

WBL Board Minutes

August 25, 2021

Attendance: All Board members attended. Lena Maman (candidate for Secretary) and Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair) also attended.

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the July meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The table count for the Thursday unit game has been pretty consistently in the mid-forties. As a result, we had an \$80 loss in July, and Herb expects a similar loss in August. The most recent Monday game had six tables. Herb speculated that the Thursday table count may increase somewhat as fall approaches.

Following up on last month's discussion of credit card payment for unit game and tournament entries, Herb posted a question on Bridge Winners on this topic. Respondents indicated that Square is the best platform to use. It charges 2.6% plus 10 cents per transaction—about 50 cents per entry. Herb noted that we may also need to purchase some supporting equipment. He recommended that we take steps to implement credit card payment capability when face-to-face bridge returns. Herb noted that credit card payment required a site with good Wifi capability. He said that Ohr Kodesh had good Wifi (despite bad telephone service at the playing site), but that the Schweinhaut Center, where we hold tournaments, did not. Board members suggested various ways in which Schweinhaut could upgrade its Wifi capability; it was agreed that we would work with them on this issue in planning future tournaments.

Herb reminded the Board that the election of a new WBL President and Secretary will necessitate authorizing them to use the bank account and deleting authorization for the current President and Secretary.

Future Plans: The Board discussed resumption of face-to-face unit games and tournaments. Linda explained that among the Board members who had worked on plans for reopening the unit game there was general reluctance to reopen while Montgomery County required masks for indoor gatherings. Board members agreed that, under current conditions, attendance at face-to-face events was likely to remain small—we would lose either players who were unwilling to attend indoor gatherings that included unmasked people or players who were unwilling to wear masks for three hours. Hadi volunteered to let Jerry Kiewe, the Ohr Kodesh executive director, know that we would be holding off on resumption of bridge at Ohr Kodesh. Several Board members reported that, for a variety of reasons, local clubs that had resumed face-to-face play or had been planning to do so in the near future were now closing games or delaying reopening. Chuck said that next week he would be attending a National Institutes of Health briefing for employees about the state of the pandemic. He promised to inform the Board about any new developments relevant to reopening.

Clyde reiterated his suggestion that players at the online unit game ought to provide information about themselves, including where they were from and their full names. He argued that this would make for a more friendly game and suggested that we might enforce this as a requirement for participation. Several Board members expressed reluctance to make this an enforced requirement. Clyde also expressed the

hope that BBO would soon incorporate a zoom component into matchpoint games, which would improve the social experience.

It was agreed that Linda will continue to send out regular e-mailings from the WBL to the membership after the WBL elects a new President. She will set up a gmail account for this purpose and will coordinate WBL responses to simple queries; she will refer more complex matters to the new President for response.

Tributes to Outgoing Board Members: Hadi eloquently summarized the impressive leadership skills that Linda brought to the Presidency and the myriad accomplishments that resulted under her stewardship. Other Board members affirmed the Board's appreciation of her contributions. Linda thanked Carole and Chuck for their valuable work as Board members, and several members expressed appreciation of their efforts and urged them to remain active as WBL volunteers.

Annual Meeting. The annual membership meeting will be held online on Thursday, September 9 at 6 pm.

Many Board members indicated that they expected members would wish to discuss the resumption of face-to-face bridge. It was noted that District 6 membership survey results and a summary of ACBL Board of Governors discussions with unit presidents and club owners had a bearing on this issue. The Board concluded it would be possible to do an informal survey of annual meeting attendees to get their views about issues involving reopening if discussion of this issue at the meeting indicated that that was warranted.

At the meeting, Alex will make a webmaster report.

The next WBL Board meeting will be September 22, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell