

MINUTES
ACBL District 18 Board Meeting
11 March 2025, 6:00pm MDT
Online via Zoom

Attendees

Andy Anderson, President and former SK representative
Dan Dover, Treasurer (CAD) and AB representative
James Dulmage, SK representative
Ray Fink, Secretary and WY representative
Crystal Mann, D18 GNT Coordinator (new)
Doug Mann, D18 STaC Coordinator
Melissa Martin, D18 GNT Coordinator (outgoing)
Irene Monical, UT representative
Doug Rankin, D19 Tournament Coordinator
Tom Romine, Treasurer (USD) and MT representative
Tim White, Region 13 Director

Agenda Items

1. Minutes of the previous board meeting (11 November 2024) were approved.
2. Election of Officers. Dan Dover was elected as Board President. The Board welcomed James Dulmage as the new Saskatchewan representative, replacing Andy Anderson effective 1 April 2025. Tom Romine was appointed as Disciplinary Chair, replacing Andy Anderson. Crystal Mann was appointed as GNT Coordinator, replacing Melissa Martin. James Dulmage was appointed as Guidelines Administrator.

MOTION: That Danial Dover and James Dulmage shall be the only two signature authorities on the District 18 accounts with Royal Bank of Canada; only one signature is required to approve payments. Robert Anderson shall be removed as a signature authority.

Moved: Ray Fink. Seconded: Tom Romine **Approved unanimously.**

ACTION: Dan Dover and James Dulmage will make necessary arrangement with

Royal Bank of Canada.

3. Region 13 Director Report. Tim White noted that the North American Pairs event for 2025-2026 will now have four flights, matching the Grand National Teams flights. Tim had previously sent all D18 members a newsletter highlighting recent ACBL Board of Directors actions. Rather than repeating that material, Tim described his current activities on BOD committees and task forces.

Doug Rankin raised a question with Tim regarding the ACBL-specified exchange rate between CAD and USD, noting that current specified rate was out-of-date and costing a recent Canadian regional a significant extra charge.

4. Financial Status Report (US) Tom Romine said that most recent receipts from ACBL included approximately \$2300 proceeds from the recent STaC, and \$45 in unidentified funds. The current balance in the US account is USD\$17,835.67
5. Financial Status Report (CAD) Dan Dover provided financial reports for the Canadian account; current cash balance is CAD\$48,006.20. There are also \$4500 in deferred expenses, specifically \$3500 of deposits made for Saskatoon 2025 and a \$1000 deposit for Red Deer 2025.
6. GNT Report Melissa Martin reported that the D18 GNT Finals were held online March 28-29, 2025. Two teams entered in Flight C, and six teams in Flight B. The winning teams in both flights intend to participate in the National finals in Providence. Entry fees received were USD\$765 from US-based teams, and a similar amount from Canadian teams. Tournament expenses included \$832.50 for ACBL director and table fees, and approximately \$400 for the special software that Jay Whipple provides for running online team games. Very few clubs held GNT qualifying games this year; most of the revenue for this event came from the entry fees for the District final, and from ACBL distribution of funds from Grass Roots games (intended to support both GNT and NAP).

The board discussed what travel subsidy the District would provide to the two teams attending the National finals. The District GNT event operates at a loss when travel subsidies are included. There was some discussion about the disparity in entry fees paid by the Flight B winners (USD\$360) and the Flight C winners (only CAD\$50, reduced fees for university students) and thus whether the teams should receive the same travel subsidy amounts. Tim White noted that District 19 is not providing any

travel subsidies to their GNT teams this year.

Board Decision: The District will provide a travel subsidy of \$600 (local currency) to each qualifying teams that participates in the National finals.

The board discussed this year's requirement for GNT qualifying at the club level, with a buy-in provision for non-qualifying participants to enter the District final. Many clubs in the District are too small to run a team game, and some club owners in larger clubs are not interested in running team games due to lower turnout.

Board Decision: For 2025-2026 Grand National Teams, the District will not require club-level qualifying to participate in the District GNT Finals.

Crystal Mann will take over as District GNT Coordinator.

7. STaC Report Doug Mann reported that the recent Royal STaC (in March, run by District 20) had 583 tables total; this included District 18 participation of 278 tables. Net income to the District was USD\$660. A D18-only STaC is in progress this week, concluding May 11th.

District 18 will participate in a Royal STaC to be conducted by D20, during the week November 10-16, 2025.

District 18 will conduct a regular STaC later this year. Dates are TBD, possibly beginning Oct 22, or else in December after the NABCs have concluded.

8. NAP Report Ray Fink reported that last year's District NAP Finals ran at a net loss of approximately USD\$150; BBO handled all of the entry fees, at a withholding charge approximately 25%.

Proposed dates for this year's District Finals are Saturday November 8 (Flights A & C) and Saturday November 15 (Flight B). Assuming similar participation as last year, the District can break even at USD\$13 per player per session if the District collects entry fees directly from players, resulting in no charges by BBO.

Board Decision: For 2025-2026 North American Pairs, the District 18 final will be held online November 8th and 15th. Entry fees will be USD\$15/player/session, or CAD \$20/player/session. Ray Fink will collect fees from USA players; Crystal Mann

will collect entry fees from Canadian players.

ACTION: Ray Fink to prepare District 18 Conditions of Contest accordingly, and send to ACBL for approval. Ray will investigate whether the event can be held on RealBridge instead of BridgeBase.

Post-Meeting Addendum: *ACBL published the 2025-2026 North American Pairs Conditions of Contest. The CoC state (in Appendix III – Online District Finals) that online District finals “will be hosted by Bridge Base Online (BBO), which is currently the only approved host. BBO will charge a fee of 25% of gross entry sales to host the event.”*

9. Webmaster Report Andy Anderson noted that the website <https://www.wasumi.org/> website is operational, no significant changes. James Dulmage will take over from Andy as interface with any needed change requests with Jackson Chan.

MOTION: That the Board pay a CAD\$500 honorarium to Jackson Chan in recognition of his continued work on the website. Moved: James Dulmage. Seconded: Tom Romine. **Approved unanimously.**

10. Regional Reports 2024

Saskatoon 0-750 regional in July lost about \$400. The Saskatoon unit does not want to hold another one.

Calgary regional lost about \$4000, due to entry fees being too low, and a tournament configuration/schedule that required extra ACBL director coverage.

Lethbridge 0-750 regional made about \$1900.

Helena regional in September, 342 tables, net \$3522. This was held in low-cost venue.

11. Upcoming Regionals 2025

The Saskatoon regional (July 7-14) is on track, expected to do okay financially. The tournament will be held at the Saskatoon club, hence low costs. Andy Anderson and James Dulmage are the contacts. [Andy]

Red Deer Regional (August 11-17). The hotel is booked. There is a contract in place to move equipment from/to Calgary for the tournament. [Andy]

Billings Regional (September 8-14). The event will be held at the county fairgrounds,

a low-cost venue. Based on last year's Helena regional, this tournament is expected to show a net profit. Camping spaces will be available at the fairgrounds location. There was some delay in obtaining final approvals from the county; they required proof of liability insurance from us. This issue was successfully resolved with ACBL HQ. [Tom]

Lethbridge I/N Regional (September 19-21) Will be held in conjunction with their sectional. This event made money last year, and is expected to do the same this year [Doug]

Regina I/N Regional (October). This event will not be held. They do not want to run an I/N regional in the same year that Saskatchewan is hosting an open regional [Andy].

Edmonton Regional 2026. Doug Rankin advises that it is time to set the dates for this and get the tournament sanction.

12. Old Business

- a. Financial policy for 0-750 regionals There had been previous concern regarding sharing of ACBL funding with a club that is a for-profit enterprise, and whether that could jeopardize ACBL's nonprofit status. The clubs involved are all non-profit, so this turns out to not be an issue. A combined sectional and I/N regional usually results in 30-50% increased turnout compared to a sectional alone, with relatively little cost increase. Determining separate cost breakdown for regional versus sectional aspect of the tournament can be difficult.

Board Decision: When held in conjunction with a sectional tournament, the financial gain/loss responsibility for an I/N regional resides with the hosting unit.

- b. GNT Travel Subsidies Per discussion earlier in the meeting, the District will provide travel subsidy of \$600 (local currency) per team

13. New Business

- a. Regional equipment and supplies. Some tournaments are able to obtain tables, bidding boxes, board sets, etc from local clubs, other tournaments have to rent additional equipment. The District has been allocating \$3/table

for this purpose. This amount is sometimes more than enough, sometimes not; Calgary costs were \$4.50/table plus \$300 transportation.

Board Decision: We will keep the \$3/table guideline, but the District will cover overage where necessary.

- b. Tournament site plans. The Calgary regional had high costs for extra ACBL directors due to the layout of the playing site, with split rooms requiring two directors simultaneously. Crystal Mann recommends that tournament committees get Doug Rankin (or someone with equivalent expertise) involved in the site selection process so that we can avoid these excess costs in future tournaments.
- c. Tournament entry fees. Going forward, ACBL now requires that tournament entry fees be stated on the tournament flyer. This is a change from the previous “recommended but not required” [Doug Rankin].
- d. Next board meeting
ACTION: Dan Dover will establish date and time for a fall board meeting .

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Minutes prepared by Ray Fink, District 18 Secretary.