

WBL Board Meeting

19 January 2011

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, Hank Meyer, and non-voting members Chris Miller, Donna Rogall and Nadine Wood

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection. Richard Ferrin noted that last month's decision about eligibility for trophy races needs to be memorialized in the Board's Policies.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King is still working on expenditures and income from last year. Our bank balance fell from \$40,900 to \$35,175 from January 1 to January 1. There was a larger turnout at the January sectional than expected, but we still lost \$300. Some advertisers have paid for their ads, others have not. Fred is pursuing this.

President's Report

For the second year in a row, the number of members of the WBL has increased. It is up marginally from the previous year. The January sectional went well: 470 ½ tables including Thursday morning [at Mark Lavine's club]. The most popular event is the Sunday bracketed team game. If the sectionals are to grow, we need to find a place with a larger room. However the new Silver Spring Civic Center will not be an option, since it has been successful in renting the space at prices we can't afford.

Bridge Brochure

Alice Wegman is coordinating this effort, with Barbara Summers working on it while Alice is away. Don is ready to print the phone directory, but has to wait for the NVBA which has promised to submit their input by the end of the month. Ellen Cherniavsky has polled club managers and compiled changes to the Unit 147 club directory; Audrey Warren has indicated there may be further changes, which she will finalize by the end of the month. The Life Master list, Special Events and Unit Game schedules have been printed and were available at the sectional.

Bridge and Bowling

President Don Berman reported that this year's event is on track.

Bridge in Schools

Fred King said he had gotten a bill from Ron Starr, who has taken over 20 students from Mark Rosen. He is also teaching at BCC where he has 28 students.

Jim Geist was tasked with coming to the next meeting with a proposal for funding pairs to go to the Youth Tournament at the Summer Nationals in Toronto.

Purchase of Bridgemates

We already own 12. The current proposal is that rent the rest we need from Roz Dixon and Mark Lavine and \$0.50 per table; Roz and Mark will be purchasing all they need for their own clubs. Chris Miller noted that the Bridgemates would need to be at the game by 7:00pm and a means needs to be established for getting them there reliably. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested that we purchase sufficient Bridgemates of our own. It was determined that a total of 60 would suffice. A motion to buy 48 additional Bridgemates was passed with seven in favor, one abstention.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall suggested that the next bulletin contain pieces on Charlie Margolis, Trudi Machlin and Jane Thurman, who have passed away. Nadine Wood will coordinate with Michael Carroad on a contribution for Trudi Machlin. The next deadline is 1 March. There is still no location for the 9 June sectional. It was noted that the same two teams were in the final of the Round Robin event for both B and C flights, and only one match was played. Richard Ferrin moved that the winner of each flight of the Unit Knockout get a cash award equivalent to the entry fee. This was approved unanimously.

Food at Sectionals

Tournament Chair Nadine Wood commented that she has had problems getting enough help to prepare and serve food. Carole Banks stated that help can't be guaranteed, and Don Berman questioned why so much food is needed; Nadine replied that lunch helps keep people there on Saturday for the second session, and there are no facilities near the middle school where people can go for a bite to eat. [Ted Ying commented by email that "I disagree with this assertion. The middle school is less than a mile and a half from the Wheaton Triangle where there is a plethora of food options. During the NAP's played at the middle school, I went with some friends, drove to the Wheaton Mall, walked in to the food court, had lunch and was back at the playing site in about 50 minutes from when we left. There are sub shops, fast food, pizza parlors, assorted ethnic cuisine, a kosher cafeteria/deli and several dozen more all in under 2 miles. According to Google Maps, there are over 100 restaurants in the general Wheaton area within that 1.5 mile radius of the school. Granted not all of them are dinner places (including Dunkin Donuts), but there are many, many good options. I am one of many folks who prefers to leave the site and find food on my own. Whether you choose to offer food or not, you need to provide a long enough break that people can go out and get food...a minimum of one hour. Nowadays with the number of people, especially bridge players, who have health and dietary restrictions, people need to be able to go out and get food that fits their requirements and the food offered on-site frequently does not meet

those requirements.” Ted regretted not having been able to attend the meeting to make his comments in person.]

Carole Banks suggested creating a budget around the tournament. Nadine suggested that for the forthcoming sectional at the Newport Mills Middle School, a small lunch should be served for people who want to stick around. The issue of whether that would mean the times should be changed back to 11:00 & 3:30 was raised, and rejected [without a vote though with discussion] in favor of keeping the 11 & 4 starting times. Then a motion was made that for this sectional, and this sectional only, a small lunch be served. On the first vote the motion failed. The vote was revisited, and this time the motion passed with 4 in favor, 3 against, 1 abstention.

Fred King noted that TA directors only cost \$50-60 per session [Hank Meyer communicated in an email that the true cost is closer to \$80-90. Ted Ying noted in an email that the TA's are primarily paid based on their rates at the unit game, generally \$75-85 per session. He is the exception in that he makes \$100 per session at both the unit game and the sectionals.]

Unit Game

Chris Miller circulated a spreadsheet summarizing table counts, expenses and revenue from the Unit Game for 2009 and 2010. Chris thanked the Board for its vote on the Bridgmates. He will be setting up the Unit Game with two directors and one set-up director. He was authorized to dispose of the old computer.

Fred King noted that inserts in the bidding boxes need to be replaced. Richard Ferrin offered to host a party to do this, and a number of Board members volunteered to participate. Chris reported that playing cards are being rotated satisfactorily.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place February 16, 2011 at Carole Banks' home. The Board thanked Ellen for her hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

16 February 2011

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance: Carole Banks, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Linda Marshall, Hank Meyer, Ron Zucker.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:47 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King was away. Earlier he sent by email a report on sectional finances.

President's Report

President Don King reported that we have no location for the June 9 game, which falls on a Jewish holiday. Christ the King Church has not been responding to phone calls, and the Kensington Town Center is not available. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested the new Silver Spring Civic Center, for which she recently obtained a price list and room dimensions. A nine by nine square per table would be needed. Sectionals are booked for 2011 but we can look into this for the fourth sectional in 2012 and sectionals in 2013. Mark Lavine's location, or outright cancellation of the game were mentioned as alternatives. Don will continue to pursue the option of holding the game at Christ the King.

Bridge and Bowling

The event went well, with 22 bowlers and 42 or so for bridge.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present. [He later circulated a spreadsheet by email.] The GNT qualifier drew more attendees than the pair games. Flight B attendance is down. It has been suggested that parking is a problem, and moving the NLM game to the Candy Cane Park facility across Meadowbrook would help. There was a discussion of whether the NLM players would prefer being in their own facility, or have the opportunity of playing up.

Bridge in Schools

The effort to establish bridge in schools has gone poorly this semester. Jim Geist attributed this to not enough advance work having been done. He has been investigating the Coffield Center as a site, however they have not been returning calls. A good rate could be obtained as this is a non-profit organization.

WBL Bulletin

Donna Rogall was not present. Don has received at most 30 requests to be taken off the distribution list for printed copies out of 1700 members. Eliminating duplicate copies for the same household would result in about fifty fewer copies being mailed.

Bridge Brochure

Barbara Summers has been working on this.

The NVBA has been lagging in getting their part of the directory ready. The directory should be issued annually.

Don requested suggestions for how to improve the WBL web site. Updating the site each week for the results of the Unit Game (and new fliers, etc) is a continuing chore. Steve Robinson's solvers' club requires several hours every two months. Diane Walker volunteered to help if paid; Don is paid through free plays. Ron Zucker volunteered to help when Don is going out of the country. It was recommended that we advertise through Steve Robinson's email for a part-time web assistant. Don does the website in html; he doesn't know Java, which would permit more sophisticated displays.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place March 23, 2011 at a location to be determined. [Subsequently Richard Ferrin offered to host, and his offer was accepted.] The Board thanked Carole for her hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

23 March 2011

The meeting was held at Richard Ferrin's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Hank Meyer, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Chris Miller, Donna Rogall, Nadine Wood.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that a previous advertiser, who had not paid its 2009 bill and had stopped advertising 2010, had expressed an interest in advertising again with us. However, he has not agreed to pay his overdue bill and seems to have lost interest in advertising again.

Fred reported that the budget will need to be revised because of the board's decision to buy 48 additional Bridgemates. As an accounting mechanism, the unit game and sectionals will be charged a notional \$0.50 a table for their use.

President's Report

President Don King has arranged to hold the June 9 game at Christ the King Church.

Unit Game

Chris Miller circulated a spreadsheet by email prior to the meeting. Attendance at the Unit Game is slightly down from last year.

Bridge in Schools

Jim Geist reported receiving a check from the ACBL.

Bridge Brochure

The bridge brochure is ready for the printer. We will get reimbursement from the ACBL.

WBL Directory

The directory, published jointly with the NVBA, has been printed and made available at Unit games. The aim is to update the directory once a year.

Bridge Bulletin

Donna Rogall noted that the Mar-Apr Bulletin has been sent to the printer. Deadlines for Bulletin submissions appear in the Bulletin. She tries to have it published for two weeks before an event such as a sectional, but does not have as much leeway now that two printers are being used. The call for Machlin nominations will be issued in October. Neither she nor Don Berman will be at the annual meeting.

Fred will send a check to the Post Office to cover the costs of mailing the Bulletin.

Don Berman is trying to facilitate the process of members opting out of receiving a paper copy of the Bulletin. Ron Zucker volunteered to help maintain a list of those who wish to do so.

April Sectional

Nadine Wood will not be at the next meeting, and Kitty Gottfried will not be present at the sectional. Jim Geist agreed to update the restaurant guide.

Elections

Candidates are required to submit a petition with 25 signatures. Don Berman will bring sheets for signatures to the next Unit Game. All officers are running for reelection. Jim Allen will run the annual meeting.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place April 27, 2011 at Hank Meyer's home. The Board thanked Richard for his hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

27 April 2011

The meeting was held at Hank Meyer's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Hank Meyer, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King circulated a Profit and Loss statement. In 2010, the WBL lost \$8700 (this does not include the capital expenditures for buying the Bridgmates) compared to a loss of \$2100 for 2009.

Two Bulletin advertisers, Diane Walker and Michael Chelst/Eva Klivington have not paid their bills despite repeated notices and have in effect gotten eight free ads. It was decided that their ads will not be run in subsequent issues, pending payment of the invoices.

In 2010 sectionals lost \$5000 as compared to \$250 in 2009. It was suggested that cutting back on food at sectionals was advisable, especially as our current sites have many places nearby where food is available quickly and inexpensively.

Ron Zucker questioned whether too many directors have been hired at sectionals, both in terms of numbers and qualifications, thus contributing to problems with the profitability of the sectionals. Fred has polled other Units about the number of directors they hire for sectionals, but has not been as yet able to compile the data.

President's Report

President Don Berman has arranged to have the April 13-15 sectional held at the Kensington Armory.

Nadine Wood, Tournament Chair, needs people to help with the food for the coming sectional this weekend (April 30-May 1). Don Berman, Richard Ferrin and Jim Geist volunteered to arrive at her home at 8:30 am on Saturday.

Don will not be present at the Annual Meeting; Richard Ferrin will preside in his place, and Jim Allen will emcee. Ron Zucker has arranged for a kosher sheet cake and cookies. Donna will also not be present at that meeting, and Ron volunteered to get lists of award winners to Richard as well as take pictures of the award winners.

Carole Banks really does not want to continue to serve on the Board, although she is listed as a candidate. Don has identified a candidate who is willing to run in her stead:

Lois Geer. A motion to add her to the ballot would have to be made from the floor and seconded; Jim Allen is familiar with this procedure. It was mentioned that there is the possibility of conflict of interest as the Geers are WBL employees; Don noted that she could just recuse herself as Don does when issues relevant to the Laurel Bridge Club arise.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present, but sent a spreadsheet after the meeting.

It is expected that the rent for Ohr Kodesh will go up to \$350 - \$375 from our current rate of \$300. To break even we will have to increase entry fees. The Board voted to increase entry fees from \$7 to \$8 and from \$9 to \$10. The vote was five in favor, two against, one abstention. The increase will take effect after the July 4th regional and will be announced at the annual meeting.

Don Berman noted that the NLM and BCD games have been stagnant. Hank Meyer suggested that directors need to keep in closer touch with the NLM game. Linda Marshall reported that there have not been any mentor-mentee signups for awhile.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present. Jim Geist said there was nothing to report, and efforts seem to have stalled. He questioned whether it was time to give up on the initiative.

Bridge Brochure

Don Berman said that Alice Wegman had sent him a copy of the brochure, which unfortunately contained a number of errors. He has sent corrections, which hopefully can be incorporated before the brochure is printed.

Bridge Bulletin

Donna Rogall noted that the next Bulletin deadline is May 3.

There will be a call for nominations for the Machlin award; deadline is September 1st. Millard Nachtwey will chair the committee.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place May 18 at Don Berman's home. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

18 May 2011

The meeting was held at Don Berman's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Hank Meyer, Lois Geer, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting member Donna Rogall.

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

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred reported that we had \$35,000 in the checking account in January, but now have \$29,700. We are losing money on the sectionals. There is next to nothing we can do about rental costs; the areas that can be addressed are 1) food 2) directors. No conclusion was reached about how to control food costs. As for directors, the ACBL itself has recommended the use of TA's (tournament assistants). Millard Nachtwey is responsible for deciding how many and what kind of directors to employ.

The Treasurer's Report was approved without objection.

President's Report

Vice President Richard Ferrin, who presided at the Annual Meeting, noted that few people were in attendance at the start of the meeting. In the past, when dinner was served, people came for the meal and the social interaction in advance of game time. Richard suggested we might think about a change of venue, where food could be served, to make attendance at the meeting more attractive. President Don Berman remarked that it is difficult to get the Kensington site in April through June. Richard observed that the elections were not contested; in fact hardly anybody seemed to be paying attention.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present, but sent a spreadsheet before the meeting.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present. Jim Geist said that he felt this effort had been a complete failure, and that we should try a nine week program in the fall if at all. There was no discussion.

Bridge Brochure

Don reported that the errors in the brochure have been corrected and it has gone to the printer.

Bridge Bulletin

The next deadline is June 14. Steve Robinson might not want to submit a column for the next issue. Again the possibility of transitioning to an electronic version of the Bulletin was discussed but no conclusion was reached.

NLM Game

Lois Geer commented that the players in the NLM game feel neglected. It was suggested that directors not responsible for monitoring the computer could make their presence felt. Ron Zucker, who is writing the NLM column, will try to spend more time with them. An "Ask an Expert" program is being initiated for every first Thursday, and there have been many volunteers for the panel.

Goodwill Committee

Don said that two nominations for the District Six Goodwill Committee were needed. Richard Ferrin is already serving on the ACBL Goodwill Committee and Jim Geist declined to participate. Further nominations were left up to the discretion of the President.

Broken Clock

The alternatives are to replace the clock with another one, or use a laptop to display the time. The decision will be left up to Chris Miller and Ted Ying.

Committee Assignments

Don suggested that some committees should be combined, abolished or renamed to indicate roles. The Board considered each committee or function in turn. [Don has since posted a revised Committees/Jobs list on the WBL website.] It was noted that the Executive Committee, which consists of Don, Ellen, Fred and Richard, is, according to the constitution, composed of the president and the three members other than the president with the longest service on the Board.

The Machlin Committee will consist of previous winners of the award, except for Millard Nachtwey, the chair.

Ombudsman Ann Lindley is no longer in our Unit, but will continue to serve in that capacity.

For Publicity and Marketing, Chair Linda Marshall will contact the other members to put together a mission statement.

A Tournament Committee was formed, with Ron Zucker as chair. Other members of this committee are Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Hank Meyer, Kitty Gottfried, Chief Director Millard Nachtwey and Tournament Chair Nadine Wood.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place June 15 at Linda Marshall's home. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08PM. The Board thanked Don for his hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

20 July 2011

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Hank Meyer, Lois Geer, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Chris Miller, Donna Rogall.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:49 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King was not present. Previously he had sent an email with a spreadsheet attached which compared our sectionals in 2011 to those in the previous two years. (NonLM sectionals were shown separately as Fred noted they are a rather different beast and have not existed until recently, but one can see how their income is spent also.) Fred summarized the results as follows: The first two sectionals in 2011 lost a little over \$900 or 3% of entry fees compared to a loss of 12% last year and a profit of 1.3% in 2009. The major expenditures continue to be directors (30.1% compared to 31.3% in 2010 and 30.2% in 2009), food and refreshments (22.7% vs. 30.2% and 28.8%) and rent (21.3% vs. 22.2% and 15.2%). All other expenditures stayed very close to same over the three years. Fred requested that the above summary be included in the minutes.

President's Report

Nominations are needed for the Machlin trophy, which will be presented at the October sectional. The Machlin Committee will consist of previous winners of the award, except for Millard Nachtwey, the chair.

Unit Game

Chris Miller sent a spreadsheet before the meeting. He stated that attendance was steady, slightly down from last year. The new entry fees have been in effect for two games; he has not heard complaints about the increase. The pairs games have been run with two directors, and as of this month 1 ½ caddies (one of the two caddies can play). We need caddies in training. Don agreed to advertise this in his next President's letter.

Bridge in Schools

Ajit Thyagarajan was not present. Jim Geist said there was nothing to report, and feels this initiative is not going anywhere. Don said he would include an appeal for volunteers to coordinate the effort in his President's message.

Bridge Brochures

The brochures have been printed, now need to be distributed.

Bridge Bulletin

The next deadline is August 8. Donna needs the information for the January sectional and the NLM sectional Mar 10-12. Don noted that all events that couldn't be held at Ohr Kodesh, will be held at the Kensington site. Also, Laurel will host some ABA games.

Only 31 people have opted out of the printed version of the Bulletin.

There was a discussion of whether the barometer event should allow 17 minutes per round, so that participants could check their scores after each round. The Bulletin states that time will be added for this purpose.

Because the event will be held at Kensington, where there is a strict curfew, 17 minute rounds with breaks would necessitate reducing the number of boards: 22 instead of 24. Chris Miller said that the decision can be made at game time;

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place September 21 at Ron Zucker's home. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM. The Board thanked Linda for her hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

21 September 2011

The meeting was held at Fred King's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Jim Geist, Fred King, Clyde Kruskal, Hank Meyer, Lois Geer, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Donna Rogall, Kitty Gottfried.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King distributed a spreadsheet summarizing income and expenditures for the first six months of 2011. The net minus of \$6400 for administration is due in large part to \$7600 for the Bridgemates. An alternative accounting approach would involve amortizing this expense over four years.

Regular (not non LM) sectionals are breaking about even.

Rent has increased from \$300 to \$325 for the weekly game at Ohr Kodesh. Rent for sectionals at Kensington will increase from \$3400 to \$4000. This should be offset by the increase in entry fees.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

President's Report

Don Berman's message in the upcoming WBL Bulletin will call for volunteers. Ron Zucker, the new sectional chairman, has emphasized the need for help.

Shawn Stringer is the new regional chair.

Don has volunteered to put a cone in the rabbi's parking spot to help prevent unauthorized people parking there. There was a discussion of the problems with players parking illegally close to intersections. This is a problem with Montgomery County rather than with the synagogue. There was also a discussion of whether to adjust the starting time at sectionals at Kensington to accommodate parking in the lot by churchgoers. Since the church allows us to use their spots on non-Sundays, it was decided just to continue with current schedules.

Sectionals

It was agreed that we should reserve Kensington for 2013 sectionals (this has already been done for January 2013 and all of 2012). We are negotiating for improved

lighting: groups that normally use this facility need lighting for the stage, but our needs are different: we need good lighting away from the stage.

Ron Zucker inquired if we should have a later start times. This can't be done for either October or January as the [Sunday] times are already advertised. On Friday evening the start time has already been moved to 7:15 for the January sectional. It was noted that the 11pm curfew at Kensington constrains the evening start times.

Kitty Gottfried asked about the budget for hospitality for sectionals. The answer was that the Treasurer and Tournament Chairman negotiate. Kitty, having long experience with hospitality, said she has a number of ideas on how to do things less expensively. Ron and Kitty will meet to discuss this.

One problem is how to stage food and supplies. David Solomon can be compensated for doing the shopping, and Rich Colker and Kitty also volunteer. Kitty has been doing the inventory of goods.

Lois Geer has a refrigerator which could be used; one of the refrigerators at Nadine's house belongs to the WBL. Don Berman will talk to Roland about it.

Ron Zucker wants the Board's permission to look into having three sessions on Saturday at the October sectional. The times would be 10am, 2pm, 7pm. This was approved unanimously. [Subsequently Ron reported by email that he had consulted Millard about his idea of running, effectively, a side game series of three one session events with overalls determined by best two sessions, which would have allowed us to run three sessions on Saturday. He noted that, "According to Millard and Doug, while we could run it, there are two problems. First, it would only pay 65% of the masterpoints of a two session event. Second, we could not run a stratiflighted event, but would have to run a stratified event. I don't think either of those two things would entail extra interest from the players, so I've tabled the idea. Thanks to the board for letting me explore."]

Mark Lavine's game runs against our sectionals on Friday morning. He has cancelled his Saturday game on sectional weekends. There was some discussion of whether to ask him to cancel the Friday morning game, but no conclusion was reached. It was noted that the ACBL rule is that clubs can't run a special game against a sectional.

Unit Game

Chris Miller sent a spreadsheet before the meeting.

There will be a problem with holding the holiday party at Kensington, as the theatre group will be storing supplies in the room. Alternatives are Christ the King, or renting the kitchen at Ohr Kodesh for \$425 and cooking kosher, or renting St James for \$100/hr. No conclusion was reached.

Replacement of the squeaky ice chest was approved.

The annual scheduling meeting will be held October 9.

Ron Zucker asked if for the next October sectional we'd like to hold a game on Monday, Columbus Day, which is a holiday for some. The Board was not in favor of this.

The boards need new labels, and cards need to be swapped out. Hank Meyer reported on the costs involved, and was authorized to buy new label sets. Hank was also authorized to instruct David Solomon on how to rotate the decks of cards.

The position of Ombudsman is filled by Ann Lindley, who is now a member of the NVBA. Adrienne Kuehnemann has volunteered to replace her. However, as it is anticipated that Ann will rejoin the WBL, no action was taken.

Fred King suggested that the Board institute a Nadine Wood Service Award to be given at the Holiday Party. President Don Berman responded by appointing a committee, consisting of Linda Marshall, Fred King, Hank Meyer, to determine how often the award should be given and what criteria should be used.

Bridge Brochures

The brochures have been printed, now need to be distributed. Board members have been called upon to volunteer to do so. Don Berman handed out brochures to Board members and requested that a record be kept of which facilities were willing to accept them.

Bridge Bulletin

Bridge and Bowling will be held again next year. Don will arrange for the alley and Linda Marshall will submit an ad.

The deadline is 10/6 for the next Nov/Dec 2011 issue. The ad for the April 2012 sectional will be run only once in the following Bulletin to allow the October 2011 sectional to finish before making decisions about April sectional, however the ad will need to be ready by the November 30 TableTALK deadline to run twice in that publication.

Regional Schedule

Fred King suggested that the defining event of our July 4 Regional was the Machlin Pairs, a barometer event, but that the question had arisen of whether we wanted to keep it or run additional team games instead or at the same time. He noted that regional tournament attendance peaks on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and that this year the 4th of July falls on the worst possible day for us: Wednesday. Discussion ensued. Ellen Cherniavsky said that this schedule, where no new KO is scheduled on the day of the Machlin Pairs, is very disruptive to players with five or six person teams. Ron Zucker felt that it was a good idea to have a day when everybody played the same boards. Ellen later added that with additional team events, more pros would be attracted. Jim Geist observed that if a KO is started opposite the Machlin Pairs, it would effectively kill that

event. Fred took a straw poll, with the results: 4 to keep Machlin; 0 to keep Machlin and start a KO opposite it; 4 to do away with the Machlin and start a KO.

Next Meeting

The Board thanked Fred for his hospitality.

The next WBL Board meeting will take place October 19 at Lois Geer's home. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

19 October 2011

The meeting was held at Lois Geer's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Clyde Kruskal, Lois Geer, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting members Kitty Gottfried, Chris Miller.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King was not present.

President's Report

Don Berman mentioned that the WBL had paid for renting the room at St James Episcopal for Nadine's memorial service. Since some people showed up early, the church kept \$100 of the deposit, claiming the room had been used for an extra hour.

2012 Unit Game Schedule

In 2012 Ohr Kodesh will not be available on (Thursdays) March 8, April 12, September 13, 20, 27 and October 4. To the extent possible, we will hold those games at Kensington instead.

Chris Miller noted that Ted Ying had pointed out that we only used one club championship last year, in the fourth quarter [Ted sent a correction: it was the third quarter]. We have the option to run one club championship each quarter, and could use these in place of some charity games. We are obliged to run at least two charity games per year, and at least half the charity games must be on behalf of the ACBL. Ellen Cherniavsky reminded the Board that for the past several years we have made two surplus unit championship sanctions available to clubs for split site events. [Ted noted by email that the unit game scheduling committee did reserve 2 unit championships for 2012 to make available to clubs for split site events. Of the 24 unit championships, 20 were used on Thursday evenings, 2 were reserved for the RR and unit KOs and two were reserved for clubs.]

Chris noted that charity games pay more than unit championships. Lois Geer said that most NLMs would choose a more expensive higher-MP game over a cheaper lower-MP game, and met with some agreement, and no dissent; on that basis it was decided to retain the existing schedule of charity games.

If donations are to be made to a local charity, it must be designated ahead of time and the money trail must be auditable. Linda Marshall, charity chair, was tasked with choosing the recipients. Charities suggested by board members were St Elizabeth's, one of Nadine's, Ohr Kodesh.

In reviewing the proposed schedule, copies of which were circulated, Chris highlighted the fact that there are no NLM pairs February 2, March 1, April 19.

The proposed schedule was approved unanimously. To take effect, it must also be approved by the NVBA,

Unit Game

Chris Miller sent a spreadsheet before the meeting, and distributed copies of the summary page at the meeting. He noted that the last few electronic versions had contained errors in the summary:

- *The attendances and P/L numbers described as "2010" were in fact for 2009.
- *In adjusting the spreadsheet to record cash payments made to the WBL bank account, these payments had inadvertently been added as expense items, showing a large apparent loss.
- *The circulated summaries corrected both of these errors, and the November electronic copy will include the corrections, as well as a closer approximation to the estimated rent.

The revised figures show attendance for 2011 holding very steady from 2010, and profitability consistent with 2010.

Sectionals

Mark Lavine's Thursday morning game does not reduce attendance at the Thursday evening sectional games, however the Friday morning game does conflict with the WBL's Friday schedule. It was suggested that Lavine's Thursday game be eliminated from the sectional because of the competition for tables on Friday, but no conclusion was reached. [Linda Marshall sent an email prior to the meeting noting that "Last Friday morning, Mark had 20 tables, and about 8 who might have otherwise played at the sectional. On Friday 8/12, Mark had 11 tables, and about 6 people who might have otherwise played at the sectional. His website doesn't show results as far back as the sectional last spring."] It was noted that Lavine's is the profit center for the Thursday game, so counting his tables in with ours gives a false impression of the amount of money being made from the sectional. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested that our sectional Fridays may not be viable, and Chris said he would look into checking whether sectionals have to be contiguous. Chris stated that it's important to get as many tables as possible for the unit. Ron Zucker asked whether people who don't come to the sectional anymore on Friday, are still coming on Saturday and Sunday; no information was available. Richard Ferrin expressed concern that having too few tables for Friday sessions could

have a snowballing effect. Jim Geist suggested that we decrease the number of sessions to two on Friday. Don Berman promised to look into this issue further.

Nadine used to take care of the flyers; Ron Zucker will take over charge of them. Don Berman will have them done at Kinko's (it was noted there is a WBL printer at Shawn Stringer's house).

Chris suggested that when we run an IMP pairs event there should be a sign at the director's table announcing this, and that the number of boards could be changed to 26 at the directors' discretion to compensate for sitouts.

Ron Zucker asked whether the stratification limits, currently 1500 for B/C/D, should be increased. Lois Geer noted that NLM players are reluctant to play in the B/C/D game. The Board voted unanimously to increase the upper limit to 2000 for the B/C/D games starting with the January 2012 unit game. Ron had no report for the January sectional.

Holiday Party

Kensington is not available on the 15th, but we could move the game to the 22nd and hold it there. It was decided to go ahead with Christ the King, on the 15th, though was noted that the hourly rental increase from \$90 to \$125 makes this site less attractive. Kitty Gottfried said that the fruit salad takes a lot of time, and she needs more helpers. Jim Geist volunteered to coordinate with Clyde Kruskal to find volunteers to bring dishes. Ron Zucker suggested that Kitty and Jim meet. Kitty said that the latest possible start time for the rental is 4 pm. Ron volunteered to cook a turkey and bring it pre-sliced; Lois will bring a second turkey, Kitty will bring a ham.

[Subsequently Kitty sent the following email:

This is not a correction to the minutes, but an amplification: I would like to describe our holiday party and annual meeting menus (summarizing the last 25 years or so) so that the Board members will have a better idea of what Nadine and I had been doing.

Holiday Party:

Cold cuts for sandwiches. Nadine made 2 turkeys, 1 ham and roast beef; I made 1 ham and veggie sushi. Millard made holiday drinks, alcoholic and nonalcoholic, and bought eggnog. We bought 20 lb potato salad and 20 lb cole slaw. We asked WBL members to bring their favorite dishes or desserts. Just in case not enough dessert donations, I bought some cookies to be sure that there would be enough. Frances Burke and I used to make holiday decorations, but she is no longer available.

I talked to Nadine's son, Dana, and was told that for the holiday party Nadine bought 2 turkey breasts in addition to the 2 turkeys to be sure that there would be enough white meat.

Annual Meeting Dinner:

We, with the help of some volunteers, made 2 or 3 hot dishes at Nadine's. We bought ice cream and some other desserts. On the day of the meeting, we made fruit salad on the premises -- which takes an hour or two, depending on how many volunteers show up.]

Equipment is still at Roland Wood's house, including a refrigerator and coolers. Don Berman took one cooler, Ellen Cherniavsky volunteered to take another.

Proposed Nadine Wood Service Award

Linda Marshall reported on behalf of the committee, consisting of Linda, Hank and Fred, that Don appointed at the last meeting to explore instituting such an award. Linda read their recommendation, which was circulated by email prior to the meeting and is quoted directly from the email.

"We would like to propose to the board that we establish a new award for service to the WBL named in honor of Nadine Wood. The award would be given at most biennially [clarified as meaning at most once every two years] to a person who had contributed over a number of years through "exemplary and outstanding volunteer service" to the WBL. The award would be in the form of a plaque with recipients' names placed on it as it is awarded. We would suggest that the award be announced at the annual holiday party. The recipient would be chosen by a committee initially chosen by the WBL President and would not be limited to WBL board members. Over the years, recipients would be added to the committee as is currently done for the Machlin award. If the committee feels that no one has demonstrated the level of service specified, the award would not be given that year. Volunteer activities to be considered include, but are not limited to helping provide hospitality, such as cooking or preparing food, buying and delivering refreshments or other supplies, helping with logistics, such as parking, acting as a guaranteed partner, and other activities that contribute to an enhanced bridge playing experience.

"We don't think anyone can argue that Nadine did not do "exemplary and outstanding volunteer service. Indeed the current issues of the WBL Bulletin, Table Talk and the ACBL Bulletin all have major articles about Nadine and all she has done for bridge. For the WBL she was President, Treasurer, and Tournament Chair for a number of years.

"There was some objection at the Board Meeting that we have 'too many awards'. We don't agree with this view. Only the Machlin Award for Sportsmanship is given for life time achievement. Most other awards are given for achievements at the bridge table—either a one timer such as the Eynon or WBL Pairs Championship Trophy (which Fred thinks should be named for Stevie sooner rather than later) or a year's worth such as the Lovenberg, etc. The President does have the discretion to award up to 3

certificates at the Annual Meeting, but these are not a permanent award as is what we are proposing and they certainly don't carry the cachet that this award would have.

We strongly recommend that the board approve this award and that a committee be appointed right away so the award can be given at this year's holiday party."

The motion passed with three in favor, two against, three abstentions. It was noted that if Fred and Hank had been in attendance, there would have been two more votes in favor. Though the motion was passed, no committee was appointed.

Bridge Bulletin

Donna Rogall was not present.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place December 7 at Ron Zucker's home. The Board thanked Lois for her hospitality. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary

WBL Board Meeting

7 December 2011

The meeting was held at Ron Zucker's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Hank Meyer, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting member Donna Rogall.

President Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Fred King noted that last year the sectionals lost about \$2000. This year the October sectional did not do well.

The Treasurer's report showed the Bridgemates as amortized over four years. A notional charge to the Unit Game and sectionals of \$0.50 per table has been employed as an accounting mechanism. The total expenditure for the Bridgemates was on the order of \$7500.

Funding of \$175 for the St Elizabeth's game was approved unanimously. Fred has played there, and urged others to volunteer as well. He noted that Bob Boyd directs there for free. Games are the 3rd Monday of the month except January and February.

After reviewing the minutes, Fred sent the following by email:

Under treasurer's report:

"Fred reported that sectionals in 2011 lost about \$2000 compared to about \$5000 in 2010. He also reported on financial results for the first nine months of 2011. Using a 4 year depreciation for the Bridgemates we bought at the beginning of the year, we have losses of \$3300 for the first nine months of the year. This is a marked improvement over the \$8000 shortfall of last year and in line with the \$3000 shortfall in the financial plan for this year. "

(A revised table of P&L for the first nine months is below. I thought the turn around in the table I presented at the meeting was too good to be true, and I found some expenses for the unit game that I pay directly and should have been included in the 3rd quarter expenses.)

2011 First Nine Months

2010 Activities Profit and Loss

Item	Income	Expenditure	Net	Income	Expenditure	Net
Admin.	\$4,910.10	\$3,788.23	\$1,121.87	\$8,173.82	\$5,841.57	\$2,332.25
Sectionals	\$53,787.00	\$54,977.22	-\$1,190.22	\$64,903.14	\$69,956.71	-\$5,053.57
Unit Game	\$48,209.00	\$40,513.41	\$7,695.60	\$60,166.00	\$53,764.83	\$6,401.17
Bulletin	\$0.00	\$11,986.91	-\$11,986.91	\$1,977.00	\$14,971.46	-\$12,994.46
RR & KO	\$1,508.92	\$455.00	\$1,053.92	\$1,732.50	\$495.00	\$1,237.50
Totals	\$108,415.02	\$111,720.76	-\$3,305.74	\$136,952.46	\$145,029.57	-\$8,077.11

President's Report

An anonymous donor has contributed \$25,000 to the WBL, and another \$25,000 to the NVBA. There was some discussion of what to do with the money. Ellen Cherniavsky suggested that priority be given to replacing the dealing machine, which is ten years old. A new one would cost about \$3500. Don Berman noted that the new plastic cards are more durable and work better with the dealing machines, however they have bar codes. Our current machine works with cards that do not have bar codes.

The possibility of leasing space in a building, which would be available to all area bridge clubs, was put forward. The Board agreed to further discussion of what to do with the money over the next few meetings. Jim Geist suggested increased remuneration to caddies.

Outstanding Mentor Award

Hank Meyer received a letter from his mentee proposing an Outstanding Mentor award, and nominating Hank. Ron Zucker suggested alternating the Volunteer Service Award and the Outstanding Mentor award. Hank Meyer will join Linda Marshall and Ron Zucker on the mentor committee, to make a future recommendation.

Unit Game

Chris Miller was not present but sent a spreadsheet by email prior to the meeting.

Chris also, by email, presented a request for an increase to the Club Manager stipend. This email is excerpted below.

[WBL Unit Game Club Manager Stipend]

Currently I get \$30 for each week that there is a Unit Game (i.e. excluding sectional weeks) to cover my non-directing duties as club manager. This sum has not changed in a long time (since well before I took on the position of manager).

These duties include

- Dealing with scoring issues
- Handling player and prospective-player enquiries
- Keeping the player database up to date, and synchronizing the Bridgemate player database
- Tracking and ordering supplies
- Making sure that supplies get moved between sites when the game relocates temporarily
- Paying money in to the bank account and providing a suitable cash bank for the Unit Game sell
- ACBL monthly reports
- Telephone rulings for the extended team games
- Coordinating the split Unit Championships at other clubs
- Mentoring other directors
- Maintaining the Unit Game spreadsheet
- Scheduling directing staff
- Reporting to the Board
- Assisting in running the weekly game and closing up and securing the premises even when I am neither directing nor scheduled as setup assistant
- Renewing the annual club sanction
- Registering for STaCs, obtaining hand records, and reporting results
- Obtaining sanctions for the special games (Unit Championships, etc)

On average, these amount to 3-4 hours per week, at least. I would like to ask the board to consider raising the manager stipend from \$30 per week to \$50 per week as a recognition of the amount of work involved.

I understand that 60% is a large increase, but I don't expect that this will change again for many years, and I think that the current fee is a serious underpayment.

]

The Board agreed to discuss Chris's request at the next meeting.

Ted Ying contributed the following by email:

I thought I would add some history. Michael Carroad was the club manager from the 1970's until 2003. During that time the club manager position went from an uncompensated position to paying \$15 per week. When Michael turned the club over to me in January 2004, the rate was raised to \$25 per week. In 2007, the rate increased to \$30. I concur with Chris' estimation that this is grossly undervalued and the board should increase the compensation for all of the work involved.

Sectionals

Ron Zucker commented that he needs to work with Treasurer Fred King on what we have been spending. One problem is in predicting table counts. In October predictions for Saturday were OK, but Sunday was 20-25% lower than expected. Fridays have small attendance. There was discussion of eliminating the Friday morning game, which overlaps with Mark Lavine's game, and thus cutting out food between the morning and afternoon session, but no conclusion was reached. Fred noted that splitting the sanction is not an option. Thought was also given to whether to stop holding the Friday night game, which is tiny. Ron proposed 2pm and 7pm for start times if we have only two sessions, noting that the curfew at Kensington means the 7pm start time is better. Ron said he would like to try three sessions on Saturday some time.

Fred promised to compile data on Friday attendance at sectionals and subsequently sent a spreadsheet, with the following comment:

The attached table shows all Friday attendance over the last three years. In 2009 (when all 4 tournaments had 3 sessions on Friday) the morning sessions averaged 32.4 tables, the afternoon sessions 39.6 and the evening sessions 25.1 tables. In 2010 one tournament had only an afternoon and evening session and one had only an afternoon and evening session. That year the averages were 24.7-37.0-30.2 per session. In 2011 there was one tournament that had only a morning and afternoon session and the averages were 29.4-36.9-24.8 per session. If we combine all three years, mornings averaged 29.2 tables per session, afternoons 37.8 and evenings 26.6 tables. It is interesting to note that in 2009 all the morning sessions were stratified, but in 2010 and 2011, they were a mix of stratified and strata-flighted.

Don Berman noted that Kensington has been reserved for the next three sectionals after January, and that new lights are going to be installed there.

Holiday Party

Jim Geist noted that we need Dave Solomon to bring the tables and take them away. He is usually paid \$100 for this but sometimes \$125, at Millard's discretion.

Jim has volunteers who will bring food. Ron Zucker asked if he was providing a turkey and was told the Board will reimburse him for it. Jim questioned whether volunteers handling food should be required to wear gloves. The consensus was that he should bring a box of gloves and request that people wear them.

Bridge in Schools

Ron Zucker noted that he had met the proprietor of a new game store, who runs a program for kids after school and is interested in teaching bridge. He wondered what materials could be made available to her. Apparently some free materials can be obtained from Patty Tucker. Fred mentioned that Ron Starr has a successful program in two schools. Don Berman said it is possible to buy supplies to give to people, he will find out how to get reimbursed by the ACBL.

Bridge Bulletin

Prior to the meeting Donna Rogall requested a pay raise, by email, which is quoted below.

“The WBL Bulletin editor fee is up for its bi-yearly increase of approximately 8% -- to take effect with the Jan/Feb 2012 issue.

”You currently pay me a base fee of \$235 plus \$20/page which almost always comes out to \$875.00 an issue because almost all issues are 32 pp.

”Some relevant facts:

In Dec '09 the 8% increase last took effect for the Jan/Feb 2010 issue.

In Dec. '07 the board agreed to an 8% increase and the general principle that further new fees also take effect bi-yearly with the first issue every other year thereafter at about 8% (upon approval of the current board of course)

”Prior to that the rate increased:

with the May/June 2006 issue to a base fee of \$174 plus \$18/pg (\$750.00 for 32 pp).

with the May/June 2004 issue to a base fee of \$156 plus \$17/pg (\$700.00 for 32 pp.)

...(which was an adjustment to the original rate I started with (briefly) of \$100 plus \$15/pg

”I’m currently proposing an increase to:

”A base fee of \$273 plus \$21/page (\$945.00 for 32 pp)... an 8% increase.

”(I start work on the next (Jan/Feb 2012) issue at the beginning of the new year...) “

Decision on the request was deferred to an Executive Session.

The Nov-Dec bulletin hasn’t been mailed out; it should have been received already. There may be a problem with the mailing house, which has taken a casual attitude toward deadlines they agreed to. Don will check further into this matter and may draft a letter expressing the Board’s disappointment with the delay.

Next Meeting

The Board thanked Ron for his hospitality.

The next WBL Board meeting will take place January 18 at Ellen Cherniavsky’s home. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky, Secretary