

Board of Directors Meeting		Washington Bridge League		19 January 2000	
Attendees:					
Jim Allen	Bob Bell	Don Berman	Barbara Doran	Lee Jensen	
Steve Robinson	Barbara Rothkin	Dave Ruderman	Ted Ying		

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

SECRETARY’S REPORT – YING:

One correction was found and e-mailed to Ying. Ying presented amended minutes to the board at the meeting. Doran moved and Rothkin seconded accepting the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT – ROBINSON:

Robinson reported that there was \$10,511.84 in the WBL account. Robinson reported that there was approximately \$1516.00 more in the account than at the same point last year. And the total does not included the unit game collected revenue for December. Berman moved and Rothkin seconded accepting the Treasurer’s report. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT - ALLEN:

Allen reported that the WBL was mentioned in the local Kensington newsletter. At this point, Allen and the mayor are at an impasse over some outstanding issues between the WBL and the city council. Doran plans to work with Allen to resolve our differences with the mayor and council. One issues is the parking policy. Allen had drafted a parking policy that needs to be circulated amongst the unit game attendees. Allen asked that the parking policy be posted on the web page. Ying agreed to post it.

Allen said that we currently are on a continuation of the original contract with the City of Kensington that essentially requires 3-month notice by either party to cancel our agreement. Allen said that there was some discussion about a 5-year contract. Allen and Doran would continue to work with the mayor and city council on resolving outstanding issues and to continue to discuss a potential new contract.

Allen reported that the WBL and he in particular had a good working relationship with most of the staff of the Kensington Community Center (KCC). Allen reported that he gave the KCC staff the following holiday gifts: \$20 “Holiday Bonuses” were given to 7 staff members who were part of the setup crew, Chocolates were given to KCC office staff, cookies were given to the mayor, a box of auto supplies were given to Tony Luna, the manager of the Bakers’ Union to pass on for use on the car of the President of the Bakers’ Union.

Allen reported that we had a complaint from the Levine School of Music down the block from the KCC. Allen cooperated with the director of the school and agreed to allow students and faculty of the school to use the parking facilities at the KCC until 7:00 PM on Thursday evenings. This would still be early enough to allow players in the game to park there for the 7:30 PM game. Also, Allen worked with the reverend of the church down the street to come to a compromise on parking facilities for them as well. Allen said that he had been able to work very well with the president of the church group and cooperated with them on resolving the parking conflicts. The president was easier to work with than the reverend.

Allen mentioned that the WBL had made a new concession with the mayor to not use her special room downstairs (the room used by the yoga group and with the hard wood floors) unless we rent it specifically. We have access to the smaller room downstairs without additional rent. This room should be sufficient as it was recently carpeted.

Apparently local state representative, P. Cauley and a state senator have applied for state loans in Baltimore to continue renovation of the KCC. The loans would help to complete the renovation of the bathroom facilities and other projects in the KCC, possibly window treatments. Allen also suggested the WBL consider alternative solutions that the WBL board could institute to help with the renovations like the cooperation with the community to get the sound baffles installed.

Allen reported receiving the Mini-McKenney trophies from the ACBL. Allen needed to resolve two corrections to the awards before presenting them to the winners. First, Alice Johnson was not a regional master at the start of the 1999 year so was not eligible for that award. Also, although under 5 masterpoints, Hugh Grosvenor was not a rookie at the start of 1999. Allen said he would get the corrections and award the trophies to the winners.

Allen reported there was a Montgomery County-based newspaper that might be willing to do an article with photos on the WBL. Berman commented that it should be mentioned in any advertising that bridge is now an official Olympic sport approved by the IOC starting in 2000.

Allen reported some items from the MABC meeting. With rising director fees, Bruce Reeves mentioned that the districts and/or MABC might need to raise regional entry fees. The MABC approved a new rule that any partnership leading small from two small (i.e. x (x)), were required to lead face down and have the partner of the opening leader announce to the declarer that they lead small from two small. This was approved by the MABC for all MABC events.

Allen had a question about whether the 2001 WBL sectional dates were confirmed. Jensen reported that those dates were confirmed in 1998 and were fixed then. Allen needed to get that information to the KCC office staff to confirm our reservations for tournament weekends.

Allen reported that the district had confirmed that they would repeat the conditions of contest in the NAOP that required no unit final for Flight A.

Allen reported that due to the 2002 Summer NABC's in Washington, that the district once again had an extra regional (like in 1993). Roanoke was being considered to host the extra regional.

Allen was currently looking for a nominee for the District 6 Hall of Fame. Bill Cole was not eligible, but Peter Boyd was under consideration.

BOARD REPORT – ROBINSON

The round robin was completed. The COLEMAN team was Flight A and was runnerup to FEETHAM in Flight X.

Robinson was still adding e-mail addresses to his mailing list. The mailing list has been quite popular. Anyone getting any additional e-mail addresses for WBL members or players interested in getting information about WBL events should give the addresses to Robinson.

BOARD REPORT – ROTHKIN

Rothkin reported that she had updated the Club listing. Ying asked for an electronic copy to post on the web. Rothkin agreed to send an electronic copy to Ying.

Rothkin was still attempting to contact Leslie Shafer to get an update on the EasyBridge program for the board.

Rothkin was considering running another 49er championship game in early summer, possibly advertising it as the "End of the Season" or "Last Chance" championship since our season runs from September to May each year. Rothkin proposed adding this to our May sectional.

BOARD REPORT – DORAN

Doran reported that the 2000-2001 District 6 NAOP would have no unit finals. She was still trying to schedule the 2000-2001 district finals.

Doran reported that she was the election chair for District 6 for this year. Anyone with interest in serving on the district board and willing and able to attend to the district meetings at District 6 regionals should contact Doran for consideration to be on the new slate.

BOARD REPORT – JENSEN

Jensen reported that the January sectional had 399.5 tables. The next sectional tournament would be the first weekend in March.

Allen asked who to contact for getting the free plays for the annual trophy winners. Jensen informed him that Jeannie Stenger handled those free plays and would award green free play slips to the trophy winners and the winners should contact Stenger to receive the slips.

BOARD REPORT – YING

Ying reported that the web site was being updated regularly once again and the statistics for the web site were on the rise once again. Statistics would be available for the next board meeting.

BOARD REPORT – BERMAN

Berman had no report.

BOARD REPORT – RUDERMAN

Ruderman requested the snow policy for the unit game due to the reports of a large amount of inclement weather approaching the area. The policy was set such that the Unit Game Chair (Ruderman) and the Unit Game Director-in-Charge (Michael Carroad) would decide if the weather necessitated canceling the unit game. If the unit game was cancelled, Ruderman was responsible for contacting Shirley Watson at the KCC office and having her update the answering message there. Ruderman was also responsible for contacting Ying so that he could update the web site. In the event that the unit game was cancelled, the GNT Club qualifier for 20 January 2000 would be moved to the following week, 27 January 2000. The GNT qualifier could be rescheduled if the unit game itself were cancelled, or in the event that too few teams showed up to compete.

Ruderman reported that the Christmas party was a success. The only problem associated with the Christmas party was the setup of the room. The room had to be rearranged that day to accommodate the party and game. There was a discussion about room setup procedure. Carroad was planning on generating a map of the room setup to give to the setup crew. Another suggestion was to put tape marks on the floor to mark where the tables were supposed to be set, however, this was considered not to be useful as other groups might use the room and the tape marks might be moved or removed. Jensen said that there was a table pole that measured the distance between the tables that was brought over from the Silver Spring Armory. The WBL needs to locate that pole and instruct the setup crew on using it.

BOARD REPORT – BELL

Bell mentioned that the CNE hearing was schedule for the evening of 22 January 2000 after the session at the site of the Richmond District 6 NAOP district final.

Bell reported that a novice newsletter went out and that it was good and well-received.

NEXT MEETING

The next WBL Board meeting will be Wednesday, 23 February at Lee Jensen’s home. Directions are included at he end of this message

The March board meeting is tentatively set for 22 March 2000 at Kathy Kruskal's house. The April board meeting is tentatively set for 26 April 2000 at Jim Allen’s home. These will both be confirmed at the February board meeting.

Directions:

Directions to Lee Jensen's home:

From the Beltway: Take Connecticut Ave (185) north to Independence (about 5 miles). Turn left on Independence. Go three blocks. Lee is on the left at 4206 Independence.

For those preferring the back way, take New Hampshire to Bel Pre Rd. Turn left and go to Connecticut. Turn left. Independence is about 3 lights down. Turn right.

Allen thanked Berman for his hospitality. Rothkin moved and Ying seconded adjourning the meeting; the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Ying, 20 February 2000

**Minutes
WBL Board of Directors Meeting
October 25, 2000**

In attendance: Barb Doran, Kathy Kruskal, Barbara Rothkin, Steve Robinson, Don Berman, Bob Bell, Dave Ruderman, Dick Wegman, Bill Cole, Jim Allen, and Michael Carroad.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President, Barb Doran.

Without objection, the minutes of the September 20, 2000 meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Robinson reported that we have \$7,915 in the operating accounts. In addition, there is \$44,219 in savings accounts (the "Nationals Fund," and "Surplus Money, which includes \$2,000 earmarked for the 2001 Fourth of July Regional"). Without objection, the Treasurer's report was approved.

President's Report: Doran reported that she appointed Barbara Ames, Don Berman, and Ann Lindley to the District 6 Appellate Committee.

Committee Reports:

Web Site (Berman): Berman deferred to Wegman who suggested that we find a mechanism via our web site for people without partners to form partnerships in advance of the Unit games. Berman will work with Wegman to see how this may be accomplished.

Berman reported that we might consider renting space on a server for our web site. The cost is approximately \$25 - \$35 per month. Berman will investigate this further.

Directory (Rothkin): Rothkin reported that NVBA/WBL survey showed that most members prefer a Directory in the same format as the January 1998 Directory. NVBA would like to limit their expenditures to not more than \$1,000 from general funds in excess of estimated member purchases.

Rothkin moved and Robinson seconded that we produce a new Directory in the same format as the January 1998 Directory, including names, addresses, and telephone numbers of members, but not email addresses. Motion passed.

Rothkin moved and Allen seconded that we produce and distribute a Directory at no charge to members. Motion passed, nine in favor and one abstention.

Rothkin and Berman will get prices for separate Directories for WBL and NVBA to determine cost effectiveness.

Unit Game (Ruderman): Ruderman wishes to hear any complaints regarding refreshments served at the Unit Games.

Ruderman stated that Christ the King Church worked well, but expressed concern that it may not be large enough for Thursday night Sectional Events. Carroad stated that the Church has sufficient space. Carroad has spoken to the Secretary at Christ the King Church and was told that no agreement has yet been reached with Ohr Kodesh for using the Church when Ohr Kodesh undergoes renovation.

Education (Allen for Burke): Allen stated that elementary school students at Highland View Elementary School in East Silver Spring are being taught by Frances Burke. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the students, and Burke has ordered tee shirts and books for the class from the ACBL.

Novices (Cole): Letters were sent to all 0 - 49 point players in WBL and NVBA announcing a special two-session 0 - 49er game to be held on Saturday, November 11, 2000. Players may choose to play only one session. Leslie Shafer will direct the game. Cole will ensure that entry forms ask for email addresses in order that he begin a data base of email addresses for novices. Verbal announcements will also be made requesting email addresses.

Clubs (Cole):

Cole moved and Robinson seconded that beginning in January 2001, WBL use one of its Unit Championship Sanctions on the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving, and that any area club be eligible to participate whether they have a scheduled game that night or not. The Unit will collect the sanction fee from the participating clubs, and the participating clubs will retain the balance collected by their club. Motion passed, nine in favor and one abstention.

Cole moved and Ruderman seconded that a Thursday morning game be added to WBL Sectionals, such game to be held at clubs. Motion passed, eight in favor and two abstentions.

Cole reported that at the District 6 STAC (probably to be held in April) the profits will be shared equally between the District and the participating clubs.

Bulletin (Kruskal for Coleman): The WBL Bulletin will be mailed by Friday, October 27, 2000, and will have the schedules for both the November and December WBL Sectionals.

Club Breakfast (Rothkin): The Club Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning, November 11, 2000 at Chef Ferrari's La Promenade Restaurant. Approximately 70 invitations were sent either by regular mail or by email. The cost of the breakfast will be approximately \$7.00 per person plus tax and tip. Doran asked to be contacted if anyone would like to speak.

Old Business:

Cole is investigating the feasibility of using a "Hand Dealer." These machines are used by the ACBL for National Events at the Nationals. The machines are made in both Sweden and Australia. Cole is getting information on both machines. It is estimated that the cost of the machine would be approximately \$3,500 plus an additional \$3,500 in supplies such as playing cards with bar codes and special boards. We would use the Hand Dealer to save time at the Unit Games, and may be able to rent out the machine to other organizations.

New Business:

Carroad announced that Tim Crank is joining the permanent staff of Directors at the Unit Games. Ted Ying will substitute as necessary.

We received a request from a new WBL member asking for help in getting to our Unit Games. This member has some handicaps. The matter was referred to the Charity Committee, and Don Berman will attempt to find help for this person.

The November Board meeting will be held at the home of Michael Carroad on Wednesday evening, November 15, 2000.

The December Board meeting will be held at the home of Jim Allen on Tuesday evening, December 12, 2000.

The January Board meeting will be held at the home of Kathy Kruskal on Wednesday evening, January 17, 2001.

Doran thanked Dick (and Alice) Wegman for their hospitality.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Rothkin
Recording Secretary

**Minutes
Joint Board Meeting
WBL and NVBA
December 12, 2000**

In attendance for WBL: Barb Doran, Kathy Kruskal, Barbara Rothkin, Steve Robinson, Don Berman, Bob Bell, Dave Ruderman, Dick Wegman, Bill Cole, Lee Jensen, and Jim Allen.

In attendance for NVBA: Margot Hennings, Lucy McCoy, Sam McMillan, Ron Kral, Ron Spieker, and Ed Heberg.

Also in attendance: Nadine Wood for District 6.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Barb Doran, who turned the meeting over to Margot Hennings. Hennings distributed a proposed Agenda (attached) of three items:

1. Joint NVBA/WBL Directory
2. Washington, DC Summer 2002 Nationals
3. Possible "joint ventures" as proposed by Jim Coleman and others

Rothkin has received a price of \$3,000 for 4,000 to publish a new joint Directory in the same format and size as the January 1998 joint Directory. The Directory would include names, addresses, and telephone numbers, but not email addresses. She suggested that both Units put notices in their next respective Bulletins asking members to send any changes in address to the ACBL. Ron Kral volunteered to make "change forms" to be placed at local clubs and at the Unit Games. In order to have the books ready for distribution at the Annual Meetings in May, all changes must be received by March 15, 2001 and submitted to the printer camera ready by April 10, 2001. It is the consensus of the WBL that the cost of publication be shared by the two units based on the percentage of members of each Unit and be given to members at no cost. The NVBA will discuss this at their January 2001 meeting.

Margot Hennings is the Tournament Chair of the ACBL Summer 2002 Nationals. Lee Jensen and Katherine Kiley are the Tournament Co-Chairs. Hennings distributed a Preliminary NABC Budget (attached) and information (also attached) regarding the Current Organization, notes from the Kick-Off meeting held in October 1999, General Philosophy, Advance Publicity Campaign, General Schedule and Entertainment/Hospitality Mix, and Fundraising.

Jensen moved and Bell seconded a motion to give \$10,000 from the WBL and to approve the Proposed NABC Budget. Motion passed. (NVBA approved such action at their last Board meeting.)

Uncle Sam and the banners: Uncle Sam is going to travel a lot next year, to Houston, Toronto, Kansas City, and other Regionals. WBL is interested in displaying Uncle Sam at their tournaments as well. Nadine also raised the subject of the banners in use, and the need to attach them to a bigger banner that announces "WASHINGTON" so they show up better.

Housing at Nationals: Jim Allen volunteered to explore possibilities of alternative housing to the hotel site - such as dorms in private schools and colleges nearby that aren't in use in summer. Bob Bell will look into alternative hotels in the District that may be less expensive than the host hotel.

Corporate sponsors/fundraising: Charity Sack is optimistic that she might be able to get up to \$30,000 in sponsor contributions to help defray expenses at the Nationals. Margot noted that when we get another \$850 for cookbooks, we will have broken even on them. So far she has drawn a \$12,000 advance from ACBL and a \$6,000 advance from MABC to start the necessary advertising and to book entertainment.

We raised the possibility of a \$.50 surcharge at Saturday games as a fundraiser for Nationals at our Sectionals. We asked WBL to consider it again in the framework of our asking the MBA, Richmond, Roanoke and Virginia Beach as District 6 members to do it also, so they will feel they made some contribution without having to dip into their thin treasuries. We are awaiting WBL's response on this. If WBL doesn't want to participate, Margot will not carry it any further with District 6.

Ron Spieker as Finance Chair for the Nationals noted there is still a vacancy for Treasurer at the Nationals, and Margot asked Steve Robinson if he would take on that task, which he graciously accepted.

There are still many committee chairs and positions to fill, and Margot hopes to start filling them after the Toronto Nationals are held.

Nadine Wood has been given \$1,000 from the ACBL Charity Foundation to donate on behalf of District 6 to a worthwhile charity. The money will be given to Children's Hospital.

Due to time constraints, the discussion of possible "joint ventures" as proposed by Jim Coleman and others was postponed.

Members of the NVBA Board adjourned at 9:55 pm, and an abbreviated meeting of the WBL followed, with Doran presiding.

Without objection, the minutes of the November 15, 2000 Board meeting were approved as sent by email.

Treasurer's Report: Robinson reported that we have \$11,319 in the operating accounts. In addition, there is approximately \$44,219 in savings accounts (the "Nationals Fund" and "Surplus Money"). Robinson also gave \$150 to Allen for hosting the joint dinner meeting. Without objection, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business:

Robinson sent the following email on December 11, 2000 to the members of the WBL Board, Michael Carroad, and Millard Nachtwey:

Cole and I have been looking into duplicating machines, one made in Europe, one made in Australia. There is one from Europe. Alan LeBendig had one and said it was bad. A director from Mexico has one and is willing to sell it to us for \$1,500. He never could get used to using it. It is similar to the ACBL machine. They have two and run reasonable. However it runs only on a 286 processor. For those non-computer people, it's like buying something that would only work on a car built before 1985. They're available but hard to find.

If any of you have questions about the one from Australia, send them to me and I will get them answered. I have thought of one question: What do we have to do to get hands that can be used at Sectionals or higher?

The following is the initial reply from the one from Australia, then 2 questions, then 2 answers. Reply: Hello Steve. Thanks for the enquiry regarding our dealing machines. You have obviously spoken to Alan LeBendig who has two of our machines and seems to be happy with their reliability and usefulness.

I will try and provide you with some facts and information about the machines. I have attached a document which summarizes the features. Basically the machine connects to a standard PC, running software (either DOS or Windows - both of which we supply with the machine) that allows the rapid dealing of cards (they're bar coded cards), either into a plastic bridge board (we can also supply or you can purchase in the US) or into receptacles in the machine and you remove each of the 13 cards dealt to N, S, E and W and place them in your own bridge board.

The software deals random hands (or you can type in specific hands if you wish, say for teaching) and also prints out the hand record for your players to have at the end of the session. The Windows version also prints the traveler with the hand printed on it. The dealing process takes about 10 seconds per hand, and after some practice, you can generally deal about 4 sets of hands (32 hands per set) in about an hour of dealing.

We can provide you with software that also allows you to deal specific hand types also (Strong NT, weak two's etc). The newest version of our machine (a little more expensive) can deal non bar coded cards. You supply us with a few packs of the type of cards you use in your club, and we test them in the machine to ensure they deal OK.

If you wish to purchase bar coded cards, they are available in the US (I believe from the ACBL), as are the bridge boards (it's quite expensive for us to freight cards and boards from Australia - although we will if you insist!). We have machines in many countries. Australia, New Zealand (we supply the full demand for NZ), USA, Canada, UK, Indonesia, Japan have our machines.

As we do not use lubrication or other maintenance for the moving parts, the machines are very reliable. The only major requirement is to clean the finger grime off the rubber rollers and also remove dust from various parts of the card feed path. As you can appreciate, dealing thousands of cards cause a build up of dust and grime. However this is an easy task, and ensures reliable operation. We provide a user manual and also cleaning instructions.

Now for the painful part! Prices. The machine for dealing bar coded cards is \$2,700 US (at the current exchange rate with the Australian dollar). Freight usually adds about \$110 US. We do have a sturdy aluminum box for transporting the machine, and a number of our overseas customers have these. The price is \$220 US. We can deliver almost immediately. The model which deals ordinary cards is \$3250 US.

Warranty is 12 months and we are looking for an agent to repair in the States. The more machines we have in the USA the better for our potential repair agent. (He would generally not have much to do as the machines rarely break down). If I can supply any other information, please email me. Thank you for your interest in our autodealer. Dennis Yovich, EBA Pty Ltd

I then asked two questions: The machine that deals normal cards. Do the cards have to be in order? Can the duplicating machine run on windows 98 with a Pentium processor? No the cards do not have to be in order. The machine reads the suit symbol and the number on the card. This eliminates the need for a code or having to sort the deck. There is no other supplier in the world producing such a card dealer. The machine can work perfectly with Win 98 with a Pentium processor. Regards, Dennis Yovich

Robinson asked us to email any questions we may have about the dealing machines to him. Discussion of the matter was postponed to a future meeting.

It was reiterated that any WBL club may hold a Thanksgiving Eve Unit Club Championship using the Unit's sanction.

Wegman has contacted Christ the King Church regarding our using their facilities for our Unit games. Christ the King is willing to commit their space to us with the caveat that on rare occasion the Church may require the facility for its own use. The cost per Thursday night will be \$225. Rothkin moved and Ruderman seconded that we proceed with moving our Unit game to Christ the King Church beginning September 6, 2001. The motion passed with one abstention.

New Business:

Cole moved and Rothkin seconded that the WBL hire someone to do the manual work for Sectional tournaments. Motion passed. (Allen has a person he recommends.)

Allen announced that Manny Sobernheim died. Allen will write an obituary for the Bulletin.

The January 17 meeting will be held at the home of Kathy Kruskal.

The February 21 meeting will be held at the home of Lee Jensen.

Doran thanked Jim Allen for his hospitality.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Rothkin, Secretary