

Minutes of WBL Board of Directors Meeting September 13, 2017

The meeting was held at Linda Marshall's 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: Donna Rogall, Bulletin Editor, Brad Theurer, Tournament Chair and Adrienne Kuehneman, Ombudsperson.

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

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was accepted. In highlighting the main aspects of the report, Rose noted that WBL is out of the red for the first time in well over a year. The cost-cutting decisions made by the Board at its June 21 meeting, together with revenues generated by the WBL August Sectional and remittances from ACBL on account of membership dues have contributed to that outcome.

Unit Game Report

The Unit Game Report was accepted. In addition, the Board revisited the issue of raising the Unit Game and Sectional caps to unlimited/4000 for A/X and 2500/1500/750 for B/C/D, effective January 1, 2018, and decided to go ahead after consulting with Chris Miller (whom the Board contacted by telephone).

Guaranteed Partner Policy/Bulletin Item

The Board approved a policy on a Guaranteed Partner Program which applies to all WBL Unit Game with immediate effect. The policy reads as follows:

Guaranteed Partner Program Policy

The WBL has developed a Guaranteed Partner (GP) program for our Unit Game primarily to provide for two Partner more than once every few months. The Partnership Chair may make exceptions at his or her discretion. *(The GP Program is not intended to be a replacement for finding a partner on one's own once a player is settled in the community.)*

The Unit will have a standby partner available on Thursday nights in case an odd number of people show up without partners. If an odd number of people in need of a partner arrive, the players are matched as best as possible, and the GP plays with the one who is left. For team games, we guarantee a pair; singles are not guaranteed a game. (If there is an even number of players or pairs looking, the GP goes home.)

The WBL encourages players to sign types of contingencies. The first is if you don't have a partner at the last minute due to an unforeseen circumstance. The second is if you know in advance you'll be without a partner due to such circumstances as just returning to bridge, being new to the area, or unavailability of your only partner.

The first situation should arise only occasionally. Players are not expected to utilize the Guaranteed up with the Partnership Chair to serve as GP. You will play for free on the evening you serve as GP, and will also receive a free play for any future Unit game regardless of whether you play on the night you serve. Because the 0-20 game guarantees a partner, 0-20 players may not utilize the Partnership Desk nor be paired with the Guaranteed Partner. Exceptions may be made by the Partnership Chair for foreign players

who have no ACBL points or for other valid reasons, again at his or her discretion. A player who anticipates needing a partner is encouraged to call the Partnership Chair or his or her designee in advance to see if a match can be made.”

The Secretary will work with the Policy Committee to incorporate this new policy into the WBL Policies for online posting.

The discussion of online partnership was deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

Website Committee Report

Alex informed the meeting that no commitment has been made to Bridge Webs as yet, and that the Website and Publicity Committees are expected to meet in the very near future to decide on whether to move forward with Bridge Webs or seek another service provider.

Slow Play Policy

The discussion of the Slow Play policy was deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

Holiday Party

Clyde informed the meeting that no decision has been made as to the location of this year's holiday party yet. He added that he will consult Bill Cole about the party's location and get back to the Board.

NLM Sectional Chair

Ellen asked Clyde to discuss with Isabelle Thabault potential candidates to replace Julie Marquette who has resigned her position as NLM Sectional Chair.

Tournament Committee Report

Brad informed the meeting that the WBL August Sectional made a profit in the amount of \$1,863.00. He added that the Tournament Committee has not met since the last meeting of the Board and that, at its next meeting, the Committee will consider hospitality chair issues and will complete the financial analysis of the financial performance trend for WBL Sectionals over the past two years.

Sectional Score Correction Incident

The meeting discussed Peter Van Zijl and Mike Berard's joint letter to the Board in which they claim to have been the victims of a gross injustice at the WBL Trophy Pairs event that took place on Saturday, August 26, 2017, as part of the WBL Sectional. After lengthy deliberation, the Board decided to send each of them a letter, signed by the President and the Tournament Chair, apologizing for the predicament they had to endure.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, October 25, at Carole's house. Brad, Lloyd and Hadi will buy food and drinks.