



## Memorandum of Discussion

### ACBL Unit 174 Board of Directors Meeting

Sept 9, 2013

### Tracy Gee Community Center

#### Call to order

Chuck Ensor

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. Directors present were: Beverley Cheatham, Paul Cuneo, Chuck Ensor, Joyce Gore, Kathy Hughes, Errol LeCesne, Tom Martinsen, Bill Riley and Nancy Strohmmer. Jim Woodward, treasurer, was present.

#### Approval of minutes

Chuck Ensor

**MOTION: That the August minutes be approved.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Jim Woodward

The treasurer's report was submitted by Email and in paper copy at the meeting by Jim.

**MOTION: That the Money Market be closed.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

**MOTION: That the Treasurer's report be approved.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

#### District Report

Paul Cuneo

Paul reported on the district meeting. A report had been distributed by Email before the meeting.

- 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](mailto:scott.humphrey@suddenlink.net)
- There is a District Charity game Oct 1.

During the meeting the board felt that we should encourage the clubs to participate in the game. The sanction number is available on the District 16 website. Chuck agreed to get the info to the other clubs – Beverley will address at BCOH.



- 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 earliest tournament that we could participate would be the April Sectional.

- 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. (See below)
- The District has adopted the following 2014 NAP subsidies for each flight:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$100 to each person
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$100 to each person if we have 4 qualifying spots otherwise \$200/person
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$200 to each person if we have 4 qualifying spots otherwise \$300/person
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place: \$300 to each person if we have 4 qualifying spots
  - There will be no entry fee for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the District qualifying event which is 2 sessions
  - These subsidies are coming from the Grass Roots Fund.

Paul explained that Grass Roots was designed for the support for NAP/GNT. Paul clarified that the ACBL already subsidizes \$700 for the first place – these are additional subsidies from the district. The amount will vary dependent on the number of participants that we qualify – 3 or 4. If we have 3 spots the subsidy will be \$800, \$600 and \$300. If 4 spots, the subsidy will be \$800, \$800, \$600, and \$300 respectively.

- Houston will host the GNT Qualifying event for flights A and C at our Election Sectional for the district.

Most likely playing session will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Jim Thurtell will get back with schedule.

- *The district president has established a committee to review the schedules at the Regionals.*
- *District 16 will have the following regional schedule.*
  - *Houston – every year*
  - *Dallas – every year*
  - *Austin/San Antonio – alternate every other year*
  - *Tyler/Fort Worth – alternate every other year*
  - *Beaumont/Abilene/Corpus Christi - alternate every 3 years*
- *There was discussion about the change in flight levels –*
  - *B will be less than 2500 masterpoints instead of 2000*
  - *A will be up to 6000 masterpoints*

## Old Business

2014 LSR

Beverley Cheatham



Beverley presented several options to be included in the hospitality bag for the regional. We can continue the same as last year with the convention cards. The following items from her Email were discussed:

Cooler Bags – we had these about 5 years ago and you still see them - Drinking Vessel – Full Color Microfiber Eyeglass Cleaner or a Phone/Camera Bag - USB Car Charger – Flashlight - 4 Aces Keychain - Pill Bottle - Level light Screwdriver Pen - 15 oz. Ceramic Mug - Post-it notes looks like playing card - 6” Plush Casino Playing Card Toy - Hand Sanitizers

Everyone agreed that the pages of stickers printed with the names were a hit and should be continued.

However, the board decided to change to 3 smaller items in the hospitality bag:

- Post-it notes – look like playing cards
- Pencils with clips
- The Logo Stickers

AWARDS –

At the last tournament we ran out of pen and pencil sets. The board felt that everyone appreciated them. The consensus was to continue the pen and pencil sets for this year but a different color.

### **June Sectional**

**Chuck Ensor / Joyce Gore**

Everything is ready

### **August Schedule**

**Beverley Cheatham / Nancy Strohmmer**

The budget and the flyer were presented to the board by Beverley. The Budget is basically the same as last year with slightly less loss than last year based on table count.

Minor corrections to the flyer were suggested – particularly the partnership area. The handicap statement is included.

**MOTION: That the budget and flyer for the August Sectional be approved with the minor changes to flyer.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### **NAP/GNT**

**Beverley Cheatham /Tom Martinsen**

The GNT results are on the web for this year.

NAP November 9th and 10th

**Motion: That the NAP be held on November 9th and 10th and the BCOH and the Studio be rented at the same price as last year.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Bridge in Schools**

**Errol LeCesne**

He plans to see if there is any interest about summer camps at the upcoming tournament.



## **Unit Sponsored Lessons**

**Chuck Ensor**

The most recent sponsored lesson "View from the Top" was considered an outstanding success. The general consensus was that we should continue. Sponsoring these events clearly promotes bridge – a major role of the unit board.

There was an extensive discussion about how to proceed and to be all-inclusive with the large number of teachers / pros that we are privileged to have in our unit. The board would also like to have pros outside of the unit to provide diversity and different programs. Chuck suggested that a committee be formed to meet with the various pros in our unit to formulate a plan. Errol thought that this would fall under the purview of Educational committee and agreed to chair the committee. Bill agreed to help. They will report at the next meeting.

## **Marriott Contracts**

**Paul**

Recent meeting – Discussion points that were addressed:

- Same costs for rooms for 2014 Tournament – currently the rate is \$153 for the regional – this cost was established long before the 2009 financial downturn – we are asking for a lower rate of \$109 as has been in the past.
- Correct a few administrative glitches and the Marriott is working on these.
- Change the schedule for 2017 since the Super Bowl will be in Houston and overlaps the tournament – possibly obtain some concessions for changing dates – need to move a week.

## **October Sectional**

**Errol LeCesne / Bill Riley**

A contract with Demeris has been obtained for the Sunday lunch. Chuck requested that the schedule and flyer for the tournament to be presented at the next board meeting.

## **Youth NABC**

**Paul Cuneo / Nancy Strohmmer**

Paul sent a note to Bert to upload the announcement to website. Nancy will send the announcement in a separate newsletter.

## **Petition for Special Membership Meeting**

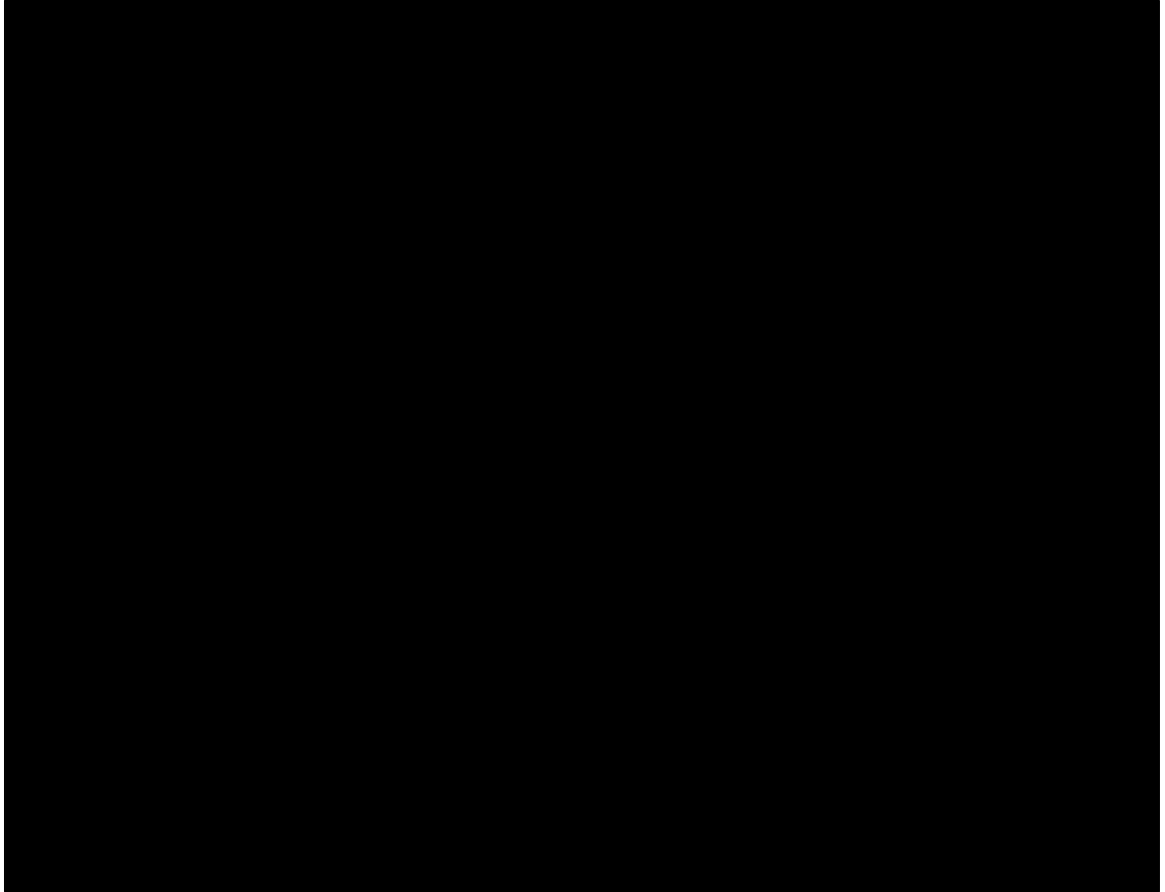
**Nancy Strohmmer**

Nancy presented the Email response from Steve Reichel about his views of the voting process. Several board members have been approached by a number of unit members who expressed an interest to change. Nancy would like to move forward and change the rules.

Paul Cuneo had asked several former Board Members and Unit officials about the origin of the requirement to vote for 3 candidates or the ballot would be disqualified. While most could not remember, some mentioned that there was logic that if a member was allowed to vote for one candidate, their individual vote would be weighted higher than a member who voted for 3 candidates. This would allow candidates to adopt strategies of trying to convince their supporters to vote only for them to increase their chance of being elected. The following table, which uses



typical vote distributions, illustrates that point.



The board had an extensive discussion about the procedures – contesting elections, implied concerns for integrity of the counting procedure and ways that election might be manipulated if the members could vote for one person.

Bill read the current election rules for contesting an election. Our rules state that the election can be contested up to Sunday night.

Paul reviewed the counting procedure. The board felt unequivocally that the counting of the votes and the integrity of the election officials is and has always been beyond reproach.

The board had varying opinions about possible campaign strategies if only one vote was required to be counted. The board was reminded that this is one of few ACBL units with contested elections. Getting people to run for the election has been difficult. However, the bylaw change related to decreasing the number of candidates required to be nominated was voted down by the unit members at the last annual meeting.

Chuck asked for a motion. Nancy proposed that this change to the voting be presented to the unit members in April. During the discussion, the board agreed that allowing the members to decide was appropriate but we need a clearly written proposal for the change to the bylaws. As Tom stated “We don’t want to act like the US congress and approve something and then read what the bill stated”. Joyce and Nancy were assigned the task to prepare a written proposal.

**MOTION: That the proposal be tabled until next meeting after a written statement with the wording for the change to the bylaws has been formulated and presented.**



The motion was seconded and approved.

## 2013 Initiatives

Group

On May 20<sup>th</sup> the board met in a planning session facilitated by Norm Gautier. The board developed several areas of emphasis.

### SELECTED AREAS OF EMPHASIS 2013:

Membership attraction/retention	- All
Social bridge	- Beverley Cheatham
Attract inactive players (0-5)	- Tom Martinsen
Joint event with ABA	- Nancy Strohmer
Enhance player experience at tournaments - All	
Provide duplicated boards at sectionals	- Paul Cuneo
Game variety at tournaments	- Bill Riley
Hospitality at regionals	- Nancy Strohmer
Training/seminars	- Errol LeCesne / Bill Riley
Bridge in schools	- Errol LeCesne
Maintenance of history	- Paul Cuneo
Revisit budget timing	- Chuck Ensor

At the meeting two of the future initiatives were added to the selected areas of emphasis at the board meeting.

Youth Mentor Games	- Paul Cuneo
Bridge at college	- Errol LeCesne

**MOTION: That the above selected areas of emphasis determined at the planning meeting and the 2 additional initiatives be approved.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

## Membership Attraction and Retention

Group

The board had a discussion of the 0-5 event at August Sectional, free plays for 0-5 players and possible events at the three full service clubs. Several board members agreed to contact the teachers and try to meet in person and invite them to a special event at the tournament. Tom will develop a proposal for contacting these 0-5 players. Bill reminded the board in the manual that we provide free plays for any player who finishes a beginner course by one of the certified teacher.

## New Business

### Update of Procedures

Paul Cuneo

As part of the 2013 initiatives Paul had agreed to review one section of the procedure manual at each meeting. He sent an email with changes to the set up of the Sectional Tournaments. Not all of the board members had a chance to review. Approval for the changes was postponed until the next meeting. Paul will address the regional tournament section and forward it to the committee before the next meeting.

### Social Bridge Reimbursement

Chuck Ensor

BCOH had a very successful bridge session for the social bridge players. A request for partial or complete reimbursement for this event had been sent to the Board by Email. Several members remembered that there had been a previous approval in the past for \$500 reimbursement for any social bridge event but that could not be found in a review of the minutes.



**MOTION: That the board reimburse BCOH \$500 for the social bridge event.**

The motion was seconded and approved. Beverley Cheatham abstained from the vote.

**MOTION: That the board reimburse up to \$500 for documented expenses for a social bridge event provided the event and the date of the event are preapproved by the Board.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

**Club mentor games youth subsidy**

**Paul Cuneo**

Paul had distributed by Email the following proposal:

In addition to the existing table subsidy for Club mentor games, the Unit shall subsidize the entry of any ACBL youth member age 19 years or younger as of the game date \$5.00.

**MOTION: That the above proposal be approved.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

**Rent Boards – Other Regionals**

**Paul Cuneo**

Paul had distributed by Email the following proposal:

Unit 174 will rent its flip open style board sets to any unit hosting a regional tournament for \$20/board set with the renting Unit responsible for losses, damages and shipping costs. Board sets will be shipped a minimum of one week prior to the regional tournament start date and must be received by Unit 174 within 10 days of the end of the tournament.

There was discussion about the particulars. Tom suggested that we require a minimum of 5 sets to make it worth the effort.

**MOTION: That the above proposal be approved with the addition of a minimum of 5 sets to be rented.**

The motion was seconded and approved.

**Regional KO handicaps**

**Chuck Ensor**

There was a request relayed by one of the professional players whose client felt that they gave up handicaps to teams that did not deserve them. He requested that we review our policy and look at the handicap policy at the Albuquerque Regional (District 17). Our Directors use the ACBL policy that has a formula to give handicaps to teams until the team average is above 5,000 master points. Albuquerque has a local policy that cuts off at a 3,000 average – this had to be approved by the ACBL.

After discussion the board agreed to use the standard ACBL policy of an average of 5000 masterpoints.

Chuck moved to close the board meeting to convene the executive session.

**MOTION: That the board meeting be closed to convene the executive session.**

The motion was seconded and approved.



## **Executive Session**

The board was in executive session for 10 minutes.

## **Future Meeting dates**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, at 9:30 AM at Tracy Gee Community Center.

## **Adjourn**

**MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.**

The motion was seconded and approved at 11:01AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Riley, Secretary

