

Compilation of Ideas from Planning Workshop held 08-Jul-2019

Held at 8 Carrick Drive, on 08-Jul-2019, from 7:30 to 9:30pm. In attendance Brian Shortall, Roy Perry, Rick Comerford, Judith McIntyre, Fran Cook, Susan Follett, Anne Hughes and Rahul Chandra

The purpose of the meeting was to come forward with any ideas for Bridge on the Edge for the year ahead, no holds barred all wild and crazy ideas included. Four main focus areas were apparent and ideas brought forward are noted below. Members should consider these suggestions over the summer and the Board will meet again in early September to decide which they will try to implement.

1) Retaining our core members.

At present we have about 150 members, probably about 80 active ones

- i. Finding out what they want ... perhaps a simple questionnaire? Suggestion box (lost in the move?)
- ii. "Chat" with a Board member before game. i.e. a Board member would be available to meet with anyone who wanted to bring forward ideas before a game a month. (*Though I feel we are all pretty approachable anytime*).
- iii. Recognize and celebrate our achievements, Life Masters etc. Maybe give achievers a mug or something.
- iv. 999ers perspective ... how do we get this??
- v. Are we friendly? 80/20 perhaps. A club in Florida has a "Zero Tolerance" card that is in the bidding box that can be put on the table if there is any comfortableness at the table. Should we do this?
- vi. Play through 8 is Enough team game on a Thursday. Start game in the morning, break for lunch (everyone brings their own) continue in the afternoon.
- vii. Shuffle pairs/teams
- viii. What has happened to the people that used to be regulars and now don't come? How do we find out? Perhaps we could send an email to people that haven't been around for a while.
- ix. Cash prize??
- x. Enter a provincial team at the national level. Subsidize said team?

2) Attracting new members

It was noted that the 'profile' of the club has changed in the last few years. Historically the games were run in the evening and most of the players were men. Now most of the games are during the day and the majority of players are women. Where have all the men gone?? How can we attract younger players and working people?

There is believed to be a large 'pool' of social bridge players in the city, such as those that play at Bally Haly and ReMax. These games usually include lunch as well as bridge. How do we interest them in duplicate? Should we run a game that is purely social to lure them in?

The lessons do attract several players that do not play duplicate but want to improve their game; is there a way to encourage them to try?

It was noted that there was a large subscription to the beginners' bridge lessons held last fall and, despite the best efforts of last year's committee, none of those players remain with the club. An 'End of Course' survey should be designed and given to participants at the end of every multi-week training session to determine what we do right and where we can improve.

Suggestions for possible games that may encourage new players:

- i. 299er game, possible 15-minute mini-lesson beforehand, maybe only 18 or 21 boards.
- ii. Bring a friend, evening game with regular players bringing a friend who plays bridge but not duplicate (yet!). Probably only 18 boards and cookies.
- iii. Open House, free game for players that would like to see what duplicate is all about. Possibly on a Saturday maybe after the 3rd Anniversary barbeque and publicity.
- iv. Newcomers + mentors. It was felt that the mentoring program was very useful and successful.

It was also noted that we are restricted in growth by the current premises. 23 1/2 tables is our maximum capacity.

3) Publicity

We have a vibrant, well-run, high caliber duplicate club and we should let the general population know and possibly attract new members in the process. Suggestions for publicity:

- i. Telegram, results in Sports section, 'advertise' games in the Go Guide' section.
- ii. VOWR, VOCM
- iii. 2 day bridge fair, similar to Open House above.
- iv. MUN Gazette
- v. NTV and/or CBC during 3rd Anniversary celebrations.

4) Wish List/Upgrades

- i. Table covers for use during games.
- ii. Coffee machine (problem with cleanup, mugs and machine)
- iii. Better tap (now installed (thanks Richard))
- iv. Side tables
- v. Better chairs, maybe buy 4/5 new ones a year?
- vi. Own premises (ha)

In addition to the planning meeting the following 'regular' business was conducted

- The proposed annual budget that was presented as part of the Treasurer's Report at the AGM, has been converted to a monthly budget and circulated to the Board. While not formally adopted by the Board, there was consensus that this document would be used to guide financial decision-making. Future financial reporting will reflect on consistency with this budget. Rick provided quarterly financial statements for the period ending June 30,2019 for the Board's review. Once this review has been completed, they will be posted on the BOTE website.
- Ladies washroom. Brian and Roy met with Swilers' representative during the contract signing. A list of deficiencies will be passed to the Swilers for fixing.
- Lighting: Rick will meet with NL Power to discuss possible solutions to the poor lighting.
- Third Anniversary set for September 12. Hoping to have a barbeque. Brian to check with Swilers' on availability of cooking equipment.

Action Items

1. Brian to pass list of deficiencies re Ladies' Washroom to Swilers
2. Brian to ask Swilers about using barbeque equipment
3. Rick to check with NL Power on lighting
4. All members to consider which proposed/suggested ideas should be implemented and who is going to volunteer to do them.

Date of next meeting was not fixed.

Judith McIntyre
18-Jul-2019