

**Minutes**  
**WBL Board Meeting**  
**February 1, 2006**

The meeting was held at Clyde Kruskal'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 member Nadine Wood.

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

**Secretary's Report:**

The board approved the minutes, without objection. The board also thanked Barbara Ames for taking the minutes for the December 2005 meeting in Richard Ferrin's absence.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL's checking account balance was \$25,360.96 at the end of December 2005. This includes income and expenses for the January 2006 WBL sectional. Steve presented a 2005 draft financial report and 2006 budget (copy attached). He commented that the budgeted figures are conservative on income and expenses.

Dick Wegman inquired about comparison of the WBL's finances in 2005 compared to 2003 and 2004. Steve replied that the situation was much better in 2005. Fred King noted a net of \$7,300 in 2004, a net of \$1,300 in 2003, and a \$10,000 deficit in 2002. He observed that the unit game is the WBL's primary source of revenue, and the Bulletin is the largest single expense. A few years ago, the WBL merely broke even on tournaments, but the tournaments are now in the black. Fred added that the WBL paid advance rent of approximately \$5,000 in 2004, which skewed the net downward in 2004 and upward in 2005. Steve Robinson replied, however, that the WBL also paid advance 2006 rent in 2005. Dick postulated that the WBL can expect about \$10,000-\$15,000 annually, based on the current pace.

Richard Ferrin moved that the Board approve the budget. Barbara Ames seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Jason Rosenfeld's Request to Remain a WBL Member**

Dick Wegman reported that WBL member Jason Rosenfeld has moved to Boston, but wishes to remain a member of the WBL. Dick asked for the Board's comments. Don Berman noted that because Jason moved to a different ACBL district, the district director for both districts must approve the request. Don is awaiting a response from District Six President Margot Hennings, and if she approves, the ACBL will approve the request. Steve Robinson stated that playing in the Grand National Teams ("GNTs") may be a problem under the new rules, effective September 2006.

Nadine Wood clarified that Jason can remain in the WBL unit. But under the new rules for the GNT and North American Pairs, residency matters, not unit membership. If Jason petitions to play in these events 60 days in advance of the event (July 1 for GNTs), if the District directors of both districts approve the request, then the request is sent to the ACBL credentials committee, which can approve or disapprove the request. Nadine confirmed that these new rules have not yet gone into effect and Jason will be able to play in the District Six GNTs this year without going through the new procedure.

**Update on Smithsonian Program:**

Steve Robinson reported that Ron Kral is teaching bridge for beginners at the Smithsonian. He teaches for one hour, and the participants play for one hour. Next week, they will begin duplicate bridge.

Winston Edwards said that last month, the WBL agreed to give 80-100 booklets of free play coupons for the participants. Ron Kral has since asked for an additional 100 booklets, explaining that he has a waiting list in the

program and knows of other people who want to get in the course.

Dick Wegman asked if the coupons subsidize Northern Virginia games. Winston replied that he thought the coupons were redeemable only at Unit 147 clubs.

Steve Robinson moved that the Board approve distributing 100 additional coupon booklets to Smithsonian course students through Ron Kral. Barbara Ames seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **January Sectional:**

Nadine Wood reported that attendance at the January 2006 WBL sectional was up slightly from one year ago.

Nadine also stated that Diane Walker e-mailed the daily bulletins to Nadine, and Nadine printed it out. Nadine distributed copies of the daily bulletins and the program. Dick Wegman queried what could be done to improve the daily bulletins. Nadine replied that the daily bulletins need graphics. Also, the Monday bulletin should be made available at the following Thursday unit game.

Nadine reported that the awards given at the January sectional were appreciated, especially by flight B and novice strata players.

Fred King observed that the WBL needs a sound system for sectional tournaments. Nadine replied that the Schweinhaut Senior Center has repeatedly asked the county for a sound system, but the county has denied those requests. Clyde Kruskal said that the WBL has a sound system at Christ the King Church. Fred King volunteered to check on that.

Nadine stated that for the March sectional, the Instant Bridge Player program must be held on Sunday, not Saturday, because the extra room at the Schweinhaut Center is unavailable on Saturday. Dick pledged to discuss scheduling with Steve Forsythe.

Fred King commented that in the January sectional, trophies were awarded after most of the players left. Nadine replied that the trophies should be presented at the next tournament. Also, Fred asked whether the WBL should award the Flight B trophy to the B player earning the most master points in any events, or in B events only. Dick Wegman replied that it all events should count for the B player trophy.

Steve Robinson proposed to award trophies only for the lower strata. Clyde Kruskal specifically suggested awards for the lowest three quartiles. Don Berman volunteered to devise masterpoint ranges for the strata for trophy purposes and the date of the cutoff for categorization purposes.

### **Next Year's Tournament Schedule:**

Nadine Wood reported that the Schweinhaut Center increased the rent from \$729 to approximately \$800 per day for tournaments. Nadine also discussed tournament dates with Millard Nachtwey and Margot Hennings. Tentative dates are as follows:

January 4-7, 2007 WBL sectional

February 8-11, 2007 NVBA sectional

April 19-22, 2007 NVBA sectional

May 3-6, 2007 WBL sectional

August 9-12, 2007 WBL sectional

September 6-9, 2007 NVBA sectional

October 4-7, 2007 WBL sectional

October 25-28, 2007 NVBA sectional

Dick Wegman asked whether the date for the August WBL sectional was appropriate, being one week before the Hunt Valley regional. Nadine replied that it should not hurt attendance at the WBL sectional.

### **March Sectional:**

Nadine Wood said that she needs two new coffee pots for the WBL, one large and one small. The Board approved reimbursement for the purchase. Jane Sturgis offered to obtain them.

### **Unit Game:**

Fred King stated that WBL Unit Game Director Ted Ying does not want to run a single large web movement for the flight A/X pairs, because dividing it into two sections with a normal movement is easier logistically and more points are awarded. Dick Wegman replied that Ted should run the movement that he wants. Fred stated that Ted also raised the issue of when a guaranteed partner is assigned. Dick replied that there should be a fixed cut-off time, such as 7:20 PM. The Board agreed to fix 7:20 PM as the cutoff time for assignment of the guaranteed partner.

### **Assistance from Bill Gates:**

Dick Wegman explained that St. Andrews, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, and Bethesda Chevy Chase high schools have bridge programs supervised by Ron Starr. Ron, Ellen Rosenthal, and Messrs. Brown and Hall each run one program. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet have offered \$1 million to start up school bridge programs in the United States. Dick contacted Sharon Osberg, a frequent bridge partner of Bill Gates, about the WBL's high school bridge program. Ms. Osberg expressed interest in the WBL's program and asked how the Gates-Buffett organization could help. Ms. Osberg said that that the Gates-Buffett organization could help pay for teachers and materials, and fund expenses for sending winners of a local high-school-level tournament to a national event held in conjunction with the August regional in Omaha.

Fred King commented that the biggest help would be associating Bill Gates' name with the WBL's local high school bridge program. Dick Wegman stated that funds would be needed to hire professional bridge teachers, particularly ones with dynamic personalities. Nadine Wood observed that the school program should be expanded to the middle schools, because there is less competition for alternative activities in middle school than in high school. Jane Sturgis commented that Jim Allen co-owns a set of Montessori elementary/middle schools, and his wife is the administrator. The WBL used to have a program there.

Dick Wegman and Clyde Kruskal promised to speak with Ron Starr, Mark Rosen, Barbara Shaw, Edith McMullin, and Sandy Forsythe about possible ways to expand and strengthen the program with the assistance of the Gates-Buffett organization.

### **WBL Award Rules:**

Clyde Kruskal read a proposed change to the WBL award rules. He proposed to add the following language:

The WBL board has the right to deny granting a WBL award for unethical conduct in any event within the scope of the award; and has the right to delay granting the award pending the outcome of a C&E committee.

Steve Robinson moved to adopt the proposed rule change. Jane Sturgis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Next Meetings:**

The next WBL Board meeting will take place March 15, 2006 at Jane Sturgis' house. Richard Ferrin will host the

following meeting on April 26, 2006. The Board thanked Clyde Kruskal for hosting the November meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Attachment: [2005 Draft Annual Report and 2006 Budget](#)

### Minutes of the Board Meeting on March 15, 2006

The minutes from the February 1, 2006 meeting were accepted. Don Berman made a motion that they be accepted. Barbara Summers seconded it.

Treasurer's Report: \$25,377.45.

### March Sectional:

There were 384 tables, one less than the January Sectional. In addition, there were 74 people in the IBP program. Ron Starr and Steve Forsythe ran the IBP (Initial Bridge Program). It was very successful.

At the August Sectional, the Friday morning game will be a stratified because there were only 5 tables in the A/X game at the March Sectional.

The Brackets for trophy winners at Sectionals are 500, 1500 and unlimited. However, the A players are not awarded trophy's. Winston Edwards did an excellent job selecting the trophies and getting them engraved. The winners from the January tournament were awarded their trophies at the March Sectional.

A microphone will be provided at the tournaments. Stevie Robinson brought it to the March Sectional. There is one at Christ the King Church that belongs to WBL. It will be provided at all of the Sectionals.

### Calendar of Obligations:

Fred King talked with Barbara Shaw and Donna Rogall talked with Barbara Doran to discuss what needed to be included.

The original idea was to create a calendar for the types of awards such as Goodwill appointments, the Mini McKenney, and Ace of Clubs awards, Agenda for these types of awards. More discussion will ensue to determine who will create the calendar.

### Partnerships for Unit Game

Barbara Doran has replaced Charlene Brand as the partnership chairman for the unit game. It was decided that it would be better to have one person handling this rather than one for flight A and one for the other flights to avoid confusion as to who to contact.

### Bridge at Schools

A discussion was held regarding whether we will participate in the regional being held in Omaha in August for a group to play with Bill Gates. The decision was made to hold a tournament for Bridge at Schools participants at the NVBA Regional in June/July 2006.

From this group, a select number will be sent to the Regional. It needs to be advertised heavily to encourage participation. Fred King will talk to Margot Hennings regarding the tournament. The model school is Thomas Jefferson in Northern Virginia.

A discussion was held regarding hiring a person, preferably a retired teacher, to approach schools to encourage them to include bridge in their curriculum. If it can be determined who approached Thomas Jefferson originally, it would be helpful to discuss their method of getting them involved. They have set aside a class time for bridge and there are currently 14 tables. The students have gotten very good. Leo Cardillo is very active in this program.

Currently in Maryland there are several schools who are participating in the program. Ron Starr is overseeing the 3 Montgomery County Highschools. They are BCC, Richard Montgomery, and Walter Johnson. These are taught at lunch time that lasts only 45 minutes. During this time the students have to eat lunch in addition to the bridge class. They haven't had enough time to become adept at the game. Ron doesn't think they are ready for Omaha.

There is a class at St. Andrews, and Mark Rosen is teaching Junior High Students at Tilden Woods School. They are doing pretty well according to Mark.

Jim Allen agreed to have a class at Thomas Jefferson School. Ralph Turner is teaching it. Last week they had 12 students, and he thinks it will grow. These are 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Another aspect of the Bill Gates program is providing funding for paying teachers, providing funds for supplies or any costs incurred from the program. It is important to get this information to individuals involved in the program.

#### Smithsonian Program

The Smithsonian Program ended 2 weeks ago. Ron Kral did an excellent job. There were originally 108 people participating and it dropped to approximately 85 by the last class. This is a good retention rate. The coupon books were distributed to each of them.

There were 400 coupon books printed. The WBL will pay for half of them and the NVBA will pay for the other half if necessary. The printing cost was \$750. Funding has been requested from the ACBL.

Steve Forsythe is emailing all of the individuals on the IBP about the Coupon Books. They will be given one if requested. An effort is being made to begin a Novice class on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Steve Forsythe will run it, giving a class for one hour from 11:00 – 12:00 each Saturday. He will direct one class on Saturday. Other directors are needed.

Ron Kral and Leo Cardillo will run 2 IBP programs at the NVBA Regional in July 2006.

### Upcoming Election:

The members who will run for the Board need to be selected immediately in order to get their biographies and pictures in the next bulletin. The deadline for the bulletin is March 20, 2006. Dick Wegman's term as President is expiring, therefore, he will be a member as Past President. Winston Edwards and Jane Sturgis are not running this year. There are 3 known vacancies and possibly a 4<sup>th</sup>.

The list of members is provided by Frances Burke. It includes everyone in Unit 147. Is a nonpaying member eligible to vote? Doug Grove should check the list to ensure that the dues are current for all members paying.

### Play Bridge in Washington, D.C.

Alice Wegman has put together a brochure for distribution to encourage new players to become interested in bridge. Barbara Summers is distributing them to libraries throughout the area. Fred King will take 50 to the World Bank for distribution. They are being distributed in Leisure World and real estate offices. A target area is Human Resources offices in Government Agencies.

### Machlin Trophy

The Machlin Trophy will be awarded at the October tournament. Publicize at the annual meeting in May 2006 and in the Bulletin. Trudy Machlin was delighted with the idea and will give out the Trophy.

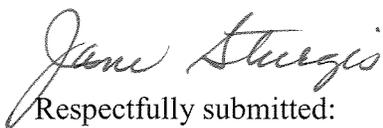
### Eligibility for Awards – Definition of a Member in Good Standing.

Steve Robinson made a motion to include the following language in the WBL policies. Barbara Summers and Winston Edwards 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

The definition of a Member in Good Standing will be added to the WBL policies.

“A member in good standing” is defined as a member who is not currently on suspension, or serving probation in excess of 90 days that resulted from a suspension, the initial term of which was in excess of 90 days, and whose dues are current.

Barbara Summers and Winston Edwards seconded it.



Respectfully submitted:  
Jane Sturgis (Acting Secretary)

**Minutes**  
**WBL Board Meeting**  
**April 26, 2006**

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 non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Wegman called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM.

**Secretary's Report**

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

**Treasurer's Report**

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL's checking account was \$25,544.95. The WBL also holds approximately \$19,000-\$20,000 in an investment account.

Dick Wegman noted that Fidelity Trust donated \$2,000 for the Round Robin event last year, and hopes that Fidelity will do the same again this year.

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

**Schweinhaut Center Club Game Controversy**

Dick Wegman recalled that Lee Biggs had objected to the Thursday game at the Schweinhaut Center being limited to players under a specified number of masterpoints. Dick spoke with Wonjoo Goldstein, who runs the Thursday afternoon game. She said that the point limitation was imposed at the request of Betty Timor of the Schweinhaut Center, because of the small size of the card room. Bill Cole spoke to Roz Dixon, who runs the Tuesday game at the Schweinhaut Center, and suggested a compromise: the Tuesday game will be held in the larger room with no point limitation, while the Thursday game will be held in the small room with a point limitation. As far as we know thus far, nobody has objected to this arrangement.

**New Novice Game Saturday Afternoon**

Dick Wegman reported that 180-190 novices attended either the Smithsonian program in January or the Instant Bridge Player program in March. The WBL needs a Saturday novice game to develop these new players. Steve Forsythe has agreed to contact players and hold a lecture before the game.

We now have a location for that Saturday game: the Methodist Home, on Connecticut Avenue off Nebraska Avenue, N.W. Dick saw the facilities last Saturday. The Assembly Room holds 21-22 tables. The Methodist Home will make tables and chairs available, and will offer the space for free. They will also make food or refreshments available at their cost. Ample parking is available at the site.

The Methodist Home prefers that the game be held around the period of 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Dick offered to hold a WBL Unit charity game with the Methodist Home as beneficiary. The contact at the Methodist Home is Winnie Farah, who recently started attending the Unit game.

Steve Forsythe can direct one game per month on Saturday, but we need somebody to direct the game the rest of the Saturdays. Saul Penn, Ray Galucci, and Paul Kruger were mentioned as possible directors. Barbara Summers agreed to call Saul and Paul, and Fred King will call Ray.

**Joint Charity Game**

Fred King reported that the ACBL and American Bridge Association (“ABA”) have designated June 24, 2006 as the date for a joint ACBL/ABA charity game, and asked for suggestions about holding such a game within the WBL area. Steve Robinson suggested the Laurel Bridge Club as a location, but Don Berman doubted that there would be sufficient space there. Fred noted that ABA’s local chapter has space in a building that it owns called the “Hut”, but expressed concern about the size of the space there. Dick Wegman recalled that last year, the WBL and ABA Washington chapter held a joint game at the Hut, and there appeared to be sufficient room for 16-20 tables. Fred volunteered to follow up with Winston Edwards.

### **Bill Gates’ Assistance**

Dick Wegman recalled the financial assistance that Bill Gates has agreed to provide in connection with a bridge program at schools, and noted that Gates and Warren Buffett are trying to get units throughout the country to hold youth tournaments, with the winners winning a trip to a national final school tournament to be held in conjunction with the regional in Omaha, Nebraska. Dick said that the local school bridge coordinators Ron Starr and Mark Rosen had reported to him that Washington area schools are not ready to participate this year in such an event.

Dick also stated that it would be helpful to hire a professional to manage the Washington area school bridge program, and said that Bill Gates’ foundation may be willing to fund it. Dick suggested that somebody with teaching experience would be helpful. Various names were mentioned, including Ellen Rosenthal, who was formerly a teacher. Dick explained that the problem with high school programs is that high school students already are busy with many activities, and the best opportunity to get youth interested would be in junior high. However, he said that Mark Rosen cautioned that most junior high schools are much more restrictive than high schools as to who can come into the schools.

### **New Candidates for WBL Board**

Dick noted that Ellen Cherniavsky, Bob Levey, and Shlomit Rind are running for WBL board positions.

### **Bridgemate**

Richard Ferrin reported that at the Dallas Nationals, an article appeared in the Daily Bulletin about the “Bridgemate” automated score reporting system. With Bridgemate, hand-written score tickets are replaced with a hand-held wireless electronic device at each table. North enters the contract in the hand-held device and scores the result at the end of the hand. The contract and result displays, and at the end of the round, a member of the East-West pair presses a button to confirm the information is correct. All of this information is automatically relayed into the director’s computer. This system was tested successfully at the world championship last year in Portugal.

Richard pointed out the following advantages of Bridgemate: (1) fewer table scoring errors; (2) no director entry errors; (3) fewer caddies needed; and (4) lower risk of score tampering. Barbara Ames added that it would eliminate the problem of a possible “wire” with scoring tickets inadvertently left face up.

Richard believes that the WBL should get Bridgemate, if the cost is affordable. While in Dallas, he spoke briefly with Nadine Wood about Bridgemate. Nadine told him that the company marketing the device has spoken to the ACBL about a package purchase deal through ACBL and made a brief presentation to the ACBL Board about the system, but she did not know the exact cost. Richard agreed to follow up with Nadine.

### **Play Bridge Brochure**

Barbara Ames reported on the latest efforts to distribute the WBL’s “Play Bridge” brochure. She pledged to meet with a committee on this issue, and report back to the Board later.

Fred King noted that he recently made a presentation to World Bank retirees. Steve Robinson and Richard Ferrin also came to assist. Approximately 16 people picked up brochures.

## **AARP**

Fred King said that at Gatlinburg, Nadine Wood and Bruce Reeve said that the American Association of Retired Persons (“AARP”) will sponsor games at a few regionals around the country, including Atlanta and Alexandria. District 7 will contribute \$500 to the game at the Atlanta regional, the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference (“MABC”) will contribute \$1000, to be divided evenly between the Atlanta and Alexandria regionals. Hopefully, District 6 will contribute to the event at the Alexandria regional. Fred did not yet know how much AARP will contribute.

## **Novice/Intermediate Player Mailings for Regionals**

Fred King reported that the MABC contributed \$2000 to District 6 on an experimental basis for a publicity mailing to novice and intermediate players on upcoming regionals. Complaints were raised that the money was not widely distributed. As a result, at a recent MABC meeting when a similar contribution was proposed, the motion failed on a 10-10 tie vote, with the MABC President breaking the tie by voting nay. Donna Bowser then proposed a postcard mailing to target 0-50 masterpoint players for the Alexandria, Hunt Valley, and Ocean City regionals. That motion passed on a 10-10 tie vote, with the MABC President again breaking the tie, this time by voting aye.

## **Machlin Trophy**

Fred King raised the issue of the nomination schedule for the new WBL Machlin sportsmanship trophy. Dick Wegman suggested that nominations should be open through August 15, with the Committee meeting in September, and the trophy presented at the October WBL sectional Saturday, October 21. Dick said that he would announce that schedule at the WBL Annual meeting.

## **October Tournament**

Dick Wegman reminded the Board that the October sectional will be the WBL’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, at which tournament the newly refurbished Eynon trophy will be awarded.

## **Old Minutes**

Dick Wegman reported that Carol Geagley has in her possession several years of old WBL board minutes. Dick asked what the WBL should do with them, including any Executive Committee minutes.

Barbara Ames said that she has an intern who could scan them. Richard Ferrin noted that he has minutes going back to 2000. Richard agreed to confer with Nadine Wood and WBL Historian Peter Boyd about appropriate paper and electronic storage. Dick Wegman suggested saving the Executive Committee minutes separately from open session minutes.

Donna Rogall noted that she has numerous old pictures of WBL members, events, etc. Dick suggested that pictures and memorabilia should be assembled for display at the October tournament. Nadine and Peter will go through the material.

## **Compensation for Bulletin Editor**

Donna Rogall, editor of the WBL Bulletin, noted that she has not had a pay increase for more than two years, and asked for a raise. Dick Wegman directed the Bulletin Committee (Don Berman (chair), Richard Ferrin, Steve Robinson, and Nadine Wood) to confer by e-mail and make a recommendation.

## **Departing Board Members**

Dick Wegman noted the departure from the Board of Winston Edwards and Jane Sturgis, both of whom have done a fine job. Dick recalled Winston’s collaboration with Ron Kral on the Smithsonian bridge class project, and as ABA liaison. Dick also noted Jane’s work as WBL Charity liaison.

### **Next Meeting**

The next WBL Board meeting will take place Wednesday, May 17 at Fred King's house. The WBL's annual meeting will be held May 11.

The Board thanked Richard Ferrin for hosting the meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Ferrin,  
Secretary

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
May 17, 2006**

The meeting was held at Fred King's house.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Shlomit Rind, Steve Robinson, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Kitty Gottfried.

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

**Secretary's Report**

The Board approved the minutes as amended, without objection.

**Treasurer's Report**

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL's checking account was \$12,111.02. \$15,000 has been moved from the checking account to an account at A.G. Edwards. Now the WBL has approximately \$35,000 in an investment account.

Dick Wegman noted that Michael Chelst, on behalf of Fidelity Trust, agreed to donate \$2,000 for the Round Robin event this year.

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

**Committee Assignments**

Fred King discussed various changes in committee assignments. A revised list will be posted as soon as possible.

**Goals for the Next 12 Months**

Fred King discussed suggested goals for the WBL in the next 12 months. First, we should try to increase WBL membership by at least one percent. Currently, membership count fluctuates between a static number and small losses. Don Berman stated that there are about 1,700 WBL members now. Dick Wegman emphasized the need to establish more novice games to bring in more new members, as well as the importance of the guaranteed partner program to welcome newcomers. Don added that if the WBL improves tournaments and the unit game, more people may retain/renew their membership.

Fred identified as a second goal surveying the membership about what they like and what can be improved. Richard Ferrin agreed, adding that it is important that such surveys be broader than the portion of the membership that currently attends the Unit Game.

Finally, Fred stated that the WBL should focus on its finances, including maintaining and improving its assets. Richard Ferrin recalled a member at the 2006 Annual Meeting asking about the WBL building fund. Steve Robinson suggested establishing an "earmark" to begin a building fund, and publicizing it. Perhaps one or more of the members would be willing to make a large contribution or bequeathment. Fred agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Calendar of Obligations**

Fred King noted the need to publicize the nomination and selection process for the new Machlin Trophy for sportsmanship. Fred will prepare a note for insertion into the next WBL Bulletin.

**ABA/ACBL Unity Game**

Fred King reported that the ACBL and the American Bridge Association (“ABA”) will co-host a “unity” game on June 24. The WBL has been unable to get a response from the local ABA chapter regarding the possibility of participating in a joint effort. He understands that the Laurel Bridge Club is participating. Fred also will check with Bernie Oetjen to see if his Saturday afternoon Northern Virginia game will be participating. We will announce the local joint games at the next Unit Game.

### **Bridgemate**

Fred King did some internet research regarding the Bridgemate automatic scoring system that the Board discussed in the April meeting. Bridgemate’s website showed prices in Australian dollars. He commented that the price looked expensive, but we need to get more information. Richard Ferrin volunteered to call ACBL for details regarding the price.

### **Collection of Historical Data**

Richard Ferrin reported that Nadine is continuing to go through Carol Geagley’s collection of past minutes and related WBL documents. Dick Wegman reminded the Board of the need to put together WBL memorabilia for its upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Dick also noted that as part of the anniversary, the Eynon Trophy will be awarded again, after having been retired many years ago. He said that the cup would be mounted on a plaque, in order to allow for more names to be etched on the trophy.

Fred King commented that Andy Gabrilovich knew many of the historic figures of the WBL, and his assistance would be invaluable in connection with preparation for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Dick agreed, noting that the WBL has an unusually long history, having been established four years before the ACBL itself.

### **Larry Galvin’s Game**

Fred King reported that Larry Galvin, who runs three club games, is again not paying his sanction fees. Barbara Summers previously helped him catch up, but now Larry is again falling behind. Fred asked whether the WBL should send Larry a letter in connection with his difficulties complying with ACBL requirements. Dick Wegman opined that there is no reason to raise this sensitive issue with Larry. Fred agreed, stating that he saw no positive purpose in the Board getting involved. Don Berman, however, observed the fact that Larry’s games are located in the WBL’s and District Six’s jurisdiction automatically gets the WBL involved. Fred King replied that he did not see a reason to take any affirmative action, and added that perhaps other people might be interested in running those games.

### **Steve Forsythe’s Sunday Novice Game**

Dick Wegman reported on preparations for the new novice game to be held Sundays at the Methodist Home, in the District on Connecticut Avenue just south of Nebraska Ave., N.W.. The facility is excellent, well-lit, with plenty of parking. The Methodist Home will make the space available for free, and will set up tables and chairs. The WBL will provide boards and boxes. The Home will make food available and charge for it at cost. Winnie Farah, a WBL member who lives at the Home, will coordinate. Steve and Sandy Forsythe will run the game, and Steve will lecture before the game. He plans two sections: 0-20 and 0-300 masterpoints. The game will start June 4. Saul Penn will substitute as director as needed.

Fred King stated that Steve has suggested a fee of \$2 per person for the first 25, and \$1 per person afterwards. Residents of the Methodist Home would play for free. Steve would charge \$10 per person for the lesson, game, and lunch. The idea is for the WBL to subsidize the game initially. Fred estimates that this could result in about a \$75 per week commitment from the WBL. Steve Robinson asked if it might make more sense to subsidize the game for a guaranteed minimum income for Steve Forsythe. Don Berman asked if this would be Steve Forsythe’s game, or a WBL game. Dick Wegman replied that this would be a WBL game. Barbara Ames asked whether it would be possible to get an advertisement subsidized by the ACBL. Fred thought this was a good idea, and Barbara volunteered to call ACBL headquarters. Don Berman noted that the Board should get feedback on the first two games by the time of the next WBL Board meeting.

## **Help for Nadine**

Fred King asked if anybody could suggest someone to help Nadine with shopping before sectionals, preferably on Tuesday or Wednesday.

## **Badges**

Don Berman reported that new badges have been ordered for the new WBL board members, and would be available shortly.

## **Guaranteed Partner Program Note in Bulletin**

Dick Wegman suggested a modification to the note in the bulletin regarding the guaranteed partner program to the effect that the program is designed to help people who occasionally need a partner for the Unit Game. Steve Robinson commented that the partnership desk can face an awkward problem when a novice and an expert show up alone. Shlomit Rind suggested arranging for a separate novice volunteer every week, in addition to the more advanced volunteer. Shlomit agreed to discuss the possibility further with Barbara Doran.

## **Caddies**

Kitty Gottfried reported that one of the WBL's regular caddies is soon leaving for college. She asked if there is any reason why the WBL can't try to get adults as caddies. Steve Robinson pledged to send an e-mail to his general WBL mailing list, soliciting caddies. Kitty commented that the WBL pays \$35 for "refreshment caddies" because they have to arrive by 6:30 PM. All other caddies are paid \$25 apiece.

## **Microphones**

Ellen Cherniavsky asked the reason why there was no microphone for the annual meeting on May 11. Steve Robinson explained that Doug Grove borrowed the microphone because the NVBA's microphone was broken.

## **Lighting**

Dick Wegman noted that at the annual meeting, Ellen Klossen raised the issue of poor lighting at the Unit Game. Fred King replied that some of the lights are not turned on. Dick added that about one dozen of the overhead light bulbs are burned out. Dick will call the Church. He added that the WBL needs to purchase at least four more lamps. Barbara Ames said that the WBL needs to make sure that any lamp shades are plastic, because of the risk of breakage.

## **Donna's Compensation**

Don stated that the committee looked at competitive rates for Donna's services in connection with putting together the WBL Bulletin. He estimated that it takes approximately 40-50 hours of her time per month. She has asked for a raise to \$17 per hour. Based on the committee's informal survey of rates, Donna's proposal appears to be reasonable.

Don Berman the moved to raise Donna's compensation to \$17 per hour. Steve Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred King reported that, according to Ted Ying, assistant directors have not had an increase in compensation in four years. Currently, the WBL pays directors \$65, \$75, and \$100, depending on the number of directors or experience level. (Don Berman promised to investigate directors' compensation more for the next Board meeting.)

## **Next Meetings**

The next WBL Board meeting will be held on June 21, 2006 at Barbara Ames' residence. Shlomit Rind will host the following meeting, on July 26, 2006. The Board thanked Fred King for hosting the meeting.

Whereupon, the open meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
June 21, 2006**

The meeting was held at Barbara Ames' residence.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Shlomit Rind, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Ted Ying. Barbara Doran also attended, and Sandy Forsythe attended for part of the meeting.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:56 PM.

**Secretary's Report**

The Board approved the minutes as amended, without objection.

**Treasurer's Report**

There was no treasurer's report this month, due to Steve Robinson's absence during the World Championships.

Fred King noted that it has been a long time since there has been an explanation of the details of the WBL's investment account. Fred proposed that the status of the investment account be included in the treasurer's report. Fred's proposal was referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

Dick Wegman reminded the board of the need to make sure collections (i.e., reimbursements, ads, etc.) are received on a timely basis.

**75th Anniversary**

Fred King noted that Bob Levey is writing a couple of articles for the Bulletin in connection with the WBL's 75th Anniversary. He noted that the Machlin Trophy for sportsmanship will be a new honor, and also noted the revival of the Eynon Trophy. Fred emphasized the need to find the longest-serving WBL board members to help publicize the anniversary.

Dick Wegman reported that Trudy Machlin has agreed to present the Machlin Trophy. Don Berman observed that either Alice Yoke or Trudy Machlin are likely the longest-standing members of the WBL.

Donna Rogall suggested that in observance of the anniversary, a panel should be assembled to discuss the history of the WBL.

**Calendar of Obligations**

Barbara Doran reported that she, Barbara Shaw, and Donna Rogall put together a new draft calendar of obligations. She asked board members to review the draft and suggest any additions as appropriate. Dick Wegman noted that the WBL's nominations for ACBL Goodwill Member of the Year should be added to the calendar (not to be confused with WBL membership to the ACBL Goodwill Committee, which is Nadine Wood's responsibility).

Ted Ying suggested a notation to the Calendar stating that letters granting free plays to specific events should be issued five weeks in advance of the event. Don Berman added that for free-play letters for new life masters, the cut-off should be noted on the Calendar as November 30, and the free plays are to be redeemable at the January sectional. Ted also noted that hand records for the unit game for the first six months of the year should be generated in November, and in May for the last six months. Jim Coleman is the contact. Finally, Ted noted that the scheduling committee meeting should be moved to October.

Fred King suggested circulating the draft Calendar to Steve Robinson, Nadine Wood, and Mike Carroad for comment,

and each item on the calendar should note who is responsible for each action item. Fred also noted that the list of masterpoint holdings should be generated each October. Richard Ferrin volunteered to take responsibility for that item.

### **Guaranteed Partner Program**

Fred King asked for suggestions for a substitute partnership coordinator for the Unit Game when Barbara Doran is absent.

Barbara Doran noted that volunteer partners for July are arranged, but that there are two dates open in August. The board also discussed continued problems with the guaranteed partnership program being overused by certain players. Barbara also noted that she has difficulty pairing non-life-master (“NLM”) players with appropriate partners, as she does not know many of the NLM players. Sandy Forsythe suggested that Barbara contact her on that issue. Ted Ying also noted that Barbara Summers is a good resource for suggestions for appropriate partners for B/C/D players using the guaranteed partner program.

Ted Ying asked what the directors should do when a player arrives between 7:25 and 7:30 PM looking for a partner. Barbara Doran suggested a cut-off of 7:15 PM for the partner guarantee. Clyde Kruskal suggested that the partnership coordinator attempt to accommodate such persons where possible.

Barbara Doran noted that in the case of team events, we need a guaranteed pair. Shlomit Rind noted that often pairs arrive on team game nights without knowing that it is a team game, and therefore suggested that Steve Robinson modify his e-mail alerts of upcoming WBL unit games to include a special title to the e-mail alerting members of upcoming team games, such as “Alert: Team Game Next Thursday”.

### **ABA/ACBL Unit Game**

Fred King said that he asked the head of the ABA’s Washington DC unit if collaboration were possible on this scheduled event, but that she said that she would be out of town on the designated date. Don Berman noted that the Laurel Bridge Club would host a joint ABA/ACBL event on the designated date.

### **New Novice Game**

Sandy Forsythe reported that the new Sunday novice game initially got nine tables, although she and Steve Forsythe hope to increase the table count to 15 tables. She reported that the Methodist Home has been fully cooperative. She stressed the need for more publicity to get more players in the 0-300 masterpoint category (most now are 49ers). Barbara Ames reported that she is working on placing a Washington Post ad to publicize the new game. Dick Wegman asked about publicity through the suburban newspapers.

Dick also emphasized the need to publicize novice games in seminars for new retirees. Ted Ying observed that the National Association of Retired Federal Employees is a good group to target for new player publicity, including the Instant Bridge Player (“IBP”) Program. He also suggested looking at TV stations with community calendars.

Sandy noted that she and Steve Forsythe are hosting an IBP program during the August WBL sectional. Dick where people have learned about the IBP program. Sandy replied that only about 25 percent learned about it from the Post or the Gazette. People have learned about it mainly through word of mouth.

Sandy asked for assistance for the new player program during Wednesday and Saturday of the Washington Regional, if they get enough players for two rooms. Barbara Doran volunteered to help on Saturday.

Fred King emphasized that the Board appreciates and fully supports Sandy’s and Steve’s work on the IBP and related programs. Sandy asked if they could get the use of a white board for teaching. Fred replied that if the WBL has one, it would lend it to Sandy and Steve. If the WBL does not have one, Sandy and Steve should buy one and the WBL will reimburse them.

Ted Ying noted the success of the program for WBL attendance as a whole, estimating that Unit Game attendance is up about 8-10 tables per week over one year ago. Dick observed that the WBL may soon outgrow Christ the King as a space for the Unit Game.

### **Conditions at the Unit Game**

Dick Wegman noted recent complaints about the Christ the King playing facility, including lighting, bathrooms, and mold in the basement. The Board needs to bring these complaints to the attention of the Church. Ted Ying emphasized the need for remedial mold removal service, and suggested that perhaps the WBL could offer to reimburse the Church, following a survey and estimate. Shlomit Rind suggested that the Board first consider buying a room cleaner/filter. Ted Ying agreed to survey prices.

Dick noted that floor lamp covers on the side of the playing room are breaking, and we need to cover the bare bulbs. Barbara Ames recommended that the WBL purchase more of the same floor lamps because they are cheap. Donna Rogall asked about wall sconces as an alternative. Ted Ying expressed concern that wall sconces might be expensive. Barbara Ames noted that wall sconces would avoid the hazards of electrical cords.

Dick also reported that he has found a possible alternative location for the Unit Game at the Gwendolyn Coffield Recreational Center on Littonsville Road. It is a large space, with plenty of parking and excellent lighting. He identified two problems. First, the county requires closing at 9:30 PM; the WBL would need to inquire about the possibility of an exception for the Unit Game. Second, the rent would be \$500 to \$600 per night, or about \$100 per hour. That fee, however, includes cleanup.

### **Schools Program**

Dick Wegman reported on continuing efforts to start games in Montgomery and Prince George's County, and noted some modest success. He said that the problem is that the programs are squeezed into the lunch hour (about 40 minutes). About six months ago, the WBL learned that Warren Buffett and Bill Gates have donated \$1 million to promote bridge education in schools. Dick contacted Sharon Osberg (Bill Gates' bridge coach) about the WBL program, and she expressed interest. The Buffett-Gates organization would be willing to pay a person to run the WBL's school program. Also, he noted that a national event for students would be held in connection with a regional tournament in Omaha, Nebraska. According to Dick, Ron Starr said that the student participating in the Washington area program are not ready for that event this year, but that we should prepare for the new school year. Dick estimated that with the assistance of the Buffett-Gates organization, a school bridge coordinator could be hired for about \$25-\$30 per hour. However, we need to plan now, before the annual back-to-school night in September. Dick noted the advantages of targeting a program for middle schools, particularly less competition from other extracurricular activities in the middle schools. He noted that Thomas Jefferson High School has set aside a regular class period for bridge, but that is an unusual arrangement. Dick suggested focus on Blair High School.

Ted Ying suggested a Saturday session in the school as a kick-off event, with the WBL offering everything for free. Dick replied that the coordinator would be the key to success. The board then considered various persons as possible coordinators. Fred King suggested putting in an advertisement for a coordinator in the next issue of the Bulletin.

### **Compensation for Directors**

Don Berman reported that he reviewed the current director compensation arrangement with Ted Ying. The WBL policies currently read in pertinent part as follows:

Directors, other than the Chief Director, will be paid between \$65.00 and \$90.00 per session, at the discretion of the Chief Director and the concurrence of the Unit Game Committee. An additional \$10.00 per session will be paid if only two directors are working that evening.

Don said this current language in the WBL policies is sufficient for Ted to pay the additional compensation that he recommends. Therefore, the WBL need not change its policies, but need only obtain the concurrence of the Unit Game Committee.

With respect to the Unit Game Director's compensation, which is currently \$100 (plus \$25 as Club Manager), the \$100 amount currently is not codified in the WBL policies. Accordingly, Don recommends that the policies be revised as follows:

**Old:** The chief Director of the Unit game shall be a nonvoting member of the Board and will act as club manager for the Unit game. As club manager, the Chief Director will receive an additional \$25.00. His pay will be broken into salary and traveling and other expenses.

**New:** The chief Director of the Unit game shall be a nonvoting member of the Board and will act as club manager for the Unit game. The Chief Director shall be compensated \$100 per unit game directed. The Club Manager will be compensated \$25.00 per unit game held. The pay will be stipend for traveling and other expenses.

Don Berman moved to amend the WBL policies as stipulated above. Richard Ferrin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Help for Nadine for Shopping**

Fred King said that Nadine Wood needs help shopping on the Tuesday or Wednesday before WBL sectionals.

Rosemary Shaw is willing to help, and Barbara Doran may be able to help as well. Ted Ying said that Alan Crank may be willing to help, with more compensation.

### **Clarification of Free Play Policy for Swiss Team Events**

Fred King said that for Swiss team events during the Unit Game, the winning team should get the free play. Barbara Doran said that it was always that way in the past, but it was not written in the WBL policies. Barbara Doran moved that the WBL policies be amended to stipulate that in team games, the winning team in each flight is awarded a free play. Richard Ferrin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **C&E Committee**

Fred King reported that the four new non-board members elected to the Conduct and Ethics Committee agreed to serve.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held July 26 at Shlomit Rind's residence. The Board thanked Barbara Ames for hosting the meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
July 25, 2006**

The meeting was held at Shlomit Rind's residence.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Bob Levey, Shlomit Rind, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood. Steve Forsythe and Shawn Stringer attended for part of the meeting.

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

**Secretary's Report**

The Board approved the minutes as amended, without objection.

**Treasurer's Report**

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL has \$6,098.82 in its checking account, and approximately \$40,000 in an account at AG Edwards. The AG Edwards account is getting money market returns.

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

**Novice Games**

Steve Forsythe stated that his new Sunday novice game is getting 11 to 12 tables, and he expects more in the future. Steve is looking at seating options. Food is running about \$120 for lunch for 40 to 50 people. The facility is great, with ample parking. So far we have gotten about 10 new ACBL members. There will be no game during the WBL sectionals, and probably no game during the NVBA sectionals, in order to encourage the players to attend the sectionals. Steve added that he was encouraging the players to go to tournaments in Baltimore as well.

Steve Robinson suggested that Steve Forsythe should survey the players in the novice game to see if they would play in the sectionals or regionals if the Sunday game were closed on those dates.

Steve Forsythe then discussed compensation. Apparently he and the WBL Board had misunderstood each other. Steve originally proposed a \$400 fee for the Sunday game, with a fee split for any additional amounts after the break-even point is reached. Steve noted that the WBL currently gets Steve's and Sandy's services for running the Thursday night novice game for only \$100, which is a very good deal for the WBL. The Thursday night game typically draws 6 to 8 tables. He constantly has to recruit new players, because the players eventually "graduate" to the non-life-master game upstairs. The Sunday game, however, requires much more preparatory work than the Thursday night novice game.

Steve Robinson said that Steve's proposal is acceptable as long as the WBL breaks even in the long run. Steve Forsythe observed that the first 4 tables pays for fees and expenses.

Dick Wegman commented that the game should be structured as a WBL game, rather than simply a Forsythe-run club game, in order to avoid complaints from other local clubs about the WBL subsidizing their competition.

Barbara Ames asked Steve Forsythe what his preference would be for compensation. Steve replied that the best arrangement for him would be a guaranteed minimum, with additional compensation after crossing the breakeven point.

Clyde Kruskal noted the continuing problem with mold and mildew in the basement of Christ the King Church where the Thursday night game is held. Fred King replied that he would follow up with the church.

Steve Forsythe added that he planned to do another new bridge player program on Sunday at 11:00 AM at the October WBL sectional. Nadine Wood replied that the separate room at the Schweinhaut Center would be unavailable the Saturday of the tournament, but she would inquire about Sunday.

Concerning publicity for the new game, Steve Forsythe stated that he was experimenting with advertisements in papers other than the Washington Post.

Steve Forsythe then left the meeting and the Board considered Steve's proposal. Nadine Wood noted that Edith's new player game was a profit-sharing arrangement.

Fred King expressed concern about possible complaints from other area bridge clubs about subsidized competition. Richard Ferrin replied that the other clubs should not be concerned because this is a game specifically for new players, not an open game.

Steve Robinson acknowledged that Steve Forsythe is taking on much more responsibility with the Sunday game. Any arrangement should be acceptable as long as the WBL does not lose money.

Fred King suggested a base of \$300 for the Sunday game and \$200 for the Thursday game. Barbara Ames suggested \$170 for Steve and Sandy combined for the Thursday game; for the Sunday game, Steve and Sandy should get a \$300 guaranteed minimum, plus all profits after the breakeven point. Clyde Kruskal stated that he prefers a profit-splitting arrangement. Dick Wegman suggested \$170 for Thursday (\$75 each for Steve and Sandy, plus \$20 for advertising), a \$300 minimum for Sunday, and a 50-50 profit split with the WBL after the WBL breaks even. Steve Robinson noted that the first four tables cover the expenses. 7 ½ tables pays Steve's and Sandy's fees. Anything over that amount should be split 50-50.

Fred King stated that Steve Forsythe wants a total of \$500 for Thursday and Sunday. Dick Wegman stated that the Sunday game would need to attract 12.5 tables to break even. Fred King proposed a minimum fee for Steve's and Sandy's services of \$350 for the Sunday game, plus one half of any profits after the WBL reaches the break-even point. For Thursday, Fred proposed a flat fee of \$150.

Richard Ferrin moved that the Board adopt the proposal set forth by Fred King. Barbara Summers seconded. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

### **Plans for Next Regional**

Fred King reported that he and Nadine Wood went to the new Marriott Hotel in Rockville to inspect the facilities. Nadine reported that the hotel is beautiful, with large playing spaces. The guest rooms are nice. The room rate would be \$107 or \$109 per night. The parking lot holds approximately 700 cars. A metro is ¼ block away.

Nadine noted some concern about dealing with hotel management. There would be only one contact in hotel management instead of the usual three, and the contact did not appear to have much experience.

Nadine added that the contract promises a minimum number of hotel rooms would be sold. With early start times for the regional games, the number of out-of-town visitors decreases, which could make it difficult to meet the minimum hotel room sale requirement. Nadine therefore proposed returning to normal 1:00 PM and 7:30 PM start times. We could also have a 10:30 AM game to accommodate people who like that start time.

### **August Sectional**

Fred King asked who will help Nadine with food shopping for the sectional. Nadine said that Dana (her son) will help for the August tournament. We need help loading and unloading Friday morning, Friday night, and Saturday morning. Richard Ferrin volunteered to help Saturday morning, and Clyde Kruskal volunteered to help Friday. Nadine added that she will need help with trash on Sunday night.

Nadine said that the hospitality will feature a BBQ. Nadine plans to dedicate lunch in the October Sectional to the

memory of Carole Geagley. That should be put in the advertisement.

Fred King reported that for the October sectional, he is putting together a panel of “old-timers” for the 75th anniversary celebration.

Donna Rogall asked if there would be a panel show in the August sectional. Steve Robinson said that he would put one together.

Nadine Wood proposed that in the October sectional, the WBL should award prizes for the top men’s pair and the top women’s pair in the Friday day game. For Friday evening, an award should be given to the top mixed pair. (Note, the events would not be segregated between men’s/women’s/mixed pairs, just the special award.)

Dick Wegman asked for plans for memorabilia for the 75th anniversary celebration at the October sectional.

Bob Levey stated that he would check on publicity with the Washington Post.

Dick Wegman asked how the nomination process was going for the new Machlin award. Fred King said that he has received a few nominations. Dick suggested publicizing the award in a Steve Robinson mass e-mail, and in flyers.

Richard Ferrin suggested making the flyer double as a form to list nominees with reasons for the nomination. Donna Rogall suggested publicizing the Machlin award nomination process on the WBL web site.

Donna Rogall stated that we need a schedule for the January sectional within two weeks. Nadine Wood stated that for Friday nights we have had IMP pairs, pair/BAM combined events, and barometer pairs. We need a fourth variation (other than an individual). Steve Robinson suggested a simple stratiflighted pairs game.

Fred King stated that the annual Lovenberg, Cohen, and Woolridge awards would be presented in connection with the January sectional.

### **Schools Program**

Dick Wegman introduced Shawn Stringer, who has agreed to take on the roll of schools coordinator. Sharon Osberg, who handles funds for the Gates-Buffett bridge-in-schools fund, is supportive of our efforts. But they want to provide support for teachers, not the coordinator. The coordinator role will take considerable time. If the Gates-Buffett fund will not support the coordinator’s salary, the WBL should.

Shawn Stringer stated that she needs a packet of information for principals, in order to generate interest. The key is quality, not quantity of bridge programs. It will take several volunteers in the bridge community. Shawn said that she knows three principals.

Dick Wegman commented that the program should build on the schools program the WBL has already started.

Shlomit Rind suggested that the program should capitalize on the Gates name. Dick said that for each school, we need the cooperation of the school and a faculty sponsor, and the WBL needs to supply a teacher. In addition, the WBL needs to have a representative available on Activity Night to answer questions.

Fred King asked about efforts in middle schools. Shawn stated that any bridge activity for middle schools would have to be scheduled after school. Fred asked about resources available from the Bridge At Schools group. Nadine Wood stated that the curriculum is found at the Bridge At Schools website. It includes quizzes.

Barbara Summers asked what pay level would be provided for teachers. Dick Wegman said that Sharon Osberg suggested \$20-\$25 per hour. Barbara Ames recommended stating only that a stipend is available. Dick Wegman asked about Shawn’s compensation. Barbara Summers suggested \$35 per hour, with reports submitted to the treasurer.

Shawn Stringer then left the meeting, and the Board discussed her compensation. Steve Robinson cautioned against giving a “blank check”. Shlomit Rind suggested an hourly rate with a cap of 50 hours. Bob Levey agreed, and suggested further that after the cap is reached, Shawn should submit a report to the Board, at which point the Board

could decide whether to proceed further.

Bob Levey moved to adopt the suggested compensation arrangement discussed above. Barbara Ames seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Lighting**

Barbara Ames stated that she found torchieres in plastic, and they could be available in two weeks. Clyde Kruskal said that Ikea also has some, with soft plastic on the top. Barbara Ames stated that she can get clamps for the electrical cords. Clyde Kruskal volunteered to pick up a couple of ones from Ikea to try them out.

### **Policies on Behavior**

Richard Ferrin will make the changes to the WBL policy on behavior previously agreed by the Board, and Don Berman will put the changed language on the WBL web site.

### **Charity Games**

Bob Levey said that Paul Weintraub recommended designating a national Multiple Sclerosis group as donee for a charity game. Bob recommends against this, because the charity is a national charity, not a local group.

Steve Robinson stated that the WBL has no more slots for more charity games through the end of this year. In order to schedule a charity game, the WBL must also schedule a charity game with an ACBL-designated donee. Nadine Wood clarified that the ACBL's policy is changing, such that only the first charity game must go to an ACBL fund (e.g., Junior Fund, International Fund, etc.). The ACBL has deferred a final vote on this change until later this year.

Fred King advised Bob to tell Mr. Weintraub that the WBL is already committed for this year.

### **Bridgemate**

Nadine Wood stated that the new Bridgemate wireless scoring system needs to be modified to be compatible with ACBL Score. They will try it out in a tournament in Memphis, and hopefully an arrangement with Bridgemate will be approved at the Honolulu NABC. The cost will be about \$20 per unit on each table, plus \$100 for the server.

### **Next Meetings**

The next WBL Board meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2006 at Barbara Summer's residence. [Secretary's note: this meeting was subsequently rescheduled for September 20). Clyde Kruskal will host on October 18.

The Board thanked Shlomit Rind for hosting the meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
September 20, 2006**

The meeting was held at Barbara Summers' residence.

In attendance: Barbara Ames, Ellen Cherniavsky, Don Berman, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting member Nadine Wood. President King called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

**Secretary's Report**

The Board approved the minutes as amended, without objection.

**Treasurer's Report**

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL has \$9366.88 in its checking account, and approximately \$40,000 in an account at AG Edwards. The sectionals have been at least marginally profitable.

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

**October Sectional**

75th anniversary activities were discussed. Friday night there will be champagne and caviar, and an IMP pairs. The Machlin trophy will be awarded at the end of the panel show Saturday. It was suggested that the oldest members of the WBL be on the panel and that Jeff Roman be asked to be the M.C. It was also proposed that an article be drafted for the ACBL bulletin. Bob Levey has written a column that will appear in the WBL bulletin and is currently on-line.

**Calendar of Obligations**

The scheduling meeting will be held October 2 instead of in September. Items missing from the calendar will be located for the next meeting. The 49er North American pairs has been rescheduled. This is to be announced at the unit game Thursday.

**Condition of Cards and Boards**

There have been complaints. The head caddy has agreed to recycle cards in half the boards every three or six months, but this has not been done.

**Plans for Next Regional**

The regional bulletin was reviewed and editorial changes were made.

**Dealing Machine**

The dealing machine is not working. Lee Jensen will try cleaning it, which resolved the problem last time.

**Schools Program**

Shawn Stringer submitted a report by email on progress with the schools program. Teachers are needed and one consideration is compensation. Fred King heard from Sharon Osberg that the Gates Foundation has decided to make a donation to the Community League rather than give money directly to the Unit. Barbara Ames will check with the ACBL on compensation for teachers. It was suggested that there be a teachers' workshop, which might be led by Mark Rosen or Ron Starr.

**Bridge and Bowling**

This will be held the Saturday before the Super Bowl. Location is as yet undetermined.

**Next Meetings**

The next WBL Board meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2006 at Clyde Kruskal's residence. We hope to start dinner at 6:45, start the meeting at 7:15, and conclude by 9:15. The November and December meetings will be combined and held December 6th with Don Berman hosting. The Board thanked Barbara Summers for hosting the meeting.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky (in place of Richard Ferrin, Secretary, who could not attend the meeting)

**Minutes  
WBL Board Meeting  
October 18, 2006**

The meeting was held at Clyde Kruskal's house.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

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

**Secretary's Report**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$8,584.55 in its checking account, and approximately \$40,000 in another account. Without objection, the board approved the Treasurer's Report.

**October Sectional**

The Board discussed the layout and content for the Thursday bulletin for the sectional. A new WBL Life Master list has been generated, and Richard Ferrin agreed to assist with printing for distribution at the sectional. Nadine Wood stated that she needs help with putting old bulletins on poster board for display, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary.

Don Berman suggested calculating overall point winners from the last tournament, and awarding trophies at that time. The Board decided to continue to award all of the point race trophies in the January sectional.

**Next Year's Schedule**

The Board discussed corrections, and contact information in connection with the 2007 schedule. The annual Bridge and Bowling event will be held the day before the Superbowl. There are two Thursdays for which Christ the King Church is unavailable. Bill Cole is working on arranging an alternate location for those dates.

Don Berman asked whether the WBL still wants the District 6 district-wide charity race to count only WBL overall point awards, and not district-wide overall point awards, for purposes of the Lovenberg trophy. The Board decided to hold over this issue to the next meeting.

**Condition of Cards and Boards**

Fred King updated the Board on efforts to replace worn cards and boards. Steve Robinson stated that Lee Jensen is discussing with the manufacturer the problem with the dealing machine.

**Web Site**

Following a recent unit game where Mike Carroad substituted for Ted Ying as director, several players e-mailed Ted with score corrections. The Board agreed that Ted should inform Don Berman in advance when another director substitutes for Ted, so that Don can adjust the link on the WBL web site to report scoring corrections.

**Entry Fees and the WBL's Financial Position**

Fred King reported that the Northern Virginia Bridge Association ("NVBA") is considering raising entry fees by \$1 per player to cover a significant increase in rent for the Knights of Columbus hall. The NVBA would like the WBL to follow suit so that area sectional tournament fees are uniform. However, the last time that the WBL raised its sectional

fees, the NVBA did not follow suit until nine months later. Fred did note that the WBL has assumed increased financial obligations, including subsidizing a new Sunday novice game, and fixing the dealing machine. Nadine Wood noted that the rent for the Schweinhaut Center will increase slightly next year.

Dick Wegman said that if it was up to the WBL alone, he would prefer no change the WBL's sectional entry fees. The issue, however, is maintaining comity with the NVBA. Nadine Wood commented that eventually the WBL will need to raise fees anyway, because it barely breaks even on sectional tournaments. The WBL should do it now in a spirit of cooperation.

Steve Robinson disagreed, explaining that the WBL shouldn't charge \$10 per person table fees for sectionals, since that is the same price as for Mid-Atlantic regionals. Barbara Summers stated that that nobody will notice that NVBA fees are higher than WBL fees, and that to the extent that they do, it will not deter people from attending the NVBA sectionals. Barbara stated that she is opposed to raising fees unless it is necessary for the WBL.

Following further discussion, the decision of the Board was to wait and not raise sectional fees now, but the WBL will look at its financial position at the end of the year, and revisit the issue at that time.

### **Bridge Barons**

Fred King stated that the company that makes Bridge Baron programs has leftovers of old versions to give away to people who wouldn't otherwise purchase them. The company is willing to give several to the WBL for distribution, but the company does not want the WBL to give them out to all novices, because those are people who might normally purchase an updated version.

### **Bridge at Schools**

Dick Wegman reported on the hard work of Shawn Stringer to coordinate the school program. Clyde Kruskal explained that they have enough people to teach bridge, but Mark Rosen told him that there was a lot of red tape in working with the schools. Dick Wegman suggested inviting Shawn to report on her progress at the December Board meeting.

### **Bulletin Deadlines**

Donna Rogall asked if there would be any changes to the stratification cutoffs for Thursday night. The Board decided not to change the strata.

Nadine Wood asked for suggestions for the Friday night game of the January sectional. Donna Rogall suggested a Swiss pairs/teams combo, which is run like a combo pair/BAM event, except it is scored by IMPs. Richard Ferrin moved to make the Friday night game of the sectional a Swiss pairs/teams combo, and Ellen Cherniavsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The board thanked Clyde Kruskal for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin, Secretary

## **Minutes**

### **WBL Board Meeting**

**December 6, 2006**

The meeting was held at Don Berman's house.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Shlomit Rind, Steve Robinson, Barbara Summers, Dick Wegman, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

President King called the meeting to order at 7:58 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

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

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported that the WBL had \$11,570.17 in its checking account, and approximately \$40,000 in an investment account. It was noted that the Treasurer's Report included entries totaling \$145 in bad checks, and there was some discussion regarding the reasons for the bad checks and what was being done to collect. Fred King noted that Shawn Stringer has not yet submitted a bill for her services as the school bridge coordinator. Steve Forsythe has not yet submitted a bill for October or November 2006. Without objection, the board approved the Treasurer's Report.

#### President's Report

Fred King listed the following topics that should be included in the President's report, reviewing 2006: (1) sectional attendance and playing site; (2) unit game attendance and playing conditions; (3) Steve Forsythe's games; (4) the school program; (5) the round robin and Unit Knockout; (6) directors and staff; (7) the overall financial situation of the WBL; and (8) membership trends.

#### January Sectional

Nadine Wood stated that we need to verify the list of new life masters for the cake honoring them. There will be a panel show on Saturday. She said that she needs to figure out a theme for door prizes to be awarded at the Sectional. She also discussed the apparent lack of interest in the daily bulletin at the Sectionals. They appear to take more effort than they are worth. The Board agreed to discontinue printing daily bulletins at the Sectionals.

#### Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman reported that he is attempting to computerize the calendar of obligations so that there are reminders, notices go out automatically, etc. He will try to add in the additional dates as discussed in previous Board meetings. Fred King said that we need to determine the trophy race winners. The Unit Knockout and Round Robin events still are not finished, however, so the winners are still undetermined.

#### Awards for Past Three Sectionals and Plans for 2007

Fred King explained that the WBL obtained trophy plates and made presentations at the March 2006 Sectional for overall sectional point winners in the January 2006 Sectional. Then, the Board decided to award trophies only for the second and third strata (not the open strata), and for some reason no trophies were awarded for the March or August 2006 tournaments. Fred asked whether those awards increased attendance at the Sectional, and speculated that they probably did not.

Ellen Cherniavsky pointed out that novices do appreciate the trophies. Richard Ferrin added that while it is unlikely that few novices come to the tournament specifically because of the possibility of winning a trophy, when a novice does win a trophy, it can really excite him or her and boost attendance in the long run.

Nadine Wood stated that the WBL should at least award the rest of the 2006 trophies, since the Board had committed to do that in 2006. Fred King asked for a volunteer to handle procuring plates for the last three tournaments in 2006, and getting the plates engraved. Don Berman volunteered to handle those tasks. All of the plates those last three tournaments in 2006 will be awarded on Sunday of the January 2007 Sectional.

Fred asked the Board what awards, if any, should be given for 2007. Richard suggested awarding trophies for non-life master categories. Donna Rogall noted that the current strata for the awards are Open, 1500, 500, and 100. Dick Wegman suggested awarding trophies only for the 100 masterpoint and under level. Fred asked Don Berman to check the number of participants in this category, and unless it is really small, award the plate to the 0-100 category. Certificates for award winners in the other categories should suffice.

### Dealing Machine

Fred King reported that Lee Jensen unsuccessfully attempted to fix the WBL's dealing machine. Lee contacted the manufacturer, who has not been particularly cooperative. Ellen Cherniavsky passed out a table that summarizes the options and costs of new dealing machines from various suppliers. She said that somebody in Florida has a spare dealing machine that the WBL can use while the WBL's machine is in Australia being repaired. It would cost less than \$100 to ship the machine in Florida to Washington, and delivery should take about two days. The Board authorized Ellen to proceed with that plan.

### Conditions of Cards and Boards

Fred reported that the cards for the Unit Game have now been replaced. The WBL has 13 sets of boards. He noted that Barbara Shaw cleaned the bidding boxes. The Board agreed in principle to award an unspecified number of free plays to Barbara as a token of appreciation for her hard work washing the bidding boxes. Fred added that Allen Crank agreed to repaint the metal boards (for vulnerability and direction markings).

### Bridge in Middle Schools

Barbara Summers suggested sending a letter to the ACBL President recommending that the ACBL set aside money for supporting after-school bridge programs. The \$300 stipend the ACBL currently awards is inadequate. Barbara's proposed letter would recommend that the ACBL shift funds from charity games to the after-school bridge programs boost ACBL membership.

Nadine Wood confirmed that the ACBL's current program allows a \$300 stipend, plus provides teaching materials. The ACBL's Junior Fund goes to purposes other than school bridge programs, such as international tournament travel for the Junior teams.

Fred King asked what the WBL's school program would need from the ACBL. Dick Wegman noted the WBL current runs programs in six area schools. Based on one hour per week, and 16 weeks per semester, Dick estimated that the WBL would need approximately \$10,000.

Nadine Wood suggested that a better approach would be to write a letter to the editor to be published in the ACBL Bulletin. She expressed serious doubt that the ACBL would re-allocate funds as suggested in Barbara's letter. Dick Wegman asked whether the letter should instead be directed to the Mid-Atlantic Bridge Conference ("MABC"), since they have such a large fund. Nadine replied that the MABC is worse than the ACBL in responding to initiatives of this kind. She added that the ACBL's Education Department is now gone, for all intents and purposes.

Fred closed the discussion by suggesting that the Board get feedback from Shawn Stringer on the needs of the WBL

school program, and the WBL can draft a new letter.

### Bridgemate

Nadine Wood stated that Bridgemate, the company that makes new electronic, wireless table-score-entering devices, made a presentation to the ACBL Board. The Bridgemate boxes were used at the World Championship in Verona and were well-received. At the July 2006 ACBL Board meeting, there was interest in introducing the devices to ACBL clubs. The plan was for Bridgemate to develop software for ACBLScore and test it, but that did not happen. The ACBL also claimed that an additional group was developing a similar system. ACBL director Rick Beyer said that the WBL could test the new system when ready. If the WBL wants to proceed, Nadine said that she would investigate further.

The consensus of the Board was to ask Nadine to investigate further. Shlomit Rind mentioned that a director in a club in Blacksburg ordered the system, and she will confer with him about his experience using it.

### Bridge and Bowling

Fred King reported that certain “serious bowlers” despise the lanes at the bowling alley in Laurel. Since the Bridge and Bowling event will be occurring soon (February 2, 2007), we need to find a bowling alley in the next week or so. Close proximity to the bridge site (in Laurel) is desirable, but not essential. Shlomit suggested that the “serious bowlers” who complained should find an alley for the event. Fred King agreed to assemble the teams for the bowling event. Fred also agreed to confer with David Milton and Brad Theurer about alternative alleys that could handle the WBL/NVBA group. The bridge event will begin at 7:30 in Laurel.

### Round Robin Committee

Steve Robinson reported that the Round Robin Committee decided to change the format of the Unit Knockout from a double-elimination to a single-elimination event. The concern was that the event took way too long to complete, overlapping with the Round Robin. The bracket will be seeded based on results of the GNT Swiss already scheduled for Thursday, January 25. Participants do not have to play in the GNT Swiss to play in the Knockout, but they will not be seeded as high. The entry fee will drop from \$50 to \$30 per team. The scheduling deadlines will be enforced more strictly, with the assistance of a mediator. Byes will be used to reduce the field to a power of two.

Don Berman stated that Alan Kleist complained about the location of the matches for the event.

The Board agreed to the following: (1) a single-elimination knockout; (2) a system to ensure timely play; (3) a \$30-per-team fee; and (4) use of byes to reduce the field to a power of two.

### Other Business

Steve Robinson stated his opposition to continued scheduling of a barometer pairs event for occasional Friday night sectional games. Steve said that the barometer event is expensive because an extra director is needed, and there is an additional cost for making more sets of boards. Steve said that the event does not attract enough additional people to justify the expense and trouble. Several other board members, including Nadine Wood, Richard Ferrin, and Dick Wegman disagreed, both with Steve’s claim of the need for an additional director for the event, and with the alleged lack of membership interest in the event. The Board agreed not to make any change at this time to the scheduling of barometer events occasionally at the Friday night sectional game.

Discussion of the WBL’s financials and report of the WBL Schools Coordinator were postponed to the next Board meeting.

The next WBL Board meeting will take place January 17, 2007 at Ellen Cherniavsky’s house. Richard Ferrin will host on February 28.

The board thanked Don Berman for hosting the meeting. Whereupon, the public portion of the meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Ferrin, Secretary