



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

December 7th, 2009

Houston Bridge Studio

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. Present were Pat Levy, President, Paul Cuneo, Vice-President, John Erickson, Secretary, Lauri Laufman, Robert Reichek, Kathy Hughes, Karen Nimmons and Joyce Ryan.

Also present for part of the meeting were Jim Woodward – Treasurer, and Dianna Gittelman.

Minutes of November Board Meeting

The minutes of the November meeting were approved by on-line poll.

Treasurer's Report

Jim

Jim submitted financial reports dated December 7, 2009.

Motion: To approve the December 7, 2009 financial reports.

The motion was seconded and approved.

John will send copies of the financial reports to Norm Gautier (the financial verifier).

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Dianna

Dianna presented a slate of six candidates for Board membership. The candidates are Beverly Cheatham, Richard Duble, Chuck Ensor, Jolie Hess, Mary Jane Kinnebrew and Robert Morris. Unit membership will be voting during the Election Sectional, April 23-25, 2010, and three candidates will be elected to replace the three board members who are completing their terms. The Board thanked Dianna and her committee for assembling such a fine list of candidates. Dianna also mentioned that our Unit Policies and Procedures handbook should stress that the deadline for candidate assembly is December 1, to allow for inclusion in the January-February Scorecard.



Reimbursements for Clubs Closed During NABC

Paul

All reimbursements have been completed.

STAC

Bob

The next Unit STAC will be held the week of January 11-17, 2010. The Board voted to continue the reduced tournament fee of \$1 per person per session. Participating clubs will need to register online with the ACBL, exactly as the October STAC. Changes have been made per Board discussions last month, as follows:

1) Any STAC game with a scheduled start time of 2:00 pm or earlier will be considered a day STAC game.

2) Any STAC game with a scheduled start time of later than 2:00 pm will be considered an evening STAC game.

3) Strata for the STAC games will be as follows:

OPEN	NON-MASTERS
A 2,000+	A 300-500
B 750-2,000	B 100-300
C 0-750	C 0-100

2010 Pro-Am

Paul

In an effort to improve attendance at next year's Pro-Am game, Paul proposed scheduling changes. Pursuant to board discussions, the 2010 Pro-Am will be moved to Thursday, September 30th, and held during the day. Also, the Daytime Unit Championship scheduled for September 11th will be moved to October 23rd.

Member Communications Committee

John

Betty Freedman submitted a report showing that attempts were made to contact 37 members. Betty wanted to point out that Gail Dowling is doing a particularly good job of contacting and reporting. John will send her an email, expressing the Board's appreciation.

Membership

John

Unit membership totals 2,497 as of November 30. This is an increase of 13 in the last month, and we had 22 new members join our Unit.

NAP/GNT

Robert

NAP – The Unit finals were completed, and the unit had 14, 17, and 9 qualifiers in flights A, B, and C, respectively. Qualifiers are eligible to compete in the District finals held in Austin on January 9-10, 2010. The Unit's treasury will benefit by approximately \$1,000 after sanction fees are paid. We need to remind the director to bill the unit for the sanction fees so that the club holding the event will not receive the charge.

GNT – Agreement has been reached with the Studio to hold the Unit Flights B & C events on Sunday, February 21st. Wolf Schroeter will be directing.

Supplies

Lauri



CW Woodworking delivered the new rolling carts, but it was discovered that the carts were too long for the lift gates. Thus, CW took back the carts, and shortened them to a seven foot length. Our cost was an additional \$300. Lauri moved supplies from the old to the new carts after delivery of the shortened new carts.

The partial inventory taken at the end of the October Sectional was completed by Lauri. She will donate or dispose of inventory items which no longer fit in the Unit's plans.

Our warehouse space will soon be moving to a location near US 290 & Jones Road. All our space will be on the ground level, but it will be a tighter fit for all our supplies.

Some tournament players have noted that some decks of playing cards are in poor shape. After discussion the Board asked Lauri to order 30 dozen new decks, which will be put in play during the Regional.

On-Line Partnership Desk

- Total number of registrants: 309
- Number who registered in the past 30 days: 13
- Number of partnership requests issued in the past 30 days: 46

Unit Web Site

The switch over to the new web site is complete.

Publicity

Pat

Bill Baker contacted local community newspapers about informing its readers of the upcoming Lone Star Regional.

Bridge in Schools

Bridgette Sandifer submitted a job description for her position as coordinator. It will be added to our Policies & Procedures manual.

Discussion concerned encouraging the teaching of bridge to students by a public school teacher at his own school. School policy does not allow the teacher to be paid extra for bridge teaching.

Motion: To provide a stipend of \$200 to a public school teacher who is TAP certified and provides 16 hours or more of bridge teaching to students in his district.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Old Business

Lone Star Regional

Dianna showed the Board samples of two proposed gifts for speakers at the LSR. One was a toothbrush sanitizing kit, and the other was a LifeHammer, a device that allows a driver to extricate himself from a vehicle in case of dire emergency. The Board was impressed with the



uniqueness and usefulness of both items, and told Dianna to make whatever choice seemed best.

Lauri reported that the only registration giveaway items not yet received are the pencils. They are expected soon.

Joyce reported that a party is planned for I/N players on Thursday. Cake and coffee should arrive around noon, followed by a brief presentation. The Mary Lee Bentley and Lynne Graham funds will be combined (approximately \$1,200) and \$210 from these funds will be used to help finance the party.

Pat assembled a list of 63 restaurants near the Marriott and had letters sent requesting a modest discount for tournament players patronizing the restaurant during the Regional.

New Player Services

Kathy

John was asked to inform Anne Page that the Scorecard needs to be corrected to reflect the three individuals who were chosen as New Player Services Coordinators: Janet Williams, Connie Montgomery and Lynn Luster.

Visit to Shriners

John

John arranged a visit to the Shriners new facility located on Harwin Avenue, just east of the Sam Houston Tollway. Pat, Paul, Kathy and John participated. While the ball room should easily fill our space needs, the occupancy permit has still not been obtained from the city. Thus, we decided that our plan to use the facility for the April Sectional would have to be abandoned.

New Business

Sectional Tournament Sites

Paul

Due to the decision of the Board to abandon the Shriners facility as the April Sectional venue, Paul contacted the Marriott about the possibility of holding the tournament there. He has received verbal approval from Marriott management, so we are proceeding with plans on that basis. Paul will also talk to the Marriott about holding the 2011 Election Sectional there.

Election Sectional

Bob Dowlen submitted a list of chairmen for the April tournament.

June Sectional

Kathy Hughes and Robert Reichek were appointed co-chairmen for the June Sectional at the Stafford Centre.

Electronic Scoring Pads

John

John spoke to tournament director Rick Beye about electronic scoring devices. Rick spoke about BridgeMate and BridgePad, said that both were good products, but preferred the BridgePad. John then spoke with a BridgePad representative, who said that their devices could be rented at a cost of \$.50 per session, plus shipping costs. John projected a need of 100 devices for all non I/N pair events (the devices are not meant to handle team event scoring) and estimated a cost of \$600 for the Regional. This cost would likely be completely offset by a reduced need for caddies.



Motion: To authorize the lease of BridgePad Electronic Scoring devices for the Lone Star Regional.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Social Bridge

The next social bridge event will be held at the Bridge Club of Houston on Sunday, March 14th. A proposed budget projected a loss of \$276.

Motion: To support the BCOH event up to a loss of \$500.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Scorecard and ACBL Article

A photo and article about Eric Snow's many contributions to the Unit and District has been submitted, and we hope for it to be printed in the ACBL Bulletin.

Tournament Calendar

Paul

The 2010 tournament calendar and sanction numbers have been finalized and e-mailed to all club owners and managers.

Holiday Party Reimbursement

Pat

Pat sent letters to all club owners/managers stating that the unit will give a subsidy of \$10 per table or the actual amount spent, whichever is less. The specifics were outlined in the letter.

Email re Life Master Qualifications

Pat

Pat sent letters/emails to Unit club owners/managers and teachers, reminding them of the higher requirements to achieve the rank of Life Master for all ACBL members who have not joined prior to December 31, 2009.

Executive Session

The Board discussed several issues in executive session throughout the meeting.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Erickson

Secretary

