

# Bridge On the Edge Inc.

Swilers Club Rooms, Crosbie Road, St .John's, NL. Canada

## Record of BOTE Meeting March 25, 2019

Present: Heidi Janes, President; Janet Hannaford ,Vice President; Rick Comerford, Treasurer; Alice Collins, Mary Lou Martin, Jacinta Wall, Members at Large; Rahul Chandra, Manager; and Brian Shortall, Secretary.

1. **Call to Order:** President Heidi Janes called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. She thanked those present for their attendance and stated that she expected that another meeting prior to the AGM would be required to review the financial reports and some other business items. Heidi also reported that she had responded to the ACBL Unit 194 invitation to submit messages at the Halifax March 2019 Sectional Bridge tournament for the special memorial tribute to Karl Hicks. Karl was a longstanding and well known bridge Director for the ACBL Unit 194. He had visited our province in this capacity over the years and was well known to several of our BOTE members.
2. **Record of January 28 Meeting:** The record of the previous meeting was accepted as accurate. It was agreed upon motion from Alice Collins and Janet Hannaford that if the chairperson reported consensus from the meeting on particular business items, a formal vote would not be required on each agenda item.
3. **Board Decisions taken by E Mail:** Heidi reported that since the last regular meeting the Board had consulted via email and accepted the proposed Compendium of Club practices, policies and procedures as ready for posting on the web page. She expressed her appreciation to Brian for his efforts in compiling the material for this project.
4. **Club Manager's Report:** Rahul reported that during the recent meeting of Directors various types of psychic and competitive bids were discussed. Psyches should continue to be reported to the game director, who may assign procedural penalties or adjustments. Some competitive situations are better handled through education - perhaps a class on doubling/getting penalties. It was agreed that this was something that the Education Committee might follow up on if necessary. Other points included: (i) The Directors asked the Manager to enable time for the Game Director to set up for the games on the club computer. (ii) It was important that both players in a game partnership have updated convention cards available at the table. (iii) Players who feel aggrieved by other players should report the matter to the Director rather than approaching the other party directly. (iv) When Directors are forced to play throughout the entire session in which they are directing their play will be on a non point competitive basis. Rahul further reported that the current roster of Directors is adequate for his scheduling requirements. It was agreed that Rahul would consult with the Directors to determine if a trolley cart was required to assist with the storage of material following club game sessions.
5. **Annual Leave for Club Manager:** It was agreed by the Board that Rahul's annual leave period for 2019 would extend from July 19 to August 10. It would be with salary. Brian Collins has agreed to work as Club Manager during Rahul's absence.

6. **Finance Report:** Rick noted that the BOTE financial year-end is March 31. It is his intention to have outstanding bills paid by March 31 for reporting purposes. Progress toward transitioning the accounting to a professional accounting service is ongoing with conversion planned commencing in the new fiscal year on April 1, 2019. The year end financial statements will be prepared in consultation with the professional accountant with the objective being to have it reviewed by the firm and presented at the Annual General Meeting on their letterhead. It is not currently planned to have a full external audit carried out. He also reported that the BOTE internal financial “Review Committee” had inspected the accounting records for the first three quarters to December 31, 2018 and found everything to be in order. The committee will provide a formal report for the full fiscal year at the Annual General Meeting, as was the case last year.
7. **Education Committee Report:** Alice and Janet noted that while proposals for future spring activities are under development, the committee has noted a decrease in the participation and attendance in some of its program offerings. This may impact both the scope and extent of future proposals as well as the ability of BOTE to provide same. The current mentoring program will conclude this spring, with guaranteed commitments being honored. Members who have suggestions or considerations about this matter are encouraged to raise them with Janet Hannaford.
8. **Membership Drive 2019:** Rahul reported that the current drive is meeting with much success. At present 120 persons have either renewed membership or registered for the first time. Members are encouraged to renew their club membership; newcomers are welcome to join BOTE as well.
9. **Facility Issues:** The President and Vice President will meet with the Swilers executive and discuss an extension or a renewal for our present lease. The recycling proposal is pending a response from the Swilers Club. The Board wishes to acknowledge the improved levels of club cleanliness in the kitchen-canteen area and thanks all concerned for their cooperation.
10. **Nominations:** Nominations for elected office are ongoing through the efforts of the Nomination Committee chair, Wanda Lundrigan.. The elections will be carried out at the AGM. The club web page provides information with respect to this.
11. **Snow Day/Director Pay:** Heidi reported that this has been brought to her attention. After some discussion it was agreed that the nature of the Director work is on a fee for service basis. It is not contractual. Therefore, in the event of snow day closures, the Directors will not be provided their session fees for those days.
12. **IMP Games:** The May and June scheduled games will be replaced with a Team Game in April and a Shuffle Pairs Game in May. More details on these games will be released with respect to team membership guidelines. The Club Manager will announce the dates and procedures for these special games.
13. **AGM Agenda and Date:** The 2019 BOTE AGM is scheduled for May 28 at the Swilers Club. The meeting will be called to order at 10:00 am and adjourn by 11:30 am in order to enable the organization for the afternoon sessions. At 9:30 a.m. coffee, tea, and scones will be available for the enjoyment of members.
14. **Easter Special:** On April 4 in honor of the upcoming Easter season, a pizza lunch will be provided for members prior to the afternoon session.

15. **ACBL UNIT 194:** BOTE is included in this ACBL geographic region organization. There is a Unit Board - Executive Committee and NL has been allocated two seats - one for the Avalon Peninsula region and one for the rest of the province. Marilyn Bennett is the current representative for this area. The current ACBL Unit 194 president is Linda Tuff. She is from the Halifax Bridge World Club. Linda has offered to be of assistance to BOTE in any way possible and she is available to meet online or using a teleconference with the BOTE executive. The Unit 194 AGM is held during the Fall Sectional Tournament each year. It is clear that there are some benefits in establishing a positive liaison with Unit 194 in order to contribute to their regional efforts in the promotion of duplicate bridge and to share information and best practices with other clubs in the 194 region.
16. **Club Recorder Report:** Roy Perry is the Club Recorder. A report will be received from Roy before the AGM. While the specifics of the report are confidential in nature, it is important that the status of the program is known and understood by the members.
17. **2019 ACBL Longest Day Activity:** BOTE has been quite active in its support of the Longest Day program over several years. The organizers of the 2018 program deserve our appreciation for the excellent activities which were spearheaded by the committee. A committee to organize and coordinate our 2019 participation is required. Any member interested in volunteering to serve on the 2019 committee is asked to advise Judy Crewe, our webpage coordinator, any member of the BOTE Board, or our Club Manager, Rahul Chandra. Hopefully a committee can be formed to continue this important venture for BOTE. The Board has intentionally avoided setting any frames of reference for 2019 so as not to preclude or influence the approach considered for the 2019 year by the committee.
18. **Volunteer Appreciation:** April 7-15 has been set as a provincial recognition week for volunteers. BOTE as a members owned and controlled initiative finds its life blood in the good graces of its volunteer members. All those who volunteer their service and support are important to the continuation of our club. While the club continues to acknowledge this in various ways, individual members may also find a moment to express a thank you to our volunteers on a personal level during this important week.
19. **Seating:** While the current practices with respect to member seating for games has been generally working well, it has been noted that that subject to the game director's judgement, the always N/S sit out decision might be reconsidered. After some discussion it was agreed by the Board that the game Directors would be given a greater latitude in this regard and move towards a 80%-20% N/S sit out practice when appropriate.
20. **Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be held on April 29. The agenda having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_