WBL Board Minutes

April 28, 2021

Attendance: All board members attended. Brad Theurer (tournament chair) and Chris Miller (chief director) also attended.

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the March meeting.

Unit Game: Chris reported that the Thursday game continues to draw many players—table counts between the mid-fifties and high sixties. The Monday open game remains at 6 to 9 tables. Linda noted that the Monday 499er game has been small and suggested that we consider making it a 999er game. She noted that this was unlikely to cause the least experienced players to drop out-- when the game has been cancelled due to poor attendance, about half the players choose to join the open game. The Board agreed to change the game to a 999er game. Chris said the current game is 20 or 21 boards, and he would ask the 999ers whether they would prefer to keep this number, lengthen the game, or shorten the game.

Treasurer's Report: Herb reported that he had made another $500 contribution to the Capitol Area Food Bank, that rent for storage space had increased from $99 to $115 per month (the first increase in two years), and that we had received $358 from support your local club games. He noted that attendance at these games, unlike at other online games, has been declining. Unit game attendance has varied, depending in part on what bridge events are competing with the game. We will be hosting three unit games in the next month; we anticipate $700-750 in net revenue from each. Herb has completed the WBL's required Internal Revenue Service report and will distribute it shortly for Board review and approval. He noted that comparative financial data for 2019 and 2020 appear on the website, including the 2020 balance.

Future Plans: The Board decided to hold the WBL annual meeting online on September 9, 2001, following the same format as we used for the 2020 online annual meeting. It also agreed to decide by June whether to hold its September sectional tournament.

In light of ongoing developments in the pandemic, the Board discussed various issues involved in resuming face-to-face bridge. Notable observations included:

- Decisions need to be made after careful consideration of the results of the District 6 survey, preferably with consideration of unit specific data.
- Linda noted the changing content of ACBL and Maryland government guidance. She added that Ohr Kodesh requirements would need to be considered as well.
- Along with expected declines in attendance, ACBL distancing requirements (currently 11 feet between tables) will necessitate new estimates of how much space we need.
- It is not clear whether we can mandate that players be vaccinated. If we can, it is not clear how we can verify that people are vaccinated, or whether taking their word for it is a viable approach. It's not clear whether we'd be able to develop a database listing vaccinated players.
- Wearing masks for a three hour bridge session can be a burden.

- Should we move to eliminate cash payment? If we rely on credit cards, internet access is needed, which could be a problem for the unit game at Ohr Kodesh. Instituting an exact change payment policy, which would reduce handling bills, might be another option. Pre-registration and pre-payment are other possibilities.

The next meeting will be May 26, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell