

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
January 26, 2005**

The meeting was held at Hamburger Hamlet in Bethesda, Maryland.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Steve Forsythe, Steve Robinson, Dick Wegman, Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Nadine Wood and Donna Rogall.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Preliminary Announcements and Comments

Dick Wegman thanked Nadine Wood for a terrific January sectional tournament. He is pleased to report that the Schweinhaut Center wants the WBL back for future events.

Dick reported that Michael Chelst is again willing to have Fidelity & Trust Mortgage sponsor the round robin tournament.

Dick received a note from Cassandra Smith regarding a joint activity with the ABA. The local ABA unit suggested a joint event on Saturday, April 16, 2005 at "The Hut", in conjunction with an ABA tournament. Dick observed that that date would occur at the same time as the Gatlinburg Regional. The local ABA unit also suggested reciprocation through a joint event at one of the WBL's sectionals.

Dick noted that Mark Rosen has started a bridge program at the Tilden Middle School. The program is a 70-minute after-school program, with up to 15 children currently participating. He said the WBL would enthusiastically support this program.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$7,592.26 in its checking account at the end of 2004, and the checking account balance as of today is \$12,677.09. Nadine Wood noted that the WBL has prepaid the Newport Mill Middle School for rent for three future tournaments. Hopefully, the WBL will use that facility for only one or two tournaments, assuming satisfactory arrangements can be made at the Schweinhaut Center for future tournaments. If the WBL does not use the facility for these prepaid dates, the school will refund the rent money. At this point it is unclear whether the Schweinhaut Center will be available for the WBL's April/May tournament. The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Unit Game March 24, 2005

Dick Wegman stated that on Thursday, March 24, the WBL cannot use the facility at Christ the King church because it is Easter week. The Washington Bridge Center is a possible alternative location, but it can accommodate a maximum of 36 tables. Richard Ferrin asked whether the Schweinhaut Center was a possibility for that date. Nadine Wood stated that it would be impractical to use the Center for one event, because the WBL would have to move tables and chairs to the site, just for one night. Ron Zucker said that Ohr Khodesh might be a possible location for that one night. The WBL would have to bring tables, but not chairs. Barbara Ames asked whether it was possible to switch the unit game to Wednesday that week to avoid the problem. Dick said that was inadvisable for several reasons, including the fact that he suspected Christ the King would be unwilling to rent out the facility any night the week before Easter. Dick suggested that the Ohr Khodesh location be considered as the first possibility for the March 24, 2005 game, with

the Washington Bridge Center as an alternative if the Ohr Khodesh option did not work out.

### Charity Game

Dick Wegman explained that because of ACBL rules regarding sanctioning of charity games for local charities, since the WBL recently held a charity game to benefit Indian Ocean Tsunami victims, the WBL has to have another ACBL charity game to benefit an ACBL-designated charity. In addition, during discussions with the Schweinhaut Center, a Center representative suggested that the WBL make a charity contribution to the Center. If the WBL holds a charity game to benefit the Schweinhaut Center, it would have to schedule yet another charity game for an ACBL-designated charity. Steve Robinson noted that March 17, 2005 is already scheduled for a WBL charity game (in favor of the ACBL charity). Steve suggested April 14 for another. The rest of April is already set, with two sectionals (NVBA and WBL) and a District 6 charity game. Dick suggested March 31 instead of April 14, in order to avoid four unit games in a row with a nine dollar entry fee. The Board agreed to scheduling a charity game on March 31. Dick also suggested another charity game for May 12 (the date of the WBL membership annual meeting), to benefit the Schweinhaut Center. The Board agreed to the May 12 date as well.

### January Sectional

Nadine Wood reported that the January WBL sectional drew 382.5 tables, the largest attendance at a WBL sectional in several years. Steve Forsythe asked if there was a room at the Schweinhaut Center for expansion space, if needed. Nadine said that there is an additional room that could hold 30 tables, plus other potential spaces at the Center. Donna Rogall asked whether parking at the tournament was satisfactory. Nadine said that there was plenty of space in the parking lot.

### Profit Sharing

Steve Robinson explained that the WBL has a profit-sharing arrangement with the NVBA with respect to the Thursday night games held during WBL and NVBA tournaments. In February 2003, the WBL had a tournament and due to inclement weather, the NVBA actually lost money at the Beth El site for the Thursday night event. The NVBA's Margot Hennings contends that but for the fact that there was a WBL tournament, the NVBA would have canceled the Thursday night game on that occasion because of the weather, and therefore would have avoided a rent charge at Beth El. Margot Hennings proposes that the NVBA subtract \$150 from what the NVBA owes the WBL, to recoup the loss that night. Steve Forsythe noted that the profit-sharing agreement (60/40) does not apply in this situation, because the agreement involves the splitting of profit and there was no profit to split. Steve Forsythe also questioned whether the profit-sharing arrangement with the NVBA is advisable. Steve Robinson pointed out that the profit-sharing arrangement benefits the WBL as well, because the WBL gets a share of the proceeds from the Thursday night game of NVBA tournaments as well. Without the profit-sharing arrangement, the WBL would get no profit from the Thursday night game held at Christ the King when it is part of the NVBA sectional. Dick Wegman noted that the NVBA currently owes money to the WBL for the NVBA's share of the bridge brochures that were printed and distributed last year. The \$150 requested by the NVBA could just be offset from what NVBA owes for the bridge brochures. After discussion, the Board approved a \$150 offset in money that the NVBA owes to the WBL, pursuant to Margot Henning's request.

On a related subject, Donna Rogall reported that the NVBA has not been including ads for upcoming WBL sectionals in the NVBA bulletin, even though there is a mutual agreement on ads and the WBL has put in the NVBA tournament ads in the WBL's bulletin. Donna said that the NVBA claims that the problem has been meeting the NVBA's press deadlines, but in fact she has met the NVBA's stated press deadlines. Dick Wegman said that he would confer with Leo Cardillo (NVBA President) regarding this subject.

### March Sectional

Steve Forsythe reported that he has flyers for another "Instant Bridge Player" event to be run simultaneously with the Saturday of the WBL March sectional. Dick Wegman inquired as to the number of players from the Instant Bridge Player event that later come to WBL events. Steve Forsythe estimated that the Instant Bridge Player event generates

about one to two tables of new players to WBL events. Dick said that we should try to get the students from Ron Starr's high school program to come to the Saturday events at the March sectional. Ron Starr will be out of town that Saturday, so Dick asked who should coordinate the event that Saturday for the high school players. Steve Forsythe suggested that Mark Rosen would be a good candidate for that task.

Dick asked whether there was a workshop scheduled for the March tournament. Nadine Wood said that Charity and another person to be named later would run the workshop.

Nadine observed that the Friday events currently are scheduled for 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM. That is too tight a break between games. Nadine suggested moving the afternoon game time to 2:00 PM. Donna Rogall pointed out that a time change is too late, because the 1:30 PM start time is already in the advertising for the March sectional. Nadine suggested that moving the event back 30 minutes may not necessarily be "too late", as opposed to moving the event up 30 minutes, because unlike moving the time up 30 minutes, moving the time back 30 minutes does not risk people missing the start of the event. Nadine then agreed that perhaps it may be too late to change the Friday afternoon start time for the March sectional, but it should be changed for the April/May sectional. Donna then stated that she would try to change the advertising to reflect the change, in both the March sectional and the April/May sectional.

Richard Ferrin reported that he had heard several complaints about the fact that the number of boards for the Saturday events had been cut from 26 boards to 24 boards. He noted that the first Saturday event in the January sectional was a particular problem for one pair, because there was a sit-out table and so one pair played only 22 boards. Dick Wegman noted that the change to 24 board was designed to accommodate more convenient start times, and suggested that we adhere to the 24-board format for the Saturday events for the next one or two tournaments, and survey the views of members who come to the tournaments. Barbara Ames suggested that a quick survey could be done through Steve's e-mail list.

Nadine Wood stated that we need people to fold tables and chairs at the sectionals, and suggested a free play as an incentive for a volunteer. Steve Robinson said that offering a free play as an incentive was acceptable if it involved work of one person for an extended period of time, but it was unacceptable if there were several such volunteers who worked 10 minutes each folding tables and chairs. He said that we should first just ask for as many volunteers as possible, without the free play incentive.

Steve Forsythe suggested that we need to have some visual signal for volunteers who are prepared to be partners for people who come to the sectional without a partner. Donna Rogall added that Charity Sack could use some help on the partnership desk for the sectionals. Dick Wegman said that he would talk to Barbara Shaw about the matter.

### Partnership Guarantee Program

Ron Zucker expressed concern that although the WBL purportedly guarantees partners for individuals who come to the Unit Game, at least four times in the last three months we sent away people who did not have a partner. Charleen Brand has a list of potential partners, but those persons are not always reachable at the last minute on a given Thursday night. Ron proposed that we have a standby partner available every week, with the standby receiving a free play whether or not he/she is needed. Fred King made a motion to authorize a free play for a standby partner. The motion carried unanimously.

Fred King asked who calls potential partners when a single person calls the partnership coordinator on a Thursday night asking for a partner. He said that he heard a complaint that the partnership coordinator just gives a list of people to call and their numbers. Dick Wegman agreed that it is better for the partnership coordinator to do the actual calling of people on the reserve partner list, rather than the person requesting the partner. Donna Rogall suggested asking Ram Sarangan if he might be willing to pitch in on the partnership desk. Barbara Ames agreed to ask Ram. Dick suggested that in the next month's Board meeting, we should discuss ways to update the online partnership desk.

### D&O Insurance

Barbara Ames reported that the WBL has written a \$370.50 check to cover the WBL with D&O insurance with USG

for the next six months. The policy provides \$1 million in coverage.

### Lighting

Barbara Ames stated that for \$30 each, the WBL could get halogen lamps. Ron Zucker said that the problem with halogen lamps is that they are too dangerous. The lamps reach 900 degrees in temperature. It would be bad if a director knocked over a lamp. Dick Wegman stated that knocked-over lamps should not be a problem if we put the lamps along the walls. Ron Zucker said that he thought the idea was to put the lamps in the aisles. Ron Zucker then discussed the alternative of using compact fluorescent lamps, and promised to bring one to an upcoming Unit Game.

### Bridge and Bowling

Ron Zucker noted that to date, he had received 13 RSVPs. Rose Berman found two places to eat: one buffet, and one pizza place. We have a bridge sanction and a director for the bridge part of the event. We plan to play bridge at Laurel, but the Laurel club holds a maximum of 12 tables, and we can play at the WBL if more space is needed. This Saturday, I will drop off flyers at the NVBA sectional. Ron reported that he had reserved 15 lanes for bowling. Fred King asked about trophies. Ron agreed to arrange for trophies.

### Round Robin Dispute

Dick Wegman referred the Board to an e-mail sent by Leo LaSota, complaining about use of Lyle Poe as a last-minute substitute on Steve Robinson's team in the Round Robin final. Steve Robinson stated the following. First, he noted that the Round Robin rules state that the rules can be interpreted by the coordinator in the best interest of all. In this case, Peter Boyd had to go into the hospital. Bill Cole looked all day for a substitute. Steve thought that the substitution of Lyle Poe for Peter Boyd did not violate the rule against strengthening the team. He also checked with other members of the Round Robin Committee to determine whether his decision was reasonable. Steve said that he checks with other Committee members as necessary for his decisions as Coordinator. Specifically, he conferred with Earl Glickstein, and Earl approved Lyle as a substitute. In the Unit Knockout last year, Steinberg was approved as a substitute for Klein (on another team), even though Steinberg had played in the event.

Ron Zucker stated that there is a perception that Steve Robinson "runs" the Round Robin Committee, and questioned why all members of the Committee were not consulted. Steve Robinson conceded that he should have called Barbara Doran (a Committee member). Richard Ferrin asked who comprises the Round Robin Committee, and asked whether Committee members are elected every year. Steve Robinson said that people with experience with the event should be on the Committee.

Dick expressed his concern that there is a perception that the Round Robin Committee is stacked with members of one of the Round Robin teams. Donna Rogall asked Steve Robinson who on the Committee he calls when there is an issue. Steve Robinson said that it varies. He commented that the most controversial decision made in the Round Robin event for 2004 was to have 3 groups of 4 teams, instead of 2 groups of 6 teams.

Dick asked when the next Unit Knockout and Round Robin events will start. Steve Robinson said that the Unit Knockout was about to start, and that the start would depend on the number of teams. Dick said that in order to address the perception of a "stacked" Committee, we should add a few new members to the Committee and take off a few members of the current Committee. Dick volunteered to respond to Leo's e-mail.

### Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM. The next WBL board meeting will take place February 16 at Winston Edward's house. The March meeting will take place March 23 at Donna Rogall's house.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
February 16, 2005**

The meeting was held at Winston Edward's house.

In attendance: Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Steve Robinson, and Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood, and Ted Ying.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$10,324.76 in its checking account. The WBL has not yet applied for a refund from the Newport Mill Middle School for rent for the January tournament that was held elsewhere. Nadine Wood said that she would contact the school for the refund. The treasurer's report was approved, without objection.

Sectional Rescheduling

Dick Wegman reported that the Schweinhaut Center will be unavailable until late September/early October. Therefore, the WBL will shift the August sectional back to September/October. Nadine Wood reported that the WBL has signed a contract with the Schweinhaut Center for renting space for the October 2005 and January 2006 tournaments. Ted Ying commented that given the change in the tournament schedule, the WBL should reschedule one of its unit game events, currently scheduled as a North American Pairs qualifier. There was no objection to Ted's suggestion. Nadine commented that the spacing of sectionals in 2006 likely will be better than in 2005.

March Sectional

Dick Wegman asked if there would be any workshop on Saturday of the tournament. Steve Robinson said that he and John Adams would provide a lecture. Dick reported that he talked with Ron Starr and Mark Rosen and hope to get students from the high school and middle school programs to attend on Saturday.

March 24 Unit Game

Dick Wegman reminded the Board that Christ the King Church would be unavailable for the unit game on March 24, because of Holy Week services. Dick considered the Washington Bridge Center ("WBC") as an alternative location, but the problem is that that site is too small. Ted Ying commented that the unit game tends to have smaller attendance anyway when it is relocated at the WBC, but Fred King recalled that the WBC site is too cramped, even with a smaller attendance. According to Dick, Ron Zucker promised to check with Ohr Khodesh to see if their facility would be available. Ted will confer with Ron Zucker about this. Dick said that somebody needs to be posted at Christ the King on March 24 to redirect people to the alternate site.

WBL/ABA Joint Game

Dick Wegman reported that the WBL and ABA will hold a joint game on April 16 at 11 AM. Dick suggested notifying WBL members and recommending that WBL members who plan to attend should notify the ABA's coordinator, so that the ABA doesn't become overwhelmed. Winston Edwards estimated that the ABA location, the "Hut", holds a maximum of 25-28 tables. If WBL attendance drew an additional 10 additional tables, that would reach the maximum. As an aside, Winston noted that the ABA owns the property where the event will be held, and rents out the space to other clubs from time to time. Fred King asked how long the ABA has owned the space. Winston replied that the ABA purchased the building about 5 years ago. The facility is a stand-alone building with a parking lot. Ted Ying noted that the WBL had discussed in the past purchasing a facility, but it could not do the same thing as the ABA because the WBL would need a bigger facility. Dick asked for a volunteer to coordinate the ABA/WBL event. Winston volunteered to coordinate. Ted suggested having a partnership desk to mix and match ABA and WBL members for the event. Dick asked who would direct the event. Winston said that if there is no ACBL sanction, there would be no issue of getting an ACBL-approved director. Ted asked whether the event could be dual-sanctioned, and

promised to call Cassandra Smith about that possibility. Dick asked for a volunteer to prepare an advertising flyer for the event. Winston volunteered to prepare the flyer.

#### Request to Approve July 4<sup>th</sup> Regional in White Plains

Nadine Wood stated that normally, when there are existing regionals scheduled at the same time, the protocol is for the proposed new regional to get permission from existing regionals to schedule the event. White Plains, New York will host a regional, as a substitute regional for the New York region following the New York nationals last summer. The White Plains tournament chair asked Nadine whether it was OK to schedule it during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the same time as the Washington regional. Nadine said that it was OK this year, but she asked the White Plains tournament chairman not to schedule a July 4<sup>th</sup> regional in 2007, which would be the next time that the WBL is scheduled to host the Washington July 4<sup>th</sup> regional. The White Plains chair agreed to Nadine's condition.

#### Partnership Guarantee Desk

Dick Wegman reported that Ron Zucker has volunteered to share responsibility for unit game partnerships with Charleen, when Ron steps down from the WBL Board. Dick also raised the issue of the online partnership "desk", noting that the entries are a bit dated. Don Berman disagreed. Don said that the problem with the online partnership "desk" is that the software is inadequate. Steve Robinson inquired as to the usage of the online partnership area. Don estimated that 30-35 people post partnership queries online. The owner of the software suggested a share arrangement among District 6, the WBL, and NVBA. However, the software would not separate the games. Dick queried why combine the partnership area for the three organizations when the WBL has the software for free right now? Ted Ying explained that the area is not really a partnership "desk", but rather a partnership bulletin board. He said that he has heard at least one complaint from a member who thought that the online partnership bulletin board guarantees a partner, like a real partnership desk at a tournament. Therefore, Ted recommended that the WBL clarify onsite that the service is a bulletin board and does not guarantee a partner. Donna Rogall suggested that perhaps the partnership chair for the unit game should check the online bulletin board. Charleen Brand does not have a computer, but Ron Zucker does. Don Berman stated that based on the Board's discussion, we will keep the partnership area the same, and not combine it with District 6 or NVBA. Fred King suggested simply changing the name of the area to "Partnership Bulletin Board".

#### Listing of WBL Members on NVBA Website

Don Berman reported that he spoke with Leo Cardillo about the online listing previously proposed by the NVBA, but Don is unaware of any WBL member who has an interest in being listed on the NVBA website.

#### Bridge and Bowling

Fred King reported that some things about the Bridge and Bowling event went well, and some did not. Attendance was a little bit low--about 29 bowlers. Fred said that they paid by the hour instead of by the game, which was a mistake. The WBL needs to reimburse \$14 to Ron Zucker, to make up a shortfall in the fee. Don Berman reported that the bridge part of the event drew 8 tables. There was no problem with the bridge event. There was, however, a problem with the dinner in between the bowling and bridge event, due to slow service. Fred reported that he now has a database of about 100 people who have participated in the bridge and bowling even over the last 4 or 5 years. Ted Ying suggested that the low attendance is not surprising, given that the sponsorship of the event changed from the Northern Virginia side of the river to the Maryland side. He predicted that attendance would improve in future years. Donna Rogall suggested trophies for the next event. Fred said that there were supposed to have been trophies this time, but the trophies were never purchased. Fred promised to make sure next year that there are trophies.

#### Unit Growth

Dick Wegman stated that the WBL Board has taken several steps to promote growth, but we need more ideas. We will soon have a meeting of the Unit Growth Committee to spur new ideas. Fred King noted that he recently sent out an e-mail on this topic to the WBL Board and received no responses. Dick suggested putting a tag line on the Washington Post bridge column. He said that Barbara Shaw suggested this two years ago. At that time, Bob Levy could not persuade the Post to insert the tag line in the printed edition of the Post, but the tag line is there in the online edition of the Post. Steve Robinson said that he contacted Frank Stewart in the past about a tag line on Stewart's column, but the problem is that it has to be a generic ACBL plug, since the column is syndicated. We need the cooperation of ACBL,

with a plug of a portion of the ACBL website that in turn has a link to the WBL. Dick suggested that either Steve or Nadine Wood contact Frank Stewart about this possibility, and also contact the ACBL. Ted Ying suggested contacting the ACBL webmaster about forming a collection of links to local websites and contact phone numbers. Nadine Wood suggested that we need to start higher up in the ACBL organization than the webmaster. Nadine suggested Linda Grinell, who is in charge of marketing at ACBL. Steve volunteered to write up a draft proposal. Donna Rogall said that if the advertising leads to inquiries, we should send them one of the WBL/NVBA brochures. Dick Wegman suggested that Frances Burke could mail out brochures in responses to inquiries. Dick noted that another growth idea would be to talk to other DC-area newspapers, and see if any of them would be willing to run a local bridge column. At some point in the past, Jim Allen inquired about this possibility with the Washington Times, and the Times indicated that they would be interested. We should consider reviving this idea. Also, we should inquire to see if the Gazette newspapers would be interested in a local bridge column.

### Free Plays

Fred King reported that the free-play issue is not a major problem now, but we need to make sure that the number of free plays does not exceed 10 to 15 percent of attendance. Fred referred to ideas suggested by Ron Zucker in an e-mail to the WBL Board, but suggested that those ideas are a bit too generous. Ted Ying referred to the policy of awarding a free play to the person who purchases sodas for the unit game, stating that this has been the policy for 10 years, and it is justified because purchase of sodas for the unit game and bringing them to the game takes a long time. When Kitty Gottfried is unable to attend, it is particularly difficult to get refreshments for the game. Steve Robinson suggested that with respect to free plays in general, we should speak with the people who get free plays and ask them if they deserve the free plays. Perhaps some might concede that they do not deserve the free plays. Fred King suggested to the contrary, some people are likely to get defensive about it. Ted Ying said that as for the free plays awarded by Kitty Gottfried, he is inclined not to second-guess Kitty if she thinks somebody deserves a free play for helping her. Richard Ferrin suggested that since free plays are not a major problem now, there is no need to make major revisions. Dick Wegman pointed out, however, that the cost of free plays currently runs approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year. Nadine Wood observed that that amount is not necessarily all lost revenue, because some people who use free plays otherwise would not play at all. Plus, some of the people who use free plays attract more revenue by bringing a partner. Ted Ying suggested that the WBL needs to consolidate the number of persons who have authority to authorize free plays.

### E-Mail from University of Maryland Student

Dick noted an e-mail that he received from a University of Maryland student, asking for subjects in connection with a study. He forwarded the e-mail to the WBL Board. Dick asked if we should publicize the student's request. Don Berman offered to distribute the request at the Laurel Bridge Club. Fred King recommended that we announce the request at a unit game.

### Other Business

Ted Ying suggested that the WBL consider renting a shared space with the WBC. Dick Wegman replied that we have spent a lot of time looking for space for WBL events. If there are two or three people who would volunteer to look, Dick would be amenable. Ted stated that in order to make such a joint arrangement feasible, we first need to have an agreement with the club. Ted observed that other clubs in other jurisdictions have obtained cheap space from shut-down shopping center stores. Dick recommended that we defer further discussion of this topic to a future Board meeting.

Donna Rogall reported that March 11 is the next deadline for the Bulletin. We need biographies for Board candidates, along with pictures. Donna can take the pictures at a unit game. If any party has a proposed motion for the Annual Meeting, it needs to be advertised, and the deadline is March 11.

### Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM. The next WBL board meeting will take place March 23 at Donna Rogall's house. The Board thanked Winston Edwards for his hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**March 23, 2005**

The meeting was held at Donna Rogall's house.

In attendance: Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and Ron Zucker, and non-voting members Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood, and Ted Ying.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$10,217.64 in its checking account. Ted Ying noted that the WBL will receive \$1,692.65 tomorrow from the February Unit Game report. Nadine Wood reported that the WBL has paid for rent at the Newport Mill Middle School for rent through April, but has not yet obtained a refund from the school for January, when the WBL held the tournament elsewhere. Nadine commented that with respect to the March sectional at the School, she was disappointed that the condition of the bathrooms were unsatisfactory, and the building attendant was not present. Dick Wegman reported that Michael Chelst, on behalf of Fidelity & Trust, has agreed to sponsor the Unit Round Robin again this year. Steve Robinson was asked to follow up with Chelst for his financial contribution. The treasurer's report was approved, without objection.

#### March 24 Unit Game

Dick Wegman noted Steve Robinson's general e-mail alert that the March 24 game would be held at the Washington Bridge Center ("WBC"), instead of Christ the King Church. Dick asked for a volunteer to go to the Church before game time that evening to direct persons who did not see the e-mail to go to the WBC. Barbara Summers volunteered to find somebody to redirect traffic from the Church. Ted Ying stated that he normally gives the head caddy (who lives in the Hillendale area) a ride to the Unit Game, but given the change in location for March 24 relative to where Ted is coming from, Ted asked whether somebody else was willing to give him a ride. Also, we need additional card tables and chairs for the game. Donna Rogall volunteered a table, and Steve Robinson volunteered a table and four chairs. Don Berman volunteered to loan chairs from the Laurel club, but he has no way of getting them to the game.

#### March Sectional

Dick Wegman reported that the turnout for the March sectional was great (378 tables), as was the hospitality. Nadine Wood observed that the biggest pickup in attendance from the March sectional last year was in the team game. She speculated that perhaps the reason for the difference was that lack of heat was a problem on Saturday last year, and that may have driven down Sunday attendance last year. Dick stated that he received a few complaints about the change in the start time for the second session Saturday (2:00 PM instead of 1:30 PM, as advertised). Nadine stated that the change to 2:00 PM was necessary to give more time for lunch, and the Board agreed to the time change, but not in time for the advertising deadline.

#### Future Sectionals

Steve Robinson asked whether there would be a barometer game again for the Friday night of the April/May sectional. Nadine Wood confirmed that there would be a barometer game again, noting that there was still leftover champagne for



the barometer/champagne pairs event, and it was included in the advertising. However, she suggested that the Board consider a change for future sectionals after that, i.e., the September/October sectional. Ted Ying observed that B/C players erroneously think that the barometer pairs favors stronger pairs, like Board-a-Match. Richard Ferrin agreed that a change would be in order for the September/October sectional, since the novelty of the barometer pairs seems to be wearing off. He said that the point is to have something new to attract players Friday night, and suggested IMP pairs for the September/October sectional. Ted agreed, but suggested that we shouldn't do it more than two tournaments in a row. Richard agreed. Nadine suggested that we have IMP pairs once a year and barometer pairs once a year. Ron Zucker said that with respect to Ted's comment about the B/C players preference against barometer pairs, we could, in theory, run a barometer pairs for A/X and a different game for B/C, but the problem would be that the barometer event generates noise between rounds and talk about the hands just played, which makes it impractical to run a different game for B/C. Ted suggested that the best time to run an IMP pairs game would be the sectional before the national IMP pairs (at the Spring nationals). Notwithstanding the longer-term schedule, Dick stated that there seems to be a consensus among the Board members to schedule IMP pairs for the Friday night game for the September/October sectional. Barbara Summers asked whether attendance on Friday night might be boosted by having a team game then. Ted stated that the NVBA tried it (triple-nickel Swiss), but that it did not boost attendance. Richard again stressed that the emphasis should be on keeping the Friday night game fresh with different events.

### Partnership Desk and Online Partnership Bulletin Board

Ron Zucker stated that with respect to the partnership desk for the Unit Game, he found that several people agreed to volunteer as a standby partner a few times, but he was having difficulty finding people to commit to fixed dates. Don Berman volunteered to be the standby partner at tomorrow night's game. Barbara Summers observed that people would call the telephone number for partners in the afternoon of the Unit Game, and asked if the designated volunteer would play with them. The problem is that the volunteer cannot commit in the afternoon but must be ready to fill in at the game site. Ted Ying stated that the standby partnership arrangement is working. Last week, Jason played with Barbara Summers and filled out a half-table. Don Berman stated that with respect to the online partnership bulletin board, he changed the name on the web site as discussed by the WBL Board, but the NVBA then unilaterally changed the name to the WBL/NVBA partnership bulletin board. Ted commented that the software owner was more likely to accommodate the NVBA, because the NVBA pays for the software whereas the WBL got it for free.

### Lighting at the Unit Game

Ron Zucker stated that he can pick up the new lights, but he cannot bring them to the Unit Game. Dick Wegman stated that Barbara Ames can help Ron with this, but not now because she is so busy with work right now (tax season). Ted Ying volunteered to take the lights to the Unit Game, if Ron will pick up the lights and bring them to Ted's house. Ted also reported that he has received new cards, and will replace the old card decks with fresh ones next week.

Dick stated that he is concerned about wet floors at the Unit Game. Ted stated that he cleans up any messes if he is informed of the mess. Dick asked who cleans up at the end of the evening. Ted replied that Kitty Gottfried and the caddies clean up after the game. Dick suggested asking the caddies to clean up at wet spots during the game. Ted cautioned that this is within Kitty's jurisdiction. Dick stated that he would speak with Kitty.

### Bridge Column Message

Dick Wegman recalled the discussion at the last board meeting about boosting publicity and unit growth through a message at the end of bridge columns in the newspaper. Dick noted two potential obstacles: (1) ACBL cooperation, and (2) cooperation of the columnist or syndicator. Nadine Wood stated that she spoke with Linda Grinell of the ACBL. The ACBL will cooperate fully, but they have tried this idea in the past. Philip Alder has run a tag line in his column, but other bridge columnists or syndicators are reluctant to cooperate. Some syndicates refuse. Also, sometimes the newspapers cut out the message during the editing process. Dick asked Steve Robinson to call Frank Stewart to enlist Stewart's cooperation. Steve agreed to call Frank Stewart.

### WBL/ABA Joint Game

Dick Wegman reported that the WBL and ABA will hold a joint game on April 16 at 11 AM. Dick asked who among the WBL board members planned to attend. Dick and Don Berman (and their wives) will attend, as will Richard Ferrin. Barbara Summers may attend. Richard suggested making an announcement at the next WBL Unit Game. Ted Ying agreed to do so if he received a reminder at the game.

### Unit Growth

Fred King reported that he planned to chair a meeting of the Unit Growth Committee. The best time to have the meeting is this Saturday at 10:30 AM. The Committee consists of Fred, Barbara Ames, Winston Edwards, Steve Forsythe, Barbara Summers, and Dick Wegman. Fred said that they would also invite Ron Starr and Charity Sack to the meeting. Dick said that this Saturday may be a bad date for the Committee meeting, because several people may be unable to attend. Dick recommended postponing the meeting until Fred returns from vacation in April.

Ted Ying stated that 74 persons attended the Instant Bridge Player seminar. Steve Forsythe is getting 5 to 7 tables per week in his weekly game. Some of those persons are graduating to games with higher masterpoint limits. Dick Wegman reported that we are also planning additional sessions for high school students. Nadine Wood stated that at the Pittsburgh nationals, we talked with a marketing firm with which the ACBL had contracted about developing strategies for getting more youth to play bridge. One of the consultants happens to live in Falls Church, Virginia, and so Nadine invited her to the WBL's next sectional. Ted suggested that the marketing people can develop promotions, such as t-shirts. Nadine replied that the consultants realize that a cohesive program of strategies was necessary.

Dick recalled his previous suggestion about getting WBL members to write a weekly bridge column as a method of promoting the WBL. He said that the Washington Times promised to run such a column every Saturday. Dick cautioned that this would be difficult work maintaining a weekly column, however. Richard Ferrin suggested that in order to make it work, we should write up several columns in advance, so there is a cushion. Dick asked for volunteers to write articles. Steve Robinson and Richard volunteered to contribute articles. Barbara Summers volunteered to visit other newspapers to promote the idea.

### New Logo

Dick Wegman reported that Charity Sack has developed several potential new logos for the WBL, and circulated copies to the Board. Ted Ying commented that the logo with a picture of a card will smudge, and the logos with white on red will wash when photocopied in black and white. Ron Zucker asked how much work would be necessary to redesign the Bulletin with the new logo. Donna Rogall replied that it would not be difficult. We just need to have the logo in the appropriate computer format. Dick suggested that Donna review the logos, and the Board should revisit the issue next month.

### Issue Regarding Cross-Advertising With NVBA

Dick Wegman referred the Board to the e-mail traffic with the NVBA regarding cross-advertising of sectionals. Dick noted that the WBL and NVBA agreed to an arrangement, but a few times the WBL's ads did not appear in the NVBA's bulletin. Donna Rogall stated that the WBL's ad appeared only once in the NVBA's bulletin in the last year. Dick reported that the WBL has agreed with the NVBA that from now on each unit will include in a timely fashion the other's tournament ads in its bulletins. Donna also noted the suggestion in her e-mail to distribute extra copies of the WBL Bulletin at NVBA games. Nadine Wood said that Donna's suggestion was good, but not a substitute for placing an ad in the NVBA's bulletin. Donna stated that for \$10-\$20 extra, the printer could mail the extras directly for distribution at the NVBA unit game. Barbara Summers asked why there were extra copies of the WBL Bulletin. Ted Ying explained that the printer wants to run a full ream of paper, and so he prints the extras at minimal cost to the WBL. Fred King volunteered to take extra copies of the WBL Bulletin to the NVBA sectionals, but not to the NVBA unit game. Dick said that he would ask Leo Cardillo to whom the printer should mail the extra WBL Bulletins for the NVBA unit game.

### Unit Game Behavior Issue

Steve Robinson said that we need to find a way to encourage the directors to penalize Flight A players who intimidate B/C pairs. Ted Ying explained that to do so, the Board should develop a code of unacceptable behavior. Nadine Wood suggested that the “Zero Tolerance” guidelines should suffice. Fred King said that we like the concept, but not the “Zero Tolerance” label. Ted said that in the past, the Board has refused to write specific laws to justify the directors taking disciplinary action, so the directors get criticized for “doing what is right”. Ron Zucker suggested using recorder forms. Ted replied that Flight C players are unlikely to be willing to fill out recorder forms. Dick Wegman observed that either Rule 72 or 73 forbids players from creating an uncomfortable atmosphere. Ted replied that the difficulty was that the Flight A players in question are invoking the bridge laws, which makes it difficult for directors to admonish them under the circumstances. Ted offered a specific example in a recent game. Donna Rogall agreed that we need to find a way to get rid of rude behavior. Ted suggested that if we can guarantee that 3 WBL Board members will stay after each Unit Game, the Board members could serve essentially as a “zero tolerance” committee (as opposed to an appeals committee). Steve said that it is important that Board members back the directors publicly when they take action against bad behavior. Barbara Summers asked whether penalties for frivolous complaints be considered. Ted replied that the issue is that we need to give wider latitude to Flight C players. Donna Rogall suggested keeping a running tally of the number of director calls per year that each player makes. Dick said that we cannot resolve this issue tonight. He suggested formation of a committee to study the issue, with Fred as chair, and including Steve Robinson, Don Berman, and Michael Carroad.

### Other Business

Donna Rogall reminded the Board that we need a volunteer chair for the regional this year. Barbara Summers volunteered.

Donna also noted that the Board had agreed to survey the membership regarding start time on Saturday sectionals. It was recommended to Donna that she contact Barbara Ames to remind Barbara that she was going to draft a survey.

Richard Ferrin reported that he received notification that the ACBL sent a cancellation notice regarding the St. Elizabeth bridge club. Ted asked who runs that game. Barbara Summers volunteered to look into it. Dick Wegman noted that the WBL gave the St. Elizabeth club a contribution last year. Ted Ying suggested that instead of making an annual contribution, the WBL should consider paying their club fees to the ACBL.

Barbara Summers asked whether the NVBA could use the WBL’s dealing machine. Ted Ying noted that Alan Crank charges \$9 per box as the standard rate for his services, and the NVBA would need to get the boards to Alan. Fred King asked about the additional cost of maintenance of the machine. Don Berman noted for maintenance of the machine, it requires either shipping the machine back to Australia, or finding somebody locally who can figure out how to perform repairs. Steve Robinson suggested that the WBL charge \$12 per box, which would include Alan’s \$9 per-box fee plus \$3 per box to cover machine maintenance. Dick Wegman agreed. Ron Zucker suggested that for clubs within the WBL unit, the WBL should charge only the \$9 fee that goes to Alan, and that other entities (such as the NVBA and the Mid-Atlantic) should be charged \$12 per box. Richard Ferrin made a motion to that effect. Ron Zucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Donna Rogall stated that she will be unable to attend the next WBL sectional, and asked for a volunteer to take pictures of the winners. Don Berman volunteered.

### Next Meeting

The next WBL board meeting has to be relocated because Fred King will be out of town. Richard Ferrin agreed to host. Therefore, the next board meeting will take place April 20 at Richard Ferrin’s house. The Board thanked Donna Rogall for her hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**April 20, 2005**

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and Ron Zucker, and non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Dick Wegman called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$9812.36 in its checking account. Steve noted that the WBL has received its quarterly ACBL check, and that the WBL has pre-paid with the Schweinhaut Center for rent for the sectionals scheduled for October 2005, January 2006 and March 2006. Dick Wegman asked if the WBL had received a refund from the Newport Mill Middle School for the January 2005 tournament (which was held at the Schweinhaut Center instead). Steve said that he did not know. Dick stated that he would check with Nadine Wood. The treasurer's report was approved without objection.

#### April/May 2005 Sectional

Dick Wegman asked if the event between sessions in the Saturday of the sectional would be a panel show or a workshop. Steve Robinson said that that decision had not yet been made. Steve will find panelists.

#### September/October 2005 Sectional

Dick Wegman asked what event would be scheduled between sessions on Saturday of the sectional. Steve Robinson said that there would be a workshop. Dick also reminded the Board that the Board had agreed to hold an IMP pair event for Friday night (as opposed to the barometer pairs). Donna Rogall asked if there would be any special hospitality planned for the sectional. Dick suggested that Donna check with Nadine Wood.

Donna asked what progress had been made regarding a survey of the membership for start times on Saturday. Barbara Ames stated that no survey had yet been made. Fred King suggested that the survey include participants on both Thursday and Saturday of the next sectional. Dick suggested a survey by show of hands at the annual election. Steve said that the survey should be of people who actually attend the tournaments. Ron Zucker added that the agenda for the annual election is already crowded. Dick suggested that a survey by show of hands would not take much time. Barbara Ames stated that she would frame the question, and send the question tomorrow to Steve Robinson.

#### Joint WBL/ABA Game

Dick reported that the joint game held by the WBL and the Washington Bridge Unit of the American Bridge Association ("ABA") was a success. The game had 16 ½ tables (66 players). Of the 66 players, 35 were members only of the ACBL, 18 were members only of the ABA, and 13 were members of both the ACBL and ABA. According to Dick, Cassandra Smith was pleased and told him that she was looking forward to another joint game, this next time at a WBL sectional. Dick suggested holding the joint event at one of the Saturday sessions in the September-October WBL sectional. It was pointed out that currently the WBL has scheduled a two-session trophy pair game for the Saturday of the September-October WBL sectional. Ron Zucker then suggested moving the two-session trophy game

to the January 2006 sectional. Dick agreed, and recommended designating the 11:00 AM game on Saturday at the September-October WBL sectional as the joint game with the ABA.

Donna Rogall noted that since the two-session trophy pair game was being moved to January, the Sunday games should also be switched. Currently, the A/X Board-a-Match ("BAM") game was slotted for January, but it should not be scheduled for the same sectional as the two-session pair Saturday trophy game, so the Sunday BAM game should be switched to the September-October sectional. Dick agreed and suggested that Donna talk to Nadine about the proposed event changes.

### Unit Game Lighting

Ron Zucker reported that he had purchased three lamps at a total cost of \$44, and put them up two weeks ago in the Unit Game as a test. The test worked well. He also tested half-globes to diffuse light, but those did not work well. Ron also tested compact fluorescent lamps. He asked players at the Unit Game, who reported that the compact fluorescent lamps worked well. To date, two such lamps are in place, and three others have been purchased. Dick Wegman stated that Christ the King Church needs to replace some of the overhead bulbs. Barbara Ames volunteered to contact the Church about that.

### Partnership Guarantee Program

Dick Wegman stated that he recently served as a volunteer partner. He played with a beginner, who was very enthusiastic, and the game was pleasurable. Dick stated that the purpose of the program should be to find partners for players who need a partner on occasion, not week after week. He asked the Board what the policy should be. Richard Ferrin queried whether it has been difficult to find partners for persons who make frequent use of the program. Ron Zucker stated that his view was that the primary purpose of the program was to fill out tables at the Unit Game. Barbara Ames commented that she viewed the purpose of the program was to assist persons who need a partner only occasionally. Steven Robinson said that if the person needing a partner was a rank beginner, that person and the volunteer partner should play in the B/C game, even though the volunteer partner might not be eligible for the B/C game. The presence of one partner above the B/C cutoff does not prohibit the pair from playing in the B/C game, it only means that the partnership would not be eligible for masterpoints in the game. Dick suggested that the Board consult with Ted Ying about these issues at the next Board meeting.

In response to a question regarding partnership chair responsibilities, Ron Zucker stated that Charleen Brand agreed to handle those responsibilities until her surgery, at which time Ron would assume responsibility.

Don Berman asked what the policy should be regarding foreign nationals who are national champions in their native country but who do not have many ACBL masterpoints. Steve Robinson stated that classification in such situation should be at the discretion of the director.

### Behavior Issues

Dick Wegman stated that the WBL should not impose too-rigorous guidelines regarding behavior, and that balance is needed in such situations. Dick then read the following e-mail that Ted Ying circulated to the Board:

The only issue I have to report on is regarding the issue with unacceptable behaviour at the 4/7/2005 Thursday night Unit Game/NVBA Sectional.

I spoke with the player who was involved. He apologized and agreed that his behaviour was completely out-of-line. He explained his perspective. He said that the opponents were talking and criticizing their own defense during the hand and that after the hand, the woman started to berate her partner, the man. He asked that they play the next board, and they ignored him and she continued to berate him. He got very upset, said the expletive and left the table. When he returned shortly after, they had finished and were able to play the next hand. He apologized for his behaviour and agreed that he should

(and would) call the director to handle the problem in the future. He has been given a warning that this is inappropriate behaviour for the unit game and will be monitored in the future.

I then decided to talk with the opposing couple. When I spoke with them, they had a slightly different perspective. They did not agree that they made any comments or criticism during the hand. When the hand was over, they agreed that they were discussing the defense, but they did not feel that they were "yelling" at each other. The woman explained that the man is significantly hard-of-hearing and if she doesn't raise her voice, he cannot hear her. She felt that the opponent may have misinterpreted her raising her voice for yelling at him. She heard that he asked to play the next hand, but felt that her only chance to discuss the hand/defense to ensure that the problem didn't occur again was between hands, before they started the next hand and felt that since they were not late, they shouldn't have been rushed into the next hand. I suggested that if the opponents wanted to continue playing, then she should save the discussion until the end of the round if possible. I will also continue to monitor this pair in the future.

Dick stated that he thought Ted handled the situation well, that this appears to have been an isolated incident, and that the WBL should not create a "police state" for an occasional incident.

Steve Robinson said that the WBL needs to deal with some others who are "bad apples". Fred King stated that he is worried about selective application of rules; rules should not be applied selectively. Steve Robinson stated that in situations where a convention is not alerted, sometimes a player attempts a "two-way shot" by calling the director after the hand is over. Ron Zucker asked whether this situation is common at the Unit Game. Steve said that a few players tend to engage in that behavior. Dick Wegman asked how many "bad apples" that there were in the Unit Game. Steve said that there were about four or five slow players, and one or two who go out of their way to take advantage of situations. Dick asked about the incidence of rude players. Steve commented that there was more of a problem when the game is stratified (as opposed to strata-flighted) and a Flight A pair calls the director against a Flight C pair. Steve said that Ted was concerned that the Board would not back him up when he dealt with these situations. Steve said that he would back Ted up, as long as Ted does not yell at the players. Dick commented that the key is for the director to treat players with respect. Fred said that the laws have to be applied evenly.

### Notices in Syndicated Columns

Dick Wegman reported that Steve Robinson sent an e-mail to Frank Stewart about including a plug in his column that would direct players to local units, including the WBL. Stewart said that he would consider it. Steve Robinson said that he will also send a similar note to Bobby Wolff. Barbara Summers stated that she called the ACBL today about this issue (information regarding points of contact for the WBL and other local bridge units). Barbara said that the information is on ACBL's web site, but it takes too long to guide the browser to the site where such information resides. Steve Robinson added that such information should also include a phone number for a local contact. Barbara Summers volunteered to be the contact person for such a local phone number, and said that she would be prepared to mail the WBL's local club pamphlet to anybody who calls.

### WBL Logo

Donna Rogall reported that she focused on several of the logos originally designed by Charity Sack, and added additional possibilities. Board members offered their views as to the best logos. The Board members voted on their favorites, but there was no clear favorite. Donna then suggested that she will come back to the next meeting with two options for the Board's consideration.

### Annual Election

Dick Wegman reported that Ron Zucker is working on hospitality for the upcoming annual election meeting, and Jim Allen will chair the meeting. Dick noted that all of the officers are running for re-election unopposed, and of the other board members, Don Berman is running for re-election. There are two additional seats with no incumbents.

### St. Elizabeth's Duplicate Bridge Club

Barbara Summers noted the ACBL's notification of cancellation of the sanction for the St. Elizabeth's Duplicate Bridge Club. She said that the problem is being corrected. She noted, however, that the director, Kathy Kruskal, is experiencing vision problems. Clyde Kruskal has volunteered to act as a backup director to Kathy. Steve Robinson suggested asking Steve Czecha to direct, since he goes to the game frequently. Dick Wegman and Barbara Summers agreed to approach Steve Czecha. Barbara Summers noted that the Northern Virginia Bridge Association ("NVBA") co-sponsors the St. Elizabeth game along with the WBL, and therefore suggested that Paul Krueger should also be considered as a possible director. Dick asked about the sanction fees for the St. Elizabeth game. Barbara Summers stated that the ACBL has waived the sanction fees; the ACBL only needs an annual registration.

### Other Business

Dick Wegman noted that Carol Wood recently died. He said that Nadine Wood and Peter Boyd will look at the wealth of material regarding the WBL that she has accumulated over the years. Dick queried whether Peter might consider acting as archivist for the WBL. Steve Robinson said that he would ask Peter.

Dick thanked Ron Zucker and Steve Forsythe for their service on the Board. Donna Rogall noted that Sandy will take over Steve Forsythe's column for novices.

### Next Meeting

The next WBL board meeting will take place May 25 at Dick Wegman's house. The Board thanked Richard Ferrin for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**May 25, 2005**

The meeting was held at Dick Wegman's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$13,772.35 in its checking account. Dick Wegman asked if the Newport Mill Middle School returned the rent for the tournament that was held at the Schweinhaut Center instead of the School. Steve replied that the School did return the rent. Dick asked if Fidelity & Trust had provided the contribution that it had pledged for support of the Round Robin. Steve replied that Fidelity & Trust had not yet provided the contribution. The treasurer's report was then approved without objection.

#### Committee Assignments

Dick Wegman passed out a proposed list of committee assignments. Dick reported that Fred King has agreed to chair the Unit Game, and the Partnership Guarantee Program. In turn, Dick will chair the Unit Growth Committee. Clyde Kruskal agreed to chair the Education Committee, and be in charge of volunteers at the tournaments. Dick reported that Jane Sturgis will serve as chair of the Charity Committee. Steve Robinson stated that he would try to find a Flight C player as a replacement for Gloria Halstead on the Round Robin Committee. Dick asked the Board to let him know of any suggestions or changes to his proposed committee assignments. He would like for the committee assignments to be noted in the WBL Bulletin.

#### Alexandria Regional

Barbara Ames reported that she has arranged for volunteers at the tournament. Fred King suggested David Hahn as an additional volunteer. Barbara Summers stated that one potential volunteer called her. She asked who has the volunteer list from last year. Barbara Ames replied that Lee Jensen has the list. Fred said that Nadine Wood, Millard Nachtwey, and he met with the hotel regarding food and other arrangements. He added that in the past, there were two sets of two-session pair games, but this time the two-session pair games have been consolidated to 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM, except for the Machlin Barometer Pairs. Prime time knockout sessions will continue to be scheduled for 1:30 PM and 7:30 PM. In addition, there will be side games and knockouts at 9:30 in the mornings. Barbara Ames commented that the overlapping schedules previously built into the schedule complicated the work of volunteers. Fred added that the previous schedule also complicated the hospitality program. Dick Wegman noted that Helene Bauman needs to have some questions answered regarding the restaurant guide. Fred volunteered to confer with Helene. Barbara Ames noted that she has two administrative assistants who could help with the tournament.

#### Schedule Adjustments for October 2005 and January 2006 Sectionals

Dick Wegman noted that Nadine Wood objects to holding a Board-a-Match ("BAM") on Sunday of the October sectional. Donna Rogall added that according to Nadine, the BAM lowers attendance. She said that Nadine is



particularly opposed to doing the BAM for the October sectional. Dick Wegman said that he would agree to striking the BAM from the October sectional.

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL has given the Schweinhaut Center a deposit for rent for the sectionals through March 2006.

Donna Rogall reported that the Friday night event will be IMP pairs, beer and bratwurst.

Dick noted that the first Saturday session will be a joint game with the American Bridge Association. He said that Winston Edwards will confer with Cassandra Smith about arrangements.

### Partnership Guarantee Program

Dick Wegman raised the issue of persons who overuse the partnership guarantee program. In Dick's view, the purpose of the program is to find partners for new players, or players who occasionally need a fill-in, not for players who need a partner every week. Barbara Summers stated that she spoke with a WBL member who overuses the program, and she understands the Board's position. However, that person said that the WBL should not hold out the program as a partnership "guarantee". Donna Rogall commented that the WBL does not search extensively for partners, but merely attempts to find a "warm body". Barbara Ames stated that there may no longer be a problem with the WBL member who previously overused the program.

Don Berman stated that having the fill-in pair play in the A/X game skews the results of that game. The fill-in pair should play in the B/C event if the person who needs the partner is a C player, even if the fill-in partner is flight A (although no masterpoints may be awarded in that case). Steve Robinson agreed that having such a pair play in the A/X game skews the results. Fred King was of the view that the proper flight placement for the fill-in pair should be at the discretion of the director. Clyde Kruskal objected to having a fill-in A player play with a C player in the B/C game when they cannot compete for masterpoints. Winston Edwards doubted that there was a significant problem with skewing the A/X game, since the fill-in pair would give out tops to their opponents randomly.

Barbara Ames said that she would ask her intern, who plays bridge, if the intern would be willing to fill in from time to time. Fred King said that he may be able to fill in as well and take charge of lining up volunteers for the program. It was suggested to ask each WBL Board member to take a turn filling in as a volunteer.

### Syndicated Column Notices

Dick Wegman said that he was trying to see if Frank Stewart or another syndicated bridge columnist would add a plug in the column to direct players to local bridge resources. Steve Robinson said that he has raised the issue previously with Frank Stewart, and will raise the issue again with him.

### WBL Logo

Donna Rogall passed out a black and white logo for the WBL that she designed. The logo was well-received. Richard Ferrin made a motion that the WBL should adopt the logo Donna designed. Don Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Richard Ferrin asked whether the logo would transfer to the WBL's web site. Don Berman replied that it should. Dick Wegman asked for a volunteer to design a new WBL letterhead using the new logo. Barbara Ames said that she would arrange for one of her assistants to design the letterhead.

### WBL Historian

Dick Wegman reported that Peter Boyd has agreed to serve in the new post of WBL Historian. He will note that appointment in the President's Letter for the next WBL Bulletin. Dick urged that if anybody has anecdotal material for the Historian, please let him know. Barbara Summers asked if Peter would review WBL material accumulated by the late Carole Woods. Dick Wegman replied that Peter and Nadine Wood had obtained the Carole Woods files and Peter would review them.

## New Business

Clyde Kruskal suggested that the WBL should hold an “unusual game” at the unit game at least once per year. Clyde proposed as an unusual game “Australian pairs”. In this event, each hand has some special instructions, such as requiring declarer to play 2NT doubled. Clyde felt that the WBL needs to have something different from time to time. Steve Robinson was opposed. Steve believed that people come to the unit game to play bridge. At a minimum, the WBL members attending the Unit Game should be surveyed as to whether this is a good idea. Winston Edwards suggested that such a survey should offer alternatives, but Clyde replied that that would complicate the survey, and so only one alternative at a time should be proposed. Barbara Summers asked whether holding a Life Master / Non-Life Master game would be a possibility. Dick Wegman asked whether holding an individual event would be a possibility.

Donna Rogall raised the issue of surveying the membership for the time on Saturday sectional pair games. Dick asked whether both surveys should be done at the same time. Barbara Ames queried whether the survey should be done at the regional. She offered to ask Nadine about having a survey at the start time of a game and at the dinner break. Barbara Summers replied that the survey should be conducted only during the Thursday night unit game. Steve Robinson offered to survey via e-mail. Winston Edwards suggested asking the membership whether they preferred Saturday start times at 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM, or 1:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Donna also suggested 12 noon and 5:00 PM as an alternative. Dick Wegman suggested that any survey should be done by a show of hands at the unit game, because the number of responses would be higher that way. Clyde Kruskal said that people should be free to vote for more than one alternative. Richard Ferrin disagreed, suggesting that each person should vote for only one alternative. Steve Robinson said that the goal is to determine if there is any significant consensus. Barbara Summers suggested that the alternatives be framed as an morning/afternoon game or an afternoon/evening game. Several persons disagreed, believing that the survey propose specific suggested times. Don Berman observed that attendance shows that Saturday evening games are not popular. Steve asked how many people have complained about the Saturday start times. Dick replied that the only complaints he has heard has been from people who want the start times even earlier than they are now. Richard suggested that the survey propose three options: (1) 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM, (2) 12 noon and 5:00 PM, and (3) 1:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Dick asked Richard to draft a script for the survey. We will do it two weeks from this Thursday at the unit game.

## Next Meetings

The Board scheduled the next several meetings as follows: June 15 at Barbara Summers’ place, July 20 at Barbara Ames’ place, August 24 at Don Berman’s place, and September 21 at Donna Rogall’s place.

Whereupon, the public portion of the meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM. and the Board proceeded with an Executive Session.

## C&E Matter

[Secretary’s Note: The following is a summary of minutes of matters considered in the Executive Session, which summary has been approved by the Board for inclusion in the publicly-available minutes.]

Dick Wegman reported that a Conduct & Ethics (C&E) complaint had been filed against by Terry Lavender on April 25, 2005, and asked that the Board vote on a resolution to establish a C&E panel to hear and act upon the complaint. Dick stated that Fred King, the chair of the WBL’s standing C&E committee, has recommended that the following persons serve on a panel to consider the charges contained in Terry Lavender’s letter: Rich Colker (Chairman), Bob Bell, Richard Ferrin, Roger Pies, and Ralph Turner. Dick explained that Fred recommended that these persons serve on this ad hoc C&E Committee to hear this matter in order to comply with the rules of the American Contract Bridge League (“ACBL”) requiring: (1) that the Chairman of the panel have broad experience in handling C&E matters; and (2) that each member of the panel be objective and free from bias.

A short discussion of the proposed C&E panel then took place in Executive Session.

Steve Robinson moved that the WBL Board establish the following C&E panel to hear the above-noted case: Rich Colker (Chairman), Bob Bell, Richard Ferrin, Roger Pies, and Ralph Turner. Winston Edwards seconded the motion. The Board adopted the resolution on a vote of 8 to 0, with Richard Ferrin abstaining.

In other Executive Session business, the Board also elected three new non-Board members of the Standing C&E Committee, plus an alternate, to replace those non-Board members whose two-year terms have expired. The Board elected Carole Banks, Bob Bell, and Ellen Cherniavsky, with Pat Foster as the alternate.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**June 15, 2005**

The meeting was held at Barbara Summers' apartment.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Richard Ferrin, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Jane Sturgis, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Ted Ying.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$16,374.68 in its checking account. Dick Wegman noted that the NVBA is looking at its audit procedures, and that they want to talk with us about the best way to upgrade financial oversight procedures. Dick said that he suggested that NVBA contact Fred King to discuss this. Without objection, the board approved the Treasurer's Report.

#### C&E Committee

Dick Wegman reported that Carole Banks, Bob Bell, and Ellen Cherniavsky agreed to serve on the WBL standing C&E Committee. (In the May 2005 WBL Board meeting, they had been elected as non-WBL-board members to the Committee.) Barbara Ames agreed to serve as the WBL board member replacement for Ron Zucker.

#### Status of Sectional

Dick Wegman said that Nadine Wood strongly suggests moving up the March 2006 WBL sectional to avoid a direct conflict with the baseball draft and to avoid holding it so close to the ACBL Spring Nationals. Nadine told Dick that because of her commitments at the Spring Nationals, she would be unable to chair the WBL sectional unless the dates were moved. The new proposed date for the sectional is March 2-5, 2006. This would require moving the Grand National Teams district finals event. Dick noted that Margot Hennings of the NVBA registered a mild objection to scheduling the WBL sectional the week after the NVBA sectional, but Dick observed that at least it was not being rescheduled to one week before the NVBA sectional, which would have posed more of a problem with the NVBA. Steve Robinson moved to move the WBL sectional to March 2-5, 2006. Barbara Summers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Lighting for Unit Game

Barbara Ames reported that Christ the King has replaced the bulbs in the space for the unit game. She said that if the WBL gives her a budget, she can purchase additional lamps. Ted Ying observed that fluorescent bulbs with inverted frosted glass lamp shades work well, because they diffuse the light well. The problem with the old shades is that they dimmed the light too much, but when the shades were removed, the lamps created a glare. One person who occasionally attends the unit game has asked for a bare-bulb light near his table because of macular degeneration. Dick Wegman asked whether we should consider a special shade to accommodate that person. Barbara offered to check on alternatives. She asked what the total shade/lamp purchase need would be. Dick suggested three to four shades, and one down-directing lamp. Ted suggested five lamps with shades. Barbara and Ted agreed to confer on details. Barbara asked for the budget total. Dick suggested a budget of \$200, and Barbara was authorized to spend up

to this amount on upgrading the lighting.

### Unusual Game

Dick Wegman reminded the Board that at the last meeting, the Board discussed several alternatives for an occasional “unusual” game, as suggested by Clyde Kruskal. Clyde stated that the suggestion would need the support of the directors to be workable. Ted Ying commented that he thought it generally was not a good idea, because these events temporarily decrease attendance at the unit game. Clyde suggested that the unusual game be run side-by-side with the regular game. Ted replied that such an arrangement would divert the attention of the directors, and because of the additional director attention needed for the unusual game, would require that the regular game run simultaneously be a random (i.e., unseeded) stratified pair game. Moreover, running an unusual game side by side with the regular unit game would necessitate having a third director, because running any unusual game would complicate the situation from a director standpoint. In the early 1990s when the WBL ran these kinds of events, some people skipped going to the unit game entirely on the nights where there was a simultaneous unusual game. Regardless of how clear the advertising would be, some people would not understand that the unusual game would be run in addition to the regular game, not in place of the regular game.

Donna Rogall suggested that having an unusual game could attract more people. Dick asked about holding a fast pairs. Clyde replied that the last time the WBL did it, it did it too often, about once per month, and the event “overwhelmed” people. Ted commented that running a fast pairs simultaneously with a regular game would be difficult logistically for the directors. In addition, the fast pairs would not be added into the overall results unless the fast pairs were willing to wait until conclusion of the regular game to get the results. Donna thought that holding such an event once per year might not be so bad. Steve Robinson said that it would have merit only if a minimum number of people committed to play in the event. Dick suggested conditionally scheduling the event, stating that the event would take place only if there were a set minimum number of tables for the unusual event.

Clyde suggested taking a survey to determine interest in an unusual game. Don Berman commented that the WBL is trying to build attendance at the unit game, which calls for consistency. Richard Ferrin and Barbara Summers agreed with Don. Ted suggested occasionally holding an IMP pairs event. Richard noted that we have already scheduled IMP pairs for the Friday night of the WBL sectional for the next few sectionals. Referring to the unit game, Dick commented that he sees no reason to “fix” something that isn’t “broke”. Clyde commented that the advantage to having an unusual game on Thursday night is that there is already a large game, and therefore we can experiment with new ideas. Steve recommended conducting a survey, by flyer, with one question. Dick thought that it would be OK to try an experiment one night without a survey, for something like the fast pairs. Clyde replied that we need something more unusual, such as Australian pairs. He said that Bob Bell and Kevin Barnes have played in an Australian pairs event previously, and that he would ask them about the details. Dick said that we would need more information as to how such an event would be run. Ted stated that he would need the exact mechanics of how the event would be run. In addition, Ted queried whether the possibility of running such an event simultaneously with a regular game would pose problems, such as with preduplicated boards; we would not want to encourage discussion of the boards opposite the regular game. Clyde pledged to report back to the board with further details.

Ted noted that in the late 1980s, the WBL ran a par bidding event. Clyde thought that would be a good idea too. Dick said that such an event would be interesting, but cautioned that it requires a huge amount of work to set up. Ted added that such an event would require extra directors as well. Clyde agreed to look into this further.

### Plugs for Local Bridge in Bridge Columns

Steve Robinson reported that he had not yet contacted Frank Stewart, and therefore there was nothing new to report.

### WBL Legal Counsel

Dick Wegman explained that in the recent C&E matter, there were several questions that needed to be answered by counsel. The WBL needs somebody to offer counsel on similar questions in the future. He said that in his discussions with Gary Blaiss of ACBL headquarters, Blaiss advised that a number of other units in the country have outside

counsel available to provide counsel on situations such as this, and he suggested that the WBL might want to do so also. Dick said that he thought we should have such a counsel, but we would have to find out whether we could obtain such service on a pro bono basis or would have to pay for it. Steve Robinson noted that there are two lawyers currently serving on the Board (Dick and Richard Ferrin). Richard cautioned that if the WBL obtained counsel, it should not be a board member, because of conflict-of-interest issues. Dick suggested that the WBL needs to be able to turn to somebody adept at process and who could review and provide counsel about ACBL regulations. Don Berman stated that if a lawsuit were filed against the WBL, the WBL would need a lawyer. In addition, a lawyer could review the WBL's rules and regulations, which are not well stated. Dick suggested that the board approach a lawyer who would be willing to do it on a pro bono basis as long as the time involved did not exceed a pre-determined number of hours, and negotiate a fee for hours in excess of the ceiling. Dick said that he would discuss the matter further with Steve and Richard.

### Survey on Start Times for Saturday Sectional Games

The survey that had been planned to take place last month was postponed at the request of Donna Rogall. Donna proposed that if the survey includes three options, it should include instructions on voting (e.g., whether multiple votes would be allowed). However, she would accept two options without instructions. Donna noted that when the WBL held three sessions on Saturday, the 1 PM session was always the most heavily attended section, and the morning and evening games were equally weak. Donna recommended that the second option call for start times at 12:00 or 1:00 for the first game, and 5:00 or 6:00 for the second game. Ted suggested that the survey could include a question about the times for the break between sessions. Donna disagreed, stating that it was important to schedule hospitality, and Nadine has carefully calibrated the time needed for the hospitality between sessions. Dick said that the board generally needs to check with Nadine regarding her views on the timing issue. Dick proposed conducting a survey at the unit game one week from this Thursday, with the following two time options for the Saturday sectional games: (1) 11:00 and 3:30, and (2) 12:30 and 5:30. Dick stated that he agreed with a suggestion by Donna that the survey make clear that both options would include a full meal between the sessions.

Ted observed that some members need time to go out to eat, particularly those members with dietary restrictions. Steve Robinson suggested that if the poll were to be conducted at the unit game, the options be explained during the first hospitality break, and that the poll actually be conducted at the second hospitality break, thereby giving the members time to think about the options. Barbara Summers asked that we conduct a straw poll of the preferences of the board members. Whereupon, the straw poll was conducted, with the board equally split five to five between the 11:00/3:30 and 12:30/5:30 options. (Donna and Ted joined in the straw vote.)

### July WBL Board Meeting

Dick asked that because he has plans to attend the Summer Nationals starting on July 20th, the date of the July WBL board meeting be moved from that date. The board agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday, July 12. The meeting will still take place at Barbara Ames' house.

### Executive Session

Whereupon, the board moved to Executive Session at 9:05 PM.

Following conclusion of the Executive Session, the open session resumed at 9:36 PM.

### Other Business

Barbara Summers moved that Steve and Sandy Forsythe be nominated as Goodwill members of the year. Jane Sturgis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Barbara Summers volunteered to write the letter to ACBL.

Don Berman showed the board a copy of the WBL's web page with the ACBL logo added. He also apprised the board of other issues regarding the web page, such as server space and the feasibility of having an online directory of

WBL members. With respect to the online directory issue, several members asked questions, such as the feasibility of an “opt in” versus “opt out” approach to posting member information online, and technical issues relating thereto.

The board thanked Barbara Summers for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**July 12, 2005**

The meeting was held at Barbara Ames' apartment.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Jane Sturgis, Dick Wegman, and non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

Without objection, the board approved the minutes, as amended.

#### Executive Session

Whereupon, the Board adjourned briefly to Executive Session, then returned to Open Session.

#### Alexandria Regional

Fred King reported that attendance was approximately 2,278 tables, compared to approximately 2,450 tables last year. Dick Wegman asked why the table count was lower this year than last year. Fred replied that a number of factors worked against us. A regional in New York was held this year during the same time, as were the European Championships. Also, the Cherry Hills regional was held later than usual this year, and the Summer Nationals in Atlanta would be held in the same month.

Fred reported that beginning two years from now, when the WBL runs the Washington regional, it will be held at the new Marriott hotel on Rockville Pike. During the years that the NVBA runs it, it will be held in Reston. Richard Ferrin commented that Reston would be a long distance to attend for WBL players, particularly for people who live in the District. Fred countered that Reston is not too much of a drive from Montgomery County.

Dick queried whether Nadine Wood thought that the early start times worked well. Fred replied that there will be a scheduling meeting in August, and in anticipation of that meeting, encouraged the Board members to let him know if anybody had strong feelings about the starting times. Fred also observed that in the Atlanta Summer Nationals, the start times for national events would be 10:30 AM. Donna Rogall commented that there are different considerations for the start times for regionals, as opposed to sectionals. Don Berman agreed, noting that afternoon/evening games are better for people who commute and work. Fred added that hospitality is more of a challenge where most of the events have early start times.

Regarding hospitality, Fred reported that hospitality was generally good, particularly the turkey served the first night, but the hotel short-changed us on the Mexican meal Saturday night. Fred stated that except for the Saturday night food situation, the service from the hotel was good.

Barbara Ames proposed that the WBL do something nice for Nadine for her hard work as tournament chair. Dick suggested a gift certificate for two for dinner. Fred suggested a gift certificate for \$100 for Roy's in Baltimore. The Board agreed to this suggestion and asked Fred to purchase a certificate for them.

#### Player of the Year Award

Dick Wegman stated that the WBL and NVBA had no discretion regarding the WBL/NVBA Player of the Year Award



for the past year, but going forward, the NVBA wants to change the requirement for the award to require that the winner be in good standing with the ACBL at the time of the award. The NVBA has proposed language. Clyde Kruskal suggested that that language be reviewed by counsel. Richard Ferrin added that the WBL Board also should review the language. Clyde suggested that the rule should be that if the prospective winner is involved in an irregularity in an event relevant to the award, that person should be ineligible. Winston Edwards cautioned that any such rule should not prejudice a potential recipient in advance of action by a Conduct and Ethics (“C&E”) Committee. Dick felt that it was impossible to write a rule that “covers all the bases”. Richard reiterated that actual proposed text be proposed first, and then the WBL Board should review the text and suggest revisions. Winston and Don Berman volunteered to work with the NVBA Board on the language of the proposal. Dick cautioned that draft language should be circulated to the WBL Board by August 10 so that there is sufficient time for the Board to review the language before the next WBL Board meeting.

WBL Policies Regarding C&E Appointments

Dick Wegman proposed that the WBL policies be clarified to make clear that the WBL Board has the flexibility to appoint members to an ad hoc C&E Committee who are not on the WBL’s standing C&E Committee. Dick asked Fred King to look at the WBL policies and have counsel review them.

Lighting

Barbara Ames reported that Overstock.com is shipping eight lamps to the WBL for \$202.

Saturday Sectional Starting Times

Dick Wegman reported the results of the survey taken at the Unit Game regarding the start times for the Saturday game at the WBL sectionals. The results, by flight, were as follows:

	Flight A	Flight B
11:00 AM and 3:30 PM starts	43	38
12:30 PM and 5:30 PM starts	15	3

Dick commented that the results of the survey suggest a clear mandate for continuing with the 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM start times.

Washington Post Frank Stewart Bridge Column

Dick Wegman noted that the Washington Post is considering dropping the Frank Stewart bridge column, at least for Saturdays. He urged the WBL Board members to write to the Post to express their opposition. Donna asked Dick to write about this for the next issue of the WBL Bulletin.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall noted that the editorial deadline for the next WBL Bulletin is August 5. She asked Fred King if he would draft a paragraph reporting on the July Regional.

Other Matters

Donna Rogall stated that Barbara Israel has expressed her willingness to volunteer for various WBL events. Fred King noted that she would like to publicize her bridge club. Fred asked what is the WBL’s policy for inserting such publicity in the Bulletin. He said that he thought our policy is to do that for free. Dick Wegman stated that if we do such publicity, we should notify all of the clubs. As for Barbara Israel’s offer to volunteer, Dick suggested that Donna refer her to Barbara Summers and Clyde Kruskal.

Richard Ferrin observed that the NVBA does a much better job than the WBL on posting club schedules and results on the internet. Don Berman stated that Unit 110 has written a program to do that. The program makes it easy for club

managers to use. Dick suggested that Barbara Summers and Don Berman should discuss a strategy for publicity of club games, and we will put it on the agenda for next month's WBL Board meeting. Don stated that in the past when we have suggested internet-based publicity, few clubs have taken advantage of it. He added that expanding the WBL web site costs more money, approximately \$2 or \$3 per month.

#### Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place on August 24 at Don Berman's house. The Board thanked Barbara Ames for hosting the meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**September 21, 2005**

The meeting was held at Donna Rogall's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Jane Sturgis, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

The board approved the minutes, without objection.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL's checking account balance was \$16,590.80. The balance was approximately \$8,000 this time last year. In addition, approximately \$18,000-\$19,000 is in a money market account. Nadine Wood asked whether the WBL had received its share of proceeds from the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference ("MABC") from the 2005 July 4<sup>th</sup> Regional. Steve replied that the WBL had not yet received those funds. Dick Wegman asked whether the WBL had received the sponsor check yet from Michael Chelst on behalf of Fidelity & Trust. Steve reported that he had not yet received the check.

Dick then raised the issue of whether a budget should be prepared for next year. Steve commented that it is difficult to prepare a budget, because it is based on the number of tables in WBL events, which is difficult to forecast with accuracy. Fred King stated that it is unusual not to have a budget. Steve replied he can prepare a budget if that is what the board wants. Donna Rogall stated that a budget would help in planning spending on marketing activities. Dick noted that in the past, that the board usually has authorized expenditures on marketing in the abstract.

Dick posed the question of what charity the WBL should donate funds raised from the recent hurricane relief charity game. He noted that \$550 was raised. Barbara Ames moved to donate the funds to Executive Women International, which has provided books for children who are hurricane victims. Jane Sturgis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board then approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

#### Scheduling Meeting

Fred King distributed copies of the preliminary draft of the unit game schedule for 2006. He explained that the scheduling committee scheduled games to avoid conflicts in games between the WBL and the Northern Virginia Bridge Association ("NVBA"), and also to schedule all of the necessary events. Fred noted that because of scheduling conflicts at Christ the King Church, the unit game for April 13, 2006 must be held in a different location or canceled. Dick Wegman suggested that we see if the Schweinhaut Center is available for April 13, 2006. Jane Sturgis volunteered to contact the Schweinhaut Center. Fred also raised the issue of when to schedule the annual Bridge and Bowling annual event; he noted that this event historically has been held around the time of the Super Bowl. In addition, Fred stated that District 6 has not yet set the date for District 6 charity events, and the unit game schedule has to be modified accordingly. He noted that for the June Sectional Tournament at Clubs ("STAC"), the scheduling committee tentatively scheduled a Swiss team event. Nadine Wood reported that for the MABC STAC, District 7 has voted not to allow any of its clubs to participate, because of the requirement that the STAC events must have hand records. She said that hopefully District 6 representatives will not insist on hand records next year for the MABC STAC. Don Berman suggested publishing the tentative 2006 WBL unit game schedule on the internet.

## Interscholastic Competition

Dick Wegman reported that this is the sign-up time for bridge at local high schools. Dick noted that Ron Starr reports that the sign-up at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School was good, with 16 students from last year and 12 new students. Dick read the following report to the WBL Board from Ron Starr:

We have programs started in 5 Montgomery High Schools and I have teaches for those in line. I have talked to the head of the Board of Education about the possibility of a free period like Jefferson in Virginia and that is not possible. All of the programs are in schools that have a single lunch period, and that is when the club meets once a week. At this point there are about 65 kids in the various programs and as in the years past more tend to come in from associated friends. I am hoping to continue our program in Eleanor Roosevelt this year. As in last year, Mark Rosen said that he was doing a bridge club at Tilden Middle School.

I have contacted several other schools in the county and offered them the bridge club programs with the hopes of having teachers if they decide to participate.

As the program continues, I hope to get the students to come to the sectionals for a game with their group as we did last year. Several of last year's students are already playing in the regular games. This year I will try to get the students to participate in an area wide interscholastic match as well as the national student team game in April.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Starr

## September/October Sectional

Nadine Wood reported that she obtained an extra room on Sunday of the sectional for the Instant Bridge Player program. The room should hold about 24 tables. Additional space on the stage would be available if necessary. The cost of the extra room was only \$125. Barbara Ames reported that an advertisement will run in the Weekender section of the Washington Post, at a cost of \$960. The ACBL will reimburse 75 percent of that advertisement cost.

Nadine reported that the theme of the sectional will be sports. The Friday night game will feature sausages, BBQ pork and chicken for Saturday, and pizza for Sunday.

Dick Wegman asked about the progress in promoting the joint game with the American Bridge Association ("ABA"). Winston Edwards reported that the response thus far has been great. Flyers have been distributed at the ABA Bridge Hut, and announcements have been made. Fred King reported that ACBL headquarters has said that we cannot award extra masterpoint awards for pairs consisting of one ACBL and one ABA member. Clyde Kruskal suggested giving a prize for the best result for such a mixed-membership pair, such as a trophy. Donna Rogall suggested offering a free one-year membership to the other organization, but that suggestion was rejected because the number of pairs likely to sign up would not justify the cost. Steve Robinson suggested a free entry to a future game. The Board agreed to that suggestion.

Nadine noted that the WBL no longer produces a sectional bulletin (like the daily bulletins at most regional tournaments). She suggested that producing a sectional bulletin would be a good idea. Nadine suggested that we could either produce one bulletin, or one every day of the tournament. The bulletin could include more specific information on upcoming events and hospitality than the flyers. Dick agreed, stating that a bulletin would give some cohesiveness to the tournament. He added that the bulletin could include a running list of leading masterpoint winners.

Looking ahead, Nadine noted that the theme of the January sectional tournament will be sportsmanship, and asked for ideas for prizes for miscellaneous "achievements". With respect to the March sectional, she noted that Saturday would feature a two-session trophy event, with a qualifying and final session. Friday night would feature bracketed pairs and computer-assigned Board-a-Match teams. Donna Rogall asked whether there would be a Thursday morning event. Nadine stated that there is no plan for a Thursday morning event unless Jim Allen finds a new place for his club.

### Player of the Year Qualification Policy

Steve Robinson raised the issue of whether it is appropriate to continue having a joint WBL/NVBA player of the year award. He asked whether the contest generated any significant interest.

Don Berman stated that with respect to the player eligibility language, the WBL and NVBA had not yet reached an agreement. Fred King suggested that Dick speak with NVBA President Leo Cardillo about the language.

Steve Robinson moved that the WBL recommend to the NVBA the language proposed by Don Berman, to wit:

The WBL in conjunction with the NVBA has created a Washington Player of the Year trophy and Non-life Master Player of the Year trophy. These competitions are based on the total number of master points won in the WBL and NVBA sectionals during the time period of July 1 to June 30 unless the Boards of Directors of both organization approve a different period. Traveling trophies will be awarded to the winners during the 4th of July regional tournament. In addition, the winners will be presented with a replica trophy to keep. No free plays will be given in addition to the trophies.

To be eligible, a player:

- Must attend at least three NVBA and three WBL sectionals during the contest period.
- Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and all local affiliates and remain members in good standing through the time the award is presented.

For points won to be counted, a player must be a member of either the Washington Bridge League (Unit 147) or the Northern Virginia Bridge Association (Unit 218) or have membership pending and subsequently confirmed for either organization at the time the points are won.

“Attendance” requires that members play in at least one session other than Thursday night. Points won on Tournament Thursday evenings are included in the totals, but do not count towards eligibility. All points earned during NVBA and WBL sectionals are included in the point total that will be counted for these awards.

There was discussion of whether the “good standing” language was sufficiently clear and covered all contingencies. The consensus was that the “good standing” language was sufficient and flexible and that no alternative language could be expected to cover all possible contingencies.

The issue was raised whether the language in the second bullet point regarding membership throughout the time the award is presented would unfairly penalize potential winners who move from one unit to another prior to the award being presented. Richard Ferrin suggested, as an amendment to Don Berman’s proposed language, that the domicile issue be avoided by striking the word “members” in the second bullet point, such that the bullet point would read “Must be a member in good standing of the ACBL and all local affiliates and remain in good standing through the time the award is presented.” Don Berman stated that he accepted Richard Ferrin’s proposed change to his language.

Jane Sturgis seconded Steve Robinson’s motion. The motion to accept Don Berman’s language to the player of the year policy, as WBL’s proposal to the NVBA, with the Richard Ferrin amendment, passed unanimously.

### Replacing Old Cards and Bidding Boxes

Clyde Kruskal reported that Ted Ying is in the process of replacing old playing cards from the boards used in the unit game. With respect to the card inserts in the bidding boxes, he reported that the cost for a complete set for a table of 4 would be \$20 for paper inserts and \$30 for plastic inserts. Fred King asked whether the WBL uses those bidding boxes at the WBL sectionals. Steve Robinson replied that he was not sure, we may use MABC bidding boxes instead. Fred King continued that if the bidding boxes are in use only once per week, the inserts will not wear out as fast. He suggested that the WBL replace the inserts gradually, i.e., replace the inserts for one-third of the bidding boxes each year over the next three years. Dick Wegman recommended that Clyde ask Ted for his opinion. Winston Edwards noted that he was aware of one club director who avoided the higher cost of plastic inserts by purchasing paper inserts and laminating the inserts herself. Clyde stated that he and Fred would look into that possible alternative.

Clyde also explained that currently, Alan Crank is in charge of preduplicating the boards, and Ted Ying has to pick up Alan on Georgia Avenue before the game each week, so that Alan can bring the preduplicated boards. Clyde suggested that the WBL should procure 5 to 6 extra sets of boards to eliminate the need for Ted Ying to drive to pick up Alan before the game every week; if Alan did not have to bring the preduplicated boards just before the game, Alan could simply take the bus to the unit game instead. Steve Robinson asked whether the MABC had any extra sets of boards. None of the board members were sure. Steve then moved that the WBL take the necessary steps to obtain 5 or 6 extra sets of boards, either through the MABC or through direct purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

### Unusual Game

Clyde Kruskal reported that he informally surveyed WBL members and determined that there is sufficient interest in an “unusual game” among the membership. Dick Wegman asked Clyde to estimate the minimum number of tables. Clyde said that 6 to 7 tables at a minimum would be needed to make the game worthwhile. He also noted that according to Ted Ying, we would need an extra director for the event; Clyde volunteered to be the director for the event. Dick asked what “unusual game” Clyde was recommending. Clyde described the game as being one that would have different rules for each hand, based on special instructions. Dick asked Clyde when the event should be held. Clyde said that he did not have a specific date in mind yet. He said that there should be a prize for the winners. Clyde stated that presumably ACBL would not allow award of ACBL masterpoints for the event, but he asked whether points could be awarded toward the Lovenberg trophy race. Steve Robinson said that he assumed that could be done. Dick Wegman said that the WBL will hold the game and discuss the details further at the next WBL Board meeting.

### WBL Policies

Fred King noted that he had drafted numerous proposed changes to the WBL’s policies for consideration by the Board. The changes fall into three areas: (1) striking the section top prize notation, which is out-of-date; (2) inserting various additions to the WBL’s policies; and (3) addressing miscellaneous issues. Dick Wegman suggested that all references to dollar figures in the WBL’s policies should be relocated to the end of the document, because those dollar figures will change from time-to-time, and are too difficult to locate and change if located elsewhere in the text. In general, all policies involving number should be located at the end of the document.

Fred King asked, once these policies are updated, who should be responsible for keeping the written policies up-to-date in accordance with WBL Board decisions? Richard Ferrin recalled that at the last board meeting, it was agreed that the Secretary would be responsible for keeping the written policies up-to-date with Board decisions.

Dick suggested that Board members give Fred suggestions to Fred’s mark-up of the policies document, and that Fred should go ahead and make changes on non-controversial issues. Suggestions that might be controversial should be deferred and discussed in upcoming Board meetings. Winston Edwards promised to have his comments to Fred within one week.

### Upcoming Board Meetings

The next WBL Board meeting will take place on October 21 at Winston Edwards’ house, and Fred King will host the November meeting. The Board thanked Donna for hosting the September meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**October 19 2005**

The meeting was held at Winston Edward's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Jane Sturgis, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Kitty Gottfried, Nadine Wood, and Ted Ying.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

The board approved the minutes, without objection.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL's checking account balance was \$16,982.80. The balance was approximately \$8,000 this time last year. Dick Wegman asked whether the WBL had received the round robin sponsor check yet from Michael Chelst on behalf of Fidelity & Trust. Steve reported that he had not yet received the check. However, Steve did report that the account balance includes receipt of the WBL's share of proceeds from the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference from the 2005 July 4<sup>th</sup> Regional. Dick stated that he will contact Michael Chelst about the Fidelity & Trust sponsor check.

The board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

#### Sectionals

Nadine Wood passed out a table with statistics on attendance for the WBL's sectional tournaments. She noted that 2005 attendance was the highest since 2000. Analysis of the statistics shows that most drops in attendance in the past has occurred following shifts in playing sites. However, attendance at the Schweinhaut Center for the October 2005 tournament was excellent compared to previous October sectionals.

Nadine also reported that the schedule for the October 2006 tournament had to be changed because of a scheduling conflict at the Schweinhaut Center. The October 2006 tournament will now take place October 19-22, 2006.

Nadine noted that the theme of the January 2006 tournament will be prize-oriented, and invited board members to offer suggestions in this regard. Nadine stated that she is considering themes for the March 2006 sectional, including a possible "March Madness" or a "Luau" theme. Barbara Ames noted that 2006 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WBL, and suggested that as a theme. This suggestion that was well-received by Nadine and the Board.

Nadine retrieved from storage the Eynon Trophy, a silver bowl dating back to 1931, which was awarded as a team championship. The last date engraved on the trophy is 1968. Dick Wegman suggested awarding it again for the Sunday Swiss team event in March. It was noted, however, that the pairs trophy event had been rescheduled for March, so perhaps the cup should be awarded for the Sunday Swiss during the August tournament.

Nadine also retrieved from storage 28 good metal duplicate boards for the WBL's use.

Nadine asked Richard Ferrin about old minutes from previous WBL board meetings. Richard replied that minutes from all meetings since he became Secretary (May 2004) are posted on the WBL web site, and he had also printed out hard copies. Richard also noted that the previous Secretary (Barbara Shaw) gave him a catalog case with various documents generated during her tenure. Ted Ying noted that he has minutes from board meetings from the mid-1990s.

## Unit Growth

Dick Wegman reported that the Unit Growth Committee proposed several new ideas. One idea is to prepare two brochures, one for experienced players, and one for new players. Barbara Ames and Barbara Summers are working on distribution plans. Barbara Doran will assist with distribution to certain locations. Ted Ying suggested distribution to the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Dick also reported that the Unit Growth Committee proposed ideas to develop more of a sense of continuity in the sectional tournaments. Suggestions included preparation of a daily bulletin, and a prize for tournament masterpoint leaders in each flight. Nadine Wood commented that a volunteer would be needed to prepare the bulletin. Ted stated that Millard Nachtwey and Doug Grove can e-mail files to the volunteer for preparation into a bulletin, and then the flyer could be e-mailed back for printing. Nadine stated that she could print off the flyer and bring it to the tournament, provided that somebody else would be willing to volunteer to format the document.

Dick stated that Barbara Ames is investigating the possibility of advertising the tournaments in the Washington Post. Also, the Unit Growth Committee is working on a publicity budget for next year. The Silver Spring Gazette expressed some interest in publicizing the results of tournaments. Dick stated that there are other suburban newspapers, which the WBL should target as well.

Finally, Dick stated that the Unit Growth Committee discussed with Steve Forsythe the possibility of combining his novice instruction at 7:30 PM at the Thursday unit game with a short game afterward. Ted Ying opposed this suggestion on the grounds that it would hurt attendance for the current non-life-master game. He said that the way the game is now staged is preferable. Dick commented that attendees with less than 300 masterpoints still want a lesson as well, and suggested that the Board think about ways to balance the various goals.

## Lease at Christ the King Church

Dick Wegman proposed that the Board negotiate extension of the lease. Dick's proposal was accepted by the Board, without objection. Jane Sturgis provided details regarding a proposal for rental of the senior center in Rockville for the unit game on April 13, 2006, because the space at Christ the King Church would be unavailable that date. However, because of the cost and logistics (i.e., need to transport tables and chairs), the consensus among the Board members was simply to cancel the April 13, 2006 game.

## Replacement of Playing Cards and Bidding Box Inserts

Ted Ying reported that he had purchased three boxes of playing cards to replace the worn cards; the boxes will be delivered within the next 10 days. He also purchased replacement bidding box inserts for 20 tables. Don Berman asked whether the WBL should replace the cards more frequently than once per year. Steve Robinson asked what the cost would be. Ted replied that a box of 12 decks costs \$16.60, plus shipping and handling. Dick Wegman calculated that the cost of a full replacement would be approximately \$300 to \$400. Without objection, the Board approved the expenditure.

## Machlin Trophy

Fred King proposed annual award of a trophy for good sportsmanship, awarded annually, at the same time as the Lovenberg Cup. Dick Wegman commented that the suggestion makes sense. By consensus, the Board approved the concept. Dick stated that the Board would need to develop criteria and appoint committee members for selection of the awardee. Nadine Wood suggested making the first award in March 2006, in conjunction with celebration of the WBL's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She also suggested conferring with Sidney Lazard about criteria for the sportsmanship award. Fred and Dick suggested including Millard Nachtwey on the committee. Dick cautioned that the committee membership should broadly represent the WBL and not just consist of Flight A players.

## Standing Committee Chairs



Dick Wegman reported that the WBL Constitution requires standing committees for: Membership, Unit Game, Ways & Means, Conduct & Ethics, Tournament, Bulletin, and Club Relations. Dick handed out a list of proposed committee members and chairs. A few changes were proposed and agreed to by the Board without objection. A revised list will be circulated.

### Partnership Guarantee Program

The Board discussed the issue of persons who over-use the standby partner program. The Board also discussed the issue of how to address situations where two people arrive without partners and both want to play with the standby partner, instead of with each other. Finally, the Board discussed the need to find a player to assist who knows many of the Flight B and C players, as well as the Flight A players.

### Revised WBL Policies

Fred King led the discussion of proposed revisions to the WBL Policies. He noted that he received comments from several people. There are some areas where the actual and written policies differ. The Board discussed the following sections:

Appeals

Board Meetings

Bulletin

Clubs

Committees

Conduct & Ethics

- Fred moved to strike the current “blackballing” provision in selection of the C&E Committee members. Dick Wegman seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion failed, four to six.

Constitution

Director’s Certification

Executive Committee

Entry Fees

Finances

Free Plays

- Steve Robinson moved to approve language changes proposed by Fred. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of other sections of the revised policies were deferred until the next WBL Board meeting.

### Upcoming Board Meetings

The next WBL Board meeting will take place on November 16 at Fred King’s house. Barbara Summers will host the December meeting. The Board thanked Winston Edwards for hosting the October meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**November 16, 2005**

The meeting was held at Fred King's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Jane Sturgis, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

The board approved the minutes, without objection.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL's checking account balance was \$17,670.46. The only outstanding bills were for the November and December unit games, and the Bulletin. The board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

#### Initial Matters

Dick Wegman noted receipt of a card from Kitty Gottfried to the Board thanking the Board for its grant of free plays for life in recognition of her services.

Dick also noted the passing of Madeleine "Masse" Gallant and Bernie Arret. Notes of their passing should be published in the Bulletin. Dick will ask Michael Carroad to write a remembrance of Bernie. Madge volunteered for the WBL by handling free plays and partnerships for many years. Barbara Summers will ask Charlie Margolis to write a remembrance of Madge.

#### Revised WBL Policies

The Board continued its discussion from October of proposed revisions to the WBL policies, authored by Fred King with suggestions by several others. The Board discussed revisions to the following sections:

Free Plays  
Guaranteed Partner Program  
Membership  
Motions  
Novice Program  
Ombudsman  
Policies, Amendments  
Recorder  
Regulations Regarding Play  
Round Robin  
Special Events  
Sectional Tournaments at Clubs  
Tournaments  
Trophies

- A motion was made to strike the language in the existing policies providing for double points awarded for

WBL Sectional Knockouts. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Unit Game

Washington Player of the Year

Web Page

Except as noted above, all of the suggested revisions were agreed without objection or formal vote. Following the section-by-section review of the WBL Policies, Jane Sturgis moved to adopt the policies as revised. Winston Edwards seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

### January Sectional

Dick Wegman said that the WBL needs a volunteer to assist Nadine Wood with the new daily bulletin for WBL sectionals. On behalf of the Tournament Committee, Fred King and Barbara Ames agreed to confer with Nadine to find an assistant. Dick also noted that the WBL needs to identify a volunteer to obtain trophies for the overall masterpoint winners for the tournaments.

### Machlin Prize

Fred King recalled that the Board agreed in the October 2005 meeting to establish an annual trophy award for good sportsmanship, named in honor of Jerry Machlin. (Secretary's Note: a "Machlin Trophy" had previously been awarded for points accumulated in WBL sectional senior events, but because the WBL no longer runs separate senior events at sectionals, that award had been discontinued and note thereof struck from the WBL Policies.)

Fred reported proposed criteria for the trophy suggested in writing by Dick Wegman:

The candidate should (1) demonstrate strong ethical standards and a commitment to active ethics (i.e., full disclosure of systems and agreements to opponents, etc.); (2) behave graciously at the table after bad results or good results; (3) exhibit exemplary behavior at all times toward partner and opponents; (4) demonstrate an ability to get along with multiple partners; and (5) demonstrate a willingness to help mentor other players in the game. A player wouldn't necessarily have to satisfy all five, but these are some of the criteria that a selection committee might consider.

Fred commented that in his view, the first three of the above criteria are the most important. He noted that Millard Nachtwey has agreed to assist with candidate selection.

Barbara Summers recommended that free plays not be awarded to the winner, the trophy itself would be a sufficient prize. Dick cautioned that the candidate search not be limited to Flight A players. Donna Rogall suggested advertising the opening of nominations. Fred King observed that there is insufficient time to present the new award at the same time as the Lovenberg Cup at the end of this year, and suggested that the first award be made at the last sectional of the year, i.e., the D.C. Championships.

Barbara Summers moved to proceed with establishing the Machlin Trophy as discussed. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

### Nominations for Charity for District Six Charity Funds

Dick Wegman reported that the ACBL's new charity fund selection mechanism provides for the ACBL to make annual awards designated by the various districts on a rolling basis, and that the ACBL has set aside \$20,000 to award to a charity designated by District Six. District Six, in turn, has asked each unit in the district to offer suggestions. Unfortunately, because of the award schedule, the units have only a few days to make a suggestion to District Six. According to Dick, Charity Sack had suggested designation of the National Association for Teaching Entrepreneurship, but Dick did not have any details regarding this organization.

Barbara Ames noted that the district encompassing Chicago made as its designation the New Orleans unit, in

recognition of the need for hurricane relief.

Dick reported that Nadine Wood suggested that the WBL recommend designation of the award to Bridge at Schools, and noted that this was an organization with which the Board was familiar. Dick stated that because of the compressed charity award schedule, Bridge at Schools might be the default choice unless Board members proposed viable alternatives in the next day or so.

Dick then asked whether designation of the Smithsonian would be appropriate, in recognition of the Smithsonian's sponsorship of beginning bridge programs. Dick noted that Ron Kral regularly interacts with Smithsonian personnel because he teaches the bridge program there. Dick and Fred King agreed to discuss this possibility with Nadine Wood.

#### Managing Unit Cell Phone

Clyde Kruskal reported that last week, he was in charge of the unit's cell phone. He checked for messages, and found messages that were stale by several weeks. WBL players need an alternative number to call, because the unit's cell phone is off most of the time.

Dick Wegman stated that the Board should arrange to have a volunteer check the cell phone every day or two. Clyde agreed to try checking the cell phone for messages for the next month.

#### Ethics Requirements for WBL Trophy Events

Clyde Kruskal stated that he saw a need for better wording in the WBL's policies regarding ethical violations and eligibility for WBL trophy awards. One issue is how to handle a situation where a potential trophy winner is subject to a Conduct & Ethics ("C&E") Committee where the Committee has not yet met at the time of the trophy award. A related issue is whether a C&E Committee should have the power to revoke an award previously made.

Steve Robinson suggested that the pending Committee issue could be handled by stating in the policies that the WBL reserves the right to delay award of any trophy. Fred King queried whether a C&E Committee had the power to revoke an award previously made. Steve replied that retroactive action by a C&E Committee would be unnecessary if the WBL could delay an award while a C&E Committee was pending with respect to a potential recipient, because the WBL policies already require that the winner be in good standing, and if the award were delayed pending C&E Committee action, good standing would be lost before award if the C&E Committee imposed a sanction.

Clyde also stated that the "good standing" language be narrowed, because an award should not be withheld for minor infractions such as isolated rude behavior or passing of a bad check. At Dick Wegman's suggestion, Clyde agreed to circulate proposed language.

#### Bill for WBL's Washington Post Ad for Last Sectional

Barbara Ames reported that ACBL agreed to reimburse three-quarters of the expense for the advertisement that the WBL posted in the Washington Post for the last sectional. She asked who should pay for the remaining quarter of the bill. Dick Wegman and Steve Robinson directed Barbara to send the bill for the remaining quarter to District Six.

#### Upcoming Board Meetings

The next WBL Board meeting will take place December 21 at Barbara Summer's residence. Clyde Kruskal will host the following meeting on February 1, 2006. The Board thanked Fred King for hosting the November meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Ferrin, Secretary

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
December 21, 2005**

The meeting was held at Barbara Summers' home.

In attendance: Barb Summers, Barb Ames, Clyde Kruskal, Dick Wegman, Steve Robinson, Jane Sturgis, Don Berman, Winston Edwards, and non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

**Secretary's Report:**

The board approved the minutes, as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Steve Robinson reported the following figures:

2005 Revenue : \$25,000

Unit Game Revenue: \$14,000

Tournament Revenue: \$ 7,000

Steve also noted that bills are being sent out for Bulletin advertisements.

The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

**Sectional Tournaments:**

Diane Walker has volunteered to produce a daily flyer of results to distribute at the tournament. Winners in categories will receive a prize on Sunday. Winston Edwards volunteered to purchase the prizes for the sectional tournament in January.

**Partnership Assistance at Unit Game:**

Barb Doran has agreed to be the partnership coordinator for the Unit Game. Barb Ames will write-up a short advertisement for guaranteed partner volunteers for the Flight B & C game.

We still need a Partnership coordinator for the 2006 Sectional Tournaments. Barb Summers has agreed to cover the March 2006 tournament.

Unitegamepartner@districtsix.org

sectionalpartner@districtsix.org – Don Berman will set up email addresses for these.

**District Six Goodwill Committee:**

District 6 has asked for 2 nominees from our Unit to the District Six Goodwill Committee. These are people who promote goodwill in Bridge. Barb Summers moved to nominate Steve and Sandy Forsythe, and Clyde Kruskal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Smithsonian Bridge Lessons:**

Ron Kral is teaching beginning bridge starting Monday Jan. 23, 2006.

Ron has requested our help in the following areas:

Someone to run ACBL score computer starting 3rd week (Steve Robinson volunteered)

Coupon book with free plays to each novice game in the area. (Winston Edwards will compile a list of novice games and draft coupons)

Margot Hennings has prepared flyers to be distributed to each club (Barb Ames will print and mail to clubs).

### **Bridge at Schools:**

Dick Wegman will contact Sharon Osborne regarding a \$1 million sponsorship available to promote Bridge in Schools and our local efforts. The sponsorship is being offered by Warren Buffet and Bill Gates.

### **Bridge and Bowling:**

Fred King is chairing the Feb. 4, 2006 Bridge and Bowling event. Don Berman volunteered to assist.

### **“Enjoy Playing Bridge” Brochure:**

Dick Wegman has been accumulating information to update our brochure. He expects to have this new version completed and printed by the end of 2005.

Many thanks to Winston Edwards and Barb Summers for their help in updating the brochure. Barbara Summers volunteered to mail brochures out to people who request it. Don Berman has posted updated club information on the WBL website.

### **Obituaries:**

The WBL Bulletin will run obituaries for Madge Gallant and Bernie Arret.

### **Machlin Sportsmanship Award:**

Dick Wegman proposed the award selection committee as follows:

Fred King

Millard Nachtwey

Winston Edwards

Barbara Summers

Diane Jaworsky

The committee will serve until further notice. The upcoming WBL Bulletin will discuss the new award in the President's column.

### **Unit Game Hospitality:**

Kitty Gottfried will be away for 3 weeks. Thanks to these volunteers who will cover the Unit Game by bringing snacks:

Jane Sturgis 12-29-05

Jane Sturgis 1-12-06

Fred King 1-5-06

**WBL Award:**

Clyde Kruskal has proposed an amendment to WBL Policies relating to the ability of the WBL Board to withhold or withdraw an award in the event of a serious conduct & ethics violation. Clyde Kruskal and Margot Hennings will work together to develop the specific wording.

**Free Plays:**

Don Berman moved to provide Free Plays to all Sectional Tournaments to the Unit Game Director. Fred King seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Upcoming Board Meetings:**

The next WBL Board meeting will take place February 1, 2006 at Clyde Kruskal's house. Jane Sturgis will host the March meeting. The Board thanked Barbara Summers for hosting the December meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary