to lose direct representation to the board. I did create an alternate motion with Past President and Chair of the Board Suzi Subeck that would reduce the board size but keep the DD position viable, but it failed to overcome the motion that was in second reading, failed 5-20

I also put in a motion to allow units and districts to run their current tournaments on BBO, sharing revenue with the units/districts and ACBL as well as BBO, and management opposed it killing the chances of passing, they would rather have "national type" regionals with all the money going to the ACBL, additionally they said it would be hard to manage in spite of the fact that many more clubs are running online now, I felt it was important for the units and districts to remain relevant to their players. This motion failed 5-19-1

Second: The Transition Task force is planning to move major committees off the board like Bridge and Masterpoints (Already off the board) and use experienced people to work these committees.

Third: Online Bridge is here to stay! The board allowed management to react in swift manner to get ACBL clubs online running games, many of you have played in them and the proceeds support the clubs and the ACBL. Some decisions were made regarding Masterpoints (awarding higher Masterpoints online than in clubs) I do not agree with, they also created the popular silver linings weeks awarding silver points in clubs at 3X rating (higher than sectionals) that I also do not agree with and it was not vetted in the Masterpoint committee or voted on by the board. However, we told them to do what they think will work and now we have some more Masterpoint inflation, but the games are a success, so they did well in the majority

opinion.

There is currently a plan to reduce the MP in online club games (and allow special games awarding more) like live bridge was, as well as deflate the value of colorless points moving forward to somewhere in the 10-20% for rank advancement to encourage Virtual Club play and not BBO Speedball play for serious players. This is not official but the recommendation that is coming to the board I expect it to pass.

Fourth, Cheating Online: Serious steps have been taken to set algorithms to detect cheating and they have been very successful, it may not catch everyone, but I can tell you many D25 players have been suspended along the way and major players across the country have been snared in the traps they have. Word to the wise do not cheat online you are likely to be caught.

Masterpoints: There is a serious move to

transition them to a strength of field (SOF) rather than just table count and especially not punish those who win events that do not have a “Gold Rush” event running concurrently. This motion to allow the transition carried 25-0-0

We added a NABC 0-2500 Four session Swiss to the Spring NABC 25-0-0

More of interest:

Summer of 2021 we are hopeful that the NABC will be on in Providence, this is still on track to play, fingers crossed this is a great venue and good for D25.

Many members have asked me to help them get their stay at the host hotel during an NABC, room blocks fill quickly so remember to guarantee a hotel at the host hotels at NABC’s you must become a Patron Member to get that perquisite, otherwise you are at

the mercy of the room blocks.

You can donate to the ACBL Charity Fund if you use Amazon for shopping, by using smile.amazon.com you pay the same price and donate to a charity, choose ACBL Charity foundation, [here is how](#)

Lastly, I hope this message finds you all well and staying safe.

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