

Bridge on the Edge, Board of Administration
Record of January 9th, 2020 meeting

Attendees:

- Brian Shortall , Chair
- Richard Comerford, Treasurer
- Susan Follett, Fran Cook (temporary secretary) and Anne Hughes, members at large.
- Rahul Chandra, Club Manager
- Roy Perry and Judith McIntyre are travelling.

Call to order: Brian called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

1) Record of December 19th 2019 Meeting.

The record of December 19th 2019 meeting was accepted upon motion from Fran and Anne.

2) Committee/Team reports

Housekeeping

The fan has been repaired in the ladies washroom and ventilation has improved. There is still an issue with one of the toilets. Brian will follow up with the Swilers management on this.

Lighting in the playing area has been enhanced for the enjoyment of the players.

Finance

Rick reported a profit for the club of \$1,900 for the nine-month period to end of December which is somewhat ahead of our budget. He pointed out that the \$5.00 games reduced the December revenue by \$3,200.

There was discussion of an HST rebate. Since, as a "not-for-profit", we have to collect HST; the \$10.00 charge for a game is \$8.70 revenue for the Club and \$1.30 for HST.

We do not qualify for the more favorable HST arrangement that is enjoyed by "Charities", as we are not eligible to become a registered charity.

The financial report will be posted to the web page in the "Members Only" section under Financial Information.

Education

The committee met to plan classes for January, February and March. The committee has implemented mentoring on Tuesday evening and the program is proving very positive. This is an ideal playing slot for those still working.

The supervised play is a huge success. Beginners' bridge with Gloria and Janet is ongoing. There was discussion about bookings. Bookings and cancellations should be made within twenty-four hours of the scheduled game.

It was noted that these programs were open to members and non-members, and therefore registration and or cancellations can be done by email. A consensus emerged that these classes should have a minimum count of two tables. The webpage will advertise the classes for April, May and June.

Social

Valentine's Day will be our next event with eats and treats. It was noted that the use of disposal plastic cutlery and paper plates was not environmentally friendly and members should bring their own cutlery and plates

Viki O'Dea has volunteered to set up a schedule so there are consumables for players each session. Thanks Viki!

March 14th is Pi Day. This day was created to celebrate the mathematical constant Pi that is recognized by the symbol π . There will be goodies for that as well. Again bring your own utensils.

Constitution

The Board approved a motion by Anne to bring two changes of the constitution to the membership for ratification at the AGM. These will be posted at least 60 days prior to the AGM.

One change is article 15 C-3 where the word "*audit*" will be changed to "*independently prepared*".

The second deals with the length of time Board members will serve and will provide continuity from year to year.

Club Manager

Rahul reported that the ACBL sanctions for our games have to be registered for January and right now it is status quo. If there is a need to make changes to these sanctions, be it play on Wednesday, it is an easy process.

3) New Business:

1. Newsletter

The newsletter compiled by Janet Parsons and Pat O'Brien is a very worthwhile venture. There will be a request by the Board for new editors.

2. Storm days

With regards to storm days, it was decided that although BOTE doesn't have the safety issues that the school board has, it is still recommended that we adhere to their guidelines.

3. Memberships

Members renewing this year will have to complete a form to update membership information.

4. Suggestion Box

Suggestions from the box were reviewed and where possible will be implemented.

5. Mentoring

Some players found that mentoring at the table was disruptive.

Suggested that mentoring points be noted and discussed during breaks or after the game. This was passed to the Directors Advisory team.

6. Cell phones

This was noted to be a very difficult topic as it requires balance of the player's emergency and the disruption caused.

7. Side tables

Safety and space issues prevent the use of side tables.

Adjournment:

As Roy and Judith were travelling it was suggested we adjourn and continue the meeting next Thursday to address other items on the agenda.

Adjournment was 6:10 pm approved by Brian and seconded by Rick.

Bridge on the Edge, Board of Administration Meeting 16-Jan-2020
Part two, following on from 09-Jan-2020

Attendees:

- Brian Shortall, Chair,
- Roy Perry, Vice-Chair,
- Rick Comerford, Treasurer,
- Judith McIntyre, Secretary,
- Fran Cook, Anne Hughes, Susan Follett members at large.
- Rahul Chandra, Club Manager.

Additional Business

1) Chairs

Fran will find out if it possible to purchase additional chairs similar to the three green ones that are so popular.

2) Newsletter

The Board would like to thank Janet Parsons and Pat O'Brien for their dedication to the informative BOTE newsletter over the past four years, they have provided the membership with entertaining, educational and interesting stories. Janet and Pat have indicated they wish to step down from their editorial positions, however Viki O'Dea has offered to take over as long as a co-editor can be found. Anyone who would be interested in helping is asked to contact any Board member or Viki directly. The Board will provide some guidelines to the new editors.

3) Zero Tolerance

The committee had a lively discussion about the club's approach to the ACBL recommended Zero Tolerance Policy. The consensus was that members should be aware of the club's Zero Tolerance expectation and that rational enforcement by the directors is needed. We are a small, social club trying to maintain and encourage members to play and everyone should stifle any negative behavior/comments that could be off-putting to less experienced players, for example comments on play, badgering of partner, teaching at the table, swearing etc.

A proposal to amend the present Zero Tolerance Policy, as shown below was proposed by Roy Perry and seconded by Judith McIntyre.

Present Policy for ZERO TOLERANCE: *BOTE endorses and accepts the ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy for unacceptable behavior that makes bridge less enjoyable for others.*

Offenses under this category include:

1. *Publicly criticizing partner or opponents including teaching at the table.*
2. *Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, profanity, threats, or violence.*
3. *Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.*
4. *Gloating over good results.*
5. *Objecting to a call for the Director.*
6. *Disputing or arguing with a Director's ruling.*
7. *Poor personal hygiene, grooming or dress.*

Penalty for the first offense will be a procedural penalty of one-quarter board or 3 IMPS. For the second offense, the player will be banned from the club for one month.

It is important to bear in mind that the ultimate purpose of this policy is to create and maintain a pleasant atmosphere for playing bridge at BOTE. There are some suggestions from ACBL that may contribute positively in this regard for all players to consider:

1. *Be a good host or guest at the table.*
2. *Greet others in a friendly polite manner.*
3. *Praise or compliment the bidding or play of others if appropriate.*
4. *Have two clearly completed convention cards readily available for the opponents to peruse in the event that they request the information.*

Revised policy ZERO TOLERANCE: *BOTE endorses and accepts the ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy for unacceptable behavior that makes bridge less enjoyable for others.*

Offenses under this category include:

1. *Publicly criticizing partner or opponents including teaching at the table.*
2. *Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, profanity, threats, or violence.*
3. *Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.*
4. *Gloating over good results.*
5. *Objecting to a call for the Director.*
6. *Disputing or arguing with a Director's ruling.*
7. *Poor personal hygiene, grooming or dress.*

Penalties will be imposed that are appropriate to the severity of the infraction.

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opponents to peruse in the event that they request the information.

4) Extra day of Operation

The Swilers club is presently not rented on Wednesdays. BOTE considered the possibility of increasing the weekly games to include one on Wednesday, however after a financial analysis and general discussion, it was unanimously decided not to expand our operations.

5) Director's Guidance

Roy reported that a Focus Group will be held on Saturday January 25th 2-4pm. The members invited to attend will be chosen randomly. We hope those invited will enjoy the afternoon and provide good feedback. Concerns have been raised about the Directors having a consistent approach to noise control, penalties, demeanor etc. We hope the Focus Group will give us some input from members on these issues. There were also discussions on getting some training for the Directors and establishing guidelines/standards.

6) Membership Renewal

Players renewing their membership in May will receive a Duplicate Log Book in which to record their scores. Members will also be asked, when they renew, if they wish to have their email/phone numbers available to other members on the Members Only part of the website.

7) Changes to the Constitution and AGM

Members will be advised of proposed changes to the constitution, referenced in the first half of the minutes, to provide continuity on the Board, at least 60days before the proposed AGM.

8) Volunteer Week

Volunteer week is April 19-25th. The Board plans to celebrate the club's volunteers.

Action Items Ongoing

Chair research (Fran)

Ladies Bathroom (Brian & Rahul)

Guidance for Directors (Roy, Fran & Judith)

Next meeting will be Thursday 27-Feb-2020 following the afternoon game

Judith McIntyre, 17-Jan-2020