WBL Board Minutes

May 26, 2021

Attendance: All Board members attended. Brad Theurer (tournament chair) also attended.

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

Unit Game: The Monday open game continues to hold its own, but the 999er game has been cancelled due to lack of participation. Herb reported that attendance at club matchpoint games has been broadly down—unit game Thursday attendance recently has been 50-60 tables. He said we are nonetheless holding our own financially on our online games. Clyde suggested that to make the unit game a little friendlier we should encourage players to add more information, including a picture, to their BBO profiles; he observed that a zoom component would be very helpful, too.

The Board discussed resumption of face-to-face unit games. Board members agreed there had not been pressure from players to resume face-to-face quickly. Ohr Kodesh has been a good site (cheaper than the Kensington Armory, no need to move tables in and out), but it is unclear whether Ohr kodesh will introduce new conditions and restrictions in the wake of the pandemic—it is possible, for example that Ohr Kodesh would wish to resume a full slate of congregation activities before it allowed us to resume bridge games.. Clyde promised to call them and find out about their reopening plans and how they would affect us. The Board also discussed the possibility of continuing online Monday limited and open games after face-to-face bridge resumes, perhaps in collaboration with one or more local clubs. Chuck volunteered to discuss this possibility with Mark Lavine.

Future Plans: ACBL guidance and club practices are both evolving; as these change, options for the unit game and sectionals will also change. It was noted that required safety measures are likely to become somewhat more relaxed as time goes on. Mary promised to contact Margot Hennings to find out about whether the NVBA plans to hold its October sectional. Linda reported that the NVBA was considering reopening its face-to-face unit game in January; it is rumored that Gene Schuyler's NVBA club games may reopen on July 1. Mark Lavine's WBL club games remain online only, possibly because the churches and synagogues in which they had been played remain restrictive about in-person activities. It was noted that if we want to hold a fall sectional we need to commit to this very soon and start getting specific plans in place.

Board Elections: The Board agreed that it would be valuable to recruit some new people to run for the Board, especially those who play in limited masterpoint games and are familiar with the concerns of non-experts. Carole stressed that it was important for new people to have the right attitude, i.e., be highly motivated to give back to bridge and contribute to its future. Hadi volunteered to draft a letter to the membership encouraging new board candidates. (After input from several board members, Linda sent out a letter on June 11 asking for volunteers and highlighting issues of special concern. A copy of the letter is on the WBL website.)

The next meeting will be June 23, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell