

Scorecard Article – April 4, 2019

Memphis provided a delightful setting and southern hospitality for the NABC which had 9644 tables and was higher than budget by 7.2%. 2019 continues to see reduced costs and improved operations. Here are the key Board actions from our meeting:

The Code of Disciplinary Regulations was amended to impose a lifetime ban of members who are expelled for premeditated collusive cheating or who resigned their membership to avoid prosecution in NABC+ or equivalent events in the future. Prior regulations allowed for the possibility of readmission after a minimum 5-year ban provided guilt was admitted and rehabilitation was demonstrated. The possibility for readmission still exists for convictions in lower level events.

In conjunction with this change, the Board directed management to establish a policy for voluntary relinquishment of titles by the teammates of those convicted of collusive cheating. We deferred to the Las Vegas meeting proposed changes that would strip titles from teams won prior to conviction for collusive cheating of members of the team.

A task force with representatives from the Board of Governors and Board of Directors presented a draft of a restructuring proposal. While still very much in the development stages, the initial draft includes two governing bodies – the Executive Board (now the BOD) and the Senate (now the BOG). The Executive Board would consist of approximately nine members and would be charged with the general overall guidance of the League with focus on strategic planning, accounting, and Executive Director review. The Senate would be charged with the oversight of all bridge-related business. This would include tournaments, masterpoints, Hall of Fame, NABC scheduling, etc. More information can be found at: <https://www.acbl.org/bog-meeting-docs/>

There is a lot of work to be done to develop this plan and a lot of questions to be answered about feasibility. The task force will be meeting electronically over the next couple of months and face-to-face at the Las Vegas NABC. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

The ACBL Educational Foundation also met in Memphis and conducted interviews of Executive Director candidates. By the time this is published, the Executive Director should be in place. This is an important step for the Foundation as we begin to focus on strategic projects to increase bridge awareness and play across North America. Professor Samantha Punch made a presentation on her work at the University of Stirling in Scotland on the sociology of bridge and its benefits along with proposals for research to be conducted over the next year. She'd raised about 50% of the cost in Europe and the Foundation agreed to match funds she raised in North America up to \$15,000 and that had been achieved by the end of the tournament. I'm looking forward to seeing the results of her work.

I hope all of you are enjoying the spring season and the renewal it brings!

