Minutes of the October 26, 2026 General Membership Meeting

Gainesville Bridge Club

Members Present: 25

President Joyce Thompson called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Welcomed members and introduced the current officers and board members.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report for the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2026 ending September 30, 2026.

- There is $11,664.62 in the general fund. We have maintained 2 CDs of $10,000 each with interest, which is put into the general fund and $500 donation for Longest Day (held in Checking).
- Income: $22,809.97 in table fees and BBO fees and $4,146.29 in dues, education and CD interest.
- Expenses: $17,501.08 in Directors fees and ACBL fees and $6,868.60 in rent and supplies

By-Laws Committee: The board approved the proposed amendments which will be sent to the full membership for approval. Voting by electronic ballot will occur following a 1-week review period for the proposed bylaws. Paula Crowley will send an email to the membership containing both the current and proposed by-laws for review.

Social Committee: The Holiday Party/Bridge Game will be Tuesday, December 15th from 11:30am-4:30pm at Oak Hammock. Lunch is chili and salad for $20. The club will provide cake for dessert. The game ($8 table fees) will begin at 1:00pm. RSVP required via email. Cancellations must be to Paula Crowley, who will be sending out the party notice and receiving the RSVPs, no later than 10 days before the event or the $20 fee will still be required for the meal.

We need help finding a venue for the Longest Day Tournament as Oak Hammock will be doing renovations and will be unavailable in June. Suggestions welcomed.

Membership/Publicity: We have 80 members which is equal to our pre-COVID numbers. The modes of advertising have been effective and will continue.

Nominating Committee: Motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of Officers and Board Members for 2027 and passed. Ballot will go out to members within the

week. Joyce Thompson-President, Kirk Becker-VP, Brenda McIndoo-Treasurer, San Marshall-Secretary and Carlos Maeztu & Linda Yon for the 2 open board seats. Write-in candidates will also be accepted for all positions on the board.

Education Committee: A group of members meet the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month in the Oak Hammock card room from 2:00-4:00pm to discuss conventions, the play of the game and other topics and it includes practice playing hands which highlight the topics discussed. The fee is $10 a session. Those who wish to hone their skills are invited to participate. Upcoming topics: Carding (Nov. 7), Bergen (Nov. 21), New Minor Forcing (Dec. 5) and Intro to Swiss Teams (Dec. 19).

Development Committee: The 5 year aims/goals were achieved in 4 years, which were, mainly, to increase membership to pre-COVID level and improve awareness of the GBC in the community. A final report is appended here.

Zero Tolerance: The club maintains a zero-tolerance policy against abuse. Continue to respect the GBC community of players and your partner, show civility during director calls and as Dimitri said **-- if you are asked for advice, provide it, but if you are not asked, don't say anything.**

New Business

The Board of Directors approved pro-rating dues for new members, $30 (Jan.-Apr.), $20 (May-Aug.) and $10 (Sep.-Dec.) for the current fiscal year. Beginning Jan. of the next fiscal year full dues will be assessed.

GBC general liability insurance for the venues that we use will cost less and we will provide a certificate of insurance to both venues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda K. Yon, Secretary

Gainesville Bridge Club - Development Committee
3-5 Year Recovery Strategy Success After Covid

Background

Prior to Covid, the club's annual income and expenses were essentially equal. Although the club had a "surplus" of money after Covid because games were online, the loss of nearly forty percent of the membership depleted this surplus more rapidly than expected when in-person games resumed. As a result, the club asked the Development Committee to formulate a strategy to restore financial balance between income and expenses.

The Plan

After analyzing the factors present in the years prior to Covid and considering the remaining surplus money in the bank, the Development Committee created a 3–5-year strategic plan to restore a financial even keel for the club. This plan, endorsed unanimously by the membership, was to re-establish ~$20,000 to ~$22,000 in the bank by:

1. Restoring membership levels to at least 70+ by adding 3+ members a year
2. Increasing game attendance to 17 tables a week
3. Increasing dues from $20 to $30

After 5 years, if the plan did not achieve the desired results, other measures would be considered to reach the desired balances.

Status

During the first three years of the plan, progress was made steadily but uncovered several areas needing better results:

1. Membership
2. Special Games Fees

Gainesville Bridge Club - Development Committee
3-5 Year Recovery Strategy After Covid

Status Cont'd

Those areas were addressed successfully with incentives from ACBL on membership and extra charges for special games. After implementing those improvements, in the last quarter of year 3 – 2025, the project goals had been reached.

We are pleased to report that, after two more quarters in 2026 with continuing positive results, we are confident that the project goals are solidly in place and the project can be closed officially.

At the end of June, we had:

1. 79 Members
2. An average of nearly 28 tables a week
    a. Monday - 6.1
    b. Tuesday – 7
    c. Wednesday – 5
    d. Friday – 5.1
    e. Sunday – 4.7

Conclusion

The amount, exceeding expectations, is due, principally, to the absorption of Gatorbridge and its weekly average of almost 7 tables.

Prior to Covid, the club's financial balance was achieved by including $2,500 to $3,000 from Chat Bridge and Education classes. Education, a principal source of new members for the club, is under reorganization, is now assured success because of the extra tables from Gatorbridge.