

Minutes of WBL Board of Directors Meeting

August 16, 2017

The meeting was held at Carole Banks' home.

In attendance were Board members: Ellen Cherniavsky, Linda Marshall, Rose Berman, Carole Banks, Clyde Kruskal, Lloyd Rawley, Alex Gretsinger, Eileen Inglesby-Houghton and Hadi Abushakra. Also in attendance were: Chris Miller, Head Director of the Unit Game, and Brad Theurer, Tournament Chair.

President Ellen Cherniavsky called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the June 2017 meeting were approved with minor revisions. Changes have since been incorporated and a revised version of the June 2017 minutes has been sent to the webmaster for online posting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was accepted. In addition, Rose explained that WBL is likely to break even as a result of the cost-cutting decisions made by the Board at its June 21 meeting.

Unit Game Report

Chris informed the meeting that he had nothing to report at that point in time with respect to unit game matters.

Bulletin Committee Report

In the aftermath of the June 21 Board meeting where Donna informed the Board that she was looking into options for printing and mailing the Bulletin at lower rates, the Bulletin Committee deliberated by email and made the following cost-cutting recommendations: (a) to switch printers to "docucopies"; (b) to mail the paid subscriptions (now numbering in the 40's) by hand; (c) to switch from 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" to a 6" x 9" format and remove all bleeds; (d) to continue to give Eileen (Membership Secretary) approximately 20 copies per issue to send to new members and bring the remainder to the unit game to sell at \$1 an issue; and (e) to print 150 copies the first time around, then adjust the number of printed copies upward or downward according to how many are sold the first time around. It is estimated that these measures may save \$1230 per year, plus however many bulletins are sold.

The Board accepted the recommendations of the Bulletin Committee. The Board also decided that 30 copies of the bulletin be given to Isabelle Thabault to hand over to novices free of charge.

Website Committee Report

Alex explained that work on the new website is not proceeding as fast as it was hoped. He nonetheless expects the pace of work to pick up in September and to have the website up and running by October 31, 2017. He believes that, by September 30 (the end date of the trial period), the Board will be in a position to vote on whether or not to adopt the new website.

Slow Play Policy

Chris explained that he has not formulated any policy revisions yet, and that he will continue reminding his colleagues of the need to come to closure on this matter. Chris believes that WBL should be reluctant to introduce any changes to the existing policy until it is established that the existing policy is broken.

Unit Game Stratification

Ellen proposed that, effective January 1, 2018, stratification caps at Sectionals and Unit Games be raised to 4000 master points for the A/X games, 2500 master points and TBD for the BCD games, and 500 master points for the non-life master games, and asked for a discussion of this proposal. The Board more or less concluded that there was no reason not to go ahead with it, given its potential to attract some players back to the game.

Tournament Committee Report

Carole presented a financial analysis depicting the trend of financial performance for WBL Sectionals over the past two years. The analysis shows a drop in revenues over the two-year period due to a drop in attendance. Carole added that she will be keeping track of our Sectionals' financial performance on an on-going basis.

In addition, Brad informed the meeting that the Tournament Committee has recommended the increase in Sectionals entry fees with an effective date of August 24, 2017. This increase has been approved by the Board.

Holiday Party

Clyde explained that last year's catered holiday party had too much food. He added that he will consult Bill Cole about this year party's location and get back to the Board. Alex suggested to have the party on a day other than a unit game day. The Board decided to revisit this question in the near future.

Other Business

Ellen informed the meeting that Julie Marquette has resigned as NLM tournament chair. The Board will be looking for a replacement.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, September 13, at Linda's home.