

WASHINGTON
BRIDGE LEAGUE

BOARD MEETING

January 20, 1999

Present: Jim Allen Barb Doran Rae Dethlefsen
 Steve Robinson Don Berman David Genne
 Lee Jensen Kathy Kruskal Dave Ruderman
 Frances Burke Bryan Coleman

The meeting was called to order at 7:25.

Secretary's Report: Doran moved (Kruskal seconded) that the December minutes be approved. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$4108.72 in the checking account. Berman moved (seconded by Genne) to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed.

President's Report:

1. Allen reported that he will appoint Joan Lewis as Election Chairman if she will do it.
2. Trophy winners are: (a) Lovenberg-Fred Steinberg; (b) Tubbs-Art Weiss; (c) Cohen-Sven Pride; (d) Woolridge-Josh Sher; and (e) Machlin-Jim and Mary O'Neill.
3. Allen handed out the ACBL 1999 membership recruitment and retention document for review and discussion at the next meeting.
4. We still need to get a restaurant guide going.
5. We need a new Club Directory for Frances Burke to mail to new members and to have out on the flyer table.

Reports:

Steve Robinson: Robinson reported that the Round Robin is over, and, hopefully, the masterpoints will be out in March..

Don Berman:

1. Berman reported that \$441.00 was collected at the Christmas party for the Kensington Fire Department.
2. Berman reported that he has received complaints about the lack of updating of the web site.

Ted Ying (by Kruskal):

1. Web Site: Due to his work schedule and participation in local theatricals, Ying has not been able to move our web page to the new server, but he is working on all the problems.
2. Signs: Ying is working on more signs.
3. Computer: Ying was able to fix the problem with the keypad but had to replace the floppy disk.

Kathy Kruskal:

1. NonLM Tournament: Kruskal reported that while she has a committee, they have not yet met.
2. GNTs: Kruskal gave Dethlefsen a GNT flyer for her review. Allen voiced his desire to hold either the GNT or NAP district levels at the Kensington Community Center. He was told that this was not feasible until 2001.

Lee Jensen:

1. Jensen reported that there were 366 tables at the January tournament. We essentially lost Friday and Saturday morning to the weather. Jensen said that he needs a key to open up the building on Sunday mornings. He reported that we need a parking manager for the tournaments.
2. Trophies: Jensen asked when we were going to award the trophies. Allen said that he could have them in two weeks. Allen will take care of contacting the winners and present them at a February unit game.
3. Allen suggested that we use a caterer for the sectionals. He thinks we should get local people to come in and look the situation over and submit bids.

Bryan Coleman: The deadline for the next Bulletin is February 4. Doran, Kruskal and Dethlefsen are to look over his trophy race write-up for accuracy. He will publish the 301-949-2773 phone number which will have any pertinent messages about the bridge games on the announcement. (The phone number upstairs is 949-2773 and Shirley's home

number is 564-0742.)

Frances Burke: Cheer and Sympathy: Micheline Heiche's husband had surgery. Burke sent get well cards to Barb Doran, Ellen Klossan and Micki Kivel.

David Genne:

1. Sound Baffles: Allen cannot find a cherrypicker that will fit through the doors and feels that if we need to use ladders, that we will need to use contractors. The whole shipment is in and will be installed by the next tournament.

2. Genne will check on Eazy Bridge with Leslie.

David Ruderman:

1. The temperature at the KCC has been too erratic. Allen will check with Shirley.

2. Unit KO: Due to the bad weather, the Unit KO has to be rescheduled. Robinson moved (Doran seconded) that entries for the Unit KO are due February 4; the bracket will be drawn up for the first match on February 4; and that no matches have to be played at the unit game. The motion passed.

Barb Doran: Doran reported that the Conduct and Ethics Committee had gone well.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be February 17, 1999, at the home of Jim Allen. Future meetings will be March 10 (Don Berman ?); April 21 (Barb Doran); and May 6-Annual Meeting.

Directions: North on 270 to exit 11 and onto Montgomery Village Ave. Go through the light at 355 and proceed 2 miles to the light at Apple Ridge and then turn left. Take the second right onto Shadow Oak and the first left onto Maple Leave Drive. Go the end and 10029 by turning right, twice, when you must.

Allen thanked Burke for her fine hospitality, and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dethlefsen

Rae

WASHINGTON
BRIDGE LEAGUE

BOARD MEETING

February 17, 1999

Present: Jim Allen Barb Doran Rae Dethlefsen
 Steve Robinson Don Berman Lee Jensen
 Kathy Kruskal Dave Ruderman Ted Ying
 Frances Burke

The meeting was called to order at 7:5.

Secretary's Report: Doran moved (Kruskal seconded) that the January minutes be approved as corrected. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$5666.68 in the checking account. Robinson said he would have a draft of his annual report at the next meeting. Berman moved (seconded by Ying) to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed.

President's Report:

1. KCC Issues:

a. Allen reported that he has a key for Carroad to access the thermostat at the KCC.

b. Allen said we need to look for a keymaker who can duplicate the KCC key; the KCC staff do not know who can do so.

c. Billing System: Allen reported that there is some confusion on when we pay for what. Our contract calls for us to pay our rent on the 10th of each month for the preceding month.

d. Sound Baffles: The baffles have all been installed.

e. Sound System: We currently have a 10-watt hook-up for our microphone, but another one could be joined with it. Ruderman moved (Doran seconded) that we spend another \$130 to upgrade the audio system. (motion passed).

f. Lighting: Allen thinks that four more lamps will add enough more light to bring the lighting around the edges to a satisfactory level.

2. Allen said that he wants to get the word out that enforcing the rules of bridge is not rude. This is the subject of his President's Letter in the next "Bulletin" but wants to get a word-of-mouth campaign going too.

3. The ACBL Charity this year is the Autism Society of America.

Reports:

Don Berman: Nothing to report. Ruderman asked about recorder activity, and Berman reported that activity in this regard was fairly normal.

Frances Burke:

1. Membership: Burke has the last quarter's membership rolls from the ACBL. We have 51 new members--21 transfers into the area; 83 members have been dropped. Allen said that Barbara Summers will call these newly-inactive members and will provide feedback. Burke will provide Summers with a telephone script.

2. Cheer and Sympathy: Dan Shankle's father died from diabetes complications; Hannah Schepp is having bone marrow treatments; Barbara Hendry's husband died; (someone else died--will get from FB).

3. Need to order membership list for the Annual Meeting.

Steve Robinson:

1. Robinson attended the MABC meeting in Myrtle Beach and reported that the MABC will give each District money to handle their insert.

2. The Round-Robin will start in April.

3. The Unit KO has 12 teams.

Barb Doran: Doran will check on Directory Supplements.

Ted Ying:

1. Web Site: Not up yet but should be up and running within the next two weeks.

2. Signs: Ying has two signs done and will do two more No Parking signs.

David Ruderman:

1. STaC: Ruderman passed on a report from Carroad that District 7 has passed some rules which will prevent the District 7 clubs from participating in District 6 STaCs. Allen will check into this.
2. Fast Pairs: There was some discussion about when and at what time we should schedule another fast pair game. Robinson moved (Kruskal seconded) that we schedule the next one on May 13 at 7:30. (motion passed)
3. Expert Commentary: Robinson will start this again at the Thursday, February 18 game.

Kathy Kruskal: NonLM Tournament: Kruskal reported that her committee still has not met, but she will be meeting with Allen and McMullen. She has an ad which is going into the Insert. Allen has approved the budge.

Lee Jensen:

1. Jensen reported that he still does not have a restaurant guide. Kruskal and Doran will get cracking on this.
2. Jensen reported that he and Kruskal had had lunch with the owner of the Tea Room. We will keep count of the number of sandwiches we sell at the next tournament; ordering a set number of sandwiches seems more practical than actual catering by an outside source. Jensen said that the Tea Room gave a quote of \$500 for 180 sandwiches. Jensen pointed out that we need to make enough money on the snack bar to pay for the help and the free hospitality.

New Business:

1. Elections are coming up. Allen pointed out that the Board positions occupied by Berman, Genne and Ying are to be contested. Dethlefsen has announced that she will not be running for secretary. Allen has appointed Charlie Stenger as Elections Chairman as Joan Lewis is not available.
2. Compensation for Board Dinners: Jensen moved (Doran seconded) that the monthly compensation for Board dinners be raised to \$100.00 effective the first meeting after the Annual Meeting in May. The motion passed (POLICY)

Old Business: The trophies were awarded at the February 11 Unit Game.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be March 10, 1999, at the home of Don Berman; April 21 meeting will be at Barb Doran's; and May 6 is the Annual Meeting.

Directions: 13707 Engleman Dr; Laurel; 301-776-3581

>From the Beltway: Exit North onto 95 (toward Baltimore). Go to second exit (Route 198) and take East toward Fort Meade. Stay on 198 for a few miles. After crossing Route 1, proceed over the bridge and make a right turn at the first traffic signal onto Route 197. At the fourth light, turn right onto Briarwood. Follow Briarwood about .5 mile and turn right onto Engleman to the third house on the left (white mailbox has house number on it).

Doran thanked Allen for his fine hospitality, and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Dethlefsen

Board of Directors Meeting

Washington Bridge League

10 March 1999

Attendees:

Jim Allen Don Berman Bryan Coleman Barb Doran Davide Genné Lee Jensen
Kathy Kruskal Steve Robinson Ted Ying

The March board meeting was held at Don Berman's house. Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - DETHLEFSEN:

The unit secretary was unable to attend the March board meeting. Ted Ying took minutes of the meeting in her absence.

The secretary's report and the minutes to the February meeting were to be distributed by e-mail to the board on Thursday, 11 March 1999 before the unit game. Board members were asked to review the minutes via e-mail and to report any corrections to the secretary at the Unit game.

TREASURER'S REPORT - ROBINSON:

Robinson reported that the Unit checking account has a balance of \$10,146.72. The proceeds from the last tournament had been received and deposited, but the Unit had not paid rent for the Kensington Community Center (KCC) yet.

Robinson presented a draft of the annual report to be presented at the annual meeting in May. Comments, corrections, or questions were to be directed to Steve Robinson.

Doran moved to accept the treasurer's report; Kruskal seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen reported that he had one more key for the KCC for anyone who needed to open up the building. He also reported that we are allowed to duplicate the key; however, we have had difficulty in finding a locksmith or keyshop that has the correct blanks needed to duplicate the key. If anyone can find a shop that has the blanks, we can have additional keys made. We would then need to report the list of names of keyholders to Shirley at the KCC.

Allen wanted to publish several items of information prominently in the next newsletter:

- the phone number of the phone behind the snack bar for emergency purposes,
- the address of the new WBL web site
- the phone number at the KCC to contact for inclement weather closings

Allen reported that he had a meeting on Friday, 12 March 1999, with the mayor of Kensington. Allen proposed to discuss with the mayor the following items of concern in the KCC: hot water in the facility, the condition of the rest room facilities, the condition of the walls (i.e. scheduling of painting of the walls), general condition of the facilities, and janitorial support before and during our functions (like tournaments). Any other issues of concern should have been presented to Allen before the Friday meeting.

Allen submitted the Unit GNT report to Cam Cameron, Special Events coordinator, at ACBL headquarters.

Allen announced that he would handle the publicity for the upcoming Non-LM sectional in June and the upcoming EZ Bridge classes run by Leslie Shafer.

Allen reported that there were two workshops scheduled at the Vancouver NABC for Marketing and for Educational Liasons. Robinson and Doran volunteered to attend these meetings while at the NABC's and to report back to the board.

Allen reported that District 7 had suggested that District 7 clubs might not participate in our upcoming STAC. Allen sent a note to Mike Kavouic, the District 7 president, regarding our upcoming STAC and District 7 club participation.

BOARD REPORT – ROBINSON

Robinson reported that the ACBL credited teams in our annual Round Robin event for masterpoints in the X strata. This was popular and Robinson reported that we will include an X flight in future Round Robins.

BOARD REPORT – JENSEN

The WBL March sectional had a total of 513.5 tables. It was a good turnout.

Jensen reported that Bill Pettis recently became a Grand Life Master. A roast will be scheduled for him at the May sectional.

An impromptu meeting was called on Sunday after the evening session to discuss the number of Strata-Flighted (SF) events versus the number of Stratified (Str) events scheduled for our Thursday night unit game. Jensen raised the topic at the board meeting and reported that we currently try to hold 4 SF events for each Str event. We can try to schedule more, but there are other concerns about when to incorporate SF events (e.g. SF events should not be held against out-of-town regionals and NABC's). The issue will be discussed at the next meeting of the scheduling committee for future years. Jensen said that he did not think it urgent enough to change the current Unit game schedule in the middle of the year. Robinson volunteered to convey this information to Earl Glickstein who originally raised the issue.

Jensen urged the board not to plan impromptu meetings of the board and/or concerned members after the Sunday evening session of a sectional. The tournament co-chairs (both board members) and other interested members might not be available due to the amount of work that needed to be accomplished at the end of the tournament.

BOARD REPORT – GENNÉ

Genné reported that he had contacted Edith McMullin regarding the EZ Bridge program. There were three main problems that needed to be addressed:

- Advertising for the upcoming EZ Bridge lesson programs was needed. Allen reported that he was handling the advertising; postcards had already been mailed out to many potential students. Genné reported that he had worked with Leslie Shafer to send information to various clubs; he reported that he wanted to schedule time to canvas the local Kensington area door-to-door to encourage participation in EZ-Bridge from the local community.
- The program needed additional funds to cover additional expenses. The EZ-Bridge program had already used the funds given to the program by District 6. Genné reported that he would research what had been spent and how much more was needed. He proposed to send an e-mail by 18 March 1999 to the Unit board members with a proposed budget and request for funding from the Unit 147 board.
- The program needed additional volunteers to help with various aspects of the program. Ying suggested asking Barbara Summers, who was a very capable and willing volunteer to help. Genné said he would contact her.

BOARD REPORT – KRUSKAL

Kruskal reported that her committee for the Non-LM sectional scheduled in June was scheduled to have their first meeting 2 weeks after the board meeting.

Kruskal reported that Frances Burke did not have the correct address to send a cheer & sympathy card to Hanna Schepps. The card sent was returned designated incorrect address.

Kruskal reported that the Unit GNT final was completed and the full report was submitted to the ACBL by Allen.

Kruskal reported that the unit was running out of the mugs and glasses used as Novice prizes. Genné volunteered to look into ordering something new for Novice prizes.

BOARD REPORT – COLEMAN

Coleman announced that the next deadline for the *WBL Bulletin* was 1 April 1999. The next issue of the bulletin will be out before the May sectional.

Coleman called attention to the fact that currently subscriptions to the *WBL Bulletin* (for non-members of the unit) never expire. Robinson reported that whenever he receives a check for a subscription, he forwards the subscription information to Nadine Wood for inclusion in the address label list. Subscribers are never removed from the list; hence subscriptions never expire.

The issue of advertisements in the bulleting was raised. Genné volunteered to show the bulletin to local Kensington businesses while canvassing the area to encourage Kensington businesses to purchase advertising in our bulleting.

BOARD REPORT – BERMAN

Berman reported that the next charity game was scheduled for 18 March 1999. After that, the next charity game was scheduled for 6 May 1999, the annual meeting. The March charity game would be an ACBL-sponsored charity, but we had no designated charity for the annual meeting. Berman moved that we select the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad once again for our local charity; Doran seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD REPORT – DORAN

Doran reported that the owner of the Café Monet restaurant down the street volunteered to open her shop for extended hours during sectionals if she was given advance notice. Doran suggested putting flyers out on the flyer table near the restaurant guide and other advertisements during the next sectional to advertise that they had extended hours during our sectionals.

Doran reported that the first version of the local Kensington restaurant guide had been completed in time for the March sectional. Mostly only local Kensington restaurants were included. Doran and Kruskal intend to expand the restaurant guide to include some Wheaton and Rockville restaurants by the next sectional.

Doran reported that the tournament advertisement for our May sectional was missing from the MABC insert in the ACBL *Bulletin*. Our advertisement would be included in the April issue of the MABC insert

Doran then raised the topic of a Fast Pairs event. Doran moved that we run a fast pairs event once per month scheduled as a separate section of the scheduled Stratified Pairs event; Kruskal seconded. The fast pairs event would use the same hand records, and would only post leader boards until the secitons playing at regular pace completed play; at which point, full recap sheets would be made available. Recap sheets and results would be available on the web site and by contacting a point-of-contact, or would be available the following week. The fast pairs section would be restricted to using GCC conventions with exceptions made to include any NT defense. Doran proposed using the schedule sent out by Michael Carroad to the Unit board via e-mail. This assigned games through the end of 1999. The board decided to run the games through June 1999 and revisit the topic again at that time. There were five votes for, one vote against, and two abstentions; motion passed.

Proposed dates include Mar 25, Apr 15, May 27, June 17, Aug 19, Sep 2, Oct 21, Nov 18, and Dec 23 (no game scheduled in July due to the regional).

BOARD REPORT – YING

Ying reported that the new web site was up and running. Among the services that the new web site offers is the availability of up to five additional e-mail addresses at your web address. Robinson moved that we use the addresses *info*, *editor*, and *membership* for the first three; Doran seconded. There were five votes for, one against, and two abstentions; motion passed.

Ying reported that OKBridge sent a request for advertising of the OKBridge service on the Unit Web site. In return the Unit would be paid a commission for each subscription that was purchased by a user passing through our web site. The board was hesitant to approve advertisement on the web site but suggested that we try the idea out for a limited time. Ying was to contact OKB and to try to arrange a limited trial arrangement.

The board decided that all future advertisement proposals would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Earl Glickstein sent a request to the board to consider returning the Thursday night unit game to 2-board rounds. Robinson moved that we ask Michael Carroad, the Chief Director and club manager of the unit game to consider trying 2 board rounds again; Kruskal seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Allen raised the topic of the matching formula for Swiss team events. Allen mentioned that there had been several complaints from lower-strata teams in stratified Swiss team events that were matched against two top-ranked events due to the random-draw. Allen proposed that we consider matching the first match randomly within strata (‘A’ teams playing other ‘A’ teams, ‘B’ teams playing other ‘B’ teams, ‘C’ teams playing other ‘C’ teams) and the second match randomly. Discussion ensued but no motion was made.

Allen reported that the unit had not received a check from the ACBL for any second year membership renewals/

Allen discussed the upcoming elections. There was one candidate for President, one for Vice President, two for secretary, and one for Treasurer. There was one candidate for three open Board positions. Additional candidates were needed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 April 1999, at Barb Doran’s house, 1107 Dale Drive, Silver Spring, MD. Barb’s phone number is 301-608-0347.

Directions from East:

Take the Capitol Beltway, I-495, to exit 30, Colesville Road. Follow Colesville Road south to the second traffic light at Dale Drive. Turn right onto Dale Drive and go 2.5 blocks. 1107 is on the right just over a small hill.

Directions from West or North:

Take the Capitol Beltway, I-495, to exit 31B, Georgia Avenue, South. Follow Georgia Avenue south to the second traffic light at Columbia Road. Turn left onto Columbia Road. Follow Columbia Road about 1/10 of a mile. Columbia Road will bear off to the left and Dale Drive will bear off to the right. Bear right onto Dale Drive. Go about one mile and 1107 will be on your left as you near the crest of a small hill.

Allen thanked Berman for his hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 18 April 1999

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE
BOARD MEETING
April 21, 1999

Present: Jim Allen Barb Doran Rae Dethlefsen
 Steve Robinson Don Berman Lee Jensen
 Kathy Kruskal Dave Ruderman Ted Ying
 Bryan Coleman

The meeting was called to order at 7:20p.m., recessed at 7:40p.m. for dinner, and reconvened at 8:00 p.m..

Secretary's Report: Doran moved (Ying seconded) that the February minutes be approved. The motion passed. The March minutes were taken by Ted Ying. Allen asked that the minutes be amended to read that he would contribute to some of the advertising for non-LM tournament and EasyBridge. Kruskal moved (Doran seconded) that the March minutes be approved as corrected. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: We have \$1670.22 in the checking account. Ying moved (seconded by Ruderman) to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed.

President's Report:

1. KCC Issues: Allen reported on his meeting with the mayor. Everyone in Kensington likes us but the mayor. Her problems with us include: parking and the flower beds. What we have gotten from them: hot water in the ladies room; the walls have been repainted; they have put out contracts for refinishing the floor; bathroom work and drapes are in the works.
2. Allen reported that Leslie Shafer has 10 tables in her EasyBridge class.
3. Allen has sent out letters to the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners.
4. Our liability insurance is expiring; Allen gave the paperwork to Robinson.
5. Allen reported that as of July, the ACBL is imposing a \$1.00 surcharge on non-ACBL players at all tournaments. If the \$1.00 surcharge is assessed, the sponsoring unit keeps the money; if it is not assessed, the sponsoring unit must pay the ACBL the \$1.00. Jensen moved (Doran seconded) that we do not support the ACBL policy and pay the money out of our own pockets. Ruderman moved (Berman seconded) to table the motion. The motion to table passed with two opposed.
6. Allen reported that he has a current list of all clubs and club managers.
7. Allen reported that Barbara Summers has asked for official WBL support for her proposal that the ACBL spend all its charity monies on education for the next five years. Allen will inform Summers that her request will be supported individually but not by the WBL Board.
8. Allen asked that the WBL reimburse Kitty Gottfried for her lost serving dish; the Board concurred.
9. Allen reported that there have been \$17.00 in calls to Ecuador from the upstairs phone. We will reimburse and ask that long distance calls be blocked from this phone.
10. The ACBL has requested nominations for the Good Will Member of the Year.

Reports:

Lee Jensen: Nothing to report. There is a tournament coming up next week, and planning is proceeding for the Regional.

Barb Doran: Nothing to report

Kathy Kruskal:

1. Par Contest: We need to order booklets. This will be discussed in the Unit Game reports.
2. Non-LM Tournament: Everything is on schedule. Kruskal reported that she needs prizes both for the tournament and for the novice game in general. Jensen moved (Doran seconded) that Kruskal take care of the prize problem. The motion passed.

Bryan Coleman: Coleman reported that the "Bulletin" is in the mail; the deadline for the next "Bulletin" is the first Thursday in June.

Ted Ying: Ying reported that web site hits were lower in April than in March.

David Ruderman:

1. Annual Meeting: Ruderman said that he needs to talk to Nadine Wood about the hospitality for the Annual Meeting.
2. STaC: Ruderman reported that he has sent out letters inviting the clubs to participate. District 7 is still up in the air, but we will probably just be District 6 and Delaware.
3. Par Game: Elizabeth Nelson and Ram Sarangan will order the books and do the work for the game. The game is scheduled for May 27 (during the Richmond Regional). . . Jensen moved (Ying seconded) that the Board pay for the books. The motion passed. However, it was the sense of the Board that many of the players who would enjoy this game would not be available because of the Regional. Jensen moved (Doran seconded) that we move the game to October 14 and advertise it prominently in the next two "Bulletins". The motion passed.

Steve Robinson: Robinson reported that he is receiving entries for the Round Robin; the closing date is Sunday of the next sectional (May 2).

Don Berman: Berman reported that a member was concerned about how late the game is starting on Thursdays when Carroad is not there. Discussion was deferred to New Business.

New Business:

1. Game Start: Problems that the directors face (at all times, not just when Carroad is not present) were discussed. Ruderman moved (Robinson seconded) that we inform the directors that the priority is to start the game at 7:45 in the face of efficiency. The motion was withdrawn until Carroad can be present.
2. Non-Member Surcharge: Robinson moved (Kruskal seconded) to remove the motion from the table. Jensen moved (Doran seconded) that we do not support the ACBL policy and pay the money out of our own pockets. After spirited discussion the motion passed 5-4. (POLICY)
- 3, Student Discounts: Ying moved (Berman seconded) that the discount for students be 50% rounded down to the next dollar. The motion passed (POLICY).

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be May 19, 1999, at the home of Jim Allen. The following meeting will be June 16.

Directions: 10029 Maple Leaf Dr; 301-590-9250

North on 270 to exit 11 and onto Montgomery Village Ave. Go through the light at 355 and proceed 2 miles to the light at Apple Ridge and then turn left. Take the second right onto Shadow Oak and the first left onto Maple Leave Drive. Go the end and 10029 by turning right, twice, when you must.

Allen thanked Doran for her fine hospitality, and Kruskal moved (Dethlefsen seconded) that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Dethlefsen

Attendees:

Jim Allen Bob Bell Don Berman Frances Burke Bryan Coleman Barb Doran
Lee Jensen Kathy Kruskal Steve Robinson Barbara Rothkin Ted Ying

The May board meeting was held at WBL Unit President, Jim Allen's house. Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 7:49 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - YING:

The secretary's report and the minutes to the February meeting were distributed via e-mail by outgoing secretary, Dethlefsen, several days before the board meeting. Board members were asked to review the minutes via e-mail and to report any corrections to the secretary either via e-mail or at the next Unit game. Amendments were forwarded directly to Dethlefsen. Berman moved and Bell seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT - ROBINSON:

Robinson reported that the Unit checking account has a balance of \$6,384.95. The WBL has \$10,000.00 of funds from the MABC for the regional. The WBL also has \$2,000.00 in a CD for the regional.

Robinson reported that for historical reasons, the WBL had an old Crestar account. Originally this account was with Citizen's Bank, which was bought out by Crestar. For simplicity, Robinson closed that account and deposited those funds in the primary bank account. The WBL now only maintains one checking account.

Doran moved to accept the treasurer's report; Kruskal seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen welcomed new board members, Bell and Rothkin to the board. Allen extended thanks to outgoing board members Rae Dethlefsen (Secretary) and David Genné.

Allen reported that he and Doran had reviewed task appointments and assigned tasks to each board member. The new assignments can be reviewed in Addendum 1 (included at the end of the minutes). Beth Palmer resigned as the WBL Unit Conduct & Ethics (C&E) committee chair; she accepted the position as the District 6 C&E committee chair. Bob Bell, who was the District 6 C&E committee chair accepted the position as WBL Unit C&E committee chair. In effect, the unit and the district traded committee chairs. Allen reported that the WBL board needs to hold elections for new C&E committee members. There were three out-going committee members that need to be replaced. The three committee members that have one more year to their term include Clyde Kruskal, Ron Spath, and Dick Wegman. The three out-going members were Barbara Ames, Bryan Coleman, and Abby Heitner. Elections were held later in the meeting.

Allen asked Ying if he would create new Unit officer and director contact information slips. Ying agreed to do so.

The issue of the new ACBL policy regarding members in good standing was discussed. The ACBL instituted a policy that non-Life Masters (NLM) who have not paid their membership and Life Masters (LM) who have not paid their LM Service fee be charged an extra dollar for entries at ACBL sanctioned games. If the unit collects this dollar, then the unit can keep the dollar. If the unit fails to collect the dollar, then the unit will be charged an additional dollar per player. The new ACBL policy takes effect July 1. Our regional is not affected as our regional starts prior to July 1. However, subsequent Unit games, sectionals, and regionals will be subject to this fee. The ACBL policy also suggests adding a director on staff at specified games to cover the work needed to check for membership status after the start of the game and to charge those players who are not members in good standing after the start of the game. A grace period is included for members whose membership/service fee has recently lapsed, but will be renewing their membership/service fee.

The WBL board discussed the issue and the pros and cons. Robinson had sent a letter to the ACBL editor regarding this and a copy was presented for board members to review. Arnie Frankel had sent a letter to Allen

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ALLEN (CONT):

who presented the letter to the board. Both letters were discussed. The board deliberated and decided not to support the ACBL policy, not to charge the players an extra dollar, and to pay the extra dollar if billed by the ACBL. **(POLICY)**

Allen reported that the WBL had a new liability insurance policy in effect. The new policy is for \$3 million and was provided for the WBL by Roy Becker.

Allen contacted the ACBL Membership officer, Margie Lenthrip. She was informed of the change of officers and has the list of current officers and directors of the WBL. She can be contacted via e-mail at info@acbl.org. Jim will also order 4 additional copies of the ACBL Rules and Regulations as were ordered last year for the board. One of these copies will be placed in the storage cabinets at the Kensington Community Center (KCC) for reference as needed. Two of the copies will go to new board members, Bell and Rothkin. Allen will keep the fourth copy.

Allen reported that the charge for the long distance phone call on the snack bar phone was paid by the WBL. At some point during the last tournament, the phone cable was again switched from the jack with no long distance service to the jack that has long distance service. Allen asked board members to help patrol the phone and ensure that this is not done and if possible to find out who is switching the phone cable.

Allen reported that Dar Afdahl has been elected as first alternate and Steve Robinson has been elected as second alternate to the ACBL Board of Directors.

At the end of the President’s Report, the board held elections for the C&E committee members. Election votes were recorded by the secretary. The following three people were nominated for the WBL unit C&E committee: Ellen Cherniavsky, Mickie Kivel, and Elizabeth Nelson. Bell will contact the three nominees to see if they will serve. In the event that one of these nominees does not accept the nomination, Josh Sher is the first alternate and will be asked to serve in their stead.

BOARD REPORT – JENSEN

The WBL had a very good May Sectional tournament. The May sectional had a total of 436.5 tables.

Jensen reported that he has been asked to co-chair the 2002 Summer NABC’s in Washington DC with Margo Hennings. The 2002 Summer NABC’s will be held at the Marriot Hotel on Connecticut Avenue in northwest DC, the same site as the successful 1993 Summer NABC.

Allen reported that he had scheduled all of the sectional tournaments for the 2000 calendar year with the KCC..

BULLETIN EDITOR REPORT – COLEMAN

The next Bulletin deadline is 3 June 1999. The following deadline is currently tentative but will be in the late July-early August time frame. Coleman urged any members submitting information to please submit before the deadline.

At the last board meeting, the Par Game was rescheduled for 14 October 1999 to allow time for publicizing the game. Coleman said that he still needed a write-up about the Par Game to publish in the Bulletin. He wanted to announce the game in the next issue of the Bulletin and the format as many players are not familiar with a Par Game event..

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT – BURKE

Burke reported that letters to new Unit members (e.g. members who move into our Unit or transfer from other units) had been sent for the previous quarter. Burke contacted the ACBL to inform them that the new members had been contacted.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT – BURKE (CONT)

Burke reported that Barbara Summers is also calling new Unit members..

A sympathy card was sent to Pearl Rubenstein for the death of her husband, Norman Rubenstein.

BOARD REPORT – KRUSKAL

The NLM Sectional tournament was three weeks after the board meeting on 3-6 June 1999. Kruskal’s committee had things well in hand for the tournament.

BOARD REPORT – YING

Ying had nothing to report. No new statistics on web usage were available. Ying reported that he would try to e-mail statistics to the board or bring them to the next meeting.

BOARD REPORT – BERMAN

Berman reported that he was still awaiting the Charity money report from Michael Carroad for the last Charity event held at the KCC during one of our unit games. The charity game benefitted the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (VFD/RS). As per the last time that we ran the charity game for them, Berman plans get the total charity donation from the report, get a check for said amount from Robinson, and personally deliver the check to the VFD/RS.

Berman reported that the job of Recorder was going smoothly. Approximately 3-5 recorder forms are submitted in a month (5 is a lot). Some minor patterns are starting to develop, but nothing serious or worthy of a C&E committee hearing. To date, Berman has been able to handle all outstanding problems presented to the Recorder.

BOARD REPORT – BELL

Allen welcomed Bell to the board.

Bell reported that he had attended the monthly bridge game at Saint Elizabeth’s (St. E) institution. The St. E’s game is in need of donations. Bell asked Berman to talk with Steve Czecha regarding what donations the St E’s game needed. Since the amount is typically small, the WBL can help with a donation to support the St. E’s game. The next St. E’s game is scheduled for Monday, 21 June 1999 at 6:30 PM. It is at the John Howard Pavillion at St. E’s. If anyone is interested in supporting the St E’s game, they should contact either Steve Czecha or Bob Bell.

BOARD REPORT – DORAN

Doran reported that she had reviewed the treasurer’s bookkeeping and that the books were in order. Doran receives copies of the bank statements and

periodically reviews the treasurer’s books to ensure that nothing is amiss.

Doran reported that District 6 has decided to eliminate the unit level qualifier for the NAOP event (all flights). Players will qualify directly from the club to the unit level. The district is conducting this as a one-year trial and will review this again next year.

BOARD REPORT – ROTHKIN

Allen commented that he had appointed Rothkin as the Education chairman. He really wants to push the E-Z Bridge program and wanted Rothkin to move forward on this.

Rothkin suggested encouraging the clubs to participate in the Rookie 49er NAP event. One possibility was to suggest that any pair that scored a 50% game or higher could qualify for the Unit level NAP event. The

BOARD REPORT – ROTHKIN (CONT)

qualifiers would be invited to attend a Unit final held at our October sectional on Saturday afternoon. The winners of this event would get free plays usable at our WBL Sectional tournaments. Allen said that Rothkin needed to put together a plan and proposed budget for this event and report at the next meeting.

BOARD REPORT – ROBINSON

Robinson reported that the round robin was underway. There were 16 teams in the Flight A/X event and 3 teams in the flight B/C event. The A/X event had two leagues each of which would qualify 4 teams for the knockout phase.

NEW BUSINESS

Allen had an update from the MABC and District 6 boards. The district board needs to elect a new delegate to the MABC board. Allen requested any interested parties to contact him. One requirement is that the delegate must attend MABC regionals as the MABC board meetings are held during the regionals.

Robinson proposed reviewing and revising the election procedures. Robinson will start the discussion via e-mail with interested board members.

Ying asked Allen to reaffirm his stance on e-mail discussions of outstanding issues. Allen stated that topics that require extensive discussion should be first proposed to the board via e-mail to allow much of the initial discussion to be held before the board meeting. The discussion would then continue in the board meeting and any motions would be entertained at the board meeting. This would help keep the board meetings shorter.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will tentatively be held on Wednesday, 16 June 1999, at Dave Ruderman’s house. The board meeting was subsequently relocated to Don Berman’s house. Don resides at 13707 Engleman Drive, Laurel, MD 20708. His phone number is 301-776-3581. Allen is planning on inviting Michael Carroad to attend to discuss some issues regarding the Unit game.

From the Beltway: Exit North onto 95 (toward Baltimore). Go to second exit (Route 198) and take East toward Fort Meade. Stay on 198 for a few miles. After crossing Route 1, proceed over the bridge and make a right turn at the first traffic signal onto Route 197. At the fourth light, turn right onto Briarwood. Follow Briarwood about .5 mile and turn right onto Engleman to the third house on the left (white mailbox has house number on it).

The July board meeting is tentatively set for 13 July 1999 at Frances Burke’s home. The August board meeting is tentatively set for 11 August 1999 at Ted Ying’s home. These dates will be confirmed at the next board meeting.

The board thanked Allen for his hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 13 June 1999

Addendum 1: New Appointed Tasks

WASHINGTON BRIDGE LEAGUE
May 12, 1999

President: Mr. Jim Allen
10029 Maple Leaf Drive
Montgomery Village, MD 20886-1131
301-590-9250

Vice President: Ms. Barbara Doran

- * Secretary: Mr. Ted Ying
13203 Claxton Drive
Laurel, MD 20708-1807

Treasurer: Mr. Steve Robinson

Board Members: Total of 10 including officers
Mr. Lee Jensen
Mr. David Ruderman
Ms. Kathy Kruskal
Mr. Don Berman
Mr. Bob Bell
Ms. Barbara Rothkin

- * Disciplinary Committee: (Conduct & Ethics)
Chairman: Mr. Bob Bell
2302 41st St, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007-4965
202-337-0296

Recorder:
Mr. Don Berman

- * Education Committee:
Chairman: Ms. Barbara Rothkin
5225 Pooks Hill Road
Bethesda, MD 20814-2059

Membership Committee:
Membership Secretary: Ms. Frances Burke

- * Publicity Committee:
Chairman: Jim Allen, J677330

Tournament Committee:
Mr. Lee Jensen

Charity Committee:
Chairman: Mr. Don Berman
13707 Engleman Dr.
Laurel, MD 20708
301-776-3581
NAP and GNT Unit Coordinator:
Mr. Kathy Kruskal
6514 40th Ave
Hyattsville, MD 20782-2152
301-927-1023

- * Novice Committee:
Chairman: Mr. Bob Bell

Unit Game Coordinator:
Dave Ruderman

Unit Game Manager:
Mr. Michael Carroad

Bulletin Editor:
Mr. Bryan Coleman

- * Omsbudsman:
Mr. Ann Lindley

Board of Directors Meeting

Hospitality:
Ms. Kitty Gottfried

Prizes:
Ms. Rosemary Marks

Partnerships:
Ms. Madge Gallant

* - Indicates change from last year

Board of Directors Meeting Washington Bridge League 16 June 1999

Attendees:

Jim Allen Bob Bell Don Berman Michael Carroad Barb Doran
Kathy Kruskal
Barbara Rothkin Dave Ruderman Ted Ying

The June board meeting was held at Don Berman's house. Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT YING:

Corrections to the May board meeting minutes were given to Ying. In the Round Robin report, the distribution of teams in leagues was incorrectly recorded by Ying. The Flight A/X event has 3 leagues. The top 2 teams in each league qualify for the final 8 knockout phase. Also the 2 top scoring 3rd place teams will qualify. For X teams, the top 4 scoring X teams will qualify for the final 4 knockout phase.

Kruskal moved and Doran seconded accepting the minutes as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT - ROBINSON:

There was no treasurer's report as Robinson was in Memphis for the International Team Trials.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen attended both the MABC and District 6 board meetings. He reported the following items from those meetings:

- Allen presented a copy of the MABC and district finance committee reports for review by WBL board members. District 6 is getting low on funds (approximately \$9000) including the funds given to the district to support the NABC fund. To help solve this problem, Districts 6 and 7 have set up a new STAC with proceeds to benefit the NABC fund.
- District 6 has eliminated the unit level qualifier for the NAOP event (all three flights). Flights B (0-1500) and C (0-NLM) of the GNT are the only events still to have a unit level qualifier for the 1999-2000 season, as the Flight A unit qualifier had already been eliminated in previous years.
- In 2002, we will be hosting the NABC's. We still have our sanction for our summer regional for 2002. This sanction can be used in 2003, 2004, or 2005. In the past, we have run a 10-day regional the year following the nationals, but this was not a good idea. Attendance was down per day and it was much harder to run and much harder on the staff. The WBL and NVBA could host an additional regional some other time during that time period (perhaps Ocean City?). Allen asked board members to think of some ideas for good uses for the regional sanction.

Allen wanted to acknowledge that the WBL currently has 3 local ACBL employees that are not staff directors: Edith McMullin is the current E-Z Bridge Coordinator, Rich Colker is the ACBL Recorder and Appeals Administrator, and Leslie Shafer is the ACBL Bridge Teachers (ABT) newsletter editor.

Allen reported that the ACBL claims to have an updated and current list of our officers and directors. However, the ACBL has Lee Ann Jensen listed as Tournament Chair not Lee Jensen. Allen has corrected this and hopefully the ACBL should have the correct list now.

Allen reported news from the Goodwill Committee report to the board. The WBL may nominate one of our unit players as the Goodwill Member of the Year (GMOTY). The board went into executive session to discuss the GMOTY nomination. The board resolved to submit nominations from individual board members rather than from the WBL board.

Allen met with the Kensington town mayor. Some positive progress has been made in the KCC:

- The town has removed the radiators from the KCC. The radiators were in poor condition.
- The town next plans to refinish and resurface the wooden floor in the KCC. This work is tentatively planned for the week of 1 July when the WBL will not be using the facility due to the Alexandria regional.
- The town plans to renovate all four bathrooms in the KCC. The town estimates that in October, the upstairs bathrooms will be unavailable for use and the WBL will need to use the downstairs bathrooms.
- Discussion about our current parking problems ensued. We were assured that additional parking would be made available for our use by this time of year. Allen and the Kensington Mayor met with the president of the Baker's Union. They arranged to allow access by WBL event participants on Thursday evenings, Friday evenings, all-day Saturday, and all-day Sunday on the B-level of the Baker's Union parking garage (the 2nd level). The parking garage would

not be available either Thursday or Friday afternoons as it would be needed during the business day by the Baker's Union. The president of the Baker's Union stipulated that to use the space, the WBL would need to provide a guard (unarmed guard was sufficient) to monitor the space. If used efficiently, this would provide up to an additional 67 parking spaces for WBL event participants. Allen proposed the WBL supply a volunteer to monitor the space until full, then display a sign that reported the lot full, and then return to the KCC facility (to play bridge). The president of the BU and the Mayor agreed to this.

Allen recommended forming a "parking committee" to find volunteers and schedule people to perform monitor duty. Volunteers would be given a free play to play in the unit game. Rothkin moved and Doran seconded to extend a free play to a volunteer to monitor the parking garage according to the description above. Ruderman voiced objections to assuming both responsibility and liability for any problems or dangers to property and persons. He recommended this for tournament sessions but not for weekly Thursday evening games unless there was a clear case for doing so. Ruderman moved to exclude Thursday evening from the parking agreement. The motion failed for lack of a second.

The motion under discussion was clarified as follows: the WBL should take advantage of the Baker's Union's offer to use the upper level of their parking garage on Thursday evenings, Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays for regular weekly games, tournaments, and other Special events. The WBL proposed accepting the stipulation of providing a parking monitor, a volunteer from the game, both before and after the game. Rothkin moved and Doran seconded this motion; the motion passed 7:1.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT DORAN

Due to insufficient publicity of the event, the Par Game has been rescheduled for October. Doran agreed to coordinate the organization of this event by contacting Elizabeth Nelson and Ram Sarangan and ensuring that they ordered booklets to run the event and coordinated with Carroad on scoring issues. The board authorized Doran, Nelson, and Sarangan to spend up to \$1000 for 240 booklets for this game (to cover up to 60 tables). A concern of the board was that we have no current experience running such an event. Doran volunteered to coordinate with Nelson some form of testing of the event (possibly play test the event in a local club or with a group of players at home) before ordering a full set of materials for the unit game. Doran and Carroad will have an update report for the next meeting.

BOARD REPORT RUDERMAN

Ruderman wanted to reaffirm that the Unit Game Coordinator was the appropriate person to coordinate events run at the weekly Unit game at the KCC. In the past, there has been some confusion about the events run at the unit game and one person is needed to coordinate. Discussion followed about improving the organization of special events on the calendar and ways to better coordinate these events.

Ruderman reported that there was a schedule conflict on the December calendar. The MBA unit STAC was scheduled on the night of our Christmas charity event. Discussion ensued on how to resolve the conflict. Doran moved, Ying seconded running the standard Christmas event (Bracketed Pairs and Board-a-Match teams) as a sectionally rated STAC event instead of as a Charity event. The unit has not yet applied for a Charity sanction for that date, so this seemed appropriate. The motion passed unanimously.

Allen suggested changing the 4 November unit game from a Stratified Unit Championship game to a Strata-Flighted Unit Championship.

Ruderman reported that the STAC was running smoothly. Allen was able to convince District 7 to allow the WBL to solicit participation from the Georgia clubs. Once the Georgia clubs were allowed to participate in the STAC, they agreed to participate in the STAC. Doug Grove is the chief director and will be coordinating with the clubs to ensure they are included and received the organizational materials. Ruderman will be out-of-town during the STAC so Allen will help Grove with the publicity.

BOARD REPORT BELL

Bell reported that all three Conduct & Ethics committee nominees accepted their nomination.

Bell reported that a new E-Z Bridge class for the Unit Game needed to be coordinated for September. Bell needed to find a teacher for the September E-Z Bridge class and was soliciting suggestions from the board. Bell also needed to get advertising started and distributed. In addition to starting E-Z Bridge classes at the Thursday night unit game, Trudy Machlin's game at the Rockville

JCC was in need of an E-Z Bridge instructor. Leslie Shafer was trying to enlist assistants who could be trained to run the E-Z Bridge as she was getting tired running the classes for so long and was in need of a break. Proposed teachers for the September class included Leslie Shafer, Rose Berman, Norma Pierzchala, Sam McMillan. Bell and Rothkin agreed to work on enlisting teachers for E-Z Bridge classes.

BOARD REPORT ROTHKIN

As Club liaison, Rothkin sent a letter to 19 different clubs within the Unit. She introduced herself and offered to assist the clubs with publicity for events, charity coordination. It was suggested that she contact the Laurel Bridge Club to offer assistance with their "Van the Man" Midnight Basketball Charity game.

Rothkin is trying to encourage the clubs to participate in the Rookie NAP event by scheduling sessions of the Rookie NAP event. She is working on coordinating a "Unit final" in October, possibly at the October sectional. Rothkin will present a program and proposed budget at the next meeting.

BOARD REPORT BERMAN

As Charity coordinator, Berman reported that St. Elizabeth's had reported fiscal problems. In the past, the unit has provided a donation to the St. Elizabeth's game. Berman moved and Doran seconded that Berman will contact the St. Elizabeth club manager and find out what they need and arrange for the the WBL to provide them with the support they need. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD REPORT YING

Ying presented the Web statistics at the board meeting. Web usage was slightly lower in June than in May. In June, the daily average was 124 hits (same as April) whereas the daily average in May was 163 hits.

Ying reported that he has added mail forwarding for two mail addresses:

- bulletin@wbl-unit.org forwards to Bryan Coleman's e-mail address
- membership@wbl-unit.org forwards to Frances Burke's e-mail address

BOARD REPORT KRUSKAL

Kruskal reported that the non-Life-Master (NLM) sectional was small, but very nice. The tournament had 193.5 tables over the weekend and recorded a loss of approximately \$1500.00. The tournament, though small, was very popular and attracted positive comments from the participants.

Kruskal needed to confirm that the district coordinator of the NAOP's would be distributing a flyer advertising the event. Doran is the district coordinator and will coordinate the publicity with Kruskal. The district final is scheduled for 22-23 January 2000. The NABC final will be at the Cincinnati NABC's 9-19 March 2000.

Kruakal mentioned that Clyde Kruskal has had trouble finding parking at the Thursday unit game that is close enough to unload the sodas each week. Players park in his spot along the wall near the back entrance. Kruskal asked that the directors who arrive early put one of the No Parking signs up along that wall when they arrive to preserve the spot for C Kruskal.

NEW BUSINESS

Ying asked that the board produce Conditions of Contest (CoC) for various special events at our Unit Game be written and provided for the players. Ying will write the first draft of the CoC for the Fast Pairs event. Doran will write the first draft of the CoC for the Par Game. This is a POLICY change.

OLD BUSINESS

Allen would like to avoid publicizing the ACBL policy of charging non-members and members not in good standing an additional \$1.00. By not publicizing the issue, the WBL preserves flexibility in the issue and can revisit the issue at a later date.

Publicity for the Par game needs to be writted, distributed, and advertized.

NEXT MEETING

Due to conflicts and inavailability, Rothkin moved and Ruderman seconded that

the July meeting be cancelled. Moved passed unanimously.

The August meeting will be on 11 August 1999 at the home of Ted Ying. The September meeting will be on 16 September 1999 at the home of Barbara Rothkin.

Directions to Ted Ying's house:

13203 Claxton Drive
Laurel, MD 20708-1807
301-490-3154

1. MD-295 FROM BALTIMORE:

MD-295 to MD-197. Turn right at the traffic light at the bottom of the ramp. Go to the third traffic light and turn left onto Contee Rd (Shell gas station on the corner). Go to the first traffic light and turn left onto Claxton Drive.

2. MD-295 FROM WASHINGTON:

MD-295 to MD-197. Turn left at the traffic light at the bottom of the ramp. Go to the fifth traffic light and turn left onto Contee Rd Shell gas station on the corner). Go to the first traffic light and turn left onto Claxton Drive.

3. I-95 FROM BALTIMORE:

I-95 to exit 33-A, MD-198, East towards Laurel. Go to the first traffic light and turn right onto Van Dusen. Follow Van Dusen until you see the Laurel Hospital on the right. At the next intersection (a 4-way stop sign) turn left onto Contee Rd. Follow Contee Rd to the third traffic light and turn right onto Claxton drive.

4. I-95 FROM WASHINGTON:

I-95 to exit 29-A, MD-212, East towards Beltsville. Go about 1.5 miles to the third traffic light and turn left onto Rte 1 North. Follow Rte 1 about 4 miles to Contee Rd (there is a Marlo furniture showroom on the left). Turn right onto Contee Rd. Go to second traffic light and turn right onto Claxton Drive.

All directions:

From Contee Rd, 13203 is the 7th house on the left (Blue Front).

Allen thanked Berman for his hospitality. Allen especially thanked Berman for stepping in at the last minute when the meeting had to be changed to his home. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 10 August 1999

Board of Directors Meeting

Washington Bridge League

10 August 1999

Attendees:

Jim Allen Don Berman Michael Carroad Bryan Coleman Barb Doran
Lee Jensen Kathy Kruskal Steve Robinson Barbara Rothkin Ted Ying

The August board meeting was held at WBL Secretary, Ted Ying's house. Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. Allen announced that the following board members were excused: Bob Bell was out of town, Dave Ruderman could not make the board meeting when the date was changed to accomodate several board members with difficulties, and Frances Burke.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - YING:

The minutes to the June meeting were distributed via e-mail by Ying. As the minutes were sent very late, hard-copies of the minutes were also available at the meeting for review. The minutes were approved unanimously. Allen asked that the minutes be sent out earlier in the month to allow board members to review tasks assigned to them. Ying replied that he would try to send out minutes earlier, if possible.

TREASURER'S REPORT - ROBINSON:

Robinson reported that the Unit checking account has a balance of \$11,917.58. The WBL has \$20,999.50 in funds for the regional. Of the moneys that the unit has on hand, approximately \$6400.00 is proceeds from the STAC, for which expenses still need to be paid. Additionally, of the remaining profit, half of that profit belongs to the NVBA unit.

Robinson reported that we still have not written the check for the last Charity game. Robinson will write the check to the Kensington Fire and Rescue Squad and give it to Berman. Berman will then take the check to the Kensington Fire Department and present the check to them on behalf of the WBL unit.

Robinson also reported that the unit has received from the ACBL, membership funds in the amount of \$2658.57. This is broken down into \$1885.02 in membership dues (non Life Masters), \$776.30 in Life Master fees, and -\$2.75 in adjustments from previous outlays.

Robinson also reported later in the meeting that he had received a letter from the IRS. Apparently the WBL is a 501.C.4 organization and not a 501.C.3 organization. Robinson said he would consult Barbara Ames, a CPA accountant, and Roger Pies, a tax lawyer to determine what ramifications this has on WBL functions. Robinson will report on this again at the next board meeting.

Doran moved to accept the treasurer's report; Kruskal seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen presented the membership report for the past year. The WBL membership was down; one contributing reason was that many of our new players, non-EZ Bridge new memberships, did not renew. Burke and Rothkin will investigate by contacting some of our members who did not renew and will report to both the ACBL and the WBL board when they have more information.

Allen reported that NVBA president, Barry Connors, passed away recently. Funeral arrangements had already been e-mailed to the board.

Allen had been in touch with the Kensington Community Center (KCC) office and had a report that they had difficulty in making arrangements for the refinishing of the floor of the KCC. A new tentative schedule for the refinishing of the floor was given to him: 13-16 August 1999 the floor would be sanded and the first finishing coat would be applied, end of August, the second finishing coat would be applied, and around 7 September 1999 the third finishing coat would be applied. The KCC is still planning on renovating the bathrooms in October 1999.

Allen mentioned that he and Bell are making arrangements to place the new EZ Bridge flyer in the next Kensington community newsletter. Additionally, they will make arrangements to advertise in the local community (possibly flyers in local businesses). Allen also mentioned that the March 1999 EZ Bridge classes were smaller than previous classes. Leslie Shafer is currently training new EZ Bridge teachers and will work on some plans to revive the decreasing attendance.

The next District 6 meeting will be at the Hunt Valley regional in mid-August. The next Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (MABC) meeting will be at the Atlanta regional over Labor Day weekend (first weekend in September). Allen reported a new policy decision decided by the MABC: if a disagreement arises between a regional tournament chair and the MABC president, then the matter will be referred to the MABC board and allow the MABC board to resolve the difference.

BOARD REPORT – ROBINSON

The 1999 WBL round robin is almost complete. The status of the round robin has been e-mailed out to various WBL members. Anyone interested in receiving the round robin results who is currently not getting them via e-mail should contact Steve Robinson.

Robinson suggested forming a convention committee to review allowable conventions, defense requirements, and appropriate alert procedures for WBL events. Berman has been appointed chair of this committee. The following people have expressed interest in serving on this committee and will be contacted to serve on this committee: Bob Bell, Bill Cole, Barbara Doran, Kathy Kruskal, and Steve Robinson.

BOARD REPORT - YING

Officer reference slips were finally produced and passed around the table. Several people noticed errors that required corrections. Ying will make corrections and present updated slips by the next board meeting. Any additional corrections should be e-mailed to Ying as soon as possible.

Web statistics were presented. August statistics are currently on a par with June and April. In May we had a very high average of visits. July had a very low average as the unit game results were very sporadic during July due to the regional and NABC (where Ying was out of town). The web site is maintaining a pretty solid popularity and Ying has received quite a lot of interest from the community in our on-line weekly results.

Ying presented a draft of a Conditions of Contest (CoC) for the Fast Pairs event. One suggested amendment to the CoC was to add that the Fast Pairs event would allow no yellow book conventions. It is deemed that conventions requiring yellow book defenses are too complex for players to respond to under the Fast Pairs conditions. Any additional changes to the CoC should be e-mailed to Ying and an updated CoC will be presented at the next board meeting.

Discussion arose about the scheduling committee for the 2000 year calendar. Ying requested scheduling a stratified open pairs at least once per month with a fast pairs opposite it. By getting the game on the calendar and advertising them in advance, attendance in the game should increase to a level to maintain the game for those interested.

BULLETIN EDITOR REPORT – COLEMAN

Coleman announced that the next *Bulletin* deadline would be Thursday, 9 September 1999.

BOARD REPORT – KRUSKAL

The next non-Life Master sectional tournament has been scheduled for 31 March – 2 April 2000. There is no conflict with an ACBL NABC that weekend unlike in previous years.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – DORAN

Doran reported that she had attended the Education Seminar at the San Antonio NABC. Bridge programs in local schools was discussed as was a new program, EZ Bridge Lite. In general, relatively little new information for the WBL was presented. Many of the ideas presented at the NABC’s usually originate from the District 6 and WBL area.

Doran mentioned that there would be a report later about the Par Game.

BOARD REPORT – JENSEN

Jensen reported that Lee Ann Jensen had been contacted again regarding the Kiwanis Golf and Bridge charity event; she was not interested in running this event this year but would help put interested parties in contact with the appropriate people at the Kiwanis club. Any interested parties can contact Lee Ann and she will help them get in touch with the Kiwanis organizers. Allen said that he would try to find a chair and urged board members to help find a chair for this event as well.

Jensen reported on the regional funds. There was \$3814.81 remaining in the regional account. \$2000.00 of this will be retained by the WBL as the annual advance for the next regional. The remaining \$1814.81 will be returned to the MABC. This is not profits of the tournaments, but money that the tournament chair and committee did not spend in the discretionary budget for the tournament. This is much higher than most tournaments return to the MABC and the tournament committee was commended for doing such an efficient job.

UNIT GAME CLUB MANAGER’S REPORT - CARROAD

Carroard reported that the local tournament chairs are discussing raising tournament session fees to \$8.00 per person per session starting 1 January 2000. Jensen reported that he and Margo Hennings (NVBA tournament chair) were awaiting contacting Pat Wilson (MBA tournament chair) before confirming this with the respective boards. Jensen will report again when all local tournament chairs have discussed the matter.

Carroard suggested that we raise the unit game entry fee to \$6.00. Rothkin moved and Robinson seconded a motion to raise the unit game entry fee to \$6 per person effective 1 January 2000. The motion passed unanimously.

Carroard mentioned that the 12 August 1999 unit game was a local charity game and he wondered what charity the WBL was sponsoring this time. It was reported that the game was to benefit the St. Elizabeth’s Institution bridge club. The unit would take the funds raised at the charity game and augment that amount from general funds if necessary to make a donation of \$300.00 to St. Elizabeth’s. This had been decided at a previous WBL board meeting and was confirmed here.

Carroard mentioned that there was an issue with then number of charity games that we were scheduling for the 2000 calendar year. Due to the STAC that would coincide with our annual Christmas party game in 2000, we did not need an extra local charity event; thus in theory we didn’t need to run 2 ACBL charity events as we did not have 2 local charity events to sponsor. Jensen moved and Ying seconded that in 2000, the WBL only schedule 2 charity events (one for the ACBL charity, and one for a local charity for the Annual meeting) instead of the regular 4 charity events. Motion passed unanimously.

After observing the unit knockouts (KO’s) this year Carroad commented that the unit KO’s did not seem to be adversely affected by having the first round snowed out at the unit game. He recommended that we consider running the unit KO’s much like the round robin without hosting the first round at the unit game. The idea was well received. The issue will be delegated to the scheduling committee for consideration and action.

Carroad and Doran presented a report on the Par Game concept. Carroad had reviewed the Par Game materials from the 1986 Intercollegiate championship. He commented that the materials were well written and very interesting, but unfortunately, 12 deals took about 2.5 hours to review. He believes that this would be very difficult satisfactorily at the unit game. The board agreed to cancel the Par Game and remove it from the unit game schedule. An alternative suggestion was to help sponsor a trial Par Game at one of the local clubs (like the Washington Bridge Center) to see how well it ran in a smaller venue. The WBL could subsidize the purchase of the books (which are a bit expensive for a club to purchase) to test the concept.

BOARD REPORT – ROTHKIN

Rothkin reported that her report on the 49er NAP unit final was e-mailed. She summarized the report to the board. The report is enclosed at the end of the minutes as an addendum. Rothkin recommended to the board that every Thursday in September be an NAP club game as allowed by the conditions of contest specified by the ACBL. Additionally, Rothkin asked that the same be done in the 2000 calendar year and that these games be added to the 2000 calendar schedule.

Rothkin reported that Shafer, Bell, and Rothkin would be meeting to discuss various novice and education related issues. Among the issue was to find and train additional EZ Bridge teachers to give Shafer a break as she has been teaching the course almost continuously for several years now. The group would also discuss some new ideas for EZ Bridge.

BOARD REPORT – BERMAN

Berman mentioned that the Laurel Bridge Club would be hosting the annual Van “the Man” Charity game for the Midnight Basketball League on Saturday, 2 October 1999 at the Deerfield Run Community Center on MD-197 in Laurel. WBL board members were encouraged to attend if possible.

Berman asked if a list of NAP club qualifying games would be available for posting on the web sites (District 6 and WBL). Doran and Kruskal will work on this and will try to get this information to the web masters.

NEW BUSINESS

Allen reported that he had received a letter from a new WBL board members. She was previously a bridge bulletin editor in Bulgaria and has relocated to this area. Allen forwarded the letter to Coleman as a letter to the editor.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 September 1999, at Barbara Rothkin’s house Barbara resides at 5225 Pooks Hill Road, 1811 North, Bethesda, MD 20814 (the Promenade Apartments), 301-493-9359.

Directions:

From the East:
Take I-495 West toward Bethesda. Exit at Rockville Pike, Exit 34, Route 355, Bethesda and Rockville. Stay in the right lane and follow the signs to 355 South. You will come to a traffic light and will make a "controlled" U-turn, heading South on 355. Go back under the Beltway and turn right at the first traffic light which is Pooks Hill Road. Follow directions from * below.

From Gaithersburg:
Take the 270 spur toward Silver Spring. Just as 270 meets the Beltway, take the left exit onto 355. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right at the traffic light onto Pooks Hill Road, and follow the directions at the * below.

From Virginia:
Take 495 two exits past the 270 split, and get off at 355. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right at the traffic light onto Pooks Hill Road, and follow the directions at the * below.

From Washington:
Take Wisconsin Avenue to Pooks Hill Road (last traffic light before Beltway). Turn left onto Pooks Hill road, and follow the directions at the * below.

* Follow Pooks Hill Road around, bearing right, and pass the Marriott. Continue bearing right. There is nothing but vacant land and parking lots between the Marriott and the Promenade. Turn right through the stone columns at the Promenade. You will have to stop at the guard house and you'll tell them that you're going to Apartment 1811 North. After passing the guard house, turn right, go around to the front of the building, and park in one of the big lots on your left. The Promenade is two buildings joined by one lobby. When you go into the lobby, the North building is to your left.

The October board meeting is set for Tuesday, 12 October 1999 at Barb Doran’s home. This date will be confirmed at the next board meeting.

Allen thanked Ying for his hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 10 September 1999

Addendum A:

Novice 49er Report e-mailed by Barbara Rothkin to the Board

From: BROTHKIN@aol.com
Date: Sun, 8 Aug 1999 13:58:53 EDT
Subject: (no subject)
To: barbd@netcom.com, robinswr@erols.com, foskette@erols.com,
davidru@sysnet.net, ted.ying@gsfc.nasa.gov, dberman@clark.net,
lpj@lsr.nei.nih.gov, allenx@erols.com, edbbdp@erols.com,
bubbles@worldnet.att.net, rbell@nsf.gov, BROTHKIN@aol.com

WBL 0 - 49er Report

September is 0 - 49er NAP month. I did several mailings regarding the 0 - 49er games, mailed posters for clubs to list their games, and spoke to a majority of the club owners/managers encouraging them to sponsor the games. As of this date, there are fifteen games scheduled, including all five Thursdays at our Unit game.

On Saturday afternoon, October 9, at our WBL Sectional, we're having a "new" (one session) 49er TROPHY CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT honoring all 0 - 49ers who scored a 50% game or better at one of the WBL qualifying games. A flyer listing all of the qualifying games scheduled and a separate flyer advertising the Trophy Championship are being mailed to all the clubs in our Unit.

The anticipated expenses for the Trophy Championship are as follows:

Two flyers \$80.00 (It is my understanding
that 50% of this
amount will be reimbursed by the ACBL)

Souvenirs for all participants
at the Trophy Championship \$75.00

Trophies for winners \$32.00 (Price is approximate. We
may want to
consider a large, traveling trophy. However,
it would be my suggestion that we not do that
this year, but rather wait and see the
participation we get.)

Director for
Trophy Championship N/A I spoke to Millard in this regard.
Hopefully, we will have 8 - 10
tables, and he feels that an extra
Director is not necessary.

Mailing expenses/
posters \$40.00 (approximate)

See you all Tuesday.

Board of Directors Meeting

Washington Bridge League

14 September 1999

Attendees:

Jim Allen Bob Bell Don Berman Michael Carroad Barb Doran Lee Jensen
Steve Robinson Barbara Rothkin Dave Ruderman Leslie Shafer Charlie Williams Nadine Wood
Ted Ying

The September board meeting was held at the home of Barbara Rothkin. Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 7:51 PM. Allen announced that the following board members were excused: Bryan Coleman has classes on Tuesday evenings, Kathy Kruskal was feeling ill and cancelled that day. Allen welcomed three additional people to the board meeting: Michael Carroad, our unit game club manager and Director in Charge (DIC) of WBL general events; Leslie Shafer, our unit novice coordinator and EZ Bridge teacher/coordinator; and Nadine Wood, the district 6 Director on the ACBL Board of Directors.

NOVICE COORDINATOR REPORT - SHAFER:

In order to allow her to present her report to the board and then leave early, Allen suspended the regular agenda to greet Shafer and hear her report first. Shafer opened by confirming that she would like to remain the novice coordinator for the unit, but was trying to withdraw from teaching the EZ Bridge classes. Among the reasons was the desire for a break and interest in playing at the Unit game. Shafer has spent the last few months training Barbara Stanard to assume the teaching of the EZ Bridge class. Allen agreed with placing Stanard in the role with the caveat that this would be a trial period and that in several months, the board would ask Shafer and Carroad, the unit game director, for a report on the status of EZ Bridge and possibly revisit the issue.

Shafer had also spoken with Carroad about establishing a separate director(s) specifically hired to run the 199er game at the Unit game. She had noticed and heard from players that a major problem with the game is that the game needs more attention than standard games (e.g., encouraging slower players to play faster to keep the movement running smoothly). Shafer recommended Millie and Rick Larkin as a team as they would be able to work together and at least one would be available each week. Carroad, as the club manager and DIC, will determine how to implement this and will report back to the board at a later date. Robinson pointed out that as the unit game club manager and unit game director-in-charge (DIC), Carroad had full authority to decide on the course of action that he thought best. The board concurred. Shafer responded that she was informing the board of all discussion as a courtesy and that she had already spoken about all of the above details with Carroad and the two of them would set the course of action.

After Stanard completes the current EZ-Bridge classes, Shafer and her husband, Charlie Williams would resume teaching the mini-lesson for the 0-20 group before the unit game. However, for a while at least, Shafer is retiring from the EZ-Bridge/directing path. Shafer made special note to thank Rothkin for her dedication and hard work in helping the novice program. She has provided more work as liason than any of the past Novice liasons and Shafer wanted to make special note of that.

On the topic of declining memberships, Shafer mentioned that the numbers of memberships from the previous year that had not renewed were distorted. Last year, Shafer taught some Audrey Grant Club series classes to some people in Montgomery County College. These were non-duplicate and non-ACBL members and she encouraged them to join the ACBL at the end of class, much like most of her classes. However, as non-duplicate players, they were interested in learning bridge, but not participating in duplicate events. These players did not choose to renew their memberships (they had no particular reason to do so) and they were a large portion of the members that did not renew their membership. When Shafer found out that this was not good for the ACBL or WBL, she discontinued encouraging these players to join the ACBL. Thus, we had a noticeable distortion of the membership numbers.

Shafer outlined some future projects that she would be working on as Novice Coordinator. She would still be writing and distributing the novice newsletter. She would coordinate the novice newsletter with Stanard and the Larkins. ACBL would be subsidizing 40% of the cost of the newsletter and this money would come back to the WBL. Shafer was planning on working to coordinate a meeting with the ABA novice and education program coordinators to set up a teacher's workshop. Allen asked Shafer to put together a proposed budget for such a workshop by next month's meeting. Allen thanked Shafer for attending the meeting and for her hard work.

SECRETARY'S REPORT/MINUTES – YING

There were no additional corrections for the minutes this month. Doran moved and Bell seconded accepting the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT - ROBINSON:

Robinson reported that the Unit checking account has a balance of \$8536.87.

Robinson commented that this was comparable to what we had in the account last year at this time. However, as a caveat, he mentioned that at this time last year, the NVBA ran the STAC and had to pay us our portion of the profits. This year, we ran the STAC and would have to pay the NVBA their portion of the profits. Thus, the next month or two, our account may not be comparable to last year. Since last month, we have paid the sanction fees and directors fees for the STAC. We still have left payments to the NVBA (profits), and expenses and other payments to Doug Grove, our DIC and coordinator of the STAC. The payments to NVBA and Grove will amount to approximately \$3,000.00.

Doran moved to accept the treasurer's report; Berman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen opted to post the President’s report until later in the meeting. He wanted to take this opportunity to discuss an old business item. Allen wanted to revisit the issue of the differential fee for non-members and non-Service-fee LM’s, hereafter referred to as non paying players (NPP). Since the board had passed the original motion in April 1999, the current board had not had a chance to review and comment on the issue. Wood reviewed the recent history of the differential fee issue. She discussed her original opposition to the proposal in 1996 (the 1996 Task Force for the Future of Bridge). However, she cited that at that time, the ACBL had no clear implementation plan for the discounted rates. However, now, most external reviews comment that we are one of the only membership organizations that do not charge a differential fee for members. Another distinct difference between now and 1996 is that the computerized records for membership are more accurate and easier to maintain and confirm. So now the ACBL has reconsidered the effect that this would have on management and the membership. ACBL has exempted the clubs from the differential fees, however, once the players become accustomed to the differential in tournaments, very few people will have a problem with the differential fees.

Robinson moved and Rothkin seconded that the WBL would charge a higher entry rate for WBL unit events and would then adhere to the ACBL policy of discounting the entry rate 50 cents for member non-LM and Service-fee paying LM’s. (paying players, or PP). Discussion on the topic ensued. After some discussion, one group of dissenters commented on one excluded group. Ruderman moved and Rothkin seconded a motion to amend the above motion to include ABA members in the list of playings accorded the discounted rate. Robinson agreed to the amendment and claified the original (amended) motion as follows: The WBL would raise the entry fees to \$7.50 per player per session for WBL unit events and would then adhere to the ACBL policy of discounting the entry rate 50 cents for member non-LM, Service-fee paying LM’s, and ABA members. The amendment passed with 5 agreements, 1 dissention, and 3 abstentions. The motion was called and the revised motion was passed with 6 agreements, 2 dissentions, and 1 abstention.

BOARD REPORT – JENSEN

Jensen reported that the scheduling committee had met and that a 2000 schedule had been drafted and would be presented at the next board meeting for review by the board.

Jensen moved and Robinson seconded that the board should revisit the entry fees for the WBL Unit game. Jensen proposed that the Unit game entry fee be raised to \$8 per player per session for all North American Pairs (NAP) and Grand National Teams (GNT) club qualifiers, Instant Matchpoint games and Sectional Tournament at Clubs (StaC) events; and the Unit game entry fee be raised to \$6 per player per session for all other events. The board voted 8 in agreement with 1 abstention. The board decided that this would be effective as of 15 Sept 1999.

Jensen moved and Doran seconded that we increase our discounted entry fees for PP’s to WBL Sectional events to \$8 per player per session. This would also be effective 15 Sept 1999. The motion passed with 6 in agreement and 3 abstentions.

Allen reported that the Alexandria regional report had been submitted and the tournament was an excellent success. The tournament turned a great profit and the turnout and results were also great. Alexandria remains one of District 6 and the MABC’s most successful regional tournaments.

BOARD REPORT – YING

Ying reported that he had been cast in a local community theater production. Due to his rehearsal schedule, he would not be at the Unit game for the remainder of September and the month of October. He would return to directing at the Unit game in November.

Ying reported that the web statistics were about the same as the rest of the summer. The complete results for August and the partial results for September were comparable to the earlier months.

Updated officer slips were presented. These had the corrections from the previous month included on the slips. Ying asked board members to please take extra copies to the Unit game for him.

Ying presented updated Conditions of Contest (CoC) for the Fast Pairs event. The board had no further corrections and the current version of the CoC would be presented for future Fast Pairs events.

BOARD REPORT – ROTHKIN

Rothkin reported that the turnout for the 0-49 games had been great. She had quite a number of pairs qualified and was already sending out qualification letters to those 49er pairs inviting them to the Unit event to be held 9 Oct 1999 at the WBL Sectional. Rothkin reported that the 0-49 club level games had a good turnout in general. Rothkin had already acquired the trophies for the Unit level event and wanted to take them to the KCC to display for the next few weeks at the unit game; she also wanted to store the trophies in the directors’ cabinet until the Unit level event. Rothkin was proposing that we charge \$6 per player per session for the Thursday night qualifier on 23 Sept 1999 when the Thursday night Unit game was part of the NVBA Sectional tournament. Rothkin reported that she had amended the CoC for the Rookie NAP event. Non-qualified pairs would be allowed to play the Unit level event and would be allowed to win Section awards (including Section tops) but would not be eligible for Overall awards..

BOARD REPORT – RUDERMAN

Ruderman reported that there were approximately 1150 tables in the STAC. Most of the trophies had been sent out to the winners.

Ruderman made a request of the Unit game directors. He asked that the Unit game directors make an announcement at the end of the night to ask the

players to please help clean up the areas around the tables of trash.

BOARD REPORT – BELL

Bell reported no outstanding or reported issues from the Conduct & Ethics Committee (CNE). Only one case was reported and that was referred to Beth Palmer as in the jurisdiction of the District 6 CNE committee.

BOARD REPORT – BELL (CONT)

Bell mentioned that the St. Elizabeth's game needed a director for their game on Monday, 20 Sept 1999.

Allen reported that he had received a letter from St. Elizabeth's thanking the WBL for their recent donation to the St. E's game.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DORAN

Doran requested the results from the June-August Unit game qualifiers for the NAP event. Doran had no additional report to present.

BOARD REPORT - ROBINSON

Round robin was progressing well and according to schedule. Only one issue was an outstanding protest. The committee had the appeal well in hand and was already in progress resolving the protest.

BOARD REPORT – BERMAN

Berman reported that the Convention Review committee had been in discussion via e-mail concerning the issues raised by Robinson. Robinson wanted to come up with a policy to enforce more proactive rules on alerting by unusual methods. The problem the committee had was that the WBL would put into effect different rules from the ACBL standard which would only be in effect for WBL events. Thus the players would have one set of rules for WBL-sponsored events and another set of rules for all other events. The committee felt that the WBL should not have a separate set of alert rules and procedures from the ACBL.

UNIT GAME CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT - CARROAD

Carroad raised the Fast Pairs event up for discussion. He pointed out that the current format for the Fast Pairs event was setting up the game for failure. The game was currently only scheduled opposite of a regular Stratified Pairs event (it won't run well opposite a Strati-Flighted Pairs event). Unfortunately, we currently only have regular Stratified Pairs events opposite out-of-town regionals, NABC's and other special events. Hence a significant number of players would be out-of-town and attendance in general would be down. Carroad mentioned that the WBL needed to reconsider how to schedule the Fast Pairs in order to allow attendance to prosper. Doran volunteered to help review the situation and consider options.

The recent STAC held a Stratified BAM teams on Thursday evening. This had a noticeably decreased attendance for the session. Carroad recommended replacing the BAM teams with a Swiss teams or returning to a pairs game format as the BAM was not as popular as other events.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ALLEN

Allen reported that Clyde Kruskal was again running his games theory class at the University of Maryland. Kruskal had enlisted the help of Shafer to teach EZ-Bridge in the class. Allen suggested that the board consider subsidizing the cost of the EZ-Bridge books for the students. Robinson moved and Bell seconded that the board subsidize the cost of the books. Bell, with Robinson's consent, amended the motion to grant Allen the discretion to spend up to \$90 to subsidize the cost of EZ Bridge books for the UMD students. The board asked Allen to discuss with Shafer, the concerns of the board in subsidizing college students earning college credit for college courses. The motion passed 4 agreement, 1 dissension, and 2 abstentions.

Allen presented the KCC review. So far the Kensington community residents all appreciate the WBL as a tenant of the KCC and feel that the WBL is a good functional use of the KCC. As the WBL works on the issue, there have been fewer parking problems over residents' personal parking places and the residents all appreciate that. There are currently still electrical problems with the facility, e.g. lights blowing circuit breakers. Allen will work with the KCC maintenance personnel to resolve the problems and come up with solutions for the dark areas of the playing areas. Allen reported that the last coat of fresh floor finish would be applied the weekend of 17-19 Sept 1999. There was no contractor selected yet by the KCC facility management to renovate the bathrooms, so it was unlikely that the bathroom renovation would be completed in October 1999 as previously anticipated. Allen was scheduled to meet with the KCC facility management soon regarding the issue of curtains on the windows and around the walls. Allen mentioned he currently had a proposal/idea submitted to the KCC management to review. Since this was an issue that was very significant to the WBL, Allen commented to the board that the WBL should be willing to help if necessary in defraying the costs of curtains, but that he had not yet mentioned the offer to assist to the KCC management. He was awaiting their response to his proposal before offering to assist.

NEW BUSINESS

The Par Game had been removed from the Unit Game schedule. The Washington Bridge Center and the Laurel Bridge Club were planning to host a joint Inter-Club championship Par Game event on Saturday, 30 Oct 1999. Carroad and Kathy Kruskal would be directing the event. After the event, a report would be presented to the board by either Carroad or Kruskal.

Ying requested that the Unit acquire some defense Yellow Books for the players in the Unit game. The response was that Millard Nachtwey had some and would be able to provide yellow books for the Unit game.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 October 1999, at Barbara Doran’s house, 1107 Dale Drive, Silver Spring, MD. Barb’s phone number is 301-608-0347.

Directions from East:

Take the Capitol Beltway, I-495, to exit 30, Colesville Road. Follow Colesville Road south to the second traffic light at Dale Drive. Turn right onto Dale Drive and go 2.5 blocks. 1107 is on the right just over a small hill.

Directions from West or North:

Take the Capitol Beltway, I-495, to exit 31B, Georgia Avenue, South. Follow Georgia Avenue south to the second traffic light at Columbia Road. Turn left onto Columbia Road. Follow Columbia Road about 1/10 of a mile. Columbia Road will bear off to the left and Dale Drive will bear off to the right. Bear right onto Dale Drive. Go about one mile and 1107 will be on your left as you near the crest of a small hill.

The November meeting is currently set on Wednesday, 10 Nov 1999 at Dave Ruderman’s house.

Allen thanked Rothkin for her hospitality. Jensen moved and Ying seconded adjourning the meeting; the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 10 October 1999

Attendees:

Jim Allen	Roy Becker	Bob Bell	Don Berman	Frances Burke
Barbara Doran	Millard Nachtwey	Steve Robinson	Barbara Rothkin	Dave Ruderman
Ted Ying				

The October board meeting was held at Barbara Doran’s house. Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Allen reported that due to [[a]] confusion with the board meeting time, Kruskal would not be present. Allen welcomed two guests to the board: Roy Becker, the WBL insurance agent; and Millard Nachtwey, ACBL tournament director, DIC for MABC and several other hats including DIC for WBL tournaments.

Allen suspended the agenda with the regular board reports to hear from the two guests and allow the two guests to leave at their leisure.

INSURANCE REPORT – BECKER:

As part of the background research into the insurance coverage of the WBL and WBL Board of Directors (BOD), Becker investigated the current status of the ACBL insurance policies. Becker was primarily interested in insurance liability coverage for the Unit and Unit BOD in the event that a third party sued the WBL or BOD. The short review is that no one is familiar with the details of the ACBL insurance coverage.

Becker reported on the information that he could gather about the following policies in effect:

WBL Unit Policy

The WBL Unit policy covers up to \$5 million per person and up to \$7 million per occurrence for each liable instance. This covers everything involved in any suit in which the WBL is mentioned, primarily including attorney fees. The principal limitation is that it only covers the WBL as a whole if mentioned in the suit[[.]] and board members as officers, but not individuals on the BOD should they be mentioned separately in the suit.

ACBL League Policy

The ACBL policy covers all NABC’s, Grand National Teams (GNT), North American Pairs (NAP) and Regional events sponsored by the ACBL. This coverage any liability that occurs at any such event, but does not cover any other events. The ACBL also has a directors and officers (DNO) policy that will cover individuals listed as acting directors or officers for the ACBL in such events. This policy will cover claims of up to \$1 million per person.

District 6 Policy

The district does not have a separate policy of its own. They are covered by the ACBL policies in the instance of regional tournaments and GNT and NAP events. They have no additional coverage.

Clubs Policy

The clubs currently have no insurance policy that covers them unless they purchase such a policy themselves. The cheapest policy that each club can purchase is about a \$120 policy. This is a minimum policy that will cover the DNO and clubs for up to \$1million per person, \$3 million per occurrence.

Summary

Roy said that currently all defined board positions including committee chairs are covered by the existing DNO clauses of the WBL policy (and the ACBL policy in certain instances). However, although committee chairs are covered, committee members are not covered. Roy said that we do not need to purchase any additional policies. However, any people acting on the behalf of the WBL should be given a designated [[commiittee]] chair position to cover them while acting for the WBL.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR REPORT – NACHTWEY:

Nachtwey attended the WBL Board meeting to report on several items of recent importance to the BOD. The first was that during the October sectional tournament, the 50 cent [[50-cent]] discount for non dues paying members and non-service paying life masters (non paying players or NPP’s) went smoothly. Most NPP either paid initially or paid either the difference or their membership/service fee when informed their dues/service fees were not current. Most of the NPP’s were pleasant and responsive when informed. 7 NPP’s paid their dues/service fees when informed of the lapse.

Nachtwey reported tha[[t]] the 49er NAP Unit game went very well. He extended congratulations to Rothkin for all her hard work in getting the invitations and information sent out and all the organization she put into the event. The event hosted 11 tables, significantly more than was expected for the inaugural event. The event might have drawn more, but due to exceptionally good weather and a long holiday weekend, many 49ers who would have attended may have found other attractions to participate in. Nachtwey was very pleased and wanted to emphasize what a good event this was.

Nachtwey addressed the game times for Saturday events in our Sectional tournaments. The game times are currently set at 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM for the Senior events and 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM for all other events. There were some continued complaints from some of the players due to the noise level during the overlap periods when one group was arriving and preparing to play while the other group was already in play (noticeably when the non-Senior events were preparing for the 1:00 session and later when the Seniors were preparing for the 3:30 session). Nachtwey has proposed changing the times for the December sectional to 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM for the Seniors and 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM for the other events. This should reduce the overlap problem. The drawbacks are that the seniors can only play 24 boards in their first session and they have a very short lunch break.

However, if the Seniors want, they can still have a dinner break and be back to participate in the 7:00 PM Open session. If this doesn't reduce the problem, Nachtwey has one additional suggestion which is to try and start the Senior morning session at 9:30 AM. So far, this doesn't seem like a good idea, but Nachtwey wants to keep this in reserve as an option to reconsider and try if needed.

Nachtwey received a letter from a player from Baltimore addressing the WBL tournaments. Some of the points he wanted to convey to the board. The player suggested having shorter sessions on Sunday, perhaps cutting down to 7 matches for the team events. The player also suggested possibly having a shorter dinner break (either 1 hour or ½ hour), perhaps even an earlier starting time. The player was commenting that it was difficult for those farther away to make the Sunday event and still be home at a reasonable hour. There was some discussion about the issues presented. However, no motion was produced and no resolution was reached regarding the issues. Nachtwey's comments were for everyone's information and can be discussed at a future date.

Nachtwey reported that currently twice a year, we run a 2-session Flight A event. If we run a Strati-Flighted A/X event as a play through, those players with a poor afternoon session and those players who can only make one of the two sessions are not eligible for overall awards. On the other hand, if we run a qualifying event with a final, (where the consolation event is a new separate event with its own lower overall awards), then it alleviates the above problems, but we cannot stratify the final session (however, the new consolation event can be stratified). Currently we have one of each type of event, but the board may want to watch these events for the remainder of the season to discuss whether to change this in the future. Currently Nachtwey recommends keeping the events the way they are.

Nachtwey addressed the issue of mid-chart conventions, specifically those with defenses in the yellow book. Nachtwey mentioned that the yellow book defense to 2D Multi in particular is not particularly complete or adequate. The WBL may want to reconsider allowing mid-chart events in certain events (such as Open Stratified, or B/C events) where those playing these conventions will have a certain advantage due to the greater inability of the opponents to compensate/defend against them (unlike an event like the Flight A/X event). Ruderman moved and Allen seconded tabling the discussion for a later meeting. The motion to table passed.

Nachtwey reported an incident from the last sectional. Apparently, a situation arose between two experienced Flight A partnerships. In the incident, one pair failed to give adequate information to the other pair. Under normal circumstances, the information provided may have been enough, but there were previously announced extenuating circumstances that made it apparent that the disclosure may not have been enough. Additionally, a question was raised about full disclosure and following active ethics. Nachtwey asked whether he should pursue contacting the pairs as an ACBL Field Agent and tournament director or whether to address his comments on behalf of the WBL. Jensen moved and Rothkin seconded that Nachtwey should contact the parties involved as an ACBL Field Agent and to caution the offending pair to be more aware of their ethical responsibilities regarding full disclosure of special agreements. Ying moved to amend the original motion to append the WBL BOD "signature" to the letter. The motion to amend died for lack of a second. The original motion passed with 7 in agreement, no dissensions and 2 abstentions.

In addition, the board recommended (in discussion with Nachtwey) that the directing staff post a list of **acceptable** ~~[[acceptable]]~~ conventions and an applicable convention chart (both General and Mid) and a list of appropriate alert procedures. Also, the board recommended that the directing staff announce that this is available and that players should consult it.

Robin moved and Berman seconded that pairs that lead small from low doubletons (low from xx) be required to lead face down and partner of opening leader would be required to announce that they may lead low from small doubletons. After some discussion, the motion passed 5 in agreement with 4 abstentions. Allen asked Robinson to draft an announcement of this for the ***Bulletin*** and handouts to be handed out at the Unit Game and sectional tournaments.

Allen thanked Nachtwey for his report.

NEW BUSINESS – ALLEN:

Allen recommended that we consider creating an Insurance committee to keep us current on the status of our insurance and any changes that we may need. Doran moved and Robinson seconded that we create an Insurance committee with an appointed chair. The motion passed unanimously. Allen appointed Becker as the committee chair.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – YING:

Rothkin moved and Doran seconded accepting the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT – ROBINSON:

Robinson reported that there was \$9441.09 in the WBL account. Outstanding debts that have not been paid include the following: KCC rent for the tournament and STAC expenses. The bill for latest ***Bulletin*** has been paid. Outstanding income still to be received includes Unit game entry money from September. The WBL account is slightly lower than the comparable time from last year, but Robinson did not think it enough to worry. Doran moved and Rothkin seconded accepting the Treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen asked Joan Lewis to serve as committee chair for the 2000 Nominations Committee. This would be for the elections in May 2000. Allen said he would confirm her acceptance in January.

Allen asked about the problem with our advertisement for the April tournament. Jensen reported that Bob Heller had failed to include our advertisement for our April sectional tournament in the MABC insert of the ACBL ***Bulletin***. The omission was noticed in the January/February ***Bulletin*** insert. The money has already been paid out to the ACBL and the MABC recommended that due to the confusion, the loss of approximately \$400 be divided evenly between the MABC, District 6, and the WBL. Jensen moved and Doran seconded that we pay for 1/3 of the charge to resolve this easily and politely for all involved. The motion passed with 8 in agreement and 1 dissention.

Allen reported that he had consulted with Clyde Kruskal regarding the E-Z Bridge books for future classes of his at the University of Maryland. Kruskal suggested that we pay for the books this year as they were not advertised that the books would be required early on and that next year and successive years, that the students be informed about purchasing the books and pay for them themselves.

Allen reported that the Kensington community had not yet selected a contractor to perform the renovation **[[renovation]]** work on the bathrooms at the KCC. The local community government is not particularly organized regarding ~~the~~**[[renovation]]** work on the bathrooms at the KCC. The local community government is not particularly work on the KCC.

Allen urged the board to continue considering a 12:00 NOON start-time on Sundays for tournament events, should the issue come up to a vote again. The later start time allows us to share the parking spaces both at the KCC and the church down the street without any conflict. The services are typically done by 11:00 and by 11:30 or so most of the parishioners have departed and the spaces are available for the WBL players. Also the management of the church (specifically the rector) **are** **[[is]]** difficult to deal with and this would ease the parking problems for the players and help maintain the current neutral standing we have with the church.

Allen has assumed the duty of contacting lapsed ACBL members and encouraging them to renew their lapsed memberships or service fees.

BOARD REPORT – ROBINSON

The round robin is currently running fairly smoothly. The protest was resolved. The RR committee had to ruling very similar to the recent ACBL ruling for Joanna Stansby.

BOARD REPORT – BERMAN

Berman had nothing to report.

BOARD REPORT – ROTHKIN

Rothkin reported that the Unit final of the NAP 49er pairs event went very well. She especially thanked Rose Berman, Mary Jane von **[[Von ??]]** Moss, and Leslie Shafer for all their help in advertising the event, encouraging the players to attend, and helping with the qualifications. One minor problem was that the directing staff was not prepared to run the event. Hence, the room was not preset and had to be set up at the last minute and arrangements had to be made to handle the event. However, all arrangements were handled very neatly and the event ran smoothly. Next year, a little more advance organization of the actual event itself should be planned.

The event was so successful, Rothkin would like to try another one in the Spring and potentially schedule this regularly for twice a year. The event cost about \$200-\$300 and was worth the time, money, and effort. The players enjoyed themselves and it is likely to encourage them to continue playing bridge.

The club manager's breakfast has been schedule for 13 November 1999 at the Knight's of Columbus Hall where the NVBA November sectional will be held. All board members are invited and should be contacted by someone from the NVBA.

Rothkin reported that she had heard from Leslie Shafer that Shafer is out of E-Z Bridge books for the Unit. The books were formerly \$6.00 per book, but have gone up to \$9.00 per book. Rothkin and Shafer recommend that we purchase 100 books and then sell them to new students instead of giving them away to the students. They propose that we can charge \$13.00 per book to the students. Rothkin moved and Ying seconded that we purchase 100 E-Z Bridge books for the unit and the unit education program. Ruderman moved and Bell seconded that we table the motion until we can have Shafer attend a board meeting to report on the E-Z Bridge classes and answer some questions about the plans for the books and the E-Z Bridge classes coming up next Spring. The motion to table passed with 4 in agreement, 3 in dissention, with 2 abstentions.

BOARD REPORT – RUDERMAN

Ruderman had nothing to report to the board. Ruderman asked about bulletin boards and Allen confirmed that the bulletin boards were now available at the KCC for the Unit game. Ruderman said he would start posting announcements, flyers, etc. once again.

BOARD REPORT – BELL

Bell had nothing to report to the board.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DORAN

Doran reported that the flyer for the District 6 NAP district final was out and looked very good. A new event was added to the weekend. On Sunday, there would be a 2-session open consolation pairs event for any pairs that did not qualify from Saturday to Sunday. This way, pairs travelling from afar would have an event to play in and would not have to **come****[[travel]]** the distance and plan lodging for the evening just for one day.

BOARD REPORT – JENSEN

Jensen announced that the 2000 schedule for the Unit game was not ready. He would attempt to have a draft schedule ready by the Thursday, October 14 Unit game. The October sectional went well, although attendance was down. We had **just under** **[[fewer than]]** 400 tables at the tournament.

BOARD REPORT – YING

Ying reported that the web stats were lower. This was due in large part because Ying has not been at the Unit game due to conflicts with another event going on through the end of November. The gamefiles for the Unit game are not consistently coming to him and hence the results are not getting up on the web consistently. He will work the details out with Carroad to get better results. Berman volunteered to help work on the web site. Ying will send information to Berman on how to update the web site.

Berman recommended trying to get a working on-line version of the WBL **Bulletin** available for the members. Ying agreed with this as a long-term goal, but cautioned that there are currently certain technical difficulties with this, one being the current format of the articles in the **Bulletin** and the need to reformat the articles for inclusion on the web page.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – BURKE

For Cheer & Sympathy, Burke announced that she had just been informed of two members in need of sympathy responses. Terry Feetham had been ill and would get a “Get Well” card. Dalia Kende’s husband had been seriously ill and an appropriate card would be sent to them.

Burke announced that she has started a bridge class for a 5th grade class recently and that it was going well.

NEXT MEETING

The next WBL Board meeting will be Wednesday, 10 November 1999 at Dave Ruderman's home. Directions are included at the end of this message. **REMINDER:** Ted Ying will not be at this meeting and Barbara Rothkin will be taking~~[[]]~~ minutes for me.

The December board meeting is set for 12/15 at Frances Burke's house. Directions will be sent out at the beginning of December.

The January board meeting is tentatively set for 1/19 at a location to be determined. This will be confirmed at the November board meeting.

Directions:
Dave Ruderman, 3600 Bell Rd., Burtonsville, MD (301-384-8825)

North on Route 29 from Beltway approximately 7 miles. Continue north on Route 29 past Route 198. There is a Giant shopping center on the northeast corner of Route 198 and Route 29. After you pass the shopping center go approximately 1/3 mile and make left on to Bell Road. There is a Meadows Farm nursery on the southwest corner of Bell Road and Route 29.

Go down Bell road to very end where the public maintenance ends. You will see a trash dumpster at the end of the road. At this point bear right down a private driveway (go to right of the dumpster). Continue to the end of the private driveway. My house is the last one on the left. Ignore the "do not enter sign" and cross two cattle crossing before you reach my house.

Allen thanked Doran for her hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 6 November 1999

Minutes
WBL Board of Directors Meeting
November 10, 1999

In attendance: Jim Allen, Bob Bell, Don Berman, Barb Doran, Lee Jensen, Kathy Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Barbara Rothkin, Dave Ruderman

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 by the President, Jim Allen.

The minutes of the October 12, 1999 were approved with the following corrections:

(Insurance Report - Becker, Summary) "DNO" to be changed to "D and O."

(Tournament Director Report - Nachtwey) in regard to motion that Nachtwey contact the parties involved as an ACBL Field Officer and to caution the offending pair to be more aware of their ethical responsibilities regarding full disclosure of special agreements: The motion passed 5 in favor, 4 against.

Treasurer's Report (Steve Robinson)

We have a balance of \$7,123.86 in the checking account.

The Tournament in Clubs netted \$2,667.16 for the WBL.

New checks have only one line for signature. Steve will check with the bank to determine if the account was set up for two signatures. Our Constitution currently states that all checks require three signatures, the Treasurer, the President, and the Secretary. After discussion of the Board, there was a consensus that checks require only two signatures. Barb Doran made a motion to change the sentence in Article VII, Paragraph 6, Duties of the Treasurer to read, "All checks drawn on League funds shall bear any two of the signatures of the Treasurer, the President, or the Secretary." Lee Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 in favor, 3 opposed. Barb Doran will draft the amendment which will be published in the March 2000 Bulletin.

President's Report (Jim Allen)

NVBA is hosting the Club Breakfast on Saturday, November 13, 1999. Six members of the WBL Board will be attending.

Jim has been coordinating with Margot Henning, President of NVBA, for joint WBL/NVBA events. This includes Board Members of both Units receiving the other Unit's Bulletins. WBL Board members who are not currently receiving the NVBA Bulletin are Barbara Rothkin, Barb Doran, Bob Bell, and Don Berman. Jim will ask Margot to add these names. Kathy Kruskal will contact Nadine Wood to get the list of current NVBA Board Members and coordinate adding these names to the WBL Bulletin distribution list as well as deleting NVBA names who are no longer on the NVBA Board.

District 6 approved a Hall of Fame. This requires a lot of work, and may never come to fruition.

District 6 approved having as many GNT games at the club level as a club desires.

Three Districts should participate in the STAC for the benefit of the 2000 summer Nationals that are to be held in Washington.

The District's Educational Policy will be passed out at the Club Breakfast.

Rent of the Kensington Armory for the NLM Sectional tournament in March/April 2000 will cost \$2,600 for the three-day tournament. We have asked for the endorsement of NVBA, which should give us greater attendance. We are not asking for a profit/loss split.

Lillian Howard from the ABA is interested in a joint WBL/ABA event in March or April 2000. The possibility of this being held during the NLM Sectional was discussed. The event would be a Charity Game with \$2.00 of each entry going to a WBL and/or an ABA Charity. WBL would pay the cost of the rental of the playing site; WBL and ABA would split the cost of a Director and refreshments; and WBL and ABA would split any remaining profit. The discussion was tabled.

We have ordered the Mini McKinney awards.

The ACBL grew by 1.44% in the last quarter.

WBL membership appears to have dropped in the past year. This is due to the ACBL creating an "inactive" Unit and transferring inactive WBL members into this inactive unit. In addition, the ACBL is automatically transferring membership to NVBA when a player sends in an address change with a former Maryland address and a new Virginia address.

Dave Ruderman

The Unit Game is running smoothly. However, we are not getting "corrected" scores, and we should put the corrected scores from the prior week onto our bulletin board. Dave will speak to Michael Carroard about getting the scores from the prior week posted.

Dave will write an article for the next Bulletin regarding the Unit Knock-Outs, which will begin in January.

Don Berman

Don volunteered to help Ted Ying with the WBL web site, but is not getting any information from Ted.

Steve Robinson

The Round Robin is still in progress. Four matches remain to be played.

Lee Jensen

The proposed year 2000 schedule for the WBL (and NVBA) was presented. Lee suggested that the schedule be printed double-sided on two sheets of 8 x 11 paper, which allows room for larger fonts and additional information. The schedule was amended to reflect several capitalization omissions. Barbara Rothkin moved and Kathy Kruskal seconded a motion to approve the schedule as amended and with the provision that Lee has the authority to make additions and/or changes as necessary up to the date of publication. The motion passed unanimously.

Barb Doran

Barb met with Lee Jensen to discuss the scheduling of Fast Pairs. There are ten of these games scheduled as stratified events in 2000, generally at a Unit game that corresponds to a Regional tournament in the District or general area. Barb will put a notice in the next Bulletin for an "e-mail sign up sheet," and players signing up will be notified by e-mail several weeks before each Fast Pairs game.

Bob Bell

Roy Becker, our insurance agent, has asked to be an ex-officio member of the Conduct and Ethics Committee as he has concerns about insuring a group that can ban or expel a player. It was decided that this is not necessary because the first line of appeal is to the WBL Board, who has never expelled anyone.

Should such occasion arise up, we will then get close to the issue.

Kathy Kruskal

The GNT schedule for clubs will be publicized in the next Bulletin. Flight A players who qualify at the club level do not have to qualify at the Unit level. A Unit qualifier will be held for Flights B and C (and Flight A if we so choose). February 13, 2000 is the date for these Unit qualifiers. As no locations for the games have been finalized, the Bulletin will give only the date with the location to be announced.

The deadline for the March Bulletin is February 3.

Barbara Rothkin

A motion was made by Barbara Rothkin and seconded by Bob Bell that prior to the end of 1999 we purchase 100 Easy Bridge 1 books and 50 Easy Bridge 2 books at a price of \$6.00 per book as prices will be \$13.00 per book after January 1, 2000. A discussion ensued regarding teaching Easy Bridge vs. other novice teaching programs. We can get money from the District for innovative teaching programs. A motion to table was made by Steve Robinson and seconded by Kathy Kruskal.

Minutes

The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara will look into alternatives for a teaching program for novices and present the alternatives at a future Board meeting.

Because of the success of the 0 - 49er Trophy Championship game in October, Barbara is exploring another 49er Trophy Championship Event for the April or May Sectional.

Miscellaneous

Jim thanked Dave for his hospitality.

The next Board meeting will be held on December 15 at Frances Burke's house (directions to be provided at a later date). The January Board meeting will be held on January 19 at Lee Jensen's house.

The tentative dates for the subsequent three Board meeting are February 13, March 22, and April 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Rothkin for Ted Ying,
Recording Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting		Washington Bridge League		16 December 1999
Attendees:				
Jim Allen	Bob Bell	Don Berman	Frances Burke	Barbara Doran
Lee Jensen	Kathy Kruskal	Steve Robinson	Barbara Rothkin	Dave Ruderman
Ted Ying				

The December board meeting was held at the home of Frances Burke. Jim Allen called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM.

The minutes were reviewed. Berman moved and Doran seconded accepting the minutes. Passed unanimously with 10 in agreement, 0 in dissention, and 0 abstentions (10/0/0) Later in the meeting, one correction to the minutes was noted. From the treasurer’s report, the amendment to the Constitution should read that “...All checks drawn on League funds shall bear the signatures of the Treasurer and either the President or the Secretary.” The board voted unanimously to correct the previous month’s minutes and accept the minutes as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT – ROBINSON:

Robinson reported that there was \$9106.04 in the WBL account. Robinson reported that this was up approximately \$4400 from January 1999. In January 1999, we had several outstanding expenses that had to be paid (including advance rent on the Kensington Community Center (KCC) to facilitate renovations of the facility). We are slightly over our December 1998 balance. This is in part due to the \$1 entry increase that was implemented in September at the sectionals and Unit game. Robinson reported that we have no major outstanding expenses other than rent (which is only for one month this time). The only outstanding income to be collected will be the income from the December Unit game. The income from the December sectional has already been collected.

Robinson also requested that for the future all receipts and requests for disbursements or reimbursements be accompanied by a description on an 8½” x 11” sheet of paper. This will make the Treasurer records easier to keep.

Doran moved and Kruskal seconded accepting the Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed (10/0/0).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen reported that one player had donated a supply of computer paper to the WBL for use at its functions. This player was informed by Steve Czecha that we could use such a donation. Allen contacted the player and thanked her for her donation.

Allen discussed our current relations with the Kensington community government and the mayor. Allen reiterated that our relationship with the Kensington council was very strong and that he was learning to work with the mayor and council. The mayor had expressed interest in raising our rent for use of the KCC facilities. The most likely area of increase would be to increase the rent on the tournaments for using 2 rooms downstairs instead of just 1. Allen estimated that it would be an increase in the approximately \$87 range. Allen opined that he didn’t think the rent on the Unit game would be increased.

Robinson moved and Doran seconded that we authorize Allen to extend holiday bonus of up to \$20 per person to the KCC facilities staff and Baker’s Union staff that have supported us throughout the year. Allen is going to contact Shirley on the KCC staff and consult with her about appropriate holiday gifts for her staff. The motion passed (10/0/0). Jensen suggested that we get Shirley a gift instead of a monetary bonus. The board agreed and recommended Allen take appropriate action.

Allen started discussion of the Grand Nationals Teams event. He reported that District 6 had decided to keep the Flight B and Flight C Unit finals for this year. Additionally, the NVBA has reported that due to availability of playing sites (the KOCH), the NVBA would have to move their Unit final to Sunday, 13 February 2000. The WBL has cooperated and agreed discuss moving our Unit final to Sunday, 6 February 2000. Since the Flight A teams are not required to compete at the Unit level and a Unit final would only be for seeding points and not for qualification, the NVBA unit has suggested running a single Flight A Unit final for both units at their game on Sunday, 13 February 2000, and splitting the profits from such an event. The WBL also needs to decide whether to run the WBL Unit final at the KCC which would be very expensive but can accommodate more teams comfortably or to continue as we have in the last several years of holding the Unit final in one of the unit full-time clubs, e.g. the Washington Bridge Center (WBC) or the Laurel Bridge Club (LBC). Allen asked board members to consider and to come back to this topic later in the meeting under New Business.

Allen announced that he had received good responses on the topic of thank-you gifts for key volunteers to be announced and given at the holiday party. He had solicited suggestions from the board for candidates for these gifts, and he and Doran reviewed the list of potential recipients, selected three recipients, and handled gifts. Allen said that he had acquired very nice gifts for those volunteers and that they would be announced at the holiday party on Thursday, 16 December 1999.

BOARD REPORT – ROTHKIN

Rothkin started her report on the novice program by commenting that she was questioning the success of the EZ Bridge program at the Unit game without Leslie Shafer at the helm. Since Shafer stepped down from teaching the EZ Bridge program at the Unit game, attendance has decreased. She commented that she now was more cautious in recommending the board to purchase too many EZ Bridge books.

Rothkin mentioned that the local education programs were going smoothly. Steve Czecha is running the program at Blair High School. Burke is

running the program at Highland View Elementary School (for a class of 5th graders). Both games are running smoothly at this time.

Bell reported that he had consulted with Barbara Stanard regarding the EZ Bridge program. Stanard had said that she had no current needs from the board for the program.

Rothkin reported that Standard had said she would start a new EZ Bridge course in January. Rothkin said that she would talk with Stanard about coordinating the EZ Bridge program in 2000 to try to find ways to stimulate attendance again. Rothkin moved and Bell seconded that the WBL purchase 60 EZ Bridge I books for the January and March EZ Bridge sessions. Motion accepted (8/1/1).

BOARD REPORT – BELL

Bell reported that the CNE committee was meeting to review Les Bart's recent behavior at the Unit game's GNT club qualifier game. Bell is considering trying to convene a CNE committee hearing on Saturday, 22 January 2000, in Richmond after the evening session at the site of the NAP district finals.

Berman reported that starting with the December sectional, the WBL directors were starting to award penalties for rude behavior at WBL events. Each time such a penalty is awarded, a note is given to Berman as the Unit recorded for tracking. If any player receives a significant number of such penalties, the recorder could submit this player to a CNE hearing.

BOARD REPORT – KRUSKAL

Kruskal discussed the current Grand National Teams (GNT) Unit event. The date of the unit final has been changed to accommodate scheduling problems for the NVBA unit final. We have switched dates with them; ours will now be on Sunday, 6 February 2000, and the NVBA unit final will now be on Sunday, 13 February 2000. Also, the district was considering changing the format but has resolved for this year to hold a qualifying unit final for both Flights B and C. The Flight A game will continue without requiring qualification at the unit level and awarding seeding points for teams that do well at a unit final. Further discussion about the GNT unit final was postponed until New Business discussion.

BOARD REPORT – RUDERMAN

Ruderman reported that we had started to post the scores from the previous week at the Unit game. We have the bulletin boards necessary, but need to coordinate to ensure that they get posted each week. Ruderman will work with Michael Carroad to ensure these get posted each week.

Ruderman also reported that we still need more food for the annual Christmas party. Even if players had not made arrangements with Kitty Gottfried beforehand, they should feel free to bring food to the party. The committee was also looking for a few more people to come early and help setup for the party.

BOARD REPORT - BERMAN

Berman reminded the board that we have only one Charity event in the 2000 calendar year instead of the former 2 (the Christmas party has become a part of the MABC STAC and is no longer a charity event). Berman is soliciting suggestions for the Charity to sponsor for our May Charity event. He will accept suggestions and make a presentation to the board at the February board meeting to decide on the Charity.

BOARD REPORT – YING

Ying reported that as discussed at the October board meeting, hard copies of the minutes of all board meeting this year were brought. Board members should feel free to review the minutes and forward any corrections to Ying via e-mail.

Ying reported that starting in December, he would be updating the web site once again. The results from the Sectional and the Unit games would be posted on the web. Additionally, the annual subscription for the web site was due and he wanted confirmation from the board to renew the site since the amount was over \$100.00. The board approved the renewal unanimously.

BOARD REPORT – ROBINSON

Robinson reported that the Round Robin was nearly completed. Two matches remain to be played, the finals of both the A and X flights. Although most of the Lovenberg points have been credited to the players, including points up to the finals. The winning team will get the remainder of the points added to their Lovenberg totals when the match is played. Fortunately, the final match will not affect the Lovenberg standings for the trophy.

BOARD REPORT – JENSEN

Jensen reported that the December sectional had 447 tables. The tournament was up slightly over the December 1998 sectional. Attendance in general was up significantly. The main area where we lost attendance was in the novice/intermediate games. The turnout for these games was very low (abnormally low). There was some discussion by the board on ways to stimulate attendance by the novice/intermediate players. General discussion then followed about starting times for all events. No board action was taken.

Jensen stated that all plans were running smoothly for the sectional tournament in January and that hopefully the novice/intermediate attendance would be up again then. If not, the board can reconsider the issue of novice attendance at a future board meeting.

Robinson suggested starting an e-mail mailing list for regular WBL unit game participants. He proposed asking the players at the unit game to record their e-mail addresses on their entries and he would collect these entries from the directors at the unit game and start up a mailing list. Robinson also proposed using the e-mail distribution list to help advertise novice events and games sponsored by the unit.

Jensen reported that copies of the 2000 unit game schedule were available. Jensen stated that if he continued to coordinate and print the schedule next year, that he would make some changes. The first would be to have a clear-cut and announced deadline for when corrections or additional information for the schedule must be submitted. After the deadline, any information not provided would be marked “TBA” on the schedule. This would alleviate the extra time and problems associated with a floating deadline and the inconvenience of having to make special trips to Northern Virginia to deliver copies to NVBA board members for their events. It would also help to ensure that the calendars were out earlier.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – DORAN

Doran announced that she had drafted an amendment to the Constitution regarding the required signatures on WBL checks. However, the amendment wording and her notes did not match the wording recorded in the minutes. The board discussed and decided that the proposed amendment was correct and that the minutes of the meeting should be corrected. Additional changes were proposed. Doran stated that she would make the suggested changes and forward the fully amended paragraph to Bryan Coleman for publication in the *Bulletin* for membership review. She would also carbon copy the board on the message for board members to review the final submission.

Robinson moved and Doran seconded revisiting the topic of how to amend the signature requirements. The motion passed (5/2/3). In the discussion, Robinson proposed changing the requirements to any two out of the three parties’ (President, Treasurer and Secretary) signatures. After discussion, the board decided to leave the change as decided last month, with the Treasurer and either the President or Secretary’s signature required.

NEW BUSINESS

The board discussed the upcoming GNT unit final. Robinson moved and Kruskal seconded that we hold a joint Flight A unit final with the NVBA unit at the KOCH on Sunday, 13 February 2000 at the NVBA’s unit final. General discussion followed concerning two topics: combining the Flight A unit final with the NVBA, and whether to hold the Flights B and C unit finals in the clubs (Washington Bridge Center and/or Laurel Bridge Club) or at the KCC as a unit event. After significant discussion, those board members with vested interests in the full-time bridge clubs excused themselves and the remaining board members continued the discussion. The motion on the table was abandoned and a new motion was made. Robinson moved and Jensen seconded that we hold unit finals for all three flights, A, B, and C, at the Washington Bridge Center on 6 February 2000. Details to be coordinated by Kruskal as the GNT coordinator. The motion passed 6/0/0 with 4 members recusing themselves from the vote.

Allen and Kruskal confirmed that the District GNT final would be held 1-2 April 2000 at the KCC in conjunction with the WBL non-LM sectional tournament.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting was set for 19 January 2000 at the home of Don Berman.

The following meetings have been tentatively set and will be confirmed at future board meetings:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 23 February 2000 | home of Lee Jensen |
| 22 March 2000 | home of Kathy Kruskal |
| 26 April 2000 | home of Jim Allen |

Allen thanked Burke for her hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 PM.

Directions to Don Berman’s home:

Berman resides at 13707 Engleman Drive, Laurel, MD 20708. His phone number is 301-776-3581.

From the Beltway: Exit North onto 95 (toward Baltimore). Go to second exit (Route 198) and take East toward Fort Meade. Stay on 198 for a few miles. After crossing Route 1, proceed over the bridge and make a right turn at the first traffic signal onto Route 197. At the fourth light, turn right onto Briarwood. Follow Briarwood about .5 mile and turn right onto Engleman to the third house on the left (white mailbox has house number on it).

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 6 November 1999