

Subject: Minutes of Unit 361/ACBL Board Meeting
Date: February 14, 2015
Location: Denver Metro Bridge Club
Time: 10:30am
In Attendance: Board Members: Joan Kushner, Margaret Devere, Phil Debus, Jim Calhoun,
Pat Henke, Shirley Heinsohn, Jeanne Achziger, Marilyn Ballon, Bonnie Smith
D17 Representatives: Jerry Ranney, Flo Newlin
Absent: Board Member: Al Kane
Legal Council: Forest Clark

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Kushner.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded and the January minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Phil Debus reported that the Unit usually budgets for a \$1200 loss after a Sectional, however, after the January Sectional a loss of \$2500 was incurred. \$2000 of that loss was due to a decrease in table count. The decrease in table count may have been due to the inclement weather and the Sunday Denver Bronco game. A portion of the loss is also due to the increase in cost of sponsoring the Dupli-Swiss events on Thursday night (single session) and on Sunday (double session), and the increase in costs of hospitality. Jerry Ranney suggested that a topic for discussion at future board meetings might be to change the date of one of our Sectionals so as to avoid some of these problems. Jerry Ranney is willing to put together a proposal for this and present it to the Board at a future meeting. Jeanne Achziger noted that there is a fair gap between tournaments scheduled in July to September. Jerry Ranney has all the future tournament dates and will check the list and inform the Board.

Phil Debus had already posted the report of the Balance Sheet and the Sectional Overview on-line and all members of the Board, D17 Representatives and Legal Council had received them. In addition, he had prepared an Income/expense statement from the January Sectional and a copy of this was given to each Board Member. He will continue to give a monthly summary of the treasury activity to the Board.

Monies collected for advertising in the upcoming bridge directory was given to Phil Debus for deposit.

A motion was made and seconded and the Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Flo Newlin gave all Board Members a gift from D17, a binder that had the designation " Denver 2015 Mountains of Gold, Fall North American Bridge Championship" on the front cover.

JANUARY SECTIONAL

Margaret Devere needs specific information regarding the Dupli-Swiss events for the flyers. Also, many members enjoyed the Dupli-Swiss events at the last tournament but there were some members who did not and although some did enjoy it, there were issues regarding increased time, awkwardness of the movement, not enough time for breaks, etc. She suggested that the membership be surveyed regarding this event and that Unit financial issues also be addressed in the survey that would include hospitality costs as well as costs of providing new events such as the Dupli-Swiss, Fast Pairs, etc. The Board agreed that a survey would facilitate the decisions made by the Board regarding the events and all hospitality offered in future tournaments. Margaret Devere will compose the survey and send the results to all Board members by e-mail.

Jim Calhoun iterated another issue that will have to be addressed: We may be considered a “beta site” for testing the ACBL’s computer scoring for all team games. The Board agreed that they did not want to be a test site for The ACBL’s new scoring procedure.

Joan Kushner addressed the issue of Directors for our Sectionals. She wished to know if we had a binding contract with Bill Michael. Apparently, she encountered members who were having issues with Bill Michael. Al Kane was unable to attend today’s Board meeting but as Tournament Chair, he will be asked to confer with Bill Michael regarding the Set-up of the Dupli-Swiss. The table arrangement of the Dupli-Swiss was unsatisfactory. The Board passed a motion to continue the Dupli-Swiss for this coming Sectional tournament and would make decisions about the continuation after this next tournament. The Board would like the tables arranged so the boards could be placed in the center of four tables and shared without having to skip two tables to pass them. This would cut down on the time for each round and make the margin for error less and generally make the enjoyment of the event increase and make the event for palatable for everyone and more user friendly. There were also issues of duplication of Boards in one of the Friday events. Al Kane will discuss this with Bill Michael in order to prevent this from happening in the future.

The decision was made regarding the July flyer to put “to be announced” regarding the Dupli-Swiss events. Once the decision is made, the announcement will be placed on the unit web-site. The Board wishes to have more information as to the inclusion of this event in future tournaments from experience and from the survey. Generally, the majority of the Board members felt that the inclusion of the Dupli-Swiss concept makes team events much fairer but the awkwardness and the time involved need to be addressed and hopefully corrected.

Joan Kushner discussed the suggested ban on “scents” and wanted to know if there was a diplomatic way to decrease the odor from cigarette smokers. This item will be placed on the agenda for another meeting.

COMMITTEE UP-DATES

Club Championships

One of the past duties of the Unit Secretary was to schedule 4 club championships a month and send out a calendar of these to the Unit’s clubs. Bonnie Smith reported that she would no longer be doing

this as she was instructed by the ACBL to stop. A letter from Patty Taylor, the Manager of club and Member Services of the ACBL, stated the following: "Club championship games belong the clubs, not to the Unit. The Unit should not be scheduling club championship games, the clubs should be scheduling the games themselves. Clubs may schedule one club championship game per quarter, per sanctioned session and report this with the club's month end report. There is no registration for these games. "

All the Unit club owners and/or managers were informed of this policy.

Bonnie Smith gave all Board members a copy of the "contact list" for Unit 361. It is to be noted that Frank Queen should be added to the list as the representative on the ACBL Board of Governors and that Forest Clark has a new phone number other than the one that is on the printed sheet.

Education

Jim Calhoun asked the Board to consider sponsoring a membership in the ACBL for some of his Lakewood High School students that attend his bridge class. At the last meeting, Flo Newlin gave the students a lesson with handouts and then Jim Callhoun, Flo Newlin, Cal Newlin and Bonnie Smith assisted the students with the bidding and play of prepared boards. There are up to four tables of students that take part in this class. Flo Newlin and Bonnie Smith felt that the Bulletin and the Forum would would be excellent educational tools and would encourage young people to continue with bridge.

After discussion, a motion was made by Phil Debus to allot \$300.00 to sponsor any of these students that would like a membership in the ACBL for one year. The cost would be \$15.00/student. Jim Calhoun will draft a "permission form" detailing the membership. This must be signed by the parents of the student allowing that student to accept the membership and become a member of the ACBL. After our Legal Council, Forest Clark reviews the permission slip and all implied legalities, Unit 361, after receipt of the signed permission slip from the student, will then pay for the students' memberships for one year. Further discussion may be held regarding follow-up to this sponsorship but this will be discussed at a future Board meeting. The motion was passed.

Jim Calhoun also announced that he is attending the tournament in Gatlinburg. The ACBL is conducting a training course for setting up Bridge Camps for High School Students. Jim volunteered to attend this course if sanctioned by the Unit. The cost of the course is \$25.00. The Board passed a motion to cover this cost and have Jim attend the course. Flo Newlin reported that many districts already have Bridge Camps in operation. They are very successful and allow younger players opportunities to play with other young people and gain more knowledge about the game. Flo Newlin plans to discuss this with D17 regarding the District's possible sponsorship of these camps.

Partnership/Membership/I/N

Pat Henke and Shirley Heinsohn showed a sample of the new "Membership Letter" to the Board and gave a copy of one to the Unit Secretary.

Shirley Heinsohn announced that the 299er tournament was all set to go. Blair Young will be the Director. Pat Henke and Shirley Heinsohn will be the Co-Chairs. The tournament is scheduled to be held on April 18and 19 at the Denver House of Cards. A copy of the flyer was given to the Secretary of the Unit.

Hospitality

Jeanne Achziger is all set for the upcoming Sectional.

UPDATE WEB-SITE

Margaret Devere reported that the flyers for the July Sectional are not completed.

The ACBL will be sending a letter discussing the Privacy Policy to all members. The Bridge Directory of Unit 361 is completed and will be going to the publisher next week. The Directory now includes the Privacy Policy requirements and they will be posted on our web-site and in Table Talk.

The flyers are ready for the spring I/N tournament. A copy of this flyer was given to the Secretary.

Jerry Ranney had proofed the Regional flyer and returned them to Margaret Devere. Jerry Ranney and will take the flyers to Tucson and he and Jim Calhoun will take them to Gatlinburg. There were no flyers available at the Loveland tournament. Some confusion was apparent as Bill Michael didn't bring them. Colorado Springs will have the flyers. Pueblo may not receive the flyers if a Board member does not attend.

The Statistical package was installed on our web-site and corrected. It revealed that many people were logging onto to the website.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

Jerry Ranney announced that a meeting will be held at the Hotel at 3:00pm next Thursday, February 19th. Everyone is invited, especially those on the various committees. The committee assignments are as follows:

Tournament Chair: Jerry Ranney

Registration and Hospitality: Jeanne Achziger

Caddies: Marilyn Ballon

Treasurer: Phil Debus

Partnerships: Shirley Heinsohn

Newer Player Program: Pat Henke

Supplies/Set-up: Al Kane

Tuesday Evening Charity Event: Carol Levinson;

Daily Bulletin: Carolyn Newcomb

Pro/Am Event: Nancy Rassbach, Pat Henke, Shirley

Speakers: Flo Newlin

Joan Kushner appointed Carol Levinson as the Regional Charity Chair.

The Susan Dittmer trophy will no longer be a "traveling trophy". It will now be a plaque.

FRONT RANGE CHALLENGE

Joan Kushner will be contacting Chris Champion who is the Colorado Springs Chair. The challenge event will be held in Colorado Springs this year.

DISTRICT 17 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flo Newlin will discuss the sponsoring of bridge camps with the D17 Board. Flo feels it is an excellent way to promote bridge among young people and will benefit the bridge communities as a whole.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Jim Calhoun reported that we have two printers; one only prints in blue and the other will only print if connected to the computer. He suggests purchasing a wireless camera that can send pictures wirelessly to a printer. The camera and printer would cost \$279.00. He suggests getting these before the March tournament along with a bag for storage. A motion was made and passed to purchase these for future photographic needs. Jim will purchase these items.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT UP-DATE

Joan Kushner and Bonnie Smith attended the meeting on February 12th. All committees had tasks assigned regarding setting up their respective budgets. Bonnie Smith reported that the pre-tournament plans were already done and the budget is pre-set by the ACBL.

ACTION LIST:

1. Al Kane will talk with Bill Michael about making the Dupli-Swiss events more user friendly and about the accurate duplication of boards in all events. (before March Sectional)
2. Margaret will complete the July flyer. (before March Sectional)
3. Jim Calhoun will draft a permission letter to be reviewed by Legal Council, Forest Clark and all Board members. The letter will be sent for review by e-mail.
4. Margaret Devere will draft a survey to be distributed at the March Sectional. The survey will address increasing costs, the Dupli-Swiss, new events, and any issues members wish to discuss. (before March Sectional)
5. Jim Calhoun will attend the Bridge Camp Session at Gatlinburg and then report his understandings to the Board members. (at Board meeting after that Regional)
6. Jim Calhoun will purchase a wireless camera and printer and put them in a portable bag for storage. (before March Sectional)
7. Joan Kushner will contact Chris Champion regarding the Front Range Challenge.
8. Jerry Ranney will attend Regional meeting at hotel on February 19th, 2015.

9. Jerry Ranney will prepare a proposal for possibly changing the date of one of our Sectional tournaments. He will check all tournament dates in the areas to avoid conflict and then will present the information to the Unit Board.
10. Flo Newlin will plans to present the prospect of bridge camps to the D17 Board Members.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at the Denver Metro Bridge Club at 10:30 am. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted

Bonnie Smith