

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

January 23, 2008

The meeting was held at Clyde Kruskal's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal; non-voting members Nadine Wood, Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall; and Shawn Stringer.

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

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes from the December 2007 WBL Board meeting, provided that the person thanked for hosting the last meeting should be changed to Ellen Cherniavsky. Otherwise the minutes were approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of more than \$16,000 in the WBL's checking account. The WBL has approximately \$37,800 in an investment account. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

President's Report

Over the last year the Unit has had a net gain of 36 members and is the largest unit in the district. This is the first time in the last three years that there has been a net plus change in membership. The average age of members in the ACBL is 68.4 years, while that in District 6 is 66.8 years.

Bridge and Bowling

Dinner will be at Sullivan's at 5:30. Board members were especially encouraged to attend the Bowling part of the event.

Restarting the Sunday Fiesta Game

Herb Behre has had discussions with the Kensington Armory and should have a proposal finalized soon. Mark Lavine is interested in holding the game either at his house or the church in Potomac. He would like to run the game, but hire someone else to actually direct it. Finally Barry Lieberman is going to approach a couple of the Montgomery County centers to see if they are possible venues. We hope that we can have some definite proposals very soon and get this show back on the road.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall stated that the January 22 deadline had been missed and Fred King agreed to forward his President's letter as soon as possible. Jeremy Koegel's essay, in which he describes how much learning bridge has meant to his life, and which he submitted to college as part of his admission package, will be featured in the Bulletin. No progress has been made on collecting from the advertisers who have not paid. Steve Robinson agreed to send bills to them.

Unit Game

Kitty Gottfried discussed the need for someone to be ready to assume her hospitality responsibilities should she not be

available in the future. There is a problem with not having backups for hospitality, as was exemplified when Nadine was ill and had to go home at the Sectional. Carole Banks suggested that Board members should be on rotation as backups. There will be continuing discussion of this issue at a future meeting.

- Cancellation Policy

Ted Ying has offered to set up a Yahoo group to facilitate communications in the event the game may need to be canceled, and the Board approved.

After considerable discussion the following was agreed to:

The policy is to hold the game if at all possible.

Necessary conditions:

1. Need director.
2. Need equipment (e.g. cards)
3. Site must open with heat and power. Whether parking has to be available is an unresolved issue.

Decision to be made by 4:00 by the Director-in-Charge and the Unit Game Chairman. Decision to be posted on the website and programmed on the Unit phone (and if a Yahoo group has been established, there too).

Instant Bridge Player

Shawn Stringer is going to run the five hour Instant Bridge Player program at the end of March; last year it was done by Gary Grossman. Shawn expressed concern about marketing. A number of suggestions were made about places to post flyers, and it was agreed that announcements should be made at the Unit Game.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported that four of the six schools that participated in the fall program are continuing into the winter. Two schools are not, one because the school failed to tell the students they had to re-register for the activity. Ellen will look into why the other school is not continuing. Two new schools may start in the spring.

Bridge Baron is going to be given out to the students.

There is \$13,000 set aside that might possibly be used to award a trip to a regional or national.

Building Fund

Steve Robinson proposed that a building fund should be started, and that the following d apply to the management of the fund:

“Will held in the WBL accounts with separate accounting. Monies would be welcome as non-deductible donations. The monies would be earmarked to purchase or lease playing space for bridge activities. The monies could be used for other activities only with unanimous consent of the WBL Board. The WBL will put five cents into the Building Fund for every table held at tournaments and the Unit game starting with Jan 08. Since there were 458 tables at the Jan WBL Sectional, \$22.90 will be put into the building fund. A table of naming rights will be created, with the bigger the donation the bigger the naming right.”

The Board agreed to this proposal, but decided that the monies could be used for other activities with consent of 75% of the WBL Board, rather than only with unanimous consent.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held February 20, 2008 at Carole Banks' house. The March meeting will be hosted by Don Berman on the 19th.

The Board thanked Clyde Kruskal for his hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Cherniavsky for Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes
WBL Board Meeting
February 20, 2008

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, and Steve Robinson; non-voting members Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood, and Ted Ying. Margot Hennings, Vice President of the NVBA, also attended a portion of the meeting.

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

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$18,791.08 in the WBL's checking account. The WBL has \$37,779.41 in an investment account. The building fund account now has \$51.30. Last year, the WBL reported a \$5,142 surplus. Fred King noted that the WBL obtained revenue of \$5,768.64 from sectionals, and \$12,314.82 for the unit game. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Nationals 2009

Margot Hennings discussed the proposed budget for the 2009 North American Bridge Championships, to be held in Washington, DC. She also discussed with the board various promotional activities, including t-shirts and cards.

Bridge and Bowling

The Bridge and Bowling event had 30 bowlers, and 40 bridge players. Fred King expressed concern about no-shows, since it disrupted the formation of teams. It was agreed that the Board would discuss at a later date ways to improve running of the event.

Sunday Game

Fred King pledged to take an active role in restarting the Sunday novice game. Three people have expressed interest in running the game. Fred will contact those persons to present ideas to the Board.

March Sectional

Nadine Wood expressed concern about attendance, since it runs opposite the baseball draft. Clyde Kruskal suggested making sure that the sectional is scheduled to avoid a similar conflict in upcoming years.

The Board asked Nadine if there is anything that it could do to help her with the sectional. Nadine suggested having board members volunteer for one task for one session. She will bring a roster, with slots, to the next board meeting.

August Sectional

Nadine Wood reported that the August sectional will possibly feature a compact knockout on Saturday, along with a

stratified pairs game for the first session, and a stratiflighted pairs game for the second session. Sunday will be a board-a-match for A/X. Friday night will be IMP pairs.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that there is a problem with space in the next bulletin. Currently, there is more material to be included than can fit within the standard 32 pages. The Board agreed to expand the Bulletin to 36 pages for this issue only, as long as the cost is no more than \$300.

Unit Game

Ted Ying reported that attendance at the unit game is down slightly. He passed out a spreadsheet with attendance figures. He also noted that Don Berman procured new 1-club bidding box cards to replace the current over-worn ones. Fred King noted that the paint indicating board number, direction and vulnerability has worn off many boards. There was some discussion of whether to have the boards re-painted by hand, or instead to order sticker labels that provide that information. Ted Ying will check with Baron Barclay on the cost.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal sent an e-mail update to board members, in her absence, apprising them of the progress of this program. Nadine Wood noted the upcoming Youth nationals event in Atlanta, and suggested using Bridge-in-Schools funds, and/or a WBL subsidy, to defray some of the expenses to send area pairs to that event. Ted Ying explained the problem was how to limit the number of pairs that we would sponsor to a reasonable and affordable level. He suggested an interschool championship with the winners earning the trip. However, this needs to be set up at the beginning of the school year, and it is too late this year to make a local qualifying event successful. Nadine suggested that we figure out a way to send somebody to Atlanta to represent the area.

Year-End Report

Fred King asked the Board to review the President's Report, which will be inserted into the next Bulletin.

Calendar of Obligations

Don Berman noted the upcoming elections in May. We need to confirm that Jim Allen will chair the meeting. Don will work on getting a membership list. Fred King reported that the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs awards have arrived, and these will be distributed at the annual meeting.

Supermajority for Building Fund Issue

The Board discussed a proposal by Steve Robinson that, in order to encourage donations to the Building Fund, that it be protected by a requirement that funds be dedicated to that purpose, reversible only by a supermajority vote of the Board. Linda Marshall expressed concerns that this would require a change of the WBL bylaws. The Board decided to defer this issue until the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held March 19, 2008 at Don Berman's house. Richard Ferrin will host on April 23.

The Board thanked Carole Banks for her hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

March 19, 2008

The meeting was held at Don Berman's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson; Ellen Rosenthal, non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

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

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$17,495.16 in the WBL's checking account. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Sunday Bridge Fiesta

Fred King reported that Mark Lavine has proposed handling the novice game that the WBL previously sponsored on Sunday. He wants to run it concurrently with an open game, but he wants to run it on Saturday, not Sunday. He proposes to use his own sanction, not the WBL sanction, and is not asking for any financial support or guarantee from the WBL. He does ask for advertising support from the WBL. However, the WBL offers advertising support to all WBL clubs anyway.

Don Berman noted that when the game was run by the Forsythes under the WBL sanction, masterpoints earned counted toward the WBL annual trophy races. Fred King replied that it would not count under Mark Lavine's proposal, since it would no longer be a WBL-sponsored event, but would be considered equivalent to all other club games within the WBL territory.

Fred King recommended that the WBL accept Mark Lavine's proposal. Although it would be better to have a novice game in Sunday in the District, nobody has come forward with a workable proposal to do that. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested that if the opportunity arises to start a Sunday game in the District, the Board could always consider the proposal at that time.

March Sectional

Nadine Wood reported that she has lined up David to help her with shopping, but she needs assistance throughout the tournament. Don Berman volunteered to assist Friday morning, assuming that his partner does not cancel on him for a scheduled game that morning. Richard Ferrin agreed to assist Friday night after the game. Carole Banks and Jim Geist volunteered to assist Saturday morning at 9:00 AM. Fred King agreed to help on Sunday morning. Also, Donna Rogall will be unavailable to take pictures of winners on Saturday, and Ellen Rosenthal and/or Jim Geist will take the pictures in Donna's place.

August Sectional

Nadine Wood passed out copies of the flyer for the August Sectional.

Bulletin

The Board agreed to drop the Fidelity & Trust name from the Unit Round Robin, since Michael Chelst still has not paid for sponsoring last year's event. Donna Rogall reminded Board members of the need for updated bios for the upcoming annual meeting.

Bridge at Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported that St. Andrews in Potomac has its own program with 20 students, using Steve Forsythe's materials. She would like to have a Spring Youth Tournament on May 17. Mark Lavine is looking for space at St. James' Church in Potomac.

The Board discussed the idea of the WBL paying to send a pair to the Youth Nationals in Atlanta this Summer. Ellen Rosenthal noted Mark Rosen's concern that arranging a trip such as this requires other things, including arranging for parental consent, plus providing chaperones. She also expressed concern that the kids make their summer plans with the families many months in advance, so it will be too late to wait until the May 17 tournament to select winners to send to Atlanta. Nadine Wood replied that that the WBL should encourage as many kids as possible now to go to the Atlanta tournament, since there is no prequalification necessary. However, WBL would subsidize just one pair, based on the May 17 results, and the others could still go, albeit without a subsidy.

Fred King asked what should be subsidized. Nadine replied that the subsidy should cover air fare and housing, but not food or other miscellaneous expenses. Fred asked what about chaperones. Several board members suggested that only one chaperone would be necessary. Clyde Kruskal asked where the money should come from. Fred King replied that the WBL could pay, and get reimbursement from the District 6 Bridge-in-Schools fund.

The Board agreed to go forward after getting details from Patty Tucker. Donna Rogall will prepare flyers.

Ellen Rosenthal reported that currently the WBL program has six schools participating, most recently Washington Episcopal. There are a total of six teachers working in the program.

Nadine Wood reported that she received an e-mail from a person proposing a bridge program for a school in Southeast Washington. Nadine passed the e-mail along to Ellen Rosenthal. Jim Geist suggested that Nadine refer the author of the e-mail to Shawn Stringer in connection with the Instant Bridge Player program.

Ellen suggested that books be provided as part of the school curriculum. Carole Banks suggested that the WBL subsidize part of the cost for books. Steve Robinson suggested that we get books that the Richmond unit developed and copy them. Ellen Rosenthal suggested using the Easybridge books. Fred King asked the cost, confirming that 100 books would cost \$7 each. Fred King then moved the Board to authorize Ellen Rosenthal to purchase books as soon as possible. Some books should be aimed at younger children, and some geared more for youth and adults. The order should be 100 books. WBL would then seek reimbursement from District 6. Jim Geist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Detroit Nationals

Nadine Wood reported that Jerry Machlin will be awarded posthumously the Blackwood Hall of Fame Award. ACBL has not yet made a decision whether to move headquarters out of Memphis. The Board approved a mini-bridge program in elementary schools, starting in September. ACBL would reimburse teacher salaries, etc.

The Board passed a motion clarifying the number of unit team games allowed.

The Conditions of Contest Committee has changed the rules to disallow the Multi Two Diamonds convention from national events involving less than six boards per segment. This would have the effect of banning it from the National pair games, but not the Swiss team or knockout events. Units and Districts would still be allowed to choose whether to allow Multi in their tournaments. This new rule will go into effect the day following the conclusion of the 2008

Summer North American Bridge Championship (“NABC”) in Las Vegas.

The Board made an adjustment to the masterpoint plan resulting from a programming error. The plan puts a cap of 40,000 masterpoints per team when calculating masterpoint awards in the top bracket of a regional bracketed knockout. Also, the Board adjusted the masterpoint award downward slightly for brackets containing less than 16 teams.

Beginning with the Las Vegas NABC, all electronic devices capable of sending and receiving signals, including cell phones, will be banned entirely from the playing room. It will not be enough to turn the devices off; they must not be brought in the playing room at all. Nadine expressed concern that this was a policy bound to fail, particularly given the burden on local commuter attendees to NABCs, who do not have the option of leaving cell phones in their hotel room.

St. Elizabeth’s Game

Fred King reported that the WBL has for many years supported the game at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, a mental health institution in Southeast Washington. They hold 10 games per year. The ACBL has waived all sanction and card fees. Typically it draws seven to nine tables. They need a new director, as the previous director is no longer able to continue running the game. Fred proposed that the WBL and the NVBA share the cost of hiring a director to run the game. If both units approve, the cost would be \$375 per year from each unit to cover the director fees. Fred King moved to approve the above-noted plan to support the St. Elizabeth’s game, provided that the NVBA agrees to pick up the other half. Ellen Cherniavsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Elections

Fred King reported that the membership lists have been procured from ACBL for the WBL’s Annual Meeting, and Jim Allen has again graciously agreed to chair the meeting. We will need an annual Treasurer’s Report, as well as the draft Minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting for approval. Updated paper copies of WBL policies should also be made available. Fred King will present the President’s awards, plus the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney awards.

Putting the WBL Directory on the Website

Fred King related a suggestion by Barry DePristo to post the WBL’s telephone directory on the WBL website. Via e-mail, Ted Ying reminded the Board that this would pose a problem with “spam robots” mining this private information from the internet. Don Berman reminded the board about problems with both “opt-in” and “opt-out” disclosure: with “opt-in”, the list is likely to be woefully incomplete, and with “opt-out”, there will be many members who fail to opt out and will be irate when their contact information appears on the web site. Nadine Wood suggested an alternative of maintaining streamlined paper copies, updated frequently but provided in a less expensive form than the booklets the WBL has issued in the past. Don Berman noted that if the Board decided to put contact information on the WBL web site, a password requirement could be added to access the names, in order to prevent access to everybody on the internet.

The Board arrived at the consensus opinion that the directory should not be put online, because of privacy concerns.

Combined Pair/BAM Games

Steve Robinson noted that for the Unit’s holiday party game, which is a combined pair game and board-a-match (“BAM”) with assigned teammates, WBL policies expressly state that the BAM masterpoint awards do not count toward the annual trophy races, only the pair event masterpoints. Steve contended that the intention of the Board at the time was that computer-assigned BAM masterpoints should never count toward trophy races, since the team is formed by computer, not by choice, and therefore teammates are effectively “randomly” assigned. He contended further that the intent was that the limitation should apply to all combined pair and computer-assigned team events, and not just the holiday party. This issue arose because the WBL held such a combined pair and computer-assigned BAM team event on the Friday night of a recent sectional.

Steve Robinson moved that the WBL Policies, under “Trophies”, be changed as follows. Under the list of “Points Excluded” currently appears:

2. Thursdays BAM portion of Bracketed pair games and the Life Master/Non-life master game.

Under the motion, this clause would be changed to:

2. (a) Team event awards from all events which are combined pair and team games, where the team is formed by computer assignment; and (b) the Life Master/Non-life master game.

The motion passed, Don Berman dissenting. The Board then considered when the effective date of this new policy should be. The Board unanimously decided to make the new policy effective January 1, 2009.

Knockout Games

Steve Robinson explained that for the August Sectional, the WBL will hold a compact knockout event on Saturday, with four rounds of knockouts finishing in one day. The WBL used to have a policy to count double the masterpoints actually won toward the WBL trophy races, as a means of encouraging the membership to play in knockout games. That policy was eventually deleted, as the WBL many years ago discontinued having regular 4-session knockouts at Sectionals, due to poor attendance for the event. Steve posed the question of whether the WBL wants to reinstate this policy, now that the WBL has a compact knockout sectional event. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was not to change the current policies in this regard.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held April 23, 2008 at Richard Ferrin’s house. The Board thanked Don Berman for his hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes

WBL Board Meeting

April 23, 2008

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Steve Robinson; and, non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President King 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 a balance of \$16,149.40 in the WBL's checking account, of which \$85.20 is for the building fund. Carole Banks suggested doing a fund raiser for the building fund, and recommended that the Board assemble a committee to study the issue, if it is serious about purchasing a building. Steve replied that holding fund raisers would be insufficient to generate enough money to purchase a building. Gifts from wills would help. Purchase of space with parking in the area would be extremely expensive. Fred King agreed that the economics would be difficult. The Board approved the Treasurer's report, without objection.

Sunday Bridge

Fred King reported that Mark Lavine will run a Sunday game. It will not be a WBL-sponsored game, but instead will be a regular club game.

March Sectional

Fred King reported that the March sectional attracted 425 tables. Although the attendance did not top the January sectional, it was nevertheless a good showing. Carole Banks raised the issue of Nadine needing more volunteers. Donna Rogall suggested hiring college kids. Jim Geist thought that the volunteer arrangement for the March sectional worked well.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the March-April Bulletin should be at the post office within a few days. May 8 is the deadline for the next bulletin, to be mailed in mid-June. She asked whether the WBL should charge more for advertisements. Space is getting tighter for the Bulletin.

Jim Geist asked what are the components of income for the Bulletin? Fred King replied that approximately \$2500 of the \$5300 from ACBL member fees returned to the Unit is budgeted for advertising. Donna stated that 4 extra pages cost \$300 to print, plus Donna's additional \$18 per page fee for design services. Steve Robinson observed that if the total cost is \$100 per page, then the WBL loses money by charging \$75 per page. Don Berman suggested that this issue be studied by a committee. Fred referred the issue to the Bulletin Committee.

Unit Game

Fred King related an e-mail from Ted Ying regarding the Unit Game. The table count is down somewhat. The Board

should look at the attendance and the Unit Game and see who has stopped playing and approach them to attend.

Fred noted some complaint about the time allowed per round for three-board rounds. Currently, 21 minutes is allowed. The Board agreed to keep the time at 21 minutes per round for three-board rounds.

Fred noted that the duplication machine is now being handled by David Soloman. He made an error in making boards for a recent game, and will try to do better.

Fred updated the Board on progress of relabeling boards with worn direction, dealer and vulnerability labels. Some of the boards are being relabeled with stickers, some are being repainted. Ellen Cherniavsky volunteered to relabel three boxes of boards, and stated that Linda Marshall has agreed to relabel three boxes.

Fred noted that the WBL has postponed purchasing new cards until we get the ones advertising the Summer 2009 NABC.

Fred noted that Kitty Gottfried will not be available for hospitality on May 1 or 8. Barbara Summers is looking for a substitute.

Bridge in Schools

Fred King reported that one school, Baker Middle School, stopped its program because there were only two students. Fred will see if the NVBA and the WBL each can sponsor a pair for the Summer Youth Nationals in Atlanta. Suzanne Abrams has volunteered to chaperone.

Elections

Jim Allen will run the election. Fred King confirmed to Don Berman that it is OK to print ballots.

Mentoring Program

Fred King noted that Gene Fisher is interested in starting a mentoring program. Jim Allen will be invited to the May Board meeting to discuss.

Unit Game October 9

Fred King stated that the Rabbi at Temple Shalom, representing a breakaway group from the Temple, is working with Christ the King for renting space. This group will have the Colonial Hall space every Friday and Saturday night next year. He needs space on Thursday, October 9 (Yom Kippur). Fred asked the Board whether it should agree to cancel the October 9 game and let this group use the space that night. Jim Geist was opposed, expressing concern about setting a bad precedent. Steve Robinson agreed, and added that maintaining the consistency of the game is important. Clyde Kruskal was concerned that this imposition would be acceptable if it occurred only once, but he was concerned that they would ask to do this more in the future. Steve Robinson suggested a compromise whereby the religious group could use the space on October 9 provided that they left in time for the game to start at 8 PM. He reasoned that this might work, given that the Yom Kippur services end at sundown. The Board agreed to look for a compromise with the group, but emphasized that it is important to have a game on October 9.

Unit Knockout

Jim Geist expressed concern about the event dragging out too long. It was pointed out to him that this is less of a concern for the Knockout than the Round Robin, because there are so few teams left in the event.

Guaranteed Partnership

Jim Geist expressed concern that one member was overusing the guaranteed partner program. Fred King suggested

that Jim confer with Barbara Doran on this issue.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will be held May 28, 2008 at Fred King's house. The June meeting will be held June 25, place to be determined. The Board thanked Richard Ferrin for his hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ferrin, Secretary

Minutes
WBL Board Meeting

May 28, 2008

The meeting was held at Fred King's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, and Ellen Rosenthal; non-voting members Donna Rogall, Kitty Gottfried, and Nadine Wood. Gene Fisher also attended a portion of the meeting.

President King called the meeting to order at 8:32 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson was absent from the meeting.

Mentoring Program

Gene Fisher and Linda Marshall proposed a mentoring program, aimed primarily at players with fewer than 100 MP, which would start after Labor Day. After positive discussion the plan was approved without a vote.

Youth Bridge Tournament

The tournament drew five tables; the winners are going to Atlanta with a chaperone.

Charity Funds from the Annual Meeting

The Board voted that the proceeds, which amount to between three and four hundred dollars, should go to the Margaret Schweinhart Senior Center. Hopefully the money will be used to improve their sound system.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall noted that June 16th is the deadline.

Unit Game

A group that is breaking away from a synagogue wants to use the Colonial Room at the Church for Yom Kippur, October 9. The Board voted to allow this usage subject to the group's agreeing that they will vacate the parking lot by 7 pm.

Discussion was held about how many free plays should be given to people who come to help with hospitality for of the annual meeting. A general policy was established that those who cook should get a free play, and those who help out for two to three hours should get a free play.

The Board agreed to establish a policy that players should not bring alcohol to the Unit Game.

Bridge in Schools

The Board agreed to pay for a dinner for the volunteers in the program up to \$250.

Committee Assignments

Fred King will circulate a list of current committee members. Finalization of assignments was deferred to the next meeting. Also deferred was a discussion of the Round Robin committee policy on the right of appeal to the Board.

Next Meeting

Nadine Wood will host the next meeting, on June 25th. Frequency of meeting will be on the agenda.

The Board thanked Fred King for his hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Cherniavsky for Richard Ferrin, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

August 6, 2008

The meeting was held at Carole Bank's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Ted Ying.

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

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$12,549.02 in the WBL's checking account. The building fund now has \$126.83. The WBL has \$38,282.04 in an investment account. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

President's Report

Fred King said that the Machlin award committee needs nominations by September 1. Fred will appoint to the committee the past two winners of the award, plus himself, Carole Banks, Ellen Cherniavsky, and two others to be determined.

Fred reported that the NVBA September sectional will have a fund-raising event, to raise money for the 2009 Summer NABC in Washington. The WBL should think of doing one as well. Fred will sell t-shirts at the sectional. T-shirts will also be on sale at Hunt Valley.

August Sectional

The following board members volunteered to help Nadine at the August sectional: Friday before the morning game Don Berman, Friday after the evening game Richard Ferrin, Saturday before the morning game Richard Ferrin and Jim Geist, and backup Saturday Carole Banks.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall stated that she was extending the deadline to Monday for the next Bulletin. Fred King suggested sending an e-mail to Bob Levey to publicize the Youth Nationals in Atlanta, and the performance of the participants in the DC area.

Donna Rogall asked whether the joint ABA-WBL event could be confirmed for the WBL sectional on January 10. Carole Banks replied that the date could not yet be confirmed.

Don Berman noted that Cassandra Smith asked him to write a book review of a book she wrote on several long-time ABA players. Don is working on the book review now. The Board agreed that the book review should be placed in the November-December issue of the Bulletin.

Fred King said that the next Bulletin should include a notice that the October 9 game will start 30 minutes late.

Unit Game

Steve Robinson asked whether the Unit Game should be held on Thursday, January 1, 2009. Ted Ying commented that the game would likely lose money. Steve replied that since the previous Thursday will be Christmas, not holding the game on New Year's Day would mean that there would be two consecutive weeks with no Unit Game. The Unit Game needs consistency. After further discussion by the Board, Steve said that he would survey the membership by e-mail.

Fred King suggested that there should also be a short survey to see what can be done to improve attendance at the Unit Game, given the declines this year. Jim Geist said that he compiled a list of WBL players who either earned no points last year, or who earned much fewer than expected, suggesting lack of attendance. Ted Ying commented that much of the drop in attendance results from WBL players going to regional and national tournaments. Carole Banks suggested comparing the table count trends with the tournaments.

The Board then discussed the general procedure involved with the annual scheduling meeting between the WBL and NVBA.

Membership and Publicity/Marketing Joint Committee Report

Carole Banks explained that the two committees were combined to exchange ideas and issue a report to the Board. She passed out a handout summarizing the findings. Ted Ying commented that the club and unit growth trends tend to be a zero sum game. Richard Ferrin suggested improving interest at the club level by improving the web site links between the WBL clubs and the WBL unit web site. Carole Banks suggested more cross-marketing between the clubs and units. Ted Ying noted that there was more interaction between the NVBA and the clubs within that unit. Donna Rogall suggested that the WBL commit additional funds to jump-start web sites for those clubs within the WBL that do not already have web sites.

The Board also discussed the possibility of encouraging more beginning bridge players by setting up formats at the clubs to provide a mini-lesson, followed by supervised play for a limited number of hands.

The Board also discussed recruiting efforts from senior communities.

Steve Robinson suggested boosting attendance at the Unit Game by providing a side "fast pairs" game for those who currently do not attend because the game gets out too late. Ted Ying suggested that this might work.

2009 Nationals

Jim Geist suggested boosting interest in the 2009 Nationals, and in bridge in general, by promoting televising of parts of the tournament and attracting bridge-playing celebrities to the event.

Convention Charts

Richard Ferrin noted the recent change in the ACBL mid-chart that changes the rating of several of the mid-chart conventions, including multi 2 diamonds, from a 2-board-per-round rating to a 6-board-per-round rating. This means that these conventions are not allowed at tournament pair events, and any other events where there are fewer than 6 boards per segment. Milliard Nachwey and Doug Grove advised him that they are seeking guidance from the ACBL Chief Tournament Director Rick Beye to see if this new restriction can be waived for sectional and regional tournaments, noting that the ACBL had previously allowed some waivers, such as allowing mid-chart conventions to be used in sectional games as long as they were advertised as such in advance, and the Mid-Atlantic allowing use of a 2-diamond overcall of 1NT to show an unspecified major suit, without pre-alerting the convention, even though this is technically a mid-chart convention. In the meantime, the limited guidance they have received so far is that the restriction of these certain mid-chart conventions (including multi) to events with 6 or more boards per segment cannot be waived for sectional or regional tournaments. However, they did say that clubs can waive any requirements they want with respect to conventions, and so can the WBL in its Unit Game, except when the Unit Game is also part of a Sectional.

After discussion by the Board, Richard Ferrin moved that items 15 through 18 in the ACBL mid-chart be allowed in all WBL club games in the A/X flight, including pair games. Don Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Steve Robinson abstaining).

Steve Robinson noted that for a 2-diamond overcall of 1NT, or the sequence 1 of a minor - pass - 2 hearts, showing a two-way or three-way bid, these conventions are mid-chart, but are not affected by the new rule and therefore still allowed to be played in games with 2 boards or more per segment. However, because these conventions have become so common in the WBL, Steve moved that the WBL rules be changed to either require a pre-alert (as is currently done), or the pair using the method should provide a written suggested defense, if asked. Neither of these conventions currently have suggested defenses required. The suggested defenses would be developed by a WBL committee. Pre-alerts would be required until the WBL committee issues the defenses.

After further discussion, the Board decided to the motion at this time (by a 5-4 vote). The proposal will be revisited once such defenses are developed.

Linda Marshall also noted that the convention of 2 diamonds as either Flannery or mini-Roman is no longer allowed under the new rules, even under the Mid-Chart or the Super-Chart.

Also, it was suggested that Richard Ferrin send an e-mail to Nadine Wood regarding the advisability of a resolution requesting a “local option” on mid-chart conventions for sectional tournaments.

Next Meeting

Ellen Cherniavsky will host the next meeting, which will take place September 17, 2008. The following meeting will take place October 15, place to be determined.

The Board thanked Carole Banks for her hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

September 17, 2008

The meeting was held at Ellen Cherniavsky's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal, and non-voting members Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$14,299.30 in the WBL's checking account. The building fund now has \$153.98. The WBL has \$38,282.04 in an investment account. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Request by Ed Chou on Behalf of Vietnam Veterans

Ed Chou, a WBL member and the state President of Vietnam Veterans of America, made a proposal to the Board for donation of used cards to be included in care packages for the troops. Fred King noted that Ted Ying is in charge of cards for the Unit Game, and the WBL is willing to give used cards to the care package program. Nadine Wood said that we would also confer with NVBA about joining the effort.

October Sectional

Nadine Wood reported that Don Berman will help her Friday morning, Fred King will assist Friday evening, and Jim Geist and Carole Banks will help Saturday morning. Fred King will pick up sausages on Friday.

Nadine also suggested that the instant bridge player program should run next in May, not October, because May will be good timing in coordination with the 2009 Summer NABC.

Steve Robinson suggested that the WBL run a Swiss teams with higher point limits to run against the BAM for those tournaments in which there will be a Flight A BAM. He will discuss this possibility with Millard Nachtwey.

Nadine noted new changes at ACBL. Rick Beye is no longer the Chief Tournament Director. ACBL also hired a new marketing director.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall said that the next Bulletin deadline is November 10. The Bulletin will advertise Bridge and Bowling, and the Unit Knockout.

Carole Banks reported that the joint event with the American Bridge Association for January will likely have to be postponed.

Donna Rogall said that Mark Lavine wants to add a couple of lines to the Bulletin to advertise his game, particularly directions to the game. The Board agreed to let him do it without charge.

Unit Game

Fred King raised the issue of borrowing bidding boxes. He spoke with Ted Ying, who said that it is OK as long as the bidding boxes are returned by the next Unit Game. He also noted an e-mail from Ted asking about missing convention cards. Apparently nobody knows who took several packs that had been in storage.

Fred noted that there have been complaints from the neighborhood around the Church about parking. We need to clarify the parking regulations with Montgomery County.

0-20 Game

Fred King reported a conversation with Shawn Stringer about the progress of the novice game. She said that the problem is with a lack of continuity with teachers. She suggested Lois and Bryan Geer as permanent teaches, and Shawn would phase herself out. The consensus of the Board was that this was a good idea. Shawn will go forward and draw up a new schedule.

Bridge and Bowling

Fred King notes that the date for this event historically has been the day before the Super Bowl. This would mean the next one would be February 2, 2009. Carole Banks said that the WBL should continue this tradition. The Board approved the date. The Board discussed the problems in the past with no-shows for the bowling event, which caused problems with the formation of teams. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested pre-registration and payment in advance to provide a disincentive for not showing. The Board agreed to that approach. Don Berman volunteered to handle the restaurant reservation and the logistics of the bowling event. Linda Marshall agreed to set up the bowling teams.

Updating Brochure

Fred King reported that Alice Wegman has the disc with the brochure information. We need to update the brochure, including making sure the club information is correct. Carole Banks said that Barbara Summers is willing to contact all club directors. Fred suggested contacting the NVBA to see if the costs could be split for the brochure, as was done in the past. Linda Marshall noted that the ACBL pays for part of it, as long as the ACBL logo is on the brochure, and a specified "educational standard" is met.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported that four persons (herself, Sue Floyd, Barbara Summers, and Elaine Conway) contacted the schools. 10 schools have expressed an interest: six continued from last year, two restarts that quit midway last year, plus two new schools. It may be better to use pairs to teach rather than individual teachers, because that allows for flexibility when substitutes are needed. The problem is not selling the program to the principals, the problem is making sure that the students attend. Ellen suggested adding more promotional materials. Don Berman volunteered to help by putting the materials on the web site.

Ellen Rosenthal said that ACBL pays teachers \$350 for teaching 16 hours, if they have at least eight students. Fred King said that the WBL should at least pay their expenses.

Membership Directory

Don Berman suggested having a conversation with the NVBA about a new directory. We get a new membership list from ACBL every October. Fred King suggested that the directory be prepared before the January sectional. Linda Marshall agreed to call NVBA. Don Berman will create the directory.

Laurel Library Bridge Lessons

Don Berman reports that 13 people signed up for classes Tuesday evening at 7:15 PM at Laurel Library. The program will begin in October.

Mentor Information with New Member Letter

Don Berman asked whether it would be OK to mail the mentor program information with the new member letters. Fred King said that would be fine, if the people in charge of the mentoring program are willing to supply the letter. Linda Marshall agreed to coordinate the effort.

Linda Marshall said that the Mentor Committee is starting up. So far, we have received about 50 mentee applications, and 30 mentor applications.

Each One-Reach One Contest

Carole Banks reported the work of the subcommittee for the new member outreach program. The subcommittee considered recruitment at Ride Wood, and decided to try first with getting them to sectionals, perhaps adding a seniors game, beginning with the January sectional. Steve Robinson suggested making it a limited game with fewer boards, such as 18 boards.

The Board then discussed the concept of a contest to encourage WBL members to recruit new members. Jim Geist distributed a sample brochure. Linda Marshall noted that Charity Sack suggested adding advertisement for the Summer NABC to the brochure.

Jim Geist explained the contest as a tie-in to Gene Fisher's mentoring program, and to the build-up to the Summer NABC. The WBL would hold a six-month contest to

bring in new or “sleeper” bridge players. There would be contest with prizes to the person who recruits the most new players. This would be limited to new players brought to the Unit Game.

The Board discussed various alternatives, such as a lottery prize for everybody who brings in one new player. After considerable discussion, the Board took a straw vote between the following alternatives: (1) prizes for bringing in the most new members; (2) lottery prize for everybody who brought in a new member; or (3) combination of #1 and #2 above. The votes were initially split as follows: two for alternative #1; five for alternative #2, and 4 for alternative #3. The Board then discarded alternative one, and re-voted, with the vote 6-5 in favor of alternative 3, a combination of a most-new-members prize, and a lottery prize. Carole’s subcommittee will come back with further detailed recommendations as soon as possible.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 15 at Ellen Rosenthal’s residence.

The Board thanked Ellen Cherniavsky for her hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

October 15, 2008

The meeting was held at Ellen Rosenthal's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, Ellen Rosenthal, and non-voting members Kitty Gottfried, Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$12,422.38 in the WBL's checking account. The building fund now has \$181.08. The WBL has \$38,451.17 in an investment account. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

President's Report

Fred King offered congratulations to Jim Geist for being voted Sportsman of the Year.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall circulated the schedule for WBL sectionals. Nadine Wood asked the Board about the Friday night game for the sectionals. For two of the four sectionals, we plan to have an IMP pairs game, but what should be scheduled for the other two? Regular pair game? Barometer? Fast pairs? Several board members said that the problem with the barometer game was the extra expense of duplicating more boards, an expense unlikely to be recouped through any extra interest in the game. The problem with the fast pairs is that it was impractical to hold just a fast pairs event, but also impractical to run a fast pairs event alongside a regular pairs event for Friday night, given attendance issues and different timing of the two games. Many members felt that a fast pairs game may have some merit, but would be better to be offered on Saturday rather than Friday night. After considerable discussion and voting, the Board voted to schedule Friday night sectional games for the upcoming year as follows: 1st tournament--IMP pairs. 2nd tournament--Barometer. 3rd tournament--IMP pairs. 4th tournament--matchpoints.

The Board also discussed options for running a bracketed teams game Sunday for the 1st tournament, perhaps opposite a flight A/X BAM. Fred King will check with Millard about this possibility. By consensus, the Board agreed for the 2nd tournament to run on Saturday a compact KO and two one-session strata-flighted pair games. Sunday will be a Swiss. For the 3rd tournament, the consensus was to run the trophy pairs on Saturday, and on Sunday run a BAM and another team game to be announced.

The Board also authorized Fred King to check with Millard as to whether the flights for strataflighted events at the sectional can be structured as follows: X < 5000, B < 2500, C < 1000, D < 500.

Fred King noted that a WBL member complained that the last edition of TableTalk did not advertise a joint event with the ABA for the January sectional. This issue has been raised before, and the problem has been getting ABA on board for the event. Fred King will contact Carole Banks and Winston Edwards.

Unit Game

Fred King reported that there have been no more complaints recently about parking around the Church. However, he forwarded to the Board an e-mailed complaint about mold and air quality at the Church. The problem is that Fred talks to the Church about this issue from time to time, but nothing seems to get done. Fred will speak again with the Church about this issue.

Kitty Gottfried stated that there is a problem with the Women's restroom in the Schweinhaut Center. The cleanup is the WBL's responsibility, but it is not her responsibility. The last sectional, Kitty got a caddie to check on the bathroom periodically. We can keep toilet paper and paper towels in the kitchen. Sometimes it is difficult to get a female caddie on Sunday to do this. Nadine Wood stated that she will get this issue and other cleaning supply arrangement issues straightened out with management. Jim Geist suggested that we should buy a paper towel dispenser and pay bonuses to caddies to check on this. Kitty said that it was OK to pay caddies \$5 extra per session for this extra responsibility, and they should have laytex gloves. Richard Ferrin agreed to check on the price and availability of a paper towel dispenser.

Membership Directory

Don Berman reported that he is putting together a membership directory with the NVBA. He raised the question of the number of copies. The NVBA asked for 100 more copies than it received last year. The Board agreed that the WBL should also get 100 more copies for the WBL.

Mentor Program

Linda Marshall reported that the committee met, and assigned 41 mentors to 52 mentees. Don Berman suggested sending followup e-mails bi-weekly to the mentors and mentees.

Bridge and Bowling

Don Berman said that the date is set for January 31. He cleared that date with the Laurel bowling alley. He asked for 8 lanes at 2 PM. It will be \$4.50 per person per game, plus \$5 per person shoe rental. The Board agreed that in order to discourage no-shows, a non-refundable deposit of \$15 should be collected for bowling, and \$9 for bridge. Fred King will send bowling statistics to Linda Marshall, who will put together the teams.

Bridge in Schools

Ellen Rosenthal reported that she has been contacting private schools and middle schools. We put an ad in Steve's blast e-mail a request for volunteers. We currently have 9 programs. 1 program was dropped because of lack of students. Clyde Kruskal suggested that substitute teachers be recruited and made available, in order to maintain continuity of the program, and to keep volunteers interested.

Laurel Program

Don Berman reported that his new player program drew 2 to 2 ½ tables. Next week he will bring ACBL applications to sign up the new players.

Bridge Mate

Fred King reported that Mark Lavine is buying approximately 40 transmitter units for this electronic scoring system. He will buy more, if the WBL is interested in renting them from him. The last time the Board looked at the possibility of purchasing units, it seemed that the capital expenditure did not justify the investment.

Nadine Wood commented that ACBL is trying to make Bridge Mate compatible with ACBL score. There has been some progress, but not enough. There is also a competing electronic alternative to Bridge Mate. It is supposed to be cheaper and better.

The consensus of the Board was that we would try out Bridge Mate for A/X games, but the Board is not prepared to commit to a rental agreement at this time.

Online Partnership Service

Don Berman reported that the WBL has a program dating back several years, which it first received on a complimentary basis, which provides an online forum for people looking for bridge partners. The company that offered the WBL the software never billed the WBL for the software. The NVBA started using the program, and paid a periodic fee to the owners. Then they raised the price. Now NVBA wants the WBL to pay for half the cost. People do seem to be using the service, although it is difficult to gauge the actual amount of usage.

The consensus of the Board was to contribute \$100 this year toward the cost of the service, and follow up with phone calls to members to see if the service is being used. Regarding past bills, Don Berman will check to see if the WBL made any agreement to pay for the service.

Unit Schedule

Two unit championship sanctions awarded to the WBL, otherwise unallocated, were proposed to be given to Mark Lavine's club and the Laurel Bridge club. All other clubs in the WBL's jurisdiction are once-a-week clubs. Clyde Kruskal suggested that we see whether any of the other clubs are interested in the sanctions. Ellen Cherniavsky will contact the clubs.

The general 2009 WBL event schedule was presented to the Board for approval. Don Berman moved to approve the schedule and Richard Ferrin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lovenberg Trophy Issue

Richard Ferrin reported that he has received suggestions to eliminate the open division Lovenberg Trophy race, and add a 0-5000 race in its place. Nadine Wood suggested that perhaps it was time to revisit the trophy race rules.

The Board appointed a committee to study the issue. The committee members are Jim Geist, Richard Ferrin, Bill Cole, and Nadine Wood. They will discuss options and report to the Board at the next meeting.

NVBA Fund-Raising Sectional

Fred King reported that the upcoming NVBA sectional would have several events to raise funds for the 2009 summer nationals, including selling raffle tickets, auctioning bridge professionals, etc. The NVBA needs extra volunteers for these fundraising events. Also, he noted that naming rights for various regional-level events at the 2009 summer nationals are available for purchase.

Machlin Award

It was reported that Barbara Summers and Gail Singer were pushing a particular candidate for the Machlin award, who did not win the award. It was suggested that a game at the 2009 summer nationals be named in his honor. The Board agreed to take that suggestion under advisement.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be December 3 at Donna Rogall's residence.

The Board thanked Ellen Rosenthal for her hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

December 3, 2008

The meeting was held at Donna Rogall's home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Steve Robinson, and non-voting member Donna Rogall. Bill Cole also attended a portion of the meeting.

Fred King called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes, without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Robinson reported a balance of \$14,773.90 in the WBL's checking account. The building fund now has \$187.50. The WBL has \$38,451.17 in an investment account. The Board approved the treasurer's report, without objection.

Lovenberg Conditions of Contest

Bill Cole reported on the results of the ad hoc committee that was formed to review the Lovenberg conditions of contest beginning in 2009. Bill explained that the Lovenberg contest was a motivator that boosted attendance at WBL events through the 1980s. Then, too many events were added as qualifying events for the Lovenberg, and people lost interest as the race seemed to devolve into an attendance contest.

Steve Robinson noted that originally, only sectional events counted toward the Lovenberg contest.

Bill explained that the problem with the event is that the same people win all the time because they play so much. The race would draw more interest if the number of sessions that qualified for the contest were cut down. Bill noted that one problem with including just sectionals is that it overemphasizes the importance of the Friday sectional games, where the field is weaker because many of the better players are working. However, he noted that Nadine Wood strongly believes that all sectional events should count toward the trophy. If all WBL sectional events count, that would be 28 sessions of bridge (1 Thursday, 2 Friday, 2 Saturday, and 2 Sunday, multiplied by 4 WBL sectionals). The committee also considered schemes with including all Thursdays, but using averages instead of masterpoint awards to determine the Lovenberg winner, but this alternative would discourage people in contention from playing with players with lesser abilities, for fear that it would drive down their average scores. Also, using year-end averages could embarrass those who are at the bottom of the scale. The committee wanted to change the qualifying event scheme, but keep it simple. Other suggestions were made to count the highest Thursday of each month or the first Thursday of each month, but the point was that the committee felt that the number of events should be less than 40 sessions.

Fred King asked whether the proposal would apply to all the WBL annual trophy races, or just the Lovenberg. Bill replied that it would apply to all the races.

Richard Ferrin asked whether the problem (same people in contention every year) could be solved by stipulating that no person who has already won the trophy would be eligible in future years. Bill replied that that idea would not work, because people care when they can compete against, and beat, people like Steve Robinson. The problem is winning requires the winner to attend too many sessions of bridge.

Richard raised the issue of whether the Round Robin and Unit KO should count. Bill replied that the idea was rejected by the committee.

Bill said that he likes the idea of including 12 Thursday night games plus all the sectional events. Jim Geist suggested including the best 5 Thursday night performances for each player. Bill replied that that idea still favors those who attend every Thursday night, but the idea would at least be an improvement over the present scheme. An additional problem with a “best-of” scheme is that it could encourage players to “swing” in their decisions at the table, rather than play the percentages. Clyde Kruskal noted that there is already an incentive to “swing” based on masterpoint criteria.

Bill suggested that the Lovenberg count all sectional events, plus the 5 best Thursday night pair games. Regarding the Unit Round Robin, this is an important team event, but it gives a huge advantage to players on the best teams. Perhaps the Unit Round Robin should count half of the masterpoint award for the Lovenberg, and the Unit KO not count at all. Donna Rogall suggested counting all team games at half the masterpoint award.

Fred King commented that the WBL should not discourage attendance at the Unit Game. Bill replied that a change in the Lovenberg may stimulate interest in the race, and therefore overall attendance, rather than suppressing it.

The motion was made and seconded to change the rules for the Lovenberg and other annual WBL trophy races to count masterpoints earned toward the trophy race as follows: Sectional pair games count in full, team games count half, plus each contestant’s five best results in Thursday night Unit Game, and half of the masterpoint award in the Unit Round Robin. This new rule would begin with the 2009 contest. The motion passed with one dissent (Steve Robinson abstaining).

Bill then discussed another proposal recommended by a majority of the committee, which would require as a condition for eligibility for the Lovenberg (or other WBL annual trophy race) that the contestant be in good standing for life. Good standing would be defined as the ACBL defines it, having not been convicted of a C&E infraction carrying a penalty of 6 months suspension or greater punishment. The WBL should set an example of ethics. The WBL should be for forgiveness, but this proposal would not prevent people convicted of serious infractions from playing in WBL events, but only prevent them from winning the trophy. Forgiveness should be earned. The rule should also provide for exceptions, if approved by the WBL Board. This would allow people convicted of serious C&E infractions to earn redemption in exceptional circumstances.

Jim Geist stated that he disagrees with the forgiveness policy. Linda Marshall suggested, as an alternative, a 5-year ban from trophy eligibility, rather than life. Richard Ferrin stated that he disagrees with the idea of one system of justice (the WBL C&E process), with additional penalties added on after the fact. He has no problem with this proposal, as long as it does not apply retroactively to cover past behavior. Don Berman stated that ineligibility for the trophy should not be based strictly on the length of punishment. The WBL, as a club, can ban anyone or restrict privileges. Fred King added that directors can always punish bad behavior or frivolous director calls that do not rise to the level of C&E action.

The motion was made and seconded that anybody who is disciplined by ACBL with a penalty of a 6-month suspension or a greater penalty, can no longer be eligible for any WBL award. This would apply to penalties based on any incident occurring on or after January 1, 2009. The motion passed unanimously (Steve Robinson abstaining).

The Board then separately considered an identical motion as above, except that ineligibility would apply regardless of whether the transgression occurred before or after January 1, 2009. This motion failed 3 to 4 (Steve Robinson abstaining).

January Sectional

Fred King asked for volunteers to help Nadine during the sectional. Don Berman will help Friday morning, Fred King and Richard Ferrin will help Friday evening, Jim Geist will help Saturday morning (9 AM), and Carole Banks will help Sunday morning.

Membership Growth and Unit Game Growth

Fred King explained ACBL marketing has generated weekly columns for new players, designed for local press distribution. Jim Geist will see if the Gazette will pick up the column.

Linda Marshall will pick up the disk from Alice Wegman containing the WBL brochure.

Regarding the new player contest, Carole Banks said that we need to re-start this process.

Fred will draw up a questionnaire for the Annual Meeting seeking the members' views on the best and the worst of ACBL.

2009 Summer NABC

Fred King reported that Margot Hennings is concerned that local attendance at the NABC will suffer because of the high parking fee. Jim Geist said that Nadine is trying to work out a deal with the hotel for a lower parking fee. Fred reported that it may be possible to get additional parking at University of District of Columbia (at Van Ness) and run a shuttle bus. Fred noted that the parking fee at the hotel currently is \$32 per day. If that is too high for locals to come, how much should the fee be lowered in order to attract

the locals? Richard Ferrin suggested that if the parking fee could get down to \$20 per day, it would be a great help.

Bulletin

Donna Rogall reported that the next deadline for the Bulletin in January 5, for the January-February 2009 issue. This is due to be out by February 12. We need to consider the schedule for the May sectional for purposes of the advertisement. The Instant Bridge Player program will be on the schedule. The Board has already agreed to run on Sunday a BAM plus another team game to be determined. Steve Robinson suggested running an A/X BAM, plus a 0-5000 Swiss, assuming Millard says that it is OK. If a 5000 masterpoint ceiling does not work, then it should be set as high as possible to give more options to those who do not like the BAM.

Unit Championships for Clubs

Ellen Cherniavsky reported that the WBL has two unit championship sanctions in 2009 that it cannot use. The WBL can give the sanctions to clubs. The clubs can run a split unit championship, as long as the games occur on the same day at approximately the same time. Ellen surveyed the club managers in the WBL area and found interest from Kier, Dixon, Berman, and Lavine. Ellen passed out schedules with the weekly club games, to see what dates would benefit the most clubs. Fred King suggested Friday morning and Tuesday evening. Fred will check with Ted Ying to coordinate.

Mentor Program

Linda Marshall reported that there are still about 50 mentees. There have been a few dropouts. She asked whether the WBL should hold a mentor-mentee game. The consensus was that this would be a bad idea, because it would pressure mentors to play with mentees. Many of the mentors are willing to encourage new players by answering questions and such, but not play with new players, and so a mentor-mentee game would discourage some people from agreeing to be mentors.

Bridge and Bowling

Linda Marshall passed out a draft flyer. Fred King suggested changing the pre-registration deadline to Thursday, January 29.

Membership Directory

Don Berman reported that the new directory is all set, and he will send it to the printer's tomorrow. NVBA wants 400 copies. The WBL will get 500 copies.

Online Partnership Service

Fred King explained that the WBL thought it was getting this service for free, but it turns out that NVBA was paying for it. The NVBA wants the WBL to pay \$150 for the past 3 years. Given the WBL's financial position relative to the NVBA, the WBL should agree to this as a matter of goodwill. Fred King made a motion for the WBL to pay \$250

to the NVBA, to cover fees for the online partnership service from 2005-2008. The motion passed (one dissent).

Recorder

Fred proposed Barry Bragin to serve as the new WBL Recorder. The Board agreed to the proposal without objection.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 28 at Linda Marshall's residence. There will be no February meeting.

The Board thanked Donna Rogall for her hospitality.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ferrin,
Secretary