

## **Scorecard Article – “Montreal Meeting”**

I’m sure that each of you is getting a bit frustrated with enduring the Covid 19 pandemic as I know that I am. While the current news on a vaccine gives us hope for the future, current conditions are not hopeful for early return to normal activities. I’m very thankful for online bridge as it helps me get through the day. Stay safe; stay healthy and we’ll come out of this together!

The ACBL Board of Directors met from July 14 thru 16 using Zoom. The committees had all met prior to the meeting, so the meeting moved along well and we were able to accomplish a lot of business in 13 hours of sessions. Here are some highlights:

**Board Restructuring** – We voted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the motion passed in March and it passed by a vote of 18 – 7 and was ratified by the Board of Governors at its July 19 meeting. Beginning next year elections will be for Regional Director and D16 is combined with D15 to vote for a regional director in 2021. Each year the board will be smaller and in 2025 will be at 13 members. While not perfect, this structure culminates efforts over the past 30 plus years to shrink the size of the board. The most recent effort started in earnest when Bob Hamman and Paul Street made a presentation to the Board in early 2015.

**Restructuring Task Force** – Led by Chairman Kevin Lane of D23 and Jeff Overby of D9, the task force had four motions to move activities from the board of directors to management. All passed with huge margins. The reason for mentioning them here is not their individual importance, but acceptance by the board of the principle that management should be responsible to the board for all of the “bridge” activities rather than having the board vote on every change in this area. In our November meeting, we’ll have the rest of these motions and I expect there’ll be extensive debate when the most significant bridge activities are proposed to be transferred.

**Strength of Field** – This motion brings a concept that has been debated for many years to fruition. The masterpoint awards for regional and sectional pairs and Swiss team events will now include a strength of field factor as measured by the masterpoints of the competitors. It continues to include the number of competitors in the event as a factor, but eliminates “credit” for masterpoint limited events which are played simultaneously. Doug Couchman did the mathematical modelling behind the motion and was quite eloquent in defending it on behalf of the Masterpoint Committee. This motion requires a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading which is planned to occur in our November meeting.

**ACBL’s financial position** continues to improve and we’re now forecasting a small net income for 2020. As activities continue to increase, furloughed employees are returning to work. The virtual club games and associated tournaments on BBO have greatly helped Clubs, the ACBL and players cope with the pandemic.

**ACBL Educational Foundation** – The Foundation had its board meeting on July 18 using Zoom. The Foundation is active in supporting two near term efforts. The first is **Tricky Bridge**, which is an Apple App that teaches bridge in a fun and engaging way. Early release is underway outside of North America and full release is expected in late summer. Development is on track and we expect 60+ lessons in the release with more to be added.

A contract for the **Social Bridge Online** website has been awarded and completion is expected by the end of August. The website will provide links to content about bridge and to **Trickster Cards** where groups can play. A marketing campaign will be conducted using both e-mail and social media to attract new people to bridge and social bridge players to support these activities.