

Minutes
WBL Board of Directors Meeting
May 2, 2001

In attendance: Barbara Doran , Steve Robinson, Barbara Shaw, Don Berman, Bob Bell, Dick Wegman, Bill Cole, Jim Allen, Michael Carroad, and Dave Ruderman.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Doran at 7:47 p.m. Without objection the minutes of the March 28, 2001 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Robinson reported that we have \$4246.71 as of May 2, 2001. We may need to take money from our savings account to cover the remaining Directory expense, second half of the dealing machine and the Annual Meeting expense. We have received \$2000.00 for the Regional and will be receiving \$10,000 more from the Mid-Atlantic for the Alexandria Regional. We will have no more income until next October. Discussion of our tangleble expenses insued. We pay no tax on personal property but we still pay sales tax. He reported that the annual legal insurance of \$161.00 has been sent. Jim Allen moved the report be accepted.

President Doran announced that we have been asked to nominate one person from the WBL for the National Goodwill Committee. She also reported for Barbara Rothkin that the directories will be ready by May 7, 2001. Where will the 40 boxes of directories be delivered? They will be ready for the annual meeting. Bill Cole suggested the we hire someone to deliver the directories to the annual meeting. We will need 4 boxes of 100 directories for the meeting. Barbara Shaw said she will call the Burkes and coordinate the delivery of the directories to the annual meeting.

The duplicating machine delivery was scheduled for the end of April and is not at Steve Robinsons yet. We have paid for 1/2 of it all ready. Robinson will look into it.

Robinson reported that the WBL Round Robin will start soon. He will wait until after the Unit Game to close the entries for the B & C levels. There is a meeting of the Round Robin Committee scheduled for after the Unit game Sunday. Steve has only 7 or 8 teams so far as of May 2.

Don Berman head of the Charity made his report. He suggested that we select the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. Of the entry fee \$4.80 goes to our charity and \$1.20 to the ACBL. Berman moved and it was approved.

Dick Wegman reported that the Christ the King Church has been confirmed for our annual meeting on May 17, and also for our Unit games beginning in September, 2001 after Labor Day. We have to make other arrangements for November 8, 2001. We can not use the church. No arrangements have been confirmed after the first of the year. Michael Carroad suggested the Wegman look into paying someone or increasing the rent for someone from the custodial staff to put up and take down the bridge tables. The church can handle 70 tables. Wegman reported that church functions come first and we will be given a one month notice if they need their facility. The church will supply storage for the tables. Jim Allen asked Wegman to look into getting an additional vestry room for teaching Easy Bridge at 7:00 on Thrusday nights.

Jim Allen reported that Thursday a.m. May 4, 2001 the game at the Washington Bridge Center will be part of the Sectional Tournament. Tim Crank will be the director of the 10:30 game. The Washington Bridge Center also has two Easy Bridge games taught by Leslie Schaefer, Wednesday a.m. about 6 tables and Monday p.m. about 10 tables. Edith McMullan will teach the Easy Bridge at the Regional Saturday a.m. The NLM tournament June 14-17, 2001 will be chaired by Suzanne Abrams and Charity Sacks. Senator Robert Packwood will man the partmership desk. There are no Easy Bridge books in the WBL inventory. We need to find our books.

Allen reported on the elections Fred King will replace Bob Bell and Barbara Shaw will replace Barbara Rothkin on the board. All positions are running unopposed.

Dave Ruderman reported that there has been a decline in attendance at the Unit Games. Michael Carroad confirment that attendance has dropped about 40% since moving from Kensington. Reasons for the decline were discussed. Flight C has no teaching and no interest. We may need partnership coordinators. Wegman said he=92d be glad to help. We need a partnership broker and maybe should use E-Mail. Cole remarked that people quit playing when they lose their partners. Ruderman said he would take a survey at the annual meeting and announce on Thursday nights to come to him for a partner for the next week. The idea of putting up a bulletin board for people who want partners to put cards up was suggested.

Bill Cole suggested we send invitations to novices for the Novice Game next October. We could get a list of the 0-49 players who have played over the last few months. He suggested we have hand records and perhaps hand analysis for that game. Jim Allen suggested coordinating that with the September NAP. Dave Ruderman, Dick Wegman, Barbara Rothkin and Barbara Shaw expressed interested in teaching the Thursday Novice lessons. Michael Carroad said our overall membership is down to 1700 from 2000.

Barbara Doran asked Board members if they wanted to switch jobs for next year. Please let her know. She thanked Bill Cole for hosting this meeting. The next meeting will be May 30, at her house at 1107 Dale Drive, Silver Spring. From The Beltway exit Colesville Road south toward Washington. Turn right on Dale Drive. You can=92t make a left turn onto Dale from Georgia Ave. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Shaw, Acting Secretary

Minutes WBL Board of Directors Meeting
May 30, 2001

In attendance: Barbara Doran, Barbara Shaw, Steve Robinson, Dave Ruderman, Bill Cole, Kathy Kruskal, Michael Carroad, Dick Wegman, Lee Jensen

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Doran at 7:35 p.m.

Without objection the minutes of the May 2, 2001 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Steve Robinson reported that we have \$7960.20 in our checking account.

President Barbara Doran reported that she attended both the Mid-Atlantic and District 6 meetings held in Richmond, Va. during the Regional. The main topic of interest discussed there was the collegiate bridge championships held on the internet. And she was asked that we encourage collegians in our area to participate.

She also discussed job assignments for the coming year. Dick Wegman will be in charge of the C&E Committee and Fred King will be in charge of Education.

We received a form to fill out from the ACBL listing our officers and other important committee members. They need our points of contact so they know to who to send information.

Barbara Doran will call John Lawrence about problems on the board dealing with Website information.

The appointment of three new members to the C&E committee has been postponed until next month. Finishing their 2 year terms are Ellen Cherniavsky, Micki Kivel and Elizabeth Nelson. Continuing on the committee for one more year are Ron Spath, Ben Laden and Turner.

Michael Carroad reported that we will not be able to use the Christ the King Church on November 8, 2001 and an alternative site must be found. Having the game at the Washington Bridge Center was proposed. Kathy Kruskal said there may be a problem. It was discussed that we may be losing the only full time bridge in the Washington area. They may be closing in September. Barbara Shaw said that as she understood it the club was losing money because their rent was so high. They needed to get about 10 more tables a week to keep open. Other problems were discussed. Bill Cole mentioned the pay of directors being high and the fact that we have so many Sectionals and GNT's here that affect the attendance at the club. Steve Robinson suggested that the WBL might buy the Club and operate a full time club instead of just one game a week. Michael Carroad cautioned showing favoritism for one club over another. Bill Cole mentioned that we have a sanction for one more sectional that we don't use. Perhaps we could run a sectional out of the Washington Bridge Center on a weekend. On June 10, 2001 the NVBA is having a special Non-Life Master game. Perhaps a game such as that at the club would help. Also it was mentioned that a few sectionally rated games at the club might help attendance. The loss of Washington's only full-time bridge club was a major concern of the board. Barbara Shaw suggested that we invite owners Jim Allen and Leslie Schafer to our next board meeting to discuss this problem and ways of solving it. Dick Wegman asked what happened in Northern Virginia when the Aces closed? Other area clubs were also discussed. The subject was tabled until the next meeting.

Michael Carroad said that we have an old computer which we replaced with a new one. He would like to sell the old computer to the Mid-Atlantic for their use at Regionals. Players were using it regularly at the Richmond Regional to check their master point totals. Dave Ruderman suggested that the price could be negotiated later.

Steve Robinson reported we are having trouble getting the new dealing machine. The manufacturer is having trouble getting the machine to include the 10 of spades. Apparently the machine can't read the 10 of spades. He will E-Mail them. We need the machine for the July 4th tournament.

Steve Robinson also reported that the WBL Round Robin is underway. We have 22 A/X teams and 6 C teams this year. He also said that it was unclear who plays free. Millard Nachtway, Michael Carroad, Nadine Wood, and Bryan Coleman receive free entry into the tournament because of the tireless work for the WBL which is not always recognized.

Kathy Kruskal reported that the Regional Tournament coming up is coming along fine. Chairman Lee Jensen, Kathy Kruskal and Millard Nachtway met with the Hotel management last week. They are moving the location of the Senior and Novice games this year. The Novice game will be upstairs in the middle room. The Senior games will be downstairs where the novices used to be. The target is for 2900 tables. A discussion ensued as to why the Hunt Valley tournament is 400 tables larger than Alexandria. The fact that parking was ample and free and it was also on a non-holiday weekend were given as major reasons.

Kathy then went on to discuss Nationals which are here in July, 2002. The schedule has been set. Charity Sack and Margo Hennings are in charge of fund raising. The continuing discussion about charging \$1.00 extra on a Saturday at one or two of our sectionals evolved. Margo Hennings National Chairperson has asked that we charge \$1.00 extra at the Saturday games at two of our

sectionals one this year and one next year. There seemed to be some confusion among returning board members as to whether they agreed to do this or not. Next year's sectionals are the 3rd week in January, 1st week in March, and the 2nd week in April. Michael Carroad suggested that we donate the money and not charge extra. Bill Cole suggested that we charge \$2.00 extra on 3 of our Thursday night unit games at which we only charge \$6.00. Kathy Kruskal said that Margo wants advertising at the sectionals for the upcoming Nationals. Their maybe ethics involved if the NVBA charges \$1.00 extra for their Saturday games and the WBL does not. Steve Robinson said a few months ago we voted to donate the money needed. Bill Cole moved that we charge \$2.00 extra at 3 Thursday night Unit games. Dick Wegman seconded the motion. Later in the discussion Bill Cole moved that we table the motion.

Kathy Kruskal also said that we needed to have the bank account statements sent to her. We need the Vice President to review the account since she is someone who doesn't sign the checks. We need to have Barbara Shaw's signature included as the new Secretary. The by-laws require two of three signatures on any checks even though the bank no longer requires that.

Dick Wegman talked to the Church and they are certainly happy to have us continue using the facility into the new year. However the church wants to wait until their new priest arrives for approval. They might have another room available for the class for novices. And we can certainly pay the maintenance man extra to set-up and take down the tables and chairs for our game. Steve Robinson asked Dick Wegman to ask about use of alternative restrooms.

Dave Ruderman reported the partnership committee will include Dick Wegman, Barbara Doran, Barbara Rothkin, and Barbara Shaw. They will probably have a coordinator for A, B, and C divisions. And he plans to use E-Mail.

Dave also reported that according to the surveys filled out at the annual meeting there is no real salient reason for the decline in attendance. Steve Robinson will send the survey out on E-Mail to all WBL members for whom he has an E-Mail address. Other suggestions for improving attendance included advertising in local college papers inviting people to play and include a coupon for a free play. We should contact American University, Georgetown, George Washington University, University of Maryland, Catholic University, Howard University, Montgomery College, and Galudette. It was also suggested that we put articles in the local Gazette Papers especially on the days they throw the paper free. Dick Wegman suggested that the article include a list of winners from the Thursday night unit game and an interesting hand from that evening. He volunteered to work on this.

At 9:20 the meeting was unofficially adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Shaw, Recording Secretary

WBL Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2001

In attendance: Barbara Doran, Barbara Shaw, Don Berman, Steve Robinson, Bill Cole, Fred King, Jim Allen, Lee Jensen, Dick Wegman and guests Jason Meyer and Alice Wegman.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Doran at 7:18 p.m.

Without objection the revised minutes of the May 30, 2001 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Steve Robinson reported that we have \$10,310.78 in out checking account and that includes STAC money. Steve reports that we still owe the NVBA for the STAC. The balance also includes \$2000.00 for the regional taken out of savings.

President Doran said that she received a call from Harris McClay from St. Elizabeths requesting money. Steve Robinson moved and Don Berman seconded that we send \$150.00 to the St. Elizabeth Bridge Club. The motion passed.

The board addressed the National fund raising issue. Steve Robinson moved and Don Berman seconded that we charge an extra dollar entry fee for all three sessions on Saturday at the October and April Sectionals and the surcharged funds raised will go to the National Tournament Fund. The motion passed.

The dealing machine is due to arrive any time. Steve Robinson last talked to the man in charge in mid-May. It should be here the end of June. Millard Nachtway knows that it may not be here for the regional. We have already sent a down payment of \$1720.00 with the full price being \$3400.00. Bill Cole suggested that Barbara Doran ask for a rebate or reduced fee since the arrival was delayed and resulted in our inability to use it for the regional.

Bill Cole reported on the Clubs. He had a meeting with Jim Allen, Leslie Shafer, and Kathy Kruskal on Monday June 11, 2001. They discussed ways in which the clubs could be helped so as not to close due to lack of income.

The first suggestion was to use our unused sanction for a sectional and run it out of the Washington Bridge Center and the Laurel Bridge Club. The clubs would pay for the expenses. The ACBL receives \$64.00 and \$2.11 per table. The clubs would keep all the profits about \$30.00 per table. It was mentioned that the WBL might help by advertising in the Mid-Atlantic insert in the Bulletin as any sectional we would have. Club Reps, the director in charge, and the tournament Chairpersons would be listed. It was suggested by Bill Cole that Millard Nachtway serve as Director and either Kathy Kruskal or Lee Jensen as Tournament Chairperson. There should be reservations for this sectional with Jim Allen and Mary Dresser do to the limited space available. Discussion ensued as to what would be the difference between this and a STAC? Bill Cole said that we would emphasize that this is a sectional. Lovenberg points would be given. Fred King asked about other clubs in the area wanting to participate. It was pointed out that no other clubs had games during the tournament period, but if one did, they would be welcome to participate. Lee Jensen was apprehensive because of possible problems such as size of space, schedule, change of site and split-sites. Bill Cole moved that the WBL run a sectional out of the Washington Bridge Center and the Laurel Bridge Club on a one year trial basis in a way and at a time mutually agreed upon by Jim Allen, Mary Dresser, Kathy Kruskal and most importantly Millard Nachtway with the Clubs sharing the expenses and splitting the profits. Barbara Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed with Don Berman recusing since he is an owner of the Laurel Club.

A second suggestion by Bill Cole for helping area clubs was for the WBL to pick up the Club's up front cost of the Easy Bridge books. The ACBL pays for 60%, the WBL 20% and the clubs 20% right now. I was also suggested that District 6 subsidize some of the cost. Barbara Doran said that District 6 is limited to subsidizing clubs for Easy Bridge the first 3 times they offer it and nothing further. Leslie Shafer will supply us with names of those people taking the Easy Bridge class. Dave Ruderman asked what the cost would be? Jim Allen said the it costs \$1400.00 per year with the WBL cost being \$280.00. He pays \$500.00 for the room, \$650.00 for the books and \$900.00 for the teacher. Dave Ruderman asked if there was any alternative to Easy Bridge and was informed there was none. Jim Allen said that Easy Bridge is worth it. Bill Cole moved that the WBL pay the up front cost for Easy-Bridge of any area club on a case by case basis. Barbara Shaw seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A third suggestion for assisting clubs was a special sectionally rated game the date to be determined later. There is a sectional scheduling meeting June 25, 2001 with Millard Nachtway. We would also pick up the up front cost of advertising. The ACBL pays 40%. Perhaps District 6 could subsidize some of the cost but we were told the District has no money. The clubs will supply the manpower. The Unit would pay over and above what the ACBL pays. Any area club would qualify for this, not just the full time clubs.

Jason Meyer was recognized by Barbara Doran and given the floor. He began speaking on an issue which more appropriately belonged in front of a C&E committee not the WBL Board. Steve Robinson expressed his opinion that behavior and conduct issues should not be discussed by E-Mail. Mr. Meyer was directed by President Doran and other members of the board to bring his complaint before the Unit C&E committee. Don Berman, Unit Recorder, said he received Mr. Meyer's E-Mail and was accepting it as a substitute recorder form. He is forwarding it to the C&E committee.

Dick Wegman, C&E Chairman, said he will appoint a committee to listen to the complaint. However, Mr. Wegman stated that he has reservations about the appeals process. At this time, Mr. Meyer was allowed to state his opinion that WBL Board members should set a higher standard of conduct than other WBL members. He also questioned the general principle of appeals committees.

President Doran announced that she had appointed Abby Heitner Reich as chairperson of a committee which included Donna Rogall, Ted Ying, Eric Landau with Millard Nachtway and Rich Coker as advisors. This committee is to look into the viability and credibility of appeals committees and ways to improve the appeals process. They will be asked to report their findings and conclusions to the board at the September Board Meeting.

Don Berman reported that Rich Coker, the National Recorder, sent him a 24 page report on the responsibilities of a recorder and the national zero-tolerance policy. The WBL adopted the principles of zero-tolerance without calling it that. The discussion was tabled until Michael Carroad could be present.

Dick Wegman reported on the meeting of the Partnership Committee (Dave Ruderman, Barbara Rothkin, Don Berman, Barbara Doran, and Barbara Shaw). Starting in September there will be a Flight A and Flight B/C coordinator. Flight A coordinator is Dick Wegman and Flight B/C coordinator is Barbara Rothkin. They will use E-Mail to try and link people together. They will call people to come and play. They will also work to link up teams. They will make a poster with an appropriate logo to put up Thursday nights. Alice Wegman volunteered to make the poster.

Dave Ruderman reported that the WBL STAC was a success. They had 4 tables less than last year. We still need to receive money from the NVBA. Dave suggested that we continue giving trophies to the winners of the STAC. Dave Ruderman moved that the WBL purchase 12 trophies for the winners of each individual STAC event to be engraved WBL-NVBA 2001 STAC Winner. Dick Wegman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jim Allen reported the results of the Non-Life Master Tournament. They had 129 tables and made \$416.00 which is less than he would have made had he run his regular games that weekend. He spent \$69.50 on trophies for the Thursday night session which brought in 19 tables for the Unit instead of the usual 7 or 8 tables and the Unit kept all the profits. Steve Robinson moved that the Unit pay for the trophies. Barbara Shaw seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jim Allen then expressed his ideas to get help for the area clubs. We need new teachers. Leslie Shafer will not be teaching the teacher's class at the Regional. We need new pupils. We need to start teaching again at the Unit games on Thursday nights. We need to put a letter in every package sent out to the clubs by Francis Burke. Alice Wegman suggested that we need to motivate people to learn the game. She suggested flyers at the hotels where regionals are held.

Barbara Doran thanked Dick Wegman for hosting the meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday August 15, 2001 at Dave Ruderman's. The September meeting will be the 19th at Barbara Shaw's.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Shaw, Recording Secretary

Barbara Doran and Bill Cole asked that these comments be part of the minutes.

Abby Reich has been appointed to chair a committee on improving the appeals process by Barbara Doran, the President of the Washington Bridge League, because Abby is very experienced in this area. This appointment is in no way a reflection of the job any appeals committee has done (the WBL's leading player feels the committee ruling on May 31st was reasonable). The committee was established because it has been many years since the process was examined.

The WBL Board realizes that at times volunteers are criticized for the work they do. We also realize that sometimes such criticism crosses the line into loud screaming and anti-social behavior. We do not want any player being abusive to other players. If a player feels they have been abused, they should use the existing process of informing the WBL Recorder and/or the Conduct and Ethics Chair.

Until a C&E committee has been held, conduct and ethics matters are confidential. Board members cannot publicly discuss pending C&E issues. When board members and friends or family of board members are involved in C&E matters or potential C&E matters, the Board cannot change existing policies.

This does not mean we are not concerned with complaints expressed. It just means we must resolve the issues using the mechanisms that have been in place during the past years.

Board members should hold themselves to a higher standard but no one else should hold them to

that standard.