



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

November 2nd, 2009

Houston Bridge Studio

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. Present were Pat Levy, President, Paul Cuneo, Vice-President, John Erickson, Secretary, Lauri Laufman, Robert Reichek, Kathy Hughes, Karen Nimmons and Bob Dowlen.

Also present for part of the meeting were Jim Woodward – Treasurer, and Sandy Stevens.

Minutes of October Board Meeting

The minutes of the October meeting were approved by on-line poll.

Treasurer's Report

Jim submitted financial reports dated November 2, 2009.

Motion: To approve the November 2, 2009 financial reports.

The motion was seconded and approved.

John will send copies of the financial reports to Norm Gautier (the financial verifier).

Financial Verifier's Report

Pat

Norm Gautier sent the following e-mail to Pat:

This is to confirm that the verifier functions were performed for Unit transactions (exclusive of the NABC transactions) for the period January 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009 and there are no exceptions to report. I will plan on reporting for the remainder of the year during the first quarter of 2010.

Committee Reports

Head Caddy

Sandy



Sandy Stevens, the Unit's Caddy Chair, made a presentation concerning the Board's recent decision to stop hiring Sandy Bippert as head caddy, and also to update the Board on caddy procedures in general. One point made was that the Tournament Director will often pull a bridge-playing caddy to fill in if a player is needed. This loss of a caddy for a session can be disruptive to that particular session.

The Board appreciated Sandy's presentation and held further discussions after Sandy left the meeting. It was determined that Sandy Bippert had not been receiving a \$75 per tournament travel allowance that had been approved in a previous meeting.

Motion: To reimburse Sandy Bippert \$75 for each tournament caddied since the travel allowance motion was passed, and to present her with a letter of appreciation and a \$300 cash gift in recognition of her many years of service to Unit 174.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Club Reimbursements

Paul

Since last month's board meeting, a question had arisen concerning whether clubs should be reimbursed only for items identified strictly as rent, or if the reimbursement should include other required payments such as insurance or security costs. A majority of board members voted in favor of the clubs, and reimbursements will include all such items.

STAC

Bob

Last month's STAC introduced the division of each day's play into three time periods: morning, afternoon and evening. Separate hand records were used for each of the three. Previously, only day and evening divisions were used. The board's discussion of the change led to the belief that there was a mild preference for the two-period STAC, and costs would be slightly lowered.

Motion: Any STAC game with a scheduled commencement time of 2:00 pm or earlier would be considered a day STAC game, and any STAC game with a scheduled commencement time of later than 2:00 pm would be considered an evening STAC game.

The board also discussed flight level cutoffs for STAC games. It was felt that the cutoffs should be the same as the cutoffs for a sectional Stratified Pairs game. Thus, future STAC games will be held with 2,000 and 750 master point cutoffs.

2009 Pro-Am

Paul

This year's Pro-Am games saw lower attendance than last year. Paul theorized that this was due to the BCOH game falling in the same week as their mentor game, and insufficient publicity overall. Next year we will try to adjust the timing of the game and increase publicity.

Member Communications Committee

John

Betty Freedman submitted a report showing that attempts were made to contact 40 members. Betty confesses to being burned out on this job and would like the board to find a replacement. Several possibilities were discussed, and Pat will make inquiries.

Membership

John

Unit membership totals 2,486 as of October 31. This is an increase of 26 in the last month, and we had 17 new members join our Unit.



Fund Raising**Bob**

Bob received a check from Randall's in the amount of \$29.29.

NAP/GNT**Robert**

NAP - Preparations are complete for the Unit finals on November 14-15.

Supplies**Lauri**

Lauri reports that CW Woodworking has agreed to construct and paint two new rolling cabinets for a price of \$1,425, including delivery to our warehouse.

Publicity**Pat**

Bill Baker was able to place a photo and an article about Youth Bridge on the ACBL website. The photo included Betsy Dubose, Susan Edwards and the students from Emery/Weiner who are learning bridge.

Old Business**Lone Star Regional****Paul**

The first Lone Star Regional took place in 1962. Thus, next year's will be the 49th one. The board discussed giveaways and decorations for the tournament. We will again be giving pencils and clips, stickers and convention card holders as registration gifts. Players will also be able to order stick-on labels with names and ACBL numbers. The new ACBL President, who will begin his term in January, will be invited to attend our Regional.

New Player Services**Kathy**

Janet Williams, Lynn Luster and Connie Montgomery have agreed to handle New Player Services during tournaments. Having three people to handle this important duty makes it much more likely that someone will be available when needed.

October Sectional**Paul/Lauri**

Attendance increased slightly with 17 more tables in play than last year. Preliminary projections are that the budgeted loss of about \$1,000 will be very close. The loss is due to the \$5 reduction in playing fees on Friday afternoon.

New Business**Sectional Tournament Sites****John/Paul**

There is still no update on the Shriners' permitting needs, so we are unable to confirm booking the April 23-25, 2010 weekend for the Election Sectional. John was unable to arrange a board member tour of the facility in October, but will try again this month.

Paul has received verbal agreement from the Marriott to hold our August sectionals there through 2012. He is still waiting for the contracts to be prepared.

Electronic Scoring Pads**Pat**

Pat received information about the BridgePad Electronic Scoring System, an electronic means of reporting pairs scores to the directors. This product is in use by the Honolulu Unit. Tournament Director Rick Beye is in charge of determining the feasibility of its use for the ACBL. John was appointed to investigate possible purchase/lease by our unit.

Texas Star Award

The board has agreed on a nominee for this award.

Scorecard Article

The unit would like to have a short article and photo about Eric Snow in the Scorecard, and Lauri suggested we ask Arlene Weingarten to write the article.

Tournament Calendar

Paul

The 2010 tournament calendar and sanction numbers have been finalized and e-mailed to all club owners and managers.

Job Descriptions

Pat

Board members should familiarize themselves with each of his/her assignments by reviewing the Procedures Manual found in box.net.

Future Board Meetings

The next five Board meetings are projected to be: December 7, January 4, February 15, March 1, and April 5.

Executive Session

The Board discussed several issues in executive session throughout the meeting.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted

John Erickson

Secretary

