

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2024 HBC BOG MEETING

CALL TO ORDER –President Jack Hund called the meeting to order at 10 AM on Saturday, January 27, 2024.

ROLL CALL- Also in attendance were BOG members: Jinan Bahia, Pat Bettger, Jim Boyer, Dave Charleston, Linda Davis, Bill Even, Jeanne Foley, Jacqueline Granite, Georgi Hess, Cecile Hund, Linda Ivanoff, Darius Kapadia, Pat Kaufold, Mike Mendelson, MaryRose Noto-Hardy, Jack Rudy and Andre St. Omer Roy. A quorum of voting members was present. Not attending were Len Crumb, Pam Murray, Tom Neiper, Ray Rizzo, Midge Sobolwewski and Tammy Stine. Arriving later was Club member, Russ Poppleton.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2023 BOG MEETING MINUTES – Dave made a motion to approve these minutes which were previously distributed by email and posted at the Club. This was seconded by Linda Ivanoff. The motion carried with no opposition or abstentions.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Jack Hund began by saying that the success of our member-owned Club depends on the efforts of our volunteers. He thanked the entire Board for all that they do and noted that the governors present are the future of our Club leadership. He then stated that his goal for this and all meetings was to be productive and get things done in a timely manner.

TREASURER’S REPORT – MaryRose then presented the December 2023 Treasurer’s Report. Currently, there is \$19,485.55 in the checking account, \$82,917.78 in the Money Market account, \$10,399.64 in CDs, and \$20,884 in Treasury I Bonds. She noted that the Money Market is currently earning 3.99%, that the CDs are earning 3.99%, which will be increasing to 4.88%, and that interest had dipped on the I Bonds, but was increasing to 5.27%. A motion was made by Linda Ivanoff and seconded by Dave to approve the Treasurer’s Report. The motion carried, with no opposition and no abstentions. The 2024 Budget Proposal was then presented. It was explained that the large increase in charity donations in 2023 was caused by the revenues from 75th Anniversary special games being donated to the Alzheimer’s Association. Estimated printing costs for 2024 are larger than normal because a new Membership Directory will be printed in the spring. MaryRose made a motion to approve the 2024 budget, which was seconded by Jim. The motion carried, with no opposition or abstentions.

MANAGERS’ REPORTS

HOUSE MANAGER'S REPORT – Mike summarized the House Manager activities since the October meeting. The carpet in the game room was recently cleaned and will be done every three months. The Education room carpet will be cleaned twice a year. The battery mechanism in one of the paper towel dispensers was replaced. Greg, who does our maintenance, has been asked for an estimate on reinforcing the particleboard under the roof shingles since there are several small leaks. The parking lot is due to be repaved and he has asked Greg for an estimate on that also. A griddle was donated to the Club, but it was decided not to install it as there seemed to be no need, it would have required electrical wiring work and it would have to be used in an unvented space which is an insurance liability. The griddle was gratefully accepted by Bethesda Mission. He then asked what we should do about the collection of HBC initialed glassware that is sitting on the storeroom. Linda Ivanoff mentioned that they were used at one time as prizes for beginner Club Championship games, so maybe the current Monday night and Wednesday afternoon games would be the places to start.

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT – Jim reported that he has had no counseling sessions since the last meeting and that the January 2024 table count should surpass last year's count.

He then asked for input from the Board on several games questions. February Swiss was recently been moved from the 28th to the 21st and Jim asked if moving it to STaC week on the 14th would be worthwhile. This game will remain on the 21st. Next, he noted that more night Open games for people who still work had been requested. Since this would involve only a small number of members, this request was tabled.

He then brought up that scheduling a 0-750 game on Tuesdays was not working because not enough players showed up for the game and he thought that it should be canceled. After discussion, it was decided that Bill would survey players about what it would take to get them to the game and Mike would do the same at his Wednesday minilesson. Included in the surveys would be the option of changing the 0-750 game to a 0-500 game. A decision was delayed until survey results could be considered.

The last topic was the possible addition of a third Saturday game in months with a fifth Saturday. Jack Hund mentioned that one or two Saturday/Sunday Swiss team games were already on the 2024 calendar. It was decided to wait until after these games are held to make a decision on a scheduling a regular third Saturday game and whether this should be a Swiss teams or pairs game. As a result of this discussion, which included the fact that only Jim and Bob Priest are currently directing Swiss games, Dave volunteered to learn to do so. It was also mentioned that Carl Fahnestock used to direct Swiss games at the White Rose Club and might be willing to direct them at HBC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Bill stated that Malin Castronuovo had applied for reinstatement. Dave made a motion to accept her application and this was seconded by Linda Ivanoff. The motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions. There are now 371 members, including 59 Lifetime Members and 7 Emeritus Members. Dave made a motion to make

long time member, Ethel Cohen, an Emeritus Member. This was seconded by Andre and the motion carried with no opposition or abstentions.

Bill then summarized the procedure for verifying information (physical addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, etc.) for the new directory. He plans to have all the verifications completed and the file submitted to the printer by March 4th.

EDUCATION - Mike went over updated information from the Education Committee meeting on December 12, 2023. The Pearls workshops are scheduled for 2024 and the February class is full. The Monday night 0-50 game is up to 4-5 tables. Two BB3 classes are in session and new BB1 classes will begin in April. The recent Jr. Mentor game had 10 tables and a Sr. Mentor game is scheduled for March. Steve Fama's monthly Thursday after game review is ongoing. The new Play and Learn course on Major Suit Raises will start in March. Mike's monthly Bid and Play class for beginners on the last Monday night of the month is drawing well.

Jinan asked if the informal mentor program she remembered from a few years back could be restarted. She mentioned that she and others have been trying to mentor newer players by asking them to play, but she thinks a more organized system would work better. Mike agreed to have a discussion about this at the next Education Committee meeting.

CONDUCT, DECORUM AND ETHICS (CDE) – Pat Kaufold stated that she has not had any formal CDE business to conduct, but did have to tell someone at her table during a recent game that their behavior was unacceptable. The person apologized and the incident ended.

Everyone was then reminded that the procedure for problems at the Club is that first the game Director should be called. If there is no resolution, the Club Manager will step in. Lastly, if there is still no resolution, Pat and her committee will investigate and make a decision.

HOSPITALITY– Cecile said that things are going well and that she is getting the help she needs for the monthly Brunch and Bridge Game. Her committee also helps set up and provide food for other Club events, as needed.

SUNSHINE – Please send Cecile or Bobbie Goodyear the names of those in need of get well or sympathy cards. Bobbie was commended for the great job she does.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Mike reviewed his plans for a social Game Night on Wednesday, April 10th. This would include games of Bingo, Bridge Bingo and Horse Racing, as well as a pizza dinner and desserts (provided by volunteers). There would be a \$20 entry fee and members, their families and their guests would be authorized attendees. The money collected would be used for prizes and the rest donated to charity. Someone asked if the Club was paying for the pizza. Jack Hund said that the Club would pay for dinner in April.

In Midge's absence, Cecile explained that upon further investigation Midge had found that the Element 3/ACBL initiative to reimburse players for bridge fees through their

health insurance plans was very confusing and not supported by many plans. She recommended that HBC not be directly involved and let members explore this benefit for themselves.

Russ Poppleton followed up on the idea of installing solar panels at the Club. After meeting with members Nick Hughes and Haim Blanc, who have installed solar panels at their homes, and looking for further information about rebates, contracts, and such, he said that he had no recommendation to give as there seemed to be no straight answers to be had. He did find out that the purchase and installation of an electric charging station for the Club would currently be about \$59,000. It was decided that these ideas might be revisited in the future. Thanks to Russ, Bridget Whitley, and Jim Boyer for looking into these matters.

NEW BUSINESS –

Jack Hund next introduced the topic of selecting a local charity for 2024. Cecile named the local charities for the last few years and Jack then said that he thought that choosing a food bank would be appropriate. Linda Ivanoff made a motion to select Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, which was seconded by Jim. The motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions.

The next issue discussed was the proposal for a Club Usage Policy for private events. Andre noted that the issues were insurance liability and taxes. Currently, the Club is used by outside groups for a \$50 donation a few times a year. The donation designation is important since the Club is a non-profit. The Executive Committee recently met and put together a proposed policy. This policy would restrict non-bridge related usage of the Club to current members, schedule permitting, who would need to be present during the event, such as a birthday or retirement party. Linda Davis noted that it would be a good idea to consult our insurance carrier on this. It was also suggested that there be a form to fill out when requesting Club usage. Linda & MaryRose will work together to develop the required form. Dave made a motion to accept the Executive Committee proposal, which was seconded by MaryRose. The motion carried with no opposition and no abstentions.

Linda noted that more Guaranteed Partners are needed, as a few regular GPs are gone for the winter or on vacation. She tries to schedule 4-6 weeks in advance, but sometimes needs subs at the last minute. There was some discussion about certain people never having a partner and always relying on the GP. It was decided that Jim would speak to these individuals.

Russ Poppleton then proposed that some sort of event or plaque be established in memory of Tim Trissler. Jack Hund will consult with Judy Trissler about this.

NEXT MEETING – Jack Hund called the next BOG meeting for Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 10 AM.

ADJOURNMENT – Dave made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat Bettger. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.