

Minutes of Unit 174 Board Meeting

January 14, 2008

Bridge Studio of Houston

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Board members present were Bert Onstott, President, Jolie Hess, Vice President, Karen Nimmons, Secretary, Ed Groner, Joyce Ryan, John Erickson, Pat Levy, and JoDene Bond. Also present were Jim Woodward, Treasurer and Eric Snow, President of District 16.

GUESTS

District 16 and 2009 NABC Report – Eric Snow

Eric passed out to the board a preliminary budget for the 2009 NABC. The board reviewed it and asked a few questions. They are still looking for sponsors and are optimistic that a few companies will contribute. They hope to raise \$260,000.00 through ACBL Support, Player surcharges, corporate sponsorship, event sales and tee-shirt & raffle sales. He noted total expenses should be around \$230,000.00 and they hope to make a \$30,000 profit. He stated firmly they will not spend more money than what was raised.

MINUTES OF JANUARY BOD MEETING

The minutes were approved by electronic poll.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim said the budget is just a preliminary as of right now and doesn't need to be approved as he's waiting for year end figures to come in.

He passed around a written procedure to satisfy our auditors in regard to establishing a check and balance system overseeing the work of the treasurer. It outlined the procedures. He said it will start this month. Norm Gautier volunteered to help out with this. MOTION: Was made to adopt the Supplemental Cash Control Policy and that the policy be incorporated into the Unit Procedures Manual. It was seconded and approved.

Jim recommended counting the large items we have in storage for the year end inventory count. He said the small items can be done every 2-3 years.

Jim is now a Registered Agent of the State of Texas for our Unit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards/Flyers – Lauri

No report as Lauri was absent.

Bridge in Schools – Bert (for Carlyne Fox)

Joan Pleason taught 15 KIPP High School students during the week of January 7th. KIPP sent Carlyne an e-mail on January 2nd, asking us to teach the middle school starting on January 12th. Carlyne replied that we needed more lead time than that.

Also, there are some Club series books at the Studio that were given to us by the ACBL in conjunction with the last KIPP class. We didn't use them since we only taught Mini-Bridge, so Bert recommended that Joyce keep them.

Communications Committee – Bert (for Betty Freedman)

Bert reported that Betty has been swamped since she got back. She has been unable to reach Billie Sampson so she has gotten Robin Johnson to replace her. She also reported that she has almost finished assigning the January calls.

Membership – Bert

Membership is up 17 to 2323.

Last month's total	2314
New members	14
Reinstated members	7
Transfers in	10
Transfers out	-1
Deaths	-2
NLM to inactive status	-17
LM to unpaid status	-2
This month's total	2323

Bert also prepared some charts of membership, retention and new members. They can be seen on the Unit website and they are also posted on the bulletin board at the Studio.

Fund raising – Jolie

Jolie reported she received a letter from Kroger's announcing their new Kroger Share Card Program. It will now be open only to schools, churches and 501(c)3 organizations. This does not include us. All current participating organizations will be sent a check with the final payout in April. She also received a check for \$60.69.

She also reported she received a thank-you note from SV Rotary and Reading Is Fundamental for our donation.

I/N, Education and Book sales – Joyce

Joyce reported she hopes she has ordered enough books for the January classes. She said the cost was over \$1000.00. Laura Lee Jones and Lynne Graham bought 122 books.

Regarding Education, Joyce said Gerry Earnest requested 4 "Adventures in Duplicate" for a transition class.

Regarding I/N, Joyce reported that the Bridge Studio will begin offering a Monday evening beginner game in addition to the current 299er game. Notices were sent out to all of Gary King's students and former students. She also asked Laura Lee Jones and Lynne Graham to send out notices to their students as well. She said she was very pleased with the improvements in our unit in the area of novice games and she appreciates very much the Studio's willingness to work with the BOD on adding novice/intermediate games. Joyce also mentioned that she is overwhelmed with the attendance at the Mentor/Mentee game being held on the third Wednesday of each month. She started out hoping there would be 8-10 tables for the first game and they ended up having 24 and it's been growing ever since. The last game had 30 tables. She wanted to thank Donna Sparks for all her work in doing the partnerships and to Sue and JoDene for their work as well. The mentees are just raving about this new game.

NAP/GNT – Ed

The finals for the NAPs are in San Antonio Jan. 19-20. Ed expressed disappointment with the B flight as there were a lot of drop outs. He is looking for players in fill in the vacant slots. The other two flights, A & C will be well attended.

Ed said he has a director issue with the upcoming GNT in February. The board discussed the issues with Ed recommending the Bridge Studio running the game and providing the director. MOTION: Was made to pay Sue Williams \$500.00 to run the GNT game in February at the Houston Bridge Studio. This covers two directors for two sessions. It was seconded and approved.

STAC & Goodwill – Karen

Karen reported that 665 tables participated in the Unit StaC games. Everything went smoothly and no complaints were heard. Table count was up from last time by 74. Since StaC had just ended, all the expenses were not in and she could not write up a report.

Concerning Goodwill, 2 cards went out to members last month.

Supplies – John

John said he inventoried all the glasses and paperweights to make sure there would be enough for the Regional. Bert asked him to make sure he had an ample supply of the other things that would be needed for the Regional and that all the supplies needed to be at the Marriott on Friday morning.

Tournament Coordination – Pat

Pat said she has signed contracts for rooms in the Reliant Astrodome Hotel for the April Election Sectional and for rooms in the Comfort Suites and The Inn at Chimney Hill in College Station for the June Sectional.

She has notified all the club owners of the dates of the upcoming Unit Club Championships and the upcoming Charity games for 2008.

She said she also received from ACBL the names of the directors for the February Regional as well as the April Election Sectional.

OLD BUSINESS

April Sectional – Karen & Lauri

Karen asked Bert if he had the flyers, as he offered to print them on his home printer, and he had them. So she said the flyers are done and ready to be displayed at the Regional. She said she is working on getting someone to set up a concession stand. Most caterers only provide meals, so she will probably contact Gulf Coast Catering, who set up the concession stand at the October Sectional. She said she found out that not too many people do this type of work. She is undecided as to who will provide the Sunday meal. Everyone seemed to have liked BerryHill Tamales, so they may be a possibility again.

June Sectional- JoDene

Bert did not have the latest copy of the June Sectional schedule, so he told the board he would send out the schedule via e-mail and the board could vote electronically on Yahoo. JoDene was asked to set up the poll.

2008 Lone Star Regional – Bert & Jolie

Things are shaping up. Most things are done; a few things still remain. Here are some details.

Publicity

Quarter page ad in the January bulletin

Bert hopes everyone saw the quarter page ad in the January bulletin.

He hopes it was worth it.

Door Prize/Ad solicitation

Dianna is still working on door prizes. She and Peaches Eads are still visiting restaurants.

Sandy Stevens is going to have one of the caddies (perhaps Virginia Zilic) keep track of the names of the door prize recipients along with what they won so we can get them printed in the bulletin.

Classes

Betty Starzec has 15, 22, and 16 signed up for the TAP, Director's and Director's update classes, respectively.

Since we have more than ten signed up for the TAP class, the ACBL will charge us \$100 per person, so we'll be out the coffee money. Too bad, but no way to change it now. We might be able to cut the amount of coffee somewhat, now that we have firm numbers of participants.

Here's a projected P&L

TAP Class P&L		Director Course P&L	
Income		Income	
15 new attendees @ \$100 each	\$1,500	22 attendees @ \$75 each	\$1,650
3 repeat attendees @ free	\$0	16 update attendees @ \$20 each	\$320
Total Income	\$1,500	Total Income	\$1,970
Expenses		Expenses	
Coffee in room Sunday (4 gal reg, 2 gal decaf)	(\$436)	Coffee in room Sunday (4 gal reg, 2 gal decaf)	(\$436)
Coffee in room Monday (2 gal reg, 1 gal decaf)	(\$218)	Coffee in room Monday (6 gal reg, 3 gal decaf)	(\$654)
Podium microphone (2 days @ \$40)	(\$80)	Podium microphone (2 days @ \$40)	(\$80)
Flip chart	(\$10)	Projector and screen (2 days @ \$100)	(\$200)
ACBL charge for course	(\$1,500)	Instructor salary (session fees, 4 @ \$155)	(\$620)
		Instructor per diem (2 @ \$59)	(\$118)
		Instructor hotel (2 @ 105)	(\$210)
		Discs for participants	(\$10)
Total Expense	(\$2,580)	Total Expense	(\$2,328)
Profit/(Loss)	(\$744)	Profit/(Loss)	(\$358)

Restaurant Guide

Bert said he started on a restaurant guide. He's still waiting on Dianna to finalize the list of restaurants.

Gift entry sales

Wanda Meyer has sold a few, and sent the money to Jim. She told Bert she didn't think this program was worth continuing.

Bulletins

Donna Compton and Speedy Printing are on ready to go. We will be producing the bulletins in the 8 1/2" by 7" booklet form that Carolyn Peters saw at the Penticton Regional and suggested we copy. You can see the bulletins on this web site: <http://www.matchpointer.com/db.htm>. Scroll down to "Bridge By the Beach - 2007 Penticton Regional" and click on one of the bulletins to bring up a PDF file.

Bert will send Donna the following list by Jan 15th (if he can get it all by then):

- Tournament chairs' welcome message.
- Welcome message from Dan Morse.
- A schedule of I/N speakers.
- List of any special events i.e., district breakfast, I/N reception, volunteer reception, etc.
- Items to be in every issue – smoking policy, zero tolerance, etc.
- Pictures and write-ups for named events.
- Lists of volunteers
- The text/layout of any ads that have been sold.

Dianna Gittelman is sending her list of restaurants that have donated to Donna.

Speakers

Joyce has arranged for the speakers. Here's her list:

	NOON 12:30 – 1:00	EVENING 6:15 – 6:45
Tuesday	Bill Baker: Forcing No Trump	Michael Huston: Finesses
Wednesday	Toni Snow: Balancing	George Pisk: Bridge Humanics
Thursday	Eddie Wold and Robert Morris: Q&A	Mike Passell: Q&A Session
Friday	Vinh Tran: Suit Preference Signals	Eric Rodwell: Q&A Session
Saturday	Gary King Hand Evaluation: When to Bid More and When to Bid Less	Chris & Donna Compton:TBA

Bert thinks he should get a couple of posters made with the schedule. It has been posted on the unit web site.

Entry Labels

Sandy Stevens has agreed to handle printing entry labels. Bert needs to find someone to help her though, since we may well get 100 requests a night or more. In case you don't recall, we will be giving away a free page of labels like the one shown below to anyone who signs up to receive them.



N061342
Katherine Onstott
3303 N. Sutton Sq.
Stafford, TX

Event name sales

Twenty seven events have been named, which Bert thinks is a record. Here's the list:

	Event	Named For
1	Mon Open Pairs	Miller Quarles
2	Tue Open Pairs	Arlene Weingarten
3	Wed Open Pairs	Gus Plate
4	Thu Open Pairs	Nilo Jiwani
5	Fri Open Pairs	Betty & Milton Freedman
6	Sat Open Pairs	Ed Groner
7	Sun Open Pairs	Bill Land
8	Tue Night Swiss	Judith Hoffing
9	Wed Night Swiss	Nell Price
10	Thu Night Swiss	Eric & Toni Snow
11	Fri Night Swiss	Anna Marlatt
12	Sat Night Swiss	Morry Tabak
13	Fri-Sat AM Swiss	Bert Onstott
14	Sun Swiss	Vinh Tran
15	Sat Aft 299r	Anne Goldston
16	Tues Eve 299r	Jo Dene Bond
17	Thu Aft 299r	Henry Messer
18	Thurs 299r Pairs	Gary King
19	Fri 299r Pairs	Mary Lee Bentley
20	KO #1	Eric Snow
21	KO #2	Marcella Thomas
22	KO #3	Dan Morse
23	KO #4	Nell Price
24	KO #5	Unit 174 Board
25	KO #6	Walter Arnold
26	Sat Compact KO	Allen Baker
27	Evening Continuous Pairs	Houston Bridge Studio

All the two session pairs, all the KO's, all the Swiss, and several of the 299'r events have been sold. All that remain are a few 299r events and two of the three continuous pair events. The total collected so far is \$2,432. Bert has most of the photos and write ups and he's still collecting them.

Teacher - I/N reception & Volunteer reception

Lynda Paukune and Vicky Castleberry will arrange both. Bert gave them instructions and asked Carol Noble and Marsha to add their comments. He expects they will do a great job.

Invitation to ACBL CEO Jay Baum and ACBL President Dan Morse

Both Dan and Jay will be joining us. Jay will come Thursday and leave Sunday.

Photo banner

Lauri has arranged for the photo banner (thanks, Lauri!).

Pre-conference meeting with the hotel

Every year we hold a pre conference meeting with the hotel to meet the hotel staff and let them meet us. All board members and committee chairs are invited. This year it will be on Friday, February 1st at 10:00 am.

Pre-meeting with committee chairs

Jolie and Bert met with the committee chairs on Friday, January 4th at 3:00 pm. The meeting lasted about two hours and was quite useful in clarifying expectations and generating ideas.

Bert has a list of volunteers from Jane Armstrong and a photo and a list of volunteers from Karen Nimmons. Bert is still waiting on the lists from the other committee chairs.

Hotel Room Night Pickup

On January 14th we had a total of 983 room nights reserved. That compares well with last year's number on January 17th of 969. Here are the historical numbers (actual numbers for previous years, current registrations for this year).

Hotel Room Pickup for Lone Star Regional									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Thursday		1							
Friday		1							
Saturday	1	1		5					3
Sunday	7	6		12		1		12	15
Monday	100	106	55	89	67	66	1	95	136
Tuesday	146	142	87	134	108	100	63	145	168
Wednesday	165	164	99	158	120	108	97	154	175
Thursday	176	167	106	161	125	112	106	154	186
Friday	164	157	107	152	122	104	105	133	158
Saturday	136	124	88	114	90	81	97	106	115
Sunday	17	19	61	18	6	8	74	13	27
Monday				2			11		
Tuesday				1					
Wednesday				1					
Total Room Nights	912	888	603	847	638	580	554	812	983
Total Tables	2737	2785	2106	2684	2748	2590 1/2	2522	2857 1/2	2901 1/2
Room nights/table	0.33	0.32	0.29	0.32	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.28	0.34

We sold out our room block last year, and I expect we will again this year. Jolie and Bert have both been getting requests from players who have called the hotel and been quoted over \$200/night; all of these have been resolved to date.

This should help us when we start negotiating in March for 2011 and beyond. Particularly encouraging is the fact that a higher percentage of our players are staying at the Marriott, judging from the room nights per table number, which really dropped off 2004-2006.

Photographer

Ralda St. Pierre has volunteered to serve as photographer. Bert sent her detailed instructions.

There is a suggestion from Donna Sparks that we give the photographer a free hotel room instead of free plays. The board discussed this idea and decided

not to authorize it because the photographer is not required to be there before the start of the morning game.

On-Line Partnership Desk – John

John reported that Tom has been swamped with other work and expects to start on this project again in mid-January. Tom is still interested; we should be able to roll this out after the regional.

NEW BUSINESS

August Sectional – all

There were no assignees to this sectional, so Bert volunteered to co-chair with Pat. They had nothing to report at this time.

Review Regional Tournament Planning Section of Unit Procedures Manual – All

The board reviewed the above and made a few changes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for such a session.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and approved. The board adjourned at 10:22 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Nimmons, Secretary