WBL Board Minutes

November 18, 2020

Attendance: All Board Members attended: Linda Marshall, Hadi Abushakra, Herb Schulken, Bob Bell, Carole Banks, Chuck Dearolf, Alex Gretsinger, Clyde Kruskal, Lloyd Rawley, and Mary Tenenbaum.

Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the July and October meetings. When Herb returns from travel, he will review the draft August minutes and send a draft with suggested revisions that correct errors in the original draft.

Unit Game: Herb reported that attendance declined a little in September, but returned to previous levels in October. Although only two of October's five unit games generated revenue for the WBL (whereas the WBL paid director's fees for all five)all five) , it was approximately a break even month. Herb said he expected we would be able to contribute $100 to the Capital Area Food Bank.

There will be no Unit Game on Thanksgiving or Christmas Eve. Linda will talk with Marty Bley of the NVBA about whether to hold a game on New Year's Eve. It was suggested that, if we held such a game, we might try and make it more festive, possibly by having a zoom gathering after the game. To assess interest, Lloyd suggested that Linda's weekly e-mail to WBL members might ask them whether they would be interested in playing in a New Year's Eve unit game.

Website: Linda thanked Alex for doing a lot of work to update the information on the website. She reminded board members with responsibilities in various web content areas that they should send new or revised material to Alex for posting and said that we should institute processes to ensure that updates were made routinely. Linda also noted that information on the website about virtual clubs should include the e-mail addresses of club managers. Chuck suggested that most other information about in-person clubs should not be changed until face-to-face play resumed. Linda agreed, recommending that the page might include a banner indicating that in-person play was currently suspended.

Masterpoint Races. There was a brief discussion of utilities that would enable us to keep track of online masterpoints that counted for local races (e.g., Lovenberg, Tubbs, Woolridge). There was interest in starting this at the beginning of 2021. Bridgewebs, which can display game results and cumulative individual results, is now able to draw down game results directly from ACBLLive. Using this service would probably cost about 100 pounds annually. BBO extractor, which would entail more ongoing work, was another option mentioned. Linda reported that she had sent information on these options to Chris Miller and Alex and that Alex had agreed to look into them.

Charity. The ACBL is going to make charitable donations to charities designated by the Districts. District 6 has decided to allocate its funds to food bank charities chosen by the units. The WBL share of this donation is $3000, which the Board decided to contribute to the Capital Area Food Bank. In addition, the Board agreed to maintain, but not increase, our monthly local contributions to the food bank. Several members noted that the WBL needed to be prepared for increased expenses associated with the resumption of in-person bridge.

In honor of the late Edith McMullin's extraordinary contributions to bridge teaching both in the WBL and nationally, the WBL contributed $200 to Children's International, a charity to which Edith was deeply committed.

Future Plans. We agreed that we expected sectionals might resume in the fall, but not earlier. Accordingly, we will contact the Schweinhaut Center and try to reserve dates for our October sectional. Herb noted that the county has returned our advance payments for tournaments that were cancelled due to the pandemic. However, Ohr Kodesh has kept three weeks of advance payments that were originally sent to cover games that were cancelled.

The next meeting will be January 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell