

Minutes

NW Tucson Bridge Club
Board of Directors Meeting 11.02.22

Location: NW Tucson Bridge Club
Directors present: Pamela Thaut, Greg West, Rick Dunie, Randy Wentross, Donna DePesa, George Harger
Others present: Joyce Honorof, Bob Hertzog, Kay Afdahl

Meeting called to order at 10.02am.
Minutes for 09.21.22 were approved.
Agenda organized by committee reports as follows:

1. Education:

-Bob Hertzog discussed his two classes. (1) 'Competitive Bridge' Saturdays 9.00-11.30am at Club, has 4 sessions remaining out of 10 total. (2) 'Beginning Bridge' Thursdays 1.00-3.30pm at Club, for 10 sessions starting this week.

-Followup discussions included (1) Bob volunteering to teach at Splendido after 1/1/23, (2) questions as to why these classes were not more widely advertised, (3) interference of Saturday morning class on attendance of students in Team Games on Saturday afternoons.

Implementing a Mentor Game was discussed in detail and approved. Basics as follows: We'll run a monthly Mentor Game on every 4th Wednesday starting 1/25/23. Game begins at 9.30am, consists of 18 boards with MP awards, and is followed by discussion of deals with a lunch provided by Club. Randy Wentross will assist in partnership formation. Kay will provide directors. Game fee is \$4/player with mentee paying for their mentor (\$8 for pair) and mentees have free admission to that afternoon's Open Game (but not necessarily play TV tag with their mentor).

1. Special Report on Improving Limited Game Attendance by Joyce Honorof

Our two weekly F2F games are struggling or even dying. Joyce has evaluated and enumerated Strengths and Weaknesses of the Club in this area and also proposed Opportunities for improvement (and Threats). See Appendix 1. This has been an issue, addressed in various ways, since the Club reopened post-pandemic. Several limited players feel that the Club's BOD and Open Players don't care about them. Competition from online 499er games is a huge detriment. Joyce will arrange a volunteer to survey of the limited players for ideas on how/what to improve. The idea of a lower level, ie I/N, mentor game was discussed. Further discussion and changes are obviously needed.

Along this line there was discussion of starting a lesson focused on intermediate players. **The board approved a 2-hr monthly themed lesson and various volunteer teachers.** The first class will be on January 17 with Rick Dunie teaching. More details to be worked out...

1. Game Directors

Kay reported that a major problem in Team Games is directors needing some dedicated assistance from a non-player, especially in difficult movements like 7 tables. Tentative: Rick will help Bob on 11/12 and Kay on 12/10. Randy will help Kay in January and her subsequent games.

1. Operations Management

Rick reported that the 3 board openings for 2023 have 3 volunteers: Bob Hertzog, Jim Wolf, and Gayle Covey. These open positions have been advertised extensively. So if nothing changes, these 3 can be approved by acclamation.

1. Financial

George provided a chart showing table counts for (1) full-year 2019, pre-pandemic, (2) part-year 2021, starting with July reopening, and (3) 2022 thru Oct. There is complete comparison data for the **4-month periods Jul-Aug-Sep-Oct** for these three years. Taking 2019 table counts as 100%, 2021 averages 66% and 2022 averages 75%. So, it looks like we're at ~75% of pre-pandemic table counts, month-to-month. George started that financials look good...

George mentioned that we should start evaluating options for when our 5-year lease expires in May 2024: move?, renew?, end?. Current contract stipulates that our renewed lease will have another 5-year run.

1. Miscellaneous

Volunteer Appreciation Party: Pamela will host at her home on an afternoon in Jan 2023. Pot luck with a theme. Volunteers only, not for board members.

Holiday Party: Before game on Monday, Dec 19. Club provides food and drink. Rick will oversee preparations.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Wentross

Appendix 1

Joyce Honorof:

Limited Games/Club Issues

What will work? What is not working....

Strengths

Dedicated and active volunteers

Many limited players on the rise

Beautiful environment

Beginner classes

Location in the NW corridor

Weaknesses

Some OPEN players think we have enough for limited players or unaware of the lack thereof

Perception by many that the BOD is not interested in up and coming players & limit games

Excessive competition for 499ers. Our game has failed offering even less for limited players

ACBL World 5 games daily at \$2.49 7 days a week

Adobe 499 P&L Monday, Tuesday & 499 Game Wed. AM

Adobe Mentor Game monthly. We have none.

Side by Side Open/Limited games: Players are asked to "fill in" for the opens. POLICY NEEDED!

Not enough classes for advancing players

Opportunities

Evaluate why limited attendance is down: Take a SURVEY

Find out the REAL reason attendance is down. BBO? or LACK of GAMES? or Fill-ins for opens?

Regular game for low MPs needed

NLMs to work with the true beginners. An I/N Mentor game.

Night games attract people on BBO. Why not here for working people?

Monthly Mentor Game by us

Advanced classes

Advertise our current classes. Newsletter, Solicit at SB, Sun City, Splendido, All Seasons, Oro Valley Community Center

Consider the schedule: Why we opened with the pre-Covid schedule. Thursday we pay rent and sit empty. Resume prior OPEN days as M,W Th and Limited T,F.

Reduce Limited fee

Offer discounts

Personalized phone campaign to get folks back

Threats

Acceptance of the Status Quo

Adobe offering what our limited players want. We do not.

Monthly losses \$700 - \$1,000 so what we are doing is NOT working.