

La Jolla Bridge Unit 526
Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2013

Members Present: Janet Ansfield, Joyce Bailey, Charlotte Blum, Cass Donovan, Randy Fadem, Bill Grant, Marge Hughes, Ron Ignelzi, Matthew Kidd, and Chuck Wilson

President Matthew called the meeting to order and distributed the agenda for the day. The revised minutes of the January meeting were accepted as e-mailed.

Chuck distributed the summary and register reports for January, as well as a 7-month summary report from July 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013. He said there were two anomalies in the January report: the Holiday party bill was paid on January 13 so it accounts for our large negative balance; however, it was partially counterbalanced by the ACBL refund of a portion of member dues (the \$1,000.65 deposit on January 15). Matthew reworked the January summary report, taking out the Holiday party bill, the publicity bill, and the ACBL refund, thus realizing a small positive balance of \$17.34 for the month.

Regarding the register report, Janet noted that her hospitality expense was for the two months of December and January. She said that today's hospitality expense is \$72, and that we have to be very careful to keep the amount near \$70! The figure increases when supplies need to be purchased. "There have been no complaints about hospitality," Ron said.

The 7-month summary report showed a negative balance of \$1,189.34 for the period. It is apparent, therefore, that the Unit needs to do reasonably well at the May Sectional!

The question was asked as to whether we should raise the game price to \$9; however, Matthew prefers not to do so at this time.

It was noted that the Soledad Club canceled Jan-Pro Cleaning and switched to Vincent Jones for cleaning; we were told to do the same thing. We have a verbal agreement with Mr. Jones in the amount of \$50 per session. He will appear at our March meeting; in addition, he said that he will come any time we want him.

Matthew said that he had talked with Mary Ingle, acting Soledad Club president, and she told him that costs might be going up. If our rent expense increases to \$350 per month, it was suggested that we may have to consider leaving the Club.

There was a spirited discussion as to whether to keep the \$5-per-game fee (for the 0-750 game) in place for more than the introductory two-month period. As it stands now, a profit of \$2 is realized from every person who attends. The consensus was to try to get a solid foundation established before raising the fee. Encouragingly, Paul Darin, our director, thinks a small group is fine. It was decided to review this fee situation at the first meeting in April. In the meantime, March and April will continue at the rate of \$5 per game. An announcement should be made before the fee is raised.

Randy suggested that it might be a good idea to have some expert players answer questions from the 0-750 group following their game. When Matthew asked for volunteers, Bill volunteered; Chuck also volunteered his partner, Barbara Norman, to do the same. Matthew will make several announcements before the upcoming session, including naming these two mentors and suggesting that anyone else would be welcome to be a mentor, also.

There was a brief discussion on the board's policy with regard to Zero Tolerance. When Paul Darin was invited to share his opinion on the subject, he affirmed that Zero Tolerance situations should be handled by the director. The board not only backs Zero Tolerance but also supports our director in upholding the policy. Mark Matz, an occasional Director, will be informed of this policy.

Last month the Board had agreed to hold several one-day NLM sectionals when dates would be available, as researched by Bill. He reported that there are dates available in April, July, September, and November. However, it was recently decided by the national board of directors not to allow one-day sectionals in the future. Although it would be much more work, the Board will revisit this topic and perhaps think about holding a two-day NLM sectional in September. Matthew will negotiate rent cost with Mary Ingle and report to the Board at the next meeting.

The next item discussed was the Memorial Weekend Sectional. Matthew needs to get fliers distributed and will make them this week. The format for the various bridge events was discussed briefly. Janet, Bill, and Matthew will confer to decide on the exact format of these events, seeking advice from Jean Molnar.

The Board's investment strategy will be to "hold the course" for now. Matthew suggested that Joyce, Chuck, and Ron should confer on these financial matters.

The caddy situation was discussed. Although Paul prefers to have a caddy, Randy, on short notice, could not find anyone for today's game. The biggest problem to consider is the after-game clean-up. Matthew will make a request today for players to put bidding boxes

away and put trash in the wastebasket. It was noted that a caddy will definitely be needed for the upcoming Sectional Weekend. Randy thought that Patricia McGinn, our former caddy, will be recovered from her illness and will be available by April.

The topic of the December Holiday Party was brought up, with several questions to be answered:

1. Where should it be held? (Perhaps the LJCC is too expensive.)
2. Should it be held at the Soledad Club if the date of December 8 is available?
3. Assuming we can get the date, SHOULD we have it?
4. Who will volunteer to research catering options and prices? (Janet volunteered!)

When Matthew asked whether the board thought free pays should be given for the next Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Awards, the board was pretty strongly against doing so. Matthew said he would make their achievement an important item on the website.

Matthew asked for volunteers to distribute promotional cards that he had made for the new 0-750 game on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Janet and Marge volunteered to help.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Hughes, Secretary