



Memorandum of Discussion

ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

October 7, 2013

Tracy Gee Community Center

Call to order

Beverley Cheatham

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Directors present were: Beverley Cheatham, Paul Cuneo, Joyce Gore, Kathy Hughes, Errol LeCesne, Bill Riley and Nancy Strohmer. Chuck Ensor and Tom Martinsen were not present. Shawn Quinn was present after the Lone Star Regional discussion and left after the discussion of length of Sectionals.

Approval of minutes

Bill Riley

Motion: That the September minutes be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

Paul discussed the use of using an Email for the approval of the minutes to expedite the process so the members can have access sooner on the website.

Treasurer's Report

Beverley Cheatham

Jim Woodward had sent the report via Email. A copy of the report was distributed by Beverley.

Motion: That the September Treasurer's report be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

District Report

Paul Cuneo

Paul had sent Email to the board about the meeting. The major highlights were that the district will have an extra position for flight B and the district will supplement the money from the ACBL.

- Scott Humphrey mentioned that Texas Star nominations with a picture and write-up (150 words max.) are due by December. Scott has a new e-mail address: scott.humphrey@suddenlink.net.
- There is a District Charity game October 1, 2013.
- Fort Worth sponsored a 2-week Bridge Camp for youth this summer. Contact Carolyn Pinto for details.



- All Units are encouraged to hold a Charity Event for the GNT at their Sectionals. Cost is \$1/person that goes to the Districts GNT fund. Benefit is full regional rating versus sectional rating – i.e. more points awarded. May be single or double session.
- The District has voted to ban electronic cigarettes from the playing area during Regional Tournaments. Units are encouraged to adopt the same policy for Sectionals and to encourage “fragrance free” tournaments.
- The District has adopted the following 2014 NAP subsidies for each flight:
 - 1st place: \$100 to each person
 - 2nd place: \$100 to each person if we have 4 qualifying spots otherwise \$200/person.
 - 3rd place: \$200 to each person if we have 4 qualifying spots otherwise \$300/person.
 - 4th place: \$300 to each person if we have 4 qualifying spots.
 - There will be no entry fee for the 1st round of the District qualifying event which is 2 sessions.
 - These subsidies are coming from the Grass Roots Fund.
- Houston will host the GNT Qualifying event for flights A and C at our Election Sectional

Old Business

2014 LSR

Nancy Strohmer

Hospitality at Regional

Proposal – 4 days of hospitality

- 1 Day – 750 cookies sponsored by the Marriott (no charge to the unit)
- 1 Day – 750 brownies sponsored by the Marriott (no charge to the unit)
- 1 Day – Ice cream bars - \$3.50 each
- 1 Day – Hot dogs with condiments - \$4 per person
- Estimated cost - \$4612.50

Proposal – 2 days of Recognition

- 1 Day – RECOGNIZE District 16 Director Guillermo Poplawsky as he is retiring
- 1 Day – RECOGNIZE Eddie Wold for his recent accomplishment in Bali.
- An individual has volunteered to provide a cake for this event for Eddie.

Motion: That the 4 days of hospitality and 2 days of recognition at the regional be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

Beverley distributed the sheet for costs for naming events at the regional. The board agreed with everything except for a concern about the increase in the cost of the bracketed Swiss.

New Business

Length of Sectionals

Group

The board moved to the discussion of the length of the sectionals as Shawn Quinn joined the meeting. Shawn presented several “talking” points created by Joe Quinn.

In the past the sectional tournaments in Houston were 4 day tournaments.

Houston always had the largest sectionals in the district until we went to 3 day sectional tournaments.



A comparison of the Houston unit and the other units in the district 16 was presented. Houston has ~2500 members – larger than the combination of any 2 of the other units in district 16. Since Dallas and Fort Worth units are relatively close geographically, the members for those units have a total of 8 sectionals per year (4 from each unit) without traveling a long distance. Similarly the San Antonio and Austin units have access to each other's sectionals. Houston is a considerable distance from those sectionals.

There was a discussion of the effect on the clubs. A review of the table counts at the 3 full service clubs in the unit on Thursdays showed that there were only 40-50 tables for day and night games. The board could review the possibility of indemnifying the clubs. Several board members brought up the point that a number of players do not want to go to tournaments.

There was a discussion about the motion to allow the members of the unit to vote on expanding the sectionals to 4 days. There was a difference what was done at the annual meeting. The minutes read that the motion was tabled but that is not what others heard.

There was discussion to poll the members through the web site as to their opinion for 4 day sectionals. In this way a document outlining the pros and cons for a 4 day sectional can be developed so the members have more information as to how it will affect them.

Shawn listed a few positives:

1. More masterpoints for players
2. Opportunity to play against stronger competition and different bidding systems
3. Opportunity to develop new partnerships and teams for regionals

Motion: That an online vote be taken through the website to allow the members to vote on the question of increasing the sectionals to 4 days.

The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

Initially a forum will be developed to allow the members of the unit to express their opinions before the online vote goes up online. Joe Quinn will develop the pros for having a 4 day sectional. The board will gather the arguments against 4 day sectional. Paul will work with Bert Onstott to get this set up online.

Shawn left the meeting after this discussion.

Nominating Committee

Paul Cuneo

We need to appoint a nominating committee chairman set up so that we can have the candidates before the regional. Several names were discussed. They will be contacted by Beverley and Paul.

Old Business

August Sectional

Beverly Cheatham / Nancy Strohmer

No further discussion.

October Sectional

Errol LeCesne / Bill Riley

Errol discussed the plans. One of the members would like to supply a cake to celebrate the birthday of the players.



NAP/GNT**Beverley Cheatham**

Nothing new.

STAC**Joyce Gore**

Joyce had sent out notices to the clubs that were not signed up. Currently 15 clubs are participating in the STAC games.

Bridge in Schools / Education Liaison**Errol Lecesne**

Errol reported that the Kingwood DBC is now at a permanent location at the Kingwood Community Center on Rustic Woods. In August Jim teamed up with Martin Gastrell offered a Beginning Bridge Class that enrolled 32 participants. At end of September they started an Intermediate class for 39 participants.

Unit Sponsored Lessons**Beverley Cheatham**

Beverley reported that Chuck Ensor is going to take the lead over this function.

Shawn Quinn discussed the possibility of a program of 2 days of competitive bidding. She was waiting to meet with Eddie after he returns Bali.

Marriott Contracts**Paul Cuneo**

Nothing new to report.

Procedures Manual**Paul Cuneo**

Paul has sent out the section for GNT NAP STAC and the elections. He requests for the Boards input.

Flyers**Paul Cuneo**

Beaumont expressed concern about being told that we would not allow their flyers at our sectionals. Paul will amend the procedures to state that we clearly accept flyers.

Membership Attraction & Retention**Group**

We will continue to offer free plays for the players with less than 5 MPs at October sectional.

2014 I/N Sanctions**Bill Riley**

Bill reported that the ACBL has yet to approve the other I/N tournaments until the ACBL executive board meets again and changes the wording of the motion to limit I/N tournaments to 3 per year for each unit from the meeting in Atlanta.

ABA Joint Event**Nancy Strohmer / Errol Lecesne**

Nancy presented the latest update. Nancy was touching base with the ABA and there has been a switch in mindset but the main sticking point is the number of master points awarded to the ABA member and the stratification based on points. Errol will meet with the ABA group tomorrow and see what has happened.

Whirlwind Bridge**Beverley Cheatham**

Beverley distributed a handout for the proposal for providing a session for Unit 174. She will be applying for a grant from the ACBL. The board had approved \$500 at the last meeting in addition to funding from the grant.



The event will be held at Tracy Gee Community Center on a Saturday in 2014 to be determined. The board recommends that this be offered free of charge.

Beverley discussed the needs for a successful event and stressed that the board will need to help if it is to be successful.

The event has 2 purposes: The trainers from ACBL will

1. teach people to play bridge in a day
2. use the session to train people in our unit to present this program.

The board agreed that we should proceed with the program and grant.

Executive Session

The board was not in executive session.

Future Meeting dates

The next meeting will be held on Monday, Nov 4, at 9:30am at Tracy Gee Community Center.

Adjourn

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded and approved at 10:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Riley, Secretary

