

WBL Board Minutes

October 14, 2020

Attendance. All Board members attended: Linda Marshall, Hadi Abushakra, Herb Schulken, Bob Bell, Carole Banks, Chuck Dearolf, Alex Gretsinger, Clyde Kruskal, Lloyd Rawley, and Mary Tenenbaum. Chris Miller (Unit Game Manager) and Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair) also attended.

Online Unit Game. Chris reported that attendance at the Monday game is small but steady (total [all flights] about 12 or 13 tables). Herb noted that Thursday totals have ranged between 62 and 69 tables since September 1. He added that attendance at the Support Your Club game had been declining and attributed this to people finding other places to play bridge online.

Treasurer's Report. Herb reported that the WBL and NVBA unit games were now being run as a joint venture, with the two units managing alternating weeks rather than splitting responsibilities for each week's games. This new form of administration permits the games to award substantially more masterpoints.

Herb explained two issues the new process raises: (1) Paying directors becomes more complicated and less prompt, since the WBL director would now be working in NVBA games as well as WBL games and NVBA has more complicated accounting processes that made payments slower. (2) It is possible that one unit would administer nights that are significantly less popular than the other (e.g., holiday nights, nights that conflict with ACBL tournaments) and therefore unfairly receive less revenue. Herb proposed that each unit pay its affiliated directors for their work, regardless of which unit's games they happened to supervise. The Board agreed that he should work with the NVBA to make an arrangement along these lines. Herb also proposed that the WBL and NVBA should agree on procedures to ensure that neither unit is adversely affected in a disproportionate manner by special events such as holidays. The Board endorsed this approach. Linda expressed confidence that none of the proposed practices would raise significant tax issues.

Herb said that, thanks to unit game revenues, the WBL has contributed \$950 to the Capital Area Food Bank and will be making additional contributions at the end of October. He noted that we were continuing to pay the regular unit game caddies (Alan Crank and David Solomon) and were also paying David to store bridge tables. Herb added that he would arrange for Bob, the new secretary, to be authorized to use the WBL bank account and would cancel authorization for the former secretary.

Extended Team Games. The Round Robin is almost over; only the Flight A final (scheduled for October 21) and the Flight B final remain to be played. Herb observed that the Flight B event did not seem to have worked well or generated robust participation. Linda suggested that perhaps new teams should have been invited to enter when the event was moved online. It was agreed that this topic might benefit from further discussion.

Chris said that ACBL was likely to stop supporting extended team events because they were not very popular and ACBL had no automated process for computing or awarding masterpoints from these events. In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the WBL could still run such events without masterpoints, that WBL could confer "points" that counted only for its own local trophy races (e.g.,

Lovenberg, Tubbs), and that players needed to be clearly informed that they could not earn ACBL masterpoints in these events.

Trophy Races and Awards. Alex reported that he was not making a special tabulation of masterpoints that counted for the local trophy races. He said that data for such a tabulation were not easily available and that, although they could be scraped from ACBL's club data, it was not clear that this was worth doing in light of the cancellation of the sectional tournaments that form a central part of these competitions.

Bob and Carole agreed that it would not make much sense to make a Machlin sportsmanship award in a year in which there was hardly any face-to-face competition. Bob will contact the other committee members and make a recommendation on this issue at the November meeting.

Website. In a written message, Peter Boyd suggested to the Board that the website include a list of winners of the various WBL competitions. Board members liked this idea. Linda will ask him to send a list; Alex will then post it. Insofar as the list is incomplete, the website could invite WBL members to supply additional information.

There was agreement that recent round robin results have not been promptly and reliably available on the website. Alex reported that he had not received some results from the team captains and requested that the captains and round robin coordinators be asked to send him the results. Linda observed that Alex had not posted a number of website updates that she had forwarded to him for posting. Alex promised to improve his file maintenance system to ensure that relevant material was always posted. In addition, it was agreed that round robin coordinators should be reminded that they were responsible for sending results to the webmaster in a timely manner. Linda and Hadi mentioned that they had received complaints about results that had not been posted and other website items that needed updating.

Herb noted that the draft minutes of the WBL Board's August meeting included incorrect information about unit game attendance and sanction fees. He said he would send corrections to the former secretary. Once corrected, the August minutes will be sent to Alex for posting.

Minutes. Draft minutes for the WBL's annual membership meeting, held in September, were approved for posting on the website. Final approval of the minutes cannot occur until the next WBL membership meeting.

Bob said he would try to send draft minutes of WBL Board meetings within a week of the meeting. He expressed the hope that noncontroversial corrections and additions could be handled via e-mail, so that meeting time could be used for more substantive matters.

Teaching Resources. Linda said she is sometimes asked about resources for learning how to play bridge. She wondered whether we could recommend good local teachers who offered online classes. Suggestions included an ACBL online bridge tutorial (Alex), BBO teaching tools, an online class taught by Dick Wegman (Hadi), and Steve Robinson's Tuesday afternoon sessions (Mary). Chuck said we could provide a listing of local teachers who provide online lessons or classes, but we would need to include a disclaimer.

Committees. The Board decided to leave existing committee memberships largely unchanged. Bob will coordinate with Eileen Inglesby-Houghton to decide which of her current committee assignments she

will keep and which he will assume. In executive session, the Board selected new members who would be asked to join the Conduct and Ethics Committee, replacing the members whose terms have expired. Other changes: Rochelle Cohen has replaced Barb Doran on the Machlin Committee; Barb Doran will be asked to join the elections committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell