

American Darts Organization
Board of Directors Meeting
January 19, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

Board members present:

President David Hascup

Communications Officer Steve Brown

Area 2 Manager Mike Sexton

Area 4 Manager Beth Newby

Area 6 Manager Matt Stoner

ADO Office Manager Katie Harris

Vice President Joe Hogan

Area 1 Manager Steve Moore

Area 3 Manager Chris Helms

Area 5 Manager Tom Sawyer

National Youth Manager Jason Demers

Voting Strength – 10

Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 9:45 am President Hascup called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Apologies for the absence of General Secretary Carolyn Camp and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Inman were announced.

President Hascup introduced new Board Members Newby, Stoner, and Demers to the rest of the Board. Everyone welcomed them to the Board.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the August meeting. Passed unanimously.

BDO-Ranked Events

President Hascup stressed that in 2017, ADO tournaments that are also BDO-ranked must follow BDO rules. The men's 501 singles must start with Best-of-5 legs (minimum), with Top 64 going to Best-of-7 (minimum). The women's 501 singles must start with Best-of-5 legs (minimum), with Top 16 going to Best-of-7 legs (minimum).

The BDO events must be seeded according to the BDO Invitational Tables. Detailed information regarding seeding and other rules/procedures will be posted on the ADO website, and will also be distributed to all BDO-ranked event Tournament Directors.

It was again stressed that there was to be a maximum of ONE BDO-ranked tournament per weekend in the US, and the BDO stipulates that there can be no BDO-ranked tournament that clashes with the Lakeside World Championship or the Winmau World Masters.

World Darts Federation World Cup

The dates for the 2017 WDF World Cup will be held in Kobe, Japan, on October 3-7. The ADO will be sending a team of 4 Men and 4 Women to represent the United States. Payments for the World Cup must be made by June 2017.

Team Captains for the World Cup have yet to be decided.

Professional Darts Corporation

The PDC will be hosting events at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. These are the North American Championship, and the US Darts Masters. The dates are July 13-15. Eight North American players will qualify for the US Masters from the North American Championship, which is open to all North American players. The winner of the North American Championship will qualify for the 2018 William Hill World Championship in England.

ADO National Championships

The 2017 USA Classic in Stamford, CT, will be the last staging of the event. There were no other bids to host the 2018 East-West All Stars and National 501 Championships. It was discussed what the possible alternatives were, including moving the National 501 Championship to Las Vegas, and the following details were proposed :

Wednesday, January 17, 2017 : Players arrive

Thursday, January 18 2018 : National Cricket Championship

Friday, January 19, 2018 : National 501 Championship

Players qualifying for BOTH National Championships (501 and cricket) via the National Qualifier System receive :

- 1) Travel, and \$300 stipend

Players qualifying for ONE National Championship (501 or cricket) via the National Qualifier System receive :

- 1) Travel, and \$150 stipend
OR
- 2) Travel, and entry into the other National Championship

2017 National Team Members will receive :

- 1) Travel, \$150 stipend, and entry into the 2017 National 501 Championship (Stamford)
- 2) Travel, \$150 stipend, and entry into the 2018 National Cricket Championship (Las Vegas)
OR
- 3) Travel, and entry into both the 2018 National Championships (501 and Cricket)

2017 National Team Members can either forfeit their \$150 stipend to compete in the 2018 National 501 Championship, or qualify via the playoff system as normal. From 2018, the calendar will resolve itself, and the 2018 National Team Members will qualify for both events in Las Vegas in 2019.

Players ranked in the Top 16 of the ADO National Rankings (male or female) as of December 1, 2017, can enter both National Championships for \$300 (\$150 per event). The funds generated from the forfeited stipends and Top 16 buy-ins will be used to boost the National Championship purses.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the above proposal. Passed.

With the new schedule in place, the ADO January Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 17, rather than on the usual Thursday.

Due to a lack of bids for the remaining National Championships (World Masters and US Team), selection was deferred until the August Board Meeting.

ADO Youth

A motion was made and seconded to split the ADO National Youth Championship into separate events for Boys and Girls, effective for 2017. Passed unanimously.

Awards from the ADO Memorial Scholarship Fund will be made available to those placing in each event.

NB : A later stipulation was effected by the Trustees of the ADO Memorial Scholarship Fund that each category required a minimum participation of eight players for the full award availability. If there were fewer than eight players in a category, scholarships would only be available for the Top Two placings rather than the traditional Top Four placings. Again, this was a stipulation from the Trustees of the ADO Memorial Scholarship Fund (not administered by the American Darts Organization), and not from the ADO Board itself, which retains no jurisdiction over the allotment of scholarship funds).

With there being no USA Classic after 2017, and the 2018 National 501 Championship being switched to Las Vegas, discussions were held regarding the venue for future National Youth Championships..

A motion was made and seconded to award the ADO National Youth Championships to the tournament which hosted the ADO World Masters Nationals. Passed unanimously.

This way, all players qualifying for the Winmau World Masters (senior and youth) are decided the same weekend. It also allows more time to make travel arrangements should the World Masters be scheduled as early as September.

It is thought that the \$600 entry fee for the ADO National Youth Championship is prohibitive to some, even though much of that is returned to the youth player by way of travel expenses and stipend.

A motion was made and seconded to remove the \$600 entry fee for the National Youth Championship, and replace it with a nominal (probably \$50) entry fee. The National Youth Finalists will receive no travel or expense stipends. Passed unanimously.

Without requiring a substantial advance payment, it is hoped that this will help to increase youth participation, and the situation will be closely monitored.

The ADO will again be sending a Youth Team (one boy and one girl) to the WDF Americas Cup. The 2018 Americas Cup is due to be held in Turks and Caicos.

NB : The 2018 Americas Cup is now being held July 6-10 in Trinidad.

ADO Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund

Steve Moore reports that to be eligible for scholarship awards, youths must have 12 units in school, and must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Regional Director Expense Reimbursements

A motion was made and seconded to rescind a previous policy whereby Regional Directors who competed in a National Qualifier were not eligible for expense reimbursement. Passed unanimously.

Communications Officer Report

Communications Officer Brown reports that Area Managers must stress to their Regional Directors and Tournament Directors the importance of completing the relevant documents (either online, or hard copies) correctly, including all required information. All correspondence - particularly tournament/NQ results - must be submitted in a timely manner in order for players to be awarded the ranking points they earned.

Anyone making payments via Paypal should add a note of explanation; there are many payments being made without explanation, and it can take time to discover what they are for.

Steve Brown submitted his resignation from the post of ADO Communications Officer in order to take up a full-time position with the ADO Office. All paperwork and payments (including, but not limited to, memberships, tournament sanctioning and results, and National Qualifier scheduling and results) should now go to Steve, either via the ADO website, or to the ADO PO Box in Loveland, OH.

Katie Harris will be concentrating on book-keeping and financial tasks.

Discussions took place regarding the vacant position of Communications Officer. The duties of the Communications Officer (most notably the updating of the ADO website) are to be incorporated into the duties of the ADO Office staff. Rather than delete the position of Communications Officer, and reduce the voting strength of the ADO Board :

A motion was made and seconded that the position of Communications Officer was to be retained – vacant – and that further discussions be held regarding the future of the position, perhaps repurposing and renaming the position : ie as a “Player Liaison Officer”. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5.30pm