



## Memorandum of Discussion

### ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

### Houston Bridge Studio

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were Pat Levy, President, Paul Cuneo, Vice-President, John Erickson, Secretary, Lauri Laufman, Robert Reichek, Kathy Hughes and Bob Dowlen. We welcome Kathy to her first meeting after being appointed to fill the remaining term of Sue Adamson.

Also present for part of the meeting were Jim Woodward – Treasurer, and Bert Onstott.

#### Minutes of August Board Meeting

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

#### Treasurer's Report

Jim submitted financial reports dated August 31, 2009. An item of discussion concerned the monthly cost of our warehouse rental. Jim stated that we pay about \$390 per month, a charge which has been constant for many years.

**Motion: To approve the August 31 financial reports.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

John will send a copy of the August 31 financial reports to Norm Gautier (the financial verifier) and will also send him a Quickbooks CD that Jim provided.

#### Committee Reports

##### STAC

**Bob**

Bob sent emails to all Unit club managers to inform them of the new procedures for applying for STAC games during the October 5-11 Unit STAC. Bob will confirm that all clubs have received the notification.

##### 2009 Pro-Am

**Paul**

Paul will apply for the sanction to make overall awards among the three clubs that will be holding Pro-Am games. A flyer has been prepared.



**Member Communications Committee****John**

Betty Freedman submitted a report showing that attempts were made to contact 30 members.

**Membership****John**

Unit membership totals 2,467 as of August 31. We have had 33 new members join our Unit in the past two months.

**I/N, Education & Book Sales****Joyce**

A total of 254 books were sold! Dave Glandorf says his classes are exploding. Teachers ordering books were Dave, Lynne Graham, Norm Gautier, Laura Lee Jones and Linda Brending. Joyce will be passing to some of the teachers the extra bidding cards from the tournament. Norm will be teaching basic bidding and play at BCOH, to be followed by a novice game.

Peggy Naughton said the Clear Lake club is planning a monthly novice/mentor game and that the club is bursting at the seams. She credits Dave with bringing in a lot of new members.

The August Sectional saw a good turnout of I/N players. Although initially apprehensive, almost all had fun after the initial confusion. Joyce thinks New Player Services should be separate from the I/N coordinator. An ACBL booklet outlines some things that could be done. A core group can greet new players at each tournament. Folders can be put together for them. Assistance with filling out convention cards can be given.

The new novice newsletter was well received. The next went out on August 30.

**Bridge in Schools****Pat**

Pat reported that Brigitte provided information from the ACBL on their teaching program. The Unit will be looking for certified teachers to teach in the schools, and we will be looking for schools to approach to offer the teaching program. A teacher can qualify to receive \$350 for teaching 16 hours of bridge lessons and running a championship game using the ACBL course materials.

**NAP/GNT****John/Robert**

*NAP*

Wolf Schroeter has agreed to direct the Unit finals on November 14-15. John has communicated with both venues and has prepared documents spelling out the conditions at both the Studio and BCOH. Robert will collect all the qualification data from Unit clubs, and in consultation with John Zilic, District Coordinator, will prepare a list of qualifiers for online publication.

**Tournament Coordination****Paul**

The details of the 2010 Unit calendar were reviewed, and Paul will apply for sanction changes needed.

**Supplies****Lauri**

As the two large rolling supply carts are in somewhat of a dilapidated condition, it has been suggested that the Unit obtain new and better ones. Bert Onstott presented plans for their construction. Paul, John and Robert will get cost estimates and forward them to Lauri for comparison with her own estimates before any motion is passed.

**Publicity****Pat**

Walter Arnold, manager of the JCC club, was featured in the Jewish Herald for his support with coupons for Fort Hood army families.



## Old Business

### August Sectional

Paul

The August 23-25 Sectional was very successful with attendance the largest of any Unit sectional since 1990. An additional director, John Smalley, needed to be called in. His arrival, on short notice, was much appreciated by the tournament co-chairmen.

**Motion: To purchase a \$100 gift card for John Smalley in appreciation of his efforts at the recent sectional.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Unit profited by about \$6,000 due to the sectional. It was noted that service for the Saturday lunch at the Marriott was very poor. Also, quite a few players commented on the best two out of five pairs events format versus the usual two session pairs on Saturday.

The celebration for Arlene Weingarten was well received. Bobbie Jones will submit some of the photos taken to the ACBL for possible publication in the Bulletin.

### Goodwill Nominee

Karen

Karen has prepared a letter to the National Goodwill Committee extolling the virtues of our nominee. The Board will review it and make comments.

### On-line Partnership Desk

There are now 271 registrants, with 18 new registrants in the past month. 84 partnership requests were issued in the past month.

### Unit web site

Bert has added search capability to the web site, but has encountered some problems. He hasn't been billed, and the search engine doesn't find all the occurrences of whatever is searched for. He is working with Google support to resolve these.

## New Business

### October Sectional

Paul/Lauri

Paul reviewed the revised tournament budget. The co-chairs are working on a caterer for the Sunday meal.

### Sectional Tournament Sites

John

John informed Therese of the Shriners that we would like the April 23-25 weekend in 2010, but they are still unable to formally rent the facility. A letter from the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Route #290 requested us to consider them for future tournaments, but Paul investigated and found that their meeting space does not fit our spacing and layout requirements.

### 2010 Lone Star Regional

Paul

The Regional schedule and budget prepared by Paul were reviewed and minor adjustments made. A new event on the schedule is the Gold Rush Pairs on Saturday. This is a two-session Flight B/C stratified event with an upper master point limit of 750 points. Gold points will be awarded to overall finishers in Flight B.

**Motion: To approve the Lone Star Regional schedule and budget.**



The motion was seconded and approved.

Additional advertising vehicles were discussed for the tournament. Paul will investigate the possibility of advertising on Bridge Base. Also, Beaumont may be interested in providing advertising for us at their October Regional.

**Motion: To approve the lending of bidding boxes and guidecards to Beaumont in exchange for their promotion of the Lone Star Regional.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### **April Sectional**

Robert and Bob have been appointed as co-chairmen for the Election Sectional in April.

### **Tournament Manager's Workshop**

**Paul**

Paul attended this workshop at the Washington D.C. NABC on July 24. The focus was on Regional tournaments. Significant ideas were as follows:

- 1) Some districts require Regional Daily Bulletins to advertise upcoming Regionals.
- 2) The Professional Convention Managers Assn. offers free resources to help us understand the mindset of hotel personnel we negotiate with.
- 3) Last minute room night attrition is becoming a problem due to lower rates being offered through discount web sites. Tournament managers may need to prove to hotel management which hotel residents are bridge players, regardless of their booking method.
- 4) The Gold Rush Pairs (now incorporated into the LSR) has been offered at New England Regionals.
- 5) Some regions are moving their main events to a 10:00 am/3:00 pm schedule.
- 6) Many districts mail postcards to their I/N players inviting them to attend Regionals. This appears to increase I/N table count.

### **Unit Growth Seminar**

At the district level Betty Starzec is chairman of a new committee called Unit Growth Strategies.

### **Aid for Clubs**

A Unit club requested help with expenses due to having to close during tournaments. The board discussed this and decided that Regionals and Sectionals are regular events, but that the NABC is an extraordinary event which lasts ten days and is a serious disruption to a club's schedule.

**Motion: To approve the reimbursement of rent-paying Unit clubs which closed during the March 2009 NABC. The Unit will subsidize one-third of the club's rent upon presentation of proper documentation in a timely manner.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Club Seeding**



The Board discussed a complaint that some clubs do not properly seed their games. John had previously phoned the ACBL and spoke to Butch Campbell. Butch stated that the ACBL policy is to encourage clubs to seed their games, but not to require it. Thus, the Board decided to take no action.

### **Social Bridge**

The BCOH wants to postpone the next event until the spring.

### **Box.Net**

Pat stressed the importance of posting all documents to box.net so that they will be available for reference in the future.

### **Executive Session**

The board spent about fifteen minutes in executive session.

### **Adjourn**

**Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.**

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Erickson

Secretary

