

BHBC BOARD MINUTES 4/19/20

In attendance: Marcia Fisher, Lee Hausner, Stephanie Campbell, Dawn Lee, Susan Lava, Julianne O'Connor, Nancy Heck, John Ramos

The meeting was called to answer any remaining questions about our proposed agreement with Alliance Bridge Club (ABC).

Lee asked if there would be a contract; John answered no.

John has checked out the partners in ABC. He knows the woman who owns the Westchester, NY, club, and found the other 3 clubs all have excellent reputations. He communicated with friends in New York regarding Silvana (Sagamore) and found she also has a great reputation.

Julianne & Nancy looked at a demo of their teaching program and were very impressed. John pointed out we were offered this opportunity because of our teaching program.

Questions (Answers in bold):

- **Nancy:** Has the alliance approached the Long Beach Club? They have a very good educational program. **John will bring it up but knows the alliance was looking for an LA club first.**
- **Nancy:** How will our membership react to the change? We've put a great deal of time into what we have now. It was very difficult and time-consuming to get people comfortable with what we just started doing. **Lee said what has been done so far has built passion and people are getting comfortable with online bridge. Julianne said we don't have to give up all our games. Susan said it's still BBO (and it is), BHBC members wouldn't have to change. Nancy added there's no technical problem with BBO, but people wouldn't be playing with our club's members (and might not like that). Susan said she doesn't feel like she's playing with people she knows now because many people don't use their real names in their BBO profile. John reported Silvana said most people don't see that as a problem because they're enjoying the additional games. Nancy suggested we encourage people to add their names.**
- **Nancy:** Are we forfeiting our current BBO games? **As long as our games don't compete with theirs, it's fine.**
- **Nancy:** How is the directors' time allotted? **They work in 6-hour shifts, in multiple games and more than one game at a time. They are paid by the hour - \$25. The alliance is thinking about cutting it to 4 hour shifts. John believes the directors will get more work from an arrangement with the alliance than they have now. There was a discussion about supplementing their income if necessary. Nancy said 6-hour shifts are brutal and thinks we should supplement. A MOTION WAS PASSED TO MAKE SURE THE DIRECTORS ARE NOT FINANCIALLY DISADVANTAGED.**
- **Nancy:** Can BHBC and BBC people play as partners? **Yes.**
- **Marcia:** Is it possible to create a tutorial? **Dawn said it is already being created.**
- **Susan:** What are we agreeing to? Is there a written agreement? **There is no written agreement or commitment to stay with the alliance.**
- **Dawn:** Do we get paid per person in our games or is it pooled? Per person (BHBC people)
- **Susan:** Asked for clarification on how we get paid. **John said the money currently goes to ACBL and they pay us our share. In the alliance, they will give the money to ACBL and we will get it from them. Susan asked if there would be reports. John is checking.**

- **Julianne:** Would BBC ask us to pay for their players who play with ours in the alliance games? **John said it doesn't work that way. BBC would not get revenue from this situation.**
- **Susan:** Does the alliance pay directors? **John said they do. Susan asked if they are taking over 1099's and there was further discussion about the tax status of the directors. John will get clarification.**
- **There was a concern expressed about whether or not BBC might want out of our agreement when they find out we're joining the alliance. John said the ACBL has already merged our lists. If BBC wants out of our agreement after we join the alliance, that's fine, but doubtful since our agreement with them will still increase their revenue.**
- **Dawn:** Can I teach local people? **Yes. Julianne pointed out we will have a dedicated teaching section on the alliance site.**

A motion was passed to join the alliance. John will email Silvana and say we have conditionally agreed, assuming acceptable answers to our questions. In the meantime, we will keep our games as is.

We will have another board meeting before we actually start (Note: As of 4/20/20, we are planning to start 4/27).